

**Indicator: # of unique individuals participating in USG food security programs
(AG_FTF_038)****AGRICULTURE SECTOR** **Type:** Output**Unit of Measure:** Individual**Disaggregation:** Sex: Male, Female
Age: 0–9, 10–14, 14–19, 20–24, 25+**Precise definitions**

Individuals: This indicator is designed to capture the breadth of the Peace Corps' food security work as part of the U.S. government (USG) interagency Global Food Security Strategy, Feed the Future. Individual participants include those reached directly through project activities that address food and nutrition security, and those reached as part of a deliberate service provision strategy, such as Volunteer-facilitated peer-to-peer instruction (e.g., farmer to farmer, care group approach, positive deviance approach).

To avoid double-counting (i.e., counting the same individual participating in more than one food security activity more than once) Volunteers should carefully track each individual participant across all the different activities undertaken in order to report the number of unique participants reached.

This indicator counts all individuals participating in Peace Corps project activities that address food and nutrition security in any sector, including:

- (AG, ENV, CED) Direct dissemination of improved agricultural management practices or technologies to smallholder farmers and their households to improve productivity, diversity, and sustainability of farm production and/or improve agriculture-related basic business practices;
- (HE) Nutrition-specific and community-level nutrition interventions (e.g., parents and other caregivers participating in community care groups, health-care workers provided with in-service training on how to manage acute malnutrition);
- (CED) Establishment of productive safety nets (e.g., village savings and lending associations), community-based micro-finance and diversified livelihood activities;
- (HE, AG, ENV) Household-level interventions, such as handwashing with soap at the appropriate times, household access to basic hygiene and/or sanitation (e.g., construction and use of tippy-taps and latrines) or preparation of improved, nutrient-rich and diverse foods;
- (CED, AG) Strengthening organizational and/or business management practices of self-help groups, entrepreneurs, and small business owners in the private sector, though not necessarily all the members of those groups;
- (CED) Strengthened organizational and/or management practices of civil society organizations and local government agencies that address food and nutrition security; and
- (HE, AG, ENV) Organization and support of school-feeding programs (school-aged children may be counted against this indicator) or during/after school clubs that plan and implement activities to address food and nutrition security (e.g., school gardens to support lunch programs, tree nursery development to make fruit or other multipurpose trees available, small animal husbandry projects).

Participating: An output indicator is a process indicator—it tells us the activity occurred and in what quantity. It doesn't tell us about the quality of the activity *or* the level of participation in the activity. For individual or group

interventions that consist of a series of teaching or training sessions, criteria are normally established, such as “must attend 75 percent of the sessions,” to ensure that a participant has received the intervention. If the individual participant is merely contacted or touched by an activity through brief attendance at a meeting or gathering, s/he should not be counted.

Changing behavior is a long-term process and requires multiple direct and meaningful interactions with the same individual. This indicator focuses on individual participants of activities that are designed to be continued and repeated to result in behavior change, such as individualized or group farmer extension over at least one full crop season, work with an entrepreneur or small business over one or more business cycles, interventions that include a number of sessions targeting care groups, mothers’ groups or households, regular meetings with youth club members during a full school year or more, etc. The intervention needs to be “significant,” meaning that the activities, sessions, or meetings are designed and delivered to move participants toward a specific, observable, and measurable outcome, i.e., a change in behavior.

Individuals who are trained as part of a deliberate outreach strategy that prepare them to train others (e.g., peer-to-peer training) should be counted as participants. The individuals who receive training from these peer trainers should also be counted as participants. For example, lead or master farmers trained to train other farmers and those that they train should both be counted as participating in USG food security programs.

In cases where activities work with multiple individuals in a household, this indicator counts all activity participants in the household, not all members of the household. However, in the case of sanitation services and family-sized rations, all members of the household receiving the sanitation facility or ration can be counted here.

USG-supported programs: Values reported should reflect countrywide results. Results should not be restricted to only those achieved in the Feed the Future zone of influence.

Data collection

Tool: Feed the Future Tracking Sheet

Names of individual participants meeting the above criteria for any food- or nutrition-security-related activities or interventions conducted by a PCV should be tracked through a fiscal year, though each individual should be reported only once. Remember, the intervention or activity must be significant, designed to enable participants to achieve the desired behavior change outcome(s). This might include a series of teaching or training sessions; a formal training workshop with individual follow-up visits; or repeated home, business, school, or farm visits. Participants must be present for at least 75 percent of the sessions to be counted.

Note that this indicator tracks participation only. Volunteers should report on outcomes achieved by participants according to the indicators in their M&E plan. For example, if, over the course of several visits, or after attending a formal training, a farmer with whom a PCV works on a regular basis applies an improved agricultural management practice or technology, s/he should be reported both under this GFSS/FTF output indicator (AG_FTF_038) and under GFSS/FTF outcome indicators AG_FTF_025 and AG_FTF_026.

Important Note: Children counted under the following two indicators should not be counted in this indicator:

- 1) HE_MCH_255_FTF: Number of children under 2 (0–23 months) reached with community-level nutrition interventions through USG-supported programs; and**
- 2) HE_MCH_252_FTF: Number of children under 5 (0–59 months) reached with nutrition-specific interventions through USG-supported nutrition programs**

Reporting

To be counted for this indicator the following criteria must be met:

- The individual participated in agriculture, environment, community economic development, health, youth, or education activities that relate to improving food and/or nutrition security.
- Interventions and activities were facilitated directly by a PCV, co-facilitated by a PCV and their counterpart, or facilitated by direct beneficiaries of activities conducted by a PCV as part of a deliberate service delivery strategy (cascade training), e.g., farmer-to-farmer trainings. See list above in “Precise definitions” section.
- The intervention, which must be “significant” and include multiple direct contacts, included no more than 25 individuals (for example, 60 participants at a one-off awareness raising event should not be reported).
- Individuals attended at least 75 percent of the sessions.
- Attendance at the training or educational sessions was documented by the Volunteer or their partner (sign-in sheet, photo, etc.).
- This indicator should not count participants in one-off awareness or sensitization meetings. This indicator should not count indirect beneficiaries of these activities (e.g., neighbors who apply new practices based on observation or interactions with activity participants but who have not been trained to further spread new knowledge or skills to others as part of a deliberate service delivery strategy).

Data will be reported each VRF reporting period, but each individual can be reported only once during the fiscal year (October 1–September 30). For example, if an individual attended eight out of 10 sessions during the first VRF reporting period, s/he would be reported in that VRF. If the same individual attended additional sessions during subsequent VRF reporting periods in the same fiscal year, even if on a different topic area, s/he should not be reported in any subsequent VRFs. If the same individual continues to attend sessions in the following fiscal year, s/he could be counted again, as one individual, under the same indicator in the VRF for that new fiscal year.