Call for Applications

**Deadline extended: Applications can be submitted until 26 November, 2021 11:59 pm (CET)**

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Innovation Accelerator sources, supports, and scales bold new solutions to disrupt global hunger and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

WFP is launching the [Digital Health Innovation Accelerator Program](https://www.wfp.org/digital-health-innovation-accelerator), powered by WFP Innovation Accelerator, and the digilab, jointly led by BMZ - Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, KfW - Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the GIZ. We are in search of scalable digital solutions using open standards and approaches towards the creation of global goods, with a focus on building and supporting pandemic preparedness capabilities in low- and middle-income countries. As the COVID-19 vaccination campaign continues globally, we aim to leverage these digital solutions to accelerate the vaccination campaign, thereby maximizing its impact, and the recovery of communities and health systems in low- and middle-income countries.

The program will select mature start-ups and solution providers who will receive financial, technical, and methodological support from the WFP Innovation Accelerator, and other partners. Together with the brightest and best minds globally, we will be able to build and support pandemic preparedness, and support the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

**What We Offer**

- Selected teams will be invited to participate in a fully virtual WFP Innovation Bootcamp in January 2022.
- Projects will also be able to apply to the WFP Sprint Program, which is a six-month acceleration program with access to up to US$250,000 in equity-free funding,
mentorship, and access to a global network of relevant partners in the public health space.

- Mature solutions that have proven their concepts, scale, and value for social impact may qualify for further funding and support.
- Join a High-Impact network of over 100+ disruptive innovations that positively impacted 3.7 Million people in 2020 alone.

The WFP Innovation Accelerator has a track record of organizing over 38 flagship innovation bootcamps, supporting teams to rapidly refine their innovations, field testing over 100 projects, and bringing disruptive innovations to scale.

**What We Are Looking For**

The Digital Health Innovation Accelerator Program’s priorities are listed here. Selected teams will be able to further develop their solutions toward scale during the WFP Sprint Program throughout 2022 (end of Q3).

We are looking for digitally-powered solutions that can contribute to build pandemic preparedness capabilities in low- and middle-income countries. These solutions would be focused on one or more of the following priority topics:

- **Vaccination scheduling**: digital solutions that streamline patient and provider registration processes, appointment schedules, vaccination administration and immunisation sites.
- **Data management and integration**: tools and platforms addressing system interoperability challenges such as: data integration, data gaps, data security, and integration of legacy systems.
- **Other digital health tools and solutions**: including but not limited to: micro-planning, vaccine delivery and monitoring, vaccine waste management, raising awareness and countering misinformation, safety monitoring and Adverse Effects For Immunization (AEFI).

Applicants should be able to demonstrate the following:

- Interoperability with other systems and capacity to integrate with existing national health management information systems.
- Buy-in from national, regional, or local governments.
- Positive adoption of the relevant target user groups: government officials, health workers or citizens, where applicable.
- Inclusion of, or focus on, supporting or increasing access for women in the area of impact.
- Inclusion of, or focus on, marginalized or underserved communities and mobile populations.
- Inclusion of, or focus on, people with disabilities and/or high-risk groups vulnerable to COVID-19.
- Capacity to be adapted, expanded, replicated, or scaled.
- Adherence to the principles for digital development and digital public goods standards.

*Although the Accelerator is solution-oriented and technology agnostic, we welcome creative and novel approaches using or combining data mining, machine learning, blockchain, artificial intelligence, or any other frontier technologies.*

**Eligibility Criteria**

- Your organization must be an established legal entity (for-profit, non for profit, social enterprise) for at least 2 years.
- The proposed solution should follow open standards, open source or open data approaches toward creating global goods (e.g. OSI approved licenses, Creative Commons licenses)
- The developed or implemented solution should use data and information exchange mechanisms based on global standards (e.g., openHIE)
- The applicant organization must have a presence in the country of implementation: (country office or other permanent presence, subsidiary, long-term operations or partnerships in the country, specifically with the relevant Public Health government agencies)
- Your innovation addresses one or more of the priority topics related to building pandemic preparedness in low- and middle-income countries.
- Your innovation should have a demonstrated proof-of-concept with initial traction and a clear path to scale.

In accordance with the above, your application will be evaluated according to the following criteria*:

- **Impact & Scalability:** Applicants should have a defined vision, an identified target group, and be able to demonstrate the potential to solve the posed challenge(s).
- **Team:** Applicants should be able to demonstrate they have a diverse, non-discriminatory, gender-balanced organization with demonstrated leadership and entrepreneurial mindset.
- **Novelty:** Applicants should be able to show how their solution and business model are innovative while being technically suitable, and viable.
- **Traction:** Applicants should be able to present evidence of feasibility and adoption by the target group.
- **Business Model:** Applicants should demonstrate the viability of their business model, how they intend to achieve a sustainable business, pricing, and financial model.

*We reserve the right to adjust eligibility criteria based on the changing context as new information becomes available.*
Application Process

1. To submit your application, please fill in this Application Form before 26 November, 2021 11:59 pm (CET).
2. If you know a relevant project for us to consider, please let us know by filling out this Referral Submission Form.
3. We will review and select successful applications to participate in a bootcamp in January 2022. The bootcamp will be held virtually amid COVID-19 travel restrictions. We value all applications; however, we are only able to contact shortlisted applicants.
4. Interested, but don’t feel your idea is ready yet? Don’t let this stop you! You can still send your application as we are creating a pool of digital solutions with a focus on public health and pandemic preparedness. This pool of solutions could be invited for future programs.

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 100 projects in 46 countries, with 16 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.