



Knowledge Sharing Meeting
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
November 18-20, 2013



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

November 18, 2013

Dear Participants,

Welcome to the 2013 Technical and Operational Performance Support (TOPS) Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Network Knowledge Sharing Meeting for the Francophone and West Africa Region. Since 2010, the TOPS/FSN Network has become an important collaborative mechanism bringing together program practitioners in food security through interactive task forces, discussion groups, and knowledge sharing tools and events. The TOPS/FSN Network supports our community of practice by providing face-to-face and virtual opportunities for practitioners to identify needs, build collaboration, and create mechanisms for continued communication and learning. This meeting itself is the result of your generous input to the planning process.

The primary theme during this three-day meeting is resilience—the ability of vulnerable peoples to survive shocks, recover, and continue to thrive. Our sessions will feature implementers sharing practices and experience that show promise for building and sustaining resilience. We will discuss issues and solutions you have identified as you carry out development and assistance programs, sponsored by the USAID Office of Food for Peace (FFP), for some of the world’s most vulnerable people.

Our presenters and facilitators include technical specialists from PVO partners, USAID and FFP, and multilateral organizations. These experienced field professionals will share their experience and the latest information on food security strategies aimed at identifying, measuring, and strengthening development practices for vulnerable populations.

We hope to stimulate knowledge sharing among you to facilitate communication and learning across sectors and organizations that could lead to improved food security programs and practices. This is also an opportunity for you to share experiences with USAID FFP officers and staff and with your peers from many countries.

Thank you for coming and we look forward to your participation and valuable contributions.

Sincerely,

Mark Fritzler

Mark Fritzler
Program Director
Technical and Operational Performance Support Program

Expanded Program Agenda and Abstracts

Monday, November 18

- 7:00 – 9:00** **Registration**
Room: WAONGO – I
- 9:00-10:30** **Plenary Session**
Room: WAONGO – I
- Welcome & Opening Remarks**
Mark Fritzler, Program Director, TOPS
- Christophe Tocco, Deputy Regional Director, USAID, Senegal*
- Saga Pascal Ilboudo, Permanent Secretary for Coordination of Sectoral Agricultural Policy, Government of Burkina Faso*
- Security Briefing**
Abdoulaye Zongo, Head of operation, Catholic Relief Services, Burkina Faso
- Introductions, Icebreaker**
Facilitator: Valerie Stetson, Independent Consultant
- 10:30-11:00** **Break**
- 11:00-12:30** **Plenary**
Room: WAONGO – I
- Resilience in Action**
- Presenters: Nancy Mock, Professor, Co-Director of the Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy, Tulane University; Christophe Tocco, Deputy Regional Director, USAID, Senegal*
- For many decades the Sahel, together with the Horn of Africa have faced continuous cycles of crisis. These are the result of complex interactions between political, economic, social and environmental factors, which have confounded development and humanitarian efforts. More recently, the international humanitarian and development communities have rallied around the concept of resilience as a key tool for policy formulation / programming aimed at reducing the chronic vulnerability of populations in the Sahel. This session will review trends in resilience frameworks and institutional developments. A framing presentation will provide a conceptual framework for resilience, discuss key characteristics and principles of resilience programming, and identify promising practices for building resilience within the context of drought and chronic food insecurity. The session will then allow small group work on some of the key factors influencing implementation of resilience programs followed by plenary discussion. The session will conclude by giving attendees the opportunity to consider key questions for moving the resilience agenda forward.

12:30-2:00 **Lunchtime – Lunch will be provided to participants.**

2:00-3:30 **Concurrent Sessions**

1. *Measuring Resilience*

Room: WAONGO – I

Presenter: Nancy Mock, Professor, Co-Director of the Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy, Tulane University

This session provides participants with concepts, strategies and methodologies for measuring resilience and its determinants. A framing presentation will provide a conceptual framework for measuring resilience, including the systems factors that characterize resilience such as shocks/hazards, assets/capacities, multi-scale and multi-level interactions among determinants. Measurement approaches such as quantitative and qualitative methods are discussed together with characteristics of indicators such as the degree to which they are subjective versus objective. Systems concepts such as the importance of initial conditions, tipping points, flow and scale provide participants with an approach to measuring changing dynamics that influence households. The session will then allow small group work on resilience measurement in specific programming contexts. The session will conclude by giving attendees the opportunity to consider key questions for moving the resilience measurement agenda forward.

2. *Moving In and Out of Emergencies: How this affects health and nutrition activities in development programs*

Room: WAONGO – II

Panelists: Kerri Agee, Catholic Relief Services, Democratic Republic of the Congo; Noro Hasina Ratsimbazafy, Resiliency Coordinator, Strengthening and Accessing Livelihood Opportunities for Household Impact (SALOHI) Program, Catholic Relief Services, Madagascar; Adriane Seibert, Nutrition Senior Specialist, Save the Children; Moderator: Circe Trevant, Independent Consultant

Many countries are experiencing frequent short-term emergencies or extended cycles of emergencies. This has an effect on development programs in many ways. In this session, a panel of presenters from three different country contexts (DRC, Madagascar and Niger) will share their experiences and discuss how this affects their program planning, communication with communities, etc.

3. Productivity and Climate Change: Sustainable land development and restoration

Room: BENKADI

*Presenters: **Edwige Botoni**, Expert in Natural Resource Management, Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel; **M. Mathieu Ouédraogo**, President, Réseau pour la Promotion des Approches Participatives/Participatory Rural Appraisal Network, Burkina Faso; Moderator: **Tom Remington**, Agriculture Advisor for Africa, Catholic Relief Services*

Many parts of Africa, especially the Sahel region, are highly vulnerable to climate change. Changing rainfall patterns, land degradation, and desertification are key factors affecting local livelihoods. Many climate models predict that the Sahel region will become drier during this century, compounding already difficult conditions. Preventing further land degradation and regenerating already degraded land are critical to long term development in this region.

This session will discuss farmer-led innovations that have had a significant impact on transforming arid Sahel landscapes into productive land, such as Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration, lessons learned and opportunities for scaling up.

3:30-4:00 **Break**

4:00-5:30 **Concurrent Sessions**

1. Environmental Enteropathy, Stunting and Behavior Change

Room: WAONGO – I

*Presenter: **Bonnie Kittle**, Independent Consultant, Kittle Consulting*

Recent studies have shown that there is a link between poor sanitation and stunting in children. During this session participants will hear an introduction to Environmental Enteropathy (EE) including what EE is and how it leads to stunting, what the primary causes are and how food security projects could address EE. Through small group work participants will identify the potential causes of EE in their own project areas and discuss ways to address these in culturally appropriate ways.

2. Risk Management: Early warning, drought cycles and key tools for practitioners

Room: WAONGO – II

*Presenters: **Idriss Leko**, Senior Agriculture/Livelihoods Manager, Sawki Development Food Aid Program, Mercy Corps, Niger; **Abdou Karim Ouédraogo**, Regional Food Security Specialist, Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS Net), West Africa; **Clare Oxby**, Researcher; Moderator: **Tom Remington**, Agriculture Advisor for Africa, Catholic Relief Services*

Natural disasters, such as droughts and floods, as well as transboundary animal diseases, economic crises and civil conflicts adversely affect many parts of

Africa, including West Africa and the Sahel. Typically, natural disasters were viewed as one off catastrophes requiring emergency responses. More recently, it has become increasingly accepted that natural disasters, especially drought, are often normal occurrences that can be planned for. Early warning systems and information, linked to pre-planned adaptive change at the project and community level, can play a critical role in helping governments, NGOs, communities and households prepare for and reduce the negative consequences of these events.

