Stunting rates for children in Rwanda remain stubbornly high at 33 percent for children under five years (DHS 2019-20), but there is an opportunity to decrease those rates through increased consumption of animal-sourced foods (ASF). ASF provide vital and highly bioavailable nutrients and play an important role in cognitive development. A majority of households in Rwanda do not regularly consume ASF, particularly meat and egg products, due to limiting dietary norms, limited availability, and perceived high cost of ASF in rural areas. Lack of appropriate financing and poor coordination between public and private sector actors further constrain access to ASF, leading to low per capita consumption of pigs, fish, poultry, and goats.

Activity Objectives

The Feed the Future Orora Wihaze Activity targets ASF producer and consumer households in 8 districts of Rwanda to sustainably increase availability of, access to, and consumption of ASF through the development of a profitable market. This is achieved by i) strengthening private sector led ASF value chains; and ii) increasing demand for ASF consumption by women and children. Orora Wihaze is using an evidence-driven partnership engagement approach to source, incubate, scale, and replicate innovative solutions to address root constraints in the ASF market system that hinder increased production, market penetration to rural areas, and consumption of ASF. The Orora Wihaze activity works with local partners and the private sector in Rwanda to strengthen the ASF market system.

The implementation of the activities utilizes a combination of ongoing market development services; targeted technical assistance and events with selected partners; and the use of the Market Innovation Funds (MIF) to award Grants.

Expected results

- 125,000 households with incomes increased by at least 30%
- 40% increase in number of women of reproductive age consuming a diet of minimum diversity and children 6-23 months receiving a minimum acceptable diet
- $5 Million new USG commitment and private sector investment leveraged by USG to support food security and nutrition
- $1.3 Million agriculture-related financing accessed as a result of USG assistance

Key results achieved to date include:

- Number of individuals participating in USG food security programs: 47,830 individuals
- Percent of children 6-23 months receiving a minimum acceptable diet: 31.4%
- Percent of women of reproductive age consuming a diet of minimum diversity: 51.8%
- Value of new USG commitment and private sector investment leveraged by USG to support food security and nutrition: USD $573,992
- Value of agriculture-related financing accessed as a result of USG assistance: USD $249,282

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