



Society for International Development
Washington Chapter



FY 2020 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 in issues related to global agriculture and food systems. With events ranging from developing more resilient and inclusive market systems to innovative agriculture technologies, this workgroup aims to inform on agriculture-related knowledge and practices to meet the challenge of global food security.



Dear Members of the Food Security and Agriculture Workgroup,

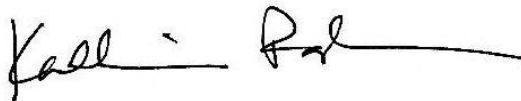
Our Fiscal Year 2020 was unusual for us, as it was for so many, ending during a global pandemic. This certainly affected our ability to deliver programming. Despite this hurdle, the Workgroup still produced several great events ranging from [The Rising Importance of Resilience in Food Security](#) to [COVID-19: The Rise of Food Insecurity at Home and Abroad](#).

We would like to thank former Co-Chair Diana Caley (Macfadden/PAE). She helped us put on many fantastic events during her tenure. We wish her the best in her future endeavors. We welcomed Sabrina Amburgey (ACDI/VOCA) as the new Co-Chair. We are excited to work with her over the next few years!

Now that we have mastered the art of virtual programming, we look forward to offering more events accessible to a wider audience, providing an even more dynamic community for interaction. We hope to see you at some of our upcoming events. You can see all of our programs on our [website](#) – and please check back often as we add new ones regularly.

Thank you for your interest in and support of SID-Washington’s workgroups. If you have questions, comments or ideas, please send an email to events@sidw.org.

Best regards,



Katherine Raphaelson



Paul A. Sherman





**Sabrina
Amburgey**

Vice President of Strategic
Growth & Partnerships,
ACDI/VOCA

Sabrina Amburgey provides strategic analysis and business intelligence to advance growth and diversification of clients and partnerships at ACDI/VOCA, a US nonprofit that helps people and communities improve their lives by increasing economic prosperity and social inclusion. She has over 20 years of experience in international development in various business development, technical and project management roles focused on food security, resilience, market systems, agriculture and capacity building. She also serves on the Board of the Agribusiness Market Ecosystem Alliance (AMEA), a global network for accelerating the professionalization of farmer organizations, and led its development of ISO/IWA 29 Professional Farmer Organization Guidelines. Prior to joining ACDI/VOCA, she developed and implemented innovative organizational capacity assessment tools and approaches for Pact. She also worked in Kenya, providing technical and operational support across Africa as part of Pact's Africa Regional Support Network. Over the course of her career she has worked in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Sabrina holds a BA in sociology and anthropology from Lewis & Clark College and an MPA from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey. She has a working knowledge of Spanish and Mandarin and received certification in "Making Markets Work for the Poor" from the Springfield Centre.



**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.



**Diana
Caley**

Monitoring & Evaluation
Specialist,
Macfadden/PAE

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.

Thursday, August 29, 2019
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM ET | SID-Washington

The Role of the U.S. African Development Foundation in African Economic Growth and Development

Tuesday, November 12, 2019
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM ET | MakeOffices

ICT4Ag for Smallholders: How do public and private sector partnerships enable ICT for agriculture (ICT4Ag) for smallholders?

Thursday, February 13, 2020
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM ET | SID-Washington

The Rising Importance of Resilience in Food Security

Thursday, May 14, 2020
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM ET | Online via Zoom

COVID-19: The Rise of Food Insecurity at Home and Abroad



The Role of the U.S. African Development Foundation in African Economic Growth and Development

Moderator: **C.D. Glin**, President & CEO, U.S. African Development Foundation

Speakers: **Ellington Arnold**, Youth Entrepreneurship Advisor, U.S. African Development Foundation
Anne Griffin, Deputy Director, Office of Program Partnerships, U.S. African Development Foundation
Michelle McKenzie, Senior Program Officer, U.S. African Development Foundation
Yael Nagar, East Africa Grants Management Specialist, U.S. African Development Foundation
Claudia Schwartz, Off-Grid Energy Lead, U.S. African Development Foundation

Event Description: This program provided an overview of the work of the U.S. African Development Foundation, an independent federal agency, whose mission is to combat poverty through development of micro, small, and medium sized enterprises, providing support for groups that have insufficient funding, as well as companies run by young people and women. Panelists discussed the following topics: small-holder farming; off-grid energy; women’s financial inclusion; and youth entrepreneurship.

