East Africa Regional Knowledge Sharing Meeting
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
June 11-13, 2012
Dear Participants,

Welcome to the 2012 East Africa Region Knowledge Sharing 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 task forces, interest groups, and knowledge sharing tools and events. TOPS, through the FSN Network, has been supporting our community of practice in identifying needs, building collaboration, and establishing mechanisms for regular stakeholder feedback and communication. This meeting itself is the result of your input.

Over the past several months we have been contacting you to identify your most pressing concerns and technical information needs to design an agenda focused on the challenges and successes of implementing food security and nutrition programs in the East Africa Region. This meeting will address many issues identified by you that face our organizations as we carry out USAID Office of Food for Peace (FFP)-supported development and emergency assistance programs for some of the world’s most vulnerable people. These topics include livelihood opportunities in the pastoralist context, exit strategies, early warning, and agriculture and nutrition linkages. The agenda also offers sessions on operationalizing gender integration, preventing fraud in commodity handling, 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, USAID’s Office of FFP, and multilateral organizations, such as UN food security groups. These experienced field professionals will share their knowledge and provide the latest information on global food security strategies aimed at strengthening resilience in vulnerable populations.

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 implementers and stakeholders from across the East Africa region 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

Monday, June 11

7:00 – 9:00  Breakfast and Registration
            Room

9:00-10:30  Plenary: Opening Remarks and Introductions
            Room:  Ballroom 1 & 2
            Security Briefing
            Abreham Abebe, Save the Children

            Welcome and Introduction to Event
            Mark Fritzier, TOPS Program Director, Save the Children
            Tom Stall, Mission Director, USAID/Ethiopia

10:30-11:00  Break

11:00-12:30  Plenary
            Room:  Ballroom 1 & 2

            Enhancing Resilience to Food Security Shocks: Resilience 101
            Tim Frankenberger, President, TANGO International

            In recent decades the Horn of Africa has faced continuous cycles of crisis. These are the result of complex interactions between political, economic, social and environmental factors. In spite of efforts to respond to these interactions, the most recent drought crisis (2011) coupled with conflict and chronic poverty in the region is estimated to have threatened the lives of thirteen million people. This session will examine the key constraints to building household and community resilience in the region and highlight several of the policy and implementation issues that must be addressed in order to enhance resilience to future food security shocks. A framing presentation will provide a conceptual framework for resilience, discuss key characteristics and principles of resilience programming, and identify promising practices for building resilience within the context of drought and chronic food insecurity. The session will then allow small group work on some of the key factors influencing implementation of resilience programs followed by plenary discussion. The session will conclude by giving attendees the opportunity to consider key questions for moving the resilience agenda forward.

12:30-2:00  Lunch

2:00-3:30  Concurrent Sessions

1.  Natural Resource Management: Reclaiming Lost Land
    Room:  Ballroom 2

    Presenter:  Arega Yirga, UN World Food Programme; Moderator:  Penelope Anderson, Director of Food Security, Mercy Corps
Farmers raising either crops or livestock are increasingly faced with abnormal climate patterns, which can stress plants, decrease yields and lead to the erosion of vital natural resources. Such changes are endangering hard-won food security among vulnerable households and threatening livelihoods across the region. New strategies to build resilience will have little success unless larger land degradation issues are addressed.

In this session we will explore practical actions that can be taken by the community to reclaim land. What are some of the promising practices? Why do they work? What are some of the barriers to change? How do you identify the most strategic intervention opportunities?

2. **Exit Strategies: A Review of Promising Practices in Title II Implementation**

   **Room: Ibex & Nyla**

   **Presenter:** Beatrice Rogers, Professor of Economics and Food Policy; Director, Food Policy and Applied Nutrition Program, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University

   A persistent challenge in food aid programming is to ensure that the benefits of these programs continue after the food is withdrawn and the programs shut down. Tufts University, with support from USAID through the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project, has been conducting a multi-country study of how programs can be designed, and the process of program exit structured, to improve the likelihood of the continuation of the program’s activities and positive impacts after exit. This session will report on results to date of this multi-year study and its preliminary recommendations.

   The goal of the session is to engage stakeholders in assessing these recommendations and providing feedback about their relevance and feasibility in the context of their own food aid and food security programming.

3. **Program Learning and Adaptation: Integrating Field Experience and Realities into Improved Program Design, Implementation and Results**

   **Room: Awash**

   **Presenters:** Peter Ballantyne, Head, Knowledge Management and Information Services, International Livestock Research Institute; Jay Banjade, Chief of Party, Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development (GRAD) Project, CARE Ethiopia; **Moderator:** Joan Whelan, Knowledge Management Senior Specialist, Food Security and Nutrition Network/TOPS Program

   Lessons are learned every day in the complex world of food security and nutrition integrated program implementation, but how are those lessons captured and shared so that necessary adaptations are put in place when needed, and future programs build on the successes and avoid the pitfalls of the past? This session will explore the value of integrating field experience and realities into the program cycle, from design to implementation to evaluation and beyond to long-term impacts. The first presenter will provide real-life examples from an organization explicitly funded and equipped to
capture program knowledge, while the second will reflect on the project environment where such learning has to be carried out on a more ad hoc basis. Finally, participants will be asked to think through the opportunities for and challenges to better integrating program knowledge in their own projects and organizations.

3:30-4:00 Break

4:00-5:30 Concurrent Sessions

1. **Triggering Hope in an Environment of Dependency, Disincentives and Despair**  
   **Room: Ballroom 2**  
   **Presenters:** Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute; Susan Wachira, Senior Psychologist, Psychosocial Support Center-Open Space; Mara Russell, Practice Manager: Food Security and Livelihoods, Land O’Lakes International Development; **Moderator:** Tom Davis, TOPS Social & Behavior Change (SBC) Senior Specialist

   During this session, participants will learn how fatalism, learned helplessness, depression, and aspirations failure are connected to food security outcomes. They will also learn from food security practitioners from Ethiopia and Kenya about different activities and interventions that could help overcome these problems and potentially lead to better food security results and impact. In the last part of this session, participants will discuss activities that they have used in their programs to address fatalism, learned helplessness, depression, and aspirations failure, as well as what they think can be done to test out and scale up other successful approaches.

2. **Improving Program Outcomes: Workshop on Uses of Title II Reporting Requirements**  
   **Room: Awash**

   **Presenter:** Beatrice Rogers, Professor of Economics and Food Policy; Director, Food Policy and Applied Nutrition Program, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University

   This session will report on progress in implementing the recommendations of the USAID/Tufts University Food Aid Quality Review, completed last year, with a focus on program reporting requirements and the uses of data collected for these reports. Programs using Title II food aid are required to provide multiple reports on program operations and outcomes, including annual and other reports and periodic program evaluations. One of the key recommendations of the Food Aid Quality Review was to review the uses of the information collected in these reports, in order to assess how they are used, by whom, whether the reporting requirements could be streamlined, and whether the information could be made more directly applicable to informing and improving effective program design. This workshop seeks input from those directly involved in program implementation: those who collect, report, and make use of the information provided in the various reports.
The goal of the session is to determine, with input from stakeholders, the burden, accuracy, and usefulness of data collected, and to obtain recommendations for ensuring data are used to inform and improve program design.

