Application Lab Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

IDEAL's Application Lab will convene a cohort of 15-20 field-based, emergency food security implementers who will delve into the shifting landscape of project participant targeting in the context of COVID-19.

Application Eligibility

Can multiple people from one organization or project apply for a slot in the Application Lab?
There are no restrictions in the number of applications per organization. We aim to have a cohort of 15-20 participants. Depending on the number of eligible applicants, we may limit the number of participants from one organization or project.

There are staff with different roles in the same project who are critical to project participant targeting. How can we best decide who should apply?
We recommend that the team member who makes decisions about targeting, understands the vulnerability criteria and methodology, can commit to participating in the live workshops, and can complete the homework should apply to participate in the Application Lab.

Can staff at HQ/regional offices that support an emergency project team apply?
Yes, staff from HQ/regional office can apply. However, priority will be given to direct implementation staff of emergency activities.

My project is not updating our project participant targeting, but I am interested in the Application Lab. Can I still participate?
This Application Lab is designed for implementers who are updating or have updated their beneficiary targeting as a result of new COVID-19-related vulnerabilities.

Does our project need to be funded by USAID in order to participate?
Not necessarily. This Application Lab is open to staff implementing emergency programs funded by USAID and other donors.

Our project already completed our adaptation. Can I still participate?
Yes! We are hoping to welcome a mix of cohort members who are at different stages of the adaptation process.

Time Commitment

How intensive is the Application Lab across the five weeks?
If it is a week that involves a workshop, prepare to commit 2-2.5 hours for the workshop. For weeks dedicated to homework, be prepared to spend around three hours.

What if I can't make it to one of the workshop dates?
We highly encourage participants to block off the dates of the workshops scheduled for November and December to avoid scheduling conflicts as much as possible. The true value of the Application Lab is from

participants learning from each other, so attendance is important. That said we understand that emergencies will arise and participants may have to miss a session. If that occurs, participants will be responsible for catching up on missed content.

Workshop Plan

Can you give me an idea about what the homework will be like?
Depending on the week, it will be a mix of small group sessions, resource review and curation, discussion with project team members, and preparation for the final showcase.

What support and resources are available between workshops?
IDEAL will share templates and discussion guides to support with homework completion. As questions arise, participants will be able to pose questions to the cohort or to IDEAL on an online forum, which IDEAL will moderate throughout the Application Lab timeframe.

Who is invited to the final showcase?
The final showcase is an opportunity to share your work—critical decisions made, lessons learned, and challenges encountered—with the broader food security community. The showcase will be open-to-all and advertised broadly through the FSN Network newsletter and other channels.

General

Is the Application Lab a certificate course?
The Application Lab is a cohort-based, peer-to-peer knowledge exchange opportunity. It is not a course and participants will **not** receive certificates upon completion. However, participants will have the opportunity to present their experiences of adapting their project's beneficiary targeting during the showcase at the end of the Application Lab.

What is the profile of the facilitators or organizers?
Team members from IDEAL's Cash, Voucher, and Food Learning Stream will organize and facilitate the workshops and conversations, but cohort members will be the experts in the room. The application lab is focused on peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and learning, to highlight the work of food security activities in-country. IDEAL's organizing team is comprised of emergency food security, monitoring & evaluation, knowledge management, communications, and learning professionals.

Is there any French session planned for future Application Labs?
If there is demand from the implementing partner community, IDEAL will consider doing future Application Labs in French.