



IDEAL

Implementer-Led Design, Evidence, Analysis & Learning

WHAT IS IDEAL?

IDEAL is an activity funded by USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) 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: Jonathan Hyams/Save the Children

WHAT CAN IDEAL DO FOR YOU?

IDEAL aims to answer the needs of its stakeholders through four pathways:

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

Capacity strengthening provides implementing partners with tools and approaches to assess and develop their own capacity and strengthen the capacity of local partners. Activities include theory of change development and review, M&E workshops, and more.

PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

Peer-to-peer learning aims to establish sustainable mechanisms that allow for implementation-focused learning. Activities include dynamic learning opportunities such as knowledge sharing meetings, communities of practice, and topic-specific learning events.

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

The Small Grants Program develops new resources and tools, tests innovative approaches, supports applied research, and strengthens knowledge management systems in the food security community, in line with FFP’s learning agenda and IDEAL’s content focus areas.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

Stakeholder consultations create structured opportunities for implementing partners and FFP to directly engage with each other on critical issues and identify collective solutions and ways to support host countries together.

HOW CAN YOU ENGAGE WITH IDEAL?

- Contribute resources, events, and opportunities to the Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Network by visiting www.fsnnetwork.org
- Attend IDEAL knowledge sharing meetings, workshops, and trainings
- Apply for funding through IDEAL’s Small Grants Program
- Find or join a food security community of practice by visiting www.fsnnetwork.org
- Subscribe to the FSN Network Newsletter
- Email us at info@fsnnetwork.org with your questions and ideas

IDEAL QUICK FACTS

Duration: 5 years (Fiscal Years 2019–2024)
Consortium: Save the Children, The Kaizen Company, Mercy Corps, TANGO International
Office Locations:
 Washington, DC, USA
 Dakar, Senegal
 Nairobi, Kenya

Key Stakeholders:

- BHA implementing partners
- BHA field and headquarters staff
- Private sector
- Host government representatives and policy makers
- Academia
- Other organizations and professionals engaged in food security and nutrition activities

The IDEAL Design Framework

Strengthen food and nutrition security among BHA-target populations through promotion of systems-level approaches to improving the design, implementation and overall effectiveness of emergency and development food security activities

GOAL

PURPOSE 1

Implementing partners/communities of practice establish sustainable systems for strengthening their own capacity in essential elements of quality programming

PURPOSE 2

Implementing partners/communities of practice consistently develop, share, and apply meaningful analysis for adaptive management of food security programs

PURPOSE 3

Implementing partners/communities of practice foster sustainable linkages among key stakeholders to improve collaboration, coordination, and efficient action around common goals

Capacity Strengthening

Strengthen implementing partner 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 implementing partner field-level professionals

Peer-to-Peer Collaborative Learning

Create opportunities for experimental learning and knowledge exchange

Facilitate virtual communities of practice through the 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, social cohesion and social accountability