



**INNOVATION
ACCELERATOR**

2021: A YEAR OF IMPACT AND GROWTH

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



Zambia. One of the proven PHL technologies is the hermetic bag, which can help reduce storage losses dramatically at household level. In the photo: Catherine Phiri, smallholder farmer. © WFP/PHL

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Building on WFP's legacy of innovation, the WFP Innovation Accelerator was launched in 2015 to pilot new solutions and scale promising innovations to disrupt hunger. Learn more about our team and approach to promoting innovation and achieving Zero Hunger.

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Failures, setbacks and change are an inherent part of the innovation process. Lessons learned from responding to these challenges give ground for growth, foster novel ways of thinking and spur further innovation.



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01

INTRO- DUCTION



Dear friends and supporters,

2021 was yet another extraordinary year, with our World Food Programme (WFP) colleagues at the forefront of the fightback against COVID-19. For our work in innovation, 2021 was a year of impact and growth. By reaching over **9 million people** through innovations, we continued to double our impact year over year.

We were humbled by the recognition that our approach works. In 2021, **we received two *FastCompany Awards***: ranking on their list of [Most Innovative Not-for-Profit Organizations](#) and [Best Workplaces for Innovators](#).

We are proud to have **created a space where innovation thrives**, and we have been able to accomplish so much together in 2021:

#1 - IMPACT: WFP'S INNOVATIONS REACHED 9 MILLION PEOPLE IN 2021

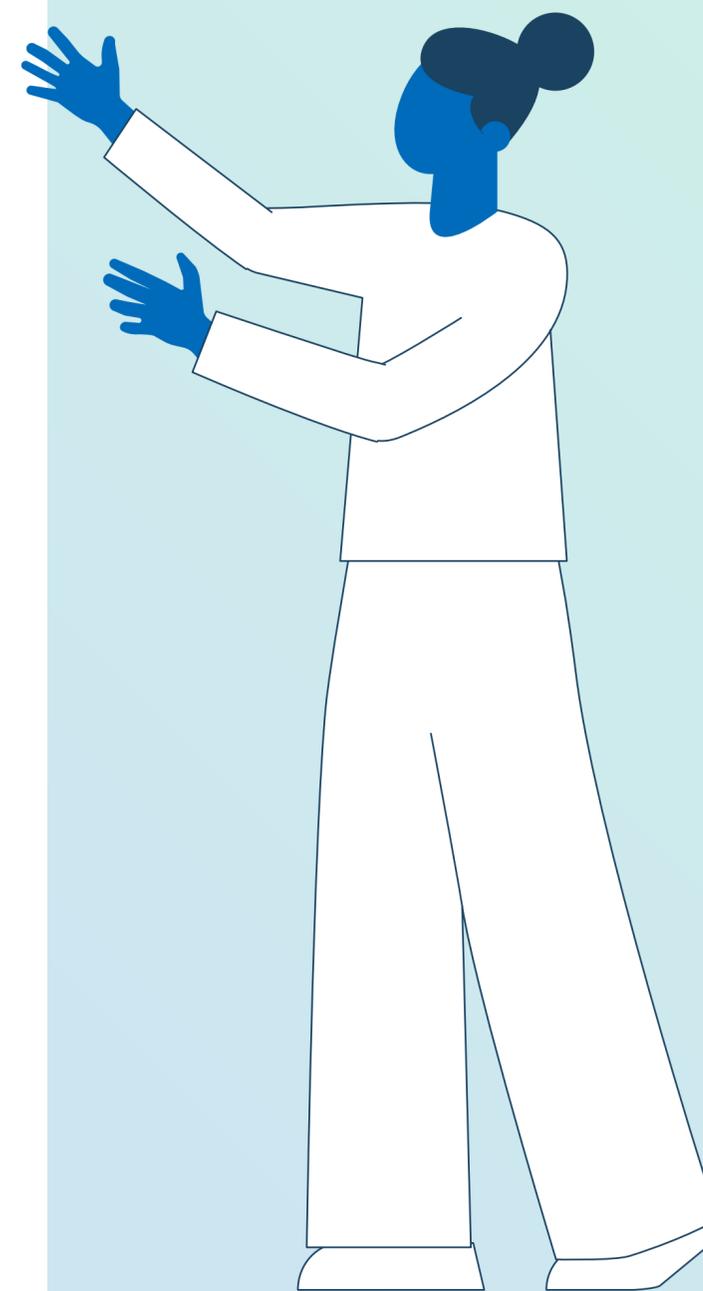
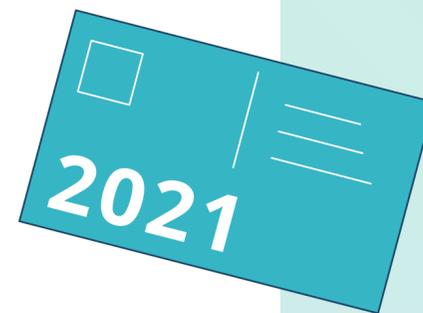
We supported **52** innovation projects at various levels of maturity (i.e., sprint, scale-up) and positively reached the lives of **9 million people** across **67** countries. We received over **1,350** applications from **125** countries around the world, showing the reach and value our innovation programmes offer.

#2 - SDG ACCELERATION - WE DELIVERED 14 ACCELERATION PROGRAMMES ACROSS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

In 2021, through **SDG Acceleration**, we ran **14 acceleration programmes supporting over 60 ventures across seven of the SDGs**: 3. Health and Wellbeing, 4. Quality Education, 5. Gender Equality, 6. Water and Sanitation, 7. Energy, 16. Peace and Justice, 17. Partnerships for the Goals. We believe in sharing knowledge as much as we can. Running SDG acceleration programmes comes from the belief that we can make more impact by working together with our partners.

#3 - WE EXPANDED OUR PORTFOLIO AND GLOBAL REACH

We expanded our geographic reach, working with the WFP Colombia Country Office and the First Lady of Colombia to support the **launch of a [Regional Innovation Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean \(HZERO\)](#)**. We celebrated the first year of the WFP Innovation Champions Community, giving WFP staff a platform to create a broader culture of innovation at WFP. The group grew to 358 members in 67 countries, culminating in **[WFP's first Innovation Champions Global Event](#)**.



We launched the **Innovative Finance and Venture Launchpad** portfolio to build the WFP Innovation Impact fund and explore crypto-assets and other innovative finance projects worldwide.

#4 - VALIDATION OF OUR INNOVATION WORK

Several external publications and oversight reviews were carried out, covering the WFP Innovation Accelerator or parts of our work in 2021. In October, WFP published [“Digital Foundations”](#), showing how WFP continues to drive innovation and how digitalization remains a priority for WFP and the Accelerator. A dedicated [Internal Audit of WFP’s Innovation Accelerator](#) was conducted to review our work and innovations supported. We were very pleased that the Internal Audit rated the WFP Innovation Accelerator **“effective/satisfactory”**, which is the best possible overall rating.

Thank you also to our Innovation Advisory Group, a key group of WFP leadership members, who review our innovations to ensure that our solutions meet the high standards of WFP. Our WFP Innovation Advisory Council evolved into a well structured global group of our most senior and highest level supporters and voices from government, ambassadors, C-level board members, professors, venture capitalists, business consultants and philanthropists. You truly make our work better.

#5 - FOSTERING GENDER EQUALITY AND INCLUSION IN OUR CORE ACTIVITIES

We further strengthened our innovation sourcing activities, reflecting gender equality and diversity factors in all applications and innovation selection. We held our first bilingual Pitch Event in English and Spanish and launched the [#SheInnovates](#) campaign for International Women’s Day 2021 to show how WFP innovates with and for women. We also ran an innovation challenge and innovation programme for the United Nations Chief Executives Board on culture change, including eradicating sexual harassment.

While we work with innovations and startups every day, we also apply the same principles to our own work. We further pushed the boundaries on New Ways of Working, bringing in further cutting-edge methods and concepts on how we work as a virtual first work environment in agile and cross-functional teams.

We look forward to building and growing together with our partners throughout 2022. We have great hope for the future, with a global innovation community supporting us every step of the way.

With gratitude,
BERNHARD KOWATSCH and the WFP Innovation Accelerator Management Team

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM



BERNHARD KOWATSCH
 Head of the
 WFP Innovation Accelerator



HILA COHEN
 Chief of Staff and Head of
 Business Development



ANGELA WYAN
 Head of Field Operations and
 Scale-Up Enablement



ANJA CARRETERO
 Office Coordinator



BETSY ROSENBAUM
 Head of Business Operations



JOANNA PURCELL
 Donor Relations and Partnerships Lead



JORGE FERNANDES
 Head of Venture Fund
 and Platform



JOSE ALCOCER
 Head of SDG Acceleration



KATHRIN STEINEBACH
 People Team Lead



KENNETH TONG
 Communications and Knowledge
 Management Lead



KYRIACOS KOUPPARIS
 Head of Frontier Innovations



REGINA SCHMIDT
 Head of Innovation Projects

Thank you to our key partners



2021 was a year of deepening partnerships. In February, the Accelerator and **Germany** (the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Federal Foreign Office, and the Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry) celebrated the renewal of our multi-year partnership. **USAID** provided its third year of funding support to our work, investing in knowledge sharing and our exploration of innovative finance. Our partnerships continued to go from strength to strength with **Luxembourg** and the **Netherlands**. We are also thankful for new partners like the **Czech Republic** and **Innovation Norway** coming on board for the first time.

New private sector partnerships were developed with **Bosch Siemens Household Appliances, John Deere Foundation**, and we received continued support from **BASF Stiftung**. The **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** diversified its support, adding scale-up enablement to its portfolio. Technical and knowledge sharing partnerships continued with the **German Space Agency (DLR)** and we began working with the **European Space Agency (ESA)**.

Partner investment in our innovation projects across the globe reached **USD 70 million**, while direct support to the Innovation Accelerator from key private and public sector partners was **USD 16.5 million**. **USD 4 million** in funding to the Innovation Accelerator came from new donors in 2021, representing **24 percent** of the overall

funding to the Innovation Accelerator. This brings **all-time global innovation support to USD 180 million** and support to the Innovation Accelerator to **USD 63 million** since its establishment in 2015.

The WFP Innovation Accelerator ran 14 SDG Acceleration programmes supporting 60 ventures working across the SDGs. We had the pleasure of welcoming the **Austrian Development Agency and GIZ** (the German Agency for International Cooperation) to our existing partner group: the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Creating Hope in Conflict: A Humanitarian Grand Challenge**, and **UNFPA**.

Throughout 2021, the Innovation Accelerator continued to work on global fora. WFP continued to lead the **UN Innovation Network (UNIN)**, which expanded to 3,000 colleagues from 70+ UN Entities in over 140 countries joining the Network. In January, the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** launched the **Food Innovation Hubs** in partnership with WFP, private companies and governments, in support of smallholder farmers and an effort to reach the ten percent of the world's population who face food insecurity. The Innovation Accelerator represented WFP in the **Food Systems Summit Innovation Lever** and fostered WFP's positioning at **World Humanitarian Forum, EXPO 2020, YPO (Young Presidents Organisation), COP26**, and the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**.



© WFP/Christian Krinninger

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WHO WE ARE



About us

The WFP Innovation Accelerator sources, supports and scales bold new solutions to achieve Zero Hunger and the wider SDGs.

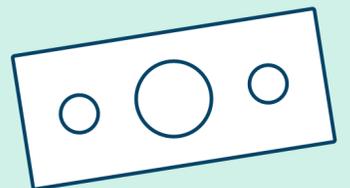
Based in Munich, Germany, the Innovation Accelerator provides WFP operations, entrepreneurs and start-ups with funding, hands-on support and access to WFP's global operations. WFP is leveraging unprecedented advances in innovation, such as mobile technology, artificial intelligence, blockchain, innovative finance, and new business models. We are sharing our knowledge and lessons learned with the wider community to transform the way we collectively serve vulnerable communities across the world, with the Innovation Accelerator supporting every step of the way.

9M
People reached
in 2021

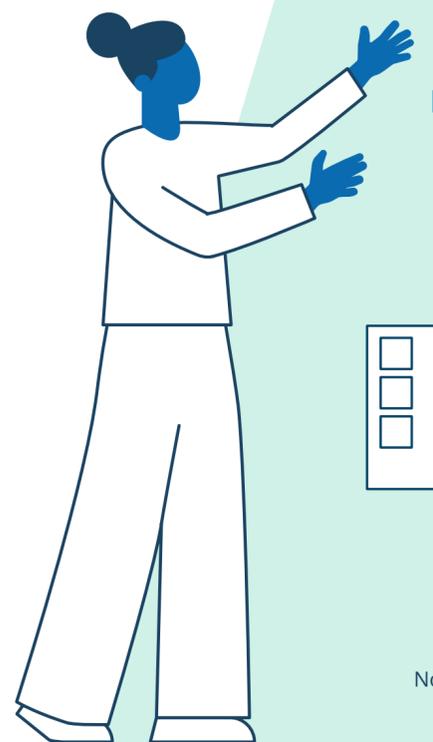
100+
Sprint projects

12 Active scale-up projects
5 Alumni scale-up projects

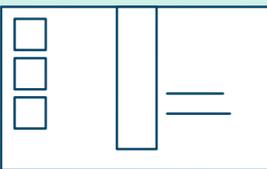
 in **51** Countries



USD 180+M
Co-funding raised since inception of the accelerator



7,700+
Applications received

 from **125** Countries

40
innovation programmes hosted



with **390** Teams

Note: Numbers shown are cumulative.

9 million people positively impacted in 2021

→ We work with innovations focusing on the following areas.

138,400+ people received an efficient and effective distribution of food through **Supply Chain and Logistics** innovations

SDG Acceleration Programmes supported over 60 ventures of our partners on others SDGs and benefited 214,700+ people

Smallholder farmers benefited from our agricultural market development work, which improved the food security for more than 2,292,000 people

4,909,000+ people improved nutrition, health and accessed optimized school meals with innovative **Nutrition and School-Based Programmes**

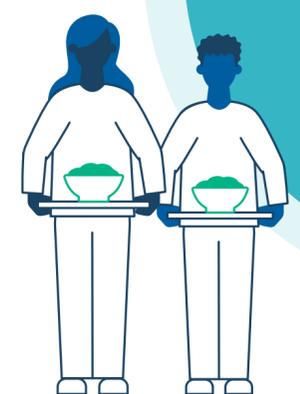
Supported humanitarian and development assistance for 30,000 people through **Frontier Innovations**

1+ million people made faster, cheaper and more secure **Cash-Based Transfers**

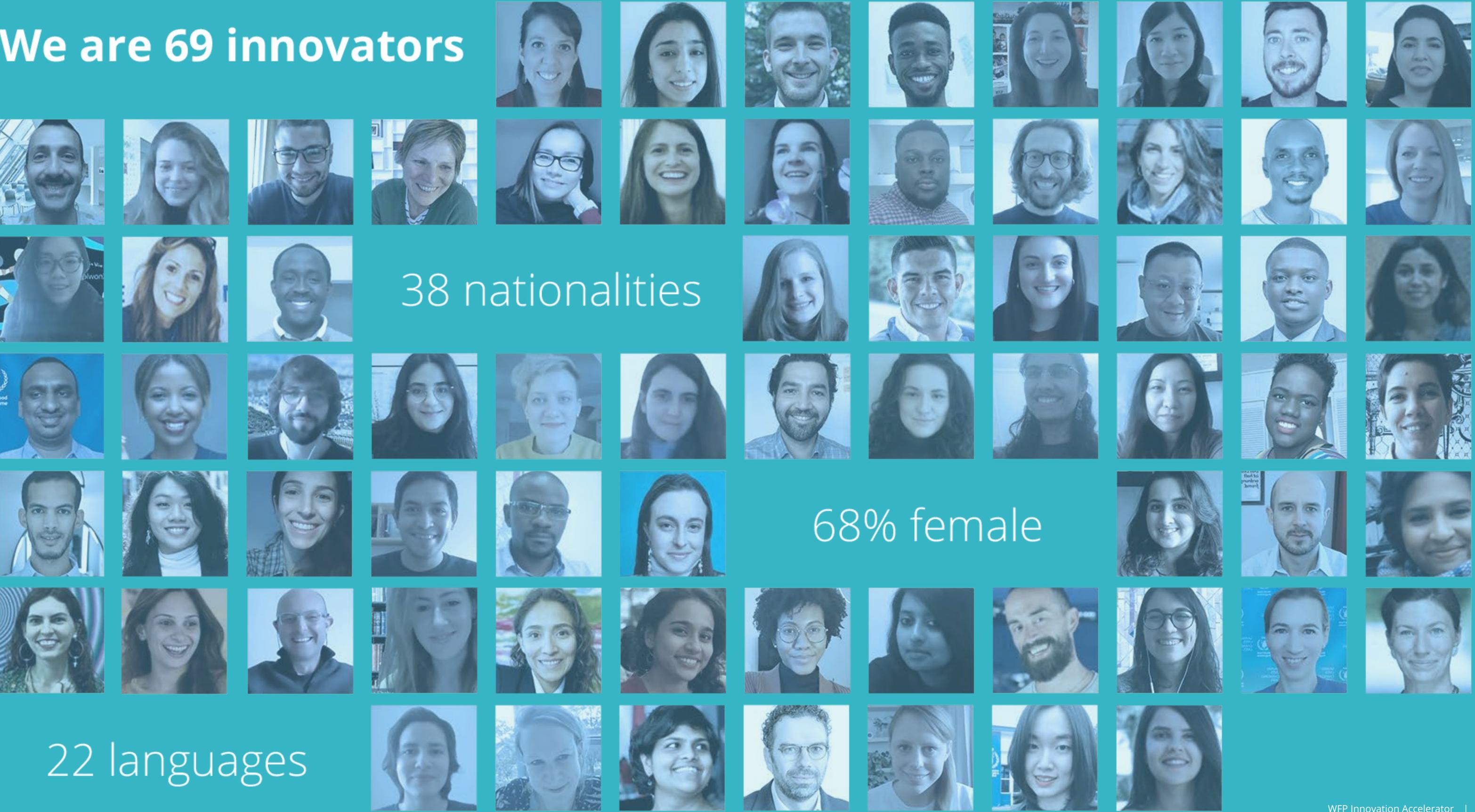
184,100+ people received more resources through **Innovative Finance**

Helped 73,700+ people from food insecure communities manage natural resources more sustainably, which enables them to meet today's **livelihood** needs

179,300+ people received more efficient **Emergency Relief** food assistance from WFP, often in conflict, post-conflict or disaster situations



We are 69 innovators



38 nationalities

68% female

22 languages

Where we work

ACTIVE PROJECTS IN 2021

Afghanistan	CODA, Optimus, H2Grow, SHAPES
Algeria	H2Grow
Angola	Optimus
Armenia	H2Grow
Bangladesh	Building Blocks, Logle, CBT Cash Back, Retail in a Box
Bhutan	SMP Plus
Burundi	H2Grow
Cambodia	Prism, Logle
Cameroon	Optimus
Chad	H2Grow
Colombia	Empact, Logle, Optimus, Ancestral Markets, DignifAI
Djibouti	H2Grow
Dominican Republic	SMP Plus
Democratic Republic of the Congo	CODA, Optimus
El Salvador	H2Grow
Eswatini	Optimus
Ethiopia	H2Grow, Roambee, Saving Grains, Voice to Text AI, Block for transport
Fiji	SKAI
Ghana	Meridia
Guatemala	School Feeding & Management App (SFMA)
Haiti	Logle, Optimus, Clean Cooking Haiti
Honduras	Logle
India	GrainATM, Nutri-India, Secure Fishing, Takachar
Indonesia	Prism
Iran	Optimus
Iraq	Empact, Logle
Jordan	Building Blocks, H2Grow
Kenya	Farm to Market Alliance, Empact, H2Grow, H2Grow Assets Based Loans, Apeel Sciences, Community Inclusion Currencies, Digital Microwork (cLabs, Appen, Corsali), Eco Friendly Cold Storage, Thrive Agric, Tiny Totos, SHF Blockchain
Lebanon	Empact, Optimus, SKAI
Lesotho	Optimus, EPC4S
Liberia	Optimus