3. **The Gender “Lens”: Examples of Introspective Steps to Improving Gender Programming for Organizations**  
   **Room: Ibex & Nyala**
   
   *Presenters: Mulumebet Merhatsidk, Director, Program Quality, Save the Children USA; Mara Russell, Practice Manager: Food Security and Livelihoods, Land O’Lakes International Development; Moderator: Kristi Tabaj, Senior Specialist, Child Hunger and Agriculture, Save the Children*

   Many programs incorporate gender elements, but are organizations truly prepared to address key gender issues? This session will highlight examples of how organizations have evaluated their own internal operations and management to improve the delivery of gender interventions, often addressing difficult questions that challenge organizational culture. Panelists will share details about an internal gender audit process from a country office perspective as well as some of the leaps and hurdles of establishing an organization-wide gender task force aimed at raising the visibility of gender in programming.

6:00-7:30 **Evening Social Event: Reception at the Hilton**  
   **Room: Atrium**
   
   Please join us for appetizers and soft drinks. A cash bar will also be available.
Tuesday, June 12

7:00 – 8:45  Breakfast

8:45-9:00  Announcements

9:00-10:30  Plenary
Room: Ballroom

Pastoralism at the Crossroads: Exploring the Opportunities in Vulnerable Livelihood Systems
Presenter and Moderator: Andy Catley, Research Director for Policy Process, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University  Panelists: Abdi Abdullahi Hussein, Executive Director, Pastoralist Concern; Assefa Tewodros, Project Coordinator, Federal Project Coordination Unit of the Pastoral Community Development Project (PCDP); Axel Weiser, Chief of Party, Pastoralist Livelihoods Initiative II, Save the Children

In an environment of increasing drought frequency, diminishing water resources, and encroachment onto grazing land of large-scale farming and other commercial ventures, the threats to the pastoralist lifestyle are acute. This session will explore, from an implementation perspective, what we know about what works, what doesn’t work, and why, in strengthening resilience and maximizing food security in this vulnerable context. A framing presentation will explore key dimensions of resource and market access in pastoralist communities and how these factors impact what may be the optimal choices for program design and orientation. This will be followed by in-depth questions and answers amongst leading experts and session participants regarding the perceived future of this livelihood system, the appropriateness of common strategic objectives found in current programming, novel opportunities for the future, and how we can learn best from what has been implemented to-date to the greatest and the least effect.

10:30-11:00  Break

11:00-12:30  Concurrent Sessions

1. Using Motivation 3.0 for Community-Based Workers
Room: Ibex & Nyala

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

During this presentation participants will see several discussion-starting video clips on incentives and motivation, and hear some of the latest scientific findings on the topic. Participants will then discuss their program experiences with financial and non-financial incentives for community development workers (e.g., community health workers, extensionists). Participants will also gain a better understanding of the conditions under which performance-based incentives work, the dangers of using them indiscriminately, and discuss how to decide if a program task would be best carried out by volunteers or paid staff.
2. **Milk Matters: The Impact of Dry Season Livestock Support on Milk Supply and Child Nutrition, Somali Region, Ethiopia**  
 *Room: Ballroom 2*

**Presenters:** Kate Sadler, Senior Researcher: Public Nutrition in Emergencies, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University; Andy Catley, Research Director for Policy Process, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University

Children who live in pastoralist areas are increasingly referred to as some of the most nutritionally vulnerable in the world. In Somali Region, Ethiopia, levels of global acute malnutrition among young children are regularly reported to rise above 15 percent, the level defined as a nutritional emergency by the World Health Organization. Yet from work going back many decades in the region, we know that animal milk, one of the most nutritionally complete foods available, plays an extremely important role in the diets of these children. Whilst there is considerable research and early warning literature that highlights the importance of livestock and livestock products for the income and the dietary intake of pastoralists in Somali Region, there is little work that describes use of these products within and amongst households, or that attempts to evaluate the significance of access to milk for the nutritional status of children.

This session will present the results of a recent study designed to assess the impact of community-defined livestock interventions on the nutritional status of young children over the dry season in the Somali Region of Ethiopia. It will discuss the implications of these results for improved nutrition in pastoral areas and how such approaches might be effectively integrated into pastoralist policy and programming taking into account current livelihood trends in these areas.

3. **Financial Products in Agriculture**  
 *Room: Ballroom 1*

**Presenters:** Lesley Denyes, Agri-Fin Mobile Program Director, Mercy Corps; Simon Karoki, Country Program Manager SILC Innovations, Catholic Relief Services; Zegeye Bante, Senior Rural Microfinance Advisor, CARE Ethiopia; **Moderator:** Paul Sommers, Senior Agriculture Technical Consultant, Mercy Corps/TOPS Program

Finance options for marginalized food insure households are limited. Most have traditionally depended on informal credit usually at very high rates of interest. Recently, peer lending programs have begun to offer promise as a first step for participation by resource poor households. Village saving and loan type initiatives are spreading fast though few are specifically designed to address strategic agricultural financing needs. Mobile banking and agricultural lending by microfinance institutions are growing in popularity, but can be more challenging to implement.

This session will explore the world of agricultural financing, using examples from village savings and loans, microfinance institutions and mobile technology. What are some lessons learned to date? Do project financing interventions work best when applied to specific crops or livestock? Or is it
also effective with general farm activities? How do you identify where the most strategic investment opportunity is: production, post-harvest, marketing?

12:30-2:00    Lunch

2:00-3:30    Discussion Sessions

1.  Does Gender-Based Programming Really Lead to Empowerment?  A Discussion on Unintended Positive and Negative Impacts of Program Activities  
Room:  Ballroom 2  
Moderator:  Kristi Tabaj, Senior Specialist, Child Hunger and Agriculture, Save the Children/TOPS Program

Interventions within food security programming, whether gender-specific or not, sometime lead to unintended impacts, both positive and negative. This session will challenge participants to critically think about program activities and their results related to family and community dynamics, household responsibilities and labor, and gender-based violence. Through a discussion forum, participants of the session will be encouraged to share examples from their own experience as well mechanisms and tools in place to prevent and mitigate negative impacts as well as document recommended practices.

2.  Capacity Strengthening of Local Organizations and Government Counterparts: Sharing Strategies and Approaches  
Room:  Awash  
Moderator:  Joan Whelan, Knowledge Management Senior Specialist, Food Security and Nutrition Network/TOPS Program

Successful development efforts can be accelerated through peer cross-sharing and learning. This session will ask participants to draw on their own experiences in building food security technical capacity, both within their own organization and with their partner organizations, and to share the strategies and approaches they have found most effective. The session will include time to brainstorm over priority capacity strengthening needs and use the TOPS micro-grants program as impetus for small group planning of capacity strengthening activities in response.

3.  Using Care Groups to Build Resilience in Food Security and Community Health Programs  
Room:  Ibex & Nyala  
Presenter:  Hibret Getahun, Ethiopia Health Advisor, GOAL; Moderator:  Tom Davis, TOPS Social & Behavior Change Senior Specialist; Senior Director of Program Quality Improvement, Food for the Hungry

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 health promotion with a small cohort of mothers of young children. They
Care Groups have shown remarkable success in achieving social & behavioral change and decreasing malnutrition. During this session, participants will hear a quick overview on the Care Group model, then see results and lessons learned from GOAL/Ethiopia’s Care Group project, a PM2A Care Group Project in Burundi (implemented by Catholic Relief Services, Food for the Hungry and International Medical Corps), and summarized results from 13 projects in eight countries. Participants will then divide into small groups to discuss nine questions on the use of Care Groups in food security programs, and report out to the plenary. Participants will also receive a copy of the Care Group Criteria document.

