Call for Innovation - Sierra Leone overview

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

In 2021, WFP launched the **Digital Health Innovation Accelerator Program (DHIAP)**, powered by WFP Innovation Accelerator and BMZ digilab - the innovation lab for digital solutions, initiated by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in collaboration with GIZ, the German Development Bank KfW, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

We are now 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** and speeding up the demand-driven vaccine distribution and the recovery of communities and health systems in **Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, and Togo**.

The programme will select mature start-ups and solution providers, that already have presence in any of the target countries, who will receive **financial**, **technical,** and **methodological support** from the WFP Innovation Accelerator and other partners during the 6-month WFP Sprint Programme.

Application