This was a joint event with the Environment & Sustainability Workgroup and featured a reception sponsored by the U.S. African Development Foundation.

Key Takeaways:

1) Creating pathways for prosperity

As an independent agency, the United States African Development Foundation (USADF) takes the traditional model of development and turns it on its head, starting in areas where others might think the road ends. **C.D. Glin** (President & CEO) explained to the audience that Africa today boasts some of the fastest growing economies in the world, and USADF recognizes this potential by working to bring grant capital and technical assistance to organizations that seek to make the most of this opportunity. By meeting organizations where they are to co-create and progress forward, simultaneously encouraging and embracing local knowledge, expertise, and technical assistance, USADF acts as “a specific tool in the foreign assistance tool kit,” said Glin. In particular, USADF focuses on addressing three areas of need: agriculture, off-grid energy, and entrepreneurship, assessing those that apply for their grants and seeing how their goals empower the underserved communities and people.

2) Meeting the people where they are

In the panel portion of the event, **Anne Griffin** (Deputy Director, Office of Program Partnerships) moderated and led the discussion on how USADF differs from other independent agencies. Griffin opened the conversation with a question on how USADF works in innovative and dynamic ways, to which the panelists agreed that being demand driven allows them to

meet the people where they are. Instead of pushing solutions, **Ellington Arnold** (Youth Entrepreneurship Advisor) emphasized that being response driven allows entrepreneurs to utilize their knowledge of their own communities and its needs. **Michelle McKenzie** (Senior Program Officer) clarified that “because [the] work is demand driven, it looks sort of different in each country, but at the heart of all of it is making sure we meet the needs of those who come to us.”

3) Partnerships that pay off

A key part of the success of USADF grantees is due to the invaluable support from the local experts, their staff on the ground. With this assistance, **Yael Nagar** (East Africa Grants Management Specialist) recounted how a partner organization in South Sudan suggested another foundation that might be a good candidate for funding from USADF. After looking into the foundation and granting them the necessary capital, USADF worked with them on a revised business plan, allowing the foundation to execute campaigns beyond their initial goals and even expand to open more branches. **Claudia Schwartz** (Off-Grid Energy Lead) also mentioned how the flexibility of being an independent agency allows USADF to partner with smaller and women-owned groups, putting them in contact with local experts and simultaneously building the domestic sector while aiding in their growth as organizations. These local experts and technical assistants allow USADF to work with their grantees in ways that solidify their foundations to succeed and continue to progress in their growth stage.

4) “Find, fund, support. Develop, grow, and link”

As a US-based agency, USADF recognizes their platform in working with local African governments; strategic partnership agreements with local governments and ministries allow USADF to maximize their impact in the ongoing growth of Africa. When discussing USADF’s partnership with large funders, Arnold highlighted the question of “Who’s in our space, and how can we work together?” Glin echoed this thinking in explaining how USADF can act as the intermediary between large funders and small ultra-local businesses, understanding more closely how

this money needs to be utilized and thus, giving these funders a pipeline to small African enterprises. By providing two types of grants, USADF can more accurately identify their applicants and how they can best be helped in their growth. On the importance of capital and capacity building, McKenzie stressed USADF’s commitment to helping organizations grow and develop past their initial stages. The concept of acting as a link between large and small might be fairly new, as Glin explained, but to be part of this relay race and to provide these small African organizations with the continuum to carry on is what USADF aims to stand for, since its inception to present day.



ICT4Ag for Smallholders: How do public and private sector partnerships enable ICT for agriculture (ICT4Ag) for smallholders?

Moderator: **Chris Light**, Chief Technology Officer, Senior Vice President, Ogimaa Inc.

Speakers: **Kees de Ruiter**, Head of Corporate Strategy and External Relations, ICCO
Dr. Ephraim Nkonya, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Meera Sawkar, Business Development Manager, GeoPoll

Event Description: This session focused on partnerships at the intersection of technology and agriculture in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). At a time when partnerships between the public sector, private sector, and development actors are increasingly viewed as critical to achieving development outcomes in LMICs, how do these partnerships enable smallholder farmers to benefit from ICT4Ag? How are ICT4Ag solutions designed for smallholders in mind, and how can the average smallholder benefit from them? What other types of partners are needed to create effective solutions in ICT4Ag for smallholder farmers? Presenters from three organizations – including NGOs, tech start-ups, and others – discussed how they have co-created ICT4Ag tools or are using technology to improve agricultural outcomes through innovative partnerships.

