Land O’Lakes is working to maximize coordinated agricultural responses to health and nutrition challenges, as healthy and well-nourished families are also among the most agriculturally productive. Strong health, hygiene and balanced nutrition help to minimize the impacts of food insecurity and infectious disease by strengthening household resilience. Our work also harnesses complementary service delivery points and messaging for animal care and human health, provides targeted nutrition and health capacity building for extension agents, and promotes joint household decision making on livelihoods, nutrition and health.

**Madagascar SALOHI (2009-2014)**

Strengthening and Accessing Livelihood Opportunities for Household Impact (SALOHI) is a five-year, $85 million food security project funded primarily by USAID/Office of Food for Peace, and implemented by a consortium of four NGOs – Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Cooperatives for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), Catholic Relief Services – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (CRS, as lead agency) and Land O’Lakes International Development Division - in the East and South of Madagascar.

The overall goal of the SALOHI program is to reduce food insecurity and vulnerability in 21 districts in eastern and southern Madagascar by 2014. The SALOHI program will improve human capabilities in health and nutrition, reinforce livelihood capacities in farm productivity, agribusiness and capital mobilization, reduce vulnerability to livelihood risks and shocks, and reinforce program participants’ capacity to influence decisions affecting their food security. SALOHI is assisting 96,000 households.

Malnutrition levels in Madagascar are highest among children 6 – 23 months of age. For these reasons, the SALOHI program prioritizes preventative interventions for children under the age of two. To support the government’s efforts to provide nutritional services to children under the age of five, the SALOHI program implements growth monitoring and promotion activities for children through the age of five.

Working through existing community health volunteers (CHV), program staff identify caregivers of moderately malnourished children under the age of five during community-based growth promotion sessions. Moderately malnourished children participate in nutritional rehabilitation programs at the community level, while severely malnourished children are referred to government therapeutic centers.

The Positive Deviance/Hearth (PD/H) Model is used to rehabilitate moderately malnourished children and prevent future malnutrition. Mothers are taught how to prepare healthful meals using locally-available foods and to discuss infant and child feeding practices.
Malawi Food for Progress aims to support the development of sustainable market-oriented production and to increase the role of the private sector in the rice, cassava and small livestock sectors in Malawi’s Salima and Nkhotakota districts. The program is focusing on three primary objectives:

Objective 1 – Agricultural Production and Nutrition Improved: will focus on assisting smallholder households to increase their production by adopting improved technologies and production practices. Additionally, nutrition education will help promote dietary diversity, safe hygiene and good nutrition among farmer families, while linking them to nutrition services available in target communities.

Objective 2 – Farmer Organization Capacity Enhanced: through practical training in business planning and organizational governance and facilitating linkages to markets.

Objective 3 – Agribusiness and Support Services Strengthened: will focus on increasing the effectiveness and sustainability of private sector and government support service providers, which are essential to successfully growing the small livestock, rice, and cassava value chains. Additionally, Land O’Lakes will engage financial service providers to increase insurance, credit products and service offerings for smallholders. Outcomes will include strengthening more than 230 commercial input and service providers’ businesses.

To date, the program has provided nutrition and hygiene trainings to a total of 304 farmer households (through Yankho Plots™ and other means) in addition to training 2,000 women on nutrition and hygiene. A total of 100 Nutrition Farmer Group Leaders (NFGLs) were selected from the initial 2,000 trained by Land O’Lakes to continue teaching nutrition and hygiene with caregivers.

Ethiopia ENGINE (2011-2016)

ENGINE is a five-year integrated nutrition program that is part of the Global Health and Feed the Future initiatives of USAID. ENGINE will address the major challenges and gaps in implementation of the National Nutrition Program (NNP), such as multi-sectoral coordination, capacity building at policy and implementation levels, and pre-service and innovative behavior change efforts to link nutrition, livelihoods and food security.

The overall goal is to improve the nutritional status of women and young children through sustainable, comprehensive, coordinated, and evidence-based interventions focused on:

- Strengthening the capacity for and institutionalizing nutrition programs and policies
- Improving the quality and delivery of nutrition and health care services
- Preventing undernutrition through community-based nutrition care and practices
- Adoption of a rigorous and innovative learning agenda

The ENGINE program is designed to exploit to the fullest extent the potential linkages between food security and nutrition programs. Land O’Lakes staff are currently focused on promoting demonstration plots and school demonstration gardens. In the targeted districts, ENGINE operates through existing agricultural extension programs’ farmer training centers (FTCs), which have demonstration plots, as well as through and school gardens, working through parent-teacher associations (PTAs). ENGINE uses the learning-by-doing approach to teach effective farming techniques promoted by the Ethiopian government for small-scale food production. As a result of piloting these techniques, vulnerable households in target areas have started to adopt these skills.

Direct Beneficiaries: 3.1 million under five children, half a million pregnant and lactating women and 3.2 million women of reproductive age will be the primary target and beneficiaries.

Within the target districts, the most vulnerable households will be targeted, such as chronically food-insecure and female-headed households. The program will also indirectly benefit 2.7 million households and the communities overall.

Malawi Food for Progress (2012-2015)

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