

FSN Network Task Forces and Regional Interest Groups

The FSN Network has been working to foster several mechanisms for innovation and knowledge sharing, cross-organizational collaboration and consensus building. The Network's Global Task Forces and Regional Interest Groups allow teams of individuals from multiple organizations to contribute to further development and understanding of a technical or cross-cutting topic.

Global Task Forces: These groups enable members from around the world to directly contribute their expertise in continuing discussions on **development and adaptation of crucial information, tools, and methods that are responsive to stakeholder needs.**

Regional Interest Groups: These groups allow field-based practitioners to join together using remote technology to **share experiences, seek recommendations, and strengthen capacity** in cross-cutting and emerging implementation areas.

The two groups link with one another to ensure that the work of the global task forces is truly responsive to field needs and that regional interest groups have access to the latest in technical information and updates.

Task forces and interest groups 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.

What do members of these groups do?

- Exchange information related to best practices, resources, and opportunities
- Link with academics, advocates and private resources and expertise
- Foster their own professional development
- Build organizational partnerships and capacity
- Articulate important field and implementation perspectives in global policy dialogues and alliances

Why join a task force or interest 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.

How do task forces and interest groups function?

It is up to each task force and interest group to determine a reasonable timetable for regular meetings, and develop group objectives, proposed outputs, and an agenda or workplan for completing them. In addition, each task force or interest group elects a Chair or Co-Chairs to provide technical leadership and facilitate group

processes. In the case of regional interest groups, we also ask that you select a team member to serve as liaison with any relevant global task force in order to facilitate linkages and dialogue.

What are the responsibilities of members?

- Advocate for and prioritize technical topics and activities that benefit your organization as well as the broader food security community, maximize expertise across organizations, and contribute to the state-of-the-art in the technical field.
- Contribute to successful completion of the task force or interest group's work plan, and volunteer to lead and contribute to task force and interest group activities.
- Disseminate SOTA information, tools, and other products to your HQ, project staff and partners.
- Share technical information, tools, and opportunities with the task force or interest group members and the broader Food Security and Nutrition Network.
- Participate regularly in task force or interest group meetings.

Joining a global task force

If you have technical experience in the task force topic area, are willing to attend quarterly meetings (in-person or online), and will take on substantive roles to review, develop or adapt 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. To join or learn more, contact the task force lead directly:

- Agriculture – William Fiebig, wfiebig@dc.mercycorps.org
- Nutrition and Food Technology – Joan Jennings, jjennings@savechildren.org
- Social and Behavioral Change – Tom Davis, tdavis@fh.org
- Monitoring and Evaluation – Arif Rashid, arif@tangointernational.com
- Gender Integration – Melissa Teuber, mteuber@savechildren.org
- Knowledge Management – Joan Whelan, jwhelan@coregroupdc.org

Do you have suggestions for other task forces or technical areas where cross-organizational collaboration could bring real rewards? Let us know at commentsfsn@gmail.com

Starting a regional interest group

The FSN Network is currently supporting regional interest groups in West Africa (social and behavior change) and in Southern Africa (trigger indicators, conservation agriculture, agriculture-nutrition linkages, institutional capacity building and more). If you are a food security and nutrition implementer with practical field experience who would like to join with others in your region for frank and open discussion over what works, what doesn't, how programs can best adapt to local contexts, local solutions, resources, and more, we would be happy to help you join or start a new regional interest group in the programming area of your choice. Just let us know at commentsfsn@gmail.com

