



## Board for International Food and Agricultural Development 182<sup>nd</sup> Public Meeting (Virtual)

### *COVID-19 and Nutrition: Impacts, Field Innovations, and the Way Forward*

Monday, September 14, 2020 | 10:00 am – 12:30 pm Eastern Daylight Time

#### **Background and Meeting Objectives:**

This convening follows the June 4, 2020 181st BIFAD meeting, *Food Security and Nutrition in the Context of COVID-19*, to provide an update on the impacts of the pandemic on nutrition outcomes and to discuss USAID's response. The COVID-19 crisis risks backsliding on nutrition gains with irrevocable impacts on mortality and lost potential. Initial projections show likely significant increases in wasting and forthcoming analyses will quantify the potential impacts on small for gestational age, micronutrient deficiencies, stunting and declines in breastfeeding. Field reporting indicates significant reduction in coverage of key nutrition interventions. These will all translate in loss of life and development gains if not countered with adequate action on nutrition as global decision makers focus on response and recovery.

The meeting provides dedicated time to discuss how the global community can work together to protect and advance nutrition outcomes across sectors during COVID-19 response and recovery. In real time, researchers and implementers are gathering evidence to better understand the impacts of the pandemic and learning how to respond.

The meeting will be organized to achieve three objectives:

1. To provide an update on what emerging research and data can tell us about the current and expected impacts of COVID-19 containment and control measures on nutrition, and how we should use this emerging evidence to guide our response.
2. To learn from our implementing partners and USAID Missions across sectors that have pivoted their implementation to respond to COVID-19 and protect nutrition outcomes. To understand the realities on the ground, and to include the innovations and expertise of those on the frontlines in the discourse.
3. To discuss and prioritize actions for the near, medium, and long term to safeguard and accelerate nutrition progress.

The meeting is intended to help support decision making by USAID and its partners and stakeholders working to advance food security and nutrition at global, regional and national levels. On the basis of testimony, including public comments, shared at the meeting, BIFAD will provide formal findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Agency on best-bet operational and programmatic investments.

BIFAD is a seven-member, presidentially appointed advisory board to USAID established in 1975 under Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act, as amended. The provisions of Title XII concern bringing the assets of U.S. universities to bear on development challenges in agriculture and food security, and the BIFAD's role is to help carry out this function.

**Format:** A 2.5-hour virtual meeting, open to the public, with an expert panel and a 25-minute public comment period. The recorded audio/video and minutes will be available in archive form.

**Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations:** On the basis of testimony, including public comments shared at the meeting, BIFAD will provide formal findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Agency on best-bet operational and programmatic investments.

## AGENDA

10:00 a.m. **Board Member Introductions and Opening Remarks**

[\*Mark Keenum\*](#), *President, Mississippi State University and Chair of BIFAD*

10:05 a.m. **Opening Remarks**

- [\*Jim Barnhart\*](#), *Assistant to the Administrator, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security and Deputy Coordinator for Development for Feed the Future*
- [\*John Barsa\*](#), *Acting Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)*

10:15 a.m. **Emerging Evidence: What are we learning and what does it mean for our response?**

[\*Saskia Osendarp\*](#), *Executive Director, Micronutrient Forum*

10:35 a.m. **Country Perspectives: How USAID and partners are pivoting implementation approaches to protect nutrition outcomes**

**Moderator:**

- [Laura Birx](#), Deputy Director, Strategy, Planning, and Management, Agricultural Development, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

**Speakers:**

- [Brent Wibberley](#), Global Director, Food Processing, Technoserve
- [Clement Bwalya](#), Deputy Chief of Party, USAID Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUN TA), Zambia, DAI
- [Dennis Karamuzi](#), Chief of Party, Feed the Future Orora Wihaze, Rwanda, Land O' Lakes Venture 37
- [Vivienne Forsythe](#), UNICEF Nutrition Manager, Yemen
- [Pooja Pandey Rana](#), Deputy Chief of Party, USAID Suaahara II, Nepal, Helen Keller International

11:20 a.m. **Questions by BIFAD and discussion**

*Moderated by Laura Birx, Deputy Director, Strategy, Planning, and Management, Agricultural Development, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*

11:50 a.m. **Public Comment Period**

[Shawn Baker](#), Chief Nutritionist, USAID (Moderator)

12:15 p.m. **Summary and Way Forward**

[Patrick Webb](#), Director, Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Nutrition, Tufts University

12:30 p.m. **Meeting Adjournment**