**TOPS Resilience Task Force meeting notes**

**Wednesday, May 11, 2016**

|  |
| --- |
| **IN PERSON Attendance** |
| Diane | De Bernardo | Nutrition Advisor | USAID | ddebernardo@usaid.gov |
| Tim | Frankenberger | President | TANGO International | Tim@tangointernational.com |
| Lauren  | Jessup | Program Associate | TOPS  | ljessup@savechildren.org  |
| Adam  | Keehn | Deputy Director | TOPS | akeehn@savechildren.org |
| Abby | Love | Agriculture Officer | Mercy Corps | alove@mercycorps.org  |
| Laurie  | Starr | Senior Specialist: Monitoring and Evaluation/ Gender  | TOPS/ TANGO International  | laurie@tangointernational.com |
| Malini | Tolat | Livelihoods Advisor Asia | Save the Children | mtolat@savechildren.org |
| Emily  | Wei  |  | CRS | emily.wei@crs.org |
| **ONLINE attendance** |
| Pascal | Debons | DRM and Resilience Technical advisor | Action Against Hunger | pdebons@actionagainsthunger.org |
| Karyn  | Fox | Independent consultant |  | kfox@tangointernational.com |
| David  | Hajjar | Director of MEL  | IRD/ Blumont | dhajjar@ird.org |
| Georgina | Jordan  | Somalia Resilience Program  | World Vision- Somalia  | georgina\_jordan@wvi.org |
| Amelia | Kendall | Design and Development Officer | World Vision | akendall@worldvision.org |
| Scott | Merrill | Senior Technical Advisor, Markets & Livelihoods | CARE | smerrill@care.org |
| Benita | O’ Colmain |  | ICF International | benita.ocolmain@icfi.com |
| Colette | Powers | STA, Agriculture & Livelihoods | Catholic Relief Services | colette.powers@crs.org |
| Mara | Russell | Director, Food Security | CARE | mrussell@care.org |
| Mara | Russell |  | CARE | mrussell@care.org |
| Kristi  | Tabaj | Senior Gender Specialist  | TOPS/ Save the Children  | ktabaj@savechildren.org |
| Peter | Wright | Advisor climate resilient agriculture | CARE USA | peter.wright@care.org |

**Select minutes -**

For full recording with all comments from online participants please visit the FSN Resilience Task Force [webpage.](http://www.fsnnetwork.org/task-force/resilience)

1. **Introduction and timeline of taskforce**
* Tim F.(TANGO): Idea of creating a TOPS resilience task force (RTF) for partners to participate in was discussed at January 2016 Knowledge and Sharing meeting, with the knowledge that there are other existing communities of practice (COP) and platforms that are working on resilience measurement and sharing ideas about resilience.
* Although this phase of TOPS is ending in 2017, there is a significant associate award that will provide lots of technical support to resilience programming, will allow deeper analysis of existing data to provide insights to programming, and will try to ensure measurement efforts are coordinated and shared across USAID partners. There is a big push to have more resilience measurement in Asia (Nepal, Bangladesh, and Cambodia). The associate award will enable USAID partners to call on technical support to assist with resilience measurement.
* Timeline of RTF will continue through the remainder of TOPS, and for four years after that throughout the life of the Associate Award, discussed above.
* TANGO is leading the TOPS RTF; Tim will chair.

1. **Overview of other communities of practice around resilience**
* Tim F: Some examples of other COPs: Food Security Information Network (FSIN), started by FAO, WFP, IFPRI, (900 participants); new effort by Rockefeller Foundation; OECD.
* Emily (CRS) shares background of learning platform for U.S.-based NGOs to share project insights and learn from how USAID is addressing resilience.
* David (IRD) – is working with DFID-funded BRACED program.
* Tim F shares more on COP Rockefeller Foundation that is starting up. April inception phase meeting took place in New York, with # of different agencies participating (FAO, various NGOs, USAID, DFID, World Bank) COP focus will be to:
	+ Carry out landscape mapping of actors involved in urban and rural resilience measurement.
	+ Determine key needs of practitioners: information to understand, measure, and produce evidence around resilience.
	+ Sharing frameworks, measurement approaches, existing data.
	+ Determine how to support efforts to create more evidence around resilience by providing technical support.
	+ Consolidate evidence to share with other funders and implementing agencies.
* First year: another meeting at end of June. Larger meeting with more field-based actors participating. October meeting will determine what COP structure should look like and how to move forward, how to pilot activates, etc.
1. **Discussion point: How is the TOPS RTF situated in the broader resilience community? What is our niche? How do we avoid overlap and duplication?**
* Tim F: One function of this TF would be to help us network with existing task forces. If not already participating in Rockefeller COP or other COPs, we stay engaged with these groups. Whatever is shared within one group is shared with the other groups.
* Amelia (World Vision): since the TF has a defined timeline it's useful to have the other CoPs feeding information and outputs to the TF so that the TOPS TF has a broader mandate - collecting, confirming, and disseminating information and setting standards for resilience measurement - related to programs with resilience focus (indicators for M&E on Resilience).
* David (IRD) suggests verifying in place of confirming. And established mechanism for exchange and learning.
* Emily (CRS) suggests it will be helpful if the work of TOPS TF is viewed through the USAID lens, as donor’s approaches to building resilience vary, but also ensure that the TF does own analysis of whether USAID approach is a good way to move forward in relation to EU, DFID, and other donors are working.
* Tim F: confirms that EU donors would like more harmonization across approaches.
* **Group agrees with the basic elements of RTF mandate proposed below**. We will wordsmith and finalize the RTF mandate in subsequent meetings.
	+ **A network of networks/established mechanism for exchange and learning.**
	+ **Collecting, confirming (validating), and disseminating information and setting standards for resilience measurement - related to programs with resilience focus (agreeing on resilience indicators for M&E).**
	+ **Viewed through USAID lens, but with keen awareness of how to better harmonize with other approaches.**

