

# KNOWLEDGE SHARING

MEETING July 10 - 11, 2014  
Washington, DC

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 **FSN**network  
Food Security and Nutrition Network

 **TOPS**  
Promoting excellence in  
food security programming



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY, FOOD FOR PEACE

Dear Partners,

On July 10, 1954, President Eisenhower signed into law the legislation that would eventually become known as the Food for Peace Act. As a result, for sixty years now, the Food for Peace program has been bringing help and hope to the far reaches of the world - serving more than 3 billion hungry people since it began.

We welcome you to this TOPS/FSN Network Knowledge Sharing meeting on the date of Food for Peace's anniversary. Over the next two days, the discussions you have, the connections you make, and the ideas you generate will serve to further advance our mutual goals of reducing food insecurity, and helping individuals, families and communities break the cycle of hunger and poverty.

When we established TOPS in 2010, we did so with the intent that our partners can do their best and have the most impact by sharing collaboratively with their colleagues. In the four years since it started, TOPS has exemplified what we were striving for, by providing the space for Food for Peace's partners and other food security experts to share, learn and build a knowledge base for food assistance programs.

As we mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are embarking on the development of an updated Food for Peace strategy and also looking for ways to highlight and commemorate the great work that you all have done under this program. We invite you to participate fully in both of these initiatives. As a first step, I urge you to participate fully in the strategy session of this conference and also welcome you to go to [@USAIDFFP](#) to share your thoughts on what difference the Food for Peace programs have made in the lives of hungry people.

With best wishes for a successful workshop,

Dina Esposito

Director, Office of Food for Peace



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

About TOPS .....	1
About FSN Network .....	2
Welcome from TOPS .....	3
Keynote Speaker .....	4
Agenda at a glance .....	5
<b>Thursday Session Descriptions</b>	
Keynote .....	7
Concurrent Sessions: Morning .....	7
Lunchtime Sessions .....	8
Concurrent Sessions: Afternoon .....	8
<b>Friday Session Descriptions</b>	
Plenary .....	10
Morning Concurrents .....	10
Lunchtime Sessions .....	11
Concurrent Sessions: Afternoon .....	12
Presenter Bios .....	15
TOPS Staff Bios .....	23
Acknowledgements .....	28

## ABOUT TOPS



The TOPS (Technical and Operational Performance Support) Program is the USAID/Food for Peace-funded learning mechanism that generates, captures, disseminates and applies the highest quality information, knowledge and best practices in development food assistance programming, to ensure that more communities and households benefit from the US Government's investment in fighting global hunger.

TOPS has three main program mechanisms that empower food security implementers and the donor community to make lasting impact for millions of the world's most vulnerable people:

### **The Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Network:**

The FSN Network is an online and in-person community of practice, connecting food security and nutrition practitioners. By creating opportunities to share information, shape agendas, understand and influence donor priorities, build consensus on promising practices, and widely diffuse technical knowledge, the FSN Network is the preeminent space for food security and nutrition knowledge exchange. Global Task Forces in each of TOPS' technical areas - **Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (ANRM), Commodity Management (CM), Gender, Knowledge Management (KM), Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), Nutrition and Food Technology, and Social and Behavioral Change (SBC)** - enable members around the world to directly contribute their expertise in development and adaptation of crucial information, tools, and methods that are responsive to stakeholder need.

### **Technical Capacity Strengthening:**

TOPS offers sector-specific technical trainings for both implementing and donor staff at the country, regional and home office level. These trainings are customized each time based on the context and needs identified by the participants. Topics for training include ANRM, CM, Infant and Young Child Feeding, and M&E, with cross cutting topics SBC, Gender and KM woven in.

### **The Small Grants Program:**

The TOPS Small Grants Program helps organizations design, test and share promising practices, tools, guidance and skills that can help others in the food security community to design and implement stronger programs. With a ceiling of \$100,000, these small grants can help organizations supplement their programming and learning, and then share the findings with the broader community through the FSN Network.

Led by Save the Children, TOPS is a consortium program drawing on the expertise of its partners: CORE Group (Knowledge Management), Food for the Hungry (Social and Behavioral Change), Mercy Corps (Agriculture and Natural Resource Management) and TANGO International (Monitoring and Evaluation). Save the Children brings its experience and expertise in Commodity Management, Gender, and Nutrition and Food Technology, as well as the management of this five year (2010-2015), \$20 million award.



**Save the Children**



**fh**

Food for the Hungry  
Let's end poverty together



**MercyCorps**



**coregroup**

Advancing community health worldwide.

**TANGO**

INTERNATIONAL  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE to N.G.O.'s

## ABOUT THE FSN NETWORK



The FSN Network is an online and in-person community of practice, connecting food security and nutrition practitioners. Through the FSN Network, members share best practices, experiences, tools and approaches for better program implementation. The FSN Network also provides the Office of Food for Peace the platform to seek specific input from the food security community through stakeholder consultations, surveys, and dialogue in Task Forces and knowledge sharing meetings.

The FSN Network has four major mechanisms for connecting the food security and nutrition community:

### FSN Network News

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This bi-weekly e-newsletter reaches almost 1,700 food security implementers with announcements of new funding opportunities, events, information requests, new resources and other community information.

### FSNNetwork.org

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As the online home for the community of practice, fsnnetwork.org hosts online discussions, 500+ resources (including Task Force-recommended tools), upcoming events, news, meeting materials, and more.

### Knowledge Sharing Meetings

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These meetings bring together grantees, donors, and researchers for peer learning and networking, prioritizing participatory sessions and small group discussions to stimulate cross-organizational collaboration.

### Global Task Forces

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These groups enable practitioners from around the world to directly contribute their expertise in development and adaptation of crucial information, tools, and methods that are responsive to stakeholder need:

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.

The **Commodity Management 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 **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.

The **Knowledge Management Task Force** brings together food security professionals from all technical areas in a community focused on improving knowledge sharing around implementation of development food assistance programs.

The **Monitoring and Evaluation 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 **Nutrition and Food Technology Task Force** recognizes the critical and cross-cutting role of maternal and child nutrition in household food security. The Task Force identifies tools (and fills any gaps in tools) that can help build and maintain a set of minimum core competencies in nutrition (and related food technology).

The **Social and Behavioral Change Task Force** 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.

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## WELCOME FROM TOPS

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Dear Participants,

Welcome to the 2014 Technical and Operational Performance Support (TOPS) Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Network Knowledge Sharing Meeting. Our theme for this meeting is *Learn, Adapt, Apply*; during these two days you will learn about new tools and practices, gain skills for building stronger, more resilient food security programming, and discuss how to incorporate knowledge management into your everyday work.

We are especially excited to kick off this meeting with a celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Food For Peace Act and the birth of USAID's Office of Food for Peace under the Act's Title II. The US Government's partnership with PVOs through Title II food assistance has helped millions of households around the world. We look forward to a continuing productive relationship on behalf of the most vulnerable populations.

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.

Our presenters and facilitators include technical specialists from PVO implementers, USAID and FFP, and multilateral organizations. This is an opportunity for development experts, colleagues, and peers to share their experience and the latest knowledge and information on practices and methods to strengthen food security programming and help build resilience among vulnerable populations.

We look forward to your participation and valuable contributions.

Sincerely,



Mark Fritzler

Director, Technical and Operational Performance Support Program

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER: NANCY LINDBORG



Nancy Lindborg is the USAID Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) and leads the efforts of more than 500 team members in nine offices focused on crisis prevention, response, recovery and transition.

Since being sworn into office in October 2010, Ms. Lindborg has led DCHA responses as the Syria Task Force Chair, during the Sahel 2012 and Horn of Africa 2011 droughts, the Arab Spring, and numerous other global crises. She continues to spearhead USAID efforts to build democracy, advance resilience, and tackle fragility as a means to help communities out of chronic crisis.

The nine offices of DCHA include the Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance, the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, the Office of Food for Peace, the Office of Transition Initiatives, and the Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation.

Ms. Lindborg has spent most of her career working on issues of transition, democracy and civil society, conflict and humanitarian response. Prior to joining USAID, she was president of Mercy Corps, where she spent 14 years helping grow the organization into a globally respected organization known for innovative programs in the most challenging environments.

Ms. Lindborg has held a number of leadership and board positions including serving as co-president of the Board of Directors for the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition; and chair of the Sphere Management Committee. She is a member of Council on Foreign Relations.

