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Your source for the latest in food security and nutrition

March 6, 2018 | Volume 8, Issue 5

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VIDEO OF THE WEEK

Published by Plan International USA

With financial support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Plan International USA and the Water Institute at the University of North Carolina have explored whether strengthening the role of "Local Actors" (natural leaders, teachers, district officials) can more effectively trigger sanitation behavior change community-wide. This [video](#) documents the main results and messages from Ghana, Ethiopia, and Kenya, where the [Community-Led Total Sanitation \(CLTS\) project](#) has been implemented.

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

DID YOU KNOW...

The [Smallholder and Agri-SME Finance and Investment Network \(SAFIN\)](#) is an inclusive partnership of actors operating in different parts of the ecosystem for agri-food and rural SME investment with a focus on access to finance and complementary services. Supported by a small team housed at the [International Fund for](#)

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have come together to define a joint agenda running to the end of 2020 which will focus on five workstreams:

1. Mobilizing new and diverse financial resources
2. Alignment of investments around inclusive models
3. Supporting innovation and scaling up of successful initiatives and models
4. Global Advocacy and Policy Engagement
5. Facilitating the pursuit of a strategic knowledge agenda

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.

New Website for USAID's Office of Food for Peace Refreshed with a new look, new webpages and new features!

USAID Office of Food for Peace (FFP) have updated their website with a new look, new webpages and new features! Their weblink has been changed to <https://www.usaid.gov/food-assistance>. Please note their updated left-hand navigation menu on the page, with updated page links listed below.

- Find the formerly named FFP Programs webpages under [What We Do](#).
- Find the formerly named FFP Guidance webpage under [Partner With Us](#).
- Find the formerly named FFP Country Fact Sheets webpage under [Where We Work](#) and take an interactive tour of the places where FFP has active programs.
- Refer to the FFP [Resources](#) webpage as your one-stop shop for all FFP fact sheets, reports, and implementation resources for partners (including research and policy papers and study reports, etc.)
- Visit the new FFP [Newsroom](#) webpage which feature FFP-related news, stories (including all the great ones from our partners), videos and more.
- Refer to the new FFP [Refugee Food Assistance](#) webpage for information on how and where FFP supports refugees with emergency food assistance.

Stay tuned for upcoming issues of the FSN Network News for more detailed spotlights on Food for Peace's webpage changes! If you have any questions regarding FFP's new website, please contact ffpcomms@usaid.gov.

The Program Quality Toolbox for Cash Based Assistance is Now Live!

The [Program Quality Toolbox](#) is a set of common standards and actions for quality Cash Based Assistance (CBA) which defines 'what' needs to happen for quality CBA. Each action is supported by a set of guidelines and

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outcome (both sectoral and multi-sectoral). Where they exist, sector specific guidelines and tools have been included.

It was developed for:

- **Program managers** who want to design and implement programs using the best guidance and tools available
- **Cash working groups** who want to set standards for a response
- **Agencies** who want to collaborate around a set of shared standards
- **Donors** who want to assess the quality of proposals and funded programs

The toolbox was developed by CaLP and its members based on the best available guidance across organizations. The content was curated and validated using a systematic selection protocol. The toolbox will be updated annually. New guidelines and tools will be reviewed according to the established curation process. To propose resources for consideration, contact: digitalcomms@cashlearning.org

Addressing Gaps in Climate Services for Agriculture: The AgMetGaps Project

March 15, 2018, 4:00-5:30 PM EST | Chemonics, 1717 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20006 and Online

When a farmer makes decisions about what to plant, when to plant and how to care for her crop, her observations regarding weather and climate from the past year are not necessarily a good indication of what is likely to happen this year. Climate services such as seasonal climate forecasts connected to crop simulation models or other types of decision support approaches (e.g. participatory roundtables) adapted to the farmer's specific context have the potential to facilitate decision-making in communities confronting increasing climate variability and climate change.

While climate services have the potential to support agricultural decision-making, their effectiveness and suitability can vary substantially from one site to another. Given limited resources and a multitude of potential investment priorities, it is extremely important to approach investment in climate services in a systematic way that is both demand driven and has high potential for success.

As part of the monthly [USAID Adaptation Community Meetings](#), join USAID adaptation advisor Kevin Coffey and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) senior scientist Steven Prager to hear about USAID's investments and strategies for climate services, specifically the work of AgMetGaps project. The project, funded by USAID and led by CIAT, has developed a systematic approach for prioritizing, designing, and implementing demand-driven climate services for the agriculture sector. This innovative approach brings service design thinking and constant feedback loops to the climate services context.