Libya	H2Grow
Madagascar	CODA, Logle, Optimus
Malawi	Logle, Optimus, Fenik
Mongolia	Prism
Mozambique	PHL Venture, Optimus, ARABLE, Retail in a Box, SKAI
Myanmar	Optimus
Namibia	H2Grow
Nepal	Logle
Nigeria	H2Grow, Bioanalyt, Thrive Agric
Palestine	H2Grow
Pakistan	Chakki, Bioanalyt
Peru	H2Grow, Digital Cooperatives (Producers Direct) 2
Philippines	Crypto Aid Study
Republic of the Congo	Optimus, Mbala Pinda, MEZA 3
Rwanda	Farm to Market Alliance, PHL Venture, Aflasight, DEFAST, KuzaOne, MEZA 3
Senegal	Optimus
Sierra Leone	Logle
Somalia	H2Grow
South Sudan	PHL Venture, CODA, Logle, Cockpit/School Connect, Rainmaker, Retail in a Box
Sri Lanka	Prism
Sudan	H2Grow
Syria	Optimus
Tajikistan	CODA
Tanzania	Sanku, Farm to Market Alliance, Optimus, Imara Tech, WFP-X
Turkey	Empact, Network Fresh
Tunisia	The Last Mile Ecosystem 2
Uganda	H2Grow
Yemen	H2Grow, Optimus
Zambia	PHL Venture, Farm to Market Alliance, H2Grow, Optimus, Plug&PAY (UN PAY), Zambia Food Dryers
Zimbabwe	H2Grow, Logle, Optimus
GLOBAL	ShareTheMeal, Dalili, Cloud to Street, Hunger Map Live 2, R2C2 (Flying Cow), SheCan



Global WFP Innovation Accelerator

World Food Programme Innovation Acceleration

- Four Accelerator programmes from early stage to scale-up stage
- Frontier innovations function exploring blockchain, Artificial Intelligence and robotics
- Global community and regional innovation hubs

Innovative Finance and Venture Platform

- Building a USD 100M blended finance Innovation Impact fund
- Venture building launchpad to develop internal and external startups

SDG Acceleration

- 14 accelerator programmes for diverse global problems like primary healthcare, vaccine delivery, gender equality, climate change or conflict zones

BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

CREATING HOPE IN CONFLICT: A HUMANITARIAN GRAND CHALLENGE



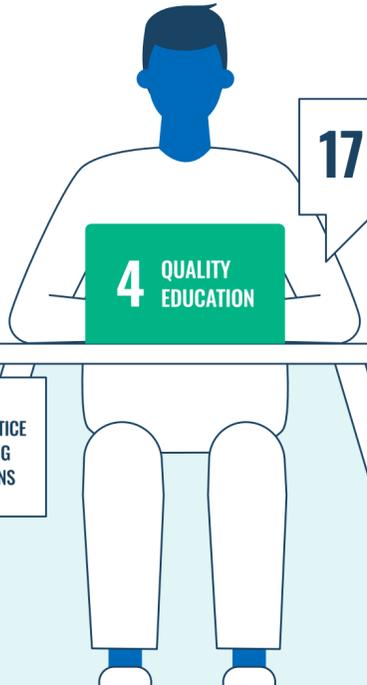
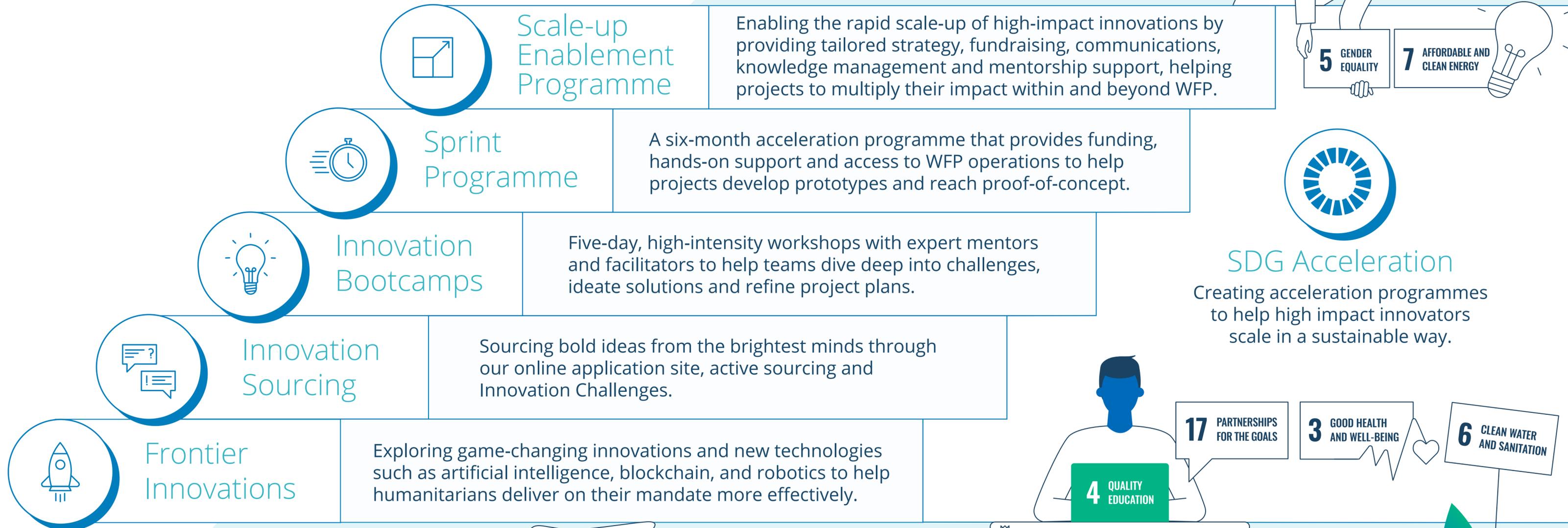
Austrian Development Agency



CEB
UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination



Our path to scale



In the spotlight 2021

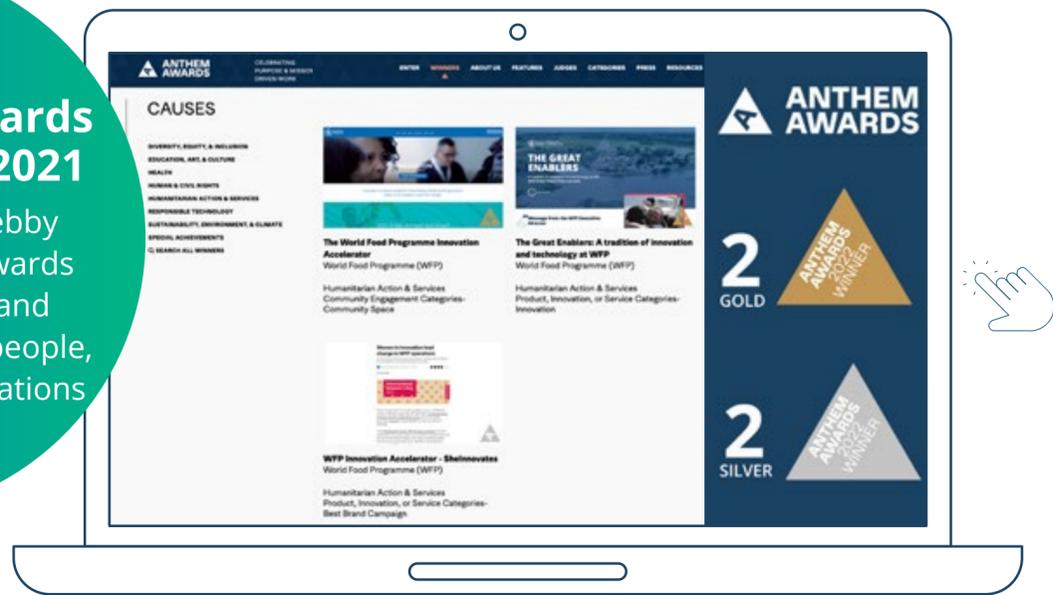
As the Innovation Accelerator continues its growth trajectory, we were recognised by **Fast Company** as one of the 100 **Best Workplaces for Innovators** and one of the ten **Most Innovative Not-For-Profit Organizations of 2021**.

Together with WFP Technology, we produced the award-winning **Great Enablers** website, telling the story of how the people and partnerships behind innovation and technology at WFP paved the way to the Nobel Peace Prize en route to the ultimate goal of eliminating hunger by 2030.

One Accelerator-supported project, **Takachar**, was awarded **Prince William’s Earthshot Prize** for its innovative solution that turns crop waste into bioproducts while reducing air pollution.

Our wider WFP family was also in the spotlight. WFP’s Supply Chain team received the prestigious **Franz Edelman Award** for advanced analytics, and for its use of data to save lives. Our own scale-up enablement project Optimus was an example of this success. The **United Nations Humanitarian Booking Hub**, serving 11 UN agencies, an online platform powered by WFP, received the **Best Transport Achievement Award** from the Fleet Forum.

We received **four Anthem Awards for our work in 2021**
Established by The Webby Awards, the Anthem Awards “honors the purpose and mission-driven work of people, companies, and organizations worldwide.”



2,460
Media mentions in **90 countries**



1M
People reached through digital channels



+1.7M
Social media impressions delivered

We were mentioned in 32 countries each month, from a diverse range of publications including Fast Company Magazine, Nikkei Asia, The Kenyan Wall Street, The Nigerian Voice and Tanzania’s The Citizen.



112
Knowledge Management products

Our selection of blogs, social media cards and slideshows, videos, web pages, toolkits and guidelines assisted current innovators in developing and scaling impactful solutions.



102
events and speaking engagements

This number represented our highest total to date. From Bootcamps, Innovation Challenges and Pitch Events, to individual team members attending global conferences and panel discussions.

Our ambitious future

By reaching **9 million people** in the year 2021, we outperformed our original target of five million people just the year before. So we've adjusted our goals: by 2025, we now aim to **positively reach the lives of 100 million people** and raise **USD 80 million of funding**, and launch three flagship innovations per year.

With the foundational work done so far in the area of SDG support, the Innovation Accelerator is fast becoming a key enabler for the SDGs. To reach our goals, we intend to establish a **global WFP Accelerator presence**, with the WFP Innovation Accelerator “motherhip” in Munich and additional Accelerator platforms across the globe.

Further efforts will be invested in an **Innovation Fund** and **Venture Launchpad**. Our **SDG Acceleration programmes** will continue to grow, working with partners solving critical sustainable development challenges through innovation.



© WFP/Badre Bahaji

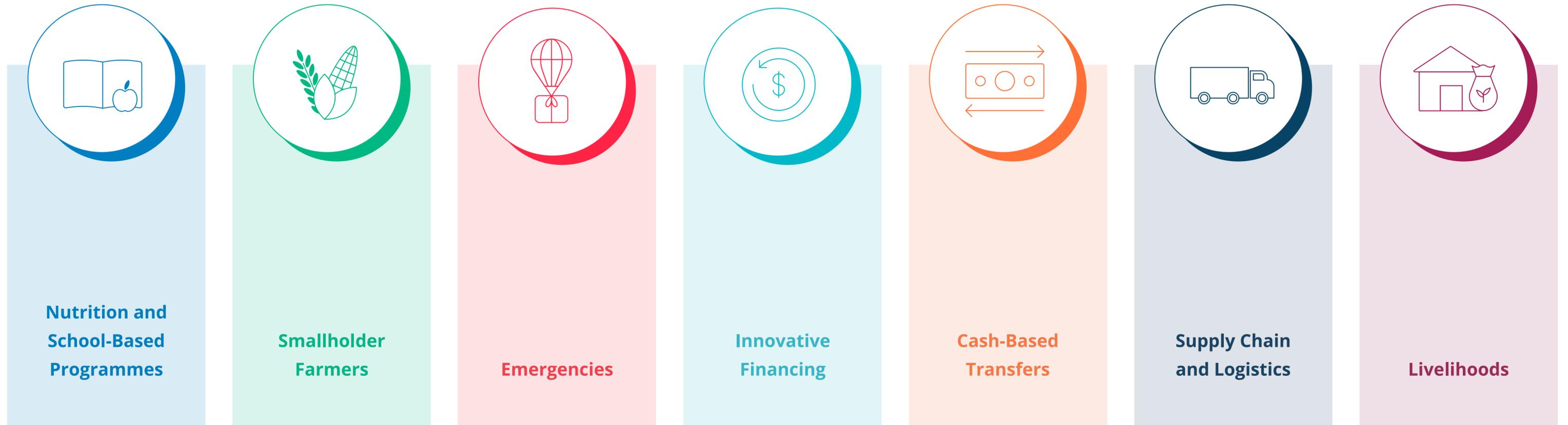
03

WHAT WE DO



Areas of work

These icons are a legend to demonstrate how the innovations that the WFP Innovation Accelerator supports align with WFP's corporate priorities and activities.



Enabling the best innovations to scale

The WFP Innovation Accelerator supports advanced stage innovations which have already proven their project concepts within WFP global operations, and are working to optimize their impact and reach at regional or global levels. Through the Scale-up Enablement programme, the WFP Innovation Accelerator supports advanced stage innovations (i.e. innovations that have proven value reaching over 100,000 people and/or creating USD 5 million in efficiencies), to help them optimize their impact and reach scale at regional or global levels.

Throughout the year, Scale-Up Enablement Programme focused their activities in five different areas, including **Portfolio Management, Innovation Hubs and Units, WFP Innovation Champions, WFP Internal Innovation Services, and the Alumni Programme.**

Scale-up Enablement projects reached **over 8 million people** (more than doubled from the year before) and spanned **55 countries**. The portfolio consisted of five

alumni and 12 active projects. We also held **66 Innovation Community events**, design and innovation workshops, networking events, and thought leadership presentations.

Key to achieving this level of impact in 2021 was: developing a healthy sourcing pipeline, connecting our existing ecosystems, and increasing focus on global innovations to boost our reach. Through the selection and onboarding process, an early-stage tailored **Assessment Workshop** was critical to this process. The workshop provided an opportunity to identify gaps and design a clear path to scale that included a project roadmap, milestones, roles and responsibilities.



Innovation Hubs

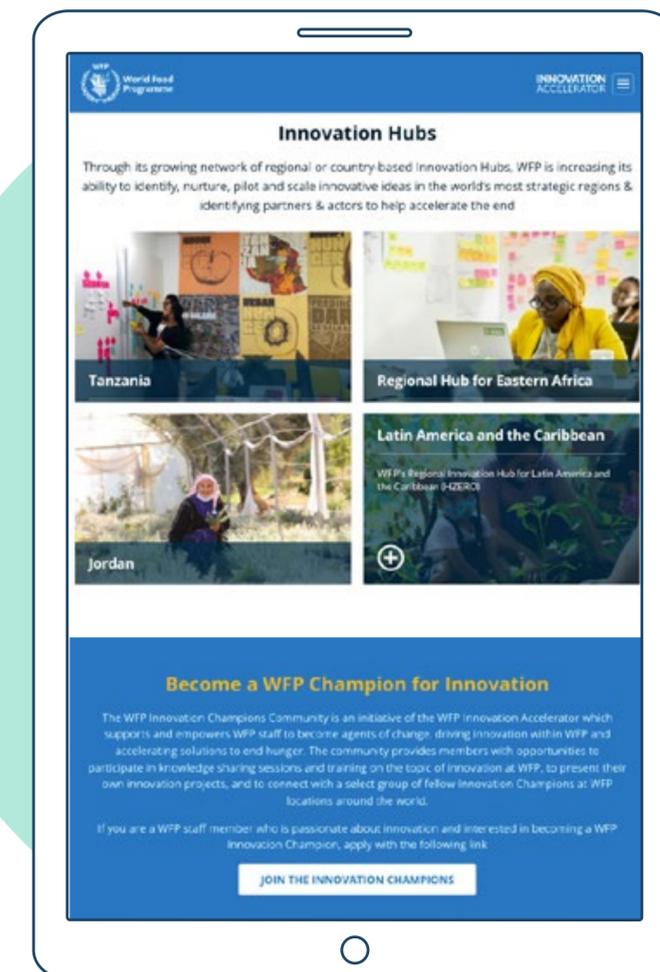
In support of this strategic vision, the Accelerator works closely with WFP Country Offices as well as Regional Bureaus and Business Units at headquarters level. The Innovation Community comprises a network of WFP Innovation Hubs, based in WFP Country Offices or in Regional Bureaus, a community of WFP Innovation Champions working together to foster a culture of innovation throughout the organization, and an internal innovation support service to WFP business divisions and Country Offices.

In 2021, we brought our global presence to six Innovation Units and Hubs with the establishment of **WFP's Regional Innovation Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean (HZERO)**. The Regional Innovation Hub in Colombia is dedicated to fighting hunger and malnutrition, while supporting Latin America and the Caribbean in solution acceleration. Thanks to the investment of the WFP Office in Colombia and the visionary initiative of the First Lady and the Government of Colombia, WFP Innovation Accelerator continues directly connecting our work with scaling innovations in the countries where we work.

Other than HZERO that was established in 2021, WFP has a network of regional and country-based Innovation Hubs and Units, to identify, nurture, pilot and scale innovative ideas in the world's most strategic regions:

- **WFP Innovation Hub for Eastern Africa**, hosted in WFP Regional Bureau in Nairobi, aims to localize its offering to the region and to harness synergies between the private sector and WFP operations. It seeks to identify, pilot and scale innovations for zero hunger in Eastern Africa.
- **WFP Innovation Unit in South Sudan** is based in Juba. Its work is aligned with the objectives of WFP South Sudan's Country Strategic Plan where WFP works to ensure that vulnerable people affected by conflict, displacement, weather-related or economic shocks, or serious illness can meet their food and nutrition needs through food assistance, Nutrition and Livelihood programming, and logistics support.
- **WFP Innovation Unit in Kenya** fosters, refines, drives, and scales innovations that accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and amplify their impact for WFP Kenya Country Office and beyond.

- **WFP Innovation Unit in Tanzania** has laid the groundwork for catalyzing Tanzania's innovation ecosystem and changing the way WFP approaches both current and future operations. Its work is closely aligned with the objectives of WFP Tanzania's country strategic plan.
- **WFP Innovation Unit in Jordan** aims to nurture the growing number of innovations and entrepreneurs in Jordan whose solutions tackle local food security issues.

