



Fall Technical Meeting
September 21-23, 2011
Maputo, Mozambique



Dear Participants,

Welcome to the 2011 Fall Technical Meeting for the TOPS-sponsored Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Network. Since its launch, TOPS has been nurturing the growth of the FSN Network, a primary mechanism for practitioner and technical specialist collaboration, through working groups, task forces, and knowledge sharing tools and events. TOPS, through the FSN Network, has been reaching out to our community to identify needs, build collaboration, and establish mechanisms for regular stakeholder feedback and communication. This meeting itself is the result of your input.

Listening to you, the stakeholders, we have designed an agenda that is focused on the challenges and successes of implementation, and addresses many of the issues facing our organizations as we carry out Title II food security and nutrition programs for some of the world's most vulnerable people. These topics include fostering agriculture and nutrition linkages, operationalizing gender integration, learning from field experience to work effectively in consortium management environments, and strengthening knowledge and skills to improve M&E, social and behavioral change, and food security/nutrition program delivery.

Our presenters and facilitators include practicing technical specialists from PVO partners, the USAID Office of Food for Peace (FFP), and multilateral organizations, such as UN food security groups. These field experienced professionals will share their knowledge and provide the latest information on global food security strategies and systems for classifying vulnerability.

We have designed this meeting to facilitate discussion and sharing among you and to stimulate communication and thinking across sectors and organizations. The meeting also provides an opportunity for Title II grantees from Mozambique and other African countries to interact with FFP Officers and other USAID Mission and Regional Staff, as well as peers from many countries, with shared concerns and unique solutions.

Thank you for coming and we look forward to your enthusiastic participation and valuable contributions.

Sincerely,

Mark

Mark Fritzler
Program Director
Technical and Operational Support Program (TOPS)

Expanded Program Agenda and Abstracts

Wednesday, September 21

7:30 Breakfast

9:00-10:30 Plenary
Opening Remarks
Sala Maputo
Mark Fritzler, TOPS Program Director, Save the Children
Judy Canahuati, Maternal Child Health, Nutrition and HIV Advisor, Food for Peace, USAID
Introductions and security briefing

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 Concurrent Sessions

1. ***Improving Consortium Working Relationships: A First Step***

Sala Beira

Co-facilitators: Karen LeBan, Director, CORE; Lisa Kuennen-Asfaw, Director, Public Donor Group, CRS.

Many Title II and other food security programs now 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 the greater coverage. However, working in a consortium is also managerially more complex than handling a project alone. This session will explore different components of consortium, using input from primes, subs and perhaps organizations that have yet to participate in a consortium arrangement. After reviewing different aspects of work in consortium, the session participants will select two areas for further discussion of possible improvements, bringing to bear their practical experience and any tools or resource materials. CRS's CAFÉ manual will be provided on CD in English, French and Spanish to all participants for future reference. The group will identify some key ways forward for improving consortium work in the future.

2. ***Conservation Agriculture: Obstacles and Opportunities***

Sala Maputo

Facilitator: Penny Anderson, Director of Food Security, Mercy Corps
Presenters: Moffatt Ngugi, Climate Change Advisor, USAID/Bureau for Food Security; Jonathan Mkumbira, Technical Quality Coordinator, Agriculture/Natural Resource Management, WALA Malawi

Conservation agriculture aims to combine improved and sustainable rural livelihoods with climate-smart agricultural techniques, ensuring both short-term and long-term benefit to participating communities. In the past few years, conservation agriculture has been more and more widely practiced, and is actively promoted by groups such as the Food and Agriculture

Organization and the Comprehensive Africa Development Programme. This session will examine experiences with conservation agriculture in the field. What benefits have farmers encountered? What obstacles have they faced? What lessons have been learned about the appropriateness and sustainability of this methodology in Title II programs?

3. Next Steps for Food Aid Quality Review (FAQR) Recommendations

Sala Avenida

Facilitator: Joan Jennings, TOPS Nutrition and Food Technology Senior Specialist, Save the Children

Presenter: Nina Schlossman, President and Co-Principal Investigator of the Food Aid Quality Review, Global Food & Nutrition Inc.

The session will include a brief presentation of the recommendations of Phase One of the FAQR project. This will be followed by a discussion of the next steps as projected for Phase Two, and opportunities for stakeholder involvement in the implementation process.

12:30-2:00 **Lunch**

2:00-3:30 **Concurrent Sessions**

1. Integration of Agriculture and Nutrition

Sala Maputo

Moderator: Penny Anderson, Food Security Director, Mercy Corps

Presenters: William Fiebig, TOPS Agricultural Senior Specialist, Mercy Corps; Adugna Kebede, Director for Health, Nutrition and HIV&AIDS for Southern Africa Region, World Vision

Strengthening of agricultural productivity, livelihoods and improving household nutrition are both common objectives of Title II programs, and essential components for reducing food insecurity. Yet, programs are sometimes challenged to integrate these approaches effectively, with technical experts in agriculture and nutrition implementing activities separately even when working in the same communities. This session will explore the opportunities for linkages between these two disciplines, and present examples of successful integration in current Title II programs.

2. Outcome Monitoring and the World Food Program's Community Household Survey

Sala Avenida

Facilitator: Arif Rashid, TOPS Monitoring and Evaluation Senior Specialist, TANGO

Presenter: Lara Da Silva Carrilho, Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping Officer and Coordinator of the Bi-Annual Community and Household Surveillance System, World Food Program (WFP)

During this session, participants will be introduced to the Community and Household Surveillance (CHS) system developed and implemented by WFP.

The CHS system provides information on the food security and nutrition situation at critical times of the year. A specific feature of the system is that it allows the measurement of short and longer-term effects (outcomes) of food assistance interventions by capturing comparable data from beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. The system has been tested over many years in seven countries in the Southern African Development Community region.

The main objective of CHS is to help WFP and its partners taking an informed decision to develop and refine its strategies to enhance the household food security status (e.g. unconditional or conditional transfers). It enables food security and nutrition trend analysis of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries over time and allows for impact assessment of different program categories and transfer modalities. In addition, the system could be useful to measure outcomes of blanket nutrition feeding programs targeted at children under-5 and children under-2.

