









Fiscal Year 2021 International Food Assistance Report

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Cover Photographs: (Top Photo) Children eating breakfast that consists of a mixture of bulgur, rice, lentils, and oil (USDA commodities) with some onions and spices mixed in through a Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Program in Senegal. Photo by Counterpart Staff. (Middle Photo) Classroom in Halaca, Nacarôa District, Mozambique where improved literacy is supported by the McGovern-Dole program. Photo by World Vision Mozambique. (Bottom Photo). A farmer in Malawi buys tomato seeds from a business supported by the Food for Progress program. Photo by Land O'Lakes Venture37.

List of Abbreviations

| ACDI/VOCA | Agricultural Cooperative Development International/ |
|---------------|--|
| | Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance |
| AMFI | Asociación de Municipios Fronterizos de Intibucá |
| CDSO | Crude Degummed Soybean Oil |
| CNFA | Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture |
| CPI | Counterpart International |
| CRS | Catholic Relief Services |
| DNS | Dark Northern Spring Wheat |
| FAS | Foreign Agricultural Service |
| FFPr | Food for Progress |
| FY | Fiscal Year |
| HRW | Hard Red Winter Wheat |
| IESC | International Executive Service Corps |
| ITSH | Internal Transportation, Storage, and Handling |
| INFRE | National Institute of Training and Research in Education |
| LRP | Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Program |
| McGovern-Dole | McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program |
| MT | Metric Tons |
| NCBA | National Cooperative Business Association |
| NOFO | Notice of Funding Opportunity |
| PVO | Public Voluntary Organization |
| SBM | Soybean Meal |
| THR | Take-Home Rations |
| USC | United States Code |

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

I. Introduction

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is pleased to provide this report to the U.S. Congress as required by the Section 3112 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, [7 USC 1736a(f)]. USDA awarded more than \$421 million for food assistance programming overseas in fiscal year (FY) 2021. These contributions helped provide school meals and supported capacity-building initiatives that improved agricultural production and economic expansion in developing nations. USDA's international food assistance programs align with the Feed the Future food security initiative, providing donated U.S. and locally or regionally procured commodities for direct school feeding and U.S. commodities for sale in countries to build food and market systems with the goal of expanding trade and promoting economic growth in participating countries.

Overview of Fiscal Year 2021 Active USDA Government Food Assistance and Capacity-Building Programs

USDA international food assistance and capacity-building programs supported more than 4.8 million direct participants in 50 developing countries in FY 2021. Implementing organizations carried out a wide variety of activities around the world, while monitoring their progress against established indicators and reporting back to USDA regularly. Independent third parties also evaluated food assistance projects that reached their baseline, midterm, or final stages during FY 2021. These evaluations support accountability and provide learning that is applied to program improvement.

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (McGovern-Dole) (7 USC 17360-1) funds school meals and education and nutrition programs that are implemented by private-voluntary organizations (PVOs) and other international organizations for women, infants, and children in countries with high food insecurity. The program's statutory objectives are to reduce hunger, increase literacy, and improve the health and dietary practices of school-age children, with an emphasis on girls. In FY 2021, McGovern-Dole reached more than 4.5 million participants with all active programming.

The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act provided \$230 million in appropriated funds for McGovern-Dole in FY 2021, including a requirement of not less than \$23 million in McGovern-Dole funds for local and regional procurement within the program. Congress did not provide FY 2021 funds for the separate USDA Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement (USDA LRP) program. In FY 2021, USDA awarded 10 McGovern-Dole agreements valued at \$248 million, of which approximately \$23 million will be used for local and regional procurement of agricultural commodities within McGovern-Dole awards. In FY 2021, USDA had seven continuing USDA LRP agreements in seven countries, including two agreements that concluded all project activities. The total number of direct participants reached by all 7 active USDA LRP projects in FY 2021 was more than 139,000. LRP supports the development of infrastructure to strengthen the ability of host governments to take ownership of school feeding programs. Details on the USDA LRP program will be reported in the separate FY 2021 LRP Report to Congress.

The Food for Progress Program (FFPr) was originally authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-198). Congress most recently reauthorized the program through FY 2023 in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334). FFPr projects focus on improving agricultural productivity and expanding agricultural trade in

developing countries and emerging democracies. The FFPr statute directs USDA, when awarding projects, to consider a country's commitments to promote economic freedom and expand efficient domestic commodity markets¹. Projects are funded primarily by proceeds from the sale of donated U.S. agricultural commodities, a process commonly referred to as monetization. The projects are intended to strengthen the capacity of foreign countries to engage in international trade and enhance global food security. In FY 2021, FFPr reached more than 370,000 direct participants. Through FFPr assistance, more than 199,000 individuals applied improved technologies or management practices, and farmers increased sales of their agricultural products.

In FY 2021, USDA awarded a total of \$421.65 million in new funding, including administrative expenses, to support the procurement and transport of 411,570 MT metric tons (MT) of U.S. commodities. The following table summarizes the FY 2021 awards for FFPr and McGovern-Dole, including the types of commodities awarded.

Table 1: Overview of FY 2021 USDA Food Assistance Programs (FY 2020 Funding)

| Program ² | Commodities (Volume/Value) | Total Available Funding |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Food for Progress | 364,800 MT / \$128,099,980* | \$173,647,981 |
| McGovern-Dole | 46,770 MT / \$35,170,750 | \$248,000,000† |
| Total | 411,570 MT / \$163,270,730 | \$421,647,981 |

^{*}The Food for Progress FY 2021 Awards included two Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs). † In addition to FY 2021 funds, USDA used \$25 million in available prior year funds to support a total awarded amount in FY 2021 of \$248,000,000

Table 2: FY 2021 USDA Commodity Mix for Food Assistance Programs (FY 2021 Funding)

| Group | Commodity | Food for Progress MT | McGovern-Dole MT |
|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Grains | Wheat | 300,000 | |
| | All Purpose Flour | | 2,490 |
| | Fortified Rice | | 24,390 |
| | Cornmeal | | 2,800 |
| | Subtotal | 300,000 | 29,680 |
| Vegetable Oil | Sunflower Seed Oil | | 650 |
| | Vegetable Oil | | 2,730 |
| | Fortified Vegetable Oil | | 430 |
| | Subtotal | | 3,810 |
| Oilseeds | Soybean Meal (SBM) | 35,170 | |
| | Crude Degummed Soybean Oil | 9,610 | |
| | Whole Soybeans | 20,100 | |
| | Subtotal | 64,880 | |

¹7 U.S.C. §1736o(c)-(d).

² USDA conducts its program solicitations and awards on a fiscal year cycle. USDA is reporting on costs and commodities for agreements signed in FY 2021.