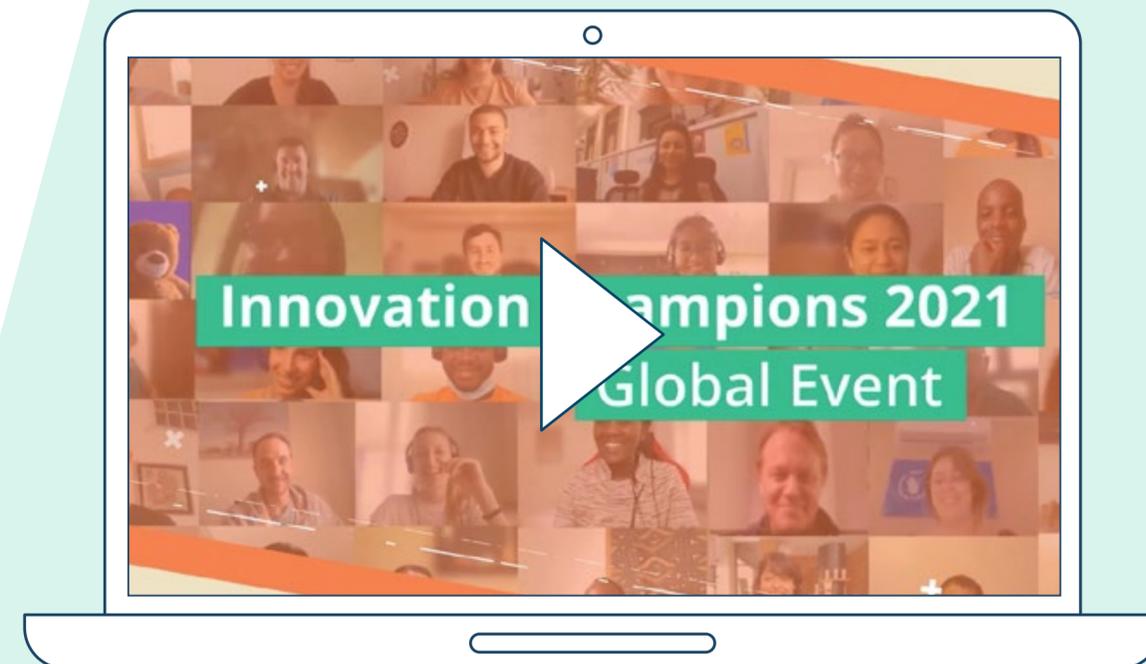


WFP Innovation Champions Community

The WFP Innovation Champions Community is a movement of WFP colleagues working to leverage innovation to achieve zero hunger. In 2021, we held **66 Innovation Community events** in the form of design and innovation workshops, networking and thought leadership. The WFP's Innovation Community got stronger in 2021 by focusing on culture change and local representation of innovation across WFP offices and regions. This was done through strategic enabling, sponsoring, knowledge sharing, and capacity building.

The October [virtual Global Event](#) celebrated one year of the community and actively creating a wider culture of innovation at WFP. The community expanded to **400 members** from **97 duty stations** and hosted WFP's first Innovation Champions Global event, with opening remarks from WFP's Executive Director and participation spanning from Guatemala to China.

Additionally, we kicked off the Project Incubator Programme in December 2021. During this 3-month programme, selected Innovation Champion Community members come together to learn the Human-Centered Design (HCD) methodology and processes for problem definition, explorative research, and ideation to design and test a project concept that is relevant for WFP's strategic goals.



WFP Innovation Champions. On 13–14 October, the Champions gathered in a virtual Global Event to explore how to help innovation thrive at WFP. The song 'iChampion' was created especially for this event by champion Enenche Aba at WFP CO Nigeria. Co-written and performed by Soklems and Sleenga.

“

“Being part of the community has really helped me to hone my skills. Even though I have had projects and had successes implementing some ideas, I learnt a lot from the community.”

ENENCHE ABA, Innovation Community Champion, WFP Nigeria

THE SCALE-UP ENABLEMENT ALUMNI PROGRAMME

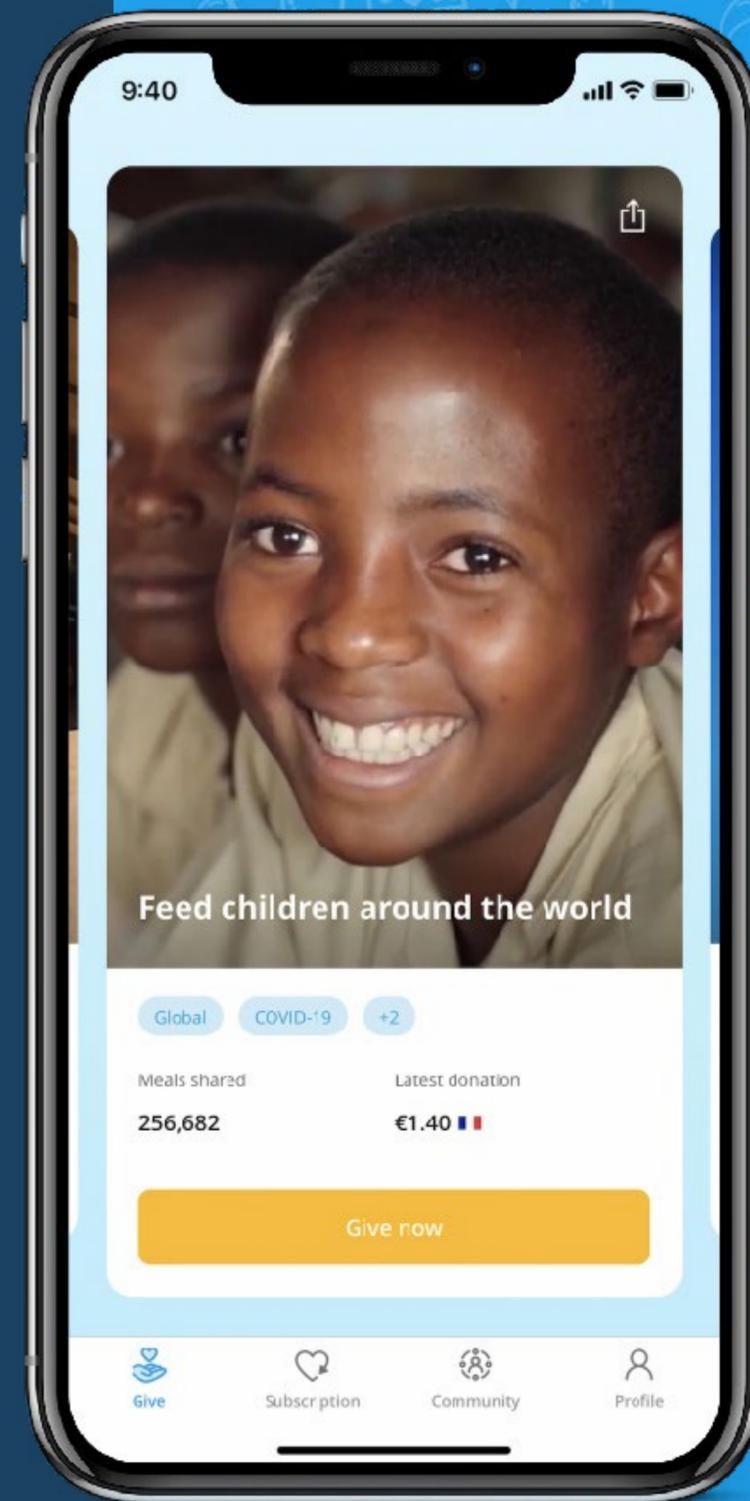
Graduated Projects

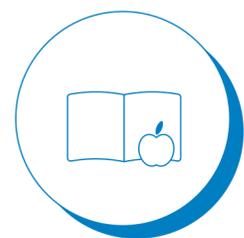
Projects that have completed their life cycle within the WFP Innovation Accelerator are considered graduated, and become part of the Alumni Programme. The Alumni Programme engages and supports a network of graduates to showcase their achievements, share their lessons learned on bringing projects to scale, and promote innovation scaling work.

The Accelerator’s support to our alumni shifted more towards providing visibility and communication opportunities; like connections to high profile audiences from diverse backgrounds including innovation funders, innovative companies, entrepreneurs and thought leaders.

The Alumni Programme in 2021 included [Share the Meal](#), [Building Blocks](#), [EMPACT](#), [Cloud to Street](#), and [Dalili](#).

- **Share the Meal**, WFP’s fundraising app that allows smartphone users all over the world to provide people with vital nutrition through a simple tap on their phones. In 2021, Share the Meal raised over USD 30 million globally and helped its members to share 134,534,489 meals with people in need. Share the Meal has since been adopted in WFP corporate structures as part of its global fundraising efforts.
- **Building Blocks**, WFP’s project active in Bangladesh and Jordan, is the humanitarian sector’s largest blockchain-based cash distribution system, leveraging blockchain to coordinate with other humanitarian agencies and transfer cash-based assistance to refugees securely and efficiently. Building Blocks served 1,000,000 Syrian and Rohingya refugees in Jordan and Bangladesh. As of end 2021, Building Blocks had processed USD 309 million of cash-based transfers through 14 million transactions and saved USD 2.4 million in bank fees. Building Blocks has since been adopted into WFP corporate structures.





BioAnalyt

BioAnalyt is a product innovator of diagnostics and food testing aiming at making nutrition more visible, whether in humans, animals or food. Through the iCheck technology, it provides a digital solution to collect and analyze data on the quality of fortified foods to incentivize compliance with national fortification regulations.

In 2020, BioAnalyt developed its minimum viable product and ran rapid user testing trials with selected edible oil companies in Ghana, Kenya, Malaysia and Nigeria for feedback. Companies in these countries piloted this product to provide feedback that helped BioAnalyt develop the updated version of iCheck Connect, a companion app for the iCheck device to store and visualize testing data for action and improve training and procurement efforts.

COUNTRIES:



IN 2021, BIOANALYT:

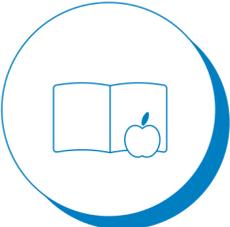
- Tested iCheck Connect with 18 edible oil food companies; and
- Expanded the use of iCheck Connect to additional fortified foods and government food fortification regulation agencies in 2021.
- The iCheck device oil modules were tested with Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) and Standards Organization of Nigeria/ National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (SON/ NAFDAC). The acceptance of these tests by the government will provide initial input for the government module.

HIGHLIGHTS:



Tested iCheck Connect
with 18 edible oil food companies





Chakki

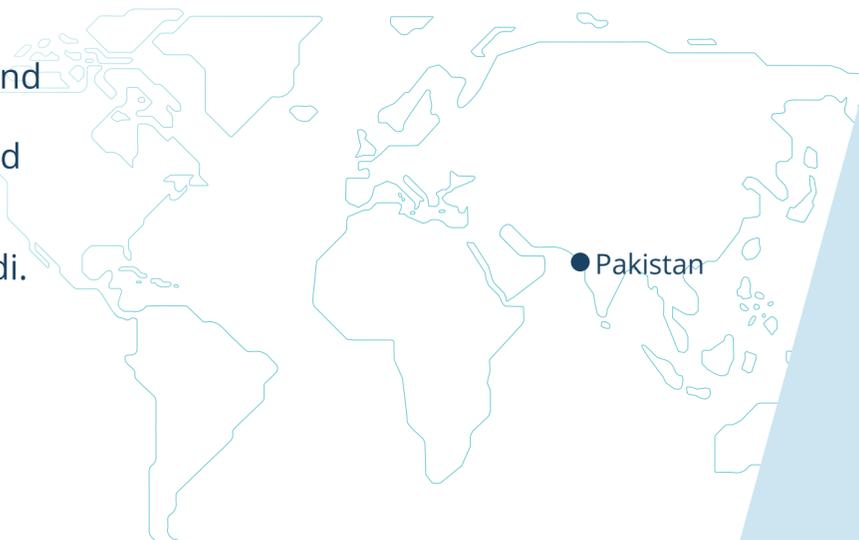
Project Chakki (or small millers) is an innovative approach to improving access and consumption of fortified wheat flour for up to 70 percent of the population in Pakistan. The project equipped the small scale grinders (Chakkis), with innovative technologies, skills, and funding mechanisms to fortify flour, educate their clients, and tackle malnutrition across the country.

As part of the Scale-up Enablement programme, the project focuses on private sector demand creation for business model sustainability.

IN 2021, CHAKKI:

- Reached 200,000 beneficiaries in 7 months; and
- Increased consumer demand for fortified food from 25.83 percent to 92.80 percent, as of September 2021, in Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

COUNTRIES:



“

Fortifying Chakki/Small Mill Flour is a unique opportunity to achieve high public health impact with relatively low investment. It is easy to scale up with sustainable demand and market targeting 70 percent of Pakistani customers.”

MAHAMADOU TANIMOUNE,
Head of Nutrition Unit, WFP Pakistan

HIGHLIGHTS:



523,014
people reached



Raised
USD 700,000
in funding



CODA

CODA (Conditional On Demand Assistance) is a digital solution designed to simplify and streamline nutrition programme guidelines and to record individual beneficiary data. Using a mobile device and a durable smartcard, CODA replaces paper-based records to ensure beneficiary information can be recorded, tracked, and monitored at an individual level. The goal is to empower users to provide better assistance to beneficiaries and to enable stakeholders to make informed decisions through near to real-time data.

CODA fills a gap commonly identified in field operations related to case management, identification of beneficiaries, optimization of resources, and informed decision making. The service is composed of both operational services and the digital product, to ensure that the right beneficiary receives the right assistance at the right time.

COUNTRIES:



IN 2021, CODA:

- Focused on intense search for an upgrade to the technology platform towards an open-source solution/**digital public good**;
- Assessed multiple **open-source solutions** and identified two strong technologies;
- Completed the business analysis for two countries scheduled for CODA implementation in 2022 focusing on **expansion to prevention nutrition programmes**;
- Completed the first fully remote pilot implementation in Afghanistan;
- Shared analysis from the first privacy impact assessment with national **nutrition partners in Democratic Republic of the Congo**; and
- Made substantial progress with data including cloud hosting, building a data warehouse and, improvements in data quality.

“

“With CODA, it is easier to follow up with beneficiaries. CODA is faster than the paperwork and can bring results automatically, so at the end of the day you can visit more people because you don’t have to waste time with the paperwork.”

COMMUNITY NUTRITION VOLUNTEER

HIGHLIGHTS:

 **100,000+** people reached since the project inception

 Implemented in **400+ health facilities**

 Piloted in **6 countries**



Farm to Market Alliance

The Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) is a consortium of public and private institutions that aims to reduce hunger and poverty by providing smallholder farmers an opportunity to engage in structured, gainful and self-sustaining food systems governed by positive commercial forces. The joint vision of FtMA members is to enable a sustainable agricultural system through strengthened markets, aligned with national policy priorities, to empower farmers to improve their income level and resilience and to enhance global food security.

COUNTRIES:



IN 2021, FTMA:

- Reached 1,200 Farmer Service Centres (FSCs) serving 300,000 farmers, of which 48 percent were women;
- Sold 177,507 metric tons of food crops with a value of USD 45 million;
- Earned USD 1,855,772 in commissions from partners through an average of three income streams per FSC;
- Geographically expanded FtMA in operational countries, growing the FSC network, identifying and establishing centres in locations of high potential for growth; and
- Increased engagement with women by targeting female led FSCs, an attractive opportunity for women due to low start-up costs.

“

FtMA has increased engagement with women in three ways: 1) Specifically targeting women farmer engagement through our on-the-ground farmer mobilization 2) FSC's as an agribusiness is an attractive opportunity for women due to low start-up costs, and through this we have begun to engage more women. 3) Working with financial service providers to develop women-friendly financial products.”

FTMA COUNTRY COORDINATOR, KENYA

HIGHLIGHTS:



Increased **farmer enrolment** across the countries



1.5 million people reached in 2021





H2Grow

H2Grow is WFP's hydroponics initiative bringing locally adaptable and affordable hydroponic solutions to vulnerable communities facing the challenges of dry terrain and climate change around the world. By developing low-tech systems from local materials, growing fresh vegetables or animal feed in deserts, refugee camps or urban informal settlements, H2Grow supports food-insecure families to increase their access to fresh food and raise their income.

IN 2021, H2GROW:

- Supported 6 new countries offices in Burundi, Ethiopia, Libya, Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe;
- Built **Model Hydroponics School Garden** in Lusaka to create a reachable site for learning and applying best practices;

- Established a **Global Community of Practice** with representatives from more than 50 different organizations;
- **Supported WFP Nigeria country office** to build 193 new hydroponics animal feed units, which produced **40 tons of fresh animal feed**; and
- **Expanded to 21 countries:** Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Burundi, Chad, Djibouti, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Namibia, Nigeria, Palestine, Peru, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

COUNTRIES:

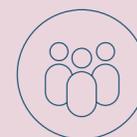


“

“Hydroponics is adoptable and you can do it. The systems we are trying in the Model School in Lusaka are low-cost and can be easily adopted at a household level without limitations to income.”

JOHN FRANCIS SERWANGA,
Hydroponics Technical Expert,
WFP Zambia

HIGHLIGHTS:



45,880
people reached in 2021



72,742
people reached since
project inception



763
hydroponics
units deployed





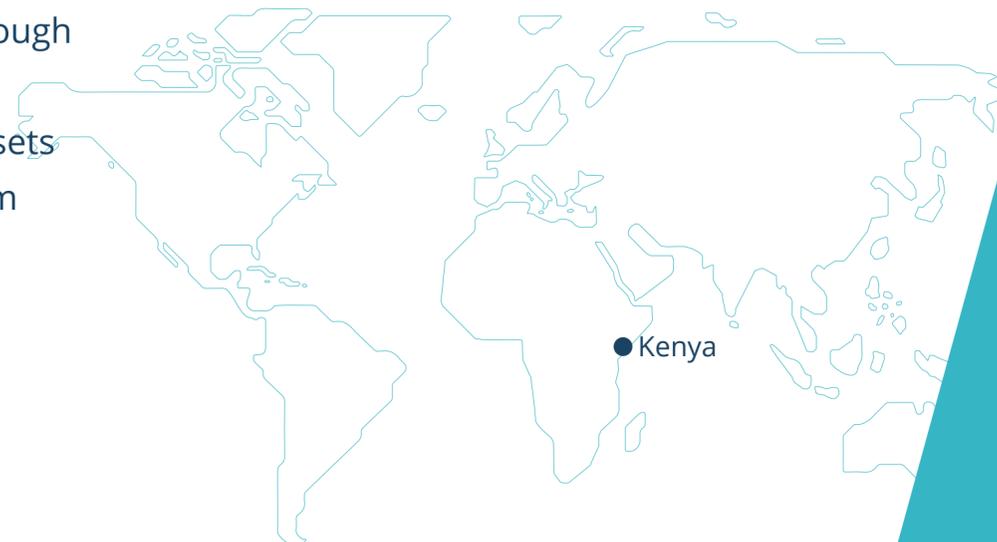
H2Grow asset-based loans

H2Grow Asset-based Loans aims to make hydroponics assets affordable and accessible through fair and transparent loans. Our vision is to build a more sustainable path to finance hydroponics assets and to function as an internal case study to inform WFP’s efforts in blended finance.

IN 2021, H2GROW ASSET-BASED LOANS:

- Raised a multi-year funding from the Scaling & Diffusion Programme of the Humanitarian Innovation Programme Norway; and
- Was presented as part of the Humanitarian and Resilience Investing (HRI) Initiative of the World Economic Forum in February 2021.

COUNTRIES:



“

“The decision to invest in these efforts in Kenya was an easy one. As an agency that operates primarily in the field, everyday we come across real challenges but we also see a very vibrant and robust innovation sector. Kenya is a first-mover in innovation, with products such as MPESA — a mobile cash transfer platform. It’s our intention to direct this innovation infrastructure towards issues like resilience building to amplify the impact of our work.”