[Learn more and register here!](#)

Core Cash Transfer Programming (CTP) Skills for Supply Chain, Finance, & ICT Staff Webinar Series

March 22 - June 28, 2018 | Online

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in requirements of the delivery modalities, the implications to operations, and how best to support and coordinate with program staff. The course was developed by Fritz Institute, in collaboration with the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP), funded by USAID.

Fritz Institute is now working on a webinar delivery approach, with three (3) offerings via webinar between March and June 2018:

- **Webinar Pilot 1:** 6 weeks, 2x per week on Mondays and Thursdays, 22 Mar - 30 Apr (skip Easter Monday)
- **Webinar Pilot 2 (anticipated):** 11 weeks, 1x per week on Tuesdays, 17 Apr - 26 Jun
- **Webinar Pilot 3 (anticipated):** 6 weeks, 2x per week on Mondays and Thursdays, 14 May - 28 Jun

[For more information, visit here.](#)

[To apply, visit here.](#)

Save the Date! Food Assistance for Nutrition Evidence Summit June 27-28, 2018 | Washington, DC

The Food Aid Quality Review (FAQR) Project at Tufts University will host the Food Assistance for Nutrition Evidence Summit. This event will synthesize the current state of research on food assistance for nutrition, facilitate dialogue on key policy and program-relevant findings, and identify priority domains for future research. The summit will bring together researchers, policymakers, implementing partners, donors and industry.

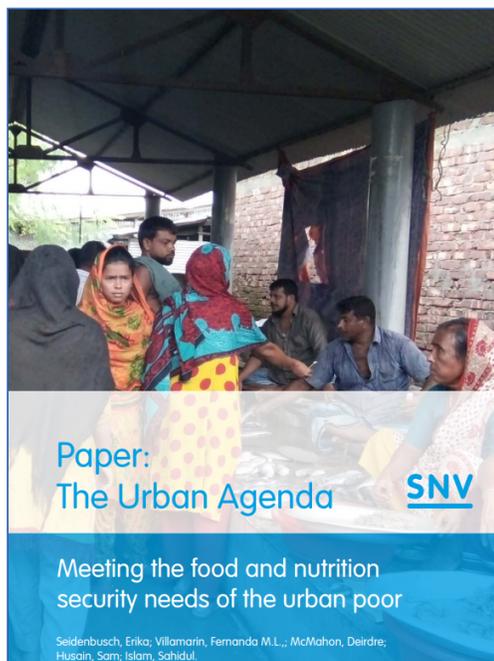
Join the [mailing list](#) to receive updates including registration information, session descriptions and opportunities for poster and display submissions.

Featured Resource

The Urban Agenda: Meeting the Food and Nutrition Security Needs of the Urban Poor

Urbanization is expected to put an increased pressure on the global food systems. As the world's cities expand, they are becoming home to an increasing number of malnourished people, particularly women and infants. These groups remain vulnerable to malnourishment and the triple burden of malnutrition is increasingly becoming visible amongst the urban poor. High rates of undernutrition in children co-exist with being overweight or obese and anaemia in adults. This situation continues to be one of the main barriers that prevents children, communities and societies from realising their full potential.

In 2016, the New Urban Agenda was adopted. The set of non-binding principles and commitments will guide the efforts around urban development through to 2036. Yet, many questions remain: can the urban agenda play a role in reversing the alarming trend in food and nutrition insecurity? What are the main causes malnutrition and constraints for people to improve their nutrition status? And more pressing, how can we address these?



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Job Postings

- [Economic Recovery and Market System Technical Advisor](#) based in Washington, DC with USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
- [Communications Consultant](#) based in Washington, DC with CORE Group
- [Senior Specialist, WASH in Emergencies](#) based in Washington, DC with Save the Children
- [Livelihoods Advisor](#) based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with Save the Children
- [Senior Research Assistant/Research Analyst, Markets, Trade and Institutions](#) based in Washington, DC with IFPRI
- [Senior Research Assistant/Research Analyst, Poverty, Health, and Nutrition](#) based in New Delhi, India with IFPRI
- [Consultancy, Training Materials and Workshop Facilitator, Gender](#) with Mercy Corps Somalia
- [Consultancy, Women in WASH](#) with UNICEF
- [Director, Health Programs](#) based in Washington, DC with Food for the Hungry
- [Chief of Party](#) based in Dili, Timor-Leste with CARE
- [Program Manager, Africa Programs](#) based in Raleigh, NC with Curamericas Global
- [Director, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion](#) based in Washington, DC with World Vision
- [Chief of Party](#) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with World Vision
- [Deputy Regional Director, Central America](#) based in Guatemala City, Guatemala with Action Against Hunger
- [Senior Research Assistant/ Research Analyst, Environment and Production Technology](#) based in Washington, DC with IFPRI
- [Senior Data and Learning Advisor](#) based in Portland, Oregon with Mercy Corps