Table 2 (Continued)

| Pulses | Lentils | | 3,170 |
|--------|----------------------|---------|--------|
| | Peas | | 4,540 |
| | Beans | | 2,210 |
| | Subtotal | | 9,920 |
| Blends | Corn Soy Blend Plus | | 90 |
| | Soy-Fortified Bulgur | | 3,270 |
| | Subtotal | | 880 |
| Totals | All Commodities | 364,880 | 46,770 |

II. Reporting on Program Activities

Food for Progress Program

Introduction

The FFPr was first authorized in the Food Security Act of 1985 and recently re-authorized through FY 2023 with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill). FFPr assists developing countries and emerging democracies by introducing and expanding private enterprise in the agricultural sector. FFPr has two principal objectives: improving agricultural productivity and expanding the trade of agricultural products. Recent FFPr projects have trained farmers in animal and plant health, improved farming methods, developed science-based sanitary and phytosanitary practices and regulatory systems, modernized port infrastructure to improve agricultural trade, established producer cooperatives, and developed agricultural value chains.

Including the newly awarded FY 2021 project, there are 45 active projects in 39 countries valued at more than \$1.1 billion. Together, these projects reached more than 370,000 direct participants and facilitated access for farmers and producer groups to more than \$84 million in private credit and work capital loans. FFPr's agricultural programming in FY 2021 also resulted in nearly 200,000 individuals applying improved management practices or technologies, and more than 569,000 hectares under improved technologies or management practices.

As part of the statute, FFPr funding, under the authorization of the United States Secretary of Agriculture, may be used for humanitarian purposes involving eligible entities. In FY 2021, the U.S. Government agreed to provide humanitarian assistance to address acute hardships in Sudan. Through the FY 2021 program, the Government of Sudan was awarded 300,000 MT of Hard Red Winter (HRW) wheat and a commensurate amount of funding for ocean freight costs. That included \$84.5 million for purchasing the wheat and \$33 million for ocean freight for a total award of \$117.5 million. An additional \$1.77 million from FFPr administrative budget funds went to a separate contract for monitoring and evaluating the Sudan activity for a total obligated amount of \$119.27 million³.

³ Following the October 25, 2021 military takeover of the Sudanese government--and by determination of the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of State and the Department of Treasury--USDA halted the last shipment of 47,000 MT.

Utilizing its remaining apportionment for FY 2021, FFPr released two additional Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) to strengthen existing projects. The first involved the Standing Supplemental NOFO (USDA-FAS-0700-10606-21-S), which provided ongoing projects with a no-fault budget shortfall an opportunity to apply for additional funds. Awards for this NOFO were made to existing agreements operating in Bangladesh, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Georgia, Haiti, Honduras, Mauritania, Pakistan, and Paraguay. After addressing the programs with budgetary shortfalls, the remaining FY 2021 budget went to the Merit NOFO (USDA-FAS-0700-10606-D). This competitive process afforded current agreements that had completed monetization, had at least \$400,000 in remaining freight funds, and had finalized their mid-term evaluations, a chance to apply for additional commodity and administrative funds. The FY 2021 commodity budget received an additional \$24.7 million in funding to address irregular migration from Central America. The Merit awards included two projects in Guatemala, utilizing this additional support, one in the Dominican Republic and one in Sri Lanka, using the remaining budget. The nine Standing and four Merit NOFOs provided a total of \$56.15 million in additional funding and 64,880 MT of additional commodities.

Commodities Provided

Figure 1: Value of USDA Food for Progress FY 2021 Awards by Region

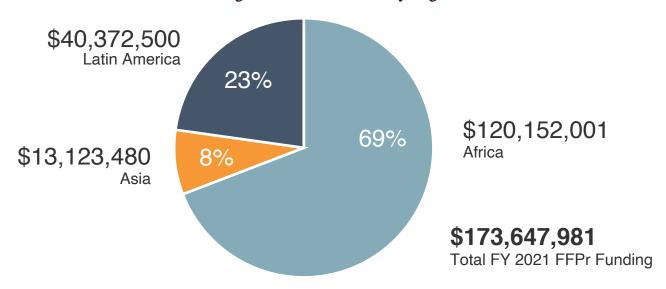


Figure 2: USDA Food for Progress FY 2021 Awarded Commodities by Region

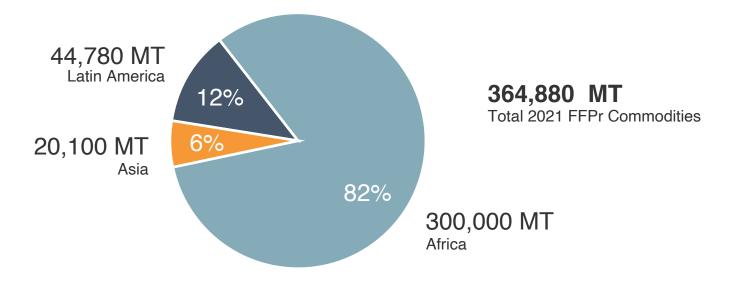
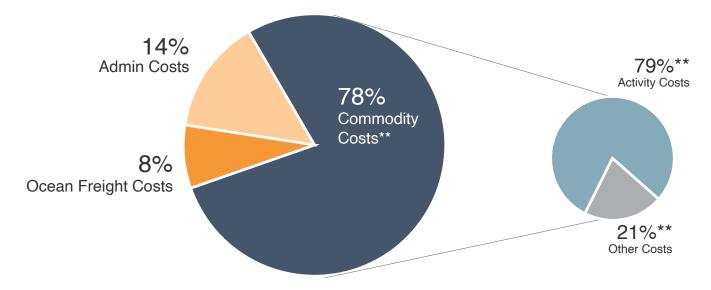


Table 3: Use of Funds Definitions Food for Progress Awards

| Commodity Costs | Cost for purchase of commodities. |
|----------------------|--|
| Ocean Costs | Cost to ship from the United States to port of entry. |
| Administrative Costs | Each program receives 5 to 7 percent of its award in cash to assist with initial start-up administrative duties associated with project implementation. |
| Activity Costs | Cost of activities performed in direct support of project implementation. The proceeds from monetization go to support the implementer's activity costs. |
| Other Costs | These include both the direct and indirect costs of the organization implementing the project, including staffing, travel, office supplies, rent, consulting fees, and other related expenses. |

Figure 3: FY 2021 Composition of Funding for USDA Food for Progress Awards*



^{*}See Table 3 (above): Use of Funds Definitions for category descriptions.

Table 4: FY 2021 USDA Food for Progress Awards for New Projects (\$ Millions)*

| Country | Organization | Estimated potential recipients of bread | Commodity | Metric Tons | Commodity Cost | Freight Cost | Admin. Cost | Total Obligated |
|--|---------------------|---|---------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Sudan | Government of Sudan | 2.8 million people | Wheat, HRW | 300,000 | \$84.5 | \$33 | \$1.8 | \$119.3 |
| Project Description: Provide wheat to be milled and distributed to state subsidized bakeries to produce bread for distribution to food-insecure individuals. | | | | | | | | |
| Total | | | | 300,000 | \$84.5 | \$33.0 | \$1.8 | \$119.3 |

^{*} See Table 3: Use of Funds Definitions for category descriptions.

^{**} Note that Activity Costs and Other Costs are funded predominantly by the monetization proceeds from the sale of the awarded commodities.

