

Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program

Ten Years in the Making



Elizabeth Whelan



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The Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program is a memorial to the late Representative Mickey Leland, who led the fight against hunger in the U.S. Congress from 1979–1989 and died during a famine relief mission in Ethiopia.



The Leland Fellows Program

The mission of the Leland Fellows Program is to develop leaders committed to finding innovative and lasting solutions to hunger and food insecurity worldwide. This unique two-year program begins with a one-year field placement in a developing country in Africa, Asia, or Latin America. Fellows spend the second year in a policy environment, applying what they learned in the field to help inform the development of sound organizational and governmental food security policies. Fellows are placed with international and local NGOs, U.S. government development agencies, multi-lateral organizations, and private sector entities that are key players

in the fight to end hunger and poverty. These talented individuals work in a variety of program areas including agriculture, health and nutrition, school meals, emergency response, and economic development.

Modeled after the highly successful Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program, the Congressional Hunger Center welcomed its first class of Leland Fellows in 2001. During its 10-year history, the Leland Program has developed a growing community of anti-hunger leaders, providing them with the essential training and experience necessary to develop effective solutions to hunger and poverty worldwide.

“What I got out of the Fellowship Program is the confidence to believe in myself as a leader and to believe in others as leaders... An investment in dynamic leaders is not just a contributing factor in the fight AGAINST poverty... but in a movement FOR human progress.”

YODIT BEYENE,
3RD CLASS FELLOW



Erica Holzaepfel, 5th Class Leland Fellow, on a field site visit to Mali

CHC has contracted Innovation Network to conduct a ten year evaluation of the Mickey Leland International Fellowship Program. The evaluation covers the ten year history of the fellowship program, from its initiation in 2001 through the completion of the fifth class in 2011. The findings will be disseminated in April 2012.

Program Achievements

Leland Alumni Continue to Work for Food Security

Nearly all Leland Alumni continue to work on food security issues in both the public and private sectors and are being hired in increasing numbers to work for international development agencies of the United States government, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). Leland Alumni are making lasting contributions in the fight against hunger as they work to reduce poverty and injustice worldwide.

Leland Alumni currently serve as directors, specialists, advisors, and program officers at various international NGOs and community-based organizations including Mercy Corps, Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children, World Vision International, International Relief and Development, and Mothers 2 Mothers. Leland Fellows and Leland Alumni work at United Nations agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Food Program (WFP). Leland Alumni are currently responding to food security emergencies all over the world, including in the Horn of Africa.



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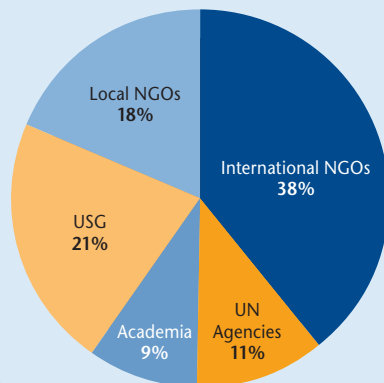
"[The Leland Fellow's] performance has certainly put Land O'Lakes on the map as a quality designer and implementer of programs that make use of and focus on livestock. We wanted someone to do some work for us, and what we actually got was a highly skilled livestock expert who changed the way we thought about our programs."

MARA RUSSELL, PROGRAM MANAGER, FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS, LAND O'LAKES, INC.; THREE-TIME LELAND FELLOW SUPERVISOR

The Leland Fellowship Adds Value to the Global Food Security Movement

During the Fellowship, Leland Fellows make a significant contribution to their host organization's capacity to work effectively. The Fellows are highly qualified professionals who come to the program with skills and expertise in a wide variety of areas. They help manage and implement projects and new initiatives, monitor and evaluate programs, and conduct field and policy research. In this way, Leland Fellows are able to enhance development programs and build the capacity of their host organization to meet community needs.

97% of Leland Alumni Continue to Fight Hunger In a Variety of Sectors



"For me the fellowship experience was enriching because it brought together both field and policy aspects of development work. By integrating these two components, the fellowship allowed me a more holistic understanding of development, agriculture, and food security."

