

Gender and Youth Activity



Photo Credit: Joseph Raouf

WHAT IS GAYA?

The Gender and Youth Activity (GAYA*) Associate Award works to improve the quality and impact of emergency and non-emergency food security and resilience activities by addressing the barriers and challenges implementing partners face when integrating gender and youth within their work. Understanding and meeting the unique and intersectional needs of women and youth across their life-span and addressing the root causes of inequalities are essential to achieve broad and equitable impacts in food and nutrition security.

GAYA supports partners implementing both emergency and early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience programs. GAYA is awarded through the Implementer-Led Design, Evidence, Analysis and Learning (IDEAL) Leader with Associate Awards Activity.

QUICK INFO

FUNDER:

USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)

DURATION:

Five years (2021-2026)

IMPLEMENTERS:

Mercy Corps, Save the Children

HOW DOES GAYA WORK?

GAYA incorporates the following principles throughout our activities:

1

Collaboration

GAYA puts the interests, voices, intersectional identities, and unique experiences of people of all genders and ages at the center of our work. GAYA does this by closely collaborating with implementing partners to understand the crucial capacity, knowledge, and practice gaps of implementers to inform GAYA's activities.

2

Amplification

GAYA works as a technical partner to cultivate an environment of knowledge sharing between implementing teams and the broader community. To do this, GAYA leverages existing networks and platforms to highlight the experiences of implementing partners to a broader audience and creates linkages between implementers to facilitate sharing good practices and resources.

3

Action-Oriented

Working closely with implementers to understand key barriers to program design and implementation, GAYA provides practical and grounded support to address identified gaps in the implementation of gender and youth inclusive programming. We develop solutions in consultation with implementers.

4

Inclusion

GAYA prioritizes inclusion through both who we target and how we implement activities. GAYA works to foster a culture of intentional analysis to target the most marginalized and supports implementers to apply those analyses to program design and implementation. GAYA also works to challenge power hierarchies by incorporating inclusive learning methods.

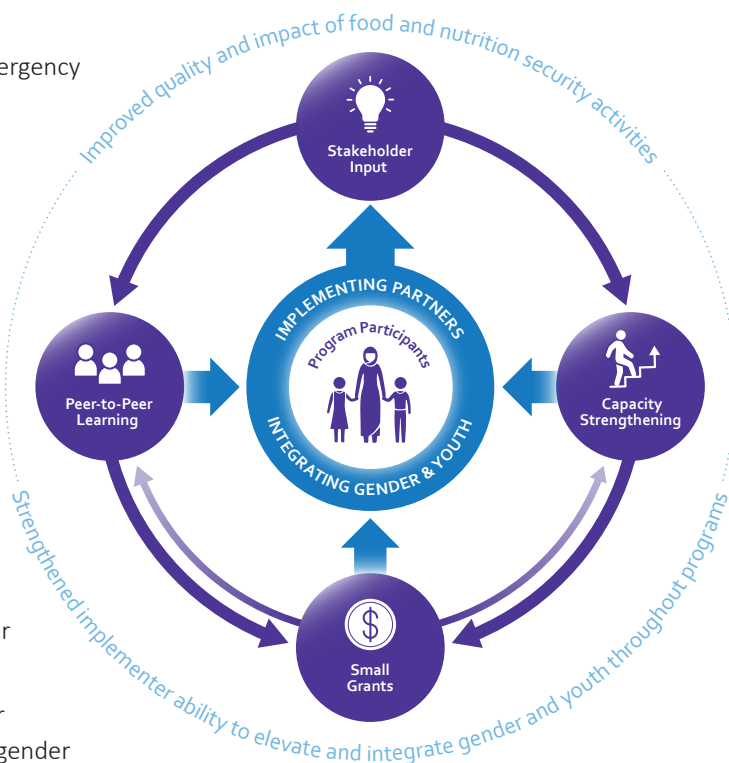


Photo Credit: Jordi Matas / Save the Children

WHAT CAN GAYA DO FOR YOU?

These four principles drive GAYA's activities to support emergency and non-emergency food security-focused implementing partners in three key ways:

1. **Peer-to-peer learning:** We facilitate spaces for implementers to share learning, discuss challenges, and problem-solve together around gender and youth integration. This includes:
 - a. Engaging with **existing communities of practice** as a means of collaboration across activities and amplification of existing knowledge.
 - b. Creating, when necessary, **new knowledge groups or peer communities** to meet needs identified in collaboration with implementing partners. This includes close collaboration with other BHA-funded activities, including the other Associate Awards awarded through IDEAL.
2. **Capacity strengthening:** We provide opportunities for implementers to strengthen their skills for improving gender and youth integration practices.
 - a. GAYA co-hosts **gender consultations** with Resilience Food Security Activities (RFSAs) to strengthen staff capacity to implement gender and youth analyses and develop action plans. These are highly collaborative and participatory sessions that draw on the combined experience of implementers and local partners.
 - b. GAYA acts as **a technical resource** for implementers to bring gender analyses and Positive Youth Development frameworks from theory to practice. GAYA amplifies existing knowledge and resources to help make these theories actionable.
 - c. GAYA will develop **learning series** through groups of events and/or products to address critical priorities identified in collaboration with implementers, such as rapid gender and youth analyses or Positive Youth Development integration.
3. **Small grants:** Beginning in 2023, GAYA will invite applications for small grants. These small grants will support GAYA's effort to reinforce the sustainable application of good practices, support knowledge gaps, conduct research, and overall contribute to the body of evidence on effective integration of gender, youth, and other intersecting identities into food and nutrition security programming in emergency, early recovery, risk reduction and resilience contexts.



Learn more!
www.fsnnetwork.org/gaya

Contact us!
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