Table 5: FY 2021 Food for Progress Merit and Standing Awards

| Country | Organization | Award Type | Planned Commodity | Newly Allocated Quantity (MT) | Commodity Cost (\$ millions) | Obligated Freight Costs (\$ millions) | Obligated Admin Costs (\$ millions) | Total Obligated Costs (\$ millions) |
|-----------------------|--|---------------|--|--|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Bangladesh | Winrock | Standing | Soybeans | 3,100 | \$1.89 | \$.68 | | \$2.57 |
| Egypt* | Venture 37 | Standing | Soybeans | | \$1.27 | \$.30 | | \$1.57 |
| Cote d'Ivoire | Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA) | Standing | N/A | | | | \$.38 | \$.38 |
| Georgia | Venture 37 | Standing | Soybeans | 5,000 | \$1.14 | \$1.90 | | 3.04 |
| Haiti | Catholic Relief Services (CRS) | Standing | SBM | 5,170 | \$1.65 | | | 1.65 |
| Honduras* | TNS | Standing | SBM | | \$1.29 | \$.30 | | \$1.59 |
| Mauritania | Government of Mauritania | Standing | N/A | | | | \$.70 | \$.70 |
| Pakistan | Winrock | Standing | Soybeans | 6,500 | \$2.47 | \$.91 | | \$3.38 |
| Paraguay* | International Executive Service Corps (IESC) | Standing | Wheat, HRW | | \$0.93 | \$.30 | | \$1.23 |
| Dominican Republic | National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA) | Merit | Crude Degummed Soybean Oil (CDSO) | 4,000 | \$5.10 | | \$.54 | \$5.64 |
| Guatemala | Government of Guate- mala | Merit | SBM | 30,000 | \$16.62 | | \$3.10 | \$19.72 |
| Guatemala | Counterpart International (CPI) | Merit | CDSO | 5,610 | \$8.13 | | \$2.41 | \$10.54 |
| Sri Lanka | IESC | Merit | Soybeans | 5,500 | \$3.11 | | \$1.03 | \$4.14 |
| Total | | | | 64,880 | \$43.60 | \$4.380 | \$8.16 | \$56.15 |

^{*}The programs in Egypt, Honduras, and Paraguay will utilize remaining tonnage from their initial NOFO awards, including 5,860 MT (Egypt FY 2018), 7,350 MT (Honduras FY 2017), and 4,320 MT (Paraguay FY 2019).

Table 6: Actual Rate of Return on Monetization by Commodity in FY 2021 (\$ millions) *

| Country | Shipment Approval Date | Commodity | Quantity (MT) | Commodity Cost (\$ millions) | Freight Cost (\$ millions) | Total Cost to USDA (\$ millions) | Actual Proceeds (\$ millions) | Rate of Return |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Bangladesh ¹ | 6/30/2021 | Soybeans | 25,000 | \$14.09 | \$3.28 | \$17.37 | \$14.00 | 81% |
| Bangladesh ¹ | 9/29/2021 | Soybeans | 25,610 | \$13.54 | \$7.56 | \$21.10 | \$15.00 | 71% |
| Burkina Faso ² | 4/14/2021 | Milled Rice | 21,500 | \$11.91 | \$2.10 | \$14.01 | \$9.27 | 66% |
| Cambodia | 6/22/2021 | SBM | 8,000 | \$3.74 | \$2.83 | \$6.57 | \$3.71 | 56% |
| Colombia | 4/19/2021 | Wheat, HRW | 41,000 | \$11.66 | \$1.67 | \$13.33 | \$10.97 | 82% |
| Colombia ¹ | 9/7/2021 | Wheat, HRW | 30,700 | \$11.29 | \$2.92 | \$14.21 | \$10.44 | 73% |
| Cote d'Ivoire ² | 4/14/2021 | Milled Rice | 32,140 | \$17.81 | \$2.90 | \$20.71 | \$13.34 | 66% |
| Cote d'Ivoire ² | 4/14/2021 | SBM | 11,000 | \$5.05 | \$0.98 | \$6.02 | \$5.39 | 90% |
| Dominican Republic¹ | 4/22/2021 | CDSO | 8,000 | \$12.39 | \$1.06 | \$13.46 | \$9.80 | 73% |
| Egypt | 10/13/2020 | Soybeans | 18,340 | \$8.71 | \$2.89 | \$11.60 | \$6.80 | 59% |
| Georgia | 10/6/2020 | SBM | 4,000 | \$1.88 | \$0.79 | \$2.66 | \$1.32 | 50% |
| Ghana2 | 4/14/2021 | SBM | 24,000 | \$11.01 | \$1.29 | \$12.30 | \$11.66 | 95% |
| Guatemala ¹ | 4/22/2021 | CDSO | 2,610 | \$4.33 | \$0.72 | \$5.05 | \$2.79 | 55% |
| Honduras ¹ | 11/03/2020 | Wheat, HRW | 5,610 | \$2.82 | \$1.16 | \$3.98 | \$2.03 | 51% |
| Kenya ² | 5/19/2021 | Wheat, HRW | 37,800 | \$10.66 | \$2.94 | \$13.60 | \$9.68 | 71% |
| Kenya | 6/14/2021 | Wheat, HRW | 28,100 | \$8.08 | \$2.73 | \$10.82 | \$7.31 | 68% |
| Mali ² | 4/14/2021 | Milled Rice | 25,000 | \$13.85 | \$2.24 | \$16.09 | \$10.38 | 64% |
| Mozambique/ Malawi | 12/9/2020 | CDSO | 16,850 | \$15.98 | \$5.82 | \$21.80 | \$13.93 | 64% |
| Peru | 10/20/2020 | Wheat, Dark Northern Spring (DNS) | 30,680 | \$9.07 | \$3.38 | \$12.45 | \$7.27 | 58% |
| Peru | 11/20/2020 | CDSO | 13,030 | \$12.88 | \$2.14 | \$15.03 | \$10.56 | 70% |

Table 6 Continued

| Country | Shipment Approval Date | Commodity | Quantity (MT) | Commodity Cost (\$ millions) | Freight Cost (\$ millions) | Total Cost to USDA (\$ millions) | Actual Proceeds (\$ millions) | Rate of Return |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Sri Lanka | 11/18/2020 | Wheat, DNS | 6,920 | \$2.01 | \$3.11 | \$5.12 | \$1.82 | 35% |
| Uganda ² | 5/19/2021 | Wheat, HRW | 25,000 | \$7.76 | \$1.95 | \$9.71 | \$6.38 | 66% |
| Total | | | 440,890 | \$210.52 | \$56.47 | \$266.99 | \$183.52 | 69% |

^{*}Costs, proceeds, and their respective totals are rounded to the nearest \$10,000. Column totals reflect the actual whole number value rounded to the nearest \$10,000. Average rate of return is rounded to nearest 1%.

Table 7: USDA Food for Progress Participants in FY 2021, by Agreement Year

| Agreement Year | Country | Implementer | Participants in FY 2021 ¹ |
|----------------|---|--|---|
| 2014 | East Africa Regional (Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania) | Cooperative Housing Foundation / Global Communities | 5 |
| | Nicaragua | CRS | 2,232 |
| | Tanzania | Small Enterprise Assistance Funds | 1,087 |
| 2015 | Benin | TechnoServe | 119,940 |
| | Benin | Partners for Development | 34,390 |
| | Dominican Republic | IESC | 2,431 |
| | Dominican Republic | NCBA | 388 |
| | Ghana | Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in | 6,874 |
| 2016 | Bangladesh | Winrock International | 507 |
| | Burkina Faso | Lutheran World Relief | 1,617 |
| | Guatemala | CPI | 8,823 |
| | Haiti | CRS | 7,682 |
| | Malawi ² | Land O'Lakes Venture 37 | 0 |
| | Mozambique | Land O'Lakes Venture 37 | 9,117 |
| | Pakistan | Winrock International | 5,928 |

¹These six sales/shipments represented joint sales covering more than one program. In the case of Bangladesh, the two sales provided proceeds to five different programs.