In this panel session, speakers will discuss regional, national and community early warning systems, providing insights into what has worked well, lessons learned and new directions, as well as the application of the Drought Cycle Management model as a tool for adaptive programming and increased resilience.

3. *Fraud Prevention in Commodity Management*

Room: *BENKADI*

Presenters: Hassan Ben Baha, Regional Technical Advisor, Commodity, Catholic Relief Services; Syon Niyogi, Deputy Regional Director for Management Quality, Catholic Relief Services

Each year, thousands of metric tons of food commodities, donated by the United States Government, are programmed all over the world. Food aid is usually distributed to the recipient beneficiaries through national or international cooperating partner NGOs with heavy reliance on local infrastructure and local capacity which varies from one country to another or one agency to another. Adequate capacity, or lack thereof, determines the quantity of food that reaches the intended beneficiaries. Most of the countries, where food aid programs are implemented have to deal with local challenges on a daily basis; it could be with security or governance or shortage of qualified staff or lack of appropriate supervision. Challenges could be both internal as well as external. Food is as good as cash. It can be very tempting to misappropriate in situations where controls are lax.

Yet the responsible agency will have to pay to the US government the value of such commodities lost, damaged or misused, unless USAID determines that such improper distribution or use or loss or damage could not have been prevented by the agency under reasonable circumstances. Senior Managers should not only ensure adequate checks and balances but also should have close oversight of food aid programs. In this session, participants will gain an understanding of risks and potential loopholes in food commodity management. The session will assist them to be mindful about fraud prevention in designing and staffing food aid programs, developing control mechanisms and closely monitoring and oversight of food aid programs.

6:00-7:30

Reception "Meet and Greet"

Room: *Restaurant "La Cascade"*

Tuesday, November 19

8:30-9:00 **Announcements**

9:00-10:30 **Plenary Session**
Room: WAONGO – I

Enhancing Donor – Implementer Collaboration

Facilitator: Valerie Stetson, Independent Consultant

Strong communication and relationships between key food security stakeholders (field implementers and policy-makers/donors) are essential for mutual understanding and successful collaboration. Openness, trust, dialogue and relations are pre-conditions for collaborative learning, innovation and positive change. **How** we converse and work together often determines the success of **what** we strive to achieve together. By listening and learning from each other, food security stakeholder groups contribute to informed food security policy and improved program implementation - that in turn enhances program results.

This session provides an opportunity for food security stakeholders to share perspectives. They will reflect on strengths, best practices and what they appreciate about the work of the other stakeholder group. They will also discuss expectations for future work and collaboration.

10:30-11:00 **Break**

11:00-12:30 **Concurrent Sessions**

1. *Grandmothers: An abundant and underutilized cultural resource for promoting child and maternal nutrition and health*

Room: WAONGO – II

Presenter: Judi Aibel, President, The Grandmother Project

Community nutrition/health programs should build on the roles of key household actors that influence the well-being of women, children and adolescents across the life cycle. In non-western societies in Africa, Asia and Latin America which are generally organized along multi-generational and hierarchical lines senior women, or *grandmothers*, are influential actors and they can be an important resource to catalyze positive change. Grandmothers play a culturally-designated and influential role at decisive times in the lives of women and children including: pregnancy; delivery; newborn care; young child illness; and adolescent development.

The presentation will include:

- an overview of evidence of GMs' role and influence on health-related norms and practices at major steps in the life cycle of women, children and adolescents;

- description of key parameters of an assets-based, grandmother-inclusive approach that promotes culturally-grounded and systemic change from within communities;
- examples of successful programs supported by *Grandmother Project: Change through Culture* using a *grandmother-inclusive approach* to address: pregnancy and newborn care in Mali; maternal and child nutrition in Senegal; home management of childhood illness in Laos; and teen pregnancy in Senegal;
- lessons learned using a grandmother-inclusive approach in community health/nutrition interventions that can be used in other socio-cultural settings.

2. **Improving Seed Systems and Storage: Opportunities and services**

Room: WAONGO – I

Presenters: Dr. Dabiré Clémentine Binso, Senior Scientist, INERA Central Laboratory of Agricultural Entomology at Kamboinsé. Permanent Secretary of National Forum for Scientific Research and Technological Innovation; Director, MRSI/IDRC project on Research and Innovation Results Valorization; Eva Weltzien, Principal Scientist, Sorghum Breeding, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT); Moderator: Tom Remington, Agriculture Advisor for Africa, Catholic Relief Services

This session will discuss opportunities to strengthen farmer seed systems and explore post-harvest methods. The discussion will focus on current activities supported by INERA and ICRISAT to improve farmers' access to new technologies, varieties, and storage, and related business opportunities for resource-poor farmers. This will include key developments in sorghum and pearl millet farmer managed seed initiatives, and an effective storage solution used for cowpea in the region.

3. **Using Technology for Beneficiary Registration and Tracking**

Room: BENKADI

Presenters: Laura Buback, Health & Nutrition Monitoring Advisor, Liberia Agriculture Upgrading Nutrition and Child Health (LAUNCH) Program, John Snow, Inc., Liberia; Job Milapo, Commodity Operations Manager, Liberia Agriculture Upgrading Nutrition and Child Health (LAUNCH) Program, ACDI/VOCA, Liberia; Alto Oumarou, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Catholic Relief Services, Niger

The Liberian Agricultural Upgrading Nutrition and Child Health (LAUNCH) program has been implementing a Preventing Malnutrition in Under Twos Approach (PM2A) Multi-Year Assistance Program (MYAP) since 2010 in two counties of Liberia, aiming to improve food security and nutrition with a focus on the first 1,000 days. The Liberian context provided initial challenges for registering beneficiaries and entering them into the LAUNCH commodity database for distribution in a timely matter. By transitioning to a mobile phone based registration process, LAUNCH's beneficiary tracking system was greatly enhanced and improved overall program management.

Come learn how this model strengthened the delivery and targeting of supplementary food by streamlining data flow. The LAUNCH model has potential to be adapted by other Food for Peace (FFP) programs in order to ultimately improve nutrition and food security.

12:30-2:00 **Lunchtime – Lunch will be provided to participants.**

2:00-3:30 **Concurrent Sessions**

1. *Using Food Aid in New Ways to Enhance Resiliency*

Room: WAONGO – I

*Presenters: **Christian Donovan**, Country Representative, Veterinarians Without Borders, Burkina Faso; **Yuvé Guluma**, Nutrition and Food Security Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Burkina Faso; **Alexandra Rutishauser-Perera**, Roving East Africa Nutrition Advisor, International Medical Corps; Moderators: **Joan Jennings**, Nutrition & Food Technology Specialist, TOPS; **Circe Trevant**, Independent Consultant*

This session will include several presentations on innovative strategies which respond to emergency needs in a way that enhances the resiliency of women and children and the communities in which they live. The session will include presentations on the Milk Kitchen Project, in conjunction with the Advancing Animal Assets Project that is soon to initiate in Burkina Faso, and on the recent use of Ready-to-Use-Supplementary-Foods (RUSF) in Chad.

