

## USAID'S GENERATING RESILIENCE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN (GROW)

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)'s **Generating Resilience and Opportunities for Women (GROW)** commitment will tackle urgent challenges facing women in food and water systems, including climate change, while unlocking opportunities for women to advance economically—ultimately benefiting their families, communities, and societies at large through improved food security, resilience, and economic growth.

The compounding impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, protracted conflicts, and the global food security crisis are affecting women disproportionately, while also putting their critical contributions to food security, nutrition, and resilience into greater focus. Accelerated action to address these challenges is more important than ever.



Photo Credit: [USAID Malawi](#)

Subject to the availability of funds and Congressional notification, GROW will specifically focus on women's empowerment in the food and water sectors and invest up to \$335 million through the U.S. government's Feed the Future initiative led by USAID and through USAID's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) and Adaptation activities. This commitment will enable USAID to deepen and scale its programming to reach, benefit, and empower more women around the world as they, their families, and their communities face worsening climate-driven disasters and food security crises.

### PRIORITY AREAS

GROW will advance women's empowerment across the following three priority areas, in close collaboration with country governments, implementing partners, and local communities:

- Increase women producers' productivity and resilience to shocks.
- Support women to fully participate in and benefit from more diversified and climate-resilient economic opportunities in food and water systems—including in value chains beyond production.
- Drive the humanitarian system to prioritize addressing the unique needs of women and girls affected by climate and food-security crises.

Across these priority areas, GROW will address the systemic barriers to women's participation in and benefit from food and water systems. It will do so by supporting innovative and transformative programming to

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eliminate discriminatory norms, policies, and practices that create and reinforce gender inequalities in households and communities.

## **PRIORITY 1: INCREASING WOMEN PRODUCERS' PRODUCTIVITY AND RESILIENCE TO SHOCKS**

In **Nepal**, USAID puts agricultural technologies in the hands of women by installing and conducting training on how to operate and maintain 1,600 irrigation systems across approximately 2,000 hectares of the country's Feed the Future Zone of Influence.

In **Burkina Faso**, our efforts equip majority-female cowpea producers and women-led producer organizations with organic fertilizer and composting equipment to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from the global fertilizer price shocks and supply chain disruptions exacerbated by Putin's war on Ukraine.

In **Tanzania**, USAID mitigates the impacts of climate change and increases the production of highly nutritious horticultural goods that help women and youth access finance and climate-smart seeds and technologies to fully participate in and benefit from more diversified economic opportunities in horticultural systems.

In **Angola**, our efforts advance the economic empowerment of women in fisheries value chains by putting them in the lead of forming fisheries cooperatives and driving their adoption of improved fish processing practices and technologies.

In **Burundi**, USAID shifts discriminatory social and gender norms to increase women's access to equitable land certification programs and promote women's economic empowerment through market-driven agriculture.

In **Tanzania**, our efforts empower women as resource managers, land rights holders, and agricultural entrepreneurs by increasing their participation in decision-making on agriculture management and livelihoods.

## **PRIORITY 2: SUPPORTING WOMEN TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN AND BENEFIT FROM MORE DIVERSIFIED AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN FOOD AND WATER SYSTEMS—INCLUDING IN VALUE CHAINS BEYOND PRODUCTION**

In **Zambia**, our co-investments with private-sector partners increase gender-equitable trade and investment for Zambian agriculture enterprises within the country, across the region, and internationally, including with the United States. By targeting legislation, procedures, and regulations that hinder women's access to finance and their ability to own and expand businesses, USAID unleashes the power of Zambia's greatest untapped resource—women entrepreneurs.



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In **Liberia**, USAID increases women’s economic opportunity by targeting women-owned agribusinesses and female entrepreneurs and by providing them with direct grants, technical assistance, and business incubation services.

In **Nigeria**, our efforts help women access income generation opportunities, life skills, and asset ownership and increase their participation in the agrifood system as input suppliers so they earn more and are stronger market competitors.

### **PRIORITY 3: DRIVING THE HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM TO PRIORITIZE ADDRESSING THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS AFFECTED BY CLIMATE AND FOOD-SECURITY CRISES**

As part of its ongoing response to the global food security crisis, USAID continues to deepen its engagement with key United Nations’ agencies leading on food security in order to ensure food assistance programming engages women and girls, and the local organizations they lead. USAID’s humanitarian assistance ensures food assistance programming is safe, accessible, and inherently protective for those most in need.

USAID supports women-led organizations and movements to respond to crises and to build resilient and inclusive economies, environments, and societies. Our support for women-led organizations in humanitarian response includes working with women to increase their decision-making about and access to humanitarian financing in countries experiencing food insecurity, including **Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Nepal.**

Our efforts are improving the quality and impact of emergency and non-emergency food security and resilience activities by addressing the barriers and challenges implementing partners face when integrating gender and youth within their work. This support focuses on peer-to-peer learning, capacity strengthening, application of good practices, support for addressing knowledge gaps, research, and evidence building through a small grants program.

According to the latest evidence from FAO, if half of small-scale producers benefited from development interventions which focused on empowering women, it would significantly raise the incomes of an additional 58 million people and increase the resilience of an additional 235 million people. Furthermore, improving women’s productivity would feed another 45 million people. Thus, GROW tackles the urgent challenges facing women in food and water systems, including climate change, while unlocking opportunities for women to advance economically—ultimately benefiting their families, communities, and societies at large through improved food security, resilience, and economic growth.

*Last updated: April 2023*



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