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VIDEO OF THE WEEK

Farmers make up 70 percent of the world's extreme poor, but smart use of data can change this status quo. [This video](#) shows how data can be used to build digital farmer profiles and lead to the creation of targeted products like precise irrigation systems, better credit scoring systems and location-based weather updates, helping to increase agricultural productivity.

The video accompanies the mSTAR project's [recent report](#) by Grameen Foundation, USAID, and Feed the Future on digital farmer profiles.

[Submit photos or videos for future newsletters.](#)

DID YOU KNOW...

A third of reproductive-age women in the world are anemic, while 39% of the world's adults are overweight or obese and each year around 20 million babies are born underweight. Beyond health, slow progress on malnutrition is also impacting the social and economic development of countries. It is estimated that malnutrition in all its forms could cost society up to US\$3.5 trillion per year, with overweight and obesity alone costing US\$500 billion per year. Learn more in the [Global Nutrition Report](#), the world's most comprehensive report on nutrition, released on November 29, 2018.

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What you need to know

Because the U.S. Congress and President Donald Trump failed to reach a budget deal, a partial government shutdown went into effect on December 22, 2018. Since then, approximately half of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) staff have been on furlough, meaning they are not allowed to report to work or access the agency's network or email. This [updated shutdown guidance](#), released by USAID on January 15, 2019, states that existing USAID-funded grants and cooperative agreements may continue to operate if they have adequate funding previously obligated. No new grant or cooperative agreement should be awarded unless necessary to support emergency activities or critical to the conduct of foreign affairs.

In a [recent statement](#), the USAID Administrator Mark Green informs that most U.S. Department of State staff will return to work as of January 20, 2019, but that this does not apply to USAID staff. In an effort to align more closely with the State Department however, USAID is consulting with the Office of Management and Budget and Congress to assess all options that would enable USAID to bring staff back to work in a paid status for restricted operations as soon as possible.

For updates on the shutdown please visit the [USAID website](#) and check the USAID's Office of Food for Peace twitter account [@USAIDFFP](#)

For more insights on how the U.S. government shutdown is affecting international development, check out this [Devex article](#).

Through Drought, Snow and Conflict, USAID Responds in Afghanistan

Photo story by USAID/FFP

[Afghanistan](#) is in the midst of the most severe drought since 2011, increasing the humanitarian needs of households struggling to cope with multiple shocks, including harsh winter, ceaseless conflict, and long-term displacement. [Read this story](#) to learn how USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) together with partner the World Food Program (WFP) are supporting the most at-risk people with emergency food assistance and increased access to food in local markets.



Photo: USAID/Afghanistan

Comment on Draft Request for Applications (RFA) for Kenya

Comments due February 4, 2019

Please find the [draft Fiscal Year 2019 Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) for development food security activities (DFSAs) in Kenya. All background and programmatic information for this solicitation can be found directly within the RFA. Comments on the FY 2019 draft RFA for Kenya are due on Monday, February 4, 2019 at noon ET.

USAID/Office of Food for Peace (FFP) is proposing a phased approach for this development activity in Kenya. The first 18-24 months will constitute a research and collaborative design phase (Phase 1), with a subsequent transition to a systems-driven implementation and institutional strengthening phase (Phase 2). As part of this approach, a Technical Steering Committee, made up of USAID staff, DFSA staff, and Government of

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Because this version of the RFA for Kenya is in draft and subject to change, all potential applicants are strongly advised to wait for the final version before starting to work on an application.

Please note that no USAID/FFP country backstop officers or field representatives should be contacted in any way about information contained in the draft RFA materials. As stated in the draft RFA, all comments and inquiries should be directed to FACG@usaid.gov by **Monday, February 4, 2019 at noon ET**.

USAID Recognizes Winners of 2018 Digital Development Awards

Five USAID projects awarded for their innovative use of digital technologies

On December 14, 2018, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced the winners of its 2018 Digi Awards, recognizing five USAID projects' innovative use of digital technologies and data to advance international development. The winners were selected among over 140 applications from around the world.

The five winners of the 2018 Digi Awards are:

- Digital Inclusion in the Peruvian Amazon (Peru)
- Feed the Future Tanzania Land Tenure Assistance (Tanzania)
- Jamii Africa and Sustaining Health Outcomes through the Private Sector (SHOPS) Plus (Tanzania)
- FlaveDor and the Moldova Competitiveness Project (Moldova)
- WeMUNIZE and the Maternal and Child Survival Program (Nigeria)

Follow the stories of the 2018 Digi winners on Facebook and Twitter using the hashtag #2018Digis and [learn more here](#).

