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**Your source for the latest in food security and nutrition**

May 15, 2018 | Volume 8, Issue 16

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#### PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Photo by Shelia Jackson

Yemisi Songo-Williams (left) from The TOPS Program and Peter Hobby (right) from the KDAD Project shared their experiences on knowledge management's (KM) role in project close-out at the recent [KM4Dev-DC's Happy Hour and Learning Moment](#).

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

#### DID YOU KNOW...

The [ReSAKSS Data Challenge](#) is an Africa-wide - diaspora included - competition for enthusiastic data users to showcase their creativity and analytical skills using data and other resources on the ReSAKSS website to develop an innovative knowledge product or project that addresses a development challenge faced by Africa. The challenge will start at the end of April 2018 and will be open for

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## Contribute to the Newsletter!

The FSN Network News is a community newsletter, and we welcome your input. Let us know of upcoming events, new publications, and interesting articles. We also share new job openings, funding opportunities, calls for input, and photos. Email submissions to [news@fsnnetwork.org](mailto:news@fsnnetwork.org).

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## Event Resources Now Available for Theory of Change (TOC) Refresher Sessions

**Materials include a master slide deck from all sessions and a webinar recording.**

The TOPS Program recently conducted [four demand-driven theory of change refresher sessions](#) between April 24th and 27th. Participants from 21 organizations in three continents identified areas needing clarification on the [FFP/TOPS TOC checklist](#) and submitted questions in advance. The refresher sessions were then designed to directly respond to all questions posed by participants.

- Access the master set of slides with questions from all four sessions [here](#).
- Access the April 26th webinar recording [here](#).

As you prepare your 2018 DFSA applications be sure to reference the [TOC checklist!](#) The checklist was collaboratively developed by TOPS and FFP to ensure that practitioners and FFP reviewers share a tool that helps gauge the completeness and quality of TOC diagrams and complementary documentation (formerly called the TOC narrative).

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## Small Grants: Tips for Success for Grantors and Grantees

**Thursday, May 31, 2018 | 9:30 - 11:00 AM EDT | Online**

Has your organization ever considered starting up a small grants program? Do you know how to write a winning proposal for a small grant? What even *is* a small grants program in the first place?

If you're interested in any of these questions, this webinar is for you! Based on lessons learned from its [Small Grants Program](#), TOPS will be hosting an interactive webinar aimed at 1) organizations interested in implementing a small grants program as a grantor, and/or 2) organizations looking to apply for and manage a small grant. The webinar will elaborate upon the benefits of small grants as a funding mechanism and will provide an opportunity for these two audiences to ask questions and discuss challenges.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

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## Gender and Resilience Framework Workshop

**Tuesday, June 19, 2018 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM EDT**

**Save the Children, 899 North Capitol Street NE, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20002**

How can a framework for gender and resilience increase the effectiveness of our work and foster mutual learning?

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development and humanitarian contexts), gender, and/or inclusion (e.g. youth, LGBTQ rights, disability rights, and more) to join us for a half-day, hands-on workshop to explore draft framework developed by the Gender and Resilience Working Group, a coalition of over 40 resilience-focused international organizations. This interactive event represents a collaboration between the Working Groups and The TOPS Program, with facilitation from CARE, Mercy Corps, Save the Children, TANGO and the TOPS Program. It will serve as a platform to link resilience specialists with gender/inclusion specialists to collectively consider ways to improve programming through an increased of the intersection of gender/inclusion and resilience.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

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## USAID Releases Broad Agency Announcement of Nutrition Innovations in Complex Environments

**Questions due by May 21, 2018 and Expressions of Interest due by June 1, 2018.**

USAID is pleased to announce the release of the Nutrition Innovations in Complex Environments Broad Agency Announcement (BAA). This BAA reflects a collaborative effort across USAID's Bureau for Food Security (BFS), the Bureau for Global Health (GH), and the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance's (DCHA) Office of Food for Peace, in coordination with the Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF) and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID).

As set out at the 2017 Milan Global Nutrition Summit, USAID, DFID and ECF share a common interest in supporting the fight to end chronic and acute malnutrition. Addressing malnutrition will require concerted, coordinated efforts to scale up what works, and to find effective, innovative, and scalable solutions to the most intractable drivers of poor nutrition.

This BAA is designed to create an opportunity for co-design and collaboration with USAID to conduct cutting-edge R&D to find new and innovative ways of combating malnutrition. Innovation is particularly needed in chronically nutritionally and food-insecure contexts - in other words, complex environments where there are persistent or recurrent crisis, such as drought, conflict or instability. In these environments poor nutrition is likely holding back efforts to build resilience. Improved nutrition can both be a maker and a marker of effective inclusive development.

