



United States of America and FAO

Partnering for sustainable development and global food security

The United States and FAO have a historic relationship: the Organization was conceived during a meeting at Hot Springs, Virginia, in 1943 and its headquarters was first based in Washington, D.C. Today, the United States is one of the largest contributors to the Organization's budget and a key resource partner supporting FAO's work across the food and agriculture sector. Major areas of cooperation include emergency assistance and resilience building, food safety, and sustainable agricultural production and natural resource management.

Promoting climate-smart agriculture for long-term food security

Recognizing the negative impacts of climate change on food security and FAO's important role in this area, the United States supports a number of projects designed to improve agricultural adaptation and build resilience to climate change. Projects aim to strengthen capacities in areas such as satellite monitoring, conservation agriculture and coordination of activities in response to climate-related shocks.

To cite one example, USAID is providing US\$4.5 million to fund a three-year capacity-building project (2013-2016) in support of Bangladesh's Environment and Forestry Ministry. Following a country needs-based approach, the aim is to strengthen the Ministry's human and organizational capacities to address environmental, forestry and climate change challenges. Activities involve the private sector, civil society and academia as well as Government departments. In addition to strengthened capacity, results will include a compendium of investment profiles necessary for the country to address climate change issues.

Global Alliance

The United States is a founding member of the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture, which seeks to improve food and nutrition security by helping governments, farmers, scientists, businesses and civil society to adjust agricultural practices, food systems and social policies so that they take account of climate change and make efficient use of natural resources. FAO hosts the Secretariat of the Alliance and receives funding from USDA to support a professional officer.

Multiple sources of support

Contributions to FAO programmes and activities are provided through a variety of national channels:

- **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** – supporting a wide range of projects, including forestry; genetic resources; food and nutrition security; and disaster preparedness and response – for which funding is also provided through the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and Food for Peace Bureau (FFP).
- **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)** – including support to microbiological risk assessment; soil fertility management; diseases at the human-animal interface; and climate-smart agriculture and natural resource management.
- **Department of State** – supporting agricultural water management, and the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP).
- **United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** – strengthening global food safety through support to improved food control systems.
- **Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)** – supporting rinderpest post-eradication activities; disease intelligence and global early warning; and prevention and mitigation of threats from particularly dangerous pathogens.
- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** – supporting conservation, fisheries and aquaculture projects.

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Prevention and response to zoonotic diseases

Seventy percent of the new infectious diseases that have emerged in humans over recent decades are estimated to be of animal origin, including Ebola virus disease, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). The control of such zoonotic diseases and emerging threats at the human-animal-ecosystems interface requires an integrated and multidisciplinary approach.

Global Health Security Agenda

The United States works closely with FAO as well the World Health Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health through the Global Health Security Agenda (GHS). This international partnership initiative was launched in 2014 to help prevent, detect and respond to emerging disease threats. The United States is taking the lead in promoting GHS, which is aligned to FAO's "One-Health" approach.

Emergency and capacity building support

The United States is a key contributor to FAO's activities for improving disease intelligence as well as preventing and mitigating threats from highly pathogenic diseases. It has supported several emergency interventions to respond to pandemic threats, and these interventions have been complemented by the development of e-learning tools and capacity-building initiatives. In 2015, USAID provided an additional US\$87 million to FAO for activities to combat animal disease threats in Asia, Africa and the Near East through to 2019.

Field epidemiology training for veterinarians

Ten years of lessons learned and almost US\$222 million generously contributed by USAID are helping to inform future actions to control Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and other emerging infectious diseases. Thanks to a US\$615 000 USAID-funded project to support field epidemiology training, Chinese veterinarians are now better prepared to detect and contain HPAI outbreaks. The FAO project provided technical assistance to strengthen HPAI emergency preparedness on the part of China's Veterinary Services and Animal Health Authorities. As a result:

- Field epidemiologists have been trained to deal effectively and efficiently with HPAI and other animal diseases.
- The China Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians (China FETPV) has produced a pool of competent field epidemiologists who can conduct timely outbreak surveillance and investigations.
- China FETPV training and FAO's advocacy helped convince the China Agricultural University to incorporate a course on epidemiology in its veterinary programme.

Jointly developed by FAO and the Chinese Veterinary Bureau in 2010, the China FETPV training course lasts two years and is now in its third cycle.

Support to resilience building

Natural and conflict-related disasters disproportionately affect the food-insecure rural poor, over 75 percent of whom derive their livelihoods from agriculture.

A key priority for FAO is to increase the resilience of livelihoods to these threats and crises by integrating humanitarian and development activities. The United States is a major supporter of FAO's work in this area, with total contributions amounting to more than US\$50.1 million in 2014. Its focus has been on Conservation Agriculture and disaster risk reduction, as illustrated by the following projects:

- Enhancing Food and Nutrition Security through the Promotion of Conservation Agriculture (and Other Climate Change Adaptation Measures) in Timor-Leste
- Strengthening Agriculture Sector – Disaster Risk Management and Resilience-Building Coordination in Ethiopia
- Coordination and Advocacy for Conservation Agriculture in Southern Africa
- Disaster risk reduction/management to support agropastoral communities affected by recurrent droughts and other natural disasters in southern Angola and northern Namibia

"FAO welcomes the commitments being made to address climate change...and can support them with country capacity-building projects."

José Graziano da Silva
FAO Director-General