She holds a B.A and M.A. in English Literature from Stanford University and an M.A. in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

 Follow on Twitter: [@NancyLindborg](https://twitter.com/NancyLindborg)

## AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE: THURSDAY, JULY 10

<b>8:00am – 9:00am</b>	<b>REGISTRATION &amp; BREAKFAST</b>
<b>9:00am–10:00am</b> New Hampshire	<b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b> <b>Food for Peace: Celebrating 60 Years of Help and Hope</b> Representative Sam Farr (D-CA); Representative James McGovern (D-MA); Nancy Lindborg, USAID; Sean Callahan, Catholic Relief Services; Rick Leach, WFP USA; Diana Myers, Save the Children
<b>10:00am–10:30am</b> New Hampshire	<b>WELCOME &amp; ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>
<b>10:30am–11:00am</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>11:00am -12:30pm</b>	<b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</b>
New Hampshire	<b>Formative Investigation to Design Integrated Agriculture and Nutrition Programming</b> Joy Del Rosso, Save the Children; Lydia Clemmons, The Manoff Group; Timothy Sparkman, Mercy Corps Uganda; Jennifer Burns, International Medical Corps
City Center 1	<b>Evidence Base and Measurement of Resilience</b> Derek Headey, IFPRI; Tiffany Griffin, USAID; Jon Kurtz, Mercy Corps
Potomac	<b>Where’s the Money? Budgeting for Environmental Safeguards in Food Assistance</b> Emily Kunen, USAID; Erika J. Clesceri, USAID
<b>12:30pm –1:30pm</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
New Hampshire	<b>Knowledge Management Task Force Meeting (Open)</b>
City Center 1	<b>Gender Task Force Meeting (Closed)</b>
Potomac	<b>Agriculture &amp; Natural Resource Management Task Force Meeting (Closed)</b>
<b>1:30pm – 3:00pm</b>	<b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</b>
New Hampshire	<b>Communities of Practice: How Linking Development Practitioners Is Transforming Food Security Programming</b> Emily Levitt Ruppert, Independent Consultant; Ramona Ridolfi, Helen Keller International Bangladesh
City Center 1	<b>Experiences with Managing Consortia: Aligning Organizations; Improving Impact</b> Karen LeBan, CORE Group; Lynette Friedman, Independent Consultant
Potomac	<b>Saving Lives and Killing Pests: Fumigation and Protection of Warehoused Food Aid Commodities</b> Emily Kunen, USAID; Erika J. Clesceri, USAID
<b>3:00pm – 3:30pm</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>3:30pm – 5:00pm</b>	<b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</b>
New Hampshire	<b>Scaling Up and Out: Self-Financing and Self-Transferring Principles</b> Adam Reinhart, USAID; Mike McGahuey, Retired USAID
City Center 1	<b>Early Stimulation Activities that Improve Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices</b> Caroline Abla, International Medical Corps; Meredith Dyson, Catholic Relief Services Sierra Leone
Potomac	<b>Storytelling: Transforming Goals and Objectives into Lasting Behavior Change</b> Shelia Jackson, The TOPS Program
<b>5:00pm – 7:00pm</b> Soi 38	<b>HAPPY HOUR</b> Join us for complimentary appetizers and cash bar   Sponsored by TOPS

## AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE: FRIDAY, JULY 11

8:00am – 9:00am	<b>REGISTRATION &amp; BREAKFAST</b>
9:00am – 9:30am New Hampshire	<b>WELCOME &amp; ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>
9:30am–10:30am New Hampshire	<b>PLENARY</b> <b>Food for Peace Strategy Update: A Consultation Session</b> Susan Bradley, USAID
10:30am–11:00am	<b>BREAK</b>
11:00am–12:30pm	<b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</b>
New Hampshire	<b>A Systems Approach to Development: Essential Features and Implications for Program Design and Management</b> Timothy Sparkman, Mercy Corps Uganda; Robert Brydon, Independent Consultant; Tjip Walker, USAID
City Center 1	<b>From Science to Practice: The Intersection of WASH, Environmental Enteric Dysfunction, and Nutrition</b> Jean Humphrey, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, SHINE (Sanitation, Hygiene, Infant Nutrition Efficacy) Project in Zimbabwe; Ian Moise, Save the Children; Erin Pfeiffer, Food for the Hungry
Potomac	<b>What Is Knowledge Management and How Can It Improve Your Food Security Program?</b> Lani Marquez, University Research Co.; Alyssa Lowe, CARE
12:30pm–1:30pm	<b>LUNCH</b>
New Hampshire	<b>Table Topics</b>
Potomac	<b>Implementing the USAID Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy</b> Melanie Thurber, USAID; Mellen Duffy Tanamly, Independent Consultant
1:30pm – 3:00pm	<b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</b>
New Hampshire	<b>Defining the ‘Known Unknowns’: Developing and Working with a Program Learning Agenda</b> Joan Whelan, USAID
City Center 1	<b>Building Farmer Skills around Climate Change Adaptation: Practical Experiences from the Field</b> Mara Russell, Land O’Lakes International Development; Thomas Cole, TOPS Consultant; Amidou Kabore, ACDI/VOCA
Potomac	<b>From Gender Analysis to Barrier Analysis and Beyond</b> Kristi Tabaj, The TOPS Program; Mary DeCoster, The TOPS Program
3:00pm – 3:30pm	<b>BREAK</b>
3:30pm – 5:00pm	<b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</b>
New Hampshire	<b>Theory of Change: What Does It Mean for Implementers and How Does It Apply to Title II Programming?</b> Jeanne Downen, TANGO International; Arif Rashid, USAID
City Center 1	<b>Mobile Technology: Exploring Applications for Food Security and Nutrition Programming</b> Robert Turner, ACDI/VOCA; Hillary Miller-Wise, Grameen Foundation; Carlos Cardenas, Save the Children
Potomac	<b>Innovations from the Field: Gender Mainstreaming from the Ground Up</b> Alyson Brody, Institute of Development Studies (IDS)
5:00pm – 5:30pm New Hampshire	<b>WRAP-UP</b>

## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS | THURSDAY, JULY 10

### KEYNOTE

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#### **Food for Peace: Celebrating 60 Years of Help and Hope**

**Thursday, July 10 | 9:00am - 10:00pm | New Hampshire**

**Presenters:** Representative Sam Farr (D-CA); Representative James McGovern (D-MA); Nancy Lindborg, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), USAID; Sean Callahan, Chief Operating Officer, Catholic Relief Services; Rick Leach, President and CEO, WFP USA; Diana Myers, Vice President, International Programs, Save the Children

Join House Representatives Sam Farr, James McGovern, USAID and Food For Peace staff, and NGO partners to mark the 60th anniversary of the Food for Peace Act. Following the celebration, Assistant Administrator Lindborg will make her keynote address.

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS: MORNING

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#### **Formative Investigation to Design Integrated Agriculture and Nutrition Programming**

**Thursday, July 10 | 11:00am - 12:30pm | New Hampshire**

**Moderator:** Eric Carlberg, Agriculture Officer, The TOPS Program; Joan Jennings, Nutrition & Food Technology Senior Specialist, The TOPS Program; **Presenters:** Joy Del Rosso, Senior Advisor Nutrition, Save the Children; Lydia Clemmons, Senior Advisor for SBCC, The Manoff Group; Timothy Sparkman, Chief of Party, Mercy Corps Uganda; Jennifer Burns, Senior Development Nutritionist, International Medical Corps

Four panelists will present on four very diverse activities that contribute to better linkages between agriculture and nutrition in programming: (a) the ENGINE Project in Ethiopia and pathways to improved nutrition via nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive social behavior change actions at the community level, (b) how and why to test concepts related to nutrition and agriculture -- the ENGINE Project experience, (c) mapping the local network of food trade and leveraging points of influence for pro-poor market development, and (d) designing integrated agriculture and nutrition activities in the Amalima Project in Zimbabwe.

#### **Evidence Base and Measurement of Resilience**

**Thursday, July 10 | 11:00am - 12:30pm | City Center 1**

**Moderator:** Jon Kurtz, Director of Research and Learning, Mercy Corps; **Presenters:** Derek Headey, Senior Research Fellow, Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division, IFPRI; Tiffany Griffin, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, USAID

What are the implications of resilience for measurement and analysis? What approaches to measuring resilience hold the greatest potential to understand our impact on it? What are examples of studies that have applied solid resilience measurement methods, and what have we learned from them? To answer these questions, representatives from IFPRI, USAID, and Mercy Corps will share their latest thinking and experiences with resilience measurement frameworks, indicators, systems, and analytical techniques. Participants will have the opportunity to share their agencies' own approaches to, and challenges with, M&E of resilience. Participants will come away from the session with a greater understanding of state of the art methods for measuring and analyzing resilience that they can apply in their own work. This session will be relevant to donor representatives and practitioners who are working to develop and apply more effective approaches for monitoring and evaluating programs aimed at enhancing resilience.

#### **Where's the Money? Budgeting for Environmental Safeguards in Food Assistance Projects**

**Thursday, July 10 | 11:00am - 12:30pm | Potomac**

**Presenters:** Erika J. Clesceri, Environmental Officer, USAID; Emily Kunen, Post-Crisis Environmental Advisor, USAID

Planning for and managing the environmental impacts of USAID funded activities has been a long standing component of development assistance projects to avoid negative externalities through environmental practices. In an effort towards continuous improvement in environmental protection, consultations with USAID's Office of Food For Peace (FFP) and its Implementing Partners to identify existing barriers have revealed that access to funds to implement and manage environmental safeguards is a limiting factor. While there is enthusiasm for the work, the question inevitably arises of 'how do we pay for this? Is there a special pot of money?' In fact, USAID funds can pay for this, but to do so, these costs must be included in project budgets. In this session, participants will be introduced to a soon-to-be-released environmental budgeting guide, discuss bridging between project budgets and environmental compliance activities, and share their experiences with paying for environmental safeguards within their projects.

## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS | THURSDAY, JULY 10

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### LUNCHTIME SESSIONS

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#### **FSN Network Knowledge Management Task Force Meeting (Open)**

Thursday, July 10 | 12:30 - 1:30pm | New Hampshire

#### **FSN Network Gender Task Force Meeting (Closed)**

Thursday, July 10 | 12:30 - 1:30pm | City Center 1

#### **FSN Network Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Task Force Meeting (Closed)**

Thursday, July 10 | 12:30 - 1:30pm | Potomac

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS: AFTERNOON

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#### **Communities of Practice: How Linking Development Practitioners Is Transforming Food Security Programming**

Thursday, July 10 | 1:30 - 3:00pm | New Hampshire

**Moderator:** Patrick Coonan, Knowledge Management Specialist, The TOPS Program; **Presenters:** Emily Levitt Ruppert, Independent Consultant, Coordinator, Agriculture-Nutrition Community of Practice; Ramona Ridolfi, Gender Manager, Helen Keller International Bangladesh

Communities of practice (CoPs) can be an effective mechanism for linking food security and nutrition implementers across organizations to strengthen an area of practice. This session looks at two examples of how CoPs have been used to break down silos between development practitioners working in gender integration and in agriculture and nutrition linkages. Participants will walk away with a better understanding of what a community of practice is, with a grasp of how CoPs foster organizational learning, and with specific tips and steps for getting a community of practice started.

#### **Experiences with Managing Consortia: Aligning Organizations; Improving Impact**

Thursday, July 10 | 1:30 - 3:00pm | City Center 1

**Presenters:** Karen LeBan, Executive Director, CORE Group; Lynette Friedman, Independent Consultant

Many food security programs 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, coordinating multiple organizations creates unique challenges in aligning different organizational systems, programmatic directions, and values. This session will explore experiences with consortia in order to identify causal effects of organizational conflict and strategize approaches to aligning visions, program strategies, communication and program learning.

#### **Saving Lives and Killing Pests: Fumigation and Protection of Warehoused Food Aid Commodities**

Thursday, July 10 | 1:30 - 3:00pm | Potomac

**Presenters:** Erika J. Clesceri, Environmental Officer, USAID; Emily Kunen, Post-Crisis Environmental Advisor, USAID

Fumigation with the pesticide phosphine gas is a critical tool to protect tonnages of agricultural food commodities from waste and spoilage during warehousing throughout the world. It is also an intrinsically dangerous process, which in resource-constrained country contexts with fragmented environmental governance, a failure to conduct fumigation properly can pose serious human health risks, commodity losses, and potentially contribute to phosphine pesticide resistance. USAID has undertaken a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Phosphine Fumigation of Stored Agricultural Commodity (i.e., the "Fumigation PEA"). The PEA was informed by expertise in stored-product entomology, fumigation, environmental impact and human health risk assessment, as well as, extensive inter-institutional stakeholder consultation across the food aid commodity chain from procurement to beneficiary distribution in sub-Saharan Africa. The Fumigation PEA establishes a clear approach to improve the safety and effectiveness of USAID investments in the protection of life-saving commodity with phosphine fumigation. (Located at: <http://www.usaidgems.org/fumigationpea.htm>).

## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS | THURSDAY, JULY 10

### **Scaling Up and Out: Self-Financing and Self-Transferring Principles**

**Thursday, July 10 | 3:30 - 5:00pm | New Hampshire**

**Presenters:** Adam Reinhart, Agriculture/Food Security Advisor, USAID; Mike McGahuey, Retired USAID

In many parts of Africa, the last quarter of a century has seen a significant spread of smallholder investments in land management practices that have increased food security and reduced vulnerability to climatic and market shocks. West African smallholder investments, for example, in on-farm forestry and water harvesting practices increased from a few thousand hectares in the 1980's to millions in the 2000's. There was no single mega-project aiming to achieve this magnitude of impact. Rather, it was achieved through the efforts of a number of institutions, including NGO's and farmers' groups, often working independently of each other. These achievements, in contrast to the many failures of large-scale agricultural and NRM projects, raise pertinent questions. Chief among them is the following: "Were these achievements unique and one-off or did they produce lessons and principles that could be used more broadly to help scale up other innovative systems?" The facilitators believe that important principles were produced and will discuss those and how they may be applied. Participants will present their own cases and provide their own analyses on why scaling up was achieved in some cases while not in others.

### **Early Stimulation Activities that Improve Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices**

**Thursday, July 10 | 3:30 - 5:00pm | City Center 1**

**Moderator:** Joan Jennings, Nutrition & Food Technology Senior Specialist, The TOPS Program; **Presenters:** Caroline Abba, Director of the Nutrition and Food Security Department, International Medical Corps; Meredith Dyson, Health Program Manager, Catholic Relief Services Sierra Leone

The term early stimulation is sometimes used to refer to a set of activities within an Early Childhood Development (ECD) intervention that specifically target children during infancy. This session will start with an overview of the multiple and holistic benefits of an ECD intervention that have been proven. This will be followed by a focus specifically on the link between early stimulation and improved infant and young child feeding (IYCF). CRS will share findings, observations, challenges and more from a recent experience focused on early stimulation and IYCF – including aspects related to qualitative observation, quantitative baseline study, selecting key messages, staff training and more. This will be followed by small group work to discuss intentionally provocative and challenging questions regarding the integration of early stimulation activities into IYCF programming.

### **Storytelling: Transforming Goals and Objectives Into Lasting Behavior Change**

**Thursday, July 10 | 3:30-5:00pm | Potomac**

**Presenters:** Shelia Jackson, Knowledge Management Senior Specialist, The TOPS Program

Storytelling has been used throughout the ages to transfer knowledge from one generation to the next. It is a powerful communication tool that teaches, motivates, entertains, incites action and causes people to question. Storytelling molds and alters cultures. The practice establishes environments of trust by building relationships. This makes storytelling an especially effective tool at the implementation level by providing a venue for people to share and discuss topics, which may be difficult if not impossible to talk about in another setting. The best thing about storytelling is that anyone can tell a story. Join us as we explore how to use storytelling to achieve programming objectives and goals by putting narrative around facts to relay information in a recognizable context.

**Join us for Happy Hour on Thursday evening from 5 - 7pm,  
just around the corner at SOI 38 (21st and L)**

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS | FRIDAY, JULY 11

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## PLENARY

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### Food for Peace Strategy Update: A Consultation Session

Friday, July 11 | 9:30am - 10:30am | New Hampshire

**Presenters:** Susan Bradley, Division Chief, Policy and Technical Division, USAID

The USAID Food for Peace Program envisions a world free of hunger and poverty, where all people live in dignity, peace and security. Seeking to fulfill this vision, Food for Peace has embarked on a long-term consultative process to update its 2006-2010 Strategic Plan and has received important feedback to-date on the changing landscape and emerging issues shaping our collective work. Join Food for Peace to discuss its strategic objective to achieve food security for vulnerable populations, and join with your peers to provide further input on important foundational issues that will help guide future strategic direction.

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS: MORNING

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### A Systems Approach to Development: Essential Features and Implications for Program Design and Management

Friday, July 11 | 11:00am - 12:30pm | New Hampshire

**Moderator:** Timothy Sparkman, Chief of Party, Mercy Corps Uganda; **Presenters:** Robert Brydon, Independent Consultant; Tjip Walker, Senior Policy Advisor, USAID

The session will start with a few distinguishing characteristics of systems thinking then discuss the advantages and challenges of systems programming from a field perspective and from a donor perspective.

### From Science to Practice: The Intersection of WASH, Environmental Enteric Dysfunction, and Nutrition

Friday, July 11 | 11:00am - 12:30pm | City Center 1

**Moderator:** Joan Jennings, Nutrition & Food Technology Senior Specialist, The TOPS Program; **Presenters:** Jean Humphrey, Professor of Human Nutrition, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Principal Investigator of the SHINE (Sanitation, Hygiene, Infant Nutrition Efficacy) Project in Zimbabwe; Ian Moise, WASH Advisor, Save the Children; Erin Pfeiffer, East Africa Health and Nutrition Coordinator, Food for the Hungry

New information on the relationship of environmental enteropathy and child stunting, along with continued concerns about the negative effect of frequent bouts of diarrhea on child growth in the first two years of life, has shown the need to integrate a stronger focus on water and sanitation at the community level and at the household level in development food assistance programming. In this session, using the Three Corners Methodology, three key resource persons on the topics of (a) state of the research in Environmental Enteric Dysfunction (EED), (b) the Community Led Total Sanitation approach (CLTS), and (c) WASH and nutrition: A household level approach will move every 20 minutes among three small groups to give a brief presentation followed by extensive Q&A within the small group. The session will conclude with a plenary Q&A period and summary.

### What Is Knowledge Management and How Can It Improve Your Food Security Program?

Friday, July 11 | 11:00am - 12:30pm | Potomac

**Presenters:** Lani Marquez, Knowledge Management Director, USAID Applying Science to Strengthen and Improve Systems (ASSIST) Project, University Research Co., LLC; Alyssa Lowe, Technical Advisor for Knowledge Management, CARE

Learning from experience is essential to improve our work and the programs we support or implement. Knowledge management (KM) concepts can enhance program learning by making the learning process more efficient and impactful. This session will explore key concepts in knowledge management that are based on experience from business but have also proven relevant for development sectors. It will address: 1) how we learn from experience; 2) techniques and processes that facilitate knowledge generation and sharing; and 3) tips for applying these ideas and techniques in your everyday work, to improve your work. The session will identify common KM practices that are useful to support program learning and can be easily incorporated into food security work.

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS | FRIDAY, JULY 11

## LUNCHTIME SESSIONS

### **Implementing the USAID Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy**

**Friday, July 11 | 12:30 - 1:30pm | Potomac**

*Presenters: Melanie Thurber, Nutrition Advisor, USAID; Mellen Duffy Tanamly, Independent Consultant*

The USAID Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy aims to guide the Agency's policies, and programs for nutrition in both emergency and development contexts with the goal of improving nutrition to save lives, build resilience, increase economic productivity, and advance development. This session will include a brief overview of the Strategy, and largely focus on a discussion of how participants envision intensifying nutrition activities and outcomes in Food for Peace and other USAID programs.

