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Announcing IDEAL

The **Implementer-Led Design, Evidence, Analysis and Learning (IDEAL)** Activity was formally issued at the end of 2018 and is now in full swing planning for its first program year. IDEAL is a five-year Leader with Associate Award, funded by USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) and implemented by a consortium of four partner organizations (Save the Children, the Kaizen Company, Mercy Corps, and TANGO International).

IDEAL's mission is to support the United States Government's goal of improving food and nutrition security among the world's most vulnerable households and communities, by addressing knowledge and capacity gaps expressed by the implementing community in designing and implementing effective development and emergency activities.

In this special issue you can learn more about IDEAL and how you can engage with this activity moving forward. We look forward to hearing from you!

Letter from Penny Anderson, Director, IDEAL

My first introduction to food security and USAID/Food for Peace-funded activities was in Kosovo twenty years ago when I became an Emergency Program Officer right out of graduate school, managing a food aid program in the municipality of Istog. I realized how much I had to learn about the context of our beneficiary communities and about best practices in implementing a quality program that achieved real results. Luckily, I was surrounded by talented colleagues, in my own and other agencies, who had on-the-ground experience working with communities. They provided me with tools and guidance to get the job done.

The connections and cross-learnings among colleagues, agencies, and communities are at the core of IDEAL. We're animated by the idea that many of the teams currently working in emergency and development settings have figured out effective tools for assessment and measurement, have identified mechanisms for understanding community priorities and raising community voices, and have seen how integrated programs allow different activities to build on each other for improved impact and sustainability.

We are also aware that the connections between these teams and other members of the implementing

exchange that we know is critical for continuous improvement.

IDEAL is implementer-led. This means that we will spend a lot of time listening to what you, as implementers, need in your work with vulnerable communities around the world. We are keen to hear about the challenges you face and your priorities, so that we can provide the best support, be it through linkages with a community of practice, a stakeholder consultation, a training, a new tool, or something else.

Throughout my career, from Kosovo to Washington, DC, via Albania, Indonesia, Afghanistan, and Liberia, I have been impressed by the insights of my colleagues who have brought creativity and discipline to bear on identifying and tackling the root causes of hunger. I am convinced that we can do better when we work together and I can't wait to connect with you in the coming weeks and months. I am honored and excited to lead the IDEAL team and work with you all to advance both immediate and systems-level change in food security.



Penny being presented with a chicken and kola nuts by a community in Lofa County, Liberia

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at panderson@savechildren.org.

Warm regards,

Penny

How to connect with IDEAL

- [Subscribe to the FSN Newsletter](#) (current TOPS subscribers will maintain their subscriptions)
- Visit the [FSN Network Website](#)
- Contact us at info@fsnnetwork.org

And soon...

- Look out for a launch event or webinar
- Join a Community of Practice
- Apply for a Small Grant

Materials

Learn more about IDEAL in our [two-pager](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) brief!



If you are not already on our e-mail list, sign-up [here](#). We welcome news of events, tools, trainings, country updates and other content from the broad FSN Network community. Please send any suggested content to news@fsnnetwork.org.

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and Learning (IDEAL) Activity and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.



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