Besides outcome monitoring, the system also covers post-distribution monitoring information including household perceptions on targeting, access to assistance, satisfaction with the quality, and use of food.

3:30-4:00 **Coffee Break**

4:00-5:00 **Roundtable Sessions**

1. *Care Groups: Field Experiences and Adaptations in Food Security Programs*
Sala Maputo

*Facilitator: **Tom Davis**, TOPS Social & Behavior Change Senior Specialist, Senior Director of Program Quality Improvement, Food for the Hungry*
*Discussants: **Adugna Kebede**, Director for Health, Nutrition and HIV&AIDS for Southern Africa Region, World Vision; **John Chimpukso**, Program Manager, Emmanuel International; **Hilda Kawala**, Program Manager, World Vision International; **William Kawenda**, Program Manager; Project Concern International; **Doris Mphande**, Health and Nutrition Program Coordinator, Save the Children*

A Care Group is a group of 10-15 volunteer, community-based health educators who regularly meet together with NGO project staff for training and supervision. Each of these volunteers then go out at least monthly to do promotion of behaviors with a small cohort of mothers of young children. They are different from typical mothers groups in that each volunteer is chosen by the 10-15 of her neighborhood mothers she serves and then is responsible for regularly visiting these mothers, sharing what she has learned and facilitating behavior change at the household level.

During these roundtable discussions, participants will discuss how they have used and adapted Care Groups in their food security programs. The latest Care Group criteria document will be presented and participants will discuss ways in which they have adhered to - and deviated from - the criteria, and the results they are seeing in their adaptations. This is an excellent session to attend to further your knowledge of the use of Care Groups, to ask your questions about best practice concerning CGs, and to share your

experiences with this model with other food security implementers. A brief presentation on the latest results seen by multiple organizations using Care Groups will be included.

2. Developing Context-Relevant Trigger Indicators

Sala Maputo

Facilitator: Jen Peterson, Chief of Party for the SALOHI MYAP, Catholic Relief Services

In November 2007, USAID's Office of Food For Peace released Occasional Paper #5: *Trigger Indicators (TI) and Early Warning and Response Systems in Multi Year Title II Assistance Programs*. This paper introduced the concept of early warning and response mechanisms (including TIs), reviewed previous country program experience with TIs and included recommendations to operationalize the use of TIs within Title II Programs. The idea behind the use of these indicators is to facilitate the transition from development to emergency programming without undermining existing development outcomes.

The purpose of TIs is to identify when a shock (or series of shocks) may undermine food security sufficiently to warrant either adjustments in programming of Title II resources or additional emergency food resources. A TI plan should include: a list of the most common shocks, their immediate effects, response strategies in times of stress (coping mechanisms); dietary and nutritional effects, as well as thresholds and baseline levels, an M&E plan, a reporting plan, a partnership plan and an action framework. TI's should only target MYAP beneficiaries.

This session will focus on sharing country program experience working with TIs; what specific indicators and thresholds levels are being used as well as data collection methods. Participants will be asked to consider how they have found TIs to be helpful for their programming, as well as what kinds of challenges partners have encountered and how they overcame them. Technical and procedural questions will be collected and partners will develop an action plan to improve the TI process.

3. Communicating Effectively to Get Across Your Message

Sala Maputo

Facilitator: Jessica Hartl, Information Officer, Food for Peace, USAID

USAID partners working on food assistance programs have great stories to tell – yet often we forget to do so. For those focused on the day-to-day implementation of food assistance programs in particular, external communications may not be a high priority. Yet, a key part of demonstrating our impact is the messaging and effective communications of the work that we do. So how do we communicate effectively and consistently about food assistance programs? This session will focus on several means of communicating effectively about our work including: messaging, telling our story more effectively and the branding and marking of projects.

4. Sharing Early Experiences with the Prevention of Malnutrition in Under Twos Approach (PM2A)

Sala Maputo

Facilitator: Joan Jennings, TOPS Nutrition and Food Technology Senior Specialist, Save the Children

In an informal roundtable setting, participants as peers can share and discuss their early experiences with the PM2A approach – identifying strengths, challenges and possible solutions to challenges.

6:00-7:30 Social Event: Reception at the Avenida

Sala Maputo

Please join us for appetizers and softdrinks. A cash bar will also be available.

Thursday, September 22

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

8:30-10:30 Plenary

Announcements

Sala Maputo

Promoting Dialogue between Food Security Implementers and Policy Makers/Donors

Facilitator: Christopher Szecsey, CORE Consultant

Fostering communication and building relationships between key food security stakeholder groups represented here is essential in laying a firm foundation for mutual understanding and successful future collaboration. By listening to and learning from each other, stakeholder groups are more likely to inform food security policy and improve field level implementation, with enhanced project results. The rationale for this session is that openness; trust, dialogue and relations are a pre-condition for collaborative learning, innovation and positive change. *How* we converse with each other often determines the success of *what* we are striving to achieve together

This introductory session provides an opportunity for food security field implementers and policy-makers or donors to share their perspectives with each other. They will do so, first, as separate stakeholder groups reflecting on respective strengths, best practices and what they appreciate about the work of the other stakeholder group; then as mixed stakeholder groups, to discuss with each other expectations for future work together.

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 Concurrent Sessions

1. Influence of Grandmothers and Men on Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices During the First 1,000 Days

Sala Avenida

*Facilitator: **Joan Jennings**, TOPS Nutrition and Food Technology Senior Specialist, Save the Children*

*Presenter: **Faith Thuita**, IYCN Nutrition Technical Advisor, Kenya, PATH*

From recent experiences in the IYCN Project, the presenter will share lessons learned about the role of grandmothers and men in infant and young child feeding practices. Discussion will center on *when* and *how* the influence of grandmothers and men may vary in relation to specific recommended practices within the first 1,000 days of a child's life (such as women's nutrition during pregnancy, immediate initiation of breastfeeding, or introduction of complementary foods). Participants will be encouraged to consider whether the role and influence of grandmothers and men identified are similar or different within the context of their countries and projects.