### **TABLE TOPICS:**

### **Sharing and Applying Knowledge about Best Practice for Integrated Agriculture and Nutrition Programming**

**Friday, July 11 | 12:30 - 1:30pm | New Hampshire**

*Hosts: Barbara Huddleston, Senior Food Security Expert, TANGO International; Monica Mueller, Senior Technical Specialist, TANGO International*

Interested to learn more about nutrition-sensitive agriculture and integrated agriculture and nutrition programming? Join us to share experiences and perspectives about these new approaches— when they're helpful, what works well and what not so well, and how to apply them in the field. Come prepared to ask and contribute – the learning from this session will help improve the knowledge base about these approaches.

### **What is Program-Level Early Warning and How Can You Learn More?**

**Friday, July 11 | 12:30 - 1:30pm | New Hampshire**

*Hosts: Laura M. Glaeser, Early Warning and Response Specialist, FANTA*

What is program-level early warning (PLEW)? What are promising practices for setting up community-level early warning and response systems? For engaging local institutions to create a coordinated supporting environment? The Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project (FANTA), with support from TOPS, developed a PLEW interest group to exchange ideas, methods, and lessons learned surrounding PLEW from across program platforms. Stop by to learn more!

### **Integrating the Extremely Poor into Markets**

**Friday, July 11 | 12:30 - 1:30pm | New Hampshire**

*Hosts: Dan Norell, Senior Technical Advisor in Economic Development, World Vision*

Extremely poor farmers including those living on less than \$1.25 per day, are sometimes one shock away from not being able to feed their families. What interventions can development professionals utilize to effectively integrate extremely poor farmers into markets? During this table discussion, we'll share our experiences implementing interventions that are effective to improve the income levels of extremely poor farmers. This will include tools from the "Integrating Very Poor Producers Into Value Chains Field Guide" found at <http://microlinks.kdid.org/library/integrating-very-poor-producers-value-chains-field-guide>.

### **Addressing Behavior Change in Post Emergency Settings - Experiences with Care Groups**

**Friday, July 11 | 12:30 - 1:30pm | New Hampshire**

*Hosts: Carolyn Wetzel Chen, Director of Grant Development, Food for the Hungry; Maya Bahosy, Knowledge Management Technical Officer, International Medical Corps; Erin Pfeiffer, East Africa Health and Nutrition Coordinator, Food for the Hungry;*

Join us to hear and share organizational experiences and to discuss challenges and opportunities related to use of the Care Groups approach for promoting behavior change or uptake of new practices in post-emergency settings.

## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS | FRIDAY, JULY 11

### Face-to-Face: The Knowledge Exchange Gold Standard

Friday, July 11 | 12:30 - 1:30pm | New Hampshire

*Hosts: Zachary Baquet, Knowledge Management Specialist, USAID; Marisol-Pierce-Quinonez, Knowledge Management Specialist, Insight Systems Corporation*

What do we lose when we forego in-person knowledge sharing? How effective is learning when separated from social context? We are social creatures first and foremost. As stated in the Harvard Business Review: "Face-to-face communication is the broadest bandwidth communication you can have in professional life." Join us in a discussion for the continued need for face-to-face engagement and ways to simulate it with online platforms.

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS: AFTERNOON

#### Defining the 'Known Unknowns': Developing and Working with a Program Learning Agenda

Friday, July 11 | 1:30 - 3:00pm | New Hampshire

*Presenter: Joan Whelan, Organizational Learning Specialist, USAID*

There has been growing recognition among donors and implementers alike that to improve programs and deliver better results we need to sharpen focus on program-level learning. But because we work in a climate of limited resources, competing priorities and pressing needs, there are many obstacles to developing and working with a program learning agenda. So it is important we are strategic and focused in identifying knowledge gaps, closing them efficiently, and applying new knowledge in ways that will have the greatest impact on our own work and others. There are many great practices to be shared so come prepared to talk, reflect and share what you know with one another.

#### Building Farmer Skills around Climate Change Adaptation: Practical Experiences from the Field

Friday, July 11 | 1:30 - 3:00pm | City Center 1

*Moderator: Eric Carlberg, Agriculture Officer, The TOPS Program; Presenters: Mara Russell, Practice Manager for Gender and Resilience, Land O'Lakes International Development; Thomas Cole, TOPS Consultant; Amidou Kabore, Chief of Party, ACDI/VOCA*

There is a need for improved agricultural knowledge and practices to meet production demands in the face of increasing environmental constraints. This session will highlight three different agriculture activities which teach farmers skills to adapt to climate change and improve farm management. The activities include (1) low-tech weather monitoring for high-impact resilience in Southern Zambia, (2) bio-intensive (double digging) bed preparation and (3) traditional agricultural practices from the Sahel to maximize the impact of concentrated water and fertilizer resources.

#### From Gender Analysis to Barrier Analysis and Beyond

Friday, July 11 | 1:30 - 3:00pm | Potomac

*Presenters: Kristi Tabaj, Gender Senior Specialist, The TOPS Program; Mary DeCoster, Social and Behavioral Change Program Senior Specialist, The TOPS Program*

A gender analysis and resulting recommendations to improve gender integration are now required outputs in development food assistance programs. What happens after the ink is dry on the report? This session will help practitioners take the recommendations and turn them into action points using Social and Behavior Change (SBC) methodologies and practices. Participants of this session will walk away knowing how to construct clear behavior statements, and will learn about resources for taking the next steps: studying barriers and enablers of those behaviors, and developing targeted activities and messaging to promote behavior change. Although the session focuses on gender integration, the knowledge and skills that will be shared in the session are applicable to other themes as well.

#### Theory of Change: What Does It Mean for Implementers and How Does It Apply to Title II Programming?

Friday, July 11 | 3:30 - 5:00pm | New Hampshire

*Presenters: Jeanne Downen, Vice President, TANGO international; Arif Rashid, Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor, USAID*

A theory of change describes a process of desired change by making explicit the way we think about a current situation or problem, its underlying causes, the long-term change we seek, and what needs to happen in order for that change to come about. Constructing a theory of change requires us to make explicit the hypotheses and assumptions that underpin our beliefs about why specific interventions will produce certain results, and why. It can also identify potential weaknesses or gaps in our thinking. Program designers are increasingly being asked to articulate the theory of change that underpins their the basis of program design.

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## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS | FRIDAY, JULY 11

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### **Mobile Technology: Exploring Applications for Food Security and Nutrition Programming**

**Friday, July 11 | 3:30 - 5:00pm | City Center 1**

**Presenters:** *Carlos Cardenas, Guatemala Country Director, Save the Children; Hillary Miller-Wise, CEO, Africa Region, Grameen Foundation; Robert Turner, Senior Director, ACDI/VOCA*

Mobile technologies are being integrated into food assistance programs to advance food security, nutrition and health outcomes. Join us to learn how ACDI/VOCA developed Esoko which leveraged mobile technologies to provide farmers with information that linked them to markets in Malawi, the Grameen Foundation created a software called MOTTECH that pushes notifications to pregnant women and mothers with newborns with health information, and Save the Children developed an early warning and response mobile application called Silvya. Presenters will share successes, challenges and requirements to developing and implementing mobile technologies to support frontline food security and nutrition programming.

### **Innovations from the Field: Gender Mainstreaming from the Ground Up**

**Friday, July 11 | 3:30 - 5:00pm | Potomac**

**Moderator:** *Kristi Tabaj, Gender Senior Specialist, The TOPS Program; Presenter:* *Alyson Brody, Senior Gender Convenor, Institute of Development Studies (IDS)*

The presentation will focus on a USAID-funded partner project between World Food Programme and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) called 'Innovations from the Field: Gender mainstreaming from the Ground Up'. The aim of the project is to support more engaged gender mainstreaming within WFP by promoting critical reflection on gender-aware projects and practices within WFP; undertaking participatory action learning (PAL) processes at the field and sub-regional level; and sharing knowledge in ways that reach and inspire the whole organization. The project has been in an initial phase since June 2013, and has focused on work in five pilot countries - Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Senegal and Guatemala. The presentation will outline the processes undertaken and highlight some emerging lessons and case study examples on the interconnectivity of reflection, learning, and participatory knowledge generation and sharing.

Did a topic covered catch your interest?

Got a question you want to answer?

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**Caroline Abla, Director of the Nutrition and Food Security Department, International Medical Corps**

Caroline Abla provides strategic leadership for nutrition and food security programming at International Medical Corps as the Director of the Nutrition and Food Security Department, since August 2010. Caroline has a Masters degree in public health and over 20 years of international experience in managing nutrition and public health programs both in the field and at headquarters. Caroline has held technical advisory and management positions at USAID where she worked as a Public Health Advisor and Asia and Middle East Team Lead in the Bureau of Global Health. She also worked with USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance as a Disaster Operation Specialist and Public Health and Nutrition Advisor responding to disasters in Ethiopia, Niger, Kenya, Darfur, and Haiti. Caroline worked with the International Medical Corps from 1992 to 1998 and in Washington DC from 2002-2004 as a nutritionist, public health coordinator, site manager, field coordinator, country director, and senior health advisor.



