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#### VIDEO OF THE WEEK

Submitted by FHI 360

FHI 360 recently released a series of videos documenting projects dealing with mobile money for agriculture. This video is about the mSTAR Project in Bangladesh, which is capitalizing on the popularity of mobile financial services to strengthen the agricultural sector and improve farmers' economic resilience. [Watch the video here!](#) You can also read more about this video and others in the series on [mSTAR's blog](#).

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

#### DID YOU KNOW...

As part of the USAID/Food for Peace Kore Lavi project, CARE is working in partnership with WFP, ACF, World Vision, and the Haitian Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. A recent [market analysis](#) showed remarkable changes. 96% of businesses in the program are seeing higher profits, 43% of farmers are increasing their productivity, and 61% of farmers have hired

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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).

## Announcing the TOPS/FSN Network Knowledge Sharing Meeting! July 2017 | Washington, DC



The next TOPS/FSN Network Knowledge Sharing Meeting will be in July in Washington, DC. Be on the lookout for further announcements on date, venue, theme, and more!

At our Knowledge Sharing Meetings, the connections you make are as substantial as the knowledge you gain. Every session you attend, from energizing plenaries to intimate lunch tables, encourages active

participation and engagement with your peers.

Take advantage of frequent exchanges with colleagues from around the world and across the food security and nutrition spectrum as you learn firsthand what works and what doesn't, and share your own experiences and challenges.

With each conversation, both in and out of sessions, you are building momentum toward our common goal of

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[Learn more about our Knowledge Sharing Meetings here.](#)

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## **Realize: Gender Equity and Diversity for Social and Behavioral Change**

**March 28-March 31, 2017**

**Washington, DC**

The TOPS Program and CARE International are pleased to announce an expanded Gender Equity and Diversity for Social and Behavioral Change capacity building workshop. This highly participatory workshop includes material from the previous workshop plus additional new content. The workshop will increase your own understanding of gender equity and diversity and help you to promote lasting change with your teams and in partnership with communities.

Here's what past participants have said about Realize:

*"I learned of some wonderful activities that I can replicate for our field staff and HQ staff. I've also gained facilitation skills thanks to the great facilitators during this workshop. I've also become even more passionate about how crucial GED is for SBC."*

*"The flow of activities and...the activities themselves were extremely useful. I also think the space that was given to debrief and share out was absolutely crucial."*

*"I learned how to initiate sometimes difficult discussions with staff and teams as part of gender training workshops."*

**Registration is now open. [Apply to attend here.](#)**

*Applicants chosen to attend will be notified on a rolling basis.*

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## **Save the Date! Commodity Management Toolkit Launch**

**March 30, 2017 | 10:00 AM EST**

**Save the Children, 899 N Capitol St NE, Ste. 900, Washington, DC**

The Commodity Management (CM) Toolkit is a one-stop operational reference guide for commodity management practitioners. It consists of two integrated components: a set of interactive process flow map and a collection of 147 tools.

The CM Toolkit explains the complex process of commodity management in simple, easy to understand steps. It can be used as a training primer for new staff who are learning the basics of commodity management as well as a useful reference for those more familiar with CM.

**The CM Toolkit will be freely available in electronic form in March 2017 on the FSN Network Website. [Join us on March 30](#) as we celebrate the launch of the toolkit.**

For more information on the toolkit, please contact B.K. De, Senior Specialist, Commodity Management for The TOPS Program at [bkde@savechildren.org](mailto:bkde@savechildren.org)

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[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**April 6, 2017 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM EST**

How and when does information influence a farmer's input decisions? What are the potential barriers to farmers learning and how can we best address those constraints?

Are you interested in hearing answers to these questions? Join The TOPS Program and Kyle Murphy from [ATAI](#) for an overview of emerging insights from the Randomized Control Trial (RCT) literature on information constraints to agricultural technology adoption among smallholder farmers in the developing world. The session will review results from evaluations on agricultural extension, social networks, and improving the pedagogical method of extension services.

This is the second session in a series related to randomized evaluations. To listen to the first session, visit [here](#).

Registration forthcoming. [Learn more here](#).