²These seven sales were consolidated into four shipments. For example, the sales to Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Mali were organized into three large-scale shipments to improve cost recovery.

Table 7 Continued

| Agreement Year | Country | Implementer | FY 2020 Beneficiaries* |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2017 | Cote d'Ivoire | CNFA | 13,146 |
| | Ethiopia | ACDI/VOCA | 4,878 |
| | Honduras | TechnoServe | 19,084 |
| | Laos | Winrock International | 1,011 |
| | SeGaBe Regional (Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau) | Shelter for Life | 11,834 |
| | Sri Lanka | IESC | 25,099 |
| 2018 | Andean and Central America Regional (Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatema- la, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru) | TechnoServe | 45,891 |
| | Cambodia | American Soybean Association | 631 |
| | Egypt | Land O'Lakes Venture 37 | 881 |
| | Georgia | Land O'Lakes Venture 37 | 19,775 |
| | Philippines | ACDI/VOCA | 7,025 |
| 2019 | East African Community (Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda) | Land O'Lakes Venture 37 | 434 |
| | Ethiopia ³ | TechnoServe | 0 |
| | Indonesia | NCBA | 1,584 |
| | Paraguay | IESC | 377 |
| | Philippines | Winrock International | 377 |
| | West Africa Regional (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria) | CNFA | 17,625 |
| 20204 | Bangladesh | Land O'Lakes Venture 37 | 37 |
| | Colombia | Partners of the Americas | 0 |
| | Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria | TechnoServe | 0 |
| | Dominican Republic | IESC | 276 |
| | Uganda | CRS | 0 |
| | Countries | Active Projects | Participants |
| FY 2021 Totals ⁵ | 396 | 45 ⁶ | 370,603 |

Table 7 (Continued)

- ¹ Direct participants reached in FY 2021 are reported by implementers against established standard indicators. Some projects' activities were affected by COVID-19 during FY 2021.
- ² This project in Malawi concluded project activities as planned during FY 2020, but remained administratively open for part of FY 2021, thus is considered "active" and included in this table.
- 3 This project in Ethiopia suffered several delays in starting up, including delays related to the conflict and to monetization and vehicle procurement challenges. Activities began in October 2021 and will be reported during FY 2020.
- ⁴ Project implementation for FY 2020-funded projects remains in the start-up phase during FY 2021. This includes activities such as conducting baseline evaluations, establishing partnerships and agreements, preparing curricula, etc. These projects typically reach very few participants during their first year, FY 2021, and will reach more in FY 2022.
- ⁵ The only new award in FY 2021 was to the Government of Sudan, and it is not listed here because this participant table doesn't typically include government-to-government awards; please see note 6. FY 2021 standing and merit awards were made to projects that were already active and in the table.
- 6 During FY 2021, Food for Progress supported 8 active government-to-government awards not listed in this table, including the FY 2021 funded award in Sudan. These projects are awarded and implemented differently than PVO-led awards; one difference is that each government-to-government award includes a customized monitoring, evaluation and reporting system, and USDA does not systematically collect participant numbers from these foreign government led awards.

Project Example

Food for Progress: Mozambique



Dairy husbandry training for new dairy farmers in Sofala Province, Mozambique. Photo credit: Gretchen Hanson of Land O'Lakes Venture 37.

FFPr collaborated with Land O'Lakes Venture37 to implement a project in Mozambique named the Mozambique Expansion of Rural Cattle and Dairy Opportunities project. The 5-year, \$14.5 million project, which began in October 2016 and ended in September 2021, addressed critical weaknesses that impede or threaten the competitiveness and sustainability of the dairy market system in Mozambique. The project used a private-sector driven market systems approach to establish a commercial-oriented and sustainable dairy market system in Mozambique that can be competitive locally, regionally, and nationally. To accomplish this goal, the project worked to increase dairy productivity and quality at the farm level to help meet unmet demand for liquid milk by the processing industry, while also promoting quality, efficiency, and business viability along the value chain.

Overall, more than 60,000 people benefited from the project. The project established a dairy breeding station to build the supply of domestic cattle, ultimately distributing 548 dairy cattle of which 21 percent were sourced locally. There was a 155 percent increase in the volume of dairy products, and a 120 percent increase in value of dairy product sales in the project area. The project established the Dairy Herd Fund & the Dairy Innovation Fund to help farmers, cooperatives, and processors access cattle and equipment. The final evaluation determined that these funds were effective and greatly valued by participants. The project also facilitated investments to 129 enterprises and disbursed \$3.6 million in costshare grants while securing more than one million dollars in private sector co-investment. The project partnered with 15 educational institutions and facilitated 157 internship posts with 129 private sector partners to integrate young professionals into the dairy sector. The



A Provincial Coordinator provides coaching to university interns working with the private sector in Manica Province in Mozambique. Photo credit: Gretchen Hanson of Land O'Lakes Venture 37.

project built expertise among a cadre of dairy professionals through targeted training and coaching. The project also facilitated access to transportation solutions from farmer to buyer.



Youth enjoying dairy products produced by the Food for Progress. This project supported processors at a fair in Manica province, Mozambique. Photo credit: Gretchen Hanson of Land O'Lakes Venture 37

A key project success was the close coordination with the Government of Mozambique. The project had a dedicated policy officer who supported key government staff and key dairy value chain actors to increase their ability to strengthen the Mozambican dairy sector. Prior to this project, there were no national policies related to the dairy industry. Due to these coordination efforts, the project collected the data needed to update two regulations, the Livestock Feed Regulation and the Regulation on Raw Milk Collection, Refrigeration, and Bulk Transport, and one legislation, the Livestock Health Legislation. The project also supported the creation and dissemination of the National Dairy Strategy in Mozambique to guide the national dairy policy in the country and structure the government's priorities and the steps needed to organize the industry. The National Dairy Strategy is important for securing funding for future initiatives and directing future investments in the dairy industry in Mozambique. By focusing on both the government and the private sector, the project supported development

of an enabling environment for the dairy industry and laid the groundwork for a sustainable industry where gains would continue after the project ended.

Food for Progress: Mozambique

In FY 2016, USDA awarded \$23.9 million to Winrock International to implement an aquaculture project in Bangladesh. The Safe Aqua Farming for Economic and Trade Improvement project, with an end date of December 2022, focuses on four districts of the Khulna Region in southwestern Bangladesh. The project aims to increase agricultural productivity among small-scale farmers and expand trade of agricultural goods throughout



Proud shrimp farmers in Jogindranagar display their catch. Photo credit: Winrock staff.

Bangladesh's shrimp and prawn sector with the goal of improving household incomes, food safety, and environmental sustainability.