**Susan Bradley, Chief of the Policy and Technical Division, USAID**

Susan Bradley is the Chief of the Policy and Technical Division for USAID's office of Food for Peace (FFP). Susan returned to FFP from the Bureau for Food Security, where she managed the Bureau's Economic Resilience portfolio and a technical division tasked with integrating critical cross-cutting issues (gender, NRM/climate change, vulnerability reduction, and governance) into Feed the Future agriculture and nutrition programming. Ms Bradley managed USAID's food assistance programming in the Horn of Africa through 3 near-famines, served on the USG Disaster Assistance Response Teams in Kosovo, Sudan, Ethiopia and Iraq, and in 2011, helped launch the Horn of Africa Joint Planning Cell. Before joining USAID, Ms. Bradley worked with a number of non-governmental organizations including CARE International and Doctors Without Borders. She began her work in international assistance as a Peace Corps volunteer in Niger. Susan received her Masters of Public Health in Maternal and Child Nutrition from Johns Hopkins University.



**Alyson Brody, Senior Gender Convenor, Institute of Development Studies**

Alyson Brody is the Senior Gender Convenor and BRIDGE manager within Knowledge Services at the Institute of Development Studies. She is a social anthropologist by training. Her specialist area is gender and migration, with a focus on South East Asia - particularly Thailand. Alyson has worked in the non-governmental sector in Thailand, focusing on women's and children's rights issues in the Mekong region. Other roles include Programme and Communications Coordinator for Imp-Act, a research programme with the aim of improving the impacts of microfinance in developing countries.



**Robert Brydon, Independent Consultant**

Robert Brydon has worked with Engineers Without Borders in Ghana and Uganda and consulted for Kartini International. Over the last year, he supported Mercy Corps's Growth, Health and Governance project in Karamoja, Uganda, acting as a market facilitation coach to field staff and a thought-partner and sometime critic to management. Robbie holds an M.A. in Economic Policy from McMaster University and has conducted research with the C.D. Howe Institute in Canada. He briefly made a name for himself as a singer and guitarist on a whirlwind tour of Karamoja.



**Jennifer Burns, Senior Development Nutritionist, International Medical Corps**

Jennifer Burns, MSPH is the Senior Development Nutritionist at International Medical Corps. In her role, she provides technical support to development nutrition and food security programs globally. Working with field teams, she assists in program development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and builds staff capacity in using research methodologies and social and behavior change communications approaches. She is leading multi-sectoral integration efforts at IMC to strengthen program efforts toward addressing malnutrition. Over the past 14 years, she has been supporting food security and nutrition programs, with part of this time spent living overseas in West Africa and Central Asia. Jennifer holds a public health degree in human nutrition from Johns Hopkins University.

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### **Carlos Cardenas, Guatemala Country Directory, Save the Children**

Carlos Cardenas is the Guatemala Country Director for Save the Children. In this role since 2009, Dr. Cardenas oversees a team of 175 staff implementing food security, nutrition and education interventions. He previously led Mercy Corps' efforts to expand their health portfolio, and before that, worked as Country Director for CARE in Peru, implementing food security, health and education programs. He has served as adjunct faculty at Boston University's School of Public Health, and the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. Dr. Cardenas began his career in international development pioneering USAID-funded family planning services in Peru. He has his MPH from UNC Chapel Hill, and graduated from medical school in Lima, Peru.



### **Lydia Clemmons, Senior Advisor for SBCC, The Manoff Group**

Dr. Lydia Clemmons is a medical anthropologist and public health specialist with 30 years of experience in the design, management, implementation and evaluation of public health, nutrition and HIV/AIDS programs. Her technical leadership has supported the development and use of innovative, evidence-based tools and interventions for national as well as community-based programs- many of which have been recognized as global best practices in social and behavior change communications (SBCC). Dr. Clemmons' expertise includes applying formative research to help tailor SBCC programming to promote improved practices sensitive to local cultures, gender roles, and intra-household relationships. Dr. Clemmons' grounding in community empowerment began during her work as a public health Peace Corps Volunteer in the Democratic Republic of Congo (former Zaire) and has continued through her capacity-building support to local NGOs and private sector agencies in more than 20 countries in Africa. Dr. Clemmons serves as The Manoff Group's Senior Advisor for SBCC, providing technical support to ENGINE, USAID/Feed The Future's flagship nutrition project in Ethiopia, led by Save The Children.



### **Erika J. Clesceri, Environmental Officer, USAID**

Erika J. Clesceri is a federal civil servant and senior director of environmental safeguards for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA). As DCHA Bureau Environmental Officer, she is the Agency lead in providing intellectual leadership and policy recommendations targeting the poorest of the poor at the politically-sensitive interface of environmental safeguarding and the crisis context in the developing world. She leads environmental policy implementation for the ~\$2+ billion portfolio of crisis prevention, response, transition and recovery for food security, natural disaster, political transitions, infrastructure in over 40 crisis-prone countries globally (e.g., Syria, Haiti, DRC, South Sudan, Niger). She holds a Ph.D. from the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering from the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the University of Edinburgh (UK).



### **Thomas Cole, TOPS Consultant**

Thomas Cole has spent more than 20 years in sustainable agriculture, livelihoods, community development and humanitarian response work. Presently based in California, he has many years field experience across Sub-Saharan Africa- with significant time in Mozambique, Uganda and Ethiopia. His focal areas are in urban agriculture, food production system design, post-conflict recovery, organic horticulture, agricultural extension, permaculture, natural resource management and livelihoods. Thomas currently works as an agroecology and drought management advisor for USAID's TOPS program, and provides technical agricultural support for numerous communities recovering from conflict. Previously, he worked as the Africa Region Food Security and Livelihoods Advisor for Save the Children, as well as the coordinator for Save the Children's African Pastoralist Initiative. Thomas has a Master's degree in Humanitarian Assistance from the Friedman School of Nutrition at Tufts University.

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### **Joy Del Rosso, Senior Advisor Nutrition, Save the Children**

Joy Del Rosso is Senior Nutrition Advisor at Save the Children with over 25 years of experience in international and U.S. nutrition and cross-sector program management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Currently, Joy supports large bi-lateral nutrition projects in Ethiopia and Cambodia, other projects under SPRING, the USAID global nutrition project, and leads resource mobilization for nutrition from public and private sources including USAID Feed-the-Future and other publically resourced projects and major foundations. In earlier positions at Save the Children Joy established SC's School Health and Nutrition Program, was Associate Vice President for Planning Monitoring and Evaluation and National Director for US Programs that focused on literacy and obesity prevention in children in poor rural communities in the US. Joy has also worked as Senior Nutrition Advisor for The Manoff Group, Nutrition Specialist for the World Bank and Program Manager for Catholic Relief Services. Joy has a MS in Nutrition from Tufts University. She has lived and worked long term in Africa and Latin America and speaks French and Spanish.



### **Jeanne Downen, Vice President, TANGO international**

Jeanne Downen is a Vice President of TANGO with over thirty years of experience in international development. Jeanne's areas of specialization include qualitative evaluation methods, disaster risk reduction, democracy and governance, post-conflict transition, livelihoods and gender. She formerly held several senior management positions in CARE, including ten years of country office experience in East and Southern Africa and South Asia. In addition to her extensive international experience, Jeanne worked in the US House of Representatives and was associate clinical professor in the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University. Jeanne holds a BA in Political Science, and a Masters of International Affairs from Columbia University.



### **Meredith Dyson, Health Program Manager, Catholic Relief Services Sierra Leone**

Meredith Dyson is the Health Program Manager for Catholic Relief Services Sierra Leone. Since March 2012, she has led the design, management and evaluation of health projects within the country program. Her work in Sierra Leone has focused on prevention and treatment of childhood malnutrition, integration of early childhood development (ECD) into the nutrition program, the evolving roles of traditional birth attendants in the continuum of maternal health care, and emergency response to the 2012 cholera outbreak and 2014 Ebola outbreak. She recently won a research award from the Sackler Institute for Nutrition Science for an operations research project assessing the nutritional impact of integrating Positive Parenting counseling and education for caregivers into CRS' ongoing child nutrition program. This research will be carried out from March to December, 2014. Meredith earned her MSPH in International Health with a concentration in Health Systems at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and holds a BA in Cultural Anthropology from The George Washington University.



### **Lynette Friedman, Independent Consultant**

Lynette Friedman, MPH, is an independent consultant committed to strengthening organizational collaboration through: facilitating strategic planning; designing and facilitating effective meetings; developing and conducting effective training workshops; facilitating collaborative tool development and instructional design; designing effective social and behavior change interventions; and coaching for developing effective coalitions and working groups. Lynette was previously the Deputy Director of the CORE Group, where she supported the member organizations to share effective community-based approaches, facilitated organizational collaboration to reach more children, and brought member's community-based perspectives into policy dialogues. Lynette's background includes management of community development and community outreach programs with the Texas Department of Health, facilitation of health planning efforts with VISTA programs in Texas, and development of organizational partnerships at international and U.S. levels. Lynette is a certified practitioner in the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator.

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### **Tiffany Griffin, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, USAID**

Tiffany M. Griffin, PhD is a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist in the Bureau for Food Security at USAID, where she supports East Africa, the Sahel Resilience Joint Planning Cell and is the Technical Lead on Resilience Measurement. Prior to USAID, Tiffany worked in the US Senate on food, nutrition, and health policy for Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico. Griffin is a graduate of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor with a PhD in Psychology, and of Boston College with BAs in Psychology and Communications. In her “free” time, Tiffany runs a consultancy, Como Water, that synthesizes behavior change, policy information, and culinary strategies to help individuals eat more fruits and vegetables.



