



Society for International Development  
Washington Chapter



# FY 2019

## ANNUAL REPORT

Food Security & Agriculture Workgroup

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# FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE WORKGROUP

The SID-Washington (SID-W) Food Security and Agriculture Workgroup is a group of individuals actively engaged and informed on the agriculture sector. With events ranging from industry led value chain coalitions to the challenges of feeding a city, this workgroup aims to inform on the logistics and practices of food as well as the opportunities in agricultural development.



# LETTER FROM SID-WASHINGTON

## Dear Members of the Food Security and Agriculture Workgroup,

We are happy to report that we had another exciting year! As we reflect on last year, the workgroup produced several great events, ranging from SID-Washington Wine Tasting from Developing Countries to Innovative Approaches Across the Nutrition Landscape. We are currently working on events for FY2020, so stay tuned for more information!

This workgroup will still focus on logistics and practices of food as well as the opportunities in agricultural development.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the workgroups. We hope to see you at future SID-Washington events! If you have any questions, please feel free to send an email to [events@sidw.org](mailto:events@sidw.org).

Best regards,



Katherine Raphaelson



Paul A. Sherman





### **Diana Caley**

Advisor, Food Security,  
Monitoring, Evaluation, and  
Learning, Crown Agents

Diana L. Caley is an applied social scientist and international development practitioner, a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, and a former Norman Borlaug Global Food Security Fellow. Dr. Caley has carried out research, taught, and implemented development assistance programs in Egypt, Iraq, Mexico, Peru, Uganda, Tanzania, and Yemen, and she holds a B.A. in International Affairs from George Washington University and a Ph.D. in Nutrition and Food Studies from New York University. Her research focuses on the nature and measurement of urban food insecurity and rural-urban linkages in food systems. An Advisor of Food Security, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning at Crown Agents USA in Washington, DC, Dr. Caley provides technical guidance and practical recommendations for analysts, program implementers, donors, researchers, and others on how to design and conduct applied research, monitoring, evaluation, and learning in international settings.



### **Mark Castellino**

Vice President, Public Sector  
Business Development,  
Opportunity International

Mark Castellino has over 18 years of experience in agricultural development and food security. He is currently the Vice President of Public Sector Business Development at Opportunity International, a US-based organization that develops financial solutions to unleash the power of entrepreneurship. Mark leads Opportunity's US Government and public clients business line. Prior to joining Opportunity, Mark led the business development team at Fintrac, an agricultural development consulting firm that provides agricultural development services and technical assistance to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Food Security and missions around the world. Mark also led business development efforts at the global non-profit ADRA International, winning funding from USAID and US Department of Agriculture for agricultural development, economic growth and emergency response activities across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. He also worked with ADRA in the UK, helping to build a strong funding stream from the U.K. Government (DFID) and the European Commission. Mark started out his career in international development implementing food security and economic growth projects in Azerbaijan. Mark has also worked on policy issues in Washington D.C., supporting the efforts of the non-profit community to advocate for the passage of the Global Food Security Act, a flagship congressional initiative to support and coordinate the US Government's work in food security, and which became law in 2016.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

**Wednesday, July 25, 2018**

6:00PM - 7:30PM | SID-Washington

SID-Washington Wine Tasting from Developing Countries: A Joint Event for Our Young Professionals Network and Food Security & Agriculture Workgroup

**Monday, October 29, 2018**

12:00PM - 1:30PM | SID-Washington

Innovative Approaches Across the Nutrition Landscape

**Thursday, November 8, 2018**

4:00PM - 5:30PM | SID-Washington

Food Security & Agriculture Workgroup Planning Meeting



## SID-Washington Wine Tasting from Developing Countries: A Joint Event for Our Young Professionals Network and Food Security & Agriculture Workgroup

**Event Description:** Wine is produced in 70 countries globally, many of which are not fully developed. For countries such as the United States, France, Spain and Italy, which are the top producing countries in the world, the wine industry adds billions of dollars to their economies. While this type of scale may be physically or culturally impossible in other countries, wine is essentially a value-added agricultural activity that can have significant positive effects in contributing to a country's national GDP.

Wine may not be the answer to all of a country's developmental problems, but it does serve a unique and special purpose. It brings people together and stimulates discussion and flow of ideas. Therefore, this event series will use wine also as a vehicle to bring together the bright minds of the development world, create a fun atmosphere, and discuss other significant challenges that face a particular region.

