



USAID
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Multi-Year Emergency Food Security Activities Desk Review

CONTRACTOR SCOPE OF WORK

Hiring Organization: Save the Children

Location: US

Background & Context

IDEAL (Implementer-Led Design, Evidence, Analysis, and Learning) is an activity funded by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) that works to support 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 food security activities.

The past decades have seen a rise in the number and length of recurrent and protracted crises. Severe weather-related emergencies are becoming more frequent, while conflict-driven crises now last an average of nine years. As a result, humanitarian operations have grown in volume, cost, and duration. Meanwhile there has long been recognition that recurrent and protracted crisis contexts still provide opportunities for strengthening local systems, resilience capacities, and human and social capital.

In recognition of these challenges and opportunities, BHA and other donors regularly integrate multi-year activities into recurrent and protracted crisis settings, in line with the Grand Bargain commitments on enhanced quality funding. This change to incorporate longer-term, multi-year planning and funding can support greater linkages between [humanitarian, development, and peace programming](#) that are fundamental to reducing humanitarian needs.

The shift to multi-year humanitarian funding is a key component to enhanced quality funding and improved implementation in protracted responses, and there is a growing body of research that remains primarily focused on increasing the proportion of multi-year emergency activities. Donors, and all stakeholders, recognize and have confirmed the importance of multi-year activities.

Instead of focusing on the importance of increasing multi-year programming, this requested desk review will focus on best and promising practices, contextual factors, and recommendations that can improve the effectiveness of multi-year programming. By consolidating findings and lessons learned from available articles and scholarly research on multi-year emergency activities, the desk review will highlight potential behaviors and processes that can be followed in future multi-year activities.

The desk review report resulting from this consultancy will consolidate information from existing research that will provide a component of a more detailed report that will be written by IDEAL's technical experts. In addition to this desk review, IDEAL will be conducting original qualitative research focused on specific examples and recent USAID/BHA projects to further develop the research and respond to the research questions, resulting in a report on the topic. The final report prepared by IDEAL will use KIs and in-depth qualitative research methods to further identify best and promising practices, recommendations, and obstacles and challenges related to multi-year activities.

Objectives and Scope of the Requested Consultancy

Save the Children seeks a consultant to conduct a desk review of available studies (including published and any available internal studies) to identify best and promising practices at all phases of multi-year humanitarian activity implementation:

- This desk review will draw on the existing body of research related to multi-year humanitarian programming from USAID, BPRM, as well as other international donors to highlight best and promising practices, obstacles to implementation, and practical recommendations for implementing organizations.
- The desk review will include recommendations for implementing partners throughout the multi-year activity, from startup through implementation.
- This desk review will focus, wherever possible, on food security programming due to its strategic importance and to limit the scope of the desk review.
- This report will not continue to build evidence for increasing multi-year funding. Instead, the report will focus on how to increase the effectiveness of multi-year activity implementation.

Timeline, Activities, and Deliverables

Timeframe	Activity	Deliverable	Estimated LOE
April – June, 2023	Desk review activity conducted, relevant research identified, research questions defined, submitted, and agreed with SCUS.	Completed research questions	5 days
June - July 2023	Draft report completed by the end of July. IDEAL team will input comments for the final deliverable to be completed 1 st September.	Completed desk review report	25 days
TOTAL ESTIMATED LOE			30 days

Individual consultants and consulting firms are both encouraged to apply. Prior experience with reports relating specifically to multi-year activities and USAID/BHA-related reporting experience is required from any applicant. Applicants can be based anywhere, and the entire desk review process can be conducted remotely. We do not anticipate any travel.

Contractor Competencies

- Experience carrying out studies or research directly related to the analysis of multi-year activities.
- Experience related to USAID/BHA projects, USAID/BHA implementing partners, or proven extensive knowledge of USAID/BHA is a requirement for the consultancy.
- Significant experience with quantitative and qualitative assessment methodologies and desk reviews.

- Experience related to reports or research on food security programming.
- Experience working with USAID/BHA funded programs or more broadly programming supporting food security and livelihoods for the most vulnerable in crisis recovery contexts.
- Possess strong writing skills, be able to communicate clearly, concisely, and in plain language.
- All deliverables will be in English.

Proposal Requirements

The proposal should include:

- A technical proposal detailing how the desk review will be conducted, including draft research questions and a report outline. This should include at minimum:
 - The research team (CVs)
 - A work plan, including appropriate time for feedback, review, and revision
 - Contractor competencies against the criteria above
 - Example or examples of relevant work
- A financial proposal

Deliverable Requirements

- Selected consultant(s) must use the appropriate IDEAL template and IDEAL Style Guide, which will be shared immediately following signed contract.
 - Must add alt-text for any images, including graphs and figures
 - Must include a summary for tables and ensure all table header rows are repeated
- Additional requirements include:
 - Citations follow APA format
 - A references page at the end of report
 - All sourced cited in the report correspond to references page
 - Report drafts contain no obvious spelling, usage, or grammar errors

Please submit complete proposals to [Bjorn Betzler](#), Emergency Food Security Advisor, IDEAL, on or before May 29, 2023.