2. *Strategies for Achieving Environmental Safeguards to Enhance Community-Level Food Security in the African Context*

Room: WAONGO – II

*Presenters: **Erika Clesceri**, Environmental Officer, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), USAID; **Emily Kunen**, Post-Crisis Environmental Advisor, DCHA, USAID; Moderator: **Tom Remington**, Agriculture Advisor for Africa, Catholic Relief Services*

Climate variability and change, environmental degradation and natural disasters pose increasing challenges to achieving food security and sustainable development goals, particularly in resource-poor environments like the Sahel. With the systematic integration of environmental safeguards into food security projects, overall resilience of natural systems and communities can be enhanced and disaster risk reduced. In this interactive session, we will exchange ideas on safeguarding and sustaining environmental resources and health through discussion of (1) field-level strategies and tools for improved environmental monitoring and (2) sustaining environmental safeguards beyond a project time frame. This session will draw on participants' rich experiences in existing USAID Food Assistance projects to identify successful management and social-behavioral approaches as well as specific best practices in environmental management.

3:30-4:00 **Break**

4:00-5:30 **Concurrent Sessions**

1. *Using Care Groups to Build Resilience in Food Security and Community Health Programs*

Room: WAONGO – I

Presenter: Alexandra Rutishauser-Perera, Roving East Africa Nutrition Advisor, International Medical Corps (IMC); Moderator: Bonnie Kittle, Independent Consultant, Kittle Consulting

A Care Group is a group of 10-15 volunteer, community-based health educators who regularly meet together with NGO project staff for training and supervision. Each of these volunteers then go out at least monthly to do health/nutrition/food security promotion with a small cohort of mothers of young children. They are different from typical mothers' groups in that each volunteer is selected by the mothers she serves and is responsible for regularly visiting 10-15 of her neighbors, sharing what she has learned and facilitating behavior change at the household level.

Care Groups have shown remarkable success in achieving sustainable social and behavioral change, decreasing malnutrition and improving food security. During this session, participants will be briefly introduced to the Care Group approach and the impact it can achieve, then will work in groups to define sustainability in behavior change and look at a ways of improving the sustainability of the group. There will be presentations on concrete examples on how the Care Group model can improve resilience.

2. *Is Gender Only a Women's Issue? Breaking stereotypes in the program environment*

Room: BENKADI

Presenter: Batamaka Somé, Gender Advisor, World Food Programme, Purchase for Progress (P4P); Moderator: Kristi Tabaj, Gender Advisor, TOPS

The word gender – which represents men, women, boys, and girls – is often associated with women and girls. Those providing technical support in programming are mostly women. Gender integration, perhaps, is often thought to be a women's topic. So what happens when a gender advisor is a man? Initially there is some confusion, but eventually there is a genuine discussion about a man's role in the gender dialogue. Batamaka Somé, Gender Consultant for WFP's Purchase For Progress program, will share some of his experiences as well as tips for breaking down stereotypes about gender in programming and the working environment.

3. *Informal Microfinance and Household Resilience*

Room: WAONGO – II

Presenters: Jacques Kaboré, Savings and Internal Lending Communities Coordinator, Catholic Relief Services, Burkina Faso; Rasoia Tiana, Village Savings

*and Loans Coordinator, Strengthening and Accessing Livelihood Opportunities for Household Impact (SALOHI) Program, CARE International, Madagascar ; Moderator: **Tom Remington**, Agriculture Advisor for Africa, Catholic Relief Services*

Without capital, no enterprise, including smallholder farmers, could fund its operations or build its asset base. Developing more sustainable access to financial services for marginal farmers in rural areas can have a significant impact on income and food security. Formal microfinance is important, but rural or marginal farmers often face challenges associated with access, high transaction costs, unfamiliarity with institution staff and weak incentives to save. Informal microfinance such as Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) and Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILCS) offer additional opportunities to provide intermediate small amounts of local capital on flexible terms and to transact frequently at very low cost, at the same time significantly impacting household resilience.

This session will focus on two programs implemented in Madagascar and Burkina Faso. The discussion will highlight different methods of implementation, VSLAs and SILCs incorporating the Private Service Providers (PSP) model, specifically with a view to sustainability and evidence of enhanced household resilience.

Wednesday, November 20

8:30 – 9:00 **Announcements**

9:00-10:30 **Concurrent Sessions**

1. *Sharing Approaches for Achieving Improved Nutrition through Agriculture*
Room: WAONGO – I

Presenter: Sarah Titus, Food Security and Nutrition Manager, Strengthening Partnerships, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING)

While there is growing consensus (Lancet Material and Child Nutrition Series, 2013) that integrated programming is needed to achieve global nutrition goals, empirical evidence on how agriculture interventions impact nutrition is scant. However, many stakeholders have been developing or adapting frameworks to guide thinking that may help to better define areas for future research. Among these, FAO's Guiding Principles for Improving Nutrition through Agriculture, and work by Gillespie et al to define Pathways from Agriculture to Nutrition provide a coherent framework for analysis but are too generic to provide the details needed for good sectorally-integrated or co-located project design and implementation.

In this session the SPRING Project will share these two conceptual frameworks and how they have been used to guide a landscape analysis of Feed the Future investments in nutrition. Following a brief presentation and question and answer session, participants will have an opportunity to feed into efforts that are underway to operationalize these frameworks. Drawing on experience in their own programs, participants will work in small groups to identify and discuss the interim steps along the pathways between agriculture and nutrition in their own programs. Participants will then have an opportunity to discuss better practices and approaches for improving nutrition outputs and outcomes from agriculture activities along these pathways.

2. *Management of Complex Programs: Working effectively in a consortium environment*

Room: BENKADI

Presenters: Patrick Danière, West Africa Deputy Regional Director for Management Quality (Sahel and Coastal), Catholic Relief Services; Moderators: Patrick Coonan, Knowledge Management Officer, TOPS; Valerie Stetson, Independent Consultant

Many Title II and other food security programs now operate with a prime leading a consortium of international and local NGO sub-recipients. The consortium arrangement allows for greater geographic coverage, inclusion of technical and sectoral strengths from multiple organizations, and the potential of much greater impact through the synergy of the collaboration as well as greater coverage. However, working in a consortium is also managerially more complex. This session will explore different components of consortia, using

input from primes, subs and perhaps organizations that have yet to participate in a consortium arrangement. After reviewing different aspects of work in consortia, the session participants will select one of seven components for further discussion of possible improvements, bringing to bear their practical experience and any tools or resource materials. CRS's CAFÉ manual will be provided on CD in English, French and Spanish to all participants for future reference. The group will identify some key ways forward for improving consortium work in the future.

3. *Barrier Analysis: Lessons from the field*

Room: WAONGO – II

Presenters: Bonnie Kittle, Independent Consultant, Kittle Consulting; Alexandra Rutishauser-Perera, Roving East Africa Nutrition Advisor, International Medical Corps

Many food security projects have begun to conduct formative research, such as the Barrier Analysis, to identify the reasons why farmers and other stakeholders resist adopting new practices and techniques. Project implementers use the results of the Barrier Analysis to develop more effective strategies to promote behavior change. In this session, the presenters will share the lessons learned from various countries regarding their experiences implementing the Barrier Analysis.

10:30-11:00 Break

11:00-12:30 Concurrent Sessions

1. *Developing Determinant-linked Behavior Change Activities*

Room: WAONGO – II

Presenter: Bonnie Kittle, Independent Consultant, Kittle Consulting

Many food security projects are using the Designing for Behavior Change (DBC) framework to develop more effective strategies to promote new practices. Although many staff members have been trained in DBC, we still struggle to develop new, more effective behavior change activities. Through this very participatory session (no power points!), participants will examine the twelve determinants of behavior change that influence the adoption of a practice by farmers, mothers and other stakeholders. Then, working in small groups, participants will design creative behavior change activities that relate to a food security behavior and a specific determinant.