LAUREN LANDIS,
Representative and Country Director,
WFP Kenya

HIGHLIGHTS:



Onboarded full team in Kenya

to kick-start operations and conducted stakeholder mapping





Logle

Logle is an internally developed data platform that aggregates, checks and displays internal and external data sources including inputs from Information Management Officers on the ground. The result is a user-friendly, highly integrated data and information gateway displayed in a layered map of valuable supply chain information and up-to-date insights on bottlenecks and constraints in the supply chain from source to destination. It is an open-source tool that aims to provide the community of humanitarian logistics responders promptly with accessible, fast and effective logistics information to help improve humanitarian response.

COUNTRIES:



IN 2021, LOGIE:

- Developed a learning programme to support Information Management officers and Preparedness officers to edit and validate the operational information;
- Implemented new designs to improve usability and the user experience;
- Connected to Automatic Disaster Analysis and Mapping system of WFP; and
- Assisted the Haiti earthquake in August 2021.

“

“In Haiti, being ready to respond to an emergency isn’t a choice we can afford. It is a responsibility! It’s never a question if an emergency will happen but when. And at those moment we are thankful of our team of responders that are ready to work round the clock to deliver relief to the affected population.”

YENDI GERVE, Logistics Sector Assistant, WFP Haiti, Port-au-Prince

HIGHLIGHTS:



+100% increase

in usage in emergency context



100 humanitarian organizations

adopted Logle information products



Optimus

Optimus is a web application that looks at WFP operations from an end-to-end perspective to support better planning, helping users identify the most cost-effective solutions with advanced mathematics. It pulls together a wide variety of data—from beneficiary numbers to sourcing options and from transport routes to nutritional values. Users can create their own scenarios or ask Optimus to find optimal plans, taking into account operational restrictions (such as lead times and funding) and preferences (such as nutritional value targets and local procurement targets). A user-friendly interface allows users from any functional area to quickly explore the different scenarios and compare them against each other.

COUNTRIES:



IN 2021, OPTIMUS:

- Conducted analysis for most Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies, including Afghanistan, Syria, and Madagascar;
- Supported WFP’s grant proposals for the USDA McGovern-Dole programme, which aims to reduce hunger and improve literacy and primary education, and secured USD 25 million for school meal programmes in Congo;
- Designed the food ration for Afghan refugees entering Iran and doubled the food nutritional value while reducing the cost by USD 2.5 per person per month; and
- With WFP Supply Chain, received the Franz Edelman Award 2021, one of the most prestigious awards for advanced analytics.

“

Analytics helps us stretch every dollar as far as possible. As the world continues to face one of the greatest humanitarian challenges in history, it is key for us to be as innovative and efficient as we can. Data and analytics are great propellers in our mission to save lives and change lives.”

AMIR ABDULLA,
WFP Deputy Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS:



**Saved
USD 60,000**
for WFP in 2021



**110,000
people reached**
with food baskets designed
by Optimus in 2021





Post-Harvest Loss Reduction

WFP's Post-Harvest Loss (PHL) Venture is a venture between WFP's Programme Unit and the WFP Innovation Accelerator that supports WFP country offices to develop and scale PHL sustainable business models. This allows smallholder farmers to access PHL technologies, with the aim of improving household food security and income while enhancing income opportunities for other value chain actors. Participating farmers were able to significantly reduce their post-harvest losses, leading to a threefold increase in their income.

Since the soft launch of the PHL Venture in late 2020, the project rolled out in four WFP countries in 2021 and helped secure multi-year contribution for scaling up PHL activities in the active countries.

COUNTRIES:



IN 2021, PHL:

- Onboarded four focus countries (Mozambique, South Sudan, Rwanda, Zambia) to develop and scale base business models with private and public sector partners;
- Secured approximately USD 4.5 million from private and public sectors to support country offices implement PHL market infrastructure development activities; and
- Kicked off business modeling and private sector capacity assessment in first focus countries.

“

“The adoption of technologies and the training facilitated by WFP will help our family have more available food for consumption and for trade. This will help us generate extra income that I will use to cover the school costs of our son Antonio. Our family is also eating healthier food since we are using less chemicals to maintain our produce. The programme has helped our lives beyond just farming.”

PHL USER, Nampula, Mozambique

HIGHLIGHTS:



663,000
people reached



Secured
USD 4.5 million
in support

PRISM

90 percent of all disasters in the last 20 years were climate-related. **PRISM** tracks the impact of extreme weather events and other disasters in order to design risk reduction activities and target responses. By bringing different data streams into a single interactive map, PRISM rapidly presents decision makers with actionable information on vulnerable populations exposed to hazards, allowing them to prioritize assistance to those most in need. PRISM grew from a country initiative in Indonesia and Cambodia, to an Asia-Pacific regional initiative. It is now a ready-to-scale platform led by WFP headquarters.

IN 2021:

PRISM was recognized as a digital public good aligned with the [Digital Public Goods Standard](#). PRISM now appears in the Digital Public Goods Alliance (DPGA) registry where it can be found as a digital public good and reflects a growing network of open source and open data contributions to the SDGs.

COUNTRIES:



“

“[The maps] enabled the Cambodian government, WFP and humanitarian partners to better understand the geographic extent of the floods over time and target emergency assistance where it was most needed.”

KURT BURJA,
Programme Policy Officer, WFP Cambodia

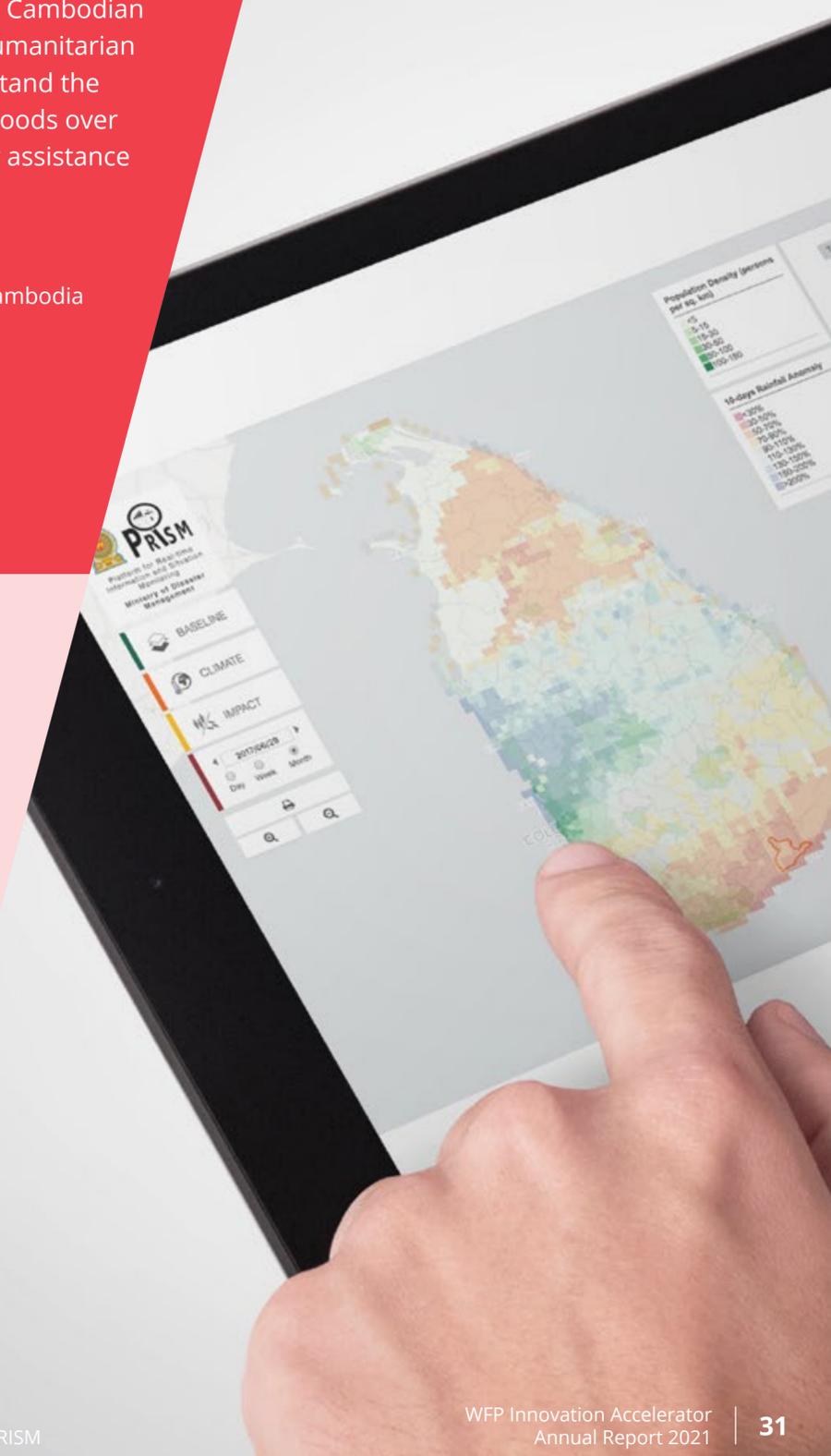
HIGHLIGHTS:

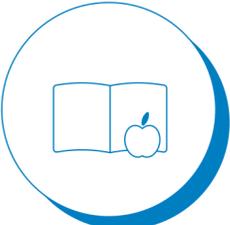


Assisted **115,000 people** during the Cambodia flood response in October 2021



Recognized as a **digital public good**

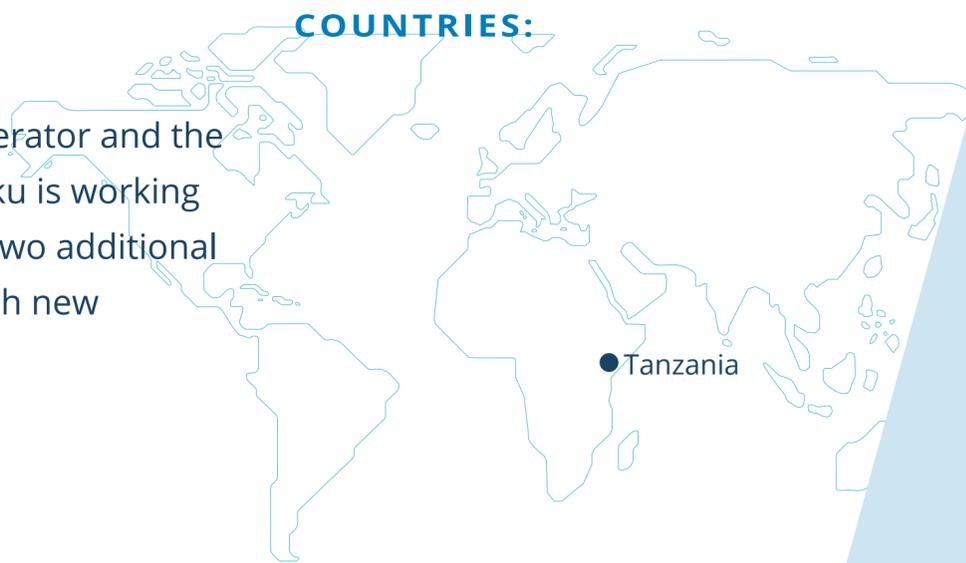




Sanku

Sanku provides fortification tools, training and other support to small maize flour mills, enabling them to fortify their flour with essential micronutrients. Sanku installs its fortification technology (the “dosifier”), which adds a precise amount of critical nutrients to flour, onto the small East African flour mills that produce and sell the staple food to millions of families. Sanku offsets the costs of the millers’ nutrients by bulk buying empty pink flour bags, which are then sold to the millers to pack their flour. The margins from flour bag sales cover the entire cost of the millers’ nutrients, so mills can fortify their flour at no added cost. Sanku’s IoT-enabled dosifiers facilitate remote monitoring of the accuracy of nutrient premix dosing and quantity of fortified flour produced.

Supported by the WFP Innovation Accelerator and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Sanku is working to scale in Tanzania, expand to at least two additional countries, and develop solutions to reach new populations.



IN 2021, SANKU:

- Reached three million people;
- Sourced 200 dosifiers to Tanzania, 91 of which have been installed in project mills;
- Trained operators at the target mills on fortification and Sanku’s fortification technology;
- Was selected as one of the 286 high-impact organizations to be endorsed by billionaire philanthropist MacKenzie Scott; and
- Established Kenya office.

HIGHLIGHTS:



3 million
people reached in 2021

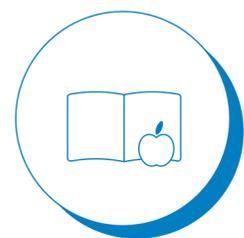


Partnered with more than
600 mills

“

At Sanku, we feel very privileged to have progressed through every stage of the World Food Programme’s Innovation Accelerator. This partnership has enabled us to further innovate our model, build capacity by growing our local team, and ultimately have the resources and support to scale our solution across East Africa and beyond. Connecting with WFP’s country offices and their network of technical experts means that we are not alone on our journey to end malnutrition for 100 million people this decade.”

LEAH TRONEL,
Director of Development



SMP PLUS

SMP PLUS (formerly PLUS School Menus) is an AI-powered tool that calculates the most cost-effective school feeding menus that meet children’s nutritional requirements. It ensures dietary diversity and optimizes impact on local economies through purchasing from local smallholder farmers.

Based on local and seasonal food availability, nutritional requirements of the targeted children and local eating habits, the algorithm finds the best combination of ingredients to create a menu that is affordable, nutritious, local, and culturally acceptable. The solution is a centralized menu creation platform that offers additional modalities beyond AI for different cases.

IN 2021, SMP PLUS:

- Reached 1.2 million children in three countries where menus had been implemented for school feeding national programmes;
- Established partnership with the African Union which will foster the usage of the tool across the continent;
- Was implemented at scale in Bhutan, confirming pilot results for cost savings (15 percent actual),

smallholder farmers contribution increase (60 percent actual) and increasing nutritional values;

- Joined the academic institution Partnership for Child Development of Imperial College to create a new modality for menu design work at community level;
- Received Funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) for scale up in Africa and academic research on SMP PLUS’s potential; and
- Implemented new use cases beyond school feeding, such as Emergency Food basket design in Kyrgyzstan, Cash-Based Transfer baseline price calculation in Afghanistan, and pilot project in pediatric hospitals in Bhutan.



“

“The tool is very friendly. It facilitates the work a lot and I can tell that the same menu that would take me a few weeks to prepare, now I could do it in one or two days. It really optimizes my time. It does not only optimize the process, but also provides better menu combinations for children at school.”

SMP PLUS USER

HIGHLIGHTS:

 **1.2 million** children assisted

 **15% savings** in food purchases

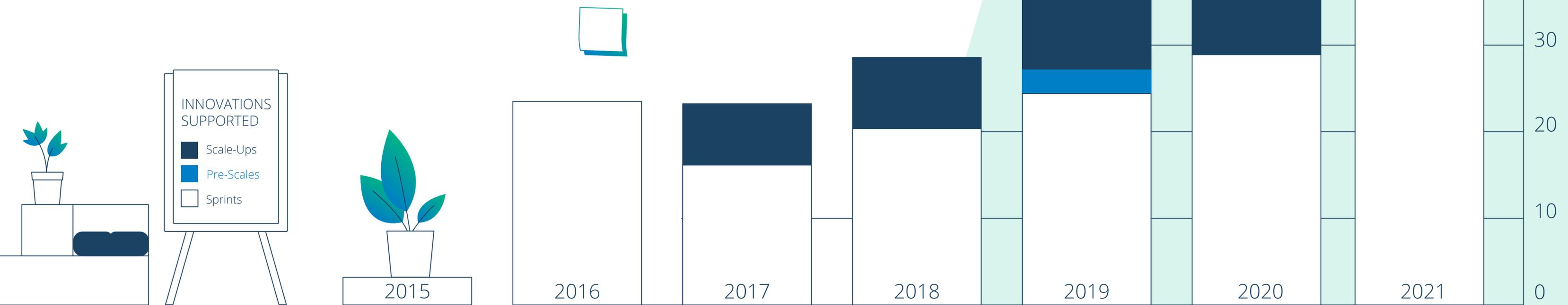
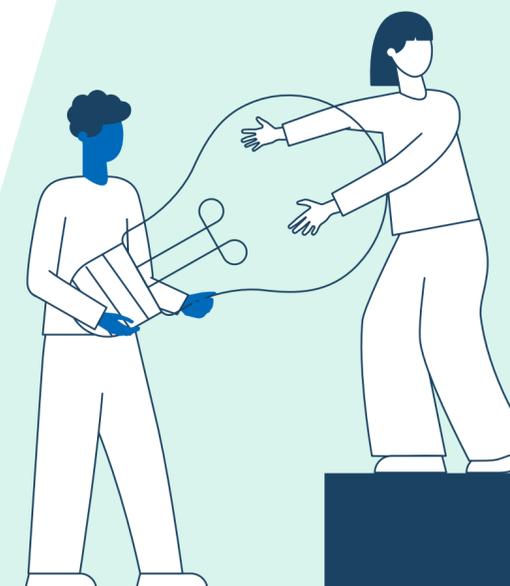
 **60% increase** in smallholder farmer contributions in Bhutan’s scale-up in 2021

 Started the adoption process in **15 countries**

Sprinting innovations from early stage to impact

Our Sprint Programme identifies and enables innovators from WFP and external ventures to be ready to scale their high impact solutions to achieve zero hunger. In 2021, the WFP Innovation Accelerator supported **40 sprints in over 25 countries**. 70 percent of sprint teams tested medium and high-tech solutions in WFP operations, with an increase in blockchain, artificial intelligence and data driven solutions. In 2021, three sprint projects, namely Thrive Agric, Optimus, and Roambee, were prepared to scale.

The WFP Innovation Accelerator sourced mentors and experts to deliver over 100 mentor sessions for bootcamp and sprint teams, including support of mentors from Google, [Bosch Siemens Household Appliances](#), USAID, and Netlight. We initiated a demand-driven “Expert Series”, with the first session on Behaviour Change, and additional sessions on lean startup and human-centred design, to be stored in an e-library in 2022.



TARGETED SOURCING AND SUPPORT FOR

High impact innovations

In 2021, the WFP Innovation Accelerator launched three calls for applications seeking innovative solutions for more resilient, nutritious and inclusive food systems and received **over 1,350 applications from 125 countries**. Out of these applications, **24 teams** were invited to one of **three WFP Innovation Bootcamps** held this year. 18 teams proceeded to the WFP Innovation Accelerator's sprint programme.

Second round funding was provided to five sprints to further test critical assumptions and replicate operations. Meridia received direct sprint funding after a series of rigorous assessments.

The WFP Innovation Accelerator supported the [Nigeria Zero Hunger Roundtable](#), a platform facilitated by the WFP Nigeria Country Office and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs in Nigeria to attract private sector funding, where six Nigerian cutting-edge start-ups disrupting food systems (selected out of 71 applications) received between USD 12,000 and USD 50,000 in seed funding from leading organizations.



DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW

Grant Management process

In 2021, we kept taking calculated risks with the promising innovations. This meant continued **strengthening of our innovation management processes and practices to reduce risk and streamline good business practices**, with principles of **transparency, competition and segregation of duties**.

The WFP Innovation Accelerator designed and piloted a **refined grant management system** to financially award external startups outside of the previous procurement process. This new way of working created a comprehensive, transparent, and competitive multi-stage process implemented for applicants to be selected and awarded funds from the Accelerator and its donors. The new process strengthens the selection of startups through a tailored operational and financial due diligence process, also including a compliance committee review, and improved funds administration and monitoring.

