

**GENDER, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND NUTRITION INTEGRATION INITIATIVE (GCAN)
NEWSLETTER | June 2018**

Recent GCAN Events | June 2018

On June 21, GCAN participated in a [webinar on gender and resilience](#) hosted by the Resilience Measurement, Evidence, and Learning Community of Practice with Mercy Corps' [BRIGE](#) program (Building Resilience through Integration of Gender and Empowerment). The webinar discussed Mercy Corps' approaches for measuring gender differences to inform, monitor, and evaluate gender-equitable resilience programming. Webinar slides and recording are now available [online](#). GCAN advised Mercy Corps in the development of these measurement tools, and the Mercy Corps toolkit, Measuring Gender Dynamics in Resilience, is now also available [online](#).

On June 27, IFPRI hosted a policy seminar with the [REAL](#) (Resilience Evaluation, Analysis, and Learning) Award, Mercy Corps, Save the Children, and GCAN researchers titled *Addressing Gender and Social Barriers to Resilience: Measuring and Leveraging Household Decision-Making*. The seminar convened practitioner and researcher perspectives on household decision-making, emphasizing intrahousehold dynamics as a key mediator of women's own resilience capacities and contributions to building resilience. The seminar offered insights from the design of Household Dialogue and Husbands Schools interventions and suggestions for how to investigate and measure decision-making to inform design and evaluation approaches. Presentations and videos are now [online](#).

Two new GCAN policy notes available online!

Aflatoxins in food and feed: Is women's empowerment the solution to this challenge?

This is one of several angles that Lynn Brown, independent consultant, assesses in the GCAN policy note No. 9. Aflatoxins affect all of Africa and the severity of the impact might well grow under climate change (as a forthcoming GCAN modeling study by IFPRI and the University of Florida is currently assessing).

The two key avenues to address aflatoxins include minimizing contamination in the growing cycle through the use of good agricultural practices and by mitigating toxin development in the postharvest supply chain. The second pathway is to reduce the consumption of contaminated food by diversifying the diet to include more fruits, vegetables, legumes, and animal-source

Are we losing key nutrients in crops as a result of climate change?

The answer is, as always, complex. As a result of rising carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels from fossil-fuel combustion, industry, and land-use change, important plant nutrients, such as iron, zinc and protein of major grains, including barley, rice and wheat are declining; some forage plants used by grazing livestock might also be affected. Other crops are partially or not at all affected because of the way they harvest nitrogen or perform photosynthesis. The loss of dietary nutrients in foods could translate to increased nutritional deficiency for hundreds of millions of poor people already on the brink of deficiency.

What can be done about this? Key avenues to address this challenge identified by

foods, thus reducing the dominance of staples in diets, particularly of maize. Clearly women have substantial roles to play in both of these pathways and the policy note describes how.

[Read more>](#)

writers Matt Smith, Phil Thornton and Sam Myers include increased investment in breeding of cultivars with reduced CO₂ sensitivity, as well as focusing on breeds with higher overall micronutrient contents. A second avenue directly focuses on reducing nutritional deficiencies through fortification of foods. Moreover, improved nutritional monitoring is essential to ensure that deficiencies can be tackled quickly. And of course, more progress needs to be made in the fundamental area of curbing greenhouse gas emissions and thus slowing the rise of CO₂ levels globally.

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GCAN Brownbag at USAID | June 7 2018 Feed the Future Data Harmonization

On June 7, [Carlo Azzarri](#) with [Zhe Guo](#) presented a seminar on the GCAN Data Harmonization to the USAID Feed the Future's Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) team. The seminar featured GCAN's ongoing efforts to harmonize and standardize Feed-the-Future Population-Based Survey datasets across gender, agriculture, nutrition, and climate dimensions. Using the available FTF baseline as well as interim datasets from three countries (Bangladesh, Ghana, and Zambia), a series of preliminary insights gained from the data *ex-post* harmonization were presented and discussed with the USAID MEL team. For example, higher soil fertility was shown to be correlated with improved child nutrition outcomes in Zambia; higher level of plant vegetation associated with lower household hunger in Ghana; finally higher temperature and more rainfall correlated with higher workload for women. The harmonized datasets are publicly available on the GCAN project website (<https://gcan.ifpri.info/category/outputs/Datasets/>) and IFPRI's data repository (<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/IFPRI/>).

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Upcoming Resilience Conference | November 2018

The Resilience, Measurement, Evidence, and Learning Community of Practice (RMEL CoP) is organizing a conference November 13-15, 2018 in New Orleans, titled "[Paths to a Resilient Future: What does the evidence tell us? What do we still need to learn?](#)"

The conference will highlight state-of-the-art advancements in resilience measurement, analysis and learning. Drawing on the findings, experience and expertise of specialists from diverse sectors, disciplines and geographies, the conference will offer a forward-looking agenda for advancements and innovations in resilience measurement, evaluation and learning, and identify critical themes for research and knowledge development for resilience.

Deadline to submit a session proposal to the conference is July 30, 2018.

Achieving the goals of the Feed-the-Future Program and the [Global Food Security Strategy](#) requires careful consideration of the impact of climate on agricultural production and livelihoods, while at the same time considering other cross-cutting issues that influence agricultural growth, poverty alleviation and resilience, especially gender and nutrition. To address these challenges the Gender, Climate Change and Nutrition Integration Initiative (GCAN) works with USAID headquarters, field missions, and partners to enhance understanding of the linkages between climate, gender, and nutrition for increased resilience, women’s empowerment and improved nutrition.

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