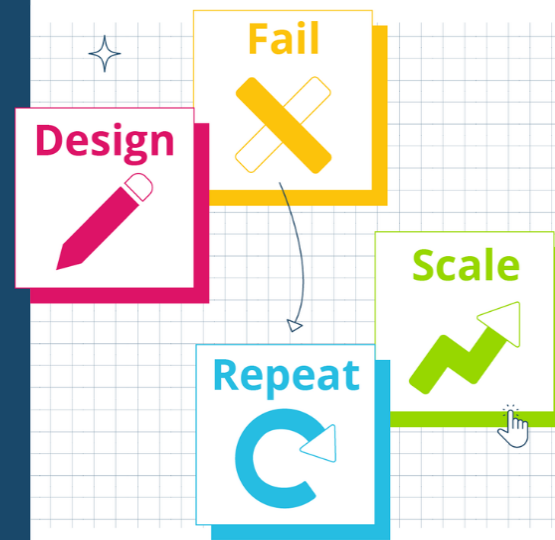


WFP Innovation Challenge 2021

Rethinking Our Food Systems

Apply before 31 May 2021, 11:59 pm (CEST)



Frequently Asked Questions

The fact that 690 million people still go to bed hungry each night suggests that food systems — the path that food travels from field to our plates — are not meeting the needs of all people. We have seen that some food systems can easily be disrupted by climate shocks, COVID-19 and violent conflict. Even in stable environments, people have limited access to nutritious food because of geographic isolation, socioeconomic inequalities, or weak commercial markets.

With the Food Systems Summit coming up in 2021, we have launched the WFP Innovation Challenge 2021 in search of game-changing ideas to build stronger, more sustainable food systems, addressing hunger at the root.

Our call for applications is an opportunity for us to source the most promising and daring solutions to end hunger from startups, NGOs, academic institutions or government agencies.

What's in it for me?

By submitting your solution, you might be selected to attend the next WFP Innovation Bootcamp, from 30 August – 3 September 2021. In addition, your solution may be considered for the WFP Sprint Programme, with up to US\$ 100,000 in funding, and access to our support and insight.

What is the WFP Innovation Bootcamp?

WFP Innovation Bootcamps help selected teams dive into challenges, ideate solutions and refine project plans over five days. Bootcamps introduce participants to innovation techniques such as human-centred design and the lean start-up method in order to create viable business models and solutions for WFP and its beneficiaries. Each Innovation Bootcamp ends with the WFP Pitch Event—an opportunity for teams to share their solutions with an audience of investors and industry leaders who can help scale their ideas.

However, participation in Bootcamp does not guarantee any individual or team a place in the WFP Sprint Programme. To be eligible for the WFP Sprint Programme, all teams must submit a separate application, after completing the Bootcamp.

What is the WFP Sprint Programme?

Our Sprint Programme is an intensive 6-month acceleration programme that helps projects and start-ups reach proof of concept, develop prototypes ready for implementation and/or scale. Projects in this programme will receive guidance and space to bring their idea to life from the Munich-based Accelerator, and access to WFP's global network of partners and resources.

Teams may also receive up to US\$ 100,000 per Sprint, with further funding dependent upon progress and measurable achievement of key targets.

Am I eligible to participate?

Yes! Anyone from a startup, NGO, academic institutions or government agency, stationed anywhere in the world, is eligible to submit ideas.

Do I need to have a team?

Yes, your project should have a dedicated team that will manage its overall execution. If your application to the WFP Sprint Programme is successful, you will also be assigned a part-time project manager from the Accelerator to assist with the management and implementation of the project.

What do I need to apply?

Your startup, NGO or institution must be incorporated or recognized as a legal entity, and operating as a non-profit or for profit, at the time of application.

What are the types of innovations that you support?

You can find examples of projects that we selected and accelerated on our [website](#).

What are the selection criteria?

- Solutions that are transformative, novel, or innovative.
- Solutions that can have a strong impact on hunger and are scalable, particularly in low- and middle-income countries and settings.
- Solutions that can prove initial traction and are at the Minimum Viable Product (MVP) stage.
- Solutions with a financially sustainable business model and growth strategy.
- Solutions which are carried by a strong team with the relevant expertise and strengths to scale the solution.

How will the winners be selected?

Applications will be scored according to the list of criteria above. Final decisions on successful applicants are made by the WFP Innovation Accelerator management, with the support of an Innovation Advisory Board consisting of WFP experts, Country Directors, and senior management.

What will we not fund?

- Proposals not presenting clear innovation; innovative ideas that repeat conventional approaches without novel application.
- Proposals that are purely focused on food production. Traditional farms, even if they can have a strong impact on the local systems, do not fit within the WFP Innovation Accelerator operating model.
- Proposals for which proof of concept cannot be demonstrated, even at a small scale (from an operational perspective)
- Proposals for which impact is not quantified and proved.
- Proposals that do not clearly consider the current context of available financial systems and infrastructure in relevant geographies.

How do I submit my application?

To submit your solution, visit our [Application page](#) and fill out the [Application form](#).

Please be sure to check your eligibility and that you have answered all required questions to the best of your ability. You will not be able to go back and edit it once the application has been submitted. Answering these questions will take you around 30 minutes-1 hour.

Will my idea be published?

No, all applications are confidential. Applicants will be contacted before any submitted information is shared externally.

Can I apply more than once?

Yes, you are welcome to submit as many applications as you want, as long as they are independent solutions or problems.

I'm unsure if my idea falls under WFP's mandate. Can I still submit my idea?

Yes. The Accelerator provides high-level strategic support to ensure submitted solutions align with WFP's mandate. It is advised that you review WFP's corporate strategy and Country Strategic Plan in the country or context you seek to operate in (more information can be found [here](#)). In addition, have a look at our [current portfolio](#) for examples of the types of ventures we typically fund. Have more questions? Email us at global.innovation@wfp.org.

What is the closing date?

The WFP Innovation Challenge 2021 is accepting applications between now and **7 June 2021 11:59 pm (CEST)**.

Can I submit ideas after 7 June 2021?

Yes. Applications can be submitted year-round via our [application page](#).

If my application is unsuccessful, am I able to receive feedback?

Due to strong demand in the services offered by the Accelerator, the application process is competitive and we regret to say that not all applications are successful. We place priority on ideas or concepts that are deemed to have high potential in the fight against hunger—regardless of their origin. We value all applications and the Accelerator aims to provide feedback to all applicants. However, we are only able to contact shortlisted applicants.

It's time. #DisruptHunger with us!

For all other enquiries, please contact global.innovation@wfp.org.

About the WFP Innovation Accelerator

The WFP Innovation Accelerator sources, supports and scales high-impact innovations to disrupt hunger. Based in Munich, Germany, we provide WFP employees, entrepreneurs and startups with funding, hands-on support and access to WFP's global operations. Through the Innovation Accelerator, WFP is leveraging unprecedented advances in digital innovation—such as mobile technology, artificial intelligence, big data and blockchain—and new business models to transform the way we serve vulnerable communities across the world. In five years, the WFP Innovation Accelerator has supported more than 90 projects in 46 countries, with 14 innovations scaling up to achieve significant impact. These projects have impacted 3.7 million lives in 2020 alone, and will continue to do so, in support of WFP's humanitarian field operations.

Find out more about us: wfp.org/enablers and innovation.wfp.org. Subscribe to our **e-newsletter**. Follow us on **Twitter** and **LinkedIn**, and watch our videos on **YouTube**.