3:30-4:00   Break

4:00-5:30   Concurrent Sessions:

1. **New Horizons in Outcome Monitoring**  
   **Room:** Ballroom 2  
   **Presenter:** Richard Caldwell, Senior Program Officer, Measurement, Learning and Evaluation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

   The newly approved agricultural strategy of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is based largely on the development of improved technologies applicable for smallholder farmers in Africa and South Asia. It is critical that grantees disseminating these technologies monitor key outcomes, such as sustained adoption and seed system support, in order to make appropriate adjustments to their strategy. Cost-effective and right-sized M&E systems are being promoted to allow more timely and efficient capture of outcome data.

2. **Timed and Targeted Counseling for Nutrition**  
   **Room:** Awash  
   **Presenter:** Mesfin Beyero, Director Alive & Thrive project, World Vision Ethiopia

   Lessons learned from implementation of behavior change communications strategies on optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices have indicated an improvement of care practices after proper counseling and support. Counseling interventions, in turn, will be more effective depending on the knowledge and skill of the counselor, the frequency of contact between the counselor and client, timing of the counseling, the type of messages delivered, and the support received. In 2010, World Vision Ethiopia began implementing a Gates Foundation-funded operations research project which aims to assess 1) how infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices could be improved through timed and targeted IYCF messages to mothers and caregivers, 2) how to increase the frequency of
contact between the client and counselors through a “peer mother” and 3) relieve time constraints of HEWs and vCHWs.


Room: Ibex & Nyala

Moderators: Lisa Kuennen-Asfaw, Director, Public Donor Group, Catholic Relief Services (CRS); Joan Whelan, Knowledge Management Senior Specialist, Food Security and Nutrition Network/TOPS Program

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 greater coverage. However, working in a consortium is also managerially more complex. This session will explore different components of consortia, using input from primes, subs and perhaps organizations that have yet to participate in a consortium arrangement. After reviewing different aspects of work in consortia, 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.
Wednesday, June 13

7:00 – 8:45  Breakfast

8:45 – 9:00  Announcements

9:00-10:00  Plenary

**Room:  Ballroom 1 & 2**

*From Humanitarian Assistance to Feed the Future: Long-Term Resilience Building through Strengthened Linkages*

*John Graham, Senior Policy and Strategic Analysis Advisor, USAID*

This session will begin with a retrospective look at the improvements in disaster response, preparedness, and risk management that have developed over the years in Ethiopia, including the early warning system, Productive Safety Net Program, and Livestock Emergency Guidelines. The session will then shift focus to the future to explore the long-term plans in the United States Agency for International Development’s Feed the Future program, and how the Horn Drought recovery funds, working complementarily with Feed the Future, will link the next generation of long-term resilience building to limit the impact of future droughts.

10:00-10:30  Break

10:30-12:30  Concurrent Sessions

1. **PVO Accountability and Fraud Prevention in Food Aid Commodity Management**

   **Room:  Ballroom 2**

   *Moderator:  Syon Niyogi, Deputy Regional Director for Management Quality, Catholic Relief Services*

   Each year, thousands of metric tons of food commodities, donated by the United States Government, are programmed all over the world. Food aid is usually distributed to the recipient beneficiaries through national or international cooperating partner NGOs with heavy reliance on local infrastructure and local capacity which varies from one country to another or one agency to another. Adequate capacity, or lack thereof, determines the quantity of food that reaches the intended beneficiaries.

   Most of the countries, where food aid programs are implemented have to deal with local challenges on a daily basis; it could be with security or governance or shortage of qualified staff or lack of appropriate supervision. Challenges could be both internal as well as external. Food is as good as cash. It can be very tempting to misappropriate in situations where controls are lax.

   Yet the responsible agency will have to pay to the US government the value of such commodities lost, damaged or misused, unless USAID determines that such improper distribution or use or loss or damage could not have been prevented by the agency under reasonable circumstances. Senior
Managers should not only ensure adequate checks and balances but also should have close oversight of food aid programs.

In this session, participants will gain an understanding of risks and potential loopholes in food commodity management. The session will assist them to be mindful about fraud prevention in designing and staffing food aid programs, developing control mechanisms and closely monitoring and oversight of food aid programs.

2. **Leveraging Agriculture for Improved Nutritional Outcomes**  
   **Room: Ballroom 1**  
   **Moderator: Paul Sommers, Senior Agriculture Technical Consultant, Mercy Corps**

   At the household level, agriculture, food, and nutrition decisions as well as actions are linked. Yet projects continue to struggle with how to effectively link their agriculture and nutrition components to achieve food security aims.

   This session will explore some of the technical and operational barriers. What works and what does not? How do nutrition and agriculture project staff identify a starting point for working together?

3. **Addressing Food Security in a Conflict Context: Lessons and tools from the field**  
   **Room: Ibex & Nyala**  
   **Presenters: Jared Buri, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Manager, Food for the Hungry, Kenya; Olga Petryniak, Chief of Party, Strengthening Institutions for Peace and Development Program, Mercy Corps. Moderator: Lynette Friedman, Consultant, TOPS Program**

   This session will explore the relationship between food security and conflict, exploring two organizations’ experiences addressing food security and community resilience in a conflict setting.

   Food for the Hungry will present their formative research exploring the role of women in water management and conflict resolution in Marsabit, Kenya. Mercy Corps will then present on their programming and recent study exploring the links between community relationships, access to natural resources and markets, and drought resilience in the Horn.

   Following the presentations, participants will gain practical experience with some of Mercy Corps’ rapid context analysis tools applicable to a multi-interest group environment. These tools can assist institutions working in food security - whether relief, resilience, or development focused - to better analyze how inter-community relations impact access to natural resources, markets and key natural resources that underpin local livelihoods, and therefore the food security of local communities. These tools can assist institutions to shape food security programming so that it positively impacts these key factors influencing community resilience, and ensures
Session Descriptions: Wednesday, June 13

Interventions Do No Harm through exacerbating tensions and therefore community vulnerability.

12:30-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:30 Concurrent Sessions

1. Early Warning Systems and Indicators: What’s working, key challenges and how to make them better
   Room: Ibex & Nyala

   Presenters: Laura Glaeser, Early Warning and Response Specialist, Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project; Paul Nantulya, Technical Advisor for Peacebuilding, East Africa Regional Office, Catholic Relief Services

   Food security early warning serves a number of programmatic functions: as a pillar of resilience program design and quality monitoring, as a signal of a need to consider providing or altering activities among specified populations, and as a means of anticipating likely increases in violent conflict. However, determining the design of food security early warning systems – including the appropriate size and scale, selection of indicators, and stakeholder involvement – can be quite challenging. This session examines food security early warning systems in two specific contexts – as they are used in broad development programming under Title II development food aid programs and as they are used in humanitarian, development, and conflict mitigation programming in South Sudan. In particular, discussions in this session will focus on how food security early warning has evolved in each of these contexts, the benefits and challenges of their function, how indicators are selected and refined, and points to consider to further improve their programmatic utility.

2. Linking the Vulnerable to Markets
   Room: Ballroom 2

   Presenters: Jay Banjade, Chief of Party, Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development (GRAD) Project, CARE Ethiopia; Tate Munro, Chief of Party, Revitalizing Agricultural/Pastoral Incomes and New Markets for Enhanced Resilience and Recovery (RAIN+) Project, Mercy Corp; Moderator: Penelope Anderson, Director for Food Security, Mercy Corps;

   There is a saying, “Don’t plant a seed until you know where you are going to sell the crop.” How many projects practice this? With good intentions, projects have promoted growing off-season tomatoes in the wet season, poultry-raising with no confirmed market, or projects that bypass the middleman’s market function only to fail at direct selling. Many food insecure households are risk adverse due to their limited resources. The objective of linking the vulnerable to markets is to move poor individuals and households out of low-return activities and into higher-return, growing markets. By linking poor producers to private-sector actors with a clear business interest in partnering with suppliers, the poor can improve their market participation, earn a better income or benefit from employment security. But the process is not easy, and it has to be done with a thorough
understanding of the value chain and market system within which the poor will operate.