### **Derek Headey, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI**

Derek Headey is a Senior Research Fellow in the Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), where he has worked since 2008. A development economist, his research mostly focuses on the links between agricultural development, nutrition and poverty reduction. He has published in a variety of journals, including World Bank Economic Review, World Development, Journal of Development Studies, World Bank Research Observer, Population and Development Review, and Agricultural Economics, among others. He also coauthored a widely cited book on the global food crisis with Shenggen Fan. He received his PhD in economics from the University of Queensland in 2007.



### **Jean Humphrey, Professor of Human Nutrition, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Principal Investigator of the SHINE (Sanitation, Hygiene, Infant Nutrition Efficacy) Project in Zimbabwe**

Jean Humphrey is Professor of Human Nutrition in the Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore. Since 1997, she has been based in Harare where she directs the Zvitambo Institute for Maternal and Child Health Research. She is currently the Principal Investigator of the SHINE (Sanitation, Hygiene, Infant Nutrition Efficacy) Project, which is a randomized community-based trial among 4800 women and their children to determine the independent and combined effects of improved WASH and improved infant and young child feeding practices on child stunting and anemia.



### **Amidou Kabore, Chief of Party, ACDI/VOCA**

Amidou Kabore is a Senior Agronomist from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Amidou began working at Burkina Faso’s Ministry of Economy and Finance in 1987 prior to working at the Ministry of Agriculture. His government experience included several positions which focused on integrating development projects on natural resources management, sustainable agriculture, value chains development, and various rural investments. In 2000, Amidou joined Catholic Relief Services working seven years on various projects. In 2007, Amidou joined Self Help Africa as the West Africa Regional Director until 2011 when he became Chief of Party of ACDI/VOCA’s Victory Against Malnutrition program funded by USAID/ FFP. For over 25 years, Amidou has promoted sustainable production methods in a context of poor fertility of soil and poor rainfall that have a link with climate changes.



### **Emily Kunen, Post-Crisis Environmental Advisor, USAID**

Emily Kunen is a AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow in USAID’s Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance in the role of Post-Crisis Environmental Advisor. She supports interventions in food security, infrastructure and political transitions, advising on science and technology issues at the interface of crisis and development programming to integrate environmental safeguards into crisis programs globally. Previously, Emily worked as a program associate with Winrock International, supporting the implementation of clean energy projects, primarily in the areas of bioenergy, sustainable supply of bioenergy feedstocks, GHG emissions reductions, certification and traceability, and environmental evaluations. She has field experience in Liberia, Indonesia, Jamaica, and Jordan among other countries, where she has provided technical assistance for sustainability assessments of energy, water, and agriculture projects. Emily holds an M.Phil in Engineering for Sustainable Development from Cambridge University and a bachelor’s degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Brown University.

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### **Jon Kurtz, Director of Research and Learning, Mercy Corps**

Jon Kurtz serves as Mercy Corps' Director for Research and Learning, where he leads the agency's program research and impact evaluation efforts. Prior to his current role, Mr. Kurtz worked with other international NGOs and UN agencies to improve their abilities to generate and use high quality evidence of program effectiveness and impact. Within the field of program evaluation, Mr. Kurtz' areas of expertise are mixed methods impact evaluation and theory-driven evaluation. Mr. Kurtz' recent research with Mercy Corps has included studies that have tested theories of change related to food security, social resilience, youth employment, and peacebuilding. Mr. Kurtz holds an MSc in Management of Agricultural Knowledge Systems from Wageningen University, in the Netherlands.



### **Karen LeBan, Executive Director, CORE Group**

Karen LeBan has served as the Executive Director of CORE Group, a community health network that improves and expands community health practices for underserved populations, especially women and children, through collaborative action and learning, since 2002. She is responsible to create a neutral and safe forum that nurtures collaboration among CORE Group members and partners toward the goal of ending preventable maternal and child deaths and attaining community health. She provides strategic and operational leadership and overall management of the CORE Group to achieve its mission, strategy, annual goals and objectives. Karen previously worked with the USAID-funded BASICS II project and has worked in Bolivia, Maldives Islands, Sri Lanka and Thailand. She has provided short-term technical and management support to community programs in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America/Caribbean through various positions with the US Government and NGOs over the past 25 years. Karen holds Master's degrees from American University/National Training Laboratories and Southern Illinois University.



### **Emily Levitt Ruppert, Independent Consultant, Coordinator, Agriculture-Nutrition Community of Practice**

Emily Levitt Ruppert holds a B.A. in "Nutrition and International Development" with a concentration in Latin American Studies, a M.S. in Community Nutrition, and a PhD in International Nutrition all from Cornell University. Her PhD fieldwork was conducted in Afghanistan while assisting the new government set up a multisectoral nutrition program. She has worked with academia, nonprofit organizations (Mennonite Central Committee, Haitian Health Foundation, AED FANTA II Project, World Vision International), donors (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, GIZ), and the United Nations (UNICEF, FAO, UNSCN, World Bank). She has contributed to nutrition policy and programs in Senegal, Kenya, Uganda, Bangladesh, India, Afghanistan, Bolivia, and Haiti. Based in Texas, she teaches international nutrition online for the MPS program at the UMass Amherst and works as an independent consultant. She is the founder and leader of the Agriculture-Nutrition Community of Practice (Ag2Nut), an online community begun in 2010 networking practitioners, researchers, donors and policymakers with one another and current knowledge, now with over 1000 members worldwide.



### **Alyssa Lowe, Technical Advisor for Knowledge Management, CARE**

Alyssa Lowe, MPH, works as a Technical Advisor for CARE's Food and Nutrition Security unit. Alyssa has almost a decade of experience in health and development with specific professional experience in maternal and child nutrition. Alyssa's skill sets span multiple disciplines including knowledge management, public health research, curriculum development, behavioral intervention and program management. She currently develops and implements the Knowledge Management strategy for CARE's nutrition programs. She served as a public health Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya and has worked on public health programs and research projects in Latin America, Africa and Asia. She holds a BA in anthropology from Bennington College and an MPH from Emory University.

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**Lani Marquez, Knowledge Management Director, USAID Applying Science to Strengthen and Improve Systems (ASSIST) Project, University Research Co., LLC**

Lani Marquez, MHSc, is the Knowledge Management Director for the USAID Applying Science to Strengthen and Improve Systems (ASSIST) Project at University Research Co., LLC (URC). A health management and evaluation specialist, she has worked over 30 years in international health programs, focused on strengthening the performance of facility-based and community-based health workers in low- and middle-income countries through improvement methods. For the past seven years, Lani has led URC's efforts to apply knowledge management (KM) concepts and techniques to strengthen improvement program efficiency and impact. In 2011, she and Dr. Nancy Dixon organized a two-day knowledge management "deep dive" in which URC, USAID, and partners came together to explore KM approaches going beyond documentation to better understand how people learn and generate knowledge about how to improve health care. Lani has led several KM trainings and provides ongoing support to field teams in their use of KM techniques to increase learning and knowledge generation and to develop knowledge products that convey key learning from improvement work.



**Mike McGahuey, Retired USAID**

Mike McGahuey retired from USAID's Land Resources Management (LRM) Team last August where he had served as a natural resources management (NRM) advisor. In that capacity he assisted multiple USAID Missions in assessing and designing NRM and Agricultural projects, programs and strategies, primarily in Africa and Haiti. Mike managed and co-managed several projects that focused on learning and capitalizing lessons. Prior to serving on the LRM team, Mike was a member of the Office of Sustainable Development in the Africa Bureau where he provided support to Missions and helped develop approaches to capturing impacts from past investments. Prior to joining USAID, Mike spent five years with CARE/Chad and four years in Niger as a Peace Corps Volunteer. He has a BS and an MS in Agronomy from Oregon State University.



**Hillary Miller-Wise, CEO Africa Region, Grameen Foundation**

Hillary Miller-Wise oversees Grameen Foundation's portfolio across Sub-Saharan Africa. Before joining Grameen Foundation, Hillary spent five years at TechnoServe, where she served as Deputy Regional Director for Southern Africa as well as Country Director in Tanzania, and led the organization's ICT4D Practice Group. Previously, she was a senior consultant at Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI), where she advised financial institutions primarily on product development, including the development of one of the first mobile-enabled microcredit processing platforms in Latin America. Hillary holds an MBA from INSEAD, where she was the recipient of the Social Entrepreneurship Scholarship, and an MA in International Economics from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).



**Ian Moise, WASH Advisor, Save the Children**

Ian Moise is the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) senior advisor for Save the Children, programming around the globe. He has worked in nearly 40 countries in the fields of environment, water, sanitation, public health, and small business development. This work has included the United States Peace Corps, the United States Agency for International Development, the United Nations, the European Union, non-governmental organizations, consulting firms, the World Bank, and foreign governments.



**Erin Pfeiffer, East Africa Health and Nutrition Coordinator, Food for the Hungry**

Erin Pfeiffer serves as a Health and Nutrition Coordinator for Food for the Hungry's work in east Africa, including backstopping the current USAID-funded Development Food Aid Program in Ethiopia. Prior to her role with Food for the Hungry she developed and managed Child Survival and Health Programs in Latin America. She received her Masters in Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health, concentrating in maternal and child health and nutrition, and has a keen interest in the intersection between environmental factors and young child nutrition.