2. Does the Value Chain Approach Help the Most Vulnerable?

Sala Maputo

*Moderator: **Paul Sommers**, Senior Agriculture Technical Consultant, Mercy Corps*

*Presenters: **Charles Chikwiramadara**, Value Chain and Marketing Specialist, ACDI/VOCA; **John Nyirenda**, Director Food Security, Save the Children; **Wales Mgumbi**, SANA Agriculture Manager, Save the Children*

Upgrading existing agricultural supply chains is a popular activity within MYAP programs. There are numerous success stories as supply chain actors generally see an increase in the value of their product. However, the picture for vulnerable households identified and main target group of MYAP assistance is less clear.

MYAP participants want to learn about successful push/pull strategies for engaging and integrating marginal participants in value chains. What works and what doesn't? What are the key barriers to participation by vulnerable households and how do you overcome those barriers?

3. Exploring Effective Platforms for Beneficiary Tracking

Sala Beira

*Moderator: **Arif Rashid**, TOPS Monitoring and Evaluation Senior Specialist, TANGO*

*Presenters: **Marumbo Ngwira**, Learning Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor, World Vision, **Richard Lankas**, Field Support and Developer- Last Mile Mobile Solutions (LMMS), World Vision, **Nazmul Kalam**, Management Information Systems Manager, Save the Children*

Beneficiary tracking without duplication has been identified as a challenge by many PVOs in different forums. This session will explore some of the promising tools that are in practice by different organizations in tracking beneficiary households.

World Vision will present its LMMS system that utilizes mobile computing technologies and better humanitarian business practices in an effort to promote greater efficiencies and heighten accountability in food aid

programming at the last mile of its humanitarian work – that point of transaction between end beneficiaries and the humanitarian agency.

The automated LMMS system uses improved procedures in delivering aid through photo verification of households or proxies authorized to receive aid. LMMS issues computer readable photo identification cards to primary beneficiaries (capable of being printed in the field). The system works in conjunction with a central database of all beneficiaries and the machine-readable photo identification (ID) card. With the swipe of a ID card, families receive the right amount of food without all the waiting and the paper work. LMMS eliminates the reliance on paper-based systems, automatically calculates accurate food rations and delivers faster web-based reports to donors and stakeholders.

Save the Children will present its *McAID* system, which registers all beneficiaries and gives each beneficiary a unique ID. The information is recorded in a centrally managed database, which is accessible through intranet. McAID uses smartphones to communicate with the central server to update the registration, service information, food distribution and other information.

12:30-2:00 Lunch-Roundtables for Emergent Issues

2:00-3:30 Concurrent Sessions

1. *Designing for Behavior Change (DBC) in Agriculture, Natural Resource Management (NRM), Health and Nutrition*

Sala Avenida

Presenter: Tom Davis, TOPS Social & Behavior Change (SBC) Senior Specialist; Senior Director of Program Quality Improvement, Food for the Hungry

During this session, participants will be introduced to the new manual and training on *Designing for Behavior Change for Ag, NRM, Health, and Nutrition*. The DBC training responds to community development project managers' and planners' need for a practical behavioral framework that aids them in planning their projects strategically for maximum effectiveness. Participants will learn the overall approach, changes made to the DBC training to adapt it for use with multiple food security program sectors, how using the framework can improve their results, and several opportunities TOPS is making available for improving food security staff members' skills in a DBC approach.

2. *Operationalizing Gender Integration for Food Security Programming*

Sala Maputo

Moderator: Sylvia Cabus, Gender Advisor, USAID/Bureau for Food Security
Presenters: Penny Anderson, Food Security Director, Mercy Corps; Adugna Kebede, Director for Health, Nutrition and HIV&AIDS for Southern Africa Region, World Vision; Melvin Siwale, Deputy Country Manager, Land O'Lakes, Inc.

There is a growing realization that gender equality and empowerment of women and girls are key to attaining food and nutrition security. It is also increasingly clear that better understanding the roles of women, men, girls and boys in farming and marketing systems, in health systems, and in household and community decision-making can often serve to make food security and nutrition programs more cost efficient and impactful. As a result, organizations are actively exploring how best to incorporate gender into their programming. During this session, participants will hear a panel of representatives from Title II grantee organizations share their experiences in integrating gender considerations into their food security efforts. The short presentations will be followed by a highly interactive exchange of participants' experiences, questions and ideas. We will also discuss next steps for gender working groups and food security and nutrition practitioners to identify, pilot and bring to scale innovative approaches to gender integration.

3. Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM)

Sala Beira

Presenter: Tina Lloren, Regional Nutrition Advisor, Save the Children

In recent years, an exciting new strategy to address acute malnutrition has been adopted by many countries. The approach called, Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM), grew out of the advent of nut-based ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF), with Plumpy'nut being the most well known name brand. CMAM involves both community and clinical interventions. It has had great success in reducing deaths, improving how quickly children are cured, improving the coverage of services, and even helping to identify children with HIV. During this interactive session, participants will become familiar with acute malnutrition, RUTFs like Plumpy'nut and the CMAM strategy. Don't worry if you don't much about nutrition or even what *acute* means – you will learn it here!

3:30-4:00 Coffee Break

4:00-5:30 Concurrent Sessions:

1. Local and Regional Procurement (LRP) – What is it and When is it Appropriate?

Sala Beira

Moderator: Lisa Kuennen-Asfaw, Director, Public Donor Group, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Presenter: Joshua Poole, Public Donor Liaison, CRS

A LRP approach offers donors and PVOs an alternative tool to address rising food aid costs and the issue of delivery time. While challenges do exist with this approach, evidence and data are being collected from a growing number of projects currently being implemented globally. This data will help shed light on quality standards, product specifications, impact on local markets and prices, as well as potentially sustainable benefits.