The new Grant Management process has been piloted in 2021 and will be fully rolled out across the WFP Innovation Accelerator in 2022.



Supporting WFP Lebanon

FOOD SYSTEMS GRANT FACILITY: RESULTS IN 2021

The WFP Innovation Accelerator joined forces with the WFP Lebanon Country Office to establish a groundbreaking grant to save businesses. The **Food Systems Grant Facility** was established to provide small grants to small businesses in the agri-food sector affected by the Beirut port blast and help them remain afloat, thus strengthening the future of Lebanon's food systems.

Of the **280 applications** the Facility received, **222 businesses (25 percent women-owned)** were awarded grants of up to **USD 5,000** to rehabilitate their stores, replace damaged equipment, retain employees and restock raw materials. Just one month after most businesses received the grants, many businesses were already busy completing rehabilitation of their stores, and restocking raw materials. Four months after that, over 97 percent of the supported businesses were still operational despite the extreme challenges faced by Lebanon's economy.

Going forward in 2022, the initiative will continue with a more focused group of up to 30 businesses, with a higher package of support of up to USD 100,000, as part of WFP's wider effort to **address longer-term food system challenges in Lebanon.**

For the future, WFP and a local partner selected **ten innovative businesses (and will select 20 additional businesses)** to receive a package support worth up to **USD 100,000** each (covering business development services, technical assistance, in-kind support and cash grants) as part of WFP's efforts to **address longer term food system challenges in Lebanon.**



“

“The support I received from WFP came at the right time. It was much needed. I was able to restock the store and include new items that I could not afford before.”

OWNER OF A MINI MARKET IN ACHRAFIEH

Ancestral Markets

Ancestral Markets is a digital platform that connects indigenous Afro-Colombian food producers with urban markets while safeguarding ancestral lands, food and ancestral food knowledge. It aims at improving the livelihoods of Afro-Colombian food producers and enhancing nutritional diets in Colombia.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Ancestral Markets aims to connect indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities with urban food consumers with the purpose of trading ethically produced nutritious food while safeguarding ancestral knowledge, land and improving livelihoods of marginalized communities. The team selected seven communities to participate in pilot. Producers were trained on how to safely pack and label their products. The project facilitated regulatory, administrative and contractual groundwork for the rollout of the marketplace for WFP operations in 2022.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Colombia**

 **3,028**
People reached



© Mucho Colombia SAS/José Antonio Lucio

Annapurti (GrainATM)

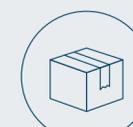
To ensure efficient and effective distribution of food grains at the last mile, WFP India has developed **Annapurti GrainATM**. Annapurti (Hindi for “fulfiller of food”) is an automated multi-commodity dispensing machine, which will provide people with access to their full entitlement with speed and accuracy.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

WFP India developed three dispensing units in 2021 and installed units in two site locations in India, impacting 8,000 people. Within the first week of the launch, the response from Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana led to nationwide coverage of Annapurti across the country. The units enabled a 40 percent reduction in transaction time for the people we serve, 99 percent of accuracy of dispensation, compared to 10 to 20 percent underweight with the manual process, and a 71 percent satisfaction rate. With an unprecedented response from different state government, WFP India has already received request from multiple states for scale-up and deployment of the solution.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **India**

 Dispense the food entitlement amount with an error rate of **00.01%**



© WFP/Nishant Aggarwal

Apeel Sciences

Apeel Sciences aims to increase Kenyan smallholder incomes by opening up new export market opportunities for avocados with Apeel shelf-life extension technology.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Apeel established operational capabilities in Kenya, securing regulatory approval and shipping equipment and materials. This enabled Apeel to conduct R&D studies to optimize its protective coating for shelf-life extension. Apeel then executed three shipping trials with fruit (avocados) from smallholder farmers. This fruit was then analyzed to determine the efficacy of Apeel's technology in halting the factors causing spoilage.

Apeel measured water loss, respiration rate and firmness, and found that Kenyan avocados protected with Apeel had a 49 percent reduction in water loss per day and a 13 percent reduction in peak respiration rate, resulting in an extended shelf life of ripened fruit from 3 days to 5 days. Apeel also measured a 59 percent decrease in spoilage 8-10 days post-ripening.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Kenya**

 **59%** decrease in spoilage **8-10 days** post-ripening



Arable

Arable aims to increase smallholder farmer resilience through agronomic advising and microinsurance informed by hyperlocal data.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Arable builds compact, low-cost crop and climate monitoring systems that provide real-time information about the weather and plant productivity. The team proposes that more granular and high-cadence data will ultimately improve crop yield outcomes of subsistence farmers through better planning, advising and understanding of risks.

The project achieved key milestones to impact the lives of smallholder farmers in Mozambique.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Mozambique**

 **Trained** agricultural extension workers

“

Weather and crop data will be vital to improve our seasonal and short-term forecasts. It also provides growers with tools that will complement the trainings they have received in the last years.”

ARABLE USER



© Arable/ Pedro Chilambe

CBT Cash Back

The WFP Bangladesh country office developed **CBT Cash Back** as incentive to strengthen nutrition sensitivity of social safety nets.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

The project supported 54,000 people in need from at-risk low-income urban informal settlements in Dhaka, to four large informal settlements in Dhaka. The cash incentive system (cash-back) - incentivized families to use cash transfers to purchase healthy food. The innovative Building Blocks technology was used in the SPRINT-supported programme in Sattala and Kalyanpur informal settlement areas to track purchasing patterns of the people we serve, and ascertain key nutritional intake through this procurement data.



© WFP/Asif Mahmud

HIGHLIGHTS:

Active in **Bangladesh**

+5% increase in purchase of fruits and vegetables

“

“In the village, we don't have job opportunities - moreover there is river erosion and floods. So we migrated to the city, where we had to face lots of hazards as well. Especially because of COVID-19 and the recent fire we lost all our savings. But this programme is helping us to fight back and that one time payment after the fire was really helpful.”

CBT CASH BACK PARTICIPANT

Clean Cooking Haiti

Clean Cooking Haiti introduces Heat Retention Bags in WFP School canteens.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

In 2021, WFP Haiti produced Heat Retention Bags (HRBs), made with upcycling local plastic waste to support schools' transition to cleaner energy sources and reduce their energy needs.

These HRBs were tested in Haitian school canteens. With thorough trainings and assessments, the project generated strong evidence of demand for the HRBs for school feeding programmes as well as for usage of the bags at household level.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Active in **Haiti**

80% reductions of fuel needs

5KG of plastic upcycled per School Size Heat Retention Bag



© WFP/Maria Tavares

“

“I used the bags to soak the beans overnight. In the morning my children couldn't wait to open the bag and see the result. They called it the magic bag!”

SCHOOL COOK

Community Inclusion Currencies

Community Inclusion Currencies offers a community-driven credit programme to enable people to exchange goods and services and set up new businesses, helping local economies and communities to keep moving despite insufficient national currency and volatile markets.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

During the sprint programme in 2021, the team designed a randomized control trial for the Community Inclusion Currency (CIC) pilot and has sensitized and trained 40 villages in Kenya on how to use and exchange community inclusion currencies. The project expects to see a sustainable increase to local trade of about 5x the current market volumes (compared to other treatment and control groups not using CIC).

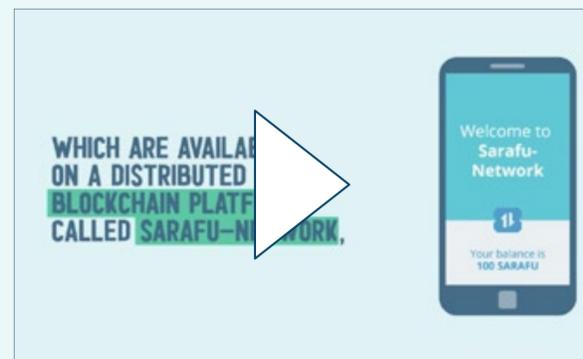
The project used Sarafu-Credit, a community currency system built on a blockchain to secure user accounts and USSD technology to enable access on any cell phone even without internet access.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Kenya**

 **300 new users** surveyed

 **17,000+** Sarafu users



Decapolis

Decapolis is an innovative blockchain-based food safety and quality traceability platform. It allows smallholder farmers to validate their products' compliance with quality control standards, empowering them to access export markets and generate better income.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

The project targeted 100 farmers across different agricultural areas and around 40 different crops produced in Jordan. All farmers were registered users in the Decapolis application, including 88 males and 12 females. In order to join the cohort, soil and water were tested for physical and chemical contamination by pathological and heavy metals in the fields at the beginning of the season to ensure the ability and viability of these farms to achieve the objectives of the project. In order to build up the capabilities of the farmers, ten expert agricultural coordinators were appointed to manage farmer operations and the usage of the Decapolis Food Guard (DFG) platform.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Jordan, Nigeria**

 **33% higher revenues** relative to average spot market prices



© WFP/Mohammad Batah

DEFAST

DEFAST produces fertilizer and cooking briquettes through safe treatment of human waste in refugee camps.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Water For People, WFP and UNHCR implemented a Decentralized Fecal Sludge Treatment plant (DEFAST) in Nyamagabe District of Rwanda. The plant's aim is to treat fecal sludge efficiently and effectively to mitigate the environmental contamination risk whilst recovering resources from the fecal sludge through reuse of the produced manure and cooking briquettes. During the sprint, a fully functional treatment plant was built for the treatment of fecal sludge mainly from Kigeme Refugee camp and the surrounding communities and 295 jobs were created. Testing of the technology shows a 75 percent reduction of critical pollutants (in water) (BOD5, COD) 100 percent removal of Total Coliforms that were causing hydric diseases (such as diarrhoea, cholera)

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Rwanda**

 **295** jobs created

 **One treatment plant built**



© WFP/Fidele Nteziyaremye

Digital Microwork Pilot (Celo and Corsali)

The Digital Microwork project connects young people at risk of hunger to an online microwork platform, enabling them to earn income from machine learning jobs using cryptocurrency and e-wallets.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

The pilot successfully onboarded, trained and coached 170 young people from Kibera, Kenya's biggest informal settlement, to perform digital microwork and use cryptocurrency-based payment rails. Pilot participants had a 95 percent training completion rate in digital microwork. This enabled them to access a new form of income as well as experience new forms of financial products and services made possible by decentralized finance (DeFi).

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Kenya**

 **95%** training completion rate in digital microwork

 Increase income from digital microwork by **20% per year**



© WFP/EMPACT/Celo

DignifAI

DignifAI is a digital economy integration and data-labeling project that aims to provide work for individuals in vulnerable communities along the Colombian-Venezuelan Border.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

DignifAI is growing its Learn & Earn model that combines AI Data-Labeling microwork with digital and soft skill development. This combination of digital micro-work and basic upskilling is the foundation of the labor inclusion ladder.

The primary goals in the sprint programme have been to: 1) create new income-generating streams for migrants and their dependents through our AI data-labeling activities; and 2) achieve skill development and maximum participation through our digital and soft skill upskilling content.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Colombia**

 **82% participants** completed the Upskilling curriculum successfully

 **28% of total participants** already working in DignifAI projects generating temporary income



© WFP/Gabriela Basto

Eco Friendly Cold Storage Solution

Eco Friendly Cold Storage Solution offers low-tech and low-cost off-grid local cold storage solutions at retail markets, designed to extend the shelf-life and retain nutritional quality of fresh foods.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

The project introduced low tech, cost effective off-grid cold storage solutions for fresh food traders following an in-depth feasibility study undertaken by WFP, government officials and University of Nairobi (knowledge partner). This informed the number and type of coolers. Four zero-energy brick coolers and one evaporative charcoal cooler were fabricated and assembled in two markets with the aim of extending commodity shelf-life while retaining the freshness, nutritive value and ultimately enabling the sale and/ consumption for a longer duration. The coolers were fabricated using local materials as much as possible and ensured no negative environment impact: charcoal produced from prosopis juliflora, an invasive shrub. Market committees have been trained to maintain the coolers, resolve disputes, keep records, and collect fees. M&E baseline and survey tools were developed and implemented to inform matrices and business model. Cooler efficacy tests have started.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Kenya**

 **5 units built** in two remote markets



© WFP/Thomas Chika

EPC4S Lesotho

Electric Pressure Cookers for Schools in Lesotho aims to improve health, reduce deforestation and save cost.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

A large percentage of schools in Lesotho rely on wood fuel and charcoal for cooking. This project used electric pressure cookers (EPCs) to sustainably replace biomass-based cooking in school canteens in Lesotho. During the sprint, eight female government staff members were trained on use and monitoring of EPCs, 11 teachers and 12 cooks were trained on how to use EPCs, and 1,716 learners benefited from improved cooking practices.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Lesotho**

 **64%** in monetary savings from usage of EPC



© WFP/Ntebaleng Thetsane

Fenik Evaptainers

Fenik Evaptainers are low-cost, off-grid, mobile evaporative refrigerators that run on water.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

WFP Malawi deployed units in eight districts of Malawi. Results from the pilot demonstrated an extension of five days on average for perishable fruits and vegetables at the household level.

79 percent of people we serve expressed that they feel that the cooler box is user-friendly/easy to use.

96 percent of the people we serve expressed satisfaction with how the Fenik cooler box is working.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Malawi**

 5 days of **shelf life increase** (avg)



© WFP/Badre-Bahaji

HungerMap^{LIVE}

HungerMap^{LIVE} uses near real-time monitoring and machine learning models to track and monitor food security around the globe.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

In 2021, the **HungerMap^{LIVE}** was upgraded in several aspects. Near real-time food security monitoring systems were rolled out in 36 countries. New predictive models were developed to forecast food security indicators up to one month in advance. An alerting system was integrated into the **HungerMap^{LIVE}**, which signals marked deteriorations in food intake, COVID-19 cases, conflict-related fatalities, rainfall and vegetation anomaly, capturing the impact of key drivers of hunger in real time.

A new risk classification framework was developed using key food security indicators, and all data and country classifications are available on the **HungerMap^{LIVE}** platform.

A range of new resources, i.e. Global, Regional and Country Insights and Key Trends, including deep dives on key drivers of hunger, are available and updated daily on the platform.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Globally**

 **10,600+** pages of analytical reports on global hunger produced monthly

Imara Tech: Scaling Mechanization

Imara Tech manufactures agricultural equipment for smallholder farmers in Tanzania.

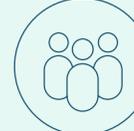
ACHIEVEMENTS:

During 2021, Imara Tech expanded into the Kigoma region of Tanzania by hiring a team and opening a new workshop and office. Under the Sprint Programme, Imara Tech tested different sales and marketing models, such as selling through agents vs. full-time staff, in order to understand the best way to distribute products into rural areas. The company pitched products to 220 farmer groups and 4000 farmers that were being supported by WFP Tanzania and concluded the Sprint with having sold 117 threshers and learned valuable lessons about scaling. Products sold by Imara Tech during the sprint programme helped create 63 new agribusinesses and enabled 1400 farms to access mechanization.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Tanzania**

 **10,000** people reached

 **USD 63k** in reduced crop losses and increased crop value for smallholders



© Imara Tech/Ikram Poppe

Kumwe/AflaSight

AflaSight combines cutting-edge machine technology with strategic market operations to provide large-scale cleaning of maize in aflatoxin hot-beds.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

AflaSight set up pilot operations and began trialing its cutting edge machine line that can reduce the presence of aflatoxin once present in maize. July 2021 marked the first time this technology was used on the African continent. By the end of August 2021, the equipment line was installed and commissioned by our manufacturer. As we have been operating between the major maize seasons, the AflaSight team used this time to trial the machinery to ensure reduction targets of aflatoxin were met and to establish relationships with target users - mainly maize traders and farmers. At end of year, there was an 80 percent reduction of total aflatoxin levels in maize cleaned by AflaSight, with 300 metric tons through the machine line.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Rwanda**

 **80-90%** aflatoxin reduction



© AflaSight

Kuza One

Kuza One is a digital platform that provides training and collaboration opportunities to smallholder farmers and agripreneurs (i.e. rural youth, women, and small business owners) in Kenya, helping them grow their businesses and earn viable incomes. Each Agripreneur offers bundled services to a cohort of 200 smallholder farmers from within their local communities. As members of OneNetwork, Agripreneurs earn commissions from selling high-quality products and services from curated service providers.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

With WFP Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA), KUZA provided incubation services to its farmer service centers (Agripreneurs) and linkage to service providers via its OneNetwork. KUZA onboarded 80 Agripreneurs from six Kenyan counties and ten service providers to OneNetwork with 52 percent of them recording their business transactions digitally.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Kenya**

 **50%** of the Farmer Service Centres collate digital records of their farmers

 **52%** of transactions happened via the Kuza One platform



© KuzaOne



Last Mile Ecosystem

Last Mile Ecosystem (LME) is a digital community ecosystem connecting central kitchens, drivers and small holder farmers to improve diets of school children in Tunisia. The vision is to make fresh and local food travel fast for every child WFP serves. LME service connects school kitchens to transporters delivering fresh produce from smallholder farmers.

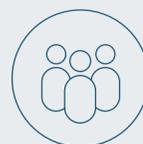
ACHIEVEMENTS:

In 2021, Last Mile Ecosystem moved from a simple idea to a proof of concept and a prototype was developed. During the sprint, a Tunisian user research company was hired, behavioural and demand-creation researchers were onboarded, trainings for governments were held and the prototype was tested in two centralized and decentralized districts in Tunisia. In 2022, the full-scale digital application will be developed and tested across two governorates in Tunisia where several potential schools, local farmer cooperatives and transporters are being targeted.

HIGHLIGHTS:



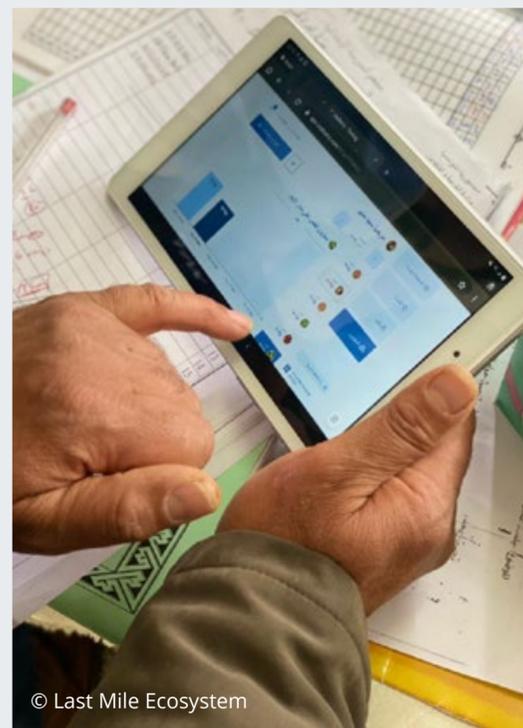
Active in
Tunisia



Onboarded key
Government stakeholders
to adopt the LME



Conducted **user experience** and
behavioral research



Mbala Pinda

Mbala Pinda is a locally-produced cassava peanut snack that empowers women, improves nutrition, raises school attendance and ensures food producer groups are financially sustainable.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

In 2021, the Mbala Pinda project (started in mid-2020) continued its implementation through financing coming from the WFP Innovation Accelerator and Sodexo-Stop Hunger. This year, the activities concentrated on reinforce the capacities of 160 women smallholders specifically in marketing and managerial capacities, as well as in food safety and hygiene knowledge (with the partner National Resource Institute). Training on both areas were delivered in August and November.