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## **Seed Security Responses that Help Farmers in Chronic Stress Contexts Event Resources Now Available!**

Thank you to those who attended last month's TOPS Agriculture and Natural Resource Management event on seed security responses. [Recordings from the event are now available here](#).

The TOPS Program hosted Louise Sperling, Senior Technical Advisor at Catholic Relief Services, and Julie March, Agriculture and Food Security Advisor at USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, to share practical insights for reinforcing the seed security of smallholder farmers, with a particular focus on Africa. At this participatory event, we reviewed the latest tools available for identifying diverse seed security constraints and shared on-the-ground implementation responses to address common resilience and nutrition constraints (e.g., diversity and nutrition fairs, vegetable seed interventions, and small seed pack outlets).

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## **Utilizing Soybeans for Nutrition and Income in Afghanistan Event Resources Now Available!**

Thank you to those who attended last month's TOPS Agriculture and Natural Resource Management event on soybean use in Afghanistan. [Recordings from the event are now available here](#).

The TOPS Program hosted [Nutrition & Education International](#) (NEI) President and CEO, Dr. Steven Kwon, and Director of Programs and Operations, Sonia Kwon, to learn about their nutrition-sensitive approach to value chain development, their successes and challenges, and opportunities going forward. NEI has been active in Afghanistan for the past 13 years, working all along the soybean value chain, including with seed producers, farmers, processors, and wholesalers. Additionally, through NEI's soybean cultivation, home poultry business development, and youth club programs, women and girls are empowered to contribute to the health and economy of their families and communities while developing skills that can benefit them in their own lives.

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## **USAID Office of Food for Peace RFA for Uganda Deadline: April 12, 2017 at 11:59 AM EST**

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for this solicitation is also available [here](#).

**Applications are submitted at the risk of the applicant, and all preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.**

- USAID reserves the right to adjust the number of awards, funding levels and sources of funding, given the budget environment and other considerations. The CSI contains current thinking on numbers and budget.
- 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.
- Thanks in part to our [stakeholder consultation](#) (recording linked) there were few substantial changes made to the RFA materials this year.
- A risk assessment and mitigation plan requirement has been added as an annex, the description is in the RFA.
- As a note, State/F has updated their Standardized Program Structure and Definitions (Program Areas and Elements), the link, changes, and instructions are provided in the RFA. The suggested budget template on the USAID/FFP website has also been updated. These changes will only affect programs from FY 2017 on.

**Applications are due Wednesday, April 12, 2017, by 11:59 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time.** 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: [www.usaid.gov/What-we-do/Agriculture-and-Food-Security/Food-Assistance/Programs/Development-Programs](http://www.usaid.gov/What-we-do/Agriculture-and-Food-Security/Food-Assistance/Programs/Development-Programs).

Alternatively, all documents are available on [grants.gov](http://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 2017" in the subject line.**

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## **USAID Office of Food for Peace RFA for Uganda Graduation Pilot**

**Deadline: May 17, 2017 at 11:59 AM EST**

You can now access the [Fiscal Year 2017 \(FY 2017\) Request for Applications \(RFA\) for the Office of Food for Peace \(FFP\) development food security activities in Uganda - graduation pilot](#). The country-specific information (CSI) for this solicitation is also available [here](#).

**Applications are submitted at the risk of the applicant, and all preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.**

- USAID reserves the right to adjust the number of awards, funding levels and sources of funding, given the budget environment and other considerations. The CSI contains current thinking on numbers and budget.

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Guidance for Food for Peace Programs on the FFP website; links are provided in the RFA.

- Thanks in part to our [stakeholder consultation](#) (recording linked) there were few substantial changes made to the RFA materials this year.
- A risk assessment and mitigation plan requirement has been added as an annex, the description is in the RFA.
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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: [www.usaid.gov/What-we-do/Agriculture-and-Food-Security/Food-Assistance/Programs/Development-Programs](http://www.usaid.gov/What-we-do/Agriculture-and-Food-Security/Food-Assistance/Programs/Development-Programs) and the Uganda country page: [www.usaid.gov/Uganda/Food-Assistance](http://www.usaid.gov/Uganda/Food-Assistance).