In this session we will explore projects that have employed a market development approach and discuss both challenges and opportunities encountered. Participants will share their own experiences working with private sector actors in poor communities.

3. **Influencing the Influencers: Tools for Engaging the Community in Improving Behaviors to Improve Maternal and Child Nutritional Outcomes**

   **Room:** Awash
   
   **Presenter:** Faith Thuita, Senior Nutrition and Research Advisor, PATH

Evidence and program experience show that partner, family, and community support for mothers to practice improved maternal, infant and young child nutrition and care behaviors are key to effective and sustainable changes in those behaviors, leading in turn to improved nutrition and health outcomes for mothers and children.

The Infant and Young Child Nutrition Project created a collection of tools and resources for use by community-based nutrition programs to effectively increase that vital support. The collection includes literature reviews, social and behavior change communication resources for reaching a wide range of community members, and monitoring and evaluation tools. The resources described below can be used together or separately and modified based on findings from formative research.

The session will include an overview of the tools with an in depth presentation about resources for engaging fathers and grandmothers. These materials can be used to train father and grandmother dialogue group facilitators to share information and encourage discussions on household member’s roles related to optimal infant and young child feeding and maternal dietary practices. Progress in evaluating effectiveness of engaging grandmothers and men in improving maternal diets and feeding practices of young children will be shared.

Finally, session participants will discuss how some or all of these tools could be used in their projects, and whether/how they would need to be adapted first.

3:30-4:00 Break

4:00-5:30 Concurrent Sessions

1. **Using New Food Aid Products for Prevention to Enhance Resiliency**
   
   **Room:** Ibex & Nyala
   
   **Presenters:** Allen Gidraf Kahindo Maina, Public Health Officer, UNHCR; Alexandra Rutishauser-Perera, Roving East Africa Nutrition Advisor, International Medical Corps; **Moderator:** Joan Jennings, TOPS Program Nutrition & Food Technology Specialist

UNHCR and International Medical Corps will present on their experiences in using RUSF in Dadaab, Kenya and in South Sudan during the pre-emergency phases of food insecurity over the last year. They will lead participants in a
discussion of the role of RUSF in enhancing child resiliency to repeated shocks.

2. Measuring Gender Impact  
**Room: Ballroom 2**

*Presenters: Silvia Cabus, Gender Advisor, Bureau for Food Security, USAID; Violet Dancheck, Gender and Nutrition Integration Advisor for the Office of Food for Peace, USAID; Moderators: Kristi Tabaj, Senior Specialist, Child Hunger and Agriculture, Save the Children*

Over the course of the TOPS workshop and networking event, participants will have discussed some of the tools currently available and those being developed for use in measuring gender results in programming. This session will bring together donors and implementing partners to discuss practical steps forward in utilizing these tools. Brief presentations will provide information summarizing some of the tools available for measuring impacts on gender including an overview of the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) by Sylvia Cabus (Bureau of Food Security) and a response by the Office of Food For Peace’s Violet Dancheck.

3. Networking and Collaboration Mechanisms  
**Room: Awash**

*Moderator: Kathleen MacDonald, Consultant, TOPS Program*

Where do you turn for the technical information you need? What resources are available online? How can you better connect in order to collaborate with your colleagues around the globe? All of this will be covered in this session that will be both interactive and informative. This session will begin with a presentation of best practices for networking and collaboration. Participants will then be invited to share their own knowledge about the collaboration mechanisms and information resources that have worked for them. Working in small groups, you will have the opportunity to work with your colleagues to brainstorm solutions to networking challenges that you face in your own work.

5:30 Adjourn
**Speaker/Moderator Biographical Sketches**

**Penelope Anderson** is Director of Food Security for Mercy Corps, an international relief and development organization working in 40 countries around the world. 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. Previously she spent seven years abroad with Mercy Corps, in countries including Afghanistan, Indonesia, Kosovo and Albania. Prior to Mercy Corps, she was a Volunteer and then staff with the Peace Corps. Penny received a BA from Vassar College and a Masters Degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

**Peter Ballantyne** is Head of Knowledge Management and Information Services at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Ethiopia. Between 2005 and 2010, he was President of the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists. He was previously Director of ‘Euforic’ an information-sharing cooperative working to open up and enhance access to information and knowledge on Europe’s international development. He began his career working with agricultural information - first at the World Bank, then at a Faculty of Agriculture in Thailand, then in the CGIAR at the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR); he spent the past 18 years working in the international development sector, with ECDPM, IICD, and INASP. He is particularly interested in more effective collaboration among development organizations, public access to agricultural knowledge and information, and how information and knowledge can be mobilized, shared and communicated to address organizational and development challenges.

**Jay Banjade** has over 20 years of experience in food security, enterprise development, youth employment, value chain development and economic revitalization of communities. He has managed several programs as chief of party, country representative, program director, and/or part of senior management teams. He has worked in over 30 countries and has considerable experience in cross-cultural relationships. Jay has served on the board of a number of organizations including the SEEP network, based in Washington DC. He holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration from University of Bath, United Kingdom, another Masters Degree in Business and Commerce from Tribhuvan University, and has presented in several international conferences. Currently, he works as the Chief of Party of Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development (GRAD), a USAID project being implemented by CARE Ethiopia through CRS, REST, SNV, Tufts University and ORDA.

**Zegeye Bante** has recently joined CARE Ethiopia as Senior Rural Micro-Finance Advisor for the GRAD project. **GRAD, Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development in Ethiopia**, is a project designed to sustain chronically and transitory food insecure, PSNP-supported households in Ethiopia. It is being implemented through consortium members consisting of CARE, REST, ORDA, CRS, SNV, and Tuft University. CARE is the lead of the project. Zegeye is primarily responsible for providing technical leadership and support to the consortium in the areas of microfinance, food security and income and asset building activities. In the last 13 years, he has been working as an expert, senior management member and researcher for Amhara Credit and Saving Institution (ACSI), one the largest microfinance institutions in sub-Saharan Africa. With his long years of experience in this sector, he has a very good exposure and understanding on the economics of rural and agricultural finance, specifically in the area of strategic business planning, financial services product development tailored to the needs of low income households, services delivery process refinement, product marketing strategy, social performance management (SPM),
application of PRA tools in microfinance market research etc. He is also a member of various international microfinance networks and professional associations including Social Performance Task force (SPTF), Women’s World Banking (WWB) and IMP-ACT Consortium group. Zegeye has M.Sc and B.Sc degrees in Agricultural Economist at Alemaya University in 2007 and 1994, respectively.

Mesfin Beyero is a public health specialist and director of World Vision’s Alive and Thrive operational research project. He worked for four years as a clinician before moving into the field of development. For the last 15 years, Dr Mesfin has been working in the field of public health nutrition for many international NGOs in Ethiopia and other African countries. Dr. Mesfin is also an honorary member of staff at Addis Ababa and Hawassa Universities in Ethiopia where he delivers lectures on nutrition policy, program design and evaluation, and nutritional interventions in development and emergency situations.