This session will explore how LRP is being used for emergency as well as development efforts, what are some examples of efforts in the field and

how PVOs are working together to document data and findings for future advocacy related efforts. Additionally, we will look ahead to the next Farm Bill and how the current data can be used to influence policy.

2. Leveraging the Village Savings and Loan (VSL) Concept for Agriculture and Nutrition Outcomes

Sala Maputo

Moderator: Paul Sommers, Senior Agriculture Technical Consultant, Mercy Corps

Presenters: Alloys Omolo, Agricultural Programs Coordinator, Food for the Hungry; Inacio Jossitala, STRIVE Manager, Save the Children Mozambique; John Nyirenda, Director, WALA Malawi

The VSL concept is becoming an increasing integral part of MYAP programs. Most projects report VSLs to be a popular and successful activity amongst those participating in their community. MYAP staff are asking if the VSL concept can move to the next stage to that of being fully integrated with the other agriculture and nutrition components. This session will look at what are successful strategies for leveraging the VSL concept so that it is strategic in addressing specific agricultural issues within a value chain, that has led to improved food security. Successful examples of how to engage and integrate marginalized and vulnerable households into VSLs will be examined as well as the barriers to integration and how to overcome those barriers.

3. How to Monitor Quality of Social & Behavior Change (SBC) in Food Security Programs

Sala Avenida

Moderator: Tom Davis, TOPS SBC Senior Specialist; Senior Director of Program Quality Improvement, Food for the Hungry

Presenter: Adugna Kebede, Director for Health, Nutrition and HIV&AIDS for Southern Africa Region, World Vision

Do all of the workers in your project have the same *vision* of perfect performance? Do they ever *enjoy* being supervised? Quality Improvement and Verification Checklists (QIVCs) provide a detailed check of development workers' performance on their key processes in order to monitor and improve their performance, identify "system problems," and to encourage them. QIVCs are being used in many countries throughout the world to improve key processes. QIV checklists can be used in a way that provides an opportunity for positive monitoring while sharing a vision of what *perfect performance* looks like.

Participants in this session will learn how to create QIV checklists and use them in a way that helps food security staff members to grow personally and professionally, and to be encouraged. In this session, we will focus on the use of QIVCs for improving SBC key processes. Several other SBC quality tools will also be highlighted.

Friday, September 23

7:00-8:30 **Breakfast**

8:30-10:30 **Plenary**
Sharing What We Know: Strengthening Implementer Capacity
Sala Maputo
Facilitator: Christopher Szecsey, CORE Consultant

Successful development efforts can be accelerated through peer cross-sharing and learning. What do you know from your experiences as field implementers about building food security technical capacity, both within your own organization and with your partner organizations, which you can share with others? In learning from others; what can you adopt to your own efforts? This session is designed to first share lessons learned across organizations about food security technical and management and implementation capacity building; and then to work on as one organization, to plan further capacity strengthening of your organization and your partners. We are interested in knowing, for future planning and networking: what further capacity building can you carry out within your own organization, with your own internal resources, and what might you carry out with possible external resources?

10:30-11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00-1:00 **Plenary**
Networking Together in the Future
Sala Maputo
Facilitator: Christopher Szecsey, CORE Consultant

This plenary session provides a final opportunity for identifying possibilities for follow-up regional networking - building upon our time together during the last few days. We would like to understand how you, as key stakeholders, suggest we sustain the momentum generated to support follow-up across the region. We first invite you to share your best experience with networking, and identify the factors that make networking successful, which we want to carry forward into the future. Then we would ask you to self-select to emerging Common Interest Areas in the region, join with others to assess interest in participation, and plan follow-up regional networking in your Interest Area. Lastly, the FSN Network will share how your regional networking might link to the global level. Let's clarify concrete follow-up so we know where we are going together and how!

- 1:00-2:00** **Lunch-Roundtables for Emergent Issues**
- 2:00-3:30** **Plenary: Closing**
Sala Maputo
- 2:30-4:00** **Open Space Meetings**
Sala Maputo
- 1. SBC Core Competencies*
 - 2. In-Depth Q&A on Beneficiary Tracking Systems*
 - 3. Starting a Community of Practice: Nuts and Bolts*
- 3:30-4:00** **Coffee Break**
- 4:00** **Open Space Meetings Continue**

Speaker/Moderator Biographical Sketches

Penelope Anderson is the Food Security Director for Mercy Corps, a humanitarian organization that works in 40 countries around the world. She started with Mercy Corps in 1999 in Kosovo as an Emergency Program Officer, which was her first introduction to food assistance and Title II programming. After a stint in Albania, she became program manager of a Food for Peace funded program in Jakarta, Indonesia, that focused on maternal and child health and nutrition, as well as water and sanitation. She acted as Director of Programs for Mercy Corps Afghanistan from 2004 to 2006, helping oversee agricultural livelihoods programs funded by the US Department of Agriculture and other donors. In 2006, she became Mercy Corps' Food Security Director, based in Washington, DC. In this role, she provides technical support to food security programs abroad, including assessment, program design, dissemination of best practices and evaluation. She also conducts advocacy on food security related issues in Washington, DC.

Sylvia Cabus is the gender advisor for the Bureau of Food Security at USAID and for the Feed the Future Initiative. She worked for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Kenya, Morocco, Mali, and Burkina Faso. In the US, Sylvia worked as a program officer with Heifer International, Handicap International, and USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. Before joining USAID, Sylvia was a gender analyst with DevTech Systems, an international development consulting firm. She received a BA with Honors in History from U.C. Berkeley and an MA in international relations from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of the Johns Hopkins University, and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon.

Lara Da Silva Carrilho is the Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping Officer and coordinator of the bi-annual Community and Household Surveillance System in Mozambique. Lara is also the head of the Food Security and Nutrition Unit, since 2010. She was the technical coordinator of the Urban Vulnerability to Food Security and Nutrition studies, participated in various Crop Food Supply and Assessment Missions and is involved in training World Food Program, Government and NGO's staff in food security, nutrition and emergency assessments. Lara provides technical assistance to SETSAN (Government National Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition) for the annual multi-sectoral National Food Security and Nutrition Assessments.

