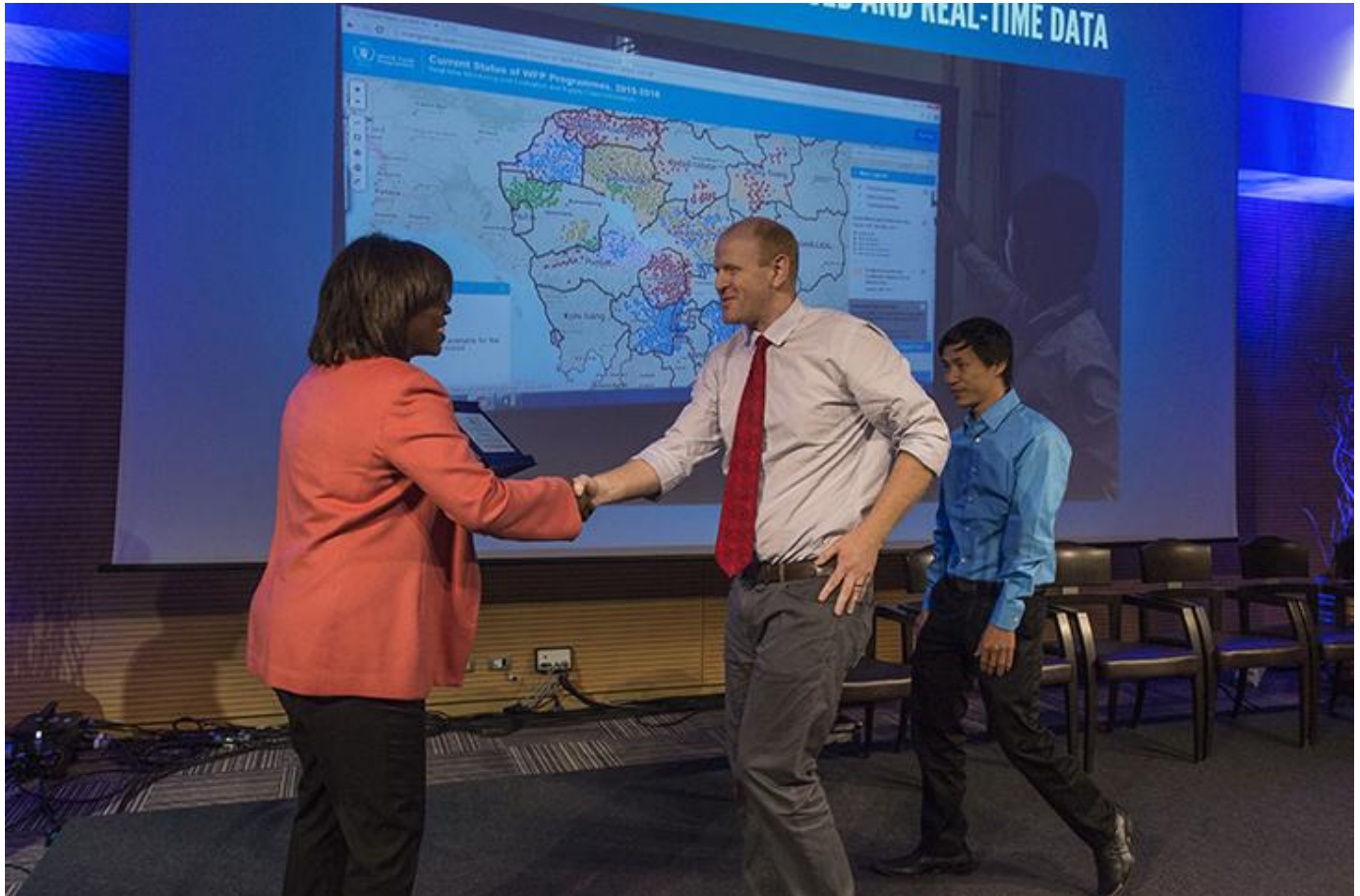


Alumnus receives innovation award for work in Cambodia

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fsimon@tulane.edu



Ertharin Cousin, left, executive director of World Food Programme, presents an Innovation Challenge Award to Tulane alumnus Jonathan Rivers, center, and Kimheang Cheng of the Cambodia Country Office at an awards ceremony in Rome. (Photo from the WFP)

Jonathan Rivers, a Tulane University alumnus who is working with the U.N. [World Food Programme](#), received an innovation award for his work in the WFP Cambodia Country Office.

Along with colleagues in Malawi, Pakistan and Uganda, Rivers was recognized for success in introducing new ways of working that are improving WFP's operations around the world.

The Cambodia Country Office team developed a system that combines different sources of real-time data via mobile phone. It supports decision-making by providing a real-time overview of

logistical, program and monitoring/evaluation information.

Field monitors collect their information with their mobile phones and these data are then displayed on an interactive map based on Google Maps. Program managers receive alerts by text message or emails if there are any issues that may impact the successful implementation of WFP's program.

"[This] allows them to act quickly to resolve the issue," said Ertharin Cousin, executive director of World Food Programme. "The tool has helped to improve WFP Cambodia's operational response time, define priority needs and track the impact of our work on the ground."

Rivers received a PhD in international health from the Tulane School of Public Health in 2007, and he lives in Cambodia with his wife, Natalia Smith Allen, who received a master's of public health from Tulane in 2004.

The U.N. World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year, the WFP assists some 80 million people in about 80 countries.

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Ertharin Cousin, World Food Programme