This was a joint event with the Information, Communications, & Technologies (ICT) for Development Workgroup and featured a reception sponsored by GeoPoll.

Key Takeaways:

1) Mobile Money

Dr. Ephraim Nkonya (International Food Policy Research Institute) explained that mobile money, which is the transfer and storage of funds through a mobile phone, was invented in Kenya, and that about half of all farmers in sub-Saharan Africa are using mobile money as a primary means of finance. It can also be a means of disseminating information about weather, pesticides, and micro-finance. Dr. Nkonya explained how the use of mobile money as a means of gathering information also helps to convince insurance companies to insure rural and low-income farmers by understanding the actual risk associated with that insurance.

Dr. Nkonya elaborated that by including insurers in the research and discussion, insurance companies are more likely to insure low income farmers. He then described how mobile phones and mobile money presents an opportunity for the inclusion of normally hard-to-contact groups, such as the Maasai tribe of east Africa. Dr. Nkonya expressed that even though this tribe is very conservative and often does not use technology, they were quick to adopt mobile phones for convenient access to communication, credit, and information.

2) Empowering Farmers with Better Information

Kees de Ruiter (ICCO) explained how mobile technology and finance can be used to empower farmers by giving them access to better information. De Ruiter explained how they contacted one hundred thousand farmers, mostly in the central part of Indonesia, and asked them about soil, weather, noise, disease, and many other aspects of agriculture. De Ruiter said that ICCO can repackage this information and help farmers to increase yields, use less fertilizer, and make better decisions about environmental impact.

De Ruiter explained that ICCO uses SMS to communicate and gather data, which makes it easier to communicate with rural and low-income farmers. He also explained that the strength of their platform is in making it interactive. By ensuring their technology and communications model will work for all farmers, even those who have limited access to a phone, or those who use one without internet access, they can still be a part of the information-sharing done by ICCO. De Ruiter shared his belief that it is vital for the information given to farmers to be accurate and useful, and to be considerate of the situation of each individual. Otherwise, the farmers and their families will no longer trust the organization and will not act on the information ICCO provides.

3) Gender and the Broader Issue of Access

Meera Sawkar (GeoPoll) weighed in on barriers to access and equality of access. Sawkar shared how GeoPoll always tries to ensure that they contact farmers during times they are not working, explaining that it is not just about reaching rural farmers but also reaching them at the right time. Sawkar spoke about how researchers from GeoPoll recommend a mode of communication, usually SMS or a phone call, and that call centers in-country then do interviews with farmers to learn about their experience.

Sawkar gave an example of the importance of access by discussing how many women in rural agricultural families are unable to access a cellphone or the internet. She explained that GeoPoll will often use a phone call when trying to reach women so that if a man picks up the phone, the caller can ask to speak to the man's wife or daughter in order to speak to the women of the house. Callers may tell the men that they are asking about food and nutrition, and because preparing food is often seen as a woman's duty, the questions will be perceived as something only the women can answer.

Dr. Nkonya also brought up the issue of literacy, and how many of the farmers they are trying to contact are older and are often only semi-literate. He explained how the IFPRI will often try to include a child in the messaging since many children are in school and are literate. Dr. Nkonya said that his organization often use voice messages, or messages in a local language, so that they are able to contact the farmers in a means they can understand.

4) Other Uses for Crowdsourced Data

Because both ICCO (represented by Rees de Rooter) and GeoPoll (represented by Meera Sawkar) are using models of data collection through mobile phones, questions from the audience included how this data is used and who has ownership. Sawkar gave an example of how GeoPoll uses their data collection model to help rural communities during natural disasters. Speaking about a pilot project that was started in Nigeria to see if they could predict violent conflict, and another program in Tanzania that gathered information on household readiness for flood, Sawkar explained how the latter study found that 27% of households they polled were not prepared for a flood, and GeoPoll was able to ask them what their needs would be in the event of a flood.

Dr. Nkonya described how the IFPRI was able to partner with a Dutch NGO that uses satellite data to find out where water can be found in dry parts of Africa. Dr. Nkonya shared how this information can be sent to pastoral communities who rely on cattle so that they can find sources of water during a drought, and how the whole program is fairly cheap because the satellite data is so easily available. De Rooter explained how ICCO is hoping to use this model of data collection to show microfinance institutes the economic situation of the rural farmers who they may choose to invest in. By creating these partnerships, De Rooter explained, the risk for financiers is lower and the access to credit for farmers is higher. De Rooter also told us that use of geodata can help microfinance institutes to track their capital all the way to the farmer and all along the supply chain.



