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IDEAL

Orientation to IDEAL's Applied Research Award RFA

September 1, 2020

Meet our Presenters



Kirsten Tanifum
Senior Small Grants
Coordinator
IDEAL



Karen Romano
Activity Director
IDEAL



Austen Musso
Small Grants Manager
IDEAL



Joan Whelan
Senior Learning
Advisor
USAID/BHA



Agenda

1. Introduction to IDEAL
2. IDEAL Small Grants Program Metrics
3. Applied Research Award RFA Highlights
4. Food Security Learning Agenda and Strategic Integration
5. Question and Answer Session



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Funded by: USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance

Duration: 5 years (2018-2023)

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

Goal: Improved overall effectiveness of BHA-funded development and emergency food security activities



Peer-to-Peer
Learning



Capacity
Strengthening



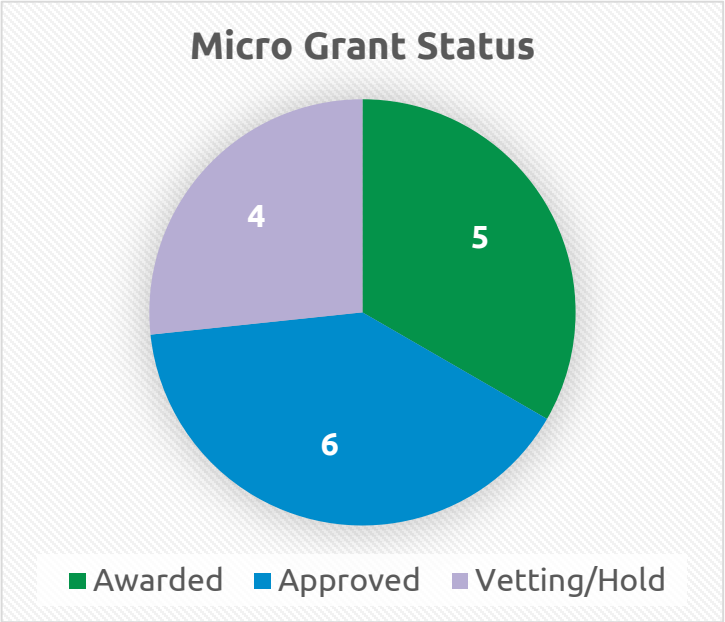
Small Grants



Stakeholder
Consultations

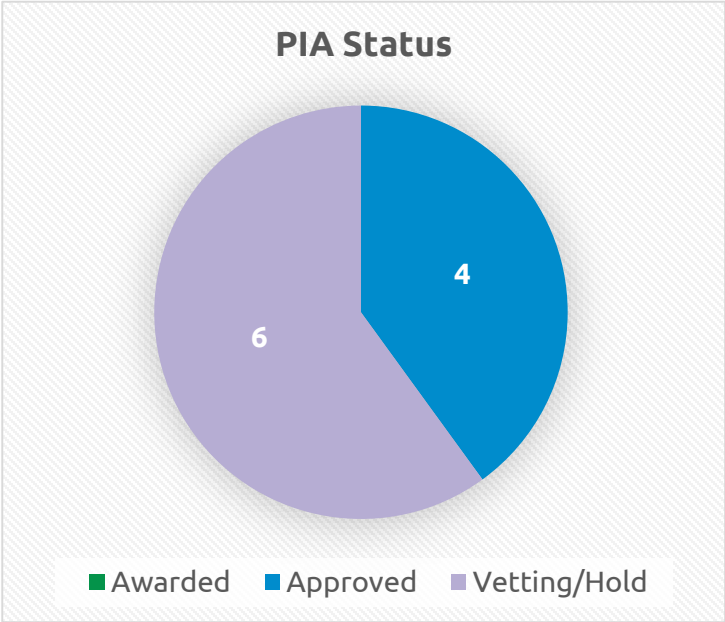
IDEAL Small Grants Program Metrics

RFAs Released in 2019: 2



Micro Grants are awards of up to \$50,000

Total Apps Received: 286



Program Improvement Awards (PIAs) are up to \$100,000

Applied Research Award RFA Objectives

- Designed to fund research that **contributes to an evidence base for best practices** in food and nutrition security programming.
- Designed to allow sufficient resources and time for implementers, in partnership with research institutions, to undertake **robust research and learning** at a scale that is typically not feasible with organizational overhead funds, or enabled by large grants or cooperative agreements.
- This Applied Research Award RFA focuses on addressing knowledge gaps and lines of inquiry related **Strategic Integration**
- Generate and strengthen partnerships between research institutions, higher education institutions and food security implementers to facilitate continued strategic learning and adaptive management **throughout the BHA implementing community.**

Key Details & Unique Aspects

- Up to 5 awards of <\$300,000 will be granted from this RFA
- Each application requires partnership between:
 - Food security and nutrition implementing organization and
 - Research institution or higher education institution (HEI)
- Research must address knowledge gaps around strategic integration in food and nutrition security activities
 - Optimal package of interventions
 - Joint action
 - Responding to both acute and chronic need
- Food security and nutrition implementing organizations can only be part of one Applied Research Award application
- Preference for partnering with research institutions or higher education institutions (HEIs) based in developing countries as defined by USAID

Important Dates to Consider

Applying

- Full application due October 16th
- Top 10 applications identified before January 2021
- Target award date is March 30, 2021

