



IDEAL Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Brief

What is IDEAL?

The Implementer-Led Design, Evidence, Analysis and Learning (IDEAL) Activity supports the United States Government's goal of improving food and nutrition security among the world's most vulnerable households and communities. IDEAL addresses knowledge and capacity gaps expressed by the food and nutrition security implementing community to support them in the design and implementation of effective emergency and non-emergency activities.

IDEAL addresses the needs of its stakeholders through four pathways:

- Capacity Strengthening
- Peer-to-Peer Learning
- Small Grants Program
- Stakeholder Consultations

Learn more in our 2-page brief, available to download here: www.fsnnetwork.org/IDEAL

Who is implementing IDEAL?

Save the Children is the lead agency implementing IDEAL together with consortium partners the Kaizen Company, Mercy Corps, and TANGO International.

Can IDEAL work with other organizations besides the implementers mentioned above?

Yes, IDEAL exists to the benefit of all organizations implementing food security and nutrition programming—both emergency and non-emergency. IDEAL not only engages with activities funded by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) but also those funded through other mechanisms.

What are examples of how I/my organization can benefit from IDEAL?

- Apply for funding through [IDEAL's Small Grants Program](#)
- Learn from and collaborate with other food security and nutrition implementers by attending our topic-specific learning events, knowledge sharing meetings, webinars, and other events
- [Make an account](#) on the FSN Network website to share your organization's work and experiences by submitting resources, events, and news

How can I/my organization stay up to date with IDEAL activities?

You can stay up to date on IDEAL activities by visiting the [FSN Network website](#), following us on [Twitter](#), and subscribing to the [FSN Network Newsletter](#).

Where does IDEAL operate?

IDEAL is a global initiative, interested in working with activities in all countries that currently have emergency and non-emergency food security programming. Our primary focus is USAID BHA-funded activities, but we also work with activities funded by other donor entities. IDEAL's staff is primarily based in Washington, DC, USA and has a regional facilitator based in Nairobi, Kenya.

How can I benefit from the IDEAL regional facilitator in my region?

Contact our IDEAL regional facilitator below to inquire about potential learning events in your region and opportunities to receive organizational capacity strengthening:

James Akai, East & Southern Africa Regional Facilitator: jakai@mercycorps.org

Don't have a regional facilitator in your region? Engage with us by contacting IDEAL directly at info@fsnnetwork.org or visit us at www.fsnnetwork.org for sector-specific events, resources, and updates.

Are there any associate awards under IDEAL?

Yes, the **Implementer-led Evaluation & Learning (IMPEL) Associate Award** and the **Program Cycle Support (PCS) Associate Award**.

The Implementer-Led Evaluation and Learning (IMPEL) Associate Award works to improve the design and implementation of the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance-funded resilience food security activities (RFSAs) through evaluations and knowledge sharing. Funded by the USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, IMPEL gathers information and knowledge in order to measure the performance of RFSAs, strengthen accountability, and improve guidance and policy. IMPEL is led by Save the Children and implemented by a consortium that includes Tulane University and TANGO International.

You can learn more at: <https://www.fsnnetwork.org/IMPEL>

The Program Cycle Support (PCS) Associate Award supports implementing partners (IPs) to design and implement evidence-based, effective, and efficient activities that result in substantial and sustainable food and nutrition security gains. Funded by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and led by Save the Children, PCS collaborates with BHA staff, USAID Mission staff, other food security support mechanisms, and IPs to provide facilitation and capacity strengthening support at key points during the lifecycle of BHA-funded resilience food security activities (RFSAs). One of those key points is the Refine and Implement (R&I) year, when PCS supports the preparation for and facilitation of events such as the Inception and Culmination Workshops.

You can learn more at: <https://www.fsnnetwork.org/PCS>

How is IDEAL different from TOPS?

While TOPS had sector-specific task forces and staff specialized in certain technical areas (i.e., agriculture, nutrition, social and behavior change), IDEAL will focus on so called Content Focus Areas, which have been identified as critical for improving the quality of food security programming. IDEAL also aims to institutionalize capacity building as a discipline within IPs and works with both emergency and non-emergency food securities activities.

What are PRO-WASH, SCALE, and REAL? How do they work with IDEAL?

PRO-WASH and SCALE are five-year associate awards (2018-2023) funded by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). PRO-WASH works to strengthen WASH programming within BHA-funded activities while SCALE supports agriculture, natural resource management, and alternative livelihoods

programming within BHA-funded activities. REAL is a five-year associate award (2016-2021) funded by the USAID Center for Resilience. REAL provides rigorous analysis, relevant knowledge, and applicable guidance on best practices for resilience measurement, program design and implementation.

IDEAL collaborates with PRO-WASH, SCALE, and REAL on learning events, resources, and capacity strengthening activities to better serve the food security and nutrition community.

Have more questions?

Email us at info@fsnnetwork.org with your questions and we would be more than happy to respond.