Funding & Other Opportunities

Evaluation of GAIN's Marketplace for Nutritious Foods Program in Kenya | Deadline: March 12, 2018

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) is seeking applications for an independent evaluation of its Marketplace for Nutritious Foods Program in Kenya. The Marketplace program provides financial and technical support to small and medium enterprises producing nutritious with the aim of increasing their availability and affordability in markets for low income consumers. The evaluation will occur over a period of 3 years, and the scope of work is described in detail in the [request for concept notes](#). **Applicants are invited to submit a concept note by March 12, 2018 to Djeinam Toure, dtoure@gainhealth.org. Successful applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal by April 19, 2018. [Learn more here!](#)**

Food Systems for Healthy and Sustainable Diets Course | Deadline: April 23, 2018

Food systems considers all the actors, elements and activities that relate to primary producing, processing, distributing, preparing and consuming food and waste disposal; and the socio-economic and environmental outcomes of these activities. The course explores food systems from a dietary perspective and discuss which components are related to the diet gaps for different populations groups at national, regional and global level. It discusses possible actions to be taken to transform the food system for addressing the gaps and how these actions can be leveraged in a sustainable way. The training targets staff of governmental and non-governmental organisations. The course is job-oriented and the training approach is interactive, experience as well as evidence-based: it provides the participants with the possibility to learn from expert facilitators as well as from each other. Transfer of knowledge goes hand in hand with case studies, working groups, etc. A mix of participants with different backgrounds, yet common interests, will provide a good basis for the exchange of

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Thought for Food Global Challenge | Deadline: May 4, 2018

Thought for Food launches the 5th edition of the TFF Challenge, inviting young leaders from around the world to sign up and develop new ideas and business concepts that tackle the challenge of sustainably feeding our world's growing population. This year the competition is open to everyone under the age of 35. [Learn more here!](#)

Two Funded PhD Opportunities on Environmental Impacts of Canadian Food Choices | Rolling Deadline

University of Waterloo (starting ASAP) and Dalhousie University (starting Fall 2018). Are you interested in sustainable and healthy diets, addressing food security, and the challenge of eating within planetary boundaries? Professor Goretty Dias, of the Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo, and Professor Peter Tyedmers of the School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University, are looking for keen PhD students with a track record of successful research at the Masters level who enjoy engaging in multi-disciplinary research. Students will join a newly established, SSHRC-funded project. [Learn more here!](#)

Upcoming Events

[Addressing Gaps in Climate Services for Agriculture](#): The AgMetGaps Project: Adaptation Community Meetings through Chemonics; March 15; Washington, DC and Online

[AMEA Workshop for Defining Professional Farmer Organizations](#): Agribusiness Market Ecosystem Alliance; March 20; Washington, DC

[Global Food Security Symposium 2018](#): Chicago Council of Global Affairs; March 21-22; Washington, DC

[Tools to Build Better Programs: A Practical Workshop](#): K4Health; March 21; Washington, DC

[Core Cash Transfer Programming \(CTP\) Skills for Supply Chain, Finance, & ICT Staff Webinar Series](#): Fritz Institute and The Cash Learning Partnership; March 22-June 28; Online

[Workshop on Cost-Efficiency and Cost-Effectiveness Methodologies and Applications in Humanitarian Assistance](#): USAID, International Rescue Committee, and The Cash Learning Partnership; April 9-10; Washington, DC

[More Events](#)

New Reports, Guides & Tools

[Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System](#) from IFPRI

[Demand-driven Training for Youth Employment Toolkit](#) from Making Cents International

[The challenge of employment in the 21st century](#) from UN FAO

[Report on the Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene](#) from WHO and UNICEF

[Putting WASH in the water cycle: climate change, water resources and the future of water, sanitation and hygiene challenges in Pacific Island Countries](#) from Journal of Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Development

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Recent Articles

[After the hurricane: Jumpstarting food markets to jumpstart Dominica's recovery](#) from USAID Office of Food for Peace

[Ethiopia: Irrigation Development Improving Livelihoods](#) from All Africa

[Soil Projects at the Center of Sustainable Development](#) from Food Tank

[How to Make Progress on the SDGs? Prioritize Gender Equality](#) from Devex

[Without City Jobs, Tech-Savvy Kenya Youth Head Back to the Farm](#) from Reuters

[Credit as a Barrier to Smart Agriculture in Kenya](#) from Agrilinks

[How Digital Agriculture is Helping Uganda Grow Its Middle Class](#) from Forbes

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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