Charles Chikwiramadara earned a diploma and an advanced diploma in Transport and Logistics from the Chartered Institute of Transport in the United Kingdom. He also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture and a Master of Business Administration from the Zimbabwe Open University. Mr. Chikwiramadara has 15 years of experience working in agricultural development in Zimbabwe. He is currently working with ACDIVOCA as a Value Chain & Marketing Specialist based in Harare. For him, facilitation is the most interesting part of value chain development and enjoys executing this process. His motto is "Endeavoring to bring sustainable development to the human race"

Tom Davis is the Senior Specialist for Social & Behavioral Change (SBC) with the TOPS Program. He served on the board for the CORE Group for almost nine years, and has worked with Food for the Hungry for the past eleven years as their Senior Director of Program Quality Improvement. Tom has twenty-five years of international field experience in planning, implementing, and evaluating child survival, food security, HIV/AIDS, and primary health care projects in twenty-five countries. He has served on CORE's SBC Working Group, the Quality Improvement Working Group, and the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group. He is currently a member of the Food Security and Nutrition Network SBC Task

Force. His calling is in eliminating child deaths, and his current central interests are in helping people to change beliefs, attitudes and behavior that will help them and their children to survive and thrive.

William Fiebig is a farming systems agronomist with more than 35 years of experience in designing and implementing rural development projects for food security and nutrition programs. At Purdue University, Dr. Fiebig was the Senior Advisor in Agronomy and Farming Systems Research and Deputy Chief of Party of the technical assistance team to the farming systems division of Burkina Faso's National Institute of Agricultural Research (I.N.E.R.A.). At the Rodale Institute, Dr. Fiebig was the Technology Program Coordinator for Sustainable Agriculture Programs in Africa through the DESFIL project. He was an Agricultural Officer (Seed Security) with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Dr. Fiebig joined Save the Children as the Technical Advisor in the Food Security Unit in 2002. In January 2009, Dr. Fiebig joined International Relief and Development and as the Senior Program Officer in the Office of Community Stabilization. He joined Mercy Corps on September 1, 2011 as the Senior Agriculture Specialist.

Inácio Jossitala has eight years of work experience in different areas of community development. Mr. Jossitala has worked for six years in microfinance, specifically in village savings and loan programs. Currently Mr. Jossitala is the STRIVE Project Manager, based in Nampula Province, North of Mozambique. He has been working with Save the Children for the past three years. He has a master's degree in Development Management and has completed higher education in Adult Education.

Jessica Hartl is Information Officer for USAID's Office of Food for Peace. In this capacity, she works to effectively communicate the goals and impact of Food for Peace programs. Prior to joining USAID, Ms. Hartl was the Coordinator for the Council of Organizations division of the United Nations Association of the USA from 2005-2010, managing a network of NGOs with the common goal of promoting greater public awareness about global issues and strengthening the US-UN relationship. Before working for UNA-USA, Ms. Hartl completed a Master's degree from Arcadia University in International Peace and Conflict Resolution. In her fifteen-year career, Ms. Hartl has worked extensively for international non-profit organizations. Her expertise includes program coordination and management, event planning, fundraising, public relations, and educational advocacy. Ms. Hartl volunteers regularly in the Washington non-profit community, including having served as Vice President of the Board for the Young Non-Profit Professionals Network of Washington DC (YNPNdc) and Member of the Board for the YNPN national organization. Ms. Hartl received her bachelor's degree in French Language from Pomona College

Nazmul Kalam, the MIS Manager of Save the Children Bangladesh developed and manages the Mother and Child Aid (McAID) information system in the Nobo Jibon Program MYAP. McAID was developed during the Jibon-O-Jibika Program (the predecessor project of Nobo Jibon) and was perfected in the current project. McAID is a centralized tracking and reporting system that facilitates project management to monitor project outputs and track beneficiaries.

Adugna Kebede has served in various positions and responsibilities as a clinician, public health expert and manager both in relief and development programs in over six African countries that include Ethiopia, Angola, Uganda, Mozambique and Malawi over the past 17 years. He served as a technical lead for health and nutrition programs under the I-LIFE consortium and recently as a Deputy Chief of Party for the WALA consortium in Malawi. At the beginning of this month, Dr. Kebede joined World Vision International as the Director of

Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS Programs for the Southern Africa region. His main area of interest is community centered development that empowers communities and promotes ownership. Dr. Kebede is also a member of the Food Security and Nutrition Network Social and Behavior Change Task Force.

Lisa Kuennen-Asfaw heads the Public Donor Group, which provides support to all publicly funded awards worldwide, and draws upon Catholic Relief Service's (CRS) field experience for advocacy related to US foreign aid and to hunger and food security. Lisa joined CRS after earning her master's degrees in international business and public administration from the Monterey Institute of International Studies, and then serving in the Peace Corps in Cameroon. She served with CRS in Cameroon and Ethiopia before returning to the United States to hold a range of positions in several different divisions. Most of her work has been related to public resources throughout her twenty-plus years with CRS.

Richard Lankas is the senior technical lead for Last Mile Mobile Solutions (LMMS) deployments in World Vision International's Food Programming Management Group. As a member of the LMMS core development team, Mr. Lankas leads regular technical and end user training for support and end user staff for the LMMS system in the countries where it has been deployed. He participates in collecting requirements for new developments with the other members of the team among other roles. Fundamental to system quality assurance, Mr. Lankas writes test scripts and performs testing for the software applications, logs and track software issues. Recently, he successfully deployed LMMS in Haiti where post-earthquake, LMMS has proved to be a useful technology for aid tracking and beneficiary data in emergencies with provision for immediate reporting - a piece of functionality that World Vision has not had before.