Through the support of the WFP Innovation Accelerator, an end-to-end supply chain study were performed in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire to identify potential transporter that may deliver Mbala Pinda from the area where the producers live to the main urban areas of the country. Acceptability testing was realized in both cities, and with students in Nkayi.

HIGHLIGHTS:



Active in
Republic of Congo



4,670 students
continue receiving mbala pinda (through Sodexo funding)



Meridia

Aiming to document the land tenure for Ghana's farmers affordably at scale, **Meridia** is the local business partner and one-stop-shop for the entire process of land tenure. Meridia developed proprietary technology for high speed delivery and greater cost-effectiveness.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Meridia validated the problem of some communities in Ghana having insecure land tenure arrangements, negatively affecting land use and farm investments. Therefore, Meridia reached 525 farmers via surveys and group discussions. As stakeholders were willing to collaborate to resolve land tenure insecurity, Meridia engaged traditional authorities across seven traditional areas and came to contract one of them to serve farmers with land tenure documents. Meridia prepared the pilot execution to validate that land tenure documents help resolve farmer land tenure challenges by creating the necessary tenure product. Lastly, Meridia analyzed its business model by engaging parties, including farmers, buyers and financial institutions, willing to fund the product.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Active in **Ghana**

525 farmers surveyed



© Meridia/Dora Konadu Opoku

Meza

Meza - Intelligent Character Recognition

Technology is an AI tool to digitize paper records from the country operations cheaply and quickly using low-end smartphones.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Meza validated its proof of concept in 2021, showing more than 97 percent accuracy in decoding numeric data in nutrition logbooks allowing for analysis on programmatic indicators, and that the delay between the image submission on Meza and the readiness of data for review is less than 24 hours. Through collaboration with the WFP technology division, MEZA assessed potential data protection risks to which the people we serve would be exposed to through the use of Meza and set up mitigation measures. MEZA's risk management plan was approved by the Architectural Board of technology, providing assurance in regard to scalability of the solution in case of a successful pilot.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Active in **Rwanda**

97.24% decoding accuracy in the proof of concept



© WFP/Meza

Network Fresh

Network Fresh redistributes food to fight hunger and food waste in Turkey.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

WFP Turkey country office developed Network Fresh to ensure vulnerable populations have access to affordable and varied food while stimulating the local economy. The team built a digital solution to connect foodservice businesses that have surplus food with households to increase food security and reduce food waste.

For this, WFP contracted with a company called Fazla Gıda that has a mobile application to be used for the donation and partners with the Sisli Municipality and ensure delivery of donated foods. Between July and December, 70 businesses were registered to the application and 22 businesses donated regularly. Businesses provided 18,893 meals to 50 households (around 250 vulnerable people) which were selected by Şişli Municipality.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Active in **Turkey**

Provided daily meals to **250 vulnerable individuals** during 6 month



© Network Fresh

Nutri-India

Nutri-India is an App to train school cooks on hygiene and nutrition.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

WFP developed this application to provide an easy, accessible, and understandable mobile learning platform for kitchen safety and hygiene measures. This app ensures regular capacity building and refresher trainings through nine modules, three assessments and a dashboard which can be used by government stakeholders to monitor the learning progress of the Cook/Helpers. WFP distributed tablets with the application to 350 schools in two states and the application is available at Google play store for free download. Necessary orientation was provided to government officials and schoolteachers before handing over tabs to schools. The teachers in turn trained the Cook/Helpers and they are currently completing the modules and assessments with enthusiasm.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Active in **India**

5,000+ downloads of the application from Google Play Store

“

“I have successfully completed the online training on food safety. It was very interesting and informative. I will try my level best to apply the acquired knowledge while preparing and serving meal to pupils in our school.”

Cook/Helpers of Malapura Government

plugPAY

plugPAY is a digital payment solution for people we serve to rapidly receive cash assistance through their payment instrument of choice.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

plugPAY is a digital payment solution for people to rapidly receive cash assistance through their payment instrument of choice. Some of the key highlights of the Sprint include: (1) the validation of plugPAY proof of concept, making direct payments that reached 1063 people (2) Contribution to a mindset shift of how Cash Based Transfers are managed at WFP- towards a people centric approach which allows people we serve to choose their payment instrument of choice for the reception of their entitlements and finally (3) the contribution to the strengthening of financial sector in Zambia by highlighting liquidity issues faced by some of the service providers using the national switch and which is not compliant with the central bank regulations, resulting in the introduction of penalties for the non-compliant firms. Going forward, plugPAY targets to scale up their reach to 100,000 people by the end of 2022.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Active in **Zambia, Haiti**

Reduction of CBT implementation and reconciliation time by **+90%**



Producers Direct (Digital Cooperatives) - Sprint 2

Producers Direct is an innovative digital farmers' cooperative model that fosters the inclusion of women smallholders and youth in food value chains in Peru. By providing them with training and pioneering digital solutions, it unlocks the farmers' potential, access to markets, and incomes.

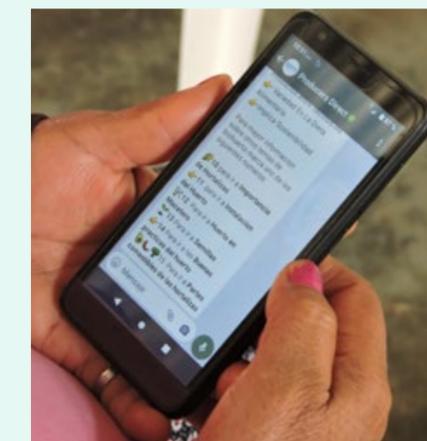
ACHIEVEMENTS:

The team continued to work together with Peruvian female smallholder farmers to create 'FarmDirect', a Digital Cooperatives platform aiming to aggregate produce and connect these farmers to markets. Sprint 2 enabled the team to integrate a larger group of female farmers as we went from 70 to 139 registered female farmers. As such, the team was able to implement in-person workshops and trainings and get a broader and better understanding of (1) the digital literacy familiarity and digital confidence at different levels through accessibility challenges and (2) financial literacy importance. The team developed a more integral training that focused on the realities and availability of the female farmers and the different stages of their kitchen garden implementation. The user-centered-design and the on-going testing allowed the team to focus on developing complementary forms of supporting record keeping and training needs at different levels.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Active in **Peru**

139 women have access to the FarmDirect platform



R2C2 (Rapid Response Connectivity Carrier)

R2C2 is a drone for communications in emergency response. It is a 90-meter communications tower packed into two suitcases.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

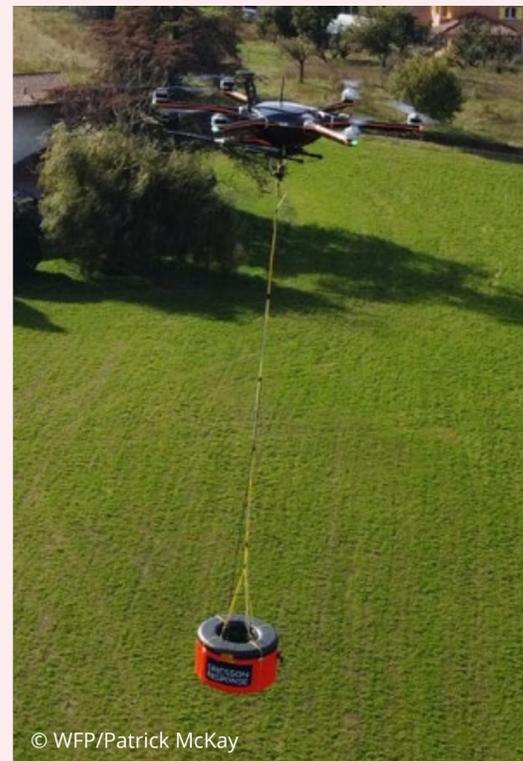
The Rapid Response Connectivity Carrier (R2C2) team worked with a drone manufacturer, a drone tether provider, and Ericsson Response, to design the first iteration of R2C2. The goals were to have a drone mounted connection system which could fly effectively indefinitely and provide a WhatsApp messaging through Wi-Fi to people in over a 1km radius.

The first test took place in France to test the system functionality and range. The team just exceeded the range target by 15 meters and was additionally able to connect to another station 7km away. The second test took place in the WFP headquarters to test whether users would be able to connect without assistance. The team exceeded their KPI of 75 percent by having 97 percent of users able to connect without assistance.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Active in **France, Italy, South Africa**

Increased the area reached by a single WiFi network by **over 400 times**



Rainmaker

Rainmaker is a South Sudan company that is developing solar-powered water pumps and services for food secure, stable and self-sufficient communities.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

In 2021, The Rainmaker Sprint project tested a tractor for hire service in Tonj South Sudan. Quality job opportunities were created for the four young people who worked as tractor operators.

In addition to these, Rainmaker installed drip irrigation system for smallholder farmers in Thiet, South Sudan. The irrigation system has provided needed hope to smallholder farmers whose lives have been hampered by annual extreme climate change effects such as floods and droughts.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Active in **South Sudan**

50% increase in production of smallholder farmers that participated in the tractor for hire service model over 6 months

“

“I am grateful for the Rainmaker Sprint project. As a youth, I am happy to be the first to be among the selected youth who received technical training on the installation and maintenance work of the drip irrigation system from a highly experienced irrigation expert hired by Rainmaker. With floods and droughts affecting our farming activities every year, I believe irrigation farming is where our hope lies. I am proud to be at the forefront of that future!”

YOUTH FROM THIET COMMUNITY



Retail in a Box

Retail in a Box is a solution to speed up the transition time from in-kind to cash assistance, and to strengthen markets resilience.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

In South Sudan, Retail in a Box supported 2,100 people in Gorom Refugee Camp in South Sudan who could for the first time in 10 years choose the products they and their families want to eat in the coming month using their WFP assistance. Six local retailers from the host and refugee community moved into their new shops and were provided with retail training. The retailers were linked to wholesalers to ensure consistent supply of non-food-items (NFIs) that programme participants can buy with cash. WFP Supply Chain / the Logistic Cluster donated empty shipping containers which were adapted to being used as shops. Ultimately, a thriving local market was created allowing a monthly injection of 32,000 USD to the local economy. In Mozambique, in 2021, three assessments were carried out in Cabo Delgado region resulting in selecting an IDP (Internally Displaced Person) camp for the pilot and finalizing the programme design of the new RIAB model, and in Bangladesh.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **South Sudan, Mozambique, Bangladesh**

 RIAB retail prices about **17% lower** than local market prices



Roambee

Roambee provides an on-demand, real-time shipment monitoring service which provides insights, predictability and efficiency in logistics, which is achieved by using sophisticated sensors (called Bees) stored in each shipment that capture live location and condition information that can be acted upon, independent of the mode of transport.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

After an initial pilot with WFP in East Africa, Roambee - a global supply chain visibility provider - is continuing operations within WFP, and collecting evidence of its impact, Roambee continues to provide visibility of location of shipments which is essential in locations with limited network and limited technology.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **East Africa**

 **Provide visibility** of shipments location



Saving Grains

Saving Grains aims to create a mass market for hermetic bags in Ethiopia to turn food losses into incomes for smallholders.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Saving Grains identified the obstacles towards adoption of hermetic storage and how to build a mass market to help farmers improve food security or incomes.

The team achieved mass adoption (69 percent) by improving awareness, trust, retail access and giving a modest discount. The team concluded that it can create mass markets by running a mass media campaign to raise awareness, work with the extension service to generate trust, build a new retail system together with distributors to drive retail access and cover some costs for the retail system and the upstream supply chain to achieve a modest price reduction. This will pave the way for an exit and a sustainable mass market when volume effects compensate for the cost coverage during the first years.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Ethiopia**

 **69%** adoption by smallholder farmers by addressing the key obstacles



© WFP/Abeshigie Zalla

School Feeding & Management App (SFMA)

School Feeding & Management App connects home-grown farmers to schools to enhance school meals and nutrition.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

The team concluded the development phase of the application in 2021. This process required the development of a social and behavioural change strategy, the creation of educational materials (printed and audio visual) directed to parents and school meals committees, family farmers and institutional staff of the Ministry of Education and Agriculture. Support was also provided by specialists in microinsurance and blockchain with the aim of having a comprehensive tool that facilitates school food planning, strengthens the link between the school and family farmers, and promotes transparency, monitoring and evaluation processes. Field tests were carried out to review the functionalities and how its use can impact the quality of school meals, boost the local economy and improve living conditions.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Guatemala**

 **425** farmers and school committees reached



© WFP/Luis Melgar

Secure Fishing

Secure Fishing is a mobile application that enables small scale fisherman to increase their fish catch, reduce their asset loss and improve the safety of fishermen at sea.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Secure Fishing is a mobile application for the fishing community and a web-based dashboard for government use, intended to meet the holistic needs of marine fishers. The app provides stakeholders with access to critical and near real time tailored climate and ocean state information services. This reduces fishers vulnerabilities, increases their income, and achieves food security. The project team secured government approval to pilot and commitment for scale up, outlined functional requirements of app, provide FAQs to solve fishers queries, predictions of potential fishing zones and voice based messages. and completed proof of concept, hired a technology agency, completed a baseline report, and shared a prototype of App with the stakeholders.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **India**

 About **245 fisher folks** contacted during baseline data collection and offered their feedback on app prototype



© Directorate of Fisheries in Odisha

SHAPES

SHAPES (Shock and Assistance Platform for Economy-wide Simulations) is an analytical platform that simulates the impact of shocks on households and the local economy combined with assessing the direct and indirect benefits of assistance.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

During 2021, the development of SHAPES was completed. This analytical platform facilitates scenario building and supports advocacy, decision making and monitoring. This is achieved by simulating the impact of negative shocks on households and the local economy, combined with assessing the direct and indirect benefits of assistance provided to households to offset those shocks, by simulating the expected outcomes of different assistance modalities, transfer values and targeting decisions, which enabled the Afghanistan country office to accurately simulate the unprecedented shock faced by the country and the associated share of food insecure population, estimated by the platform to over 20 million people. SHAPES allows to make complex economic simulations on-demand with a user-friendly interface, insofar being an innovative tool for food security analyses, programme design, impact evaluation and early warning.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Afghanistan, Uganda, Mozambique**

 **10 countries** with SHAPES analysis



© WFP/Mehedi_Rahman

Cockpit & School Connect Project

Cockpit is a service designed to enable WFP field staff to timely access to automated, integrated and visualized data analyses to optimize WFP's school feeding programming.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Through the Cockpit project, WFP cooperating partners were trained and were regularly submitting school attendance and stock availability data for 824 schools through WFP's Data Collection Platform. Key WFP South Sudan staff were also trained to develop and operate the Cockpit dashboard to visualize data trends, identify anomalies, conduct data quality checks, and take efficient and effective evidence-based decisions. 30 schools were selected, trained, and are submitting regular reports through WFP's School Connect platform to monitor school attendance, enrollment, and food stock movements in near real-time as the basis for an end-to-end digital reporting process. This timely reporting of school data has helped in the triangulation of monthly distribution reports from cooperating partners.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Active in **South Sudan**

76% of all WFP school attendance and stock availability data in South Sudan is digitized and submitted through WFP's Data Collection Platform



Takachar

Takachar turns farmers' crop residues into higher-value bioproducts at the farm gate, increasing their income by up to 40 percent and reducing the harmful air pollution from waste burning.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Under this sprint phase the Takachar team designed and fabricated the product, conducted stakeholder mapping of the value chain, and developed a list of potential customer segments, and identified customer pain points. The team has also finished the selection of a village to pilot and collecting enough crop residues for the pilot.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Active in **India**

7% increase in net income for farmers

25 tons of crop residue averted from being burned in the open air



“This project will benefit the farmers a lot. It will create livelihood opportunities in the village and help improve the condition of the soil to give us better crop yields.”

VILLAGE LEVEL ENTREPRENEUR

Thrive Agric

Thrive Agric provides micro-loans to farmers and access to buyers. The farmers receive these loans as inputs (e.g. seeds fertilisers and insurance).

ACHIEVEMENTS:

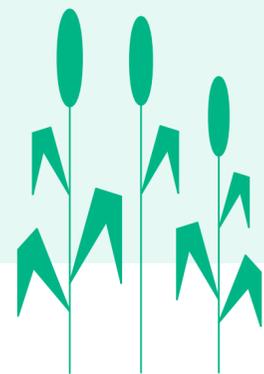
Thrive Agric sprint successfully procured over 6,400 metric tons of high quality grains from 11,250 smallholder farmers – about 30 percent more than the set target, and increasing incomes of farmers by 25 percent. WFP Nigeria has since awarded a contract to Thrive Agric for the procurement of additional 500 metric tons of white sorghum from smallholder farmers in Northeast Nigeria.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Nigeria**

 **Increased farmers' income** by 25%

 6,400 metric tons of high quality grains procured from **11,250 smallholder farmers**



Tiny Totos

Tiny Totos builds a network of financially self-sustaining and community-based businesses delivering quality daycare to children of low income working mothers in urban settlements.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Tiny Totos set out to prove that by investing in improved branding, engagement and support of the informal childcare market, Tiny Totos and WFP could demonstrably, and more (cost) effectively drive community behaviour change towards positive nutritional choices and behaviour.

During the sprint, Tiny Totos transitioned from ad hoc to more structured engagement with its network of childcare providers, so that by investing in the systems for franchising its social enterprise engagement model, Tiny Totos could be more effective and better positioned for scale. These objectives were achieved.

HIGHLIGHTS:

 Active in **Kenya**

 Tiny Totos **improved rates of food purchases** by over 25% and **cost efficiencies** by 41%



Voice-to-text AI Phone Survey Tool

Voice-to-text AI Phone Survey Tool applies artificial intelligence for nutrition surveying.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Voice-to-test AI Phone Survey Tool met its three main objectives in 2021. The team redesigned the Household Dietary Diversity (HDDS) questionnaire to improve its usability when conducted through interactive voice response (IVR) and voice-based robot-call methods. The team developed a research protocol that will be used to validate the hypothesis that AI-based approaches can replace enumerators and/or call center based approaches to measure diet diversity. The team has also identified the right technical vendors and co-defined a technical development plan.