A meeting of the Shrimp Farmers' Association in Bangladesh train next to one of their ponds. Photo credit: Winrock staff.

The shrimp and prawn sector in Bangladesh was struggling with declining productivity among smallholder farmers. Many lacked awareness of modern production practices and technologies, resulting in low yields and incomes. To address this, the project provided technical training to small-scale farmers, while supporting input manufacturers, distributors, and retailers to improve the availability and accessibility of high-quality inputs in rural communities. By September 2021, the project trained 25,131 farmers and facilitated formation of 1,604 active producer groups working together to share the upfront investment of time and money required. On average, producers saw a 128 percent increase in yields from

295 kilos per hectare in 2016 to 674 in 2020, with average revenue per farmer rising from \$612 to \$1,619, a 164 percent increase (partly due to higher global prices). The project also worked with hatcheries to increase their production of specific pathogen-free post-larvae by 66 percent, and 234 aqua-input retailers subsequently decided to affiliate with the project and adopt new high-quality inputs and/or modern technologies into their inventories, plus integrate training information into their services provision to farmers.

The project collaborated closely with the Government of Bangladesh and Department of Fisheries and has contributed to five different policies, regulations, and administrative procedures to improve their regulatory framework for the sector. Most recently, this included guidelines to formalize technical requirements and administrative procedures for hatcheries to convert to using pathogen-free broodstock, the facilities needed, the regulations for import of broodstock and biosecure operating practices.

As a result of its comprehensive approach from farmer to market, the project has expanded the trade of Bangladesh-produced shrimp and prawn domestically, regionally, and internationally. The value of sales by



Hoimanti Shukla from Charkhali village in Rampal Upazila, Bagerhat, Bangladesh, sampling her shrimp. Photo: Winrock staff.

beneficiaries increased by \$41.3 million from the baseline evaluation of \$8.7 million and the volume of shrimp and prawn sold increased by 4,272.5 MT from a baseline of 760.48MT.

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program

Introduction

First authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, McGovern-Dole provides U.S. donated commodities for direct feeding projects and funds complementary activities to help communities in developing countries create sustainable school meals programs. McGovern-Dole is directed by statute to provide "financial and technical assistance to carry out (1) preschool and school food for education in foreign countries to improve food security, reduce the incidence of hunger, and improve literacy and primary education, particularly with respect to girls; and (2) maternal, infant, and child nutrition programs for nursing mothers, infants, and children who are 5 years of age or younger."

McGovern-Dole integrates improved education, health, and dietary practices into existing school meals projects and works to ensure that U.S. donated food is safely stored and properly prepared. Projects also work to develop local infrastructure intended to allow children access to clean water and improved sanitation at school to prevent illness. The McGovern-Dole program seeks to achieve sustainability by promoting school feeding programs and working with local partners and host governments on capacity building in establishing school feeding laws. In addition, technical assistance to host governments is included in all projects to work toward the handover of the school feeding activities to the host country. USDA prioritizes programming in countries committed to providing school meals, including evidence of school feeding laws and financial contributions to school feeding by the host governments. In addition, prioritizing girls' education is a significant component of McGovern-Dole. The program is intended to promote gender equity in education in response to the reality in many countries that fewer girls can attend school compared to their male peers. McGovern-Dole includes various strategies aimed at getting families to send their girls to school, such as providing take-home rations to families whose girls regularly attend school.

In December 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, provided that of the \$230,000,000 directed to McGovern-Dole, "not more than 10 percent, but not less than \$23,000,000, shall remain available until expended to purchase agricultural commodities." In FY 2021, USDA awarded 10 McGovern-Dole agreements valued at \$248

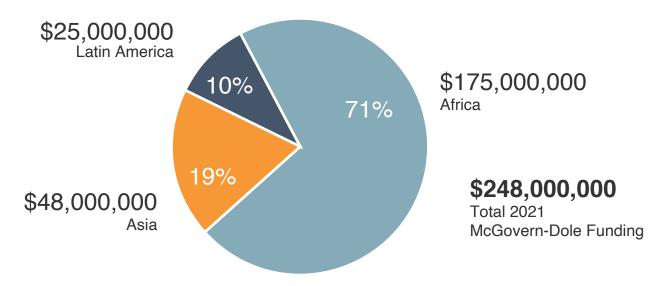
million, of which approximately \$23 million4 will be used for the local and regional procurement of agricultural commodities within McGovern-Dole awards. A total of 46,770 MT of U.S.-donated commodities were awarded under these agreements. Countries where McGovern-Dole agreements were awarded include Benin, Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Liberia, Madagascar, Republic of Congo, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.

In addition, USDA awarded \$20 million in prior-year McGovern-Dole funds through a limited, merit-based NOFO directed at expanding and strengthening existing projects in Guatemala and Honduras addressing the root causes of irregular migration in Central America. Following an application review process, the merit awards included two projects in Guatemala and one in Honduras. The amendments to add these additional funds were finalized in FY 2022 and will be reflected in the next report.

Including the projects awarded in FY 2021, there were 55 active projects in 31 countries during FY 2021, valued at a total of close to \$1 billion across the life of the programs. Together, these McGovern-Dole projects reached more than 4.5 million children and community members directly in FY 2021. In FY 2021, McGovern-Dole projects provided school meals to more than 2.1 million food-insecure children, trained more than 11,200 parent-teacher associations on how to advocate for education and school feeding in their communities, and trained more than 10,800 teachers on how to improve literacy. McGovern-Dole projects also supported the creation and rehabilitation of more than 5,100 facilities including latrines, kitchens, handwashing stations, and classrooms, and provided deworming medication to more than 1.4 million children this year. In FY 2021, active McGovern-Dole projects continued to adjust to different local contexts as some schools remained closed, some schools reopened fully, and some schools moved to a hybrid in-person school meals system, distributing THRto more than 2.1 million children and community members during the global COVID-19 pandemic. McGovern-Dole projects worked in more than 14,400 schools globally during FY 2021. USDA will provide additional information on McGovern-Dole in this year's annual report to Congress on the Global Effort to Reduce Child Hunger and Increase School Attendance.

Commodities Provided

Figure 4: FY 2021 Value of USDA McGovern-Dole Awards by Region



⁴This \$23,000,000 for the local and regional procurement component of the 10 active McGovern-Dole projects includes approximately \$17.2 million for the cost of the procured commodities, plus associated costs specific to the procured commodities, including internal transportation, storage, and handling (ITSH), administrative, and indirect costs.