Karen LeBan has served as the Executive Director of the CORE Group since 2002 fostering collaborative action and learning to improve and expand community-focused public health practices amongst and between CORE Group member and partner organizations. Ms. LeBan previously worked with the BASICS II Project as a PVO Liaison to engage civil society organizations in large-scale community-based health and development program initiatives. Ms. LeBan worked with Save the Children in several leadership positions: as Director of the African and Latin America Region, Manager of the Health Unit and Field Office Co-Director in Sri Lanka and the Maldives Islands. She served as an International Development Intern with USAID in Bolivia, and as a Peace Corps volunteer and trainer in Thailand and Frogmore, South Carolina.

Tina Lloren is the Regional Nutrition Advisor for Save the Children's programs in Africa. Ms. Lloren's technical expertise focuses on community-based nutrition programming, nutrition-related components of food security programs, Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition, links between HIV and nutrition, and Monitoring and Evaluation. She received her Master in Public Health degree from Tulane University with a concentration in food security and nutrition. Prior to joining Save the Children, Tina conducted nutrition-related research at Tulane University; completed a policy fellowship with the Congressional Hunger Center based in Washington, DC and was a program manager at Chemonics International for the Famine Early Warning System Network. She began her overseas career as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya. Ms. Lloren is based in Maputo, Mozambique.

Wales Sikusankha Magumbi received his Bachelors of Science at the University of Malawi Bunda College of Agriculture. He received his Masters of Science at the University of Hannover in Germany. Additionally, he qualified for a certificate in Nursery Management

Practices by the Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Crops at Nelspruit, South Africa. Additionally he has traveled to Uganda to learn about the Farmer's Field Schools. He has worked as a Secondary School Teacher in Malawi as well as a Horticultural Officer for the Promotion of Horticulture of Malawi. He has worked for Save the Children since 2004 where he has held positions as the Agricultural Programs Coordinator for Malawi and now works as a Project Manager for Save the Children in Mozambique.

Jonathan Mkumbira has a Doctorate (PhD) degree in Agriculture from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala Genetic Centre; Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Plant Breeding and Crop Improvement from the Universities of Birmingham & Reading and a Bachelor of Science (BSc) Degree in Agriculture, University of Malawi, Bunda College of Agriculture

He has 26 years work experience in agriculture, which includes production and research for development in: private and public sector, large and small-scale farming, crops and livestock, commercial and food crops and in natural resources management. He has worked at national, regional and international levels. He has worked as a team member and team leader/manager at different levels and worked with various partners from private and public sectors involving a wide range of persons from smallholder to large-scale farmers.

Moffatt K. Ngugi is a climate change advisor at USAID's Bureau for Food Security. He is a geospatial ecologist by training with a background in range management, physical land resources and agroecology. He received his bachelor's of science at the University of Nairobi, his master's of science at Ghent University and doctorate at Colorado State University and has worked in diverse settings worldwide. Examples of Dr. Ngugi's research and work experience include dissertation research in Kenya on social and ecological characterization of herbivore key resource areas, postdoctoral research at University of California Davis using GIS/remote sensing to constrain biogeochemical modeling of greenhouse gases; working as a consultant for terrestrial carbon science; and inventory of forage resources in Dakota grasslands at United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-ARS (Agricultural Research Service). His current role at USAID is to collaborate with all stakeholders to address climate change concerns in the sustainable intensification of agricultural production in order to improve food security

Marumbo Ngwira is the Learning Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Advisor for the Food Programming and Management Group (FPMG) based in Johannesburg, South Africa. She is responsible for supporting over 25 Country offices in establishing, implementing and utilizing quality food programming standards, specifically, M&E standards as designed by FPMG and the Food Aid Quality Group. FPMG quality food programming standards includes Design, Monitoring and Evaluation (DM&E), Learning, Accountability, Do No Harm, Audit and Commodity Tracking and reporting. Ms. Ngwira is the point person in ensuring the roll out and sustainability of M&E within food programs.

Alloys Odhiambo Omolo has a Bachelors of Science degree in Agriculture from the University of Nairobi and a Masters of Science degree in Agricultural Reading University with specialization in rural development, project planning and management. He has worked in both government and international NGOs based in Kenya as well as elsewhere in Africa. Among other positions he has worked for CARE Kenya as: the Project Manager for the Agro-forestry Extension Project, the Regional Co-Coordinator for the Eastern Provinces and Senior Sector Manager for Commercialized Activities for small-holders sector. Currently he is the Agricultural Programs Coordinator for Food for the Hungry in Mozambique. He speaks English, Kiswahili, Portuguese and Luo.

Jen Peterson is the Chief of Party for the SALOHI MYAP (a consortium including CRS, ADRA, CARE and Land O'Lakes), based in Antananarivo, Madagascar. She is an extension agronomist, with more than 20 years of experience implementing development programs in technical areas including soil and water conservation, agroforestry, agriculture and animal husbandry (including fisheries), health and nutrition, communication for behavior change and disaster risk reduction, as well as gender programming, environmental compliance and monitoring and evaluation. She has experience designing, implementing and evaluating food security programs and food security monitoring systems in Zambia, Malawi, Niger, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Madagascar. She holds masters' degrees in Agronomy and Adult Education/Communication from the University of Florida, and a bachelor's degree in International Development from the University of Virginia. She speaks French, and Kikongo (as well as some Zarma, Chewa and Pular) as well as her native, English.

Joshua Poole After nearly 10 years working in Madagascar Joshua Poole is now serving as a Public Donor Liaison for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) World Headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland. Joshua served two terms as an Agriculture Peace Corps Volunteer with a focus on improved rice techniques and improved cook stoves. Mr. Poole then moved on to work as the Ambassador's Special Programs Manager for the United States Embassy in Antananarivo, responsible for small grants, girls scholarships and in country US Department of Agriculture programming. Finally, he served as the Projects Director for ADRA Madagascar with programs in various sectors including Title II. He continues to serve Madagascar, as well as CRS Country Programs in West Africa, in his current role.