CURAN BONHAM,
5TH CLASS FELLOW



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The Leland Fellowship Gives Fellows the Tools to be Effective Leaders

Written testimony from Leland Alumni consistently reflects a high degree of satisfaction with their fellowship experience and the positive impact it has had on their ability to become effective members of the anti-hunger community. The Leland Program provides participants with intensive trainings, professional development opportunities, and the space to share resources

and expertise. By encouraging a participatory, holistic, and multi-sectoral view of international development, the Leland Program challenges fellows to think critically about solutions and approaches to fighting hunger. Fellows leave the program with a greater appreciation and understanding of the roles of field and policy work in addressing food security issues. As they build on their experience, fellows continue to rely on the connections they make during the fellowship to enhance their careers as anti-hunger leaders.

5th Class Leland Fellows meet with CHC Board co-Chair, Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA), during Policy Training in 2010



"The fellowship helped me better understand how individuals and families directly experience hunger and poverty. By working alongside communities in a developing country to find solutions, I was also able to better understand resiliency and coping mechanisms. I felt fortunate to advocate with and on behalf of those communities, influencing various national and international policies which impact hunger. The public policy work provided me with important skills around networking, coalition-building, and communications."

AMANDA RIVES ARGENAL, 3RD CLASS FELLOW

3rd Class Leland Fellow, Sylvie Doutriaux, with Mercy Corps in Mongolia



Moving Forward

Launched in 2001, the Leland Fellows Program has successfully completed five two-year fellowship cycles and has evolved into an established and well-regarded fellowship. With each cycle, the number of applications submitted by individuals seeking to become a Leland Fellow and organizations seeking to host a fellow has grown. To mark its first ten years, the Leland

Fellows Program contracted an external evaluator to assess the program's strengths and successes and identify areas for improvement. CHC looks forward to using the findings from this evaluation to refine the program in ways that better advise our goal of building a strong and growing network of global anti-hunger leaders.

"My experience as a Leland Fellow has opened professional doorways and supported my personal and professional growth in new, exciting directions. I have learned skills that enable me to create strategies and build campaigns that advocate for real change."

LINDSAY DOZORETZ,
5TH CLASS FELLOW



Sonny Odom

Tammy Palmer, 1st Class Leland Fellow, was honored in 2011 as a CHC Leland Alumni Leader. USAID Administrator, Dr. Rajiv Shah, and Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) presented the award.



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Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program Map 1994–2011

■ 2011–2012 Mickey Leland Fellows' Field Sites

*Current field site host organization

Leland International Field Partners

Bangladesh

Helen Keller International
Land O' Lakes
Save the Children*
UN World Food Program
World Bank

Benin

Catholic Relief Services

Bolivia

Adventist Development and Relief Agency
Bioversity International (formerly IPGRI)
PROINPA
Save the Children
World Food Program

Brazil

National Foundation for Education and Development

Cambodia

Helen Keller International*
PACT
UN World Food Program*

Chad

Catholic Relief Services

Chile

UN Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO)

Costa Rica

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

El Salvador

FUNDE
SHARE Foundation
World Vision International*

Ethiopia

Action Against Hunger
IFPRI
Land O'Lakes
Mercy Corps*
Save the Children
UN World Food Program
USAID, Office of Food for Peace
USAID, Office of Health, Population and Nutrition

Ghana

UNFAO
World Cocoa Foundation*

Guatemala

Counterpart International
UN World Food Program*

Haiti

Meds and Food for Kids*
Partners and Health

Honduras

Christian Children's Fund

India

Akshaya Patra Foundation
Bioversity International

Indonesia

International Land Coalition
Land O' Lakes
Mercy Corps*

Kenya

AMREF
Catholic Relief Services
International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications
Land O'Lakes
PACT
World Agroforestry Center*

Laos

World Food Program

Malawi

CARE
United Nations Development Program
World Food Program

Mali

Catholic Relief Services
Helen Keller International
Millennium Challenge Corporation