© Voice-to-text AI Phone Survey Tool

HIGHLIGHTS:

Active in **Ethiopia**

Developed a **research protocol**

“Measuring Diet Diversity in real time will revolutionise the way of measuring the impact of WFP to the SDG2 and the Food Systems”

FILIPPO DIBARI,
Head of Nutrition, WFP Ethiopia

Zambia Food Dryers

The project aims to provide Solar Dryers for safe and nutritious food all year round. The Zambia country office, in collaboration with the Government of Zambia and the private sector, introduced and promoted access to Solar Food Dryers, enabling people to safely dry nutritious foods for both household consumption and sale to local markets.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Zambia Food Dryers successfully conducted a scoping mission and a Knowledge, Attitude and Practices survey. Three companies were identified and engaged to provide solar dryers, finance services and off-taking market for dried fruit and vegetables. The supply of solar dryer is set to be done in January 2022. 24 prototype dryers were procured to enable set up of demonstration sites.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Active in **Zambia**

Conducted **Knowledge, Attitude and Practices survey**



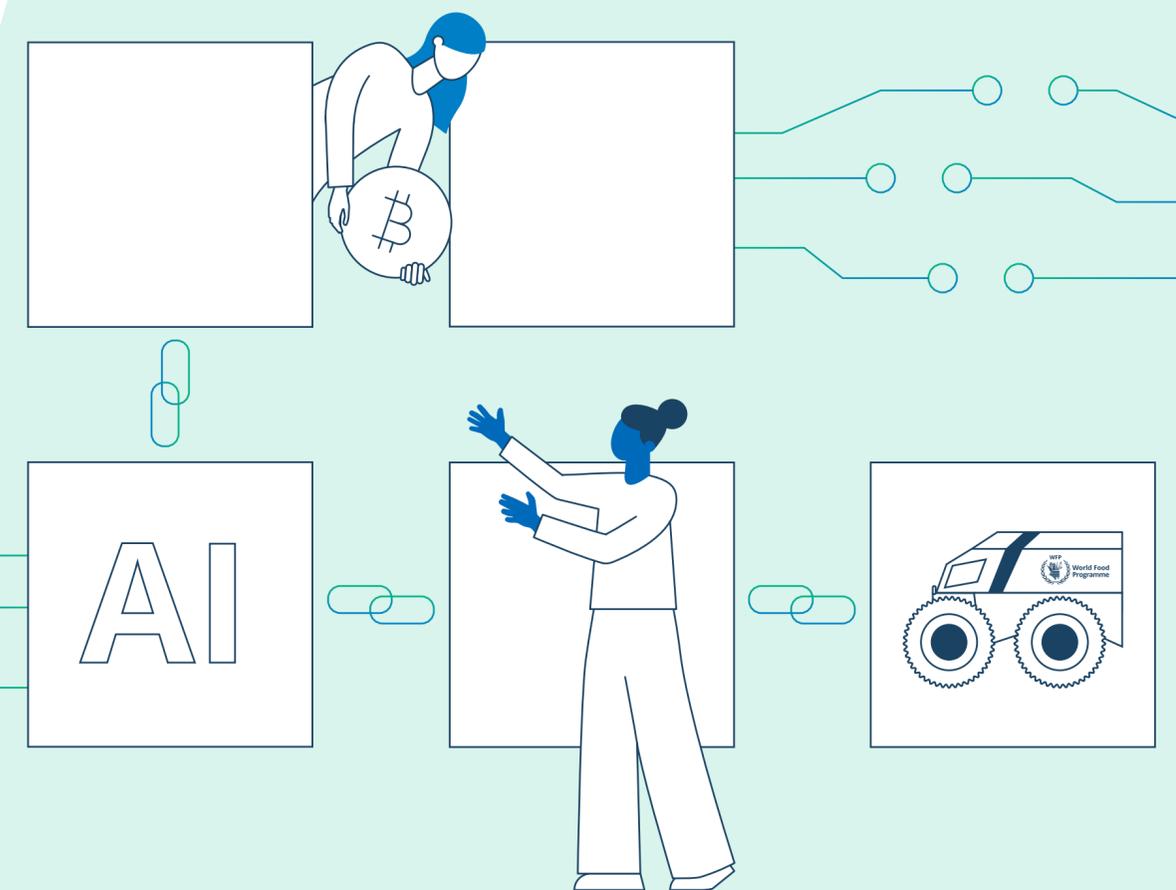
© Zambia Food Dryers

Exploring game-changing frontier innovations

New technologies are rapidly developing and deeply transforming our lives and the world, including in humanitarian aid. Our Frontier Innovations programme explores game-changing innovations and new technologies such as **artificial intelligence, blockchain, autonomous vehicles, edge computing and robotics** to support humanitarian and development assistance. Together with partners like the European Space Agency, the German Space Agency, and Google Research, we examined complex problems from AI-assisted mapping and evaluation of damage after natural and anthropogenic disasters, to how remote-operated vehicles can support the delivery of assistance in complex environments.

We prioritized the aggregation and dissemination of our knowledge of emerging technologies with the wider community. We co-authored a WFP policy brief on **“Machine Learning for Damage Assessment”** that was included in the Interagency Task Team on

Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals - a key forum that informs senior United Nations leadership on the impact of rapid technology change on the achievement of the SDGs. We provided direct testimonies and analysis to the **Joint Investigation Unit (JIU) review** of blockchain applications in the United Nations system, which helped the United Nations move forward in its exploration of this emerging technology. Building on our work co-authoring **Assessing Post-Disaster Damage from Satellite Imagery using Semi-Supervised Learning Techniques in 2021**, we spearheaded the first ever workshop series on **“Computer Vision for Damage Assessment”**, to facilitate discussion for 14 like-minded organizations and partners to co-develop a shared vision and common approach in applying AI and computer vision-powered tools in post-disaster damage assessment, emergency response, and rehabilitation.





SPOTLIGHT

WFP-X Moonshot Launchpad

In 2020, WFP Innovation Accelerator launched WFP-X, with the aim of creating 100 moonshot ideas in 100 days. The first cohort took place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with 9 local innovators, who then ideated and tested [five moonshot ideas](#). In 2021, local innovators developed prototypes of the five most promising ideas, tested them with residents in Dar es Salaam, and pitched the results to a group of investors, government officials, and NGOs. Given the potential for impact and promising results, two of the prototypes - [Forever Food](#) and [Mr Bins Gas](#) - received funding from the Embassy of Switzerland for further development.

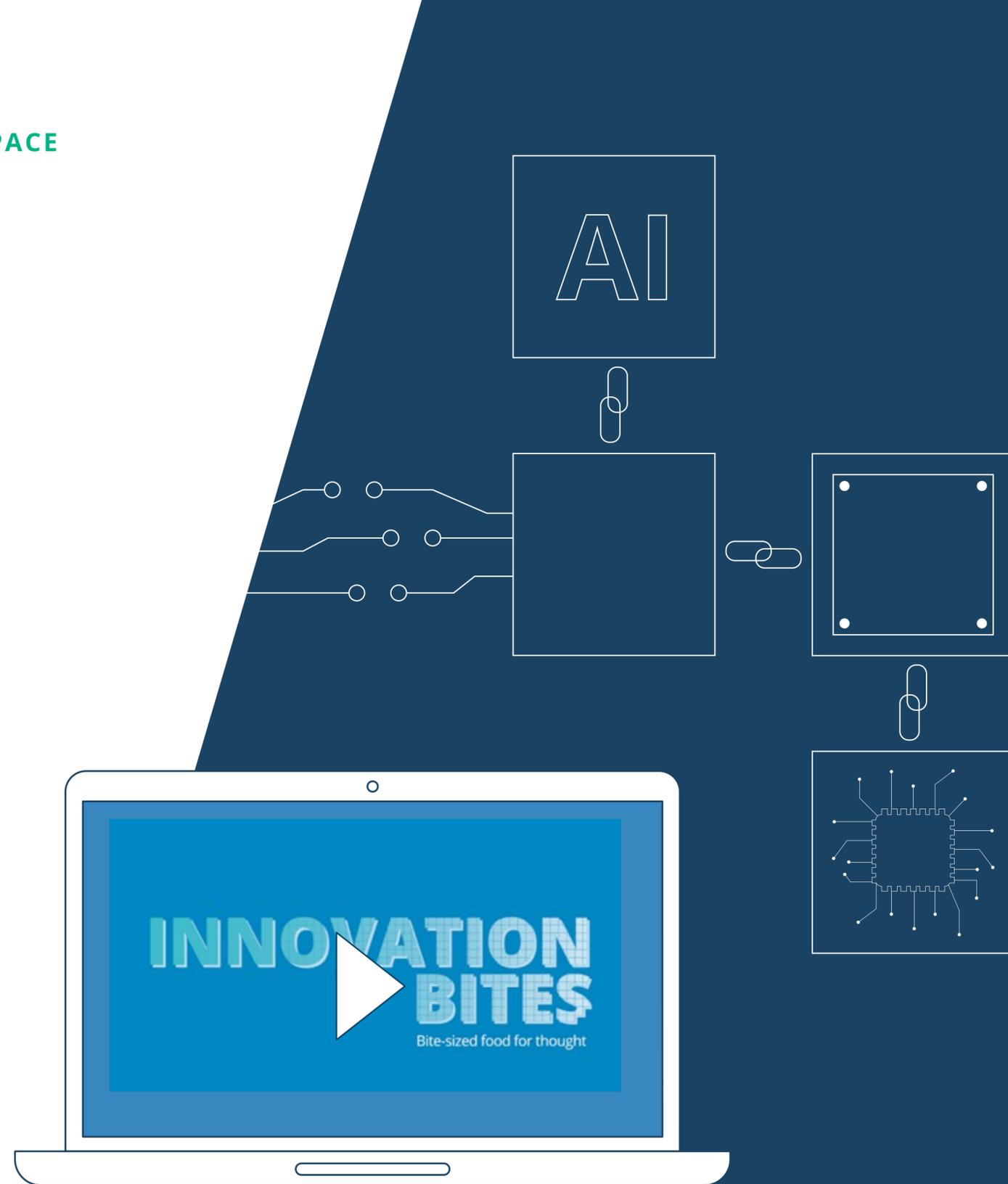
EXPLORING APPLICATIONS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN THE HUMANITARIAN SPACE

SKAI

A lack of on-the-ground information at the start of a humanitarian crisis is a major obstacle to a quick and effective response. In collaboration with Google Research, SKAI uses AI to analyze satellite images to automatically assess damage post disasters. It drastically speeds up the process of extracting insights from the ground, and enables speedy and accurate emergency response. In 2021, we reached an agreement with Google Research to open-source the machine learning model, and we have been working closely to prepare the source codes to be shared with the broader AI community.

Voice-to-Text AI Phone Survey Tool

Natural Language Processing (NLP) is a very powerful AI technology that helps WFP have a deeper and more instant understanding of the needs of people accessing WFP assistance. This is especially useful when many people served are illiterate. Our goal is not only to reduce the cost of conducting remote surveys, but also to obtain qualitative insights from target populations. Voice-to-text AI Phone Survey Tool was initially explored as part of the Frontier Innovation programme and has now proceeded to the Sprint programme.



Artificial Intelligence is widely used in our everyday lives. But what is AI? Why is it important? And how can it get us to Zero Hunger? **Watch the video to find out.**



SPOTLIGHT

AHEAD

For the **AHEAD** project (Autonomous Humanitarian Emergency Aid Devices), WFP collaborated with German Aerospace Centre and its partners, Sensodrive and Roboception, to develop tele-operated and semi-autonomous driving for amphibious all-terrain vehicles in order to reduce risks for drivers of aid deliveries. The project started in October 2020. Since then, the project has achieved several technological developments. The scope of the project has also increased with the acquisition of two more projects. The VDI/VDE in Germany funded EUR 3 million for the project. The funds would be utilized for development of LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) systems that would extend the camera based perception of the AHEAD vehicle with active sensor technology. The new LiDAR system would increase reliability and safety of the tele-operated vehicle.

EXPLORING APPLICATIONS OF BLOCKCHAIN IN THE HUMANITARIAN SPACE

Atrium

Atrium is a global collaboration network for learning, engaging and experimenting with blockchain technology. The Atrium provides a safe space for United Nations (UN) staff members to learn about blockchain, engage with microtasks, and discuss on the forum. Underpinning the collaboration platform is a Quorum platform that creates a safe sandbox for blockchain experimentation. We are currently developing version 2.0 and have three nodes (WFP, UNICEF, UNDP) as well as more than 500 members from more than 35 United Nations agencies. It is the largest institutional collaboration platform in the United Nations system.

Blocks for Transport

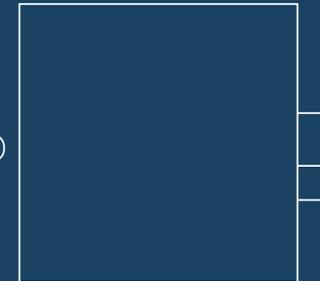
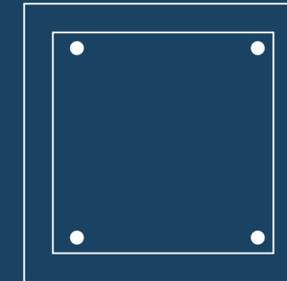
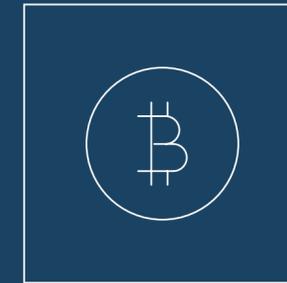
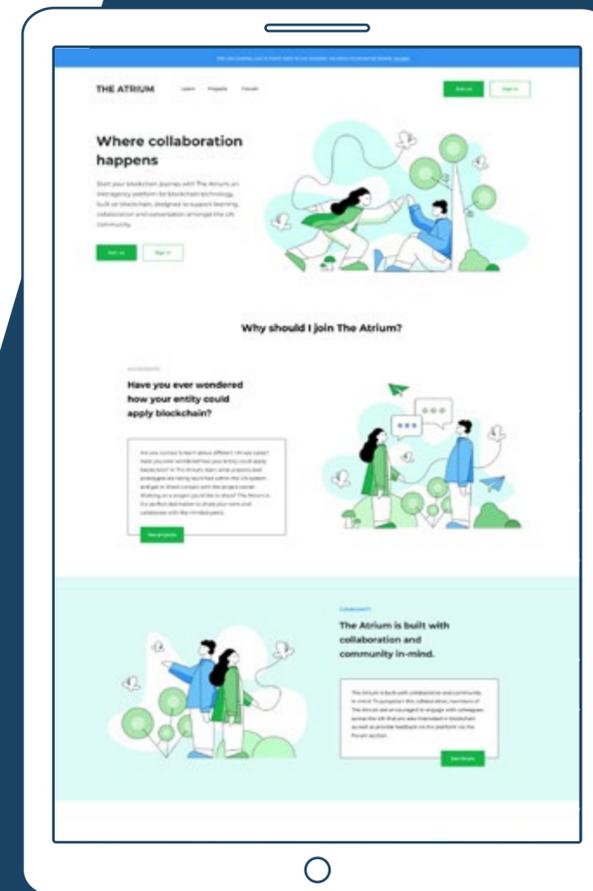
The **Blocks for Transport** project aimed to streamline the logistics process and reduce delays in the Djibouti-Ethiopia corridor, one of the key supply chain corridors for WFP in East Africa, by developing a blockchain-enabled supply chain platform. Despite progress made with the development of the second version of the minimum viable product, the project had to be postponed indefinitely due to the emergency

situation in the country. We tried to pivot by exploring other potential supply chain corridors where this platform could be used. However, a good use-case did not materialize. This exemplifies the realities of innovation journey within the humanitarian sector - at times, unforeseen events on the ground can disrupt the continuation of a given project.

Smallholder Farmer Procurement platform

KENYA (INITIAL EXPLORATION)

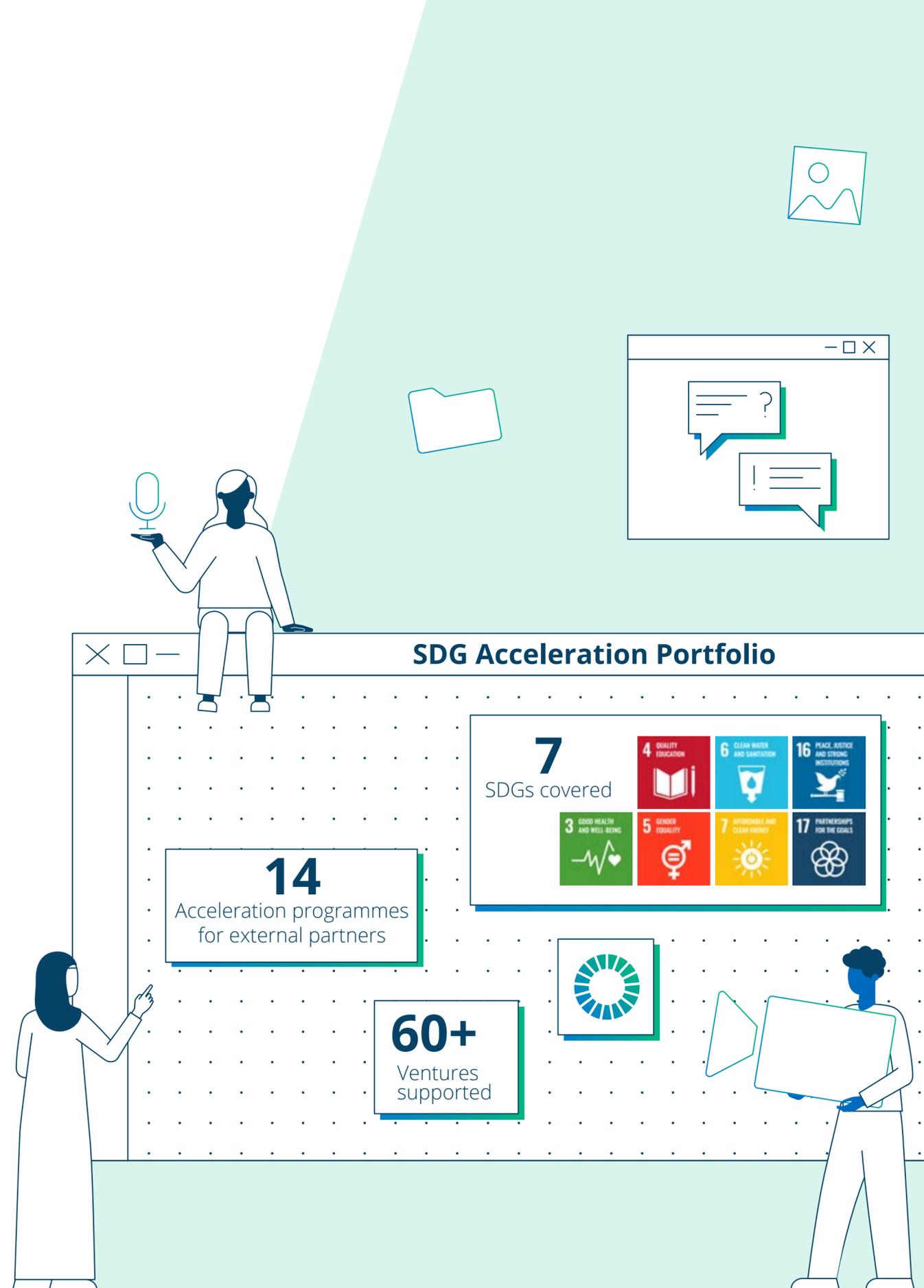
We launched the design phase to explore the applicability of using a blockchain-based platform that connects key stakeholders to streamline procurement process of grain from smallholder farmers in Kenya. The project also aimed to provide better market access to smallholder farmers to sell their grain. The initial design and research phase was completed in 2021 and we expect to develop and test in 2022.



SDG Acceleration: Amplifying our Collective Impact

Recognizing that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) inherently interlink with one another, we know that Zero Hunger can not be achieved without a global partnership that fosters innovation to achieve the 2030 goals. In this spirit, WFP Innovation Accelerator established the SDG Acceleration team (formerly Innovation Services) in 2019 to share our knowledge and expertise in innovation with other development partners.

Through the SDG Acceleration Programme, WFP works with a broad range of partners and United Nations agencies to identify bold problem solvers around the world, and help them to scale in a sustainable way.



