

Counterpart International designs and implements multi-year programs that address food security, agriculture, and private sector development while integrating broader social, political, and human development dynamics. This inclusive approach delivers concrete results while fostering community ownership, the active participation of marginalized groups, and sustainability by means of building the capacity of stakeholders in government, civil society, producer groups, and parents' associations.

Since 2004, Counterpart has been awarded \$170M in food security programs as a key partner to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's *McGovern-Dole*, *Food for Progress* and *Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement* projects, while having supported USAID's *Feed the Future* and *Food for Peace*. Target groups are those who face the greatest food insecurity and malnutrition challenges—youth, women, ethnic minorities, and the rural poor. Projects leverage our civil society and governance capabilities, along with university partnerships that provide evidence-based research to innovate more effective solutions. Throughout, we focus on sustainability that enables country programs to achieve self-reliance.

Counterpart programs are designed and managed to strengthen the capacity of local and national organizations inside and outside of government to address community needs while fostering strong, inclusive market economies and promoting democratic institutions. We provide:

- **Field Assessments & Analysis:** A combination of inclusive political economy, gender inclusion, local commodity procurement markets, value chain analysis, and calculations and metrics for the food-safety-nutrition nexus for targeted populations.
- **Project Delivery:** Customized approaches and activities informed by global best practices and enabled by our project management, compliance, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems.
- **Trustbuilding, Collaboration, and Self-reliance:** Engagements that convene all stakeholders in a way that lead to greater transparency, accountability, and impact in the use of food security resources.
- **Organizational Capacity and Performance:** Tailored training, mentoring, tools, and skills transfer, with local NGOs often serving as co-implementing partners.

COUNTERPART'S APPROACH AND CAPABILITIES

In fragile settings, sustainable food security improvements demand a systems-level, multi-stakeholder approach. Locally and nationally, Counterpart engages with government officials, school actors, farmers, and producer groups—transitioning countries from reliance on U.S. commodities to high-nutrition food procured from local and regional agricultural markets and private sector producers. When appropriate, Counterpart leverages private sector resources by establishing public private partnerships and engaging on corporate social responsibility initiatives.

In humanitarian assistance settings, we focus on food delivery that meets the population's core health, hygiene, and nutrition needs while pursuing additional benefits such as building trust, improving education systems, supporting growers, expanding commerce, and enhancing good governance.

In broader development settings, we also apply a multi-stakeholder approach that achieves direct food security gains while improving economic and human development outcomes, including:

- Economic growth by raising farmer productivity and developing food market systems;
- Local, regional, and international acquisition and distribution of food commodities;
- Customized capacity building approach for local governments, community groups, and schools;
- Education with a focus on school feeding, student attendance, literacy, and nutrition; and
- Water, hygiene, and sanitation with equipment and community infrastructure improvements.



GLOBAL EXPERIENCE AND LOCAL IMPACT

USDA FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

- **Senegal:** Since 2004, USDA-funded Counterpart programs have supported transformational change in nearly all aspects of food security where malnutrition is prevalent. *McGovern-Dole* projects (Matam Region 2008–2015, Saint-Louis Region 2014–2022) reduce hunger by improving nutrition, agriculture, market access, health, literacy rates, and student attendance. Using an integrated approach to increase effectiveness, *McGovern-Dole* is now supported by *Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement* (2018–2021) to create market linkages with producers to supply food to schools to foster a sustainable pathway for community-led school feeding. *Food for Progress* (2004–2013) improved agricultural productivity and market access. Teacher training and new instruction materials improved literacy, student attendance, and learning outcomes, which were supported by 15 million meals provided to students. Forty-one schools have new clean water stations, classroom infrastructure, and gender-sensitive latrines. The most recent *McGovern-Dole* project, based in the mostly arid Saint-Louis Region, targets 47,000 students in 270 schools.
- **Guatemala:** *Food for Progress* (2012–2021) focuses on smallholders by strengthening rural extension services from the Ministry of Agriculture, access to finance, and producer cooperatives' capacity to serve their members.
- **Mauritania:** *McGovern-Dole* (2019–2024) improves student literacy, nutritional outcomes, school governance, and the Ministry of Education's school feeding capacity while distributing food to schools in order to improve student attendance, nutrition, learning, and overall well-being.
- **Cameroon:** *McGovern-Dole's* (2008–2016) second phase supported 150 schools in the fragile North to advance food security, reduce the incidence of hunger, and strengthen primary education by providing 41 million school meals and take-home rations to 99,000 students, training teachers, school officials, and PTAs; constructing 12 boreholes, 41 latrines, and 146 kitchens and storage rooms; and procuring de-worming medicine for children and vitamin A for pregnant and nursing women.

USAID FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS

- **Malawi:** *Supporting the Efforts of Partners in Malawi* (2014–2020) provides grants, training, capacity building, and other assistance to strengthen over 30 local NGOs' ability to sustainably and effectively improve Malawians' quality of life. Project partners span sectors such as agriculture and include organizations like the 100,000-member National Small Holder Farmers Association of Malawi (NASFAM).
- **Mauritania:** *Community Action, Nutrition, and Livelihoods, Food for Peace* (2006–2013) partnered with the Ministry of Health and local organizations in 160 communities to strengthen health, hygiene, and nutrition. *Resiliency Building for Pastoral Communities* (2013–2015) in the Trarza Region of Mauritania assisted 33,986 people experience household vulnerability and food deficits. *Barkeol Nutrition and Economic Recovery* (2014–2016) focused on mitigating food insecurity, improving maternal and child health, and strengthening agriculture and related markets.
- **Niger:** *Food for Peace Multi-Year Assistance Program* (2008–2013) in Zinder and Diffa regions targeted over 80,000 residents in 300 villages through an integrated set of activities focused on poverty reduction and improved food security. Counterpart led participatory rural appraisals which analyzed value chains and defined interventions to increase production. Activities improved small-holder productivity through technical assistance in dryland and wetlands farming; increased household food security through community gardens; reduced the impact of shocks through early warning systems; and improved local health providers' capacity to address youth undernutrition.