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### **Arif Rashid, Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor, USAID**

Arif Rashid is the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Advisor and the M&E team lead for the Office of Food for Peace, USAID. Mr. Rashid has over 18 years experience in humanitarian assistance, economic development and food security and nutrition programs in Asia and Africa focusing on food security and nutrition measurement, evaluation of food security, nutrition and economic development interventions, and results management. He has extensive experience in designing monitoring system, food and livelihood security assessment and analysis, midterm and end-of-project evaluations, large scale mixed-method study, capacity strengthening of M&E staff, and program design. He earned his post graduate degree from the University of Arizona in Agricultural and Resource Economics and a Masters in Social Work from Bangladesh. Prior to USAID, he was the Senior M&E Specialist in TOPS Program, where he played a key role in the FSN Network, and led the M&E task force.



### **Adam Reinhart, Agriculture/Food Security Advisor, USAID**

Adam Reinhart is an agricultural scientist with a focus on food security, rural development, and environmental quality. He currently serves as the Agriculture/Food Security Advisor to the Office of Food for Peace. Adam started his USAID career in the former Office of Agriculture in 2003. Prior to USAID, Adam worked on numerous projects in the areas of food security, water quality, pollution prevention, and wastewater reuse with a wide variety of stakeholders including National and State Governments, large corporations, large and small scale farmers, and communities. He has also been a diversified vegetable farmer, managed a sustainable farming research institute, and is a former American Association for the Advancement of Science Diplomacy Fellow. Adam received a masters and a PhD in Agronomy and Soil Science from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in 2000.



### **Ramona Ridolfi, Gender Manager, Helen Keller International Bangladesh**

Ramona Ridolfi joined Helen Keller International Bangladesh in 2012 as Gender Advisor and is now Gender Manager, leading gender integration across projects. She is also co-founder and Chair of the (I) NGOs National Gender Working Group since February 2013, leading a network of 27 organizations in Bangladesh. She has six years of experience in gender, including research and advocacy in Australia and implementation in development programs in multiple countries of South Asia. She received her Master's Degree in International Relations from Monash University, Melbourne (Australia).



### **Mara Russell, Practice Manager for Gender and Resilience, Land O'Lakes International Development**

Mara Russell is Practice Manager for Gender and Resilience at Land O'Lakes International Development. She has worked in the fields of food aid, food security, gender integration, and resilience for twenty-eight years, and has been with Land O'Lakes for the past ten. Ms. Russell previously worked for CARE, where she supported global food aid programs and worked in emergency operations in Iraq, Somalia and the Former Soviet Union. She also coordinated Food Aid Management, a technical consortium of food assistance organizations. Ms. Russell holds a BA from UCLA and MA from Columbia University, both in Anthropology.



### **Timothy Sparkman, Chief of Party, Mercy Corps Uganda**

Tim Sparkman's work to date has focused on systemic development in areas characterized by extreme poverty. Working across sectors, Tim tries to keep a systems perspective in problem understanding and take an adaptive approach to management, developing highly motivated teams of problem solvers who operate with minimal supervision to carry out program activities. Tim currently works for Mercy Corps as Chief of Party for the FFP-funded Northern Karamoja Growth, Health and Governance (GHG) program in Uganda, and was previously Deputy Country Director for Mercy Corps Uganda. Tim has also previously worked with DAI. Tim has a Master's Degree in International Development/Development Economics from Columbia University and (most importantly) studied the Classics at St. John's College.

## PRESENTER BIOS



### **Robert Turner, Senior Director, ACDI/VOCA**

Rob Turner is a Senior Director at ACDI/VOCA managing Feed the Future projects in Tanzania and Ghana. Rob has more than 14 years of experience in the design and implementation of agricultural sector value-chain development projects in Africa, Central and South East Asia. Recently Rob has worked on broad application of mobile technology to agricultural extension, aggregation, market information and structured trade services.



### **Tjip Walker, Senior Policy Advisor, USAID**

Dr. S. Tjip Walker is a Senior Policy Advisor in the Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning (PPL) at the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Currently he is leading Agency efforts to implement the Local Systems Framework, USAID's commitment to sustained development that puts local systems at the center of its work. In support of that effort, Dr. Walker works across USAID to identify promising practices, develop tools, and spread system thinking. Previously Dr. Walker served as the Deputy Director of PPL's Office of Learning, Evaluation and Research where he oversaw efforts to promote organization learning in Washington and in the field. His earlier USAID assignments included Technical Lead for the Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation, Senior Conflict and Governance Advisor and Nigeria Country Representative for the Office of Transition Initiatives, and as a program manager for USAID/Cameroon. Dr. Walker holds an MPA from the John F. Kennedy School at Harvard University, a PhD in political science from Indiana University, and a life-long commitment to harnessing analysis to improve development practice.



### **Joan Whelan, Organizational Learning Specialist, USAID**

Joan Whelan is a strategic learning specialist with expertise in food security and nutrition and more than 25 years of experience in the United States, the Horn of Africa and the Maghreb. Joan has a long history of support to USAID's Office of Food for Peace through senior management roles on both FANTA and TOPS. She has been instrumental in development of landmark guides, training materials, and other tools to support capture and diffusion of promising practices and emerging evidence, and in designing and managing mechanisms for program learning and collaboration. Joan is currently an organizational learning specialist in USAID's Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning, and holds a MPA from New York University's Wagner School of Public Service.

## TOPS STAFF BIOS



### **Eric Carlberg, Agriculture Officer, Mercy Corps**

Eric Carlberg is the Mercy Corps Agriculture Officer on the TOPS Program. In this role, he works with the Senior Agriculture Specialist to increase the effectiveness and impact of the agriculture, economic development and natural resource management components of food security programs. Previously, he worked as a Research Associate on the USAID Global Climate Change Monitoring and Evaluation Task Order for Development and Training Services, Inc (DTS). He has a B.S. from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Business Administration and a M.S. from the University of Georgia in Agriculture and Applied Economics.



### **Patrick Coonan, Knowledge Management Specialist, CORE Group**

Patrick Coonan is the Knowledge Management Specialist with the TOPS Program. Patrick works to build and strengthen communities of practice within 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 has an MA from Ohio University in International Studies.



### **Caine Cortellino, Operations Manager, Commodity Management, Save the Children**

Caine Cortellino is the Operations Manager for the TOPS Program's Commodity Management (CM) Technical Team. In this role Caine oversees and coordinates all capacity building activities related to the CM supply chain in development and emergency food assistance programming, including the TOPS Food Assistance Commodity Management (FACM) Workshop series, which provides Title II awardees and local PVO staff opportunities to improve their CM skills and knowledge about logistics, beneficiary selection, distribution, fraud reduction and other areas. Prior to working with Save the Children, Caine was a Program Officer at FHI 360's Center for Civil Society and Governance, where he provided capacity building technical assistance to NGOs and government agencies in Food Security and Peace-building programs. There he assisted in designing the initial FACM training curriculum. Caine has worked in Bangladesh, Guatemala, Niger, Uganda, Senegal, Malawi, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe. He holds a master's degree in International Relations and Comparative Politics from the University of Salzburg (Austria), and completed his undergraduate work in Political Science at Eberhardt-Karls Universitaet in Germany.



### **Julia Crowley, Program Coordinator, Save the Children**

Julia Crowley is the Program Coordinator for the TOPS Program. She provides logistical and programmatic support across TOPS' core technical areas of agriculture, social and behavior change, knowledge management, nutrition, commodity management, and nutrition. Julia has previously worked on both international and domestic health issues, including providing programmatic and backstopping support to FHI projects in Africa and the Middle East. Julia has lived and worked in South Africa, where she helped CDC/ South Africa's Monitoring and Evaluation team with their PEPFAR reporting. Julia has a Master's degree in Global health from Harvard School of Public Health.



### **Birendra Kumar De, Commodity Management Senior Specialist, Save the Children**

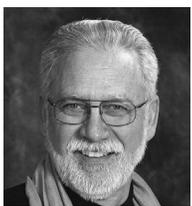
Birendra Kumar De (BK) is the Commodity Management Senior Specialist for the TOPS Program. In this role, he is responsible for commodity management capacity building of the PVOs implementing Title II food assistance programs and developing tools that benefit the entire community of commodity management practitioners. Previously, he worked in 9 countries in 3 continents, Africa, Asia & Europe, in development as well as in emergency response programs. Just before joining TOPS, BK played a key role in setting up the Supply Chain Management Unit at CARE USA headquarters to improve CARE's global supply chain capability. Immediately before moving to CARE USA, BK was managing a commodity logistics project for 1.2 million IDPs in Darfur, Sudan. He also worked for CARE in Malawi managing commodities in a multi-stakeholder Title II food assistance program. BK has a Masters in International Logistics from Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

## TOPS STAFF BIOS



### **Mary DeCoster, Social and Behavioral Change Senior Specialist, Food for the Hungry**

Mary DeCoster is the Social and Behavioral Change (SBC) Senior Specialist for the TOPS Program. She provides technical support to the overall SBC effort that Food for the Hungry leads in the TOPS program including: identifying the knowledge and skill needs of practitioners and involving them in the process of implementation, synthesizing, producing, field testing and delivering reliable, high-quality SBC information in user-friendly appropriate formats and venues; using effective and appropriate information and skill delivery systems/applications; and supporting and expanding skill and knowledge exchange forums. Previously, she has managed behavior change programs for communicable disease prevention and maternal/child health and backstopped child survival projects. She has a Master's degree from the University of North Carolina (UNC –Chapel Hill) in Public Health (Department of Health Behavior) and a Master's degree from UNC in Library Science, and is an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant.