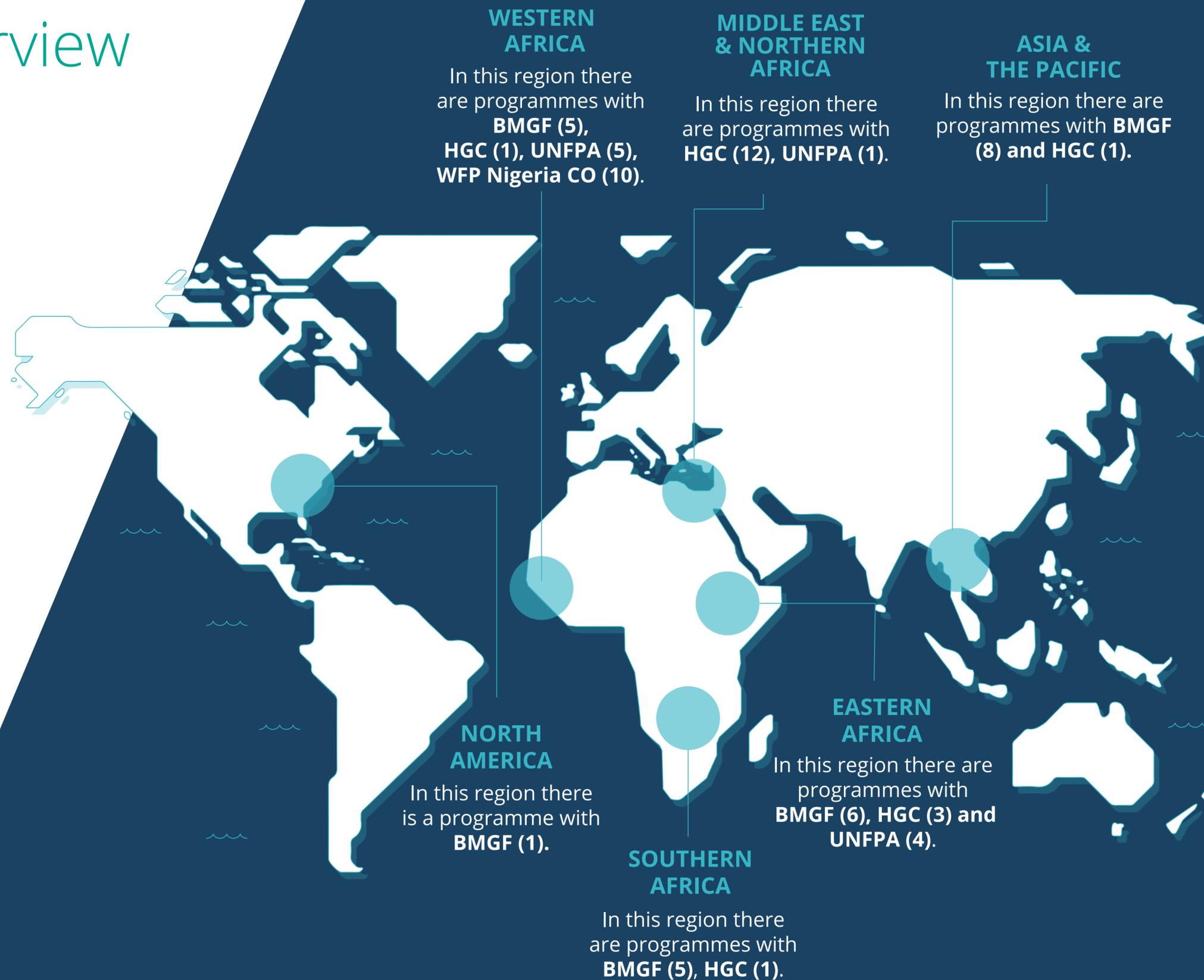
SDG Acceleration Overview

SUPPORTING INNOVATIONS TO BUILD PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE

In 2021 we were proud to launch the [Digital Health Innovation Accelerator](#) to address pandemic preparedness in low and middle income countries with [digilab](#) jointly led by BMZ, German Development Bank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and GIZ.

We started a new collaboration with UNHRD, the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot, and WHO to design and facilitate the innovation journey of INITIATE2, a programme bringing together emergency actors, research and academic institutions, as well as international and national partners to develop solutions to strengthen readiness and response capabilities in health emergencies involving infectious diseases.

The map shows the number of ventures implemented jointly with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Humanitarian Grand Challenge (HGC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and WFP Nigeria Country Office (CO) within the Global sub-regions.



SDG Acceleration Offerings

ACCELERATION PROGRAMMES

We create innovation acceleration programmes with our partners, covering the complete innovation spectrum from problem mapping, to innovation sourcing, fund management and scale-up support.

INNOVATION EXPERIENCES

We design and deliver custom innovation journeys to help organizations unlock the entrepreneurial spirit of its people, to incubate new ideas, and plan their path to scale.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

We enable spaces that bring key actors together across sectors and help them to collaborate in a creative and efficient way to advance solutions toward a common goal.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

We facilitate learning experiences to practice new ways of working using open innovation, human centred design and entrepreneurial frameworks.



SDG Acceleration Programmes

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation / Primary Healthcare (SDG 3)

In 2021, we continued our partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and supported Grand Challenge Exploration teams with innovations in vaccine campaign effectiveness and primary healthcare. We worked with MIT Solve to support eight ventures focusing on expanding access to high quality maternal and newborn care, and supporting the mental and emotional health of women.

Creating Hope in Conflict: A Humanitarian Grand Challenge (SDG 3, 6, 7, 16)

In 2021, SDG Acceleration and Creating Hope In Conflict: Humanitarian Grand Challenge continued support to 55 innovations and an additional 13 innovations to solve the most pressing issues within conflict zones, including water and sanitation, energy, health services and supply, and access to life-saving information. This was enabled through a series of deep dives, strategy lab workshops and engagement with mentors to provide innovators with tailored venture advisor services.

UNFPA / Eradicating Female Genital Mutilation in Africa (SDG 3, 5)

We worked with UNFPA for Eradicating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Africa. A September FGM Innovation HackLab saw more than one hundred innovative ideas about ending FGM were received from young African women and men across 18 African countries. Through a competitive selection process, ten ideas were shortlisted and innovators embarked for a two-week intensive virtual innovation bootcamp.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation / Balance the Equation (SDG 4)

We provided a custom incubation programme, Balance the Equation - A Grand Challenge for Algebra 1, with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to radically transform and rethink the traditional math classroom and better support students historically marginalized in math.



SDG Acceleration Programmes

DIGILAB / Digital Health Innovation Accelerator (SDG 3)

WFP Innovation Accelerator launched the Digital Health Innovation Accelerator Programme, powered by digilab and jointly led by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, German Development Bank, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and GIZ (the German Agency for International Cooperation).

Austrian Development Agency / Kofi Annan Award (SDG 3)

Working with the Federal Chancellery of Austria, the Austrian Development Agency and the Kofi Annan Foundation we kicked off implementation of the Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa, which supports innovative solutions from across the African continent to contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 3, Good Health and Well-Being, with a strong focus on achieving high quality universal health coverage.

United Nations Chief Executive Board (CEB) / United Nations Culture Change (SDG 5)

The WFP Innovation Accelerator with Leadership and Culture Workstream of the CEB Task Force on Addressing Sexual Harassment within the Organizations of the United Nations System, including FAO, IAEA, IFAD, UNHCR, and UN Women, ran a system wide United Nations Culture Change Innovation Challenge. We hosted a joint call of innovation and will run an innovation bootcamp in 2022 with promising ideas that seek to address sexual harassment through leadership and organizational culture change.



Innovative Finance and Venture LaunchPad

The urgency to work on innovative finance is clear to us: grant funding in the coming years will not be enough to reach the SDGs by 2030. New forms of sustainable financing, pooling capital from public donors, philanthropies, development banks, and impact investors are crucial to closing the funding gap and achieving social impact at scale.

The Innovation Accelerator intensified the Innovative Financing activities launching the Innovative Finance and Venture Launchpad portfolio forging strong collaborations internally with other Innovative Financing teams across WFP, and with leading external stakeholders across the humanitarian sector and impact investment ecosystem.

Three areas of work were pursued in 2021:

- **INNOVATION IMPACT FUND**
- **SHECAN - DIGITAL BLENDED FINANCE FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE INTERVENTIONS**
- **EXPLORING CRYPTO-ASSETS**



Innovation Impact Fund

Designing a **“WFP Innovation Impact Fund”**, a USD 100 million impact investment fund targeting innovations disrupting hunger, particularly those engaged with the WFP Innovation Accelerator’s programmes, to provide them with suitable investment capital.

To really ensure that we were heading in the right direction, we brought together key WFP experts to advance the development of the WFP Innovation Impact Fund. We wanted to be clear on starting objectives, informing the fund design activities, and outlining a roadmap for further progress in 2022, so we ran workshops, reviewed relevant case studies and learnings within the humanitarian sector. Launch of the Innovation Impact Fund is anticipated for 2022.

SheCan

DIGITAL BLENDED FINANCE FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE INTERVENTIONS

Exploring Blended Finance through [SheCan](#), a digital crowdfunding platform that promotes **financial inclusion and gender transformative** projects by investing in WFP field programmes that bridge the gap of access to financing for people accessing WFP assistance.

Kicked off at a WFP bootcamp in 2020, and having received a vote of support from USAID, SheCan continued to drive a strong impact investor user research and platform design approach in 2021, including partnering with IDEO.org on how best to develop the SheCan 1.0 digital platform. SheCan began 2022 planning in Zambia, Rwanda and Peru, to support smallholder farmers and small agri businesses to get access to affordable financial products.

Exploring Crypto-Assets

Studying how to leverage **crypto-assets** to attract further private donations, exploring innovative ways to deliver support to communities in the countries WFP operates, and to promote financial inclusion of the un- or under-banked people whom we serve.

Driven by the increasingly significant role of crypto-assets in the humanitarian sector, the WFP Innovation Accelerator engaged Deloitte to explore the potential of crypto-assets at WFP. Next steps in 2022 are to explore potential funds in crypto-assets and pilot their disbursement. This way, we can make the case of the impact of using crypto-assets in promoting financial inclusion of the un- or under-banked people we serve.



04

LESSONS LEARNED



Modernizing our Ways of Working

Our working model had always been optimized to accelerate global innovations and startups in developing countries, which required us to be excellent in in-person accelerator programme delivery, strong partnerships inside and outside WFP, and remote collaboration. With the pandemic, we shifted our whole operating system towards virtual first operations, applying the same innovation principles to ourselves to constantly improve and modernize the way we work. By embracing and experimenting with cutting-edge organizational models and work methods such as Holacracy, and agile management, we continue to push the boundaries to achieve more impact for the people we serve through innovations. The following lessons learned can be helpful for others thinking about New Ways of Working.

NEW WAYS OF WORKING IS MUCH MORE THAN WORKING REMOTELY.

Most of the time, people have the misconception that New Ways of Working is equivalent to working remotely. However, that perception misses a set of key dimensions, such as how we organize work, how we collaborate with one another, and how we learn and improve as a team in a virtual setting.

OPEN COMMUNICATION MAY MEAN SIGNIFICANT BEHAVIOR CHANGE.

When we change from presence models to virtual work models, a lot of “office chatter” or “awareness of others’ work” become less tangible. One enabling factor could be open communications with the appropriate tools like Slack or Microsoft Teams, which allow people to have open conversations in public channels. People involved can voluntarily join the conversations at any time.

DESIGN MEETINGS FIT-FOR-PURPOSE.

Ineffective meetings waste time. We have adopted certain concepts from Holacracy geared towards thoughtful, purpose-driven meeting designs while taking accountability. We have reworked the way our management meeting cadence works and how we plan, review and learn in our strategy. Deceptively simple techniques like using real-time agendas and rotating facilitation helped us create more dynamic and inclusive meetings, where everyone was engaged and heard.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RETROSPECTIVES.

Especially in a high-performance environment, we tend to focus on delivering impact. Dedicating the time to properly reflect on not only the achievements but also potential improvement enables us to truly appreciate what we have achieved, as well as to work on constant improvement.

NEW WAYS OF WORKING MEANS CHANGE.

Everybody agrees that we want to be more modern. For some people, these changes mean a better work setup, or a more empowering work arrangement. For other people, New Ways of Working might mean “un-learning” years of working habits that we took as the norms without ever questioning them. For example, while “real-time agendas” may help make meetings more productive, the opposite traditional opinion believes there should be meetings to prepare for the “real meeting”. Such behavior change is a journey requiring dedicated effort and top management leadership to push for it.

Strengthening Sourcing Capacities

Sourcing ideas from across the world, we leverage expertise, resources and bold ideas from cross-industry collaborators and prioritize projects that truly make a difference to the people we serve. Since the inception of the Innovation Accelerator, we have been proactively exploring the best way to identify the potential partners that match the needs from WFP global operations. We would like to share some of our best practices on how to strengthen the sourcing capacities to find the most suitable partners.

DIVERSIFY THE SOURCING APPROACH.

By broadening the scope of our sourcing strategy, we increased the number and quality of solutions. We actively invited proposals through our regular innovation challenges and an online application system open year-round for startups, NGOs, and academic institutions to submit their proposals. At the same time, we have built new sourcing pipelines through targeted, proactive outreach and strategic thematic partnerships with like-minded organizations.

TALK TO POTENTIAL USERS OF INNOVATION.

To identify more relevant solutions, we sought advice from stakeholders across WFP to better understand the needs on the ground and challenges pertaining to current operations. These insights acquired from the ground up help us decide critical innovation priorities and undertake more focused sourcing.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DE&I) SHOULD BE THE FOUNDATION.

We sought solutions that are intrinsically diverse, equitable, and inclusive at structural and organizational levels. For example, by including DE&I questions in the application form, we could evaluate potential impact on marginalized communities. The impact on socioeconomic-cultural levels, solution inclusion analyses, and the ability to raise income levels for disadvantaged communities are other criteria that we consider.

COLLABORATION WITH A SPECIALIST IN THE FIELD ENHANCES SOURCING.

Through our collaboration with the European Space Agency (ESA)'s [Φ-lab on the Earth Observation & Artificial Intelligence for SDGs Innovation Initiative](#), we learned that cooperation with a technical expert can enhance sourcing. The ESA's vast network helped attract high-quality applications; one fifth of all applications advanced to the following step after initial screening. ESA's Φ-lab also served as a technical adviser throughout the due diligence process, enabling us to identify the high-potential solutions that offer both social impact and commercial viability.

Designing an Innovation Programme

The WFP Innovation Accelerator provides WFP staff, entrepreneurs, start-ups, companies and non-governmental organizations with access to funding, mentorship, hands-on support and WFP operations. We navigated different ways to tailor our innovation programmes for our partners to find the best solutions for a more sustainable world. Here are some of our lessons learned on designing effective innovation programmes.

EFFECTIVE IMPACT MEASUREMENT RELIES ON A SOLID THEORY OF CHANGE, ALIGNED IMPACT PARAMETERS, AND TIMELY DATA COLLECTION.

Sprint programmes such as the [Digital Health Innovation Accelerator Programme](#) and the [Transition to Scale Up Programmes](#) have a strong theory of change, enabling innovators to emphasize their value and strategize on their core offerings. A strong data-driven approach also helps inform decision making, providing information needed for investment and impact.

PEER-TO-PEER (P2P) LEARNING FOSTERS DISTRIBUTED CAPACITY BUILDING.

When WFP was invited to support the innovation programme for Balance the Equation — A Grand Challenge for Algebra 1, we learned that [working groups are a powerful way to facilitate peer support](#). Working groups encouraged collaboration and allowed participants to get deeper insights from other teams' solutions, research results, and receive peer feedback.

SELECT MENTORS WITH DIRECT EXPERIENCE AND CAPACITY.

In our WFP-X Moonshot Launchpad, each mentor offered key skills and expertise – from access to university laboratories, to in-house fabrication and manufacturing, to relevant social and psychological skill sets. However, experts with existing full-time careers and businesses might not be best suited to growing the moonshots post-programme. Therefore, we recommend the incorporation of a co-founder matchmaking in the final phase of the programme or augmenting the core innovation team with young innovators who are eager and available to fully commit to the best ideas.

PIVOTS AND A LEAN APPROACH ARE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN HIGHLY VOLATILE ENVIRONMENTS.

The Blocks for Transport project started in order to streamline WFP logistics in 2019 in Djibouti and Ethiopia. However, due to the pandemic and the conflict in Ethiopia, the project was put on hold. Executing the project using lean methodology helped us test the hypothesis with minimal resources and get feedback from key stakeholders. It reinforced the importance of using lean methodology to execute riskier projects with minimal resources.

Quotes from our partners

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“A Nobel Peace Prize Laureate in Munich! The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) was awarded the 2020 Nobel Prize for its tireless and unique commitment to the fight against hunger. In the presence of WFP Director David Beasley and Icelandic Foreign Minister Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir, I was honoured to welcome the participants to the WFP flagship event, held on the occasion of the Munich Security Conference. The fight against hunger needs our full commitment! What makes me happy: The “creative laboratory” of WFP is based in Bavaria. The big goal: a world without hunger. Innovative solutions for this come from Bavaria.”

MELANIE HUML,
State Minister for European and International Affairs,
Bavarian State Chancellery



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“One of our mentoring sessions was truly eye-opening in the approach that we are taking for scaling the [Mbala Pinda] project. Looking at our users beyond the scope of our project is crucial in designing a model that empowers women and enables their financial autonomy.”

ROSALINE BOCKARIE,
Head of Sub-office in Nkayi, WFP Republic of Congo



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“UNFPA ESARO worked with the WFP Innovation Accelerator in 2021 on the UNFPA FGM HackLab project that sought to identify innovation solutions contributing to ending FGM and other harmful practices against women and girls. The WFP Innovation Accelerator has been a key partner in delivering this work; demonstrating exceptional professionalism and understanding in developing innovation solutions. The use of technology and young trainers/coaches/facilitators was key to achieving our objectives.”

SYDNEY HUSHIE,
Innovation Specialist at UNFPA East and Southern Africa
Regional Office



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“Investment in innovation and technology has transformed our work across WFP operations, helping us solve real world problems in difficult situations, ultimately reaching more people in need. From cash-based transfers to blockchain, to data-empowered decision making, innovation is essential for upping the value of technology in humanitarianism. The Innovation Accelerator and WFP Technology Division are partners in enabling our organization to respond faster and better to the world’s biggest challenges.”

JAY MAHANAND,
Chief Information Officer and Director of the Technology
Division, World Food Programme



Quotes from our partners

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“The implementation of the SMP PLUS tool in the Dominican Republic is important because the software has given us access to more specific data, such as statistical and nutritional requirements. In addition, the tool has allowed time savings, which are very important in the processes we carry out here in the department. The tool allows us to evaluate in a more transparent and detailed way the circumstances and processes that occur within the nutritional evaluation that will lead us to make decisions that may positively or negatively impact the beneficiaries. It is a tool that has helped us streamline many processes, to have all the processes integrated in a single platform.”

DR. ZARA DE LOS SANTOS,
 Nutrition Analyst,
 National Student Wellbeing Institute (INABIE)



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“The WFP Innovation Accelerator does unique things in the innovation field. There are good reasons for this. Innovations are successful only if they turn into instruments that are useful in the field. So it is important to bring solutions from lab to field, to test and advance them to ideally scale-up and mainstream them. The idea is to use innovation to spend our money more effectively and therefore help more people.”

DR. TOBIAS LINDNER,
 Minister of State at the German Federal Foreign Office



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“Ending global hunger requires new partnerships and innovative approaches. USAID applauds the WFP Innovation Accelerator’s work to crowd in private sources of financing that will help to sustainably scale critical solutions to food insecurity. USAID is proud of its partnership with the WFP Innovation Accelerator and looks forward to supporting further creative ideas in the march towards Zero Hunger.”

MARGARET SCHMITZ,
 Division Chief (Acting), Private Sector Engagement, Diaspora and Innovation at USAID - Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance





INNOVATION ACCELERATOR

innovation.wfp.org
global.innovation@wfp.org

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