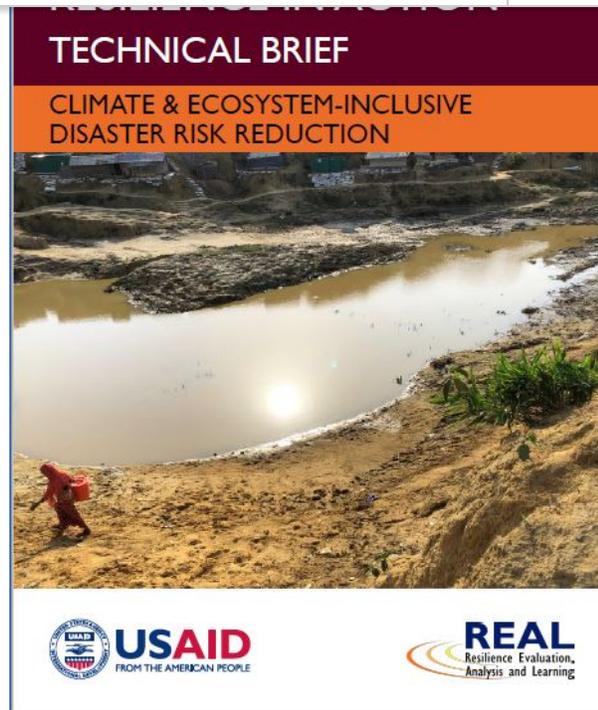
Featured Resource

Resilience in Action Technical Brief: Climate & Ecosystem-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

The *Resilience in Action Series* aims to bring development practitioners one step closer to bridging the gap between theory and practice for integrating a resilience lens in programming, answering questions such as: How does a resilience lens change the design of interventions in key sectors? How do we shift design and implementation of interventions to promote resilience-building within programs?

In this brief, we examine what is required to integrate a resilience approach to Climate & Ecosystems-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (CEDRR). This approach to promoting climate and environmental sensitivity, risk reduction, and resilience capacity-building works best when applied equally to operations, staffing, and partnerships as a foundation for an enabling environment. Adopting this approach supports adaptive program design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation amidst shocks and stresses impacting communities. This framework and accompanying case studies demonstrate how a focus on resilience can promote “win-win nexus strategies”, address risk, support healthy eco-systems and sustainable livelihoods.

[Access the resource here.](#)

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Job Postings

- [Manager, Small Grants](#), based in Washington, DC with Save the Children on the IDEAL activity
- [Senior Coordinator, Communications](#), based in Washington, DC with Save the Children on the IDEAL activity
- [Senior Food Security Technical Advisor](#), based in Washington, DC with Mercy Corps on the IDEAL activity
- [Team Leader, Midterm Performance Evaluation](#) of USAID/Nepal's Suaahara II Integrated Nutrition Program, based in Kathmandu, Nepal with CAMRIS International
- [Health Specialist, Midterm Evaluation of Suaahara II](#), based in Kathmandu, Nepal with CAMRIS International
- [Evaluation Specialist \(Health/Nutrition\)](#), Midterm Evaluation of Suaahara II, based in Kathmandu, Nepal with CAMRIS International
- [Head of Officer - Operations and Logistics](#), based in Bambari, Central Africa Republic with Mercy Corps
- [Gender, Youth, and Social Dynamics Advisor](#), based in Madagascar with Catholic Relief Services
- [Strategic Learning Advisor](#), based in Madagascar with Catholic Relief Services
- [Grants Management Assistant](#), based in Atlanta, Georgia with CARE
- [Kenya Program Director](#), based in Nanyuki, Kenya with BOMA Project
- [Director of Research, Evaluation and Learning](#), based in Manchester, Vermont or remotely with BOMA Project
- [Nutrition Value Chain Specialist](#), based in Kampala, Uganda with FHI 360
- [Chief of Party - Nutrition, Maternal & Child Health, and Family Planning](#), based in Guatemala City, Guatemala with FHI 360
- [Research Assistant/Research Analyst](#), based in Washington, DC with IFPRI
- [Senior Global Nutrition Policy Analyst](#), based in the UK with Development Initiatives

