



## How Innovation Drives #ZeroHunger

Side event in the margins of the second regular session of the Executive Board  
on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Innovation Accelerator

Tuesday, 14 November 2017, 13:00 – 14:45  
Aula Delegatis – Aula I, WFP Headquarters

*Achievements, challenges and lessons learned from the WFP Innovation Accelerator  
and 33 supported innovation projects*

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### Context

Established in 2015 with the support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, WFP's Innovation Accelerator identifies, nurtures and scales bold solutions to end hunger globally from its base in Munich, Germany. The team of the Accelerator supports WFP entrepreneurs, external start-ups and companies through funding, hands-on entrepreneurial support, access to expert networks as well as leveraging WFP's global presence and operational capacity.

WFP believes that innovation is key to helping us achieve our goal of a world without hunger – faster and more efficiently. By applying best practices in innovation, such as lean start-up and human-centred design, the Accelerator helps entrepreneurs find out what works and what does not in addressing hunger and malnutrition. It is a place where new ideas can be tested ‘outside the box’, allowing us to think big and fail as well as succeed. Once innovations have achieved clear results, sustainability and potential for large-scale impact, WFP aims to roll them out across our global operations and beyond.

The side event will serve to highlight Germany's position at the forefront of new technologies and innovation. The event will showcase the achievements, challenges and lessons learned from the WFP Innovation Accelerator after two years of operation and provide an outlook on future plans and requirements for humanitarian and development innovation within and beyond WFP.

## Objectives

In 2015, WFP, with the support of Germany, set out to put strategic focus on leveraging new technologies and business model innovations for reaching SDG 2. This side event has the following objectives:

- To provide an update on progress, challenges and lessons learned from the Accelerator and the wider innovation community to date by showcasing selected projects;
- To drive the discussion around innovation opportunities and maintain the momentum with Member States;
- To outline plans and requirements for scaling innovation projects that have proven impact through successful field pilots across WFP operations;
- To introduce the *Zero Hunger Acceleration Fund* as a vehicle for fundraising, and as a tool for developing new financing mechanisms such as impact investments, etc.;
- To highlight Germany's partnership and engagement in the space of humanitarian and development innovation.

## Projects Showcased at the Event

To date, the WFP Innovation Accelerator has supported more than 30 cutting-edge innovations in more than 20 countries worldwide. As part of the side event, three of WFP's most promising innovations will be presented to guests for their feedback and thoughts:

- **Building Blocks** is a cutting-edge WFP innovation using blockchain technology to deliver food assistance more effectively to approximately 10,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan. By the end of 2017, WFP aims to scale the Building Blocks pilot to reach 100,000 Syrian refugees residing in camps in Jordan. Blockchain could make cash transfers more efficient, secure and transparent, and potentially save millions of dollars per annum.
- **Tech for Food** is a unique digital skills training programme that helps people affected by war in Syria access new livelihood opportunities in the digital economy. To date more than 1,000 refugees in Lebanon and Iraq have participated in digital skills training.
- **Hydroponics** is a soilless growing technique that enables plant growth in areas that are non-fertile, arid or urban with limited space. In the Algerian Sahara Desert, semi-nomadic Sahrawi refugees are using a solar-powered hydroponic production unit to grow green animal fodder to improve their livestock's milk and meat production.

During the project presentations, audience members can directly share their questions and feedback via a live audience interaction tool called sli.do (more information is available on their website: [www.sli.do/](http://www.sli.do/)). Details on how to access the interactive tool using either your laptop or mobile phone will be provided on the screens of the Aula I as guests enter.

### LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WFP INNOVATION ACCELERATOR



*The WFP Innovation Accelerator is generously supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry.*