Figure 5: FY 2021 USDA McGovern-Dole Food Assistance Metric Tons per Region

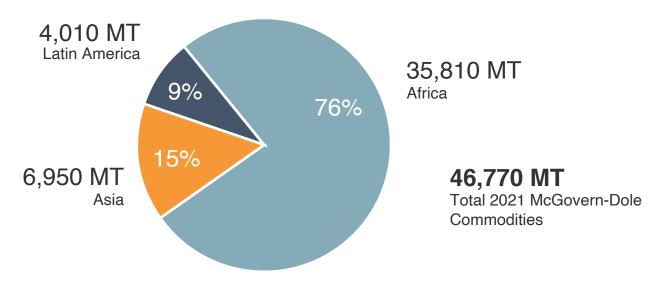


Table 8: Use of Funds Definitions McGovern-Dole Awards

| Commodity Costs | Cost for purchase of commodities. |
|---------------------|---|
| Ocean Freight Costs | Cost to ship from the United States to port of entry. |
| Admin. Costs | Funds for meeting the specific administrative, management, personnel, storage, and distribution costs of projects. |
| Activity Costs | Cost of activities performed in direct support of project implementation. |
| ITSH Costs | (Internal Transportation, Storage, and Handling) The costs of transporting commodities from the implementer's warehouse to each school. |

Figure 6: FY 2021 Composition of Funding for USDA McGovern-Dole Awards*

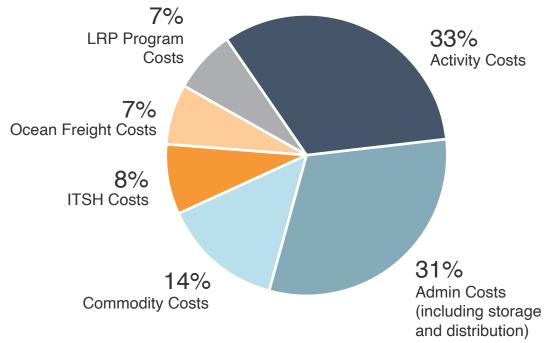


Table 9: FY 2021 USDA McGovern-Dole Use of Funds (Costs in millions of dollars) *

| Country and Awardee | U.S. Commodity | Metric Tons (MT) | U.S. Commodity Cost | Freight Cost | Admin Cost ** | Activity Cost | Procured Commodity Cost*** | ITSH | Total Cost Over Life of the Project |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|--------|---|
| Africa | | | | | | | | | |
| Benin, CRS | Fortified Rice | 3,070 | \$1.84 | \$.86 | | | | | |
| | Whole Green Peas | 1,430 | \$.72 | \$.40 | | | | | |
| | Vegetable Oil | 590 | \$1.06 | \$.17 | | | | | |
| Total | | 5,090 | \$3.62 | \$1.43 | \$7.48 | \$7.63 | \$2.68 | \$2.17 | \$25.00 |
| Burkina Faso, CRS | Soy-Fortified Bulgur | 3,270 | \$1.71 | \$1.11 | | | | | |
| | Lentils | 720 | \$.72 | \$.25 | | | | | |
| | Vegetable Oil | 220 | \$.40 | \$.07 | | | | | |
| | Cornmeal | 2,800 | \$1.82 | \$.95 | | | | | |
| | Corn Soy Blend Plus | 90 | \$.07 | \$.03 | | | | | |
| Total | | 7,100 | \$4.72 | \$2.41 | \$7.04 | \$6.49 | \$1.60 | \$2.74 | \$25.00 |
| Liberia, CPI | Fortified Rice | 2,800 | \$1.68 | \$1.12 | | | | | |
| | Yellow Split Peas | 1,180 | \$.59 | \$.47 | | | | | |
| | Vegetable Oil | 680 | \$1.22 | \$.27 | | | | | |
| Total | | 4,660 | \$3.49 | \$1.86 | \$7.84 | \$6.34 | \$2.30 | \$3.17 | \$25.00 |
| Madagascar, Global Communities | Fortified Rice | 3,030 | \$1.82 | \$1.08 | | | | | |
| | Vegetable Oil | 320 | \$.58 | \$.11 | | | | | |
| | Pinto Beans | 670 | \$1.00 | \$.24 | | | | | |
| Total | | 4,020 | \$3.40 | \$1.43 | \$8.43 | \$8.28 | \$1.65 | \$1.80 | \$25.00 |
| Republic of Congo, World Food Program | Fortified Rice | 5,560 | \$3.34 | \$1.61 | | | | | |
| | Yellow Split Peas | 1,100 | \$.55 | \$.32 | | | | | |
| | Fortified Vegetable Oil | 430 | \$.77 | \$.13 | | | | | |
| Total | | 7,090 | \$4.66 | \$2.06 | \$4.41 | \$9.74 | \$1.81 | \$2.32 | \$25.00 |

Table 9 (Continued)

| Country and Awardee | U.S. Commodity | Metric Tons (MT) | U.S. Commodity Cost | Freight Cost | Admin Cost ** | Activity Cost | Procured Commodity Cost*** | ITSH | Total Cost Over Life of the Project |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---|
| Senegal, CPI | Fortified Rice | 1,360 | \$.82 | \$.33 | | | | | |
| | Lentils | 660 | \$.66 | \$.16 | | | | | |
| | Green Split Peas | 540 | \$.29 | \$.13 | | | | | |
| | Sunflowerseed Oil | 310 | \$.87 | \$.07 | | | | | |
| Total | | 2,870 | \$2.64 | \$.69 | \$10.12 | \$9.30 | \$1.37 | \$.88 | \$25.00 |
| Sierra Leone, CRS | Fortified Rice | 3,490 | \$2.09 | \$1.15 | | | | | |
| | Lentils | 1,050 | \$1.05 | \$.35 | | | | | |
| | Vegetable Oil | 440 | \$.79 | \$.14 | | | | | |
| Total | | 4,980 | \$3.93 | \$1.64 | \$9.45 | \$4.78 | \$2.36 | \$2.83 | \$25.00 |
| Africa Total | | 35,810 | \$26.46 | \$11.52 | \$54.77 | \$52.55 | \$13.78 | \$15.90 | \$175.00 |
| Asia | | | | | | | | | |
| Kyrgyzstan, Mercy Corps | All Purpose Flour | 2,490 | \$1.37 | \$1.99 | | | | | |
| | Fortified Rice | 570 | \$.37 | \$.46 | | | | | |
| | Lentils | 290 | \$.29 | \$.23 | | | | | |
| | Green Split Peas | 290 | \$.16 | \$.23 | | | | | |
| | Sunflowerseed Oil | 340 | \$.95 | \$.27 | | | | | |
| Total | | 3,980 | \$3.14 | \$3.18 | \$9.86 | \$6.85 | \$1.41 | \$.56 | \$25.00 |
| Laos, CRS | Fortified Rice | 2,220 | \$1.33 | \$.67 | | | | | |
| | Vegetable Oil | 300 | \$.54 | \$.09 | | | | | |
| | Lentils | 450 | \$.45 | \$.14 | | | | | |
| Total | | 2,970 | \$2.32 | \$.90 | \$7.09 | \$9.76 | \$1.49 | \$1.45 | \$23.00 |
| Asia Total | | 6,950 | \$5.46 | \$4.08 | \$16.95 | \$16.60 | \$2.90 | \$2.01 | \$48.00 |

Table 9 (Continued)

| Country and Awardee | U.S. Commodity | Metric Tons (MT) | U.S. Commodity Cost | Freight Cost | Admin Cost ** | Activity Cost | Procured Commodity Cost*** | ITSH | Total Cost Over Life of the Project |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---|
| Latin Amer | ica | | | | | | | | |
| Guatemala, Global Communities | Fortified Rice | 2,290 | \$1.37 | \$.80 | | | | | |
| | Black Beans | 1,540 | \$1.54 | \$.54 | | | | | |
| | Vegetable Oil | 180 | \$.32 | \$.06 | | | | | |
| Total | | 4,010 | \$3.23 | \$1.40 | \$5.39 | \$12.13 | \$.47 | \$2.37 | \$25.00 |
| Latin America Tot | al | 4,010 | \$3.23 | \$1.40 | \$5.39 | \$12.13 | \$.47 | \$2.37 | \$25.00 |
| Worldwide Total | | 46,770 | \$35.17 | \$17.00 | \$77.12 | \$81.28 | \$17.16 | \$17.16 | \$248.00 |

^{*}All dollar values haves been rounded to the nearest \$10,000 dollars. As such the regional totals do not represent the sum of the individual columns. The regional and worldwide totals reflect the actual figures rounded to the nearest 10,000 dollars.