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[Call for Nominations: The Sasakawa Award](#) | **Deadline: January 31, 2019**

The UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction honors an individual, organization or initiative which has made a substantial contribution to saving lives and reducing global disaster mortality. The 2019 Award will recognize contributions to ensuring inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory participation in disaster risk reduction activities for all sections of society, especially the poor. [Learn more here.](#)

[Call for Proposals: Leading from the South](#) | **Deadline: February 19, 2019**

Fondo de Mujeres del Sur is pleased to announce the Second Call for Proposals for women's groups, organisations, movements and networks, working at local, national, sub-regional and/or regional levels. Proposals should focus on the defense and promotion of women's rights and gender equality. [Learn more here.](#)

[Call for Proposals: African Climate Smart Agriculture Grant Funding](#) | **Deadline: February 21, 2019**

Wehubit has launched a Call for Proposals to increase use and access to digital solutions that support adoption and scale of proven practical climate-smart agriculture methodologies and technologies to reach the minds and hands of farmers. Applicants can propose innovative digital solutions between 50,000-350,000 Euros for each project.

[Call for Nominations: 2019 Africa Food Prize](#) | **Deadline: May 14, 2019**

The Africa Food Prize celebrates Africans who are taking control of the continent's agriculture agenda and changing the reality of farming in Africa from a struggle to survive to a business that thrives. It puts a bright spotlight on bold initiatives and technical innovations that can be replicated across the continent.

[Call for Papers: The International Grassland and Rangeland 2020 Congress](#) | **Deadline: October 1, 2019**

The Joint XXIV IGC and XI IRC congress will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, October 25-30, 2020. The theme of the Congress is "Sustainable Use of Grassland and Rangeland Resources for Improved Livelihoods." The aim of the congress will be to promote the interchange of scientific and technical information on all aspects of grasslands and rangelands. [Learn more here.](#)

Upcoming Events

[Protection in Cash-based Interventions](#): The Cash Learning Partnership; January 29; Washington, DC

[Market Assessment Tools Training](#): The Cash Learning Partnership; February 12-14; Baltimore, MD

[CVA: The Fundamentals](#): The Cash Learning Partnership; February 28; New York, NY

[Global Food Security Symposium 2019](#): The Chicago Council on Global Affairs; March 20-21; Washington DC

[Core Cash and Voucher Assistance \(CVA\) Skills for Programme Staff](#): The Cash Learning Partnership; March 25-29; Washington, DC

[Cash and Livelihoods](#): The Cash Learning Partnership; April 5; Washington, DC

[Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction](#): United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR); May 13-17; Geneva, Switzerland

[More Events](#)

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[Food in the Anthropocene: the EAT–Lancet Commission on healthy diets from sustainable food systems](#) from The Lancet

[Global Nutrition Report 2018](#) from Development Initiatives Poverty Research Ltd

[Digital Farmer Profiles: Reimagining Smallholder Agriculture](#) from Grameen Foundation, Feed the Future and USAID

[Yemen Food Security Outlook December 2018 to May 2019](#) from Famine Early Warning System Network

[UNHCR Global Appeal 2019 Update](#) from UN High Commissioner for Refugees

[The Linkages Between Migration, Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development](#) from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Recent Articles

[Scientists reveal 'ideal diet' for peoples' and planet's health](#) from Reuters

[New finance solutions building the resilience of African farmers and herders](#) from Global Resilience Partnership

[Are the Days of Rotting Produce Behind Us? An Interview on Digital Farmer Profiles](#) from FHI 360

[Global Food Systems: Can foresight learn from hindsight?](#) from Global Food Security

[With Farms atop Malls, Singapore gets serious about Food Security](#) from Reuters

[Putting Land to Good Use: Food Security in Our Backyards](#) from Forbes Africa

[Does Providing Agricultural and Nutrition Information to both men and women improve Household Food Security? Evidence from Malawi](#) from Global Food Security

If you are not already on our e-mail list, sign-up [here](#). We welcome news of events, tools, trainings, country updates and other content from the broad FSN Network community. Please send any suggested content to news@fsnnetwork.org.

The TOPS Program was made possible by the generous support and contribution of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

The FSN Network is being spearheaded by TOPS, a USAID/FFP funded program seeking to build the capacity of FFP grantees and other food security and nutrition implementers. The program is working to improve the quality of implementation through fostering collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing around food security and nutrition best practices. For more information about TOPS please click [here](#).

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