Mexico

CIMMYT
The News

Mongolia

Mercy Corps

Morocco

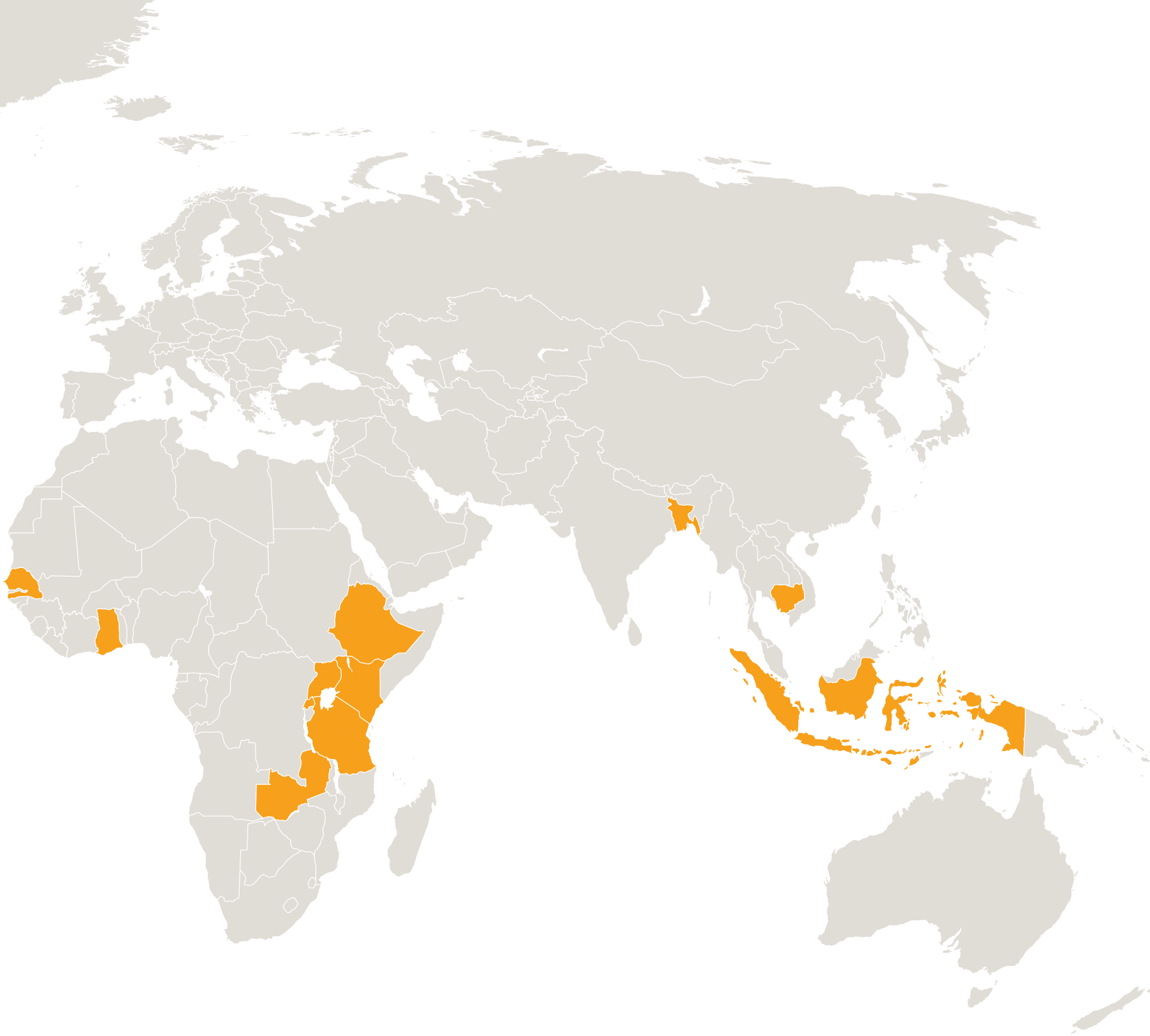
Management Systems International

Niger

International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics

Peru

Peruvian Center for Social Study (CEPES)



Rwanda

Action Aid*

Senegal

Counterpart International
Helen Keller International
Oxfam America*

South Africa

Africare
Afristar Foundation
Association for Rural Advancement
UN World Food Program

Sudan

Catholic Relief Services

Tanzania

Land O'Lakes*

Uganda

AGHA
International Food Policy Research
Institute*
Physicians for Human Rights
Save the Children
Uganda Land Alliance
UN World Food Program
USAID

Washington, D.C.

Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty
in Africa

Zambia

Christian Children's Fund
Concern Worldwide*



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Leland Fellows work toward creating a
food secure world for all.



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