Alternatively, all documents are available on [grants.gov](http://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 2017" in the subject line.**

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## Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Feed the Future Bangladesh Nutrition Activity

### USAID/Bangladesh and Feed the Future Initiative

A new Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Feed the Future Bangladesh Nutrition Activity has been published on Grants.gov. [Please click here for more details.](#)

The notice is seeking concept notes in the process for selecting an organization for a Cooperative Agreement from qualified US and non-US organizations to fund an activity titled Feed the Future Bangladesh Nutrition Activity.

USAID/Bangladesh intends to award a five year assistance activity under the U.S. Government Feed the Future (FTF) Initiative, through a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), not to exceed \$24.5 million, subject to the availability of funding. The Feed the Future Bangladesh Nutrition Activity will improve nutrition outcomes for children under five, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls in the south west region of Bangladesh. This will be achieved through increased consumption of nutritious, diverse and safe diets by rural households, increased social and economic empowerment of women and girls, and improved access to and adoption of improved water, sanitation and hygiene practices.

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USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) and Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance hosted a stakeholder consultation on the Notice of Intent to Issue a Multi-Year Annual Program Statement for a Rapid Response Nutrition and WASH Project in Ethiopia on January 12, 2017 in Washington DC, USA.

The notes from that meeting can be accessed [here](#) for your information, and can also be found on the FFP website under the [Ethiopia country page](#).

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## CaLP White Paper on Cash Coordination Feedback due Friday, March 17

CaLP is delighted to share a draft [White Paper on Cash Coordination](#) for comment and feedback.

The paper, written by Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi), intends to provide constructive input to the current debate on developing a predictable approach to the strategic coordination of cash transfer programs. It sets out an analysis of the issues and outlines a number of potential approaches, building on the IASC's recommendations.

The authors are currently seeking feedback on the paper. In addition to meetings in various regions, they would be grateful for comments and guidance. Please contact the authors directly at [jsteets@gppi.net](mailto:jsteets@gppi.net) or [lruppert@gppi.net](mailto:lruppert@gppi.net) by Friday 17th March.

This paper is being developed as one input into the on-going debate. CaLP is aware that the issues are being addressed from a number of different perspectives. They would also be grateful for suggestions about which processes are likely to have most impact and how synergies can be built between them.

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## CaLP Cash Transfer Programming (CTP) and Livelihoods: An Introduction March 9, 2017 | 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM EST ACDI/VOCA, 50 F Street NW, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20001

The Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) is a global partnership of humanitarian actors engaged in policy, practice and research within cash and voucher programming. With over 45 members, including United Nations agencies, the donor community, the private sector, and humanitarian non-governmental organizations (NGOs), CaLP is based on learning, knowledge sharing, networking and coordination around the appropriate and timely use of cash transfer programming (CTP) in humanitarian response.

The aim of this half-day face-to-face training is to provide a high-level overview of livelihoods approaches, livelihoods projects, and how cash and vouchers can be used as tools for meeting livelihoods objectives. This course is intended for humanitarian and development practitioners with an interest in both cash transfer programming (CTP), including both cash transfer and vouchers, and in livelihoods in urban or rural contexts.

This course will provide practitioners with a broad overview, to hopefully get more involved in livelihoods projects and programs in their host organizations. It is targeted at entry-level to mid-level professionals with a limited background in either cash transfer programming (CTP) or livelihoods. Applications will be received and invitations will be sent on a rolling basis. No lunch will be provided, but there will not be a fee or charge to attend the training.

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## How Integrated Referrals are Associated with Adherence, Food Security, and Resilience

March 15, 2017 | 9:00 AM - 10:30 PM EST

Online

The [Livelihoods and Food Security Technical Assistance II \(LIFT II\) Project](#) is a USAID-funded cooperative agreement managed by FHI 360. LIFT II provides technical assistance and strategic support to USAID missions, host government agencies, implementing partners, and other public, private and civil society organizations to develop and strengthen multi-sectoral clinic-community referral systems. LIFT II establishes and supports referral systems that link people to essential clinical services, as well as to economic strengthening services that can improve the economic and food security of vulnerable households, and reduce barriers to health care. This integrated approach particularly focuses on people living with HIV, orphans and vulnerable children and their caregivers.