Total Participants Reached in FY 2021

Table 10: USDA McGovern-Dole Participants in FY 2021, by Agreement Year

| Agreement Year | Country | Implementer | FY 2020 Beneficiaries |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2015 | Cote D'Ivoire | World Food Program | 160,419 |
| | Guinea-Bissau | World Food Program | 28 |
| | Honduras | CRS | 59,031 |
| | Mali | CRS | 20,700 |
| | Mozambique | Planet Aid International | 05 |
| | Mozambique | World Vision | 118,450 |
| | Rwanda | World Food Program | 93,019 |

^{**}Administration costs include indirect costs, as well as funds for critical monitoring and evaluation activities of projects.

^{***}Procured Commodities Cost represent the cost of the locally- and regionally- procured commodities allowable under McGovern-Dole awards. The indirect, ITSH, and admin costs associated with procured commodities are included in the ITSH and admin totals.

^{**} Activities for the American Soybean Association's FY 2015-funded project in Ghana were focused on completing egg research in FY 2020, with no new participants reported.

^{***} Project implementation for FY 2019-funded projects are in the start-up phase. This includes activities such as conducting baseline evaluations, esta

⁵This project in Mozambique completed all activities as planned during FY2020 but remained administratively open for a short time during FY2021, which is why it is considered "active" in this table.

Table 10 (Continued)

| Agreement Year | Country | Implementer | FY 2020 Beneficiaries |
|----------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 2016 | Guatemala | CRS | 164,892 |
| | Guatemala | Project Concern International | 63,445 |
| | Kenya | World Food Program | 1,871 |
| | Laos | CRS | 39,733 |
| | Tanzania | Project Concern International | 193,732 |
| 2017 | Bangladesh | World Food Program | 44,455 |
| | Benin | CRS | 52,089 |
| | Kyrgyz Republic | Mercy Corps | 30,190 |
| | Laos | World Food Program | 91,452 |
| | Liberia | Save the Children | 72,954 |
| | Nepal | World Food Program | 168,360 |
| | Nicaragua | Project Concern International | 94,624 |
| | Republic of Congo | World Food Program | 78,556 |
| 2018 | Burkina Faso | CRS | 292,921 |
| | Cameroon | Nascent Solutions | 488,094 |
| | Ethiopia | World Food Program | 181,894 |
| | Guatemala | Save the Children | 58,347 |
| | Senegal | CPI | 68,390 |
| | Sierra Leone | CRS | 66,596 |
| | Sri Lanka | Save the Children | 444,202 |
| | Timor Leste | Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere | 344,308 |
| 2019 | Cambodia | World Food Program | 242,332 |
| | Guinea-Bissau | CRS | 70,044 |
| | Haiti | World Food Program | 102,273 |
| | Malawi | Nascent Solutions | 334,761 |
| | Mauritania | CPI | 71,605 |

Table 10 (Continued)

| | Mozambique | World Vision | 06 |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| | Togo | CRS | 48,624 |
| | Uzbekistan | Mercy Corps | 07 |
| 2020 ⁸ | Bangladesh | World Food Program | 49,162 |
| | Cote d'Ivoire | World Food Program | 0 |
| | Guatemala | Catholic Relief Services | 0 |
| | Honduras | Catholic Relief Services | 19,864 |
| | Laos | World Food Program | 0 |
| | Mali | Catholic Relief Services | 0 |
| | Mozambique | CPI | 0 |
| | Nepal | World Food Program | 0 |
| | Rwanda | World Food Program | 89,737 |
| 2021 ⁹ | Benin | Catholic Relief Services | NA |
| | Burkina Faso | Catholic Relief Services | NA |
| | Guatemala | Global Communities | NA |
| | Kyrgyzstan | Mercy Corps | NA |
| | Laos | Catholic Relief Services | NA |
| | Liberia | Save the Children | NA |
| | Madagascar | Global Communities | NA |
| | Republic of Congo | World Food Program | NA |
| | Senegal | CPI | NA |
| | Sierra Leone | Catholic Relief Services | NA |
| | Countries | Active Projects | Beneficiaries |
| FY 2021 Totals | 31 | 55 | 4,521,154 |

⁶ This project in Mozambique follows on from the FY 2015 project. The COVID-19 pandemic slowed work during FY 2021, which allowed the FY 2015 project to continue serving participants, while the FY 2019 project will begin during FY 2022.

⁷This project in Uzbekistan has faced administrative delays and is currently scheduled to begin during FY 2022.

⁸ Implementation for FY 2020 projects typically remains in the start-up phase during FY 2021. This includes activities such as conducting baseline evaluations, establishing partnerships and agreements, preparing curricula, etc. These projects typically reach very few participants during their first ⁹ The ten projects funded in FY 2021, which are reflected in the total number of active projects in FY 2021 at 55, were negotiated and agreements signed in September 2021. Signing agreements late in the fiscal year is standard practice in the International Food Assistance Division, and therefore these projects are not yet implementing or reporting on activities during FY 2021 by design.

Project Example

McGovern-Dole: Sri Lanka

In FY 2018, USDA awarded \$26 million to Save the Children to implement a 5-year McGovern-Dole project in Sri Lanka. Through this project, USDA provides split yellow peas and canned Alaskan pink salmon that will feed over 196,000 primary-grade students in government-run schools over the life of the project.

COVID-19-related school closures had a significant impact when schools in Sri Lanka closed in early March 2020 for the entirety of the school year and most of 2021. Due to these closures, students no longer had access to daily meals provided in school via the Ministry of Education's Homegrown School Meal Program, increasing food insecurity within the country.



Take-Home Rations distribution in Monaragala District, Sri Lanka Photo: Save the Children

The one-time family ration was designed to cover approximately three months of need. Alongside the food ration, Save the Children developed and distributed a comprehensive recipe pamphlet that showed parents and guardians how to effectively use the provided commodities. This full-color pamphlet provided eight recipes that were chosen based on their flavor profiles, nutritional benefits, ease of cooking, and limited use of additional ingredients.

Save the Children worked closely with local government officials and school administrators to plan and coordinate a community mobilization that worked directly with parents and resulted in a remarkable 99 percent of students picking up their rations safely from schools. Through this initial effort spanning approximately 90 days, USDA-donated commodity in the form of THR benefitted 106,951 children and their families, for a total 406,476 individuals.