2. *Achieving Gender Integration in Programming: A panel discussion on including recommendations from the gender analysis*

Room: BENKADI

Panelists: Philippe Carette, Chief of Party, Resources to Improve Food Security (RISE) Project, Mercy Corps, Democratic Republic of Congo; Fatimata Sinaré,

Gender Advisor, ACDI/VOCA, Burkina Faso; Moderator: **Sylvia Cabus**, Gender Advisor, Bureau of Food Security, USAID

The program you are helping to implement has strategies, activities, and indicators promoting gender integration. A gender analysis has been completed. What next? How does one take the recommendations from the analysis and modify programming without making drastic changes to activities or needing additional funding? Panelists in this session will discuss how gender is integrated within their programs and how they made changes to strategies and activities after the gender analysis was completed. Moderator Sylvia Cabus will also provide a brief overview of recently released gender guidance (ADS 205).

3. MARKit: Monitoring, Analysis and Response Kit for adaptive food assistance programs

Room: WAONGO – I

Presenter: **Suzanne Andrews**, Markets and Agriculture Program Specialist, Catholic Relief Services

The purpose of the MARKit tool is to enable implementers of food aid programs to:

- Understand the interaction between the workings of the market and their programs;
- Set up systems for evaluating the market and their programs;
- Identify anomalies in the prices of food products, the factors influencing market prices, and evaluate the impact on their programs; and
- Use market information to propose a response to changes linked to market conditions that influence their programs.

12:30-1:00

Plenary Session

Room: WAONGO – I

Closing Remarks

Mark Fritzler, Program Director, TOPS

1:00-2:00

Lunchtime – Lunch will be provided to participants.

Speaker/Moderator Biographical Sketches

Suzanne Andrews is a Markets and Agriculture Program Specialist at Catholic Relief Services (CRS). She is currently supporting the rollout for the Farmbook Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for agriculture tools and leading the development of the MARKit tool for food assistance programs in collaboration with the Local Regional Procurement (LRP) Learning Alliance. Suzanne was formerly a CRS development fellow in Kenya working on emergency programs in Wajir and Dadaab, and an Agroforestry Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador. She holds a M.A. in Economics and Human Security from the Tufts University Fletcher School and a B.A. from Princeton University.

Trained in adult education, anthropology and health education, **Judi Aubel** has worked for many years in community maternal and child health and development programs, primarily in Africa but also in Latin America, Asia and the Pacific. She is particularly interested in the interface between community cultural systems and development programs. She is one of the founding members and President of The Grandmother Project: Strong Grandmothers, Healthy Community, a small non-profit organization established in 2005.

Hassan Ben Baha is the Regional Technical Advisor, Commodity for Catholic Relief Services. He brings in extensive knowledge and experience in food aid management, logistics and emergency operations. Hassan held several senior level positions in West / East / Central / South Africa regions and also in Europe for over 20 years. As Regional Technical Advisor, Hassan provides overall leadership in commodity management, especially compliance with donor regulations and organizational policies and procedures.

Dabiré Clémentine Binso is head of the INERA central entomology laboratory in Burkina Faso and the Permanent Secretary of the National Forum for Scientific Research and Innovation (SP/FRSIT).

Edwige Botoni is an Expert in Natural Resource Management for the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), which is responsible for monitoring and implementing international environmental conventions. She is the CILSS's Focal Point for the UN Convention on Desertification, the Climate Change Convention, and the Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahara and Sahel. From 1994 to 2005 she was a researcher in interdisciplinary teams at Burkina Faso's Institute for the Environment and Agricultural Research (INERA). She coordinated the implementation of the Sahel Study, which examined the capitalization of the impact of investment in antidesertification efforts. The study's aim is to use examples of success to lobby governments to strengthen their support of natural resource management and rural development generally. She holds a DESS (*diplôme d'études supérieures spécialisées*) in management of agricultural, forestry, and pastoral systems in tropical regions from the University of Paris XII and a PhD in biology of populations and ecology from the University of Montpellier III.

Laura Buback, Health & Nutrition Monitoring Advisor, has been working on the Liberia Agricultural Upgrading Nutrition and Child Health (LAUNCH) program in Liberia since January 2012 with John Snow, Inc. (JSI). Laura led the introduction of mobile data collection to the LAUNCH program, including the training, supervision, and implementation of the beneficiary registration and program monitoring systems. She is also working with LAUNCH and JSI's Rebuilding Basic Health Services (RBHS) project to support the implementation and monitoring

of the Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA) package in Liberia. Laura holds a BA in Sociology/Anthropology from Lewis & Clark College and a MPH from Tulane School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine. Prior to working with LAUNCH, Laura worked on research and communications in Ethiopia and Senegal, and teaching English in Guadeloupe.

Sylvia Cabus is the gender advisor for the Bureau of Food Security at USAID and for the Feed the Future Initiative. She worked for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Kenya, Morocco, Mali, and Burkina Faso. In the US, Sylvia worked as a program officer with Heifer International, Handicap International, and USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. Before joining USAID, Sylvia was a gender analyst with DevTech Systems, an international development consulting firm. She received a BA with Honors in History from U.C. Berkeley and an MA in international relations from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of the Johns Hopkins University, and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon.

Philippe Carette has over 18 years of experience in international development and humanitarian assistance in sub-Saharan Africa, with expertise in food security, agriculture, market development, small producer capacity, and sustainable livelihoods. He is currently serving as Chief of Party with Mercy Corps in the Democratic Republic of Congo, managing a USAID Food for Peace program covering a portfolio of agriculture, entrepreneurship, access to market, governance, nutrition and behavior changes. Prior to work as Chief of Party, Philippe served as Country Director for Mercy Corps in the Central African Republic. He previously served as Deputy Country Director and Food Security and Livelihoods Technical Coordinator for Solidarités International in Kenya and Somalia, and acted as Livelihoods Technical Advisor covering five countries with GOAL-Ireland. Philippe is particularly interested, from a managerial perspective, on how we can really and concretely integrate gender into the ongoing programs, with the setting up of clear targets, milestones and timeframe.

Patrick Coonan is a Knowledge Management Officer with the TOPS Program, working to build and strengthen the online community of the Food Security and Nutrition Network. He has experience managing online communities, leading coalitions of community-based organizations and developing engaging classroom experiences for adult immigrants to the U.S. Patrick has worked as a consultant to help organizations improve collaboration and build stronger teams using strengths-based tools and one-on-one coaching. He spends some of his free time volunteering on the board of a community-based organization in Washington, DC. Patrick served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Republic of Cape Verde from 2001 to 2003. He completed an MA in International Studies from Ohio University in 2007.

Patrick Danière is West Africa Deputy Regional Director for Catholic Relief Services, in charge of Management Quality. His region covers five Sahel and six Coastal West Africa countries with several Title II projects. He provides oversight on resource management including finance, human resources, supply chain, ICT, security, administration, audit, and also leads partner institutional strengthening and compliance. Prior to that, Patrick was Director of Operations for AIDSRelief, a PEPFAR funded program and large consortium of partners across 10 countries in Africa and the Caribbean's. Patrick joined CRS in 2006, serving as Manager Overseas Finance, then heading the CRS Management, Policy and Information team. He holds a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from ENSTA in Paris, France, and an MBA from HEC, Paris. He started his career in the corporate world, holding a range of management and consulting positions in the telecom industry, in France, the US, Africa and South America.

