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IDEAL

Orientation to IDEAL's Applied Research Award RFA

September 1, 2020

Meet our Presenters



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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



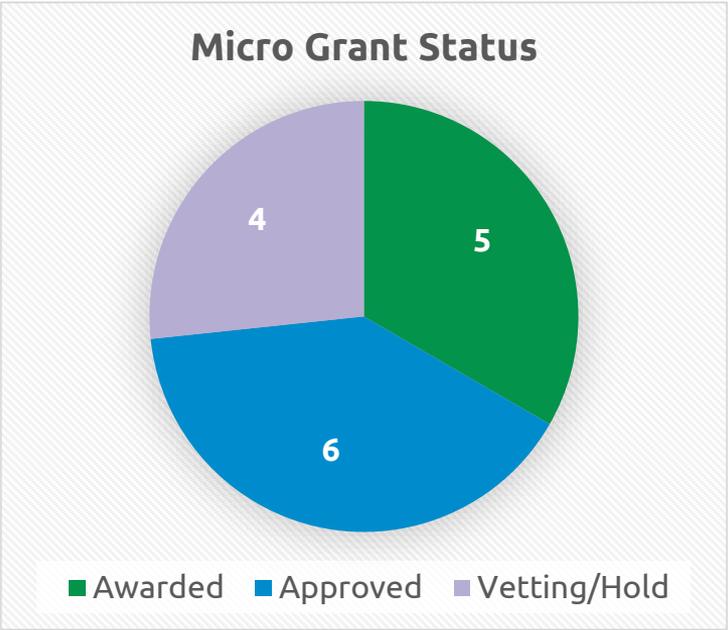
Small Grants



Stakeholder
Consultations

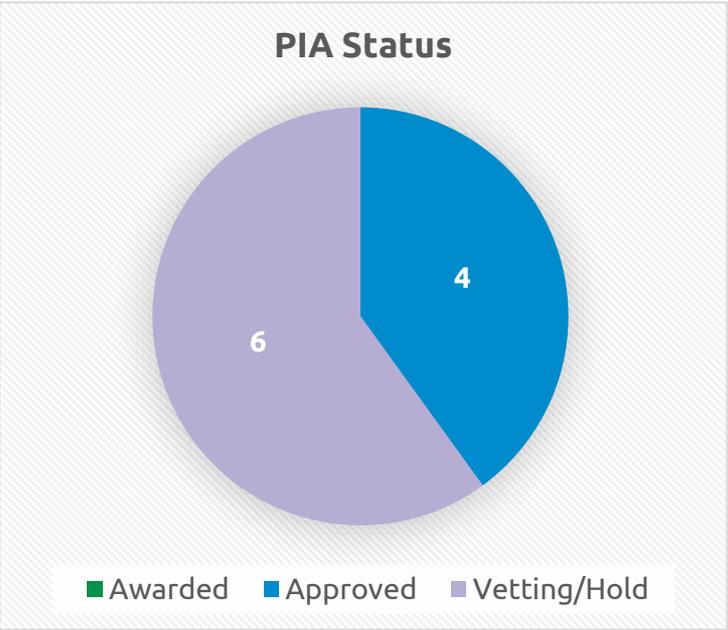
IDEAL Small Grants Program Metrics

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

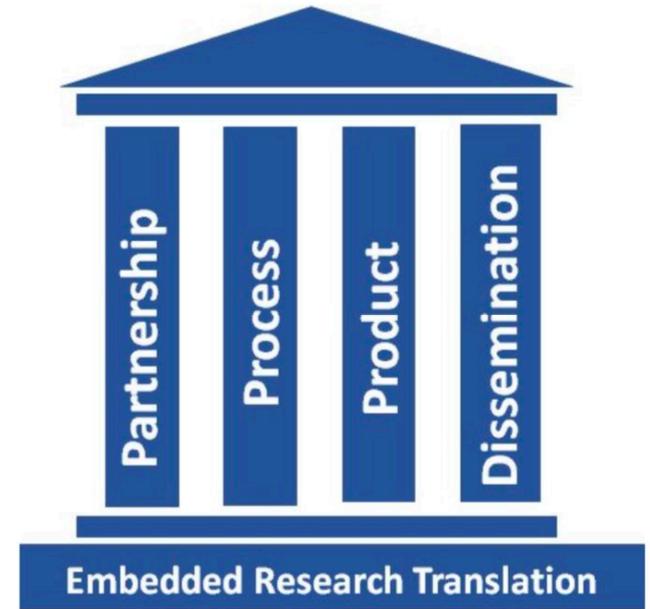
- Cost-reimbursable awards
- Maximum award period: 24 months
- Quarterly reporting required for quarterly payment
- All IDEAL sub-awards closed out by April 1, 2023

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



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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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