Jared Buri is currently water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) manager with Food for the Hungry KENYA. He is a WASH Engineer with post-graduate training in leadership and strategic management. Jared is also an environmental Impact assessment lead expert. He has been managing WASH projects with NGO projects in the arid and semi-arid areas of Kenya for about six years. He also served in the corporate world in different capacities for about four years. During his free time, Jared does farming and mentors others.

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 United States, 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 at Johns Hopkins University, and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon.

Richard Caldwell is currently the head of Measurement, Learning and Evaluation for Global Development – Agriculture at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle, Washington. Richard has over twenty-two years of professional international research and development experience and has worked in over thirty-five countries. His main focus over the last decade has been in project monitoring and evaluation, including designing monitoring systems, conducting rigorous quantitative and qualitative studies, and leading or participating on performance and impact evaluation teams. He has additional expertise in quantitative data analysis, statistics, land-use planning, disaster reduction and mitigation, climate change, ecology, and agronomy. Before joining the Foundation, Richard was the Executive Director of TANGO International, a private consulting firm which he co-founded in 1998.

Andy Catley worked for non-governmental organizations in the Horn of Africa for six years focusing on community-based relief and development programs in the Horn of Africa. He then joined the International Institute for Environment and Development in 1998, based in Nairobi, Kenya where he led a regional research program on the use of participatory epidemiology with pastoralist communities in Africa. He joined the Feinstein International Center in 2000 and, via the Tufts program with the African Union’s Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources, worked on regional and international-level policy and legislative reform to support community-based delivery systems in Africa. From 2005, Andy directed the Feinstein Center’s new Africa Regional Office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he led national and regional programs to develop evidence-based approaches to policy reform with a focus on humanitarian and development policies and programming in pastoralist areas. From 2006 Andy also led the Center’s support to the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS), published in early 2009 and now a companion module to the Sphere.
handbook. He currently chairs the LEGS Steering Group. Andy’s other main interests include the use of participatory impact assessment for organizational learning and policy reform. Andy holds a Bachelor degree in Veterinary Medicine from the University of London, a Masters degree in Tropical Veterinary Science from the University of Edinburgh, and a PhD in epidemiology, also from the University of Edinburgh. He is a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and was made a European Specialist in Population Medicine in 2005, as a de facto Diplomat of the European College of Veterinary Public Health. He is a Clinical Associate Professor at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University.

Barbara “Violet” Dancheck is Gender and Nutrition Integration Advisor in the Office of Food For Peace in the Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) Bureau at USAID. In this role she works to ensure that gender and nutrition are taken into consideration and are integrated in Food For Peace development and emergency food assistance programming. In her first year as an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow, Violet was Food Security Coordinator for the DCHA Bureau. There she coordinated food security programming across the DCHA Bureau and was the DCHA Bureau liaison to the Feed the Future Initiative and Bureau for Food Security. Before joining USAID, Violet was a Senior Research Associate at Brown University in the laboratory where she completed her Ph.D. At Brown her research focused on understanding the relationship between structural preferences and function in intrinsically unstructured proteins. Prior to graduate school Violet worked as a Research Technician in a nutritional epidemiology laboratory at Johns Hopkins University. In this role she studied the effects of vitamins and micronutrients on health and disease states in the U.S., Africa and the Marshall Islands, and published on a more accurate way to measure Vitamin A deficiency in breastfeeding populations. Violet also held a position at the National Cancer Institute, examining the chemopreventive properties of Vitamin A at the cellular level. She received her B.S. in Biochemistry from Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY. As an AAAS S&T Policy Fellow, Violet is excited to bring an interdisciplinary perspective to nutrition and food security for the world’s most vulnerable populations.

Tom Davis, MPH, is a specialist in behavior change and child survival, and has worked with Food for the Hungry for the past fifteen years. Tom’s current position is Senior Director of Program Quality Improvement. He is also Senior Specialist for Social & Behavioral Change with the TOPS Project. Tom has twenty-seven years of international field experience in planning, coordinating, implementing, and evaluating food security, child survival, HIV/AIDS, and primary health care projects in twenty-five countries with many different international non-governmental organizations in the U.S. and U.K. He developed the Barrier Analysis method of discovering determinants of behaviors, co-authored the Local Determinants of Malnutrition Study methodology, and was a pioneer of the Care Group model which has significantly reduced child deaths in many countries.

Lesley Denyes is the Program Director for Mercy Corps’ Agri-Fin Mobile program and has worked in the financial services sector for the last 10 years; specifically in the areas of financial analysis, strategic planning, product development and channel management in Asia & Africa. She previously worked with Canadian investment and financial services companies, as well as working as a Senior Ratings Analyst for a leading microfinance rating agency in India. Lesley has worked with commercial banks, mobile network operators, NGOs and consulting companies to reach unserved markets through technology and branchless banking, including research and program development centered on agriculture financial inclusion. Lesley is based in the Philippines, where she holds the role of quality control, technical advisory and strategic development. Lesley is a Canadian national and has a Bachelor of Science in Quantitative Economics from Dalhousie University, Canada, and a MBA in Strategic Planning from Edinburgh Business School, UK.
Timothy Frankenberger is President and co-founder of TANGO International. Tim has over 30 years of experience in international development activities. He has extensive experience in project design, monitoring and evaluation, food and livelihood security assessments, and policy analysis. Tim previously was the Senior Food Security Advisor and Livelihood Security Coordinator at CARE for 6 years. While at CARE, he provided strategic technical support and guidance in food and livelihood security programming to 61 CARE country offices. Prior to this he was a farming systems research specialist at the University of Arizona for eight years. Tim has published numerous articles on household food security and is considered an expert on livelihood approaches. He received a BS in Anthropology from Iowa State University. He received an MA in Anthropology with a minor in Agricultural Economics from the University of Kentucky. He also carried out his doctoral studies at the University of Kentucky in Anthropology with a minor in Agricultural Economics. Tim has experience in more than 30 countries, including Egypt, Mozambique, Philippines, Uganda, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Peru, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Haiti, Mali, Indonesia, Tanzania, Sudan, Sri Lanka, India, Kenya, Ethiopia, Zambia, Nepal, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Cape Verde, Senegal, Botswana, Mauritania, Lesotho, Liberia, and Nigeria.

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. She currently serves as a Senior Associate with the Positive Deviance Initiative where she supports the application of positive deviance across various program areas and created a field guide to expand application efforts. 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.

Hibret Getahun is GOAL’s Health Advisor for Ethiopia and will be presenting in the Care Group Discussion session on behalf of GOAL. Hibret has worked with GOAL for over 2 years and has worked with the Child Survival Team in SNNPR to implement and scale up child survival approaches in this program.

Laura Glaeser is a food security, early warning, and livelihoods specialist with ten years of experience designing, managing, evaluating, and providing technical assistance, training, and decision support for early warning, humanitarian, and development programs in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. She has applied this knowledge base in her work with several donor entities, including USAID, the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development, and the Swedish International Development Agency. Laura currently serves as the Early Warning and Response Specialist on USAID’s Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III project.

John Graham has been the Senior Policy and Strategic Analysis Advisor for USAID/Ethiopia since Nov. 2004. In this role he keeps an overview of political, economic and social development in Ethiopia and advises all aspects of the USAID program. Formerly, John Graham was Country Director for Save the Children UK in Ethiopia, and before that Head of a capacity building program for disaster management with the Ethiopian Government. John has been in Ethiopia since 1997. Before that he was Oxfams’ Country Director in Namibia.
Some of John’s specialties are food security and vulnerability, economic growth, democracy and governance, and macro-economics. John has spent 10 years working on the Somali Region of Ethiopia as part of his efforts, and is very familiar with Somali politics and clans. John has written a variety of articles on Ethiopia, including a history of famine and famine response, and two published books – “Ethiopia – Off the Beaten Trail” (Shama, 2001) and “Exploring Ethiopia” (Shama, 2008).

