



# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Brief

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## 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 development and 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](http://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 development-focused. 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
- Receive organizational capacity strengthening (for example, attending a Theory of Change Training of Trainers Workshop)
- Share your organization's work and experiences by submitting resources, events, and news to the [FSN Network](#)

## 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 development and 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 two regional facilitators based in Nairobi, Kenya and Dakar, Senegal.

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

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

- Salomon Matchoudo, West & Central Africa Regional Facilitator: [smatchoudo@savechildren.org](mailto:smatchoudo@savechildren.org)
- James Akai, East & Southern Africa Regional Facilitator: [jakai@mercycorps.org](mailto:jakai@mercycorps.org)

Don't have a regional facilitator in your region? Engage with us by contacting IDEAL directly at [info@fsnnetwork.org](mailto:info@fsnnetwork.org) or visit us at [www.fsnnetwork.org](http://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 under IDEAL is a two-year activity (2019-2021) implemented by Save the Children (lead), TANGO International, and Tulane University. IMPEL works to improve the design and implementation of BHA-funded DFSAs through implementer-led evaluations and knowledge sharing, greater involvement of the food security implementing community, and increased utilization of evaluation findings. So far, IMPEL has supported evaluation activities in Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Haiti, DRC, Malawi, Niger, and Burkina Faso.

## 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 development and 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 off-farm 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](mailto:info@fsnnetwork.org) with your questions and we would be more than happy to respond.