Implementing

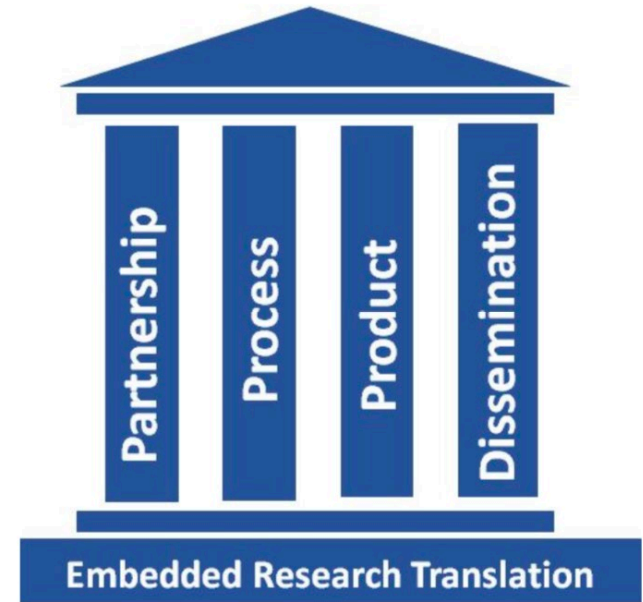
- Cost-reimbursable awards
- Maximum award period: 24 months
- Quarterly reporting required for quarterly payment
- All IDEAL sub-awards closed out by April 1, 2023

Eligibility

- Applications must be submitted by implementing organization in partnership with a research institution or HEI
 - DUNS Number and SAM registration required by lead applicant at submission
 - Research implemented in countries where BHA works or has funded activities in past five years
 - Legally recognized in country(ies) of research
 - Research approach must be feasible during COVID-19 pandemic and follow both USAID and country guidance
- The following are **not** eligible to apply for grants under this RFA:
 - Members of the IDEAL consortium: Save the Children, The Kaizen Company, Mercy Corps, and TANGO International;
 - Individuals and/or sole proprietorships;
 - Government entities, including ministries;
 - Multilateral organizations; or
 - Firms operating as commercial companies or other organizations (including non-profit and non-governmental organizations) that are wholly or partially owned by foreign governments or agencies.

Tips for Success

- Strong understanding of USAID regulations and Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance strategies, models and activity portfolio
- Research from countries where USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance currently operates and has strong activity portfolio
- Ensure knowledge gap and final results benefit global food security and nutrition community in alignment with the Food Assistance & Food Security Learning Agenda
- Utilize *Embedded Research Translation* process and LASER PULSE resources



LASER (Long-term Assistance and Services for Research) PULSE (Partners for University-Led Solutions Engine)



WORLD FOOD BANK/USAID

THE OFFICE OF FOOD FOR PEACE FOOD ASSISTANCE AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMMATIC LEARNING AGENDA

August 2019

Food Assistance and Food Security Programmatic Learning Agenda



Why a Learning Agenda?

A multitude of food security and humanitarian response actors engage in:

- Long-term formal research
- Activity-based operations research
- Evaluation
- Thematic studies
- Desk reviews
- Rigorous inquiry
- Experiential learning

Does it all add up?



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A LEARNING AGENDA IS...

- ✓ A SET OF BROAD QUESTIONS
- ✓ DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE WORK
- ✓ WHEN ANSWERED, ENABLES THE AGENCY TO WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY
- ✓ PRIORITIZES QUESTIONS IN THE SHORT TERM and the LONG TERM



LEARNING QUESTIONS

→ PRIORITIZED AND OFTEN WITH "THEMATIC AREAS"

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

→ EFFORTS SUCH AS RESEARCH, EVALUATIONS, LITERATURE REVIEWS, MID-COURSE STOCKTAKING, PORTFOLIO REVIEWS, PAUSE + REFLECT SESSIONS, ETC.

LEARNING PRODUCTS

→ OFTEN INNOVATIVE and TAILORED TO SPECIFIC AUDIENCES; CAN INCLUDE INFOGRAPHICS, TWO-PAGERS, WEBINARS, ETC.

Food Assistance and Food Security Programmatic Learning Agenda

- Theme One: Working with Crisis-Affected Populations
- Theme Two: Resilience
- Theme Three: Sustained Results
- **Theme Four: Strategic Integration (Sequencing, Layering and Integration)**
- Theme Five: Modality Choice and Effectiveness
- Theme Six: Access and Inclusion

Food Assistance and Food Security Programmatic Learning Agenda

Theme Four: Strategic Integration

Sequencing to meet populations where they are /address changing needs and emerging opportunities /enable incremental change

Multi-sectoral **integration** – for synergistic and mutually reinforcing efforts across sectors and approaches

Layering of interventions to meet acute and chronic needs within and between mechanisms

Strategic Integration – Key Lines of Inquiry

The Optimal Package of Interventions

- Prioritization of needs
- Breadth versus depth
- Interactions across interventions – synergies
- Unintended consequences
- Absorptive capacity
- Foundational interventions

Strategic Integration – Key Lines of Inquiry

Joint Action

- Process orientation – in design and implementation
- Joint targeting
- Touchpoints as participants move through sequenced interventions
- Managing interdependencies – timing, quality, effectiveness
- Cross intervention communication and knowledge sharing
- Managing for coordination

Strategic Integration – Key Lines of Inquiry

Responding to both Acute and Chronic Need

- Right mix of interventions
- Unintended consequences if balance not right
- Targeting issues
- Managing a pivot to rapid response
- Modality shifts
- Adaptations to interventions

RFA Question and Answer Session

Please type questions in the Q&A box



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Thank you!

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www.ideal.events/eval

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