All questions and Expressions of Interest (EOIs) should be submitted to [BAANutrition@usaid.gov](mailto:BAANutrition@usaid.gov). **Questions should be submitted by May 21, 2018, and EOIs should be submitted by June 1, 2018.**

The BAA can be found at the following links:

[FedBizOpps Link](#)

[Grants.gov](#)

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## USAID/FFP Releases FY 2018 Request for Applications for Development Food Security Activities in Burkina Faso and Niger

**Applications are due by Tuesday, June 26, 2018 11:59 AM EDT**

USAID Office of Food for Peace (FFP) released the [Fiscal Year 2018 \(FY 2018\) Request for Applications \(RFA\) for development food security activities in Burkina Faso and Niger](#). The country-specific information (CSI) for [Burkina Faso](#) and [Niger](#) are also available.

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- USAID reserves the rights to adjust the number of awards, funding levels and sources of funding, given the budget environment and other considerations. The CSI contains estimates for numbers of awards and available funds.
- Just like last year, this RFA makes reference to separate technical information. Select technical information is included in the Technical References and Monitoring & Evaluation Policy & Guidance for Food for Peace Programs on the FFP website; links are provided in the RFA.
- USAID/FFP is returning to the Refine and Implement model this year. More information can be found in Appendix II.

**Applications are due by Tuesday, June 26, 11:59 AM EDT.** Please do not wait until the last day to submit applications. USAID/FFP will work toward an expedient decision and will inform successful applicants of its decision.

Oral presentations may be required as conditions permit (see RFA, page 5). Details concerning oral presentations will be communicated to successful first phase applicants.

All documents are available on the [USAID website](#), and the [Burkina Faso](#) and [Niger](#) country pages. Alternatively, all documents are available on [Grants.gov](#).

Please note that no USAID/FFP country backstop officers or field representatives should be contacted about information contained in the RFA materials or with application questions. All comments and inquiries should be directed to Mr. Michael Keegan, [mkeegan@usaid.gov](mailto:mkeegan@usaid.gov), with a copy to [FACG@usaid.gov](mailto:FACG@usaid.gov) and "RFA FY 2018" in the subject line.

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## New Training Courses from the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP)

### A variety of sessions for junior staff and technical staff.

#### Cash Transfer Programming: The Fundamentals

This one-day course is designed for anyone who wants to learn more about cash transfer programming in humanitarian contexts, and will introduce you to the fundamentals of Cash Transfer Programming (CTP). No knowledge of CTP is required - great for new staff/interns/volunteers in various supportive roles (HR, PR, IT, etc.) and anyone interested in learning more about programming.

[Session 1: May 24 | Deadline to apply: May 17](#)

[Session 2: July 24 | Deadline to apply: July 10](#)

#### Core Cash Transfer Programming Skills for Program Staff

This course is structured around the project cycle and covers all of the key skills required to design, implement, and monitor cash transfer programs. This course is focused on a technical/programmatic perspective - therefore, it is targeted at technical staff who manage/support/backstop cash programs.

[Session Dates: August 13-17 | Deadline to apply: July 13](#)

Please note the links will lead you to the Kaya account page. You will need to create a Kaya account to fill out the training application.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Pinzon: [kpinson@actionagainsthunger.org](mailto:kpinson@actionagainsthunger.org).

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## Featured Resource

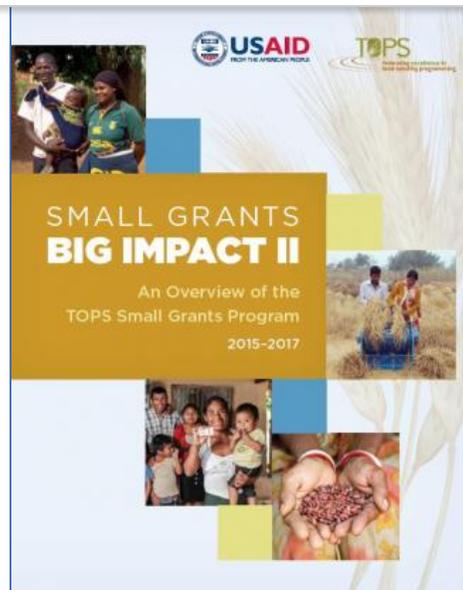
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has awarded just over \$4 million via 71 grants to 32 different organizations involved in food security and nutrition activities. The TOPS Small Grants Program has offered organizations a unique opportunity to test innovative and creative ideas and share lessons learned from these experiences.

This booklet highlights the 29 small grants awarded between 2016 and 2017. It serves as a continuation of the *Small Grants, Big Impact* booklet published in 2015, which provided an overview of the 42 small grants funded and carried out during the first five years of The TOPS Program.