**Discussion points: what are the objectives of the RTF?**

* Tim: How can we streamline resilience data collection so it is more feasible and affordable for NGOs to collect? How can NGOS have more input into the resilience modules that will be included in (primarily) Title-II baselines?
* Tim: As resilience data becomes more available to NGOs (i.e., publically available baseline data), the potential for deeper analysis of many other relationships opens up. What type of further analysis should NGOs conduct with existing data?
* Mara (CARE) Could this TF get involved in consultation around the baseline modules? We [NGOs] are getting very little time to review and provide input on these resilience modules for the baselines.
* Benita (ICF) ICF is external implementer baseline surveys (Bangladesh, Nepal, Mali, etc.) and responsible for developing questionnaire modules with exception of resilience. Resilience modules are drafted by various specialists and while there are similarities, there are also differences. The collection and tabulation of indicators is inconsistent. It would be helpful for this RTF to contribute to a more consistent and standardized approach. Lead time to prepare the resilience module is critical. Currently, resilience modules for the Title II baselines are coming in at the last minute and there is insufficient time to prepare the survey. Can this TF work with FFP to go over the modules in advance?
* Malani (SC): Is there a role for this TF to coordinate the learning agenda around resilience? Although each program is designed for very specific context, do we want to start thinking about replicability of certain types of approaches? This could be a good platform for how to coordinate that.
* Tim F: As more programs become resilience focused and we discover certain programming strategies are more effective, we should be sharing that across groups.
* Participant – Would this TF be interested in working on defining promising ways to link food security / agricultural livelihoods aspects of resilience to the broader picture of governance, education, social cohesion?
* **Group agreement that a potential role for this RTF is a liaison between the donor community and PVOs.**

**Next steps: short-term**

* Tim will send out a questionnaire to RTF members to understand what are current immediate needs related to resilience measurement or how to translate measurement to programming. **RTF members agree that they can provide responses within two weeks of receiving the questionnaire**. Analysis of common themes will be posted on FSN network, RTF webpage. At next meeting TF can come to agreement on common themes. The analysis will help to inform and prioritize next steps for RTF.
* At the next meeting RTF will try to come to agreement on what RTF can do in next 6-months, what to do in 2 years, what to do over next 5-years. This TF has the potential to influence what the Associates Award (mentioned in opening statements) works on.
* Tim will try to set up a meeting with USAID (Greg Collins, Arif Rashid, Tiffany) and task force members to propose more breathing room between the development of the resilience modules and implementation of baseline surveys. As implementers of surveys, ICF needs to be present. Prior to this meeting, RTF members will pull ideas together on how to present the case to FFP/ USAID.
* Tim requests that RTF members share their thoughts on what type of further analysis they would like to carry out with existing data. What are the resilience relationships you are interested in?

**Determine meeting frequency**

* To keep initial momentum going RTF will meet next month. Exact date will be determined at a later date. At that point we will review and come to agreement on optimal meeting frequency.

**Sharing materials and future correspondence**

* Look for a repository on the RTF webpage where we will share materials. Tim will submit a number of reports and literature to TOPS for loading to the website. Other members please send material you would like to load to the RTF webpage to laurie@tangointernational.com.
* The best way to communicate with one another is through the RTF listserve. resilience\_tf@lists.foodsecuritynetwork.org
* If you would like your profile to be displayed on the [Members page](http://www.fsnnetwork.org/node/2431/members) of the FSN website, please contact laurie@tangointernational.com.