Abdi Abdullahi Hussein has Master’s degree in development studies from Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University. He has more than 30 years of experience working as a development practitioner and think tank on pastoral development in the Horn at large and Ethiopia specially serving in different capacities in various international and national NGOs advocating issues of pastoral concern. He has written a number of papers on pastoral development including “Camels in Town” a case study on Gode town in the Somali Region as part of a pastoral innovation research project sponsored by the Institute of Development Studies. He is currently leading a pioneer local NGO called Pastoral Concern and chairs the Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia Board. Contact address: abdidheere04@yahoo.com . Postal address : C/O Pastoralist Concern P.O.Box 123034, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Telephone 0911 212075.

Simon Karoki is currently Country Program Manger with Catholic Relief Services. He has worked in the agriculture and financial services sector for the last 20 years, including 10 years work with the Government of Kenya as a Senior Cooperative Officer linking the cooperative sector to opportunities for agricultural financing and grants channeled through the Cooperative Bank of Kenya. Has also worked with the Swedish Cooperative Center, Regional Office of East Africa as a Project officer in Livelihood Improvement through Farmer Empowerment (LIFE) where he was able to train in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda on VSLA. He also worked shortly as a consultant on cooperative business development, linking famers groups and cooperative societies to agro enterprise and business development to financing agencies. Later he joined the Swedish Cooperative Center- VI agro forestry Project as a Business Development Officer/ Microfinance Coordinator integrating VSLA methodology to agro forestry and marketing of agricultural produce to enable farmers mobilize their own credit to finance their agricultural production and reduce food vulnerability through savings.

For the last 4 years he has been working with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) integrating saving and internal lending concepts to donor funded projects, e.g. agriculture, water and sanitation, peace and justice, HIV/AIDS. Simon is currently working on strengthening SILC PSP model and PSP Networks which includes research and documentation of best practices in integrating VSLA/SILC to rural poor communities and establishment of strong PSP Networks for sustainability. He is a Kenyan based in CRS’ Kenya Country Program office in Nairobi, currently a part time research student in Jomo Kenyatta University College of Agriculture and Technology aiming to come up with a strong strategy of sustaining VSLA/ SILC groups beyond any project life.

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.

Kathleen MacDonald has experience integrating communications strategies into food security, nutrition, maternal and child health and family planning programs. She has extensive field experience in Mali where she began her public health career as a Peace Corps volunteer; and also spent several years doing communications work on the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance II Project carrying out outreach activities and substantively contributing to event planning around technical content areas. Kathleen is the author of TOPS’ forthcoming guide to supporting online communities. Kathleen is now an independent consultant and is completing her Masters in Public Health at George Washington University.

Allen Gidraf Kahindo Mainai is a medical doctor with a master’s degree in public health and over seven years experience working with government ministries, with NGOs and UNHCR. Allen worked for three years with the Ministry of Health in Kenya and for the last five years has worked with conflict affected populations. In Kakuma Refugee Camp, Allen coordinated the health and nutrition program with International Rescue Committee. For the last three years, Allen has been working with UNHCR in Ethiopia as a Public Health Officer.

Mulumebet Merhatsidk has been working with International NGOs (CARE, ZOA Refugee care) and UN agencies (WFP, UNAIDS) on food security, community development, nutrition, refugee program and HIV/AIDS programs in various management and co-ordination positions since 1999.

Tate Munro is the Chief of Party for the USAID/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance-funded Revitalizing Agricultural/Pastoral Incomes and New Markets for Enhanced Resilience and Recovery (RAIN+) Project. The RAIN+ project is a 4 year initiative designed to comprehensively promote early recovery and increase resilience to external shocks for households, communities and institutions in eastern Ethiopia. Tate has 11 years of development experience primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa. His expertise is in market systems strengthening. Tate has an MA in Sustainable International Development from Brandeis University. He has worked for Mercy Corps, Winrock International, EnterpriseWorks/VITA, and was a US Peace Corps Volunteer. Prior to this, Tate was a fire fighter and EMT in Prince Georges County, Maryland.

Paul Nantulya is the Technical Advisor for Peacebuilding based at the East Africa Regional Office of Catholic Relief Services (CRS). He provides technical support and back stopping for CRS peace and governance programs in Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya and other countries in Eastern Africa as needed. Prior to this, Paul managed the Peace and Governance Program for CRS/Sudan based in Juba, Republic of South Sudan. A crucial part of this program was the establishment of a conflict early warning and response system for the Government of the Republic of South Sudan. Prior to CRS Nantulya worked as a technical advisor in the Juba peace talks between the Government of Uganda and Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA); the Secretariat of the Inter Congolese Dialogue (ICD) at Sun City, South Africa and in the Burundi peace process as part of a team contracted to provide support to President Nelson Mandela’s mediation of the Burundi crisis. Paul has also worked for the Africa Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), based in Durban, South Africa and for the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission of the Republic of Rwanda, based in Kigali, Rwanda.
Syon Niyogi is currently the Deputy Regional Director for Management Quality with Catholic Relief Services in the East Africa region covering Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia and Tanzania. His responsibilities include internal audit, finance, human resources and information technology. He joined CRS in India in 1998 and, over the years, he has worked in Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Sudan in Finance, Internal Audit, Administration and Management Systems. Syon is a qualified Cost Accountant and also has certifications in multiple fields; he is a Certified Internal Auditor, Fraud Examiner, Risk and Information Management System Controller, Management Accountant, Information System Auditor and Risk Management Assurance. He has conducted several trainings for CRS and its partners’ staff in finance, fraud & risk, internal audit and management systems. He has contributed to the development of a number of policies, procedures and systems in CRS.

Olga Petryniak has ten years’ professional experience, with over eight years working in natural resource management, governance and community relationship-strengthening in Mexico, Guatemala, the Philippines and Ethiopia. Ms. Petryniak has supported research, guided programs and provided extensive mentorship and capacity-building support to governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and institutions, focusing on the intersection between natural resource management, community relationships and community livelihoods.

Ms. Petryniak obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Cornell University in 1999 and subsequently conducted extensive research in Mexico on adaptation mechanisms among local fishing communities transitioning from a fishing economy to the tourism service sector. After graduating from the Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies with a Master’s in International Development in May 2006, Ms Petryniak joined Pact, Inc. in Washington D.C. and provided short-term technical support in natural resource management to the organization’s global programs. In December 2006, Ms. Petryniak moved to Ethiopia as the Program Manager for Pact’s natural resource management programs in South Omo – the marginalized southwest region of the country along the borders of Sudan and Kenya. In March 2010, Ms. Petryniak joined Mercy Corps in Ethiopia to serve as the Deputy Chief of Party for the USAID-funded, Mercy Corps-implemented Strengthening Institutions for Peace and Development (SIPED) Program implemented across Ethiopia’s SNNP, Oromiya and Somali Regional States. Ms. Petryniak became Chief of Party for SIPED in November 2010 and currently remains in this position.

Arif Rashid is the Senior Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist for the TOPS Program where has been coordinating the FSN Network M&E Task Force to improve the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation in food security programs. He has also been providing training to M&E practitioners to improve their level of core competencies. Arif has over seventeen years of professional experience in international development focusing on learning, monitoring and evaluation, developing results management systems, and leading or participating in performance evaluations. He has provided leadership in the improvement of the quality and effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation as it is practiced in the development context. He has designed and implemented numerous large scale quantitative surveys and qualitative studies, designed outcome measurement surveys, and applied advanced econometric techniques to model poverty, food security and nutritional status.