Mary DeCoster is the coordinator for social and behavior change programs for the TOPS Program, working to strengthen implementer capacity to address social and behavior change

programming. She has over twenty years of experience in behavior change programs. She has managed communicable disease prevention and maternal/child health programs, backstopped child survival projects in Guatemala and Bolivia, and worked as a lactation consultant and parent educator with immigrant families within the United States. She has expertise leading trainings of trainers, and developing training materials and curricula. Mary has two Master's Degrees from UNC at Chapel Hill, in Library and Information Sciences and in Public Health in the department of Health Behavior.

Enonkpon Christian Dovonou is Country Representative for Veterinarians without Borders Belgium, for which he has worked since 2009. A specialist in livestock-based food security (animal health, animal production, marketing), he was Veterinary Technical Assistant and Project Manager in North Kivu until the end of 2012. Since then he has worked in Burkina Faso, especially in the Sahel region, on livestock-based food security projects. He is responsible for implementation of the subagreement with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on aid to Malian refugees and asylum seekers. Christian holds a doctorate in veterinary medicine from the Interstate School of Veterinary Medicine and Science in Dakar and a master's in development project management from the Fondation Universitaire Mercure.

Mark Fritzler, Program Director for the Technical and Operational Performance Support (TOPS), has been with Save the Children since July 2003, when he joined as Country Director in Iraq. Subsequently, he served as Country Director in Mozambique and most recently in Indonesia. Before becoming Indonesia Country Director, Mark was Chief of Party for the \$170+ million SCUS-led SC Alliance Tsunami Response Program in Aceh, Indonesia. During his nearly three decades in international relief and development work, he has worked in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. He also worked with JHPIEGO for four years and CARE International for nine years. Mark has a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Oregon.

Yuvé Guluma is a food security expert for UNHCR in Burkina Faso, where she is currently supporting programs that address the food security, livelihood, and nutritional needs of Malian refugees. Prior to her work with UNHCR, she held several food security positions with international NGOs and UN agencies, including Action Contre la Faim, Save the Children and WFP in the Great Lakes Region, the Balkans and West Africa. Yuvé's work has focused primarily on food assistance, vulnerability analysis, contingency planning, disaster risk reduction and early warning systems. She is a household economy practitioner and has a Master's in Social Policy and Planning in Developing Countries from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Joan M. Jennings, Senior Specialist Nutrition, TOPS Program, Save the Children, is an expert in maternal and child health and nutrition. Joan leads the nutrition and food technology activities within the TOPS Program. She has 15 years of experience providing consulting services for many USAID-funded food security and child survival programs and has extensive experience working with state-of-the-art nutrition protection and behavior change strategies for improved infant and young child feeding practices. Her skill set also includes quantitative and qualitative evaluation, formative investigation, proposal development and strategic planning. She has worked in 15 countries throughout all development program regions. In between periods of consulting, she was the team leader for children's health with CARE USA. She initiated her work in development as a Health and Nutrition Manager for Save the Children in Nicaragua. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from Tulane University and received an internship with the United Nations ACC/Sub-Committee on Nutrition, editing a review of the elements of success among large-scale nutrition programs in 10 countries.

Jacques Sigui Kaboré, currently Head of CRS Burkina Faso's Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) unit and simultaneously Country Director of the project Expanding Financial Inclusion in Africa (EFI), joined CRS Burkina Faso in 1999. He first worked in CRS's Microfinance Department, then joined the Finance Department, of which he was a member until 2009. Since then Jacques has successfully led the implementation of an integrated agriculture-SILC project. As Head of CRS's SILC unit, he has brought to bear his energy and his convictions about SILC's potential to enable CRS Burkina Faso to affect and organize more than 50,000 members around SILC activities. He is currently among the SILC experts experimenting with implementation of the Private Service Providers (PSP) methodology. He holds a master's degree in project management and a DESS (*diplôme d'études secondaires spécialisées*) in microenterprise management.

Bonnie Kittle is a specialist in behavior change, monitoring and evaluation and child survival, and has worked in international development since 1974. She has held long term overseas positions in Ecuador, Mali, Haiti, The Maldives, Burkina Faso and Niger and worked for Project Hope as the Director of Health of Women and Children. Currently, Bonnie is the director of Kittle Consulting, providing technical assistance to organizations implementing projects related to maternal and child health, nutrition, WASH, HIV/AIDS and food security. Bonnie is the author of *The Practical Guide to Conducting a Barrier Analysis* and is a key contributor to the *Designing for Behavior Change* curriculum (multi sector) and the author of the DBC/WASH curriculum. She speaks English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole.

Emily Kunen is a Post-Crisis Environmental Advisor in USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance supporting interventions in food security, infrastructure and political transitions. She advises on science and technology issues at the interface of crisis and development programming to integrate environmental safeguards into crisis programs globally. Previously, she worked as a program associate with Winrock International, supporting clean energy projects for USAID, the European Commission, ECOWAS, the Organization of American States, and APEC. She has field experience in Liberia, Indonesia and Jamaica among other countries, where she has provided technical assistance for sustainability assessments of energy and agriculture projects, as well as energy policy. Emily holds an M.Phil in Engineering for Sustainable Development from Cambridge University (U.K.) and a bachelor's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Brown University (U.S.).

Idriss Leko, a development agent, began working on early warning systems (EWS) in 2004, just prior to the 2005 crisis in Niger. At the time he was part of group of regional actors responsible for the coordination of development workers in the region. In 2009–10, while he was program coordinator, the group launched a rehabilitation project that included an element of vulnerability monitoring and focused on the establishment and redynamization of EWS in Filingué District, Niger. In 2012 he led a training session for members of the Subregional Committee for the Prevention and Management of Food Crises in the Ouallam District. Today, as the Senior Ag/Livelihood Manager for Sawki, a Mercy Corps development food aid program, he works with his colleagues on the implementation and coordination of the Community Early Warning and Emergency Response Systems process in the three departments where Sawki operates.

Job Milapo is Commodity Operations Manager for ACIDI/VOCA in the Liberia Agricultural Upgrading Nutrition and Child Health (LAUNCH) program, a five-year project that seeks to prevent malnutrition in children under two. Since January 2001 the consortium has brought together five private voluntary organizations: ACIDI/VOCA, Project Concern International, John Snow Inc., and Making Cents. Prior to joining ACIDI/VOCA, Job worked with organizations

including CRS, World Vision, and CARE International in Zambia. His experience spans over 10 years of working in three different multiyear assistance programs and several emergency operations programs, mostly in supply-chain operations covering administration, logistics, and commodities management. He also worked as an administrator for a privately owned school that offered both secondary education and tertiary education in business studies. Job holds a certificate in purchasing and supply management, diplomas in education (University of Zambia) and business practice (Pitman Qualifications, UK), and a Bachelor of Commerce in Logistics (University of South Africa).

Nancy Mock is the Co-Director of the Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy at Tulane University and a tenured faculty member in the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. She has over 35 years of experience in development and humanitarian response work in more than 70 countries. Nancy currently has funded project activities with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID, the Centers for Disease Control and DFID. She serves as a consultant on resilience to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the UN World Food Program. She is a member of the Food Security Information Network's Resilience Working Group. Nancy received a Bachelor of Science degree from Yale University and a doctoral degree in Public Health from Tulane University.

Syon Niyogi is currently the Deputy Regional Director for Management Quality with Catholic Relief Services in the East Africa region covering Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia and Tanzania. His responsibilities include internal audit, finance, human resources and information technology. He joined CRS in India in 1998 and, over the years, he has worked in Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Sudan in Finance, Internal Audit, Administration and Management Systems. Syon is a qualified Cost Accountant and also has certifications in multiple fields; he is a Certified Internal Auditor, Fraud Examiner, Risk and Information Management System Controller, Management Accountant, Information System Auditor and Risk Management Assurance. He has conducted several trainings for CRS and its partners' staff in finance, fraud & risk, internal audit and management systems. He has contributed to the development of a number of policies, procedures and systems in CRS.