Over the past two years, the LIFT II project has utilized innovative operations research approaches to assess whether these clinic-community referrals are associated with changes in client and household outcomes. The TOPS Program will be hosting a webinar with the LIFT II Project as they share results and lessons learned from these assessments, exploring findings related to ART (anti-retroviral therapy) adherence in Malawi and Tanzania, and to food security and economic stability in Lesotho. The presentation will conclude with a summary of other LIFT II project resources and guidance relevant to those working across the health, nutrition, economic development, and food security sectors.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

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## CaLP Cash Transfer Programming (CTP) Skills for Technical Program Design and Quality

April 3, 2017-April 7, 2017

Portland, Oregon, USA

The aim of this five (5) day face-to-face training is to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence of humanitarian organisations' practitioners for cash transfer technical design and quality. This course targets technical or operational staff responsible for leading and overseeing the design and monitoring of cash transfer programs (CTP).

This group might include technical specialists from many sectors, including but not limited to specialists in food security, livelihoods, WASH and shelter. The course is focused on a technical and programmatic perspective, and it incorporates examples and case studies from multiple sectors and from multi-sectoral programs.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

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## Featured Resource

**Developing A Behavior Change Strategy for Aflatoxin Reduction in Groundnuts**

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In Uganda, there are many production and post-harvest concerns that affect crop quality, but aflatoxin is one of the most pervasive and harmful. URC is working with the producer organizations to implement agricultural best practices to limit aflatoxin contamination. In order to increase adoption of best practices, URC developed a Social and Behavior Change (SBC) communication strategy through the PIN project's participatory Farmer Field Schools. URC used this strategy to support messaging with the aim of producer groups changing behaviors and reducing the amount of aflatoxin in their groundnuts.



This case study is part of a series of TOPS Agriculture and Natural Resource Management case studies. [Click here](#) to learn more about the series.

[Read more and view the document in the resource library at fsnnetwork.org.](#)

## Job Postings

- [Gender Advisor](#) based in Kampala, Uganda with Save the Children
- [Senior Technical Lead, Monitoring & Evaluation](#) based in Washington, DC with Mercy Corps
- [Senior Advisor, Financial Inclusion](#) based in Portland, Oregon; Washington, DC; Edinburgh; or London
- [Project Director, Global Nutrition Procurement](#) based in Washington, DC with FHI 360
- [Nutrition & Health Coordinator](#) based in Sanaa, Yemen with Action Against Hunger
- [Nutrition Referent Advisor](#) based in Barcelona, Spain with Doctors Without Borders
- [Nutrition Specialist](#) based in New York City, New York with International Rescue Committee
- [Senior Research and Knowledge Management Advisor](#) based in Arlington, Virginia with USAID
- [Expert in Child Labor in Agriculture and Emergencies](#) based remotely with FAO
- [Women's Economic and Empowerment Lead](#) based in Dhaka, Bangladesh with ACDIVOCA
- [Male Engagement Tool Development Consultant](#) based in Bangladesh with World Vision
- [Chief of Party, Uganda DFAP](#) based in Kampala, Uganda with Save the Children
- [Senior Nutrition Manager, MQSUN+](#) based in Washington, DC with PATH
- [Deputy Chief of Party \(Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture\)](#) based in Bangladesh with ACDIVOCA

## Funding & Other Opportunities

### Call for Concept Proposals: Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces (STAARS) Project - [Applications due March 15, 2017](#)

The CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM) is happy to announce the second round and call for concept proposals for the Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces (STAARS) fellowship, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project partners include Cornell University, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP), and the World Bank. Under the collaboration agreement between PIM and Cornell University, selected early career African researchers will get technical mentorship and support. The STAARS fellowship began in 2016 and to date has supported eight fellows.

### Apply to Present at the 2017 Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit - [Applications due March 29, 2017](#)

Presenting at the [Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit](#) is a unique opportunity to join [500+ leading](#)

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session proposals should deepen understanding, advance learning and practice, offer diverse perspectives, and engage, inspire, and challenge.

