1. **Introduction**

The United States and the Republic of Rwanda enjoy a partnership that began in 1962 just after the Rwandan independence. This Rwanda-American partnership is deeply rooted in the shared ideals of two countries. The USAID Mission in Rwanda was established in 1964, a few years after the establishment of USAID in 1961. The early decades of U.S. cooperation focused on health, sanitation and rural development – with agriculture and nutrition programs at its core. Rwanda’s food assistance programs at the time included direct provision of staple commodities (grain, rice, etc.) through the Food for Peace program, while the agriculture and nutrition programs focused on reducing food waste and improving food storage and marketing.

During the late 1970s and 80s, USAID/Rwanda began to diversify its portfolio – shifting its agriculture focus to research and education, expanding health projects to include maternal and child health and family planning, and addressing economic issues more systematically through economic policy analysis, private enterprise development, and natural resource management. By this time, USAID support to Rwanda averaged approximately $7 million each year.

In addition to the expansion of programs in economic development, agriculture, and health, the USAID added activities in democracy and governance as well as humanitarian assistance. Assistance from USAID/Rwanda was halted in April 1994 following the beginning of the genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda, but was re-established several months later to provide emergency humanitarian aid – including food aid and programs in health, nutrition, and small-scale agriculture for refugees and the internally displaced.

Since 2003, USAID/Rwanda has worked in close partnership with the Government of Rwanda (GOR) to advance the objectives outlined in its Vision 2020 and Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategies. Over the last 10 years, annual funding to USAID/Rwanda has increased from about $48 million in 2004 to over $150 million in 2012. The bulk of the increase was due to the launch of several new U.S. Presidential Initiatives including the [President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR),](http://www.pepfar.gov) the [President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI),](http://www.pmi.gov) and the [Feed the Future (FtF)](http://www.feedthefuture.gov) food security initiative.

USAID/Rwanda continues to support each of the Presidential Initiatives, as well as the [Global Climate Change (GCC) initiative](http://www.usaid.gov/climate/us-global-climate-change-initiative) in its programming. In the case of PEPFAR and PMI, USAID/Rwanda works closely with other U.S. Government agencies, including the State Department, Centers for Disease Control, Department of Defense, and Peace Corps, to fully implement activities.

Health programs constitute about two-thirds of USAID/Rwanda’s assistance and span a wide-variety of issues, including: health systems strengthening, HIV/AIDS and malaria prevention, family planning and maternal and child health. Rwanda no longer receives food assistance, as it was phased out in 2010 and replaced by the Feed the Future food security initiative. The main financing modality used by the US in Rwanda which is basically implemented outside country systems, is programs/projects modality with no any intervention through Budget Support.