Abdou Karim Ouédraogo, regional food security specialist and technical assistant for the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), joined the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) in 2009. He has worked for the World Food Program as a GIS Officer and Environmental Specialist, and for the CILSS's AGRHYMET Regional Center in Niamey as an agronomy specialist, responsible for technical implementation of the calendar forecasting food crises in the Sahel. He holds a PhD from the Universität für Bodenkultur in Vienna, where his research focused on the estimation of agricultural production by integrating yield simulation models and satellite images.

Mamoudou Mathieu Ouédraogo is a specialist in water and soil conservation, soil defense and restoration, agroforestry, and participatory approaches. From 1978 to 1996, he worked on OXFAM UK's Agroforestry project, serving as its director from 1985 to 1996. In 1998 he created the Network for the Promotion of Grassroots Participatory Approaches in Sustainable Development (MARP Network–Burkina Faso), which he is responsible for promoting. Since then, he supports the Networks of Innovative Peasants (which he also launched) in the promotion of innovative actions for natural resource management and livelihood security in the context of climate change in order to improve food security.

A Social Anthropologist educated at the universities of Cambridge and London SOAS, **Clare Oxy** spent a formative year living with Tuareg nomadic camel herders in Niger in preparation for her doctoral thesis on status and gender differentiation. Clare was the Pastoral Development adviser at the Overseas Development Institute, London, and subsequently worked for a range of aid and development agencies, in particular UN FAO, on pastoralist and shifting cultivator livelihoods: this work has taken her to many countries across West, Central and East Africa, also to Madagascar, S and SE Asia. Clare has taught Social Anthropology at the universities of Sussex, Oxford, Perugia (Italy), and most recently Bern (Switzerland). In 2010 she revisited two locations in Niger's pastoral zone and in 2011 she followed up Tuareg networks in Tamanrasset, S Algeria. She is currently researching landuse and livelihood trends in Niger's pastoral zone, including the range of migratory networks radiating from this zone.

Noro Hasina Ratsimbazafy is the Resiliency Coordinator for CARE International's SALOHI Program, funded by USAID/FFP. She has thirteen years of experience in rural development with CARE International, including food security, disaster risk management, nutritional health and institutional support. Noro received her degree in the social science of development from the University of Antananarivo.

Tom Remington is Catholic Relief Services' principal agriculture advisor for Africa, currently based in Lilongwe, Malawi. Serving in this role since August 2007, Tom helps coordinate the work of CRS' agriculture staff across the continent. He also plays a lead role in developing multi-country agricultural initiatives and works closely with international agricultural research centers to enhance CRS projects through partnerships and advanced research. Previously, Tom served as CRS' senior technical advisor for agriculture in east Africa. Since 1994, he has helped CRS develop a comprehensive agricultural program that includes innovative use of vouchers and fairs to increase farmer assets, agro-enterprise initiatives that link farmers to markets to boost incomes, integration with water projects for better irrigation, and dissemination of materials and information to improve crop production. Tom has worked in Africa for more than 30 years since 1977 when he served as an agriculture volunteer with the U.S. Peace Corps in Mali. Prior to joining CRS, he worked for the University of Wisconsin in The Gambia, West African Rice Development Association in Cote d'Ivoire and Development Assistance Corporation in Togo. He holds a doctorate degree in Agronomy as well as bachelor and master degrees in Horticulture from the University of Wisconsin.

Alexandra Rutishauser-Perera is International Medical Corps' Nutrition Adviser for East Africa. She is a trained nurse with a post graduate degree in tropical medicine who has been working in the humanitarian field for the past 7 years. She has considerable experience in nutrition in several diverse settings. These include Nutritionist in Darfur, Country Nutrition and Care Practices Coordinator for Action Contre la Faim in Liberia and Medical Field Coordinator for Medecins Sans Frontieres-Spain in Liberia and Somalia. Alexandra joined International Medical Corps in 2011 supporting three countries in the Horn of Africa where care group models have been implemented in Kenya (Samburu), Ethiopia (Dollo Addo and Woleyita) and Somalia (Cabudwaak). She is a strong advocate in formative research for behavior change.

Adriane Seibert has over 12 years of field experience in sub-Saharan Africa where she worked for World Vision, HKI, CRS, and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer. The majority of her time was spent in the Sahel and she is fluent in Hausa. Adriane earned her MPH at Tulane and did PhD coursework in applied biological anthropology at the University of South Florida. Originally from Pittsburgh, Adriane has a BA in Creative Writing and Art History from Carnegie Mellon. Adriane supports much of the integrated nutrition work at Save the Children, building on her African

experience but also expanding to Asia and other locations in her current role as Nutrition Senior Specialist.

Fatimata Ouilma Sinaré is a Gender and Development Specialist for the Victory against Malnutrition (ViM) project, sponsored by USAID/FFP. Named by ACDI VOCA as a focal point for ViM, she is recognized as an important member of the community of ACDI VOCA gender specialists. As a professional in the protection of women's and children's rights, she has worked as a communications officer, program coordinator, researcher, and project officer. She was trained as a lawyer and has several certificates in gender and development training from the International Training Center of the International Labor Organization.

Batamaka Somé is the Gender Advisor of the World Food Programme (WFP) Purchase for Progress (P4P), a pilot initiative that aims to tap into WFP's purchasing power to integrate smallholder farmers into agricultural markets. At WFP, he coordinates the implementation of the P4P Global Gender Strategy and supports country offices to translate the strategy into actions that empower women. Prior to joining WFP, Batamaka taught in high school and university levels in Burkina Faso and in the USA. He conducted research on agriculture and household dynamics that inform small-scale export farming in Africa in Sub-Saharan Africa. He presented papers at various international conferences, contributed academic pieces and advised major philanthropic organizations including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on the cultural challenges around gender equality, social change, and technological adoption in agriculture. Batamaka graduated in English from the University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso and also holds a Master's and a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA.

Valerie Stetson is an independent consultant with expertise in adult education (training using a dialogue approach, training of trainers, facilitation), project management (design, implementation and M&E) and social and behavior change. She holds an MPS/ID (international nutrition and adult education) from Cornell University. Valerie worked for Peace Corps as an agriculture trainer and then Save the Children for a decade as program manager and Field Office Director, managing community-based projects in health and nutrition, HIV/AIDS, agriculture and micro-finance in Cameroon, Somalia, Burkina Faso and Haiti. Based in Kenya, Ghana, Senegal and now Washington, DC, she worked for the last 17 years as a consultant for CRS, UNICEF/ESARO, WCARO and Ghana, ChildFund, Futures Group/Europe, FHI, Core Group, Peace Corps/Washington, EngenderHealth, USAID, PATH, The Grandmother Project and Child Frontiers. Valerie is the principal author of CRS and ChildFund guidance on strategic planning, project design, and project implementation and management and developed training manuals on Integral Human Development (CRS), HIV Care, Support and Treatment (Peace Corps), and Communication for Development (UNICEF/WCARO).