### **The Horticulture Innovation Lab's Trellis Fund Seeking Grant Proposals - [Submissions due April 3, 2017](#)**

Organizations in Africa, Asia, and Central America are invited to compete for new Trellis Fund grants up to \$4,000 each for 6-month projects, to extend horticultural information to local farmers and stakeholders along fruit or vegetable value chains. Project proposals may address horticultural crop production, irrigation, plant nutrition, pest management, postharvest practices or marketing issues in relation to fruits and vegetables. Once projects are selected, the Trellis Fund will connect organizations with U.S. graduate students who have related agricultural expertise for project support, providing benefits to both the student and the in-country institution.

### **Request for Applications: YouthPower Learning Grants - Applications due April 13, 2017**

Making Cents International (Making Cents) under the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded contract YouthPower Learning is seeking grant applications from qualified entities as part of its efforts to further assess, evaluate, document, and disseminate innovative work in positive youth development and cross-sectoral youth programming. YouthPower Learning is launching requests for applications (RFA) for grants in the following thematic areas: [Advancing the Evidence Base for Gender-Transformative Positive Youth Development](#) and [Advancing the Evidence Base for Youth Civic Engagement in Effective Peacebuilding or in Countering/Prevention of Violent Extremism \(CVE/PVE\)](#).

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## **Task Force and Interest Group Meetings**

[Monitoring & Evaluation](#): Wednesday, March 8; 10:00 AM-11:30 AM EST; Washington, DC & online via Adobe Connect

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## **Upcoming Events**

[Women Without Borders: Gender and Informal Cross-Border Trade](#): Microlinks and Agrilinks; March 8; Washington, DC

[Cash Transfer Programming \(CTP\) and Livelihoods: An Introduction](#): CaLP; March 9; Washington, DC

[Be Bold for Change: How Women Are Changing Society and the World](#): Chemonics; March 9; Washington, DC

[From the Classroom to the Workplace, Innovative Approaches to Overcome Gender Barriers](#): Creative Associates International; March 10; Washington, DC

[Webinar on Emerging Evidence: How Integrated Referrals Are Associated with Adherence, Food Security, and Resilience](#): The TOPS Program; March 15; Online

[Theory of Change Adaptive Learning and Validation Conference and Workshop](#): ACDI/VOCA; March 20-March 24; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

[InsideNGO Food Aid Roundtable](#): InsideNGO; March 22; Washington, DC

[Cracking the Nut 2017: Reinforcing Food Systems to Meet Urban Demand](#); March 27-March 28; Bangkok, Thailand

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[Realize: Gender Equity and Diversity for Social and Behavioral Change](#): The TOPS Program; March 28-March 31; Washington, DC

[Global Food Security Symposium 2017](#): The Chicago Council on Global Affairs; March 29-March 30; Washington, DC

[The Commodity Management Toolkit Launch](#): The TOPS Program; March 30; Washington, DC

[Gender in the Global Research Landscape: Report Symposium](#): Elsevier; March 31; Washington, DC

[Core Cash Transfer Programming \(CTP\) Skills for Technical Program Design and Quality](#): CaLP; April 3-April 7; Portland, Oregon

[Reducing Childhood Stunting \(Multi-Sectoral E-Learning Opportunity\)](#): World Vision; April 3-May 12; Online

[Communities of Practice in Development Coordination](#): KM4Dev; April 6-April 7; Seattle, Washington

[Reducing Childhood Stunting \(Nutrition-Specific E-Learning Opportunity\)](#): World Vision; May 15-July 7; Online

### [More Events](#)

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## New Reports, Guides & Tools

[Guide to the Use of Digital Financial Services in Agriculture](#) from Global Innovation Exchange

[Market Facilitation Clinics: A "How To" Manual](#) from The SEEP Network

[The Future of Food and Agriculture: Trends and Challenges](#) from FAO

[Community Health Worker Nutrition Advocacy Tool](#) from SPRING

[Social Accountability Resources and Tools](#) from MCSP

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## Recent Articles

[Global Harvests Strong But Hunger Persists Amid Chronic Conflict Zones](#) from FAO

[Cucumber Seeds and Beekeeping Kits: The New Ways to Fight Famine](#) from The Guardian

[Famine Declared in Part of South Sudan's Unity State](#) from AlJazeera

[It's a Bird...It's a Plane...It's an Edible Aid Drone!](#) from Thomson Reuters Foundation News

[Why We Need Technology as the Key Ingredient in Our Food](#) from The Huffington Post

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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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