

USAID-FUNDED JOHN OGWONSKI AND DOUG BEREUTER FARMER-TO-FARMER (F2F) PROGRAM: SOUTHERN AFRICA & MOLDOVA

General FAQs

What is F2F?

- F2F provides technical assistance to farmers, farm groups, agribusinesses and other agriculture sector institutions in developing and transitional countries to promote sustainable improvements in food security and agricultural processing, production, and marketing.
- The main goal of the program is to generate sustainable, broad-based economic growth in the agricultural sector through voluntary technical assistance. A secondary goal is to increase the U.S. public's understanding of international development issues and programs.
- CNFA implements F2F in Madagascar, Malawi, Moldova, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

How is F2F funded?

- The F2F Program was initially authorized by Congress in the 1985 Farm Bill and funded through Title V of Public Law 480. The program, designated as the "John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program," continues to be funded through the U.S. Farm Bill, administered by USAID, and implemented by U.S.-based NGOs.

Who qualifies as a volunteer?

- Volunteering opportunities are open to U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents. Volunteers need to have expertise and skills that are relevant to a particular assignment and must be willing to offer their time and expertise to building the capacity of host organizations in the CNFA F2F countries.

What types of volunteer assignments are available?

- In-person: In an in-person assignment, the US volunteer travels to one of our six focal countries, and performs hands on work with the host, providing suggestions and recommendations to improve their livelihoods and outcomes. Paired: In a paired assignment, the US volunteer is paired with a local, qualified volunteer from one of our six focal host countries. Before working with the host organization, the two volunteers collaborate on training materials and methods. The local volunteer performs hands on work with the host and provides progress updates to the US volunteer.

How long are F2F assignments, and what are transportation and accommodations like for a typical assignment?

- Assignments vary in length, but typically range from two to four weeks. For a typical assignment, travel, meals and lodging are paid for and organized by CNFA.

Will there be a translator while I am on assignment?

- If there is a need to a translator for the assignment, our field office teams will have arranged to have one available to you once you are in country.

What is expected of me after I complete my assignment?

- Volunteers are expected to submit two reports detailing their activities and to participate in debriefing sessions in the host country and the U.S.-based HQ team. Additional documents are required for assignments involving pesticides. Volunteers are also encouraged to participate in outreach programs in both the U.S. and host country. You will also need to track any additional outreach activities and/or time spent on further supporting the host from the U.S.

What are the required areas of expertise?

- Required areas of expertise are diverse, ranging from production agriculture, business and organizational management, to finance and communications, among others. The project focuses on the following value



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chains: horticulture, legumes, aquaculture, livestock/dairy, rice, organic agriculture, poultry and sub-sector services.

Travel Related FAQs

Does CNFA cover travel costs, including insurance, while I am traveling on my assignment?

- Yes, while volunteers are on assignment with CNFA implementing F2F activities, CNFA will cover their full trip from the agreed upon start and end date. This includes a fixed per diem, economy flights and other allowable expenses. CNFA uses AIG International as its insurance provider for medical and security evacuation assistance for all CNFA volunteers. Further information on these will be provided in more detail upon selection. Volunteers are **not** covered under CNFA's insurance during **personal** travel. It is highly recommended volunteers purchase their own travel insurance if they choose to carry out further travels. This can be discussed in further detail upon selection.
- CNFA policy stipulates that all volunteers be covered by a valid medical insurance policy, valid throughout at least the month following the assignment. When selected for an assignment, volunteers must provide medical insurance information upon request.

Can I volunteer for F2F from another country, or do I have to be based in the United States or a Territory to be considered for Farmer-to-Farmer program?

- CNFA can accommodate travel from another country as long the volunteer is a U.S. Citizen or a Permanent Resident.

Will CNFA require all volunteers to be vaccinated against COVID-19?

- Yes, according to [Executive Order EO 14042](#), CNFA, as a F2F implementer, requires COVID-19 safeguards such as vaccines to protect volunteers and host communities while on assignment.

Does CNFA cover the cost of getting a vaccine required to travel to my assignment country?

- CNFA F2F will reimburse the cost of certain vaccinations recommended in the CDC website. More information will be provided by our team upon selection.

Can family members or friends accompany volunteers on their assignments?

- No, family members or friends are not allowed to accompany volunteers while they are on assignment. They are, however, allowed to join the volunteer before or after the assignment. For travel before or after the assignment dates, F2F will not cover any costs or provide insurance to the volunteer, friend or family member. It is the responsibility of the volunteer to acknowledge these conditions and plan accordingly if they choose to bring along any additional travelers.

What safety and security measures does CNFA put in place for volunteers?

- CNFA provides assistance should a volunteer need to be evacuated in the event of natural disasters, wars, civil unrest, etc. CNFA also monitors the security situation in all countries where staff and volunteers are working and consults with multiple risk management and security providers, including CNFA's insurance provider, AIG International, for medical and security evacuation assistance.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the F2F Program?

- Although in-person assignments were paused in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. volunteers can currently travel to all six of our focal countries to conduct in-person assignments. Our field office teams and HQ staff actively monitor COVID-19 cases globally to ensure the safety of our volunteers while they are on assignment.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, CNFA introduced paired assignments, where a U.S. volunteer works virtually with a local volunteer who conducts field activities in-country. Together, the two design the assignment and develop recommendations for the host organization. If internet connection allows, the U.S. volunteer can also conduct some of the trainings.



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