Kristi Tabaj is a Senior Specialist for Save the Children providing technical assistance to country offices on food security and agriculture programs as well as supporting gender interventions implemented under the USAID-funded TOPS Program. Her past experience includes work in natural resource management and regional agribusiness initiatives in the U.S. Prior to her work with Save the Children, Kristi served as an advisor and manager for agricultural programs in Afghanistan with Mercy Corps. She has a BA in Anthropology from Lawrence University and an MS in International Agricultural Development from the University of California, Davis. She also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras and with Peace Corps Response in Guatemala.

Rasoia Tiana coordinates the Village Savings and Loan (VSL) program of the Madagascar SALOHI Program, funded by CARE International. Her specialties are microfinance and village savings and credit.

Sarah Titus is the Food Security and Nutrition Manager on the Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally Project (SPRING). SPRING is a 5 year, USAID-funded project that focuses on the prevention of stunting and maternal and child anemia in the first 1,000 days of life. Sarah supports SPRING's work to strengthen the evidence base and to build on, clarify and strengthen understanding and use of the most promising nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions. Prior to joining SPRING, Sarah was the Associate Director, Food Security at Save the Children where she helped manage the non-emergency food security portfolio, providing technical and backstop support primarily to five Title II development programs. Before working for Save the Children, Sarah was a Senior Program Officer at the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants where she managed a Department of State program to resettle refugees in the U.S. Sarah has a Master's Degree in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University.

As USAID Senegal Deputy Regional Director, **Christophe Tocco** brings over 15 years of experience in managing and executing international development programs to his role managing the complex USAID Sahel Joint Planning Cell (JPC). The transnational nature of the JPC focus on reducing food insecurity and malnutrition in the Sahel allows Christophe to draw on his experiences living and working in countries such as Morocco, Rwanda, Jordan and Senegal, as well as his multilingual skills spanning French, Spanish, Moroccan and standard Arabic. He was a Peace Corps Volunteer in rural Morocco focused on health. He has worked for USAID as an Education Officer and as a Supervisory Program Officer in charge of strategy, project design, monitoring, budgeting and overall program oversight for the USAID Missions in Rwanda and Senegal. Christophe oversees a growing staff that includes all regional Food for Peace and Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance personnel as well as other staff working on the Sahel regional resilience programs in USAID/Senegal. In addition, he has oversight responsibility for bilateral development programs and USAID staff in Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Cape Verde, the Gambia and Guinea Bissau.

Circe Trevant is a public health professional with over 20 years of experience in MCH/nutrition/food security. She has worked in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East. Circe has been an Independent Consultant for the past seven years with extensive experience working with PVOs.

Eva Weltzien's research has focused on the effective use of sorghum, pearl millet and barley genetic resources for variety development and seed systems that best meet farmers' needs. For the past 14 years her work on sorghum improvement in West Africa has focused on developing methodologies for enhancing seed systems and participatory plant breeding in the various stages of a breeding program. Eva's research on priority setting with farmers has led to the present focus on genetic enhancement of photoperiod sensitive Guinea-race sorghums. These efforts now include research to apply new molecular techniques to enhance specific adaptation to low-soil phosphorous conditions, as well as increasing mineral concentration for improved nutrition, and the concept of 'food yield'. The use of Guinea-race derived parents for hybrid development has shown 40% yield gains across a wide range of farmer's production conditions, a breakthrough to harness.

Abdoulaye Zongo has served as Head of operation for CRS/Burkina Faso since February 2006. He holds a Master's degree in International Affairs from Lyon 3 University (France) and a DESS in

Biographical Sketches

Banking from Paris Institute of Banking Techniques. Abdoulaye joined CRS in February 1999 as Financial Specialist in Microfinance. In October 2001, he was promoted to Head of the Microfinance Department, and in July 2004 he added the role of Microfinance Regional Technical Adviser for the West Africa Regional Office (WARO), which consumes approximately 30% of his time. He also serves as a trainer for the Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (CGAP) and the Vice President of GRAINE/SARL, the independent microfinance institution created by CRS with US government funding, whose ownership is progressively being transferred to the local church.

About the TOPS Program



The Technical and Operational Performance Support (TOPS) Program, funded by USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP), works to strengthen the capacity of FFP grantees and improve the quality and effectiveness of food aid implementation through fostering collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing concerning food security and nutrition best practices.

USAID AOTR

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Period of Performance:

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August 12, 2015

Agreement Number:

AID-OAA-A-10-00006

Activity Manager

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Contract:

Leader with Associate
Cooperative Agreement

TOPS Strategic Objective

Highest quality information, knowledge, and best practices for improved methodologies in Title II food aid commodity program performance identified, established, shared and adapted.

TOPS Program Strategies

- Focused capacity building program
- Community of practice—Food Security and Nutrition Network
- Small grants program

Program Priorities

Establish an inclusive, stakeholder-driven, field-oriented collaboration and information sharing network to develop, build consensus on, and strengthen capacity in state of the art food security program planning, design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

Technical Focus Areas

The TOPS Program's focused technical capacity building efforts will address:

- Nutrition and Food Technology
- Agriculture
- Social and Behavioral Change
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Gender Equity
- Commodity Management
- Knowledge Management and Program Learning

The TOPS Program's Targeted Resource Flows

Through TOPS, two significant resource flows are directed to quality improvement in food security and nutrition programming:

Small Grants: A small grants program is a key component of the TOPS program for promoting use and adaptation of capacity building tools, field-led and collaborative projects, and dissemination of best practices to Title II food security and nutrition stakeholders

About the TOPS Program

LWA Awards: The TOPS USAID/FFP program grant is a Leader with Associate Award, which allows for pre-competed Associate Awards to be made by any USG funding source through TOPS for direct project development and implementation, e.g., USAID Missions, non-FFP Bureaus, and other USG agencies.

TOPS Program Partners



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About the TOPS-sponsored FSN Network

The TOPS Program is fostering the creation of the Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Network, an open community of practice of food security and nutrition implementers. The goal is to create opportunities for the food security and nutrition community to share information, shape agendas, understand and influence donor priorities, build consensus on best practices, and widely diffuse technical knowledge.



There are many ways to get involved in the FSN Network:

- Attend other **knowledge sharing events** similar to this Knowledge Sharing Meeting to engage in peer learning opportunities as members bring their technical experience and individual perspectives to bear on issues relevant to food security and nutrition implementation. To learn about future meetings, visit our events page at fsnnetwork.org
- Join a **technical task force** to engage with others from around the world directly contributing expertise in ongoing discussions on the development and the adaptation of crucial information, tools, and methodologies that are responsive to stakeholder needs. Learn more about joining a task force below.
- Participate in an **online discussion group or discussion event** to join other practitioners from around the world in sharing experiences, seeking recommendations, and strengthening capacity in technical, cross-cutting, and emerging implementation areas. To learn more, visit our web portal at fsnnetwork.org
- Visit the **online resource library** at fsnnetwork.org for access to practical implementation-focused guidance. The library houses over 300 guides, tools and manuals addressing a variety of technical, cross-cutting, and performance quality management topics. We welcome you to submit your favorite resources directly through the Web portal.
- Sign up for the **email newsletter**—which reaches over 1,500 food aid and food security implementers with announcements of new funding opportunities, events, information requests, new resources, and other community information. We welcome news and updates from members of the community, so please let us know if you have any at commentsfsn@gmail.com. Subscribe at bit.ly/fsnnetworknews

FSN Network Task Forces

Task forces are vital mechanisms for innovation and knowledge sharing, cross-organizational collaboration and consensus building. Comprised of teams of individuals from multiple organizations interested in contributing to further development and understanding of a technical or cross-cutting topic, task forces are inclusive, stakeholder-driven and field-oriented. They are a venue for professionals to collectively generate ideas, create new knowledge and understanding, and craft responses to challenges and opportunities that can increase the effectiveness and impact of food security programming.