*Based on lessons learned from the Small Grants Program, TOPS will be hosting an interactive webinar on Thursday, May 31 aimed at 1) organizations interested in implementing a small grants program as a grantor, and/or 2) organizations looking to apply for and manage a small grant. The webinar will elaborate upon the benefits of small grants as a funding mechanism and will provide an opportunity for these two audiences to ask questions and discuss challenges. [Learn more and register here.](#)*

[Access the resource here.](#)



## Job Postings

- [Spanish Translator, Resources \(Consultancy\)](#), TOPS Program with CORE Group
- [Knowledge Management Summer Intern](#) based in Washington, DC with CORE Group
- [Director, WASH, TOPS Program](#) based in Washington, DC with Save the Children
- [Senior Technical Advisor, Agriculture and Natural Resource Management](#) based in Washington, DC with World Vision
- [Data Analyst, CIALCA](#) based either in Bujumbura, Burundi or Kigali, Rwanda with International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
- [Senior Technical Advisor, Market Systems](#) based either in Atlanta, GA or Washington, DC with CARE
- [Project Coordinator, INDDEX](#) based in Boston, MA with Friedman School of Nutrition at Tufts University
- [Senior Dietary Survey Advisor](#) based in Washington, DC with FHI 360
- [Food Security and Livelihoods Program Manager](#) based in Panyijiar, South Sudan with Mercy Corps
- [Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Advisor, Resilience](#) based in Washington, DC with Mercy Corps
- [Advisor, Water Plus Program and Communications](#) based in Atlanta, Georgia with CARE
- [Cash and Markets Technical Advisor](#) based in Atlanta, Georgia with CARE
- [Chief of Party, Food Security and Nutrition](#) based in Port-au-Prince, Haiti with CARE
- [Director of Research, Evaluation and Learning](#) based in Kenya or East Coast, US with BOMA Project
- [Regional Poverty Graduation Advisor](#) based in Nairobi or Nanyuki, Kenya with BOMA Project
- [Team Leader \(Consultancy\), Global Support Facility for the National Information Platforms for Nutrition Initiative](#) based in Montpellier, France with Agropolis International

## Funding & Other Opportunities

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The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) would like to generate information that will facilitate the design of systems and strategies to substantially improve compliance of food fortification (oil and salt) in Bangladesh. To address these evidence needs, we are seeking applications from research teams that can undertake a series of studies. The research will require expertise in value chain analysis, economics (firm behavior, industrial economics, and/or economics of regulation), and ethnographic methods; include local capacity; and require knowledge of fortification programming. [Learn more here!](#)

**African Union Research Grants II Open Call for Proposals 2018 Edition | Deadline: May 31, 2018**

This call for proposal supports Africa's Science Technology and Innovation Strategy 2024 which addresses the aspirations identified under Agenda 2063 and Priority 3 on Human development of the EU-Africa partnership. The call supports research on: Food, Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) with particular attention on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition. [Learn more here!](#)

**USDA Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Program | Deadline: June 22, 2018**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is now accepting applications for the FY 2018 Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement (LRP) program. Through the LRP program, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) will work with partners to implement field-based projects in developing countries through the use of locally procured commodities. These efforts will complement existing U.S. government food assistance programs, especially the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, which supports school feeding and maternal and child nutrition projects around the world. In FY 2018, applications will be prioritized for Guatemala, Honduras, Malawi, and Senegal. [Learn more here!](#)

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## Upcoming Events

[Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Congress 2018: Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Congress](#); May 15-16; Nairobi, Kenya

[Half-Day Seminar on Nutrition for School-Age Children](#); Catholic Relief Services, Global Nutrition Foundation, USDA, WFP USA; May 16; Washington, DC

[Effectively Integrating Gender in SBCC: Examples from Across the Program Cycle](#); CORE Group; May 22; Online

[SG2018: The Power of Savings Groups](#); SEEP Network; May 22-24; Kigali, Rwanda

[Cash Transfer Programming - The Fundamentals \(Session 1\)](#); Cash Learning Partnership; May 24; Washington, DC

[Water Governance, Training and Gender in Agriculture: A New Evidence Base](#); Agrilinks; May 24; Washington, DC

[Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity - Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors](#); UN FAO; May 29-31; Rome, Italy

[Small Grants: Tips for Success for Grantors and Grantees](#); The TOPS Program; May 31; Online

[Global Health Practitioner Conference: Community Health Action for the Humanitarian-Development Nexus](#); CORE Group; June 4-7; Bethesda, Maryland

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## New Reports, Guides & Tools

[Synthesis: Exploring multisector programming at the sub-national level in Senegal, Nepal, and Kenya](#) from ENN

[Factors influencing the uptake of a mass media intervention to improve child feeding in Bangladesh](#) from A4NH

[Guideline: Implementing Effective Actions for Improving Adolescent Nutrition](#) from WHO

[Food Systems for Healthier Diets in Ethiopia](#) from IFPRI

[Community-level acceptability and feasibility assessments of soy-containing complementary food blends by women and children in rural Ghana](#) from Soybean Innovation Lab

[The Future of Food: Maximizing Finance for Development in Agricultural Value Chains](#) from World Bank

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## Recent Articles

[Building Resilience through Improved Policy](#) from Agrilinks

[Agritech Startups Aim to Lift Nigerian Smallholder Farmers Out of Poverty](#) from Devex

[Kenya: Herders Turn to Grazing App to Cut Drought Risks](#) from Thomson Reuters Foundation

[UN Forum to Coordinate Global Efforts to Address Worsening Water Shortages](#) from UN News

[Hundreds of thousands of children close to dying of hunger in Congo, UN warns](#) from The Guardian

[Cleaning up polluted soil is 'humanity's next great challenge'](#) from Reuters

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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](mailto: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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