The Rising Importance of Resilience in Food Security

Moderator: **Mark Castellino**, Vice President, Public Sector Business Development, Opportunity International

Speakers: **Christine Gottschalk**, Director, Center for Resilience, Bureau for Food Security, USAID
Julie Howard, Senior Adviser, Center for Strategic and International Studies
Olga Petryniak, Senior Director, Global Resilience, Mercy Corps

Event Description: Resilience has become an increasingly important issue in international development since the large-scale humanitarian emergencies in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel in late 2011 and early 2012. Earlier this year USAID announced plans to create a Bureau for Resilience and Food Security to spearhead the agency's efforts to build resilient communities and countries, enhance their well-being, and improve water security to reduce hunger, poverty and malnutrition. In this session we heard from USAID on its efforts to establish the proposed Bureau and the capabilities it will have. This was followed by a panel of practitioners and policy makers discussing the latest approaches and the challenges ahead for the resilience agenda.

This event featured a lunch sponsored by Mercy Corps.

Key Takeaways:

1) Resilience in and Beyond USAID

Christine Gottschalk (USAID) began by explaining USAID's approach to resilience, food security, and agriculture. Gottschalk provided USAID's definition of resilience as "the ability of people, households, communities, countries and systems to mitigate, adapt to and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth." For USAID, defining resilience helps development practitioners better understand the importance of investing in and measuring resilience and prevention. She explained that USAID is integrating multisector and interdisciplinary approaches to bring development to areas that are facing large-scale humanitarian needs. USAID's collaborations focus on the capacity of communities to build resilience by looking at three different resilience sources:

- Resilient livelihoods through agriculture-led growth to reduce, diversify and manage risk, within and without agriculture systems.
- Resilient systems that manage resources and risks so that households and communities do not feel overwhelmed.
- Resilient people who are healthy, well-nourished, educated, empowered, and confident individuals as a base foundation of resilience for communities to progress.

2) Resilience as More Than a Buzzword

Olga Petryniak (Mercy Corps) provided insights into why resilience is important to Mercy Corps. Petryniak explained

that as a global nongovernmental organization with a focus on peace and socio-economic development, Mercy Corps looks at poverty and food insecurity as correlational. To reduce poverty, Mercy Corps looks into the communities' strengths, such as agriculture, to prevent instability.

Julie Howard (Center for Strategic and International Studies) explained that with the different contexts of changes in development, the issue of hunger has evolved. Now, food insecurity relates to other issues such as climate change and conflict. To provide resilience in a holistic way, Howard pointed out that development practitioners need to look at models that work in stable countries so that they can be implemented in unstable regions.

3) Ways to Support Resilience

Petryniak emphasized the importance of using an integrated approach to resilience and agriculture. She mentioned that resilience is categorized by the following factors:

- Ensure stable agricultural systems
- Ensure agricultural systems do not create conflict
- Create more stable agricultural markets

Gottschalk discussed the relevance of promoting inclusive economic growth in resilience. Howard agreed with Gottschalk in that the private sector is an important venue for people to have access to food and resilience. Howard concluded by pointing out the need to fund more programs such as Feed the Future to ensure that agriculture does not fall off the international development policy agenda.

COVID-19: The Rise of Food Insecurity at Home and Abroad

Moderator: **Rebecca Middleton**, Executive Director, Alliance to End Hunger

Speakers: **Jim Flock**, Chief of Party, Feed the Future Tanzania NAFKA II Activity, ACDI/VOCA
Kim Ford, President and CEO, Martha's Table
Radha Muthiah, President and CEO, Capital Area Food Bank
Carrie Stoltzfus, Executive Director, Food & Friends

Event Description: The COVID-19 pandemic is poised to have a profound effect on the food security of millions of people globally. The World Food Program predicts that there will be more than a quarter of a billion people suffering from acute hunger by the end of the year, almost double the pre-pandemic level. Efforts to contain the virus, both here in the United States and around the world, have resulted in the unprecedented loss of livelihoods, disruptions to food systems, and massive demand for social safety nets. Domestic and international organizations have long worked to respond to food insecurity – both chronic and as a result of acute shocks. However, the covariate risk of COVID-19 and its global scale has resulted in urgent needs at home and abroad. In this special session we considered the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic both overseas and in the DC metro area. We heard from a panel of experts working to respond to the massive growth in hunger, and we discussed practical ways to improve our work overseas and help our neighbors here at home.