They do this by:

- Developing state-of-the-art tools, practices, and strategies to benefit field programs
- Exchanging information related to best practices, resources, and opportunities
- Linking with academics, advocates, and private resources and expertise
- Fostering their own professional development
- Building organizational partnerships and capacity
- Articulating important field and implementation perspectives in global policy dialogues and alliances

Why join a task force or working group?

- A wider network of links to the realities of the field—discerning trends, learning from other efforts
- Participation in the development of state-of-the-art tools, practices, and strategies
- A wide array of learning, dissemination and leadership opportunities
- Connections to academics, advocates, donors and others
- Membership in an intimate community of practice which brings networking, mentoring, peer support, information exchange, and creativity
- Opportunity to showcase one's organization and its accomplishments

What does it take to join?

If you have technical experience in a task force topic area, are willing to attend monthly meetings (in-person or online), and will take on substantive roles on task force reviews or development or adaptations of tools, technical reference materials or other deliverables, we would love to have you. We are particularly seeking members who work for organizations implementing food aid and food security projects—especially field staff.

Agriculture

The Agriculture Task Force is dedicated to increasing the effectiveness and impact of agriculture, economic development and natural resource management components of food security programs. It is stakeholder-driven, bringing professionals together from around the world to foster collaboration, innovation and knowledge sharing. The Agricultural Task Force uses this knowledge to shape agendas, understand and influence donor priorities, build consensus on best practices, test promising practices, widely diffuse technical knowledge, and strengthen capacity to improve the quality of food security programs.

To join or learn more, contact: Andrea Mottram, amottram@hq.mercycorps.org or Eric Carlberg, ecarlberg@dc.mercycorps.org.

Commodity Management

The Commodity Management (CM) task force provides a platform for commodity management professionals from around the world to collectively generate ideas, create new knowledge and understanding, and craft responses to challenges and opportunities.

The objectives of the task force are:

- Increase PVO staff capacity in commodity management for compliance with Regulation 11 requirements

- Identify and validate effective commodity management resources, tools and promising practices
- Promote coordination and collaboration among the PVO community in commodity management, especially in training, sharing resources, challenges and seeking tried and tested solutions

To join or learn more, contact: B.K. De, bkde@savechildren.org

Gender

The Food Security and Nutrition Network Gender Task Force is a community of technical specialists and practitioners working to improve the integration of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment into food security and nutrition programming. It provides an inclusive forum for sharing, adapting, refining and disseminating information, methodologies, tools and promising practices on gender integration for increasing the impact of food security programs. Our listserv serves as a vehicle to share resources and opportunities to a wider audience.

To join or learn more, contact Kristi Tabaj, ktabaj@savechildren.org

Knowledge Management

The KM Task Force brings together food security professionals from all technical sectors in a community focused on improving knowledge sharing around implementation of development food aid programs. The group is working to identify and explore promising practices engaged in by food security and nutrition implementers to capture and disseminate program learning, as well as tools that can support better networking and knowledge sharing.

To join or learn more, contact: Patrick Coonan, coonan@coregroupdc.org

Monitoring & Evaluation

The M&E Task Force aims to improve the effectiveness of Monitoring and Evaluation of food security and nutrition programs through identifying and disseminating successful methods, tools and practices; establishing standards; and ensuring that the priorities of implementing agencies are reflected in donor guidance. The Task Force supports innovation and fosters collaboration among the broad community of stakeholders engaged in food security programming.

Following is a list of key activities of the task force:

- review and standardize M&E methods and tools
- facilitate sharing of learning, best practices, tools and methodologies
- enhance M&E practitioners' capacity to generate quality information through analysis of capacity gaps and prioritization of capacity building efforts
- review and interpret the policies and guidelines that are produced by USAID and other donors
- interact with USAID, FANTA, PPL, BFS; and UN agencies such as WFP, FAO, and IFAD to learn from each other and to develop common standards.

To join or learn more, contact: Edith Mutalya, emutalya@tangointernational.com

Nutrition & Food Technology

The Task Force on Nutrition & Food Technology recognizes the critical and cross-cutting role of maternal and child nutrition in household food security. The Task Force has identified several key areas of interest and/or priority relevant to food security programming; examples include: infant and young child feeding (IYCF), maternal nutrition, micronutrients, new food products, anthropometry and other key IYCF indicators, the integration of nutrition and agriculture, and more. This Task Force has finalized an agreement on a set of minimum core competencies in nutrition (and related food technology) that would be recommended for Title II program field staff that manage or supervise nutrition activities. Around this set of core competencies, the Task Force identifies tools (and fills any gaps in tools) that can help build and maintain such competencies. The TOPS program structures training workshops and networking activities around the core competencies. The Task Force also collaborates with the CORE Nutrition Working Group on several topics of interest to both groups.

To join or learn more, contact: Joan Jennings, jjennings@savechildren.org

Social and Behavior Change

The Social & Behavioral Change Task Force (SBCTF) is designed to identify, develop, reach consensus on, and build capacity in state of the art standards and tools for SBC to improve the quality of food security programs. Task Force members have attended seventeen face-to-face and online meetings, developed SBC Core Competencies and a process for review of methods and tools (IMT), captured lessons learned on DBC and wrote additional guidance, organized a Curriculum Summit, begun writing the Make Me a Change Agent (MMCA) SBC Toolkit, decided on SBC research and tool development agenda, and listened to several SBC presentations. We have also developed an SBC competencies self-assessment tool. Over the next year and beyond, we plan to:

- build task force members' and food security practitioners' SBC skills through the MMCA SBC toolkit;
- determine current gaps in SBC programming;
- create guidance on SBC-related measurement, evaluations and operational research;
- disseminate the best SBC information products, methods and tools to food security practitioners globally.

To join or learn more, contact: Mary DeCoster, mdecoster@fh.org

Thank you to participants and contributing organizations

The USAID-Office of Food for Peace funded TOPS Program manages the FSN Network, serves as the planning committee for the Network's semi-annual knowledge sharing meetings and is the sponsor for this week's events.

The TOPS team would like thank the entire FSN Network community for their participation, their willingness to engage in dialogue and the ideas they have brought to share with their colleagues. We would also like to extend special thanks the many individuals from the following organizations that made this event possible through their leadership in sessions as presenters or moderators.

ACDI/VOCA www.acdivoca.org/

CARE www.care.org/

Catholic Relief Services www.crs.org/

Central Laboratory of Agricultural Entomology (INERA) www.cnrst.bf/

Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) www.cilss.bf/

CORE Group www.coregroup.org/

FEWS Net www.fews.net

Food for the Hungry www.fh.org/

Government of Burkina Faso

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) www.icrisat.org/

International Medical Corps www.internationalmedicalcorps.org/

John Snow Inc. www.jsi.com

Mercy Corps www.mercycorps.org/

Participatory Rural Appraisal Network (MARP-Burkina) www.reseaumarpbf.org/

Save the Children www.savechildren.org/

Save the Children International www.savethechildren.net/

SPRING www.spring-nutrition.org/

TANGO International www.tangointernational.com/

Acknowledgments

The Grandmother Project www.grandmotherproject.org

Tulane University: Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy www.drlatulane.org/

UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home

UN World Food Programme www.wfp.org/

USAID: Senegal, Bureau of Food Security, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), and Office of Food for Peace www.usaid.gov/

Veterinarians Without Borders www.veterinairessansfrontieres.be/fr/

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