To address the urgent need, Save the Children pivoted to provide THR to a total of 876 schools reaching approximately 107,000 students who were identified as needing support. THR distributions began in June 2021 immediately following the signing of a four-party Memorandum of Understanding between Save the Children and the three Government of Sri Lanka oversight ministries (Education, Health and Finance). The food ration was comprised of five kilograms of yellow split peas and five 418-gram cans of Alaskan pink salmon.



Take-Home Rations distribution in Trincomalee District, Sri Lanka where Covid-19 prevention protocols were being practiced during a USDA commodity distribution. Photo: Caine Cortellino/Save the Children

McGovern-Dole: Benin

In FY 2017, McGovern-Dole awarded \$21 million to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to implement a 5-year Mc-Govern-Dole project that aimed to improve the literacy of school-age children in 144 schools in northern Benin alongside providing school meals. Based upon the success of this project and Benin's continued commitment to school meals, CRS received a FY 2021 award valued at \$25 million to build and expand to 175 primary schools



Cover page of McGovern-Dole project decodable book. Photo credit: Nadège Djitrinou.

in the Alibori and Borgou Departments, reaching 111,163 direct beneficiaries. Under both FY 2017 and FY 2021 projects, CRS collaborates with Benin's Ministry of Pre-School and Primary Education through the National Institute of Training and Research in Education (INFRE) to develop a comprehensive packet of activities for students. Such activities include teacher trainings, parent and teacher association trainings, and the distribution of school supplies and materials.

In 2019, the results of an Early Grade Reading Assessment and a diagnostic exercise to measure teachers' knowledge, skills, and practices, revealed a low level of capacity in teacher's pedagogical skills and in students' reading capabilities – particularly in decoding new words. In response,

CRS worked with INFRE to design training modules related to the key components of reading and writing for Grades 1 and 2 teachers and their principals. Once trained, these educators cascaded their new knowledge to their students and peers in McGovern-Dole-supported schools. The project also designed five books corresponding to the pedagogical progression prescribed for Grade 2 to assist students with decoding new words.

In 2020, the Government of Benin, inspired by the McGovern-Dole project's newly developed teacher trainings and reading support materials, requested and secured funding from the World Bank to introduce the project's decodable readers into the French teaching and learning



A 12-year-old student reads at a primary school in northern Benin, November 2021. Photo credit: Jennifer Lazuta/CRS

method for Grade 1. Similarity, INFRE extended the McGovern-Dole project's production channel for module production and subsequent teachers' training at the national scale. Through these efforts, 83,865 decodable books were distributed to students and teachers throughout Benin between October 2019 and September 2021. Trainings on the best practices for the use of decodable readers in the classroom took place in two sessions held in December 2019 and November 2020. Combined, a total of 395 teachers and school administrators participated in the trainings.

As a result of the McGovern-Dole project, the government of Benin was able to implement a structured approach to phonics in preschools and primary schools throughout Benin for the first time. At the same time, INFRE leveraged its relationship and successful experience with CRS to address teaching and learning issues at the national level.

Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement

Under the authority of Section 3206 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, as amended, the USDA LRP program provides a complementary mechanism for delivering international food assistance. The objectives of USDA LRP include strengthening the ability of local and regional farmers, community farmer groups, farmer cooperatives and associations, processors, and agribusinesses to provide high-quality commodities, and enhancing the ability of organizations and governments to procure such commodities in support of school feeding programs. The funding authorization allows field-based development projects to procure eligible commodities produced within the target region. At the time of award, preference for funding has been given to active McGovern-Dole projects to leverage opportunities within existing projects, and open new school feeding markets to local and regional producers. USDA LRP has not received appropriated funds the last two fiscal years. Both the FY 2020 Further Consolidated Appropriations Act and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 did not appropriate funds for the USDA LRP program.

In FY 2021, USDA had seven continuing USDA LRP agreements in seven countries, including two agreements that concluded all project activities. Across the 7 active agreements, USDA LRP programs reached more than 139,000 direct participants. See table 10 for active programming in FY 2021. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, several projects had to adjust all or some activities to the local context as some schools remained closed, some schools fully reopened, and some schools moved to hybrid in-person learning. To respond to the needs of the served population, USDA authorized the distribution of locally or regionally procured commodities as THR to children, cooks, and teachers who would normally be attending pre- and primary schools supported by the USDA LRP program.

Table 11: Active Prior-Year-Funded USDA LRP Projects in FY 2021

| Implementer | Country – FY | Award (Value) | Procured Commodities |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---|
| Project Concern International | Tanzania – FY 2017 | \$2,000,000 | Maize, Beans, Fortified Oil |
| Global Communities | Guatemala – FY 2018 | \$4,000,000 | Fruits, Vegetables, Animal based protein |
| Catholic Relief Services | Honduras – FY 2018 | \$2,400,000 | Eggs and Vegetables |
| СРІ | Senegal – FY 2018 | \$3,600,000 | Millet and Cow Peas |
| Catholic Relief Services | Burkina Faso – FY 2019 | \$4,800,000 | Cottonseed Oil, Millet, Rice, Cowpeas |
| World Food Program | Cambodia – FY 2019 | \$4,700,000 | Animal Protein, Fresh Vegetables, Iodized Salt |
| Project Concern International | Nicaragua – FY 2019 | \$5,500,000 | Dry Beans, Vegetables, Animal Based Proteins |

Project Example

Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement: Honduras

In FY 2018, USDA awarded \$2.4 million to CRS to implement a 2-year USDA LRP project in the province of Intibucá, Honduras. Due to COVID-19, the project was extended to March 31, 2021. This USDA LRP project complements the ration of U.S.-donated commodities provided by the McGovern-Dole project at schools by procuring local fruits, vegetables, and animal-based protein. In FY 2021, CRS in Honduras incorporated the practices and lessons learned from the USDA LRP project into the local and regional procurement component of the FY 2020 McGovern-Dole award.

In FY 2021, the USDA LRP project developed the capacity of the municipal association AMFI (Asociación de Municipios Fronterizos de Intibucá) to procure and distribute 311 MT of



Distribution of Local and Regional Procurement commodities. Photo by CRS Staff

vegetables, including cucumber, carrots, yucca, tomatoes, and potatoes, and over 709,234 eggs, benefitting 13,893 students. The USDA LRP project has sourced all of these commodities from municipalities in Intibucá or neighboring departments. To date, selected local Honduran producers have delivered 97 percent of

commodities on time with a less than 1 percent rejection rate related to quality standards. In addition, CRS developed a Quality Standards Guide to improve the quality of products to be consumed by students. This guide identifies the physiology of the fruit, weight, size, physical appearance, acceptance tolerance percentage, transportation, and the proper use of agricultural chemicals. This experience in FY 2021 demonstrates that the USDA LRP project can increase productivity and market linkages for small-holder farmers, and local stakeholders, like AMFI, that are capable of and interested in playing central roles in managing and implementing locally sourced feeding programs for their schools.

IV. Appendices

FY 2021 New Awards by Program

| CCC-Funded Food for Progress | McGovern-Dole (10 countries) | Local Regional Procurement (0 countries) |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Sudan | Benin Burkina Faso Guatemala Kyrgyzstan Laos Liberia Madagascar Republic of Congo Senegal Sierra Leone | None |