Before joining TOPS, Arif worked for TANGO International and CARE.

Beatrice Rogers is a professor of Economics and Food Policy at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. She served as Academic Dean of the School for 13 years, and is currently Director of the school’s Food Policy and Applied Nutrition Program. She has been a member of ASN for over 20 years, and has served as Secretary to the Governing Council since 2004. Bea’s career combines teaching in a graduate program to prepare students for
careers in food and nutrition policy in the US and globally, and conducting field research on food policy and programs, mostly in developing countries. Her research focuses on economic determinants of household food consumption, including price policy, food aid, food price subsidies and income transfers. Her current research focuses on how the effects of food assistance programs can be made sustainable after the programs are closed (a four year project being conducted in Bolivia, Honduras, India, and Kenya), and she is also working on a project for the US Agency for International Development assessing the programmatic uses and nutritional quality of food aid commodities. She has conducted research on the determinants of intra-household allocation of resources, focusing on the role of female household headship among other factors. More recently she has been working on applying the statistical technique of Small Area Estimation to the assessment of the distribution of malnutrition prevalence at geographically disaggregated levels. She also has conducted research on curricula to prepare international food policy professionals and on their career trajectories. Most of her research has been in less developed countries, including Pakistan, India, Thailand, the Philippines, Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Republic of Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Honduras, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Peru, and Brazil, but she has also conducted research in the US on food stamps and their relationship to household food security. Bea holds a PhD from the Heller School of Social Welfare Policy at Brandeis.

Mara Russell has been working in the fields of food aid and food security for over twenty-five years. She has been with Land O’Lakes International Development for eight years and is currently the Practice Manager for Food Security and Livelihoods and heads the division’s Gender Task Force. In this capacity, she provides technical leadership to projects that address vulnerability and food insecurity, and ensures that gender considerations are integrated into all division projects. Mara provided support to CARE’s global food aid programs from 1986-1991. Then, from 1991-93, she assisted CARE emergency food aid operations in northern Iraq, southern Somalia, and the Former Soviet Union. From 2000 to 2004, she coordinated Food Aid Management (FAM), a technical consortium of Title II Cooperating Sponsors. Mara holds a Bachelor’s Degree from UCLA and a Master’s Degree from Columbia University, both in Anthropology.

Alexandra Rutishauser-Perera is a trained nurse who has been working in the humanitarian field for the past six years. Her experience is in the field of nutrition in several diverse settings. She started her work providing nutrition services with ACF in Darfur and in Liberia, first as a nutritionist and then as the Country Nutrition Coordinator. For two years she worked with Medecins Sans Frontieres in Liberia (medical hospital coordinator) and Somalia (medical field coordinator). These two country projects included significant nutrition components. Alexandra joined International Medical Corps in September 2011 as a roving Nutrition Adviser technically supporting Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia with 12 nutrition projects.

Kate Sadler is a senior researcher for nutrition in emergencies at the Feinstein International Center (FIC) and a public nutritionist with over 10 years experience in the design, management and evaluation of nutrition interventions in sub Saharan Africa. She completed an MSc in Public Nutrition at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in 1997 and went on to work for Concern Worldwide as a nutritionist in several countries in Africa, including Ethiopia, Rwanda and Burundi. Prior to joining Tufts she worked as a technical and research advisor with Valid International, an organization that aims to optimize the impact of humanitarian intervention through advocacy, research and development. With Valid she had a strong research focus, specifically with the aim of improving approaches for the identification and management of children and adults suffering from acute malnutrition. With this work she completed her doctorate in 2008 with the Institute of Child Health, University College London. At FIC, Kate is currently working on several projects.
including the community case management of severe acute malnutrition in Bangladesh; linking livestock interventions to child health and nutrition in pastoralist areas of Africa; and the nutritional support of people living with HIV in Ethiopia.

**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.

**Thomas Staal** has spent most of his career working overseas in international development. He has worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) since 1988, beginning in Sudan as an Emergency Program Officer. In the early 1990s he worked in the USAID regional office in Kenya, managing food aid and doing project development throughout eastern and southern Africa. From 1996 to 2002, he worked in the USAID West Bank and Gaza program, providing assistance to the Palestinians, focusing on water supply projects, as well as local community development. Following the US invasion of Iraq, he went to Iraq for a year in 2003/04, serving as the USAID Regional Representative for Southern Iraq, overseeing all USAID projects in that part of the country. He also served a year as the Deputy Director of the Food for Peace Office in Washington, and spent a year studying at the National War College. He was most recently the Director of the Iraq Reconstruction Office in Washington and Mission Director for USAID in Lebanon. Before joining USAID, Tom worked for World Vision International as their Representative in Sudan in the mid-1980s. He also worked for ARAMCO in Saudi Arabia in the late 1970s and the early 80s in their government relations department. Tom has a Master’s Degree in Comparative Politics (Middle East focus) from Columbia University and an MSc in National Strategic Security Studies from the National Defense University. Since his parents were missionaries in the Middle East, he grew up in Iraq and Kuwait, and attended boarding school in India.

**Kristi Tabaj** is a Senior Specialist for Save the Children providing technical assistance to country offices on food security and agriculture programs as well as supporting gender interventions implemented under the USAID-funded TOPS program. Her past experience includes work in natural resource management and regional agribusiness initiatives in the U.S. Prior to her work with Save the Children, Kristi served as an advisor and manager for agricultural programs in Afghanistan with Mercy Corps. She has a BA in Anthropology from Lawrence University and an MS in International Agricultural Development from the University of California, Davis. She also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras and with Peace Corps Response in Guatemala.

**Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse** is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). His research interests include government policy and agriculture, economic growth, impact evaluation, aspirations and economic change, household behaviour under risk/uncertainty, and economic governance in Ethiopia as well as more broadly. His most recent research covered impact evaluation of safety net programs, inter-sectoral growth linkages, performance of cooperatives, crop productivity, aspirations and wellbeing, and rainfall indexed insurance. Alemayehu has previously worked as an assistant professor of economics at Addis Ababa University and an economic affairs officer at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. He holds a DPhil degree in Economics from the University of Oxford.
**Assefa Tewodros** has an MA degree in Social Anthropology from Addis Ababa University where his thesis focused on the Afar people of north-eastern Ethiopia. He has served in different donor financed projects and government offices including as Head, Tigray Food Security Coordination Office (Nov. 2005 – January 2008); Head, Micro Finance Unit & Promotion and Training, ESRDF- Tigray Regional Office (July 2002 – July 2005); and Head, Training Desk, Emergency Recovery Program, Tigray Region PMU (January 2001 – June 2002). Since January 2009 he has been working as a National Project Coordinator in the Pastoral Community Development Project under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During Assefa’s career with social funds, emergency recovery, food security and pastoralism, he has had good opportunity to work with poor communities at the grassroots level. This has given him the opportunity to have practical experience with the challenges and opportunities of food security in both pastoral and non pastoral areas. His current position in the pastoral areas of Ethiopia has especially provided the opportunity to know more about food security and pastoralism issues. Assefa is married and has two sons.

