



# INSTITUTIONAL EXPANSION: FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

Food for the Hungry (FH) operates relief and development programs in 20 countries and prioritizes child-centered measurement of its work and impact. FH began IDELA uptake with a training in Bangladesh, which included FH offices from across Asia. IDELA was then rolled out for FH programs in Rwanda and Guatemala. This collaborative effort has enabled FH to extend its work; M&E staff from Bangladesh flew to Rwanda to support data collection and FH staff from the Latin America and the Caribbean reinforced the training and survey administration in Nicaragua and Peru.

FH used IDELA data to develop domain-specific guidance to address areas on lower skill development. In Guatemala, FH staff were surprised by low IDELA scores. Although FH Guatemala already focused on child stimulation programming for children 0-2 years, the results from IDELA motivated leadership to include ECE for children aged 3-6 years in the country strategy. The office also hired new ECE specialists to support the strategy change.

Using IDELA as a standard measurement tool across different countries allows FH to share a common language around child development. The common language extends from ECE staff to M&E colleagues, those in leadership and others who had no previous knowledge of ECE within a development context.

“Now, when we talk about ECE using IDELA, we also have a common baseline knowledge,” says Jana Torrico, Acting Director for Education Programs. “Because we trained our staff with the same IDELA materials, including basic ECE theory, it allows for understanding across staff, especially across cultures and language barriers. For example, when we refer to early literacy with staff, they automatically think of skills like print awareness, expressive vocabulary, first sounds and letter recognition.” This common language also allows for greater ease of sharing and applying common intervention ideas across countries and regions.

The strength of a common metric also extends outside of FH. A collaboration with Save the Children in Uganda helped to accelerate the process of IDELA translation to local languages. FH required five different translations, and found the SC had already completed two. FH has now focused its attention to full translation of the remaining three languages needed.

## Contact

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