### **Mark Fritzler, Program Director, Save the Children**

Mark Fritzler is Director of the Technical and Operational Performance Support (TOPS) Program, a five-year USAID/Office of Food for Peace (FFP)-funded Leader with Associate Cooperative Agreement. Mark joined Save the Children (SC) in July 2003 as Country Director in Iraq. Subsequently, he served as SC Country Director in Mozambique and Indonesia. In 2007-08 Mark was Chief of Party for the global Save the Children tsunami response in Aceh, Indonesia. During his career in international development and emergency response, Mark has worked in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. He also worked with JHPIEGO, CARE International, and on several projects with international development consulting firms. Mark has a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Oregon.



### **Shelia Jackson, Knowledge Management Senior Specialist, CORE Group**

Shelia Jackson is the Knowledge Management Senior Specialist on the TOPS Program. In her role with TOPS, Shelia develops and organizes learning events that maximize engagement, learning and knowledge transfer through the use of participatory learning techniques. She fosters knowledge sharing and collaboration in the food security community by chairing the FSN Network's Knowledge Management Task Force. Previously, Shelia was the Knowledge Management Team Lead for the KSC Project at USAID. She has experience in envisioning and cultivating knowledge sharing programs that focus on the role knowledge management plays in helping people to efficiently accomplish daily tasks while adding to the institutional knowledge of their organization, proposing ideas for customized knowledge management solutions to address information sharing gaps and implementing training programs for social media tools. She earned a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Florida State University.



### **Joan Jennings, Nutrition and Food Technology Senior Specialist, Save the Children**

Joan Jennings leads the nutrition and food technology activities within the TOPS Program. She has more than 15 years of experience providing consulting services for many USAID-funded food security and child survival programs and has extensive experience working with 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 over 20 countries throughout all development programming 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 possesses a Master of Public Health degree from Tulane University and received an internship with the United Nations ACC/Sub-Committee on Nutrition where she edited a review of the elements of success among large-scale nutrition programs in 10 countries.

## TOPS STAFF BIOS



### **Erin Lauer, Communications Coordinator, Save the Children**

Erin Lauer is the Communications Coordinator on the TOPS Program. In this role, she supports documentation of program outcomes, and leads all external communications for TOPS. Previously, she worked in communications for Save the Children's Hunger and Livelihoods portfolio, ensuring cohesive and compelling content for all audiences. She has a B.A. from American University in International Relations.



### **Jessi Mann, Program Associate, Save the Children**

Jessi Mann is the Program Associate on the TOPS Program. In this role, she provides daily program support to ensure coordination and efficiency in the day-to-day operations of TOPS. Previously, she served as a Policy and Technical Analyst at USAID's Office of Food for Peace where she worked on annual solicitations, supported communications to external stakeholders, and assisted with data analysis. Through her graduate program, she provided consulting services to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Teachers Without Borders. She has a B.A. in Sociology and Dance, as well as a Master's in Public Policy, from the George Washington University.



### **Andrea Mottram, Agriculture Senior Specialist, Mercy Corps**

Andrea Mottram is the Agriculture Senior Specialist on the TOPS Program. In this role, she leads the agriculture and natural resource management component, working with the implementing community to identify, modify and develop tools and best practices, strengthen technical skills, and support knowledge sharing mechanisms. Previously, she worked for Mercy Corps in a number of agriculture and economic development field positions and global technical support. Andrea also worked in agricultural research and training for the Centre for Arid Zone studies, a UK-based research and development organization. She has a PhD from the University of Wales, Bangor, UK in semi-arid agriculture and an MSc in rural resource management.



### **Edith Mutalya, Monitoring and Evaluation Senior Specialist, TANGO International**

Edith Mutalya is the Monitoring and Evaluation Senior Specialist on the TOPS program. She has nearly 20 years of international development experience in the areas of food security programming, natural resource management, HIV/AIDS, and orphan and vulnerable children. She also has experience in project management, strategic planning, and program design and implementation. Edith previously served as Program Management Officer for M&E with World Vision US, M&E Specialist with Chemonics International Civil Society Fund, and M&E Specialist with World Vision Uganda Livelihoods Project. She received a BSc in Agricultural Economics and a Masters of Professional Studies in Applied Economics and Management, and she is currently pursuing a Masters of Public Health. Edith's area of interest is how to harness value chains for poverty alleviation.



### **Rana Olwan, Grants Management Associate Director, Save the Children**

Rana Olwan is the Associate Director, Grants Management on the TOPS Program. In this role, she is responsible for the financial and administrative management of the TOPS Award. She is also responsible for developing systems to monitor and report grant cost sharing. She is also responsible for developing tools to facilitate grants budget monitoring and management and she also prepares Associate Award budget submissions and makes recommendations in response to Associate Awards request for applications. Previously, she was the Grants Manager for the TOPS Project. She also held several positions with Save the Children including Finance and Administration Manager in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPt) and Finance and Administration Director in Basra, Iraq. She has a B.A in Accounting from Yarmouk University in Irbid-Jordan and she is a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) and a Certified General Accountant (CGA).

## TOPS STAFF BIOS



### **Sanobar Sajan, Monitoring and Evaluation Intern, Save the Children**

Sanobar Sajan is the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) intern on the TOPS Program. In this role, she assists the TOPS M&E Senior Specialist in designing evaluation tools, and collecting and analyzing data to determine the degree to which trainings are transferring to the workplace and what the TOPS program and Title II implementing agencies can do to enhance such transfer. She has a B.A. from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in International Development. She is currently a candidate for a Masters in Public Administration from the Monterey Institute of International Studies.



### **Michelle Shapiro, Communications Associate, CORE Group**

Michelle Shapiro is the Communications Associate on the TOPS Program. She provides communications support to the FSN (Food Security & Nutrition) Network through online and print media. Michelle has over four years of marketing and communications experience in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors. Before joining CORE Group, she spent several months in Western Uganda consulting for a community-centered economic development NGO. Michelle holds a Bachelor of Science in Communication from Boston University.



### **Rachel Sullivan, Knowledge Management Intern, CORE Group**

Rachel Sullivan is the Knowledge Management Intern on the TOPS Program. In this role, she supports online content management and network community engagement. She holds a B.A. from the University of Chicago in Political Science and French, and is currently pursuing a M.A. at Georgetown University in Conflict Resolution.



### **Kristi Tabaj, Gender Senior Specialist, Save the Children**

Kristi Tabaj is the Gender Senior Specialist on the TOPS Program, a USAID/Food for Peace-funded initiative that brings the highest quality information, knowledge and best practices in food assistance programming to implementers and donors around the world. In this role, she facilitates knowledge sharing of gender integration strategies and practices in food security programming among Title II recipients and USAID. Prior to TOPS, she provided technical assistance for program design and implementation for Save the Children and supported agriculture and food security programming in Afghanistan, Latin America, and the U.S., including time as a Peace Corps volunteer. She has a BA from Lawrence University in Anthropology and an MS from the University of California, Davis in International Agricultural Development.



### **Fitih Wedajeneh, Grants Specialist, Save the Children**

Fitih Wedajeneh is the Grant Specialist for the TOPS Small Grant Program. Fitih coordinates with TOPS Technical Team, Interested applicants and USAID during inception, award formation, administration and closeout of proposed projects submitted under this program. Previously, he worked as Acquisition and Assistance Management Specialist in USAID Mission in Ethiopia. Before that, he also had worked as procurement coordinator in Save the Children's Ethiopia Country Office. He has obtained several certifications courses that are equivalent to Level II Federal Acquisition Certification (FAC) Program. He has a Bachelor Degree in Management and Associate degree in Purchasing and Supply Management from Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia.

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## NOTES

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Thank you to all participants and contributing organizations.

The TOPS team would like to 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 to the many individuals who made this event possible through their leadership in sessions as presenters or moderators.

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 to especially acknowledge:

### Program Advisory Committee

- Penny Anderson, Mercy Corps
- Susan Bornstein, TechnoServe Inc.
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- Tim Ogborn, PCI
- Adam Reinhart, USAID/FFP
- Mara Russell, Land O' Lakes
- Ryan Smedes, Food for the Hungry

### Volunteers

- Jenna Brinker
- Sarah Sahlaney
- Hanna Dielman
- Tayllor Lehman
- Andrew Verrier
- Kristen Kopko

### Sarah Thompson, Photographer

### Agrilinks/Knowledge-Driven Agricultural Development (KDAD) Project Team

### Renaissance Washington, DC Dupont Circle Hotel Staff

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# GET INVOLVED WITH THE FSN NETWORK

## ATTEND KNOWLEDGE SHARING EVENTS

We hold knowledge sharing events like this one twice a year, in the U.S. and abroad. Join us for another one to engage in more peer learning.

## PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE DISCUSSIONS

Share experiences with or seek advice from other practitioners in our online discussion forum at [fsnnetwork.org](http://fsnnetwork.org).

## VISIT OUR RESOURCE LIBRARY

Browse more than 500 vetted guides, tools and manuals addressing technical, cross-cutting and program quality topics at [fsnnetwork.org](http://fsnnetwork.org).

## JOIN A TASK FORCE

Directly contribute to development practice by reviewing and strengthening crucial information, tools and methodologies that are responsive to stakeholder needs.

## SUBSCRIBE TO THE E-NEWSLETTER

Receive news, tools, events, job and funding opportunities, and more in your inbox: [bit.ly/FSNNews](http://bit.ly/FSNNews)



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