This was a joint event with the Young Professionals in Development Network (YPN).

Key Takeaways:

1) How are organizations responding?

Jim Flock (ACDI/VOCA) discussed how ACDI/VOCA is forming partnerships with major agricultural actors to increase the food supply during the current period of global pandemic. Flock added that ACDI/VOCA is responding to COVID-19 by encouraging farmers to focus on growing indigenous crops, as they are more suitable during extreme climate events, provide a long-term food security option, and help to curb poverty in rural areas during drought and other crop failure events.

Kim Ford (Martha's Table) stated that Martha's Table is working around the clock to register clients through its COVID-19 food relief program. At the same time, Ford is also committed to maintaining the same team members and not reducing salaries or working hours to protect her employees from food insecurity.

Carrie Stoltzfus (Food and Friends) highlighted that Food and Friends is delivering 5,000 more meals per week than it was before the pandemic started. Stoltzfus added that Food and Friends has introduced eleven meal plans that are medically tailored to client needs. This has helped individuals who are not able to prepare high nutritious meals on their own.

Radha Muthiah (Capital Area Food Bank or CAFB) mentioned that CAFB is responding to the pandemic using three phases: response, recovery, and rebuilding. According to Muthiah, CAFB uses data to determine where food-insecure clients reside and create drive-through models and food trucks based on those locations. CAFB is also working closely with producers, farmers, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to further provide food from farms to trucks.

2) How is COVID-19 affecting food insecurity?

Flock expressed his concern about how food insecurity affects small farmers in the context of COVID-19. Flock mentioned that farmers are currently facing difficulties in finding markets for their products and potential customers. School feeding programs have also had to decrease the number of meals that they can provide due to the lack of communication between farmers and processors.

Stoltzfus shared the difficulties of creating tailored, medically-specific meals for people suffering from serious illnesses. Stoltzfus mentioned that immunocompromised persons are currently facing difficulties due to the need for social distancing and minimal access to health providers. Stoltzfus added that health care providers face food insecurity at home because they are at a much higher risk of contracting COVID-19 and therefore need to be more frequently isolated.

Muthiah mentioned that there are about 400,000 food insecure individuals in the greater DC metro area. CAFB distributed over 30 million meals per year through a network of more than 450 regional nonprofit partners and 300 direct distribution partners. Muthiah highlighted that in addition to providing food through partners, CAFB also distributes food directly to the community. The direct food programs include after-school meals for kids, free produce markets, and emergency food distributions. However, there has been a dramatic decrease in the distribution of food due to increased demand. Muthiah expressed her concerns surrounding the number of food donations that CAFB has received since the start of the COVID-19 crisis, as there may not be a return to normal until late December in the best-case scenario.

Ford briefly shared that Martha's Table has changed its operations due to high demand from the COVID-19 pandemic. Ford mentioned that Martha's Table changed from distributing 500 to 2,500 bags of groceries per day. Martha's Table also introduced ten community drop off sites in the northwest and

southeast DC to support families who are unable to afford essential needs like groceries.

3. What are the future solutions?

Muthiah mentioned that CAFB is already thinking about the long-term effects of COVID-19 so that it can build better and more resilient delivery services for its clients. Financial support is and will continue to be critical in delivering resource-intensive food acquisition. As an example, CAFB will continue to engage in public-private partnerships to increase its reach in the community. Muthiah also emphasized the importance of having regional development conversations regularly to discuss food insecurity and protecting vulnerable populations.

Additionally, Stoltzfus highlighted that Food and Friends expects the demand for its services to increase in the coming years. As a result, Food and Friends is planning to expand its partnerships with other food network organizations to accommodate its client's needs in the future.



Society for International Development,
Washington Chapter

COVID-19: The Rise of Food Insecurity at Home and Abroad

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Photo Credit

Marcus Johnson - U.S. African Development Foundation

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank Program Associates: Megan Dixon, Mikaila Harper, Lydia Henning, Shabnam Kabir, Fadima Konate, Devang Laddha, Seth Reinhard, Melina Reynoso, and Vivian Zhang for their hard work to create this report.