



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

Frequently Asked Questions (& Answers!)

What are the start and end dates of IDEAL?

IDEAL will implement activities in line with the USAID fiscal year (Oct-Sep) and be active from December 21, 2018 to September 30, 2023.

How is IDEAL funded and what is the budget?

IDEAL is funded by USAID’s Office of Food for Peace. The budget for the life of the award is \$30 million, with an overall ceiling of \$95 million to enable IDEAL to issue Associate Awards.

What is IDEAL’s mission?

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 activities.

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.

How is IDEAL different from TOPS?

While TOPS had sector-specific task forces and staff specialized in certain technical areas (agriculture, nutrition, social and behavior change, M&E, gender, and commodity management), IDEAL will address relevant sectors by strengthening and developing communities of practices, identifying and developing a cadre of expert trainers on topics of food security, and through topic- or activity-specific Associate Awards. IDEAL will work to institutionalize capacity building as a discipline within implementing partners.

TOPS focused exclusively on development food security activities, while IDEAL will focus on both the development and emergency sector.

TOPS hosted “Stakeholder Consultations” between implementers and USAID/FFP – will IDEAL do this too?

Yes! Stakeholder Consultations are one of the four key pathways through which IDEAL will work. IDEAL plans to pick up where TOPS left off to address key topics that are a priority to both FFP and the partner

community. In addition, there will be added consultations to ensure we also engage stakeholders—partners and donors—involved in emergency food security programming.

Will IDEAL offer small grants, like TOPS used to do?

Yes, IDEAL plans to issue the first request for applications (RFA) for comments later this spring. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and consortiums, which can include NGOs, their local partners, and/or other key stakeholders, will be eligible to apply. Stay tuned for updates.

What will happen with TOPS?

The TOPS Program was extended through an Associate Award called TOPS Bridge with the purpose to ensure a smooth transition of activities from TOPS to IDEAL. TOPS Bridge is scheduled to end on June 30, 2019.

Is IDEAL hiring?

Yes. All available positions are announced in the FSN Network News, [click here¹](#) to see previous issues and [click here²](#) to subscribe.

Who works on the IDEAL team?

Recruitment for the IDEAL team is currently ongoing. The final team will consist of approximately 20 professionals from the four consortium partner organizations. For the most part, the team will be located at Save the Children's offices at 899 North Capitol St. NE in Washington, DC. IDEAL will also have two regional facilitators based in Africa. Team members so far include:

- Penny Anderson, Director
- Sarah Titus, Deputy Director
- Luisa Angelsmith, Organizational Development Manager
- Lloyd Banwart, Monitoring, Evaluation & Research Advisor
- Stuart Belle, Strategic Learning & Capacity Development Advisor
- Karyn Fox, Qualitative Research & Resilience Specialist
- Kim Jurczyk, Communications Senior Coordinator
- Dasha Kosmynina, Award & Budget Management Associate Director
- Emily Marshall, Award Manager
- Gitau Mbure, Food Security Technical Advisor
- Austen Musso, Small Grants Manager
- Diana Picón, Senior Knowledge Management Advisor, Resilience
- Maja Persson, Communications & Knowledge Management Advisor
- Chris Riggs, Organizational Learning Specialist
- Siddarth Senthilkumaran, Program Associate
- Laurie Starr, Strategic Learning Advisor
- Elly Sukup, Food Security Technical Officer
- Camille Tacastacas, Knowledge Management Senior Specialist
- Laura Zillmer, Research Associate & M&E Specialist

¹ <https://www.fsnnetwork.org/newsletter-archive>

² <https://fsnnetwork.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=a23f987974825389bef89cd9d&id=07fe48de38>

What will happen with the FSN Network website and newsletter?

The [FSN Network website](#)³ will be IDEAL's online platform for communicating with stakeholders about upcoming events, news, resources, and more. IDEAL will work to improve the website in several ways, including ease of navigation, search function, resource library categories, and the overall look and feel. The resource library will be refined and expanded to include more resources that are relevant to the food security and nutrition community, including emergency practitioners.

The FSN Network website will also feature information about the IDEAL activity; there will not be a separate IDEAL website.

Will IDEAL organize knowledge sharing meetings and events?

Yes, IDEAL will organize knowledge sharing meetings, workshops and trainings for implementing partners and the wider food security and nutrition community, based on their input and expressed needs.

Where can I get news and information about IDEAL's activities and products?

Visit the FSN Network website and subscribe to the FSN Network Newsletter!

What is IDEAL planning to do in its first year?

During its first year, IDEAL will focus on collecting input from the implementing community on their priorities, challenges, and needs. This will help inform IDEAL's activities for the coming years. Stay tuned for opportunities to engage with IDEAL and provide your input. And if you have an idea for a workshop, tool, or other activity, please email us at info@fsnnetwork.org.

What are PRO-WASH, SCALE, and REAL and how will they work with IDEAL?

[PRO-WASH](#)⁴ (Practices, Research and Operations in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) and [SCALE](#)⁵ (Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture, Livelihoods, and Environment) are five-year Associate Awards (2018-2023) that are funded by USAID/FFP and focused on supporting the food security and nutrition implementing community within specific technical sectors. PRO-WASH works to strengthen WASH programming within FFP-funded activities and SCALE supports agriculture, natural resource management and off-farm livelihoods activities.

[REAL](#)⁶ (Resilience Evaluation, Analysis and Learning) is a five-year 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.

³ <http://www.fsnnetwork.org/>

⁴ www.fsnnetwork.org/PRO-WASH

⁵ www.fsnnetwork.org/SCALE

⁶ www.fsnnetwork.org/REAL

IDEAL will collaborate and coordinate with these Associate Awards where it makes sense to better support the implementing community.

Did we not answer your question?

Please reach out to us at info@fsnnetwork.org

This FAQ brief is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of the Implementer-led Design, Evidence, Analysis and Learning (IDEAL) Activity and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.