Nina Schlossman is a nutrition and food security expert of more than 30 years, providing expertise in the international development and emergency relief arena. Dr. Schlossman has experience working in all aspects of food and nutrition throughout the lifecycle, starting with the critical first 1,000 days. She provides technical assistance, research, evaluation, marketing and training services, and fosters public-private food partnerships to improve the nutritional quality and diversity of the food aid basket. She has expertise in all aspects of food value chain and product development, including ready-to-use foods (RUF). As Co-Principal Investigator of the Food Aid Quality Review, Dr. Schlossman has used her expertise to develop the recommendations, and will be involved in the implementation of these recommendations and changes moving forward over the next several years. She is currently involved in global food security initiatives, including the Scaling Up Nutrition and Feed the Future initiatives.

Melvin Siwale has held several positions in the Ministry of Agriculture over a period of 16 years including: Animal Production Specialist, District Agricultural Officer, District Agricultural Coordinator. He has in the last 14 years worked for four international development organizations under sponsorship or support of the United States and the Swedish governments; and held positions at field, regional and national level. He received a degree in Livestock Science and Production from the University of Zambia and a Master's of Science in Animal Production and Development Studies at Reading University. Mr Siwale is presently is the deputy Country Manager for Land O' Lakes Inc. Zambia and is based in Lusaka.

Paul Sommers has been an active proponent for the integration of agriculture and nutrition for over three decades. He holds academic degrees in both agriculture and nutritional sciences and has taught both subjects as a faculty member of California State University, Pomona. He has promoted the link through a variety of channels including USAID, NGO's, U.S. Contractors, the United Nations and World Bank. Activities have included on the ground

technical assistance in over 55 countries; management of long term food security projects and capacity building through community-based workshops and the publication of nine field training manuals and how-to books on the food production nutrition linkage for community outreach staff

Christopher Szecsey has 40 years of international development experience in more than 45 countries worldwide, including in 11 countries across Africa. Mr. Szecsey works as a consultant, trainer, and facilitator with international organizations, NGOs, government and multi-lateral agencies. Key areas of technical expertise include: food and nutrition, including food production to storage; hedgerows/agro-forestry; integrated, organic food systems; Integrated Pest Management; health systems development; appropriate technologies; project/program and organizational/technical capacity development for CBOs, NGOs, etc (capacity assessment-capacity building-capacity monitoring/evaluation); multi-stakeholder collaboratives/partnerships/networks; strategic and annual planning; leadership and team development; board development; etc. He also has significant experience and skills in designing and using participatory, interactive, and collaborative learning processes to ensure client and stakeholder engagement and ownership for positive, strength-based change, with such approaches as Appreciative Inquiry, Open Space, etc.

Faith Thuita is a senior public health nutrition specialist with over 15 years of experience in nutrition training, research, programming and advocacy, specializing in maternal and young child nutrition. She is the Infant Young Child and Nutrition (IYCN) Project's Technical Advisor in Kenya and a lecturer at the School of Public Health, University of Nairobi. She has also worked with UNICEF Kenya as an IYCN specialist. Ms. Thuita has broad based experience and is a well recognized resource person in training, food and nutrition policy development and advocacy in Kenya. She has extensive experience in consultancy work for national and international organizations involving program evaluation, operations research and training. She is currently completing her PhD studies at the University of Nairobi.

About the TOPS Program



TOPS, funded by USAID/Food for Peace (FFP), will strengthen the capacity of FFP grantees and improve the quality and effectiveness of food aid implementation through fostering collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing concerning food security and nutrition best practices.

USAID AOTR

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Leader with Associate
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TOPS Strategic Objective

Highest quality information, knowledge, and best practices for improved methodologies in Title II food aid commodity program performance identified, established, shared and adapted.

TOPS Program Strategies

- Focused capacity building program
- Community of practice—Food Security and Nutrition Network
- Small grants program

Program Priorities

Establish an inclusive, stakeholder-driven, field-oriented collaboration and information sharing network to develop, build consensus on, and strengthen capacity in state of the art food security program planning, design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

Technical Focus Areas

TOPS' focused technical capacity building efforts will address:

- Nutrition and food technology
- Agriculture
- Social and behavior change
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Gender Equity
- Emergencies and Commodity Management
- Knowledge Management and Network Strengthening

TOPS' Targeted Resource Flows

Through TOPS, two significant resource flows are directed to quality improvement in food security and nutrition programming:

Small Grants: A small grants program is a key component of the TOPS program for promoting use and adaptation of capacity building tools, field-led and collaborative projects, and dissemination of best practices to Title II food security and nutrition stakeholders

LWA Awards: The TOPS USAID/FFP program grant is a Leader with Associate Award, which allows for pre-competed Associate Awards to be made by any USG funding source through TOPS for direct project development and implementation, e.g., USAID Missions, non-FFP Bureaus, and other USG agencies.

TOPS Program Partners



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About the TOPS-sponsored FSN Network

The TOPS Program is fostering the creation of the Food Security and Nutrition Network, an open community of practice of food security and nutrition implementers. The goal is to create opportunities for the food security and nutrition community to share information, shape agendas, understand and influence donor priorities, build consensus on best practices, and widely diffuse technical knowledge.



As the secretariat for the FSN Network, TOPS has established several mechanisms to foster knowledge sharing and cross-organizational collaboration:

- **Technical task forces** enable members from around the world to directly contribute their expertise in continuing discussions on development and adaptation of crucial information, tools, and methodologies that are responsive to stakeholder needs.
- **A web portal** is under development for launch in fall 2011. The first stage will provide collaborative work spaces for technical task forces, discussion groups by technical interest area, as well as events listings, job openings, and other community information. Subsequent development will provide a comprehensive resource library of community information, tools, and methodologies.
- **A newsletter** for the FSN Network is providing a means to reach the over 700 current subscribers with announcements of new funding opportunities, events, information requests and other community information.
- **Technical events** such as the 2011 FSN Network Spring Meeting in Baltimore and the 2011 FSN Fall Meeting in Maputo provide peer learning opportunities as community members bring their technical experience and individual perspectives to bear on issues relevant to food security and nutrition implementation. Events such as these will continue to be held.

