

IDEAL – Implementer-led Design, Evidence, Analysis & Learning

What is IDEAL?

IDEAL is an activity funded by the USAID Office of Food for Peace (FFP) 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 **development and emergency food security activities**.



Photo: Save the Children

What can IDEAL do for its stakeholders?

IDEAL aims to be a problem solver that answers to the needs of its stakeholders through four pathways:

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

Provide implementing partners (IPs) with tools and approaches to assess and develop their own capacity and strengthen the capacity of their local partners. Activities also include Theory of Change development and review, virtual office hours, resource curation, facilitator training, and more.

PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

Create dynamic and participatory learning opportunities through activities such as knowledge sharing meetings, thematic groups, communities of practice (CoPs), and an enhanced online resource library. The aim is to establish sustainable mechanisms that allow for implementation-focused learning.

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Support applied research, test innovative approaches, and strengthen knowledge management systems through small grants. Small grants will align with IDEAL's content focus areas, the FFP Learning Agenda, and IP-identified gaps and needs.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

IDEAL will create structured opportunities for implementing partners and the USAID Office of Food for Peace to directly engage with each other on critical issues to identify joint solutions and ways to support host countries together.

IDEAL Quick Facts

Duration: 5 years (FY2019–FY2024)

Consortium: Save the Children, The Kaizen Company, Mercy Corps, TANGO International

Key Stakeholders:

- FFP implementing partners (IPs)
- USAID/FFP staff in the field and at headquarters
- Private sector
- Host government representatives, policy makers
- Academia
- Other organizations and professionals engaged in food and nutrition security activities

How can stakeholders engage with IDEAL?

Keep up-to-date with IDEAL news and activities by subscribing to the FSN Newsletter; visit the FSN Network website to find tools and resources; join a community of practice; consider applying for a small grant; and most importantly, reach out to IDEAL and let us know what challenges your organization is facing around food security programming.

The IDEAL Design Framework

GOAL

STRENGTHEN FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AMONG FFP-TARGET POPULATIONS THROUGH PROMOTION OF SYSTEMS-LEVEL APPROACHES TO IMPROVING THE DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION AND OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF EMERGENCY AND DEVELOPMENT FOOD SECURITY ACTIVITIES

PURPOSE 1

IPs/COPs establish sustainable systems for strengthening their own capacity in essential elements of quality programming.

PURPOSE 2

IPs/COPs consistently develop, share and apply meaningful analysis for adaptive management of food security programs.

PURPOSE 3

IPs/COPs foster sustainable linkages among key stakeholders to improve collaboration, coordination, and efficient action around common goals.

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

- Strengthen IP capacity to assess and address capacity strengthening needs
- Engage context-specific expertise for capacity strengthening
- Improve access to quality tools and resources
- Strengthen cadre of IP field-level professionals

PEER-TO-PEER COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

- Create opportunities for experiential learning and knowledge exchange
- Facilitate virtual Communities of Practice through FSN Network and other digital platforms
- Support applied learning throughout the program cycle

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

- Empower field-level implementers to carry out research to inform common learning objectives
- Utilize small grants as catalysts for improved knowledge management systems

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

- Facilitate stakeholder consultation processes among a broad range of institutional actors to strengthen FFP programs and policies
- Promote a systems approach to adaptive management among Communities of Practice at multiple levels

CONTENT FOCUS AREAS

STRENGTHENING THE QUALITY AND IMPACT OF EMERGENCY PROGRAMMING

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS FOR IMPROVED PROGRAM DESIGN AND IMPACT

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND APPLICATION OF LEARNING

INTEGRATED ACTIVITY DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

SUSTAINABILITY AND PLANNING FOR EXIT

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE

EQUITY, EMPOWERMENT, COHESION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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