**Faith Thuita** is a senior public health and nutrition specialist with more than 15 years of experience in nutrition research, training, advocacy, and programming. She has an academic background in the fields of human nutrition and public health and is well-recognized in Kenya as a resource person in nutrition training, policy development, and advocacy. Her areas of specialization include maternal, infant and young child nutrition; nutrition and HIV/AIDS; and micronutrients. She has experience in program design and management and operations research using quantitative, qualitative and participatory research methods. Faith is a lecturer at the University of Nairobi’s School of Public Health. She plays an advisory role to the Government of Kenya as a member of several national nutrition technical committees and working groups. She is currently co-chair of the national maternal, infant and young child nutrition steering committee in Kenya. She is also the principal investigator in a study entitled, “Engaging men and grandmothers to improve maternal, infant and young child nutrition in Western Province, Kenya.”

**Susan N. Wachira** is a senior counseling psychologist with Openspace(PSC) a consulting firm comprised of a multicultural and multi-disciplined team of medical doctors and psychologists committed to providing psychological and mental health services to organization, schools, communities, cooperatives, etc. Prior to her current position Susan worked as the psychosocial support coordinator with World Vision Kenya for seven years. In collaboration with the World Vision Africa Psychosocial Advisor, she conducted ethnographic surveys to assess for depression and trained staff and communities in the culturally-adapted interpersonal psychotherapy for groups (IPT-G) methodology in nine African countries (Uganda, Kenya, Swaziland, South Africa, Zambia, Sudan, Malawi, Lesotho and DRC); In her current position she has participated in the development of the International Peace Support Training Center (IPSTC) Manual on Psychological Impact and First Aid in Sexual Violence for East, West and Central African regions. Susan is member of the Kenya Counseling Association and the Kenya Association of Professional Counselors. She provides critical incident stress management for humanitarian aid workers.

**Axel Weiser** (PhD in Agriculture in the Tropics) has more than 25 years professional experience in pastoral development and food security programming in dryland areas, especially in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Namibia. He has worked with bi- and multilateral organizations, international and local NGOs, local government, and the private sector. During his eight years in Ethiopia he has led large pastoral development programs, food security projects, emergency interventions, and disaster risk management programs. His team in Save the Children USA (Livelihoods and Food Security Unit) has combined different interventions into an integrated concept with a focus on needs of vulnerable communities with diverse livelihoods, e.g. pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, households transitioning out of
pastoralism. This transformational concept addresses the various root causes of food insecurity and poverty and thus creates lasting change in the lives of people and children.

Joan Whelan is a knowledge and learning specialist with expertise in food security and nutrition, and more than 25 years of experience in the United States, the Horn and the Maghreb. After 10 years working in the advertising and marketing industry in New York City, Joan began a second career in international development, working in the developing country context carrying out training programs, assessments, and documentation; working as a liaison officer at the United Nations facilitating cross-Agency engagement in response to crisis countries; and in Washington, DC as a knowledge management and communication director for globally-funded food security and nutrition projects. She has strengthened information systems for responsive program performance, packaged and supported diffusion of promising practices, and designed and managed mechanisms for capacity strengthening, program learning and collaboration. Joan holds a MPA in international public policy and program management from New York University’s Wagner School of Public Service.
About the TOPS Program

TOPS, funded by USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (FFP), works to 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.

**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
- Commodity Management
- Knowledge Management and Network Strengthening

**TOPS’ Targeted Resource Flows**

Through TOPS, two significant resource flows are directed to quality improvement in food aid implementation:

**USAID AOTR**  
Adam Reinhart  
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**Period of Performance:**  
August 13, 2010 -  
August 12, 2015

**Agreement Number:**  
AID-OAA-A-10-00006

**Activity Manager**  
Judy Canahuati  
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**Contract:**  
Leader with Associate  
Cooperative Agreement
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**

![Save the Children](image1)
![fh](image2)
![Mercy Corps](image3)

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About the TOPS-sponsored FSN Network

The TOPS Program is fostering the creation of the Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) 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. **Interest groups** allow field-based participants to join together for dialogue, information sharing, and Q&A around shared topic area interests.

- The **FSN Network web portal** provides a comprehensive resource library of tools, guides, and other implementation-focused resources. The site also has collaborative workspaces for technical task forces, discussion groups by technical interest area, as well as events listings, job openings, and other community information.

- The **FSN Network News**, the network’s bi-weekly newsletter, is providing a means to reach the over 900 current subscribers with announcements of new resources, knowledge-sharing opportunities, task force activities, funding opportunities, events, information requests, and other community information. Subscribe at: bit.ly/fsnnetworknews

- **Knowledge sharing events** such as this one, and the 2011 FSN Network Meetings in Baltimore and Maputo, respectively, 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 is stakeholder-driven, bringing professionals together from around the world to foster collaboration, innovation and knowledge sharing. The Agricultural Task Force uses this knowledge to shape agendas, understand and influence donor priorities, build consensus on best practices, test promising practices, widely diffuse technical knowledge, and strengthen capacity to improve the quality of food security programs.

For information contact: Andrea Mottram, amottram@hq.mercycorps.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 working to 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
About the FSN Network

knowledge sharing.

For information contact: Joan Whelan, jwhelan@coregrouppdc.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 recognizes the critical and cross-cutting role of maternal and child nutrition in household food security. The Task Force has identified several key areas of interest and/or priority relevant to food security programming; examples include: infant and young child feeding (IYCF), maternal nutrition, micronutrients, new food products, anthropometry and other key IYCF indicators, the integration of nutrition and agriculture, and more. This Task Force 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 Task Force identifies tools (and fills any gaps in tools) that can help build and maintain such competencies. The TOPS program structures training workshops and networking activities around the core competencies. The Task Force also collaborates with the CORE Nutrition Working Group on several topics of interest to both groups.

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

Social and Behavior Change

The Social & Behavioral Change Task Force (SBCTF) 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. Task Force members have attended ten face-to-face and online meetings, developed SBC Core Competencies and a process for review of methods and tools (IMT), and listened to several SBC presentations. We have also begun development of an SBC Core Competencies Wiki and an SBC competencies self-assessment tool. Over the next year and beyond, we plan to:
• build task force members' and food security practitioners' SBC skills;
• write lesson plans for a new SBC Toolkit;
• 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-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 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 sessions as presenters or moderators.

**Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** [http://www.gatesfoundation.org](http://www.gatesfoundation.org)

**CARE** [http://www.care.org/](http://www.care.org/)

**Catholic Relief Services (CRS)** [http://www.crs.org/](http://www.crs.org/)

**Feinstein International Center, Tufts University** [http://sites.tufts.edu/feinstein/about](http://sites.tufts.edu/feinstein/about)


**Food for the Hungry** [http://www.fh.org/](http://www.fh.org/)

**Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University** [http://www.nutrition.tufts.edu/about](http://www.nutrition.tufts.edu/about)

**GOAL** [http://www.goal.ie/](http://www.goal.ie/)


**International Medical Corps** [http://internationalmedicalcorps.org/](http://internationalmedicalcorps.org/)


**Mercy Corps** [http://www.mercycorps.org/](http://www.mercycorps.org/)


**Pastoralist Concern** [http://pastoralistconcern.org/](http://pastoralistconcern.org/)

**PATH** [http://www.path.org/](http://www.path.org/)

**Psychosocial Support Center-Openspace**

**Save the Children** [http://www.savechildren.org/](http://www.savechildren.org/)
TANGO International  http://www.tangointernational.com/

UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)  http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home

UN World Food Programme  http://www.wfp.org/

World Vision International  http://www.wvi.org/wvi/wviweb.nsf

We would also like to extend special thanks to USAID’s Office of Food for Peace for their financial support for this event, the USAID Mission in Ethiopia, and for the FSN Network itself.

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