FSN Network Task Forces

Task forces are vital mechanisms for innovation and knowledge sharing, cross-organizational collaboration and consensus building. Comprised of teams of individuals from multiple organizations interested in contributing to further development and understanding of a technical or cross-cutting topic, task forces are inclusive, stakeholder-driven and field-oriented. They are a venue for professionals to collectively generate ideas, create new knowledge and understanding, and craft responses to challenges and opportunities that can increase the effectiveness and impact of food security programming.

They do this by:

- Developing state-of-the-art tools, practices, and strategies to benefit field programs
- Exchanging information related to best practices, resources, and opportunities
- Linking with academics, advocates and private resources and expertise
- Fostering their own professional development

- Building organizational partnerships and capacity
- Articulating important field and implementation perspectives in global policy dialogues and alliances

Why join a task force or working group?

- A wider network of links to the realities of the field—discerning trends, learning from other efforts.
- Participation in the development of state-of-the-art tools, practices, and strategies.
- A wide array of learning, dissemination and leadership opportunities.
- Connections to academics, advocates, donors and others.
- Membership in an intimate community of practice which brings networking, mentoring, peer support, information exchange, and creativity.
- Opportunity to showcase one's organization and its accomplishments.

What does it take to join?

If you have technical experience in a task force topic area, are willing to attend monthly meetings (in-person or online), and will take on substantive roles on task force reviews or development or adaptations of tools, technical reference materials or other deliverables, we would love to have you. We are particularly seeking members who work for organizations implementing food aid and food security projects – especially field staff.

Agriculture

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. It provides a forum for sharing experiences and lessons-learned and for identifying, adapting, refining and disseminating state-of-the-art information, methodologies and tools related to agricultural and economic development in order to improve the quality of field-based programs.

For information contact: William Fiebig, wfiebig@dc.mercycorps.org

Monitoring & Evaluation

The M&E 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 Task Force supports innovation and fosters collaboration among the broad community of stakeholders engaged in food security programming.

Following is a list of key activities of the task force:

- review and standardize M&E methods and tools
- facilitate sharing of learning, best practices, tools and methodologies
- review and interpret the policies and guidelines that are produced by USAID and other donors

- interact with USAID, FANTA, PPL, BFS; and UN agencies such as WFP, FAO, and IFAD to learn from each other and to develop common standards.

For information contact: Arif Rashid, arif@tangointernational.com

Nutrition & Food Technology

The Task Force on Nutrition & Food Technology shares a vision with the CORE Nutrition Working Group, recognizing the critical and cross-cutting role of nutrition in maternal and child health and, in particular, household food security. The Taskforce collaborates with the CORE NWG, as appropriate, and also has identified some additional areas of interest and/or priority relevant to food security programming.

This Taskforce has finalized an agreement on a set of minimum core competencies in nutrition (and related food technology) that would be recommended for Title II program field staff that manage or supervise nutrition activities. Around this set of core competencies, the Taskforce will then seek to identify tools (and fill any gaps) that can help build and maintain such competencies. The TOPS program will also build training workshops and networking activities around the core competencies.

For information contact: Joan Jennings, jjennings@savechildren.org

Gender

The Food Security and Nutrition Network 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. It is composed of representatives from NGO Title II grantees and partner organizations in government, academia and the private sector. It provides an inclusive forum for sharing, adapting, refining and disseminating information, methodologies, tools and promising practices on gender integration for increasing the impact of food security programs.

For information contact: Melissa Teuber, mteuber@savechildren.org

Knowledge Management

The KM Task Force brings together food security professionals from all technical sectors in a community focused on improving knowledge sharing around implementation of development food aid programs. The group is the FSN Network's newest Task Force, just forming in Fall 2011. In its first year, the group will identify and explore promising practices engaged in by food security and nutrition implementers to capture and disseminate program learning, as well as tools that can support better networking and knowledge sharing.

For information contact: Joan Whelan, jwhelan@coregroupdc.org

Social and Behavior Change

The Social & Behavioral Change Task Force (SBCTF) is designed to 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. Task Force members have attended four face-to-face and online meetings, developed SBC Core Competencies and a process for review of information products, methods and tools (IMT), and listened to several SBC presentations. We have also developed an SBC Core Competencies Wiki and started development of an SBC competencies self-assessment tool. Over the next year and beyond, we plan to:

- find out what food security practitioners are currently doing in social & behavioral change (including what is being promoted as well as how);
- build task force members' and food security practitioners' SBC skills;
- decide how to know which SBC IMT and promoted practices/options work best for different contexts, and which combinations of IMT work best;
- determine current gaps in SBC programming;
- disseminate the best SBC information products, methods and tools to food security practitioners globally.
- decide how to know which SBC IMT and promoted practices/options work best for different contexts, and which combinations of IMT work best;
- determine current gaps in SBC programming;
- disseminate the best SBC information products, methods and tools to food security practitioners globally.

For information: contact: Tom Davis, tdavis@fh.org

Thank you to participants and contributing organizations

The USAID-FFP funded TOPS Program is the secretariat for the FSN Network, serves as the planning committee for the Network's semi-annual technical knowledge sharing meetings, and is the sponsor for this week's events.

The TOPS team would like 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 the many individuals from the following organizations that made this event possible through their leadership in technical sessions as presenters or moderators.

ACDI VOCA <http://www.acdivoca.org/>

ADRA <http://www.adra.org/site/PageServer>

Catholic Relief Services <http://www.crs.org/>

CORE Group <http://www.coregroup.org/>

Food for the Hungry <http://www.fh.org/>

Global Food & Nutrition Inc. <http://www.globalfoodandnutrition.com/>

Land O'Lakes <http://www.idd.landolakes.com/>

Mercy Corps <http://www.mercycorps.org/>

PATH <http://www.path.org/>

Save the Children <http://www.savechildren.org/>

Tango International <http://www.tangointernational.com/>

World Food Programme <http://www.wfp.org/>

World Vision <http://www.worldvision.org/>

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