Join us for a tasting of wines from the Middle East and a discussion of some of the most pressing development and humanitarian challenges facing this region.

This was a joint event with the Young Professionals in Development Network (YPN) was sponsored by Chemonics and DAI.



# Innovative Approaches Across the Nutrition Landscape

Moderator: **Suzanne Palmieri**, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems, School of Sustainability, ASU

Speakers: **Shannon Doocy**, Senior Advisor, Initiative for Smallholder Finance  
**Mike Foley**, Deputy Nutrition Team Lead, Save the Children  
**Djeinam Toure**, Technical Specialist, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

**Event Description:** In order to improve nutrition globally, the development, research, and policy communities come together to address challenges across multiple levels of food and health systems - individuals (behavior and biomarkers), markets (purchasing choices), and higher level decisionmakers who are setting agendas and priorities, among other levels. Come and listen to our speakers speak across these integrated levels that are influencing human nutrition. The following subjects will be discussed:

Learn about marketplace approaches to nutrition from the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Hear how policy leaders and ministries are engaged to create multi-sectoral approaches to nutrition from Save the Children

This was a joint event with the Health & Nutrition Workgroup and featured a lunch sponsored by Arizona State University.

## Key Takeaways

### 1) Addressing nutrition requires a multi-sectoral approach

As **Mike Foley (Save the Children)** discussed, interrelated systems influence individuals' nutrition status, so interventions to improve nutrition must engage multiple sectors of development such as food, health, and care. At Save the Children, the SPRING program incorporated the "Framework for Systems Thinking," which recognized the direct and indirect factors that influence nutrition, to better coordinate with other organizations and sectors. Adding a perspective from the humanitarian space, **Shannon Doocy (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Health)** argued that humanitarian response must move beyond the traditional siloes and recognize that aid workers in each sector must communicate with each other for effective aid delivery.

### 2) Using market-based approaches and engaging the private sector are necessary to address supply-side issues in nutrition

**Djeinam Toure (GAIN)**, explained the importance of engaging the private sector to ensure access to and availability of diverse and nutritious

foods. In Kenya, to increase the availability and affordability of safe, pasteurized milk, GAIN's Marketplace for Nutritious Foods program supported a farm cooperative's efforts to sell pasteurized milk in automated machines that could be purchased in various quantities. Six months into the intervention, consumers perceived milk to be more available and more affordable than before, and the production and sales of pasteurized milk also increased, leading to a successful intervention.

### 3) Changing behavior and increasing the desirability of nutritious foods improve nutrition outcomes in the long-run

Part of GAIN's Marketplace for Nutritious Foods program included increasing the desirability and convenience of pasteurized milk because before the intervention, raw milk, which is more prone to causing foodborne illness, was more popular. The automated machines (ATMs) increased the desirability of pasteurized milk because the refrigeration and consistent availability of it improved its convenience in relation to raw milk. Furthermore, to complement the ATMs, GAIN implemented the "Community of Practice," which includes

## EVENT SUMMARIES

group training events on nutrition and food safety to further the impact of the material intervention. Similarly, Mr. Foley explained that Social and Behavior Change Communication undercut all the interventions in the SPRING program, as changing social behaviors and norms is vital to long-term change.

#### **4) More research and program evaluations are needed to better understand the most effective interventions to prevent malnutrition**

As international development donors and practitioners continue to emphasize the importance of evidence-based decision-making, Ms. Doocy advocated for forward-thinking nutrition interventions that embed evaluation mechanisms at the beginning. For example, in partnership with World Vision,

Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health collected baseline and post-intervention data to determine the effectiveness of food vouchers versus mixed transfers, which included food vouchers and unconditional cash transfers. Because the implementers defined three different groups (food voucher, mixed transfer, non-assistance) at the beginning of the experiment, they were able to follow the same groups of individuals throughout the intervention. Using advanced statistical models, they could compare the differences in nutrition outcomes among the three groups. However, Ms. Doocy explained that more research and program evaluation is needed to deepen the understanding of the most effective forms of nutrition aid, as this quasi-experiment lacked finding statistical significance in some areas because of a short time period and small sample size.



# Food Security & Agriculture Workgroup Planning Meeting

**Event Description:** Over the past year, the group has organized events on topics such as Innovative Financing for Agriculture and Food Security and Innovative Approaches across the Nutrition Landscape. All members are encouraged to join and to bring ideas for event formats and topics.

### Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome & Introductions (All)
2. Looking Back: review of 2018 events & brief discussion
  - Innovative Financing for Agriculture and Food Security (Diana)
  - Innovative Approaches Across the Nutrition Landscape (Mark)
  - YPN Wine Event (Diana)
3. Data: Review summary of survey results (Diana)
4. Looking Ahead: Discuss key priorities for 2019 working group events
  - Identify top themes (All)
  - Identify preferred mechanisms (All)
  - Identify scheduling parameters (e.g. timing of events, rough calendar timeline) (All)
  - Gender event for mid-January (Diana)

## Discussion

### 1) Welcome and Introductions

### 2) Looking Back: Review of 2018 Events

- Innovative Financing for Agriculture and Food Security
- Innovative Approaches Across the Nutrition Landscape
- YPN Wine Event

### 3) Summary of Survey Results

#### Event Formats

- Moderated Panels but need a good moderator and a good question and answer period
  - » Need a call beforehand
  - » Compile a list of suggested moderators
- Fireside Chat
  - » Panelists interviewing each other
- Expert Lectures
  - » Brown bag
  - » Strong preference for those visiting from overseas
  - » Get into nuances especially for M&E
  - » Meet & Greet after the event
- Lightening Talks with Multiple Speakers (similar to TED talks, Venture Talks)
  - » On an interesting topic like “Uber for Tractors”
  - » Not as participatory
  - » Need a good networking time block
  - » Could follow up with table discussions and then switch
- Learn it and Do it
- Fail Fest Style Event
  - » Development practitioners – lighting talk style
  - » Talk about failure and ways you came back from it
  - » Sign up in advance with a brief proposal and then what you learned
- Candid talks/off-the-record talks (implementers only)
- Workshop-style event with technical focus
  - » Start with Panel discussion
  - » Optional collaborative afterwards
  - » Ideas: crisis management plans, public speaking, co-host with M&E (hands-on collaborative workshop, even a halfday on the weekend)
- Lunches/Happy Hours
- Youth Leadership Events
  - » Less survey interest
  - » Help young people understand what’s going on
  - » Diana wants to help bring young people into industry
  - » Connect with YPN and see what they would like from workgroup
- Networking Events
  - » Very popular with free food and drinks
  - » “Speed dating” with mentors
  - » Get trade associations involved
  - » Invite MCC and USAID staff

# EVENT SUMMARIES

## Event Topics Ideas

- Resilience of Market Systems
  - » Transition to new bureau at USAID spurred this idea
  - » Working on measurement on resilience
  - » Talk from the field about what happens from start to end of project
  - » Discussion about migration
  - » Resilience measurement workshop
- Urban Food Systems
- USAID Reorganization/BUILD Act and Farm Bill
- Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture – Intersection of Food & Health (diet-related non-communicable diseases)
- Innovative Finance & PPPs
- Agriculture Investment, Climate and Legal Systems
- Agricultural Tech in Developing Countries
- Data Best Practices/ICT for Development
- Youth, Conflict, and Agriculture Resilience
- Private sectors' role in food system development
- ICT for Agriculture
- Diversifying the role of universities in small-farmer capacity building
  - » Africa Bureau: many projects get national universities to craft projects and programs for small-

- scale farmers
- Bridging the gap between evidence and practice
  - » Practical research
  - » Get big universities involved and figure out when people will be in DC
- Water Scarcity, Climate Change, and Demographic Change
- Women's Economic Empowerment (January)
  - » Debate-style
  - » Market systems integration
  - » Gender issues
  - » Intended and unintended consequences with gender lens

## 4. Looking Ahead: Key Priorities for 2019 Workgroup Events Top Themes

- Resilience, Market Systems, and Agriculture
- ICT for Development and Agriculture
- Fail Fest around Food Security, Agriculture, and Health
- Learn it, Do it
- Co-Hosted Event with YPN
- Coffee/Chocolate Tasting Event
  - » Similar to wine event





**For more information, contact us at [events@sidw.org](mailto:events@sidw.org).**

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