



## **Board for International Food and Agricultural Development 180<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting**

### ***Morning Session: Agriculture and Food Security in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Contexts***

**Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 | 8:30 am – 12:30 pm Central Daylight Time**

[View the Panel 1: State of Knowledge recording here](#)

[View Panel 2: Programming Implications recording here](#)

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

The Board for International Food and Agricultural Development is a seven-member, presidentially appointed advisory board to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) established in 1975 under Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act, as amended. The provisions of Title XII mandate that USAID bring the assets of U.S. universities to bear on development challenges in agriculture and food security. At the request of USAID Administrator Mark Green, BIFAD is examining issues around agriculture and food security in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, including issues around displacement and its effects on food systems.

Today, addressing food insecurity means operating amidst conflict and fragility. Last year, every country in a protracted food crisis was also engaged in violent conflict (FAO 2018). There is an urgent need to understand the unique challenges of improving the agricultural sector and food security in conflict-affected and fragile contexts—including those in which large populations are displaced—in order to strengthen investments in evidence-based food and agriculture programming tailored for these contexts. This BIFAD public meeting begins to address this need by bringing stakeholders and sector experts together for a timely discussion on the subject.

The event will specifically address the following questions: What is the state of knowledge on the relationship between conflict, fragility and food systems? What are the implications of this relationship for food security? How can food security and agricultural investments be most effective in preventing

conflict or accelerating recovery in post-conflict settings? What are the unique needs of affected populations?

A desired outcome from the meeting is a clear statement on the importance of (1) understanding the relationship between food systems, conflict and fragility for food security goals, and (2) ensuring that food security programming is tailored to the unique needs of these contexts, with a special focus on how food security can prevent conflict and accelerate recovery from conflict.

This public meeting is open to all stakeholders and the general public, but will be of particular relevance to development practitioners and NGOs; private sector entities; faith-based organizations; donors; government stakeholders; and multilateral organizations working in agriculture, food security, and nutrition in conflict-affected and displaced population contexts. The event will be made available in livestream to a virtual audience and recorded audio and video will be made available in archive form.

## AGENDA

8:00 a.m.      **Registration**

8:30 a.m.      **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
*Mark Keenum, President, Mississippi State University and Chair of BIFAD*

8:35 a.m.      **Setting the Stage and Context**  
  
*[Matt Nims](#), Deputy Director, Food for Peace, U.S. Agency for International Development  
[Greg Collins](#), Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Food Security, U.S. Agency for International Development  
[Thomas Duffy](#), Director, Office of Agricultural Policy, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State*

9:00 a.m.      **Panel 1: State of Knowledge: Fragility, Conflict, and Food Systems**

*The goal of the panel is to understand the state of knowledge on the relationship between conflict, fragility and food systems, the implications of this relationship for food security, and the evidence gaps in our understanding of these relationships.*

This panel reviews the evidence on the relationship between conflict, fragility, and food systems. Why and how can conflict disrupt food systems, and why and how do food systems enable or mitigate conflict? The panel explores big picture impacts for entire countries and economies to micro-level impacts to consumers, smallholders, and rural communities in places such as the Sahel, northeast Nigeria, Somalia, Mali, Haiti, and Bangladesh.

Food systems play an important role before, during, and after conflict. The link between food insecurity and conflict is prominent during price spikes or competition over natural resources. Land disputes,

access to markets, and local corruption can promote food insecurity and conflict alike. During conflict, farmers can be targeted for their food assets while people broadly lose food access and adopt negative coping strategies that reduce nutrition. These impacts in turn can play a role in radicalization and rebel group recruitment. In light of this evidence, how can we avoid inadvertently doing harm? What do we need to know next?

### **Panelists and Topics:**

**Panel Moderator, [Julie Howard](#), Senior Advisor (Non-resident), Global Food Security Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies**

**[Emmy Simmons](#), Senior Adviser (Non-resident), Global Food Security Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies**

[KEY STATISTICS AND TRENDS OVER TIME ACROSS MAJOR KINDS OF CONFLICT](#)

**[Cullen Hendrix](#), Professor, Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver and Non-resident Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics**

[THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF CONFLICT AND FOOD SECURITY](#)

**[Leanne Erdberg Steadman](#), Director, Countering Violent Extremism, U.S. Institute of Peace**

[COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM, ESP. AMONG YOUTH](#)

**[Soji Adelaja](#), Hannah Distinguished Professor in Land Policy, Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State University**

[FUTURE RESEARCH NEEDS, EXAMPLE OF BOKO HARAM](#)

### **Discussion**

10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:45 a.m. **Panel 2: Programming Implications: Adaptation and Innovation**

*The goal of this panel is to address how food security and agricultural investments can be tailored to fragile and conflict-affected contexts, and how practitioners can harness existing evidence and generate new ideas for promoting agriculture and food security amidst conflict and fragility.*

This panel examines best practices on how to ensure food security and agricultural investments are context-driven: conflict-sensitive, flexible to the unique characteristics of conflict and fragility, and effectively integrating humanitarian and development assistance when necessary, and attuned to the needs of displaced populations. Beyond tailoring investments, new ideas are crucial in these settings too. For instance, portable assets and skills and creative ways to build market access are all promising ideas that could increase food security and resilience amidst conflict. In fragile contexts, innovative solutions are needed that can address thorny issues such as corruption or illegitimate governance too.

Under what conditions can practitioners expand or support markets amidst fragility or even conflict? How can practitioners develop agriculture-led growth programming suited for these contexts? What other creative ideas can build the resilience of people experiencing conflict and fragility?

## Panelists and Topics:

**Panel Moderator, [Greg Collins](#), Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Food Security, U.S. Agency for International Development**

[PROGRAMMING PRINCIPLES FOR WORKING IN THESE CONTEXTS - LINKING THE EVIDENCE BASE WITH INTERVENTIONS](#)

**[Susanna Campbell](#), Assistant Professor, School of International Service, American University**

[ACHIEVING INCLUSIVE, CONFLICT-SENSITIVE FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMMING](#)

**[Sandrine Chetail](#), Senior Director for Agricultural Systems, Markets and Financial Inclusion, Mercy Corps**

[FLEXIBLE PROGRAMMING AMIDST CONFLICT AND FRAGILITY](#)

**[Louise Sperling](#), Consultant, International Center for Tropical Agriculture [AGRICULTURE AND SEED SECURITY PROGRAMMING:-- CONFLICT AND STRATEGIC LINKS TO THE FUTURE](#)**

**[Mohamed Abdinoor](#), Chief of Party, USAID Growth, Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods (GEEL) Program in Somalia, RTI International**

[SUSTAINABLE INTERVENTIONS- LEVERAGING LOCAL SYSTEMS](#)

## Discussion

- 12:00 p.m. **Public Comment Period**  
**[Mark Keenum](#), Mississippi State University, BIFAD**
- 12:25 p.m. **Closing Remarks**  
**[Panel Moderators](#)**
- 12:30 p.m. **Adjourn**  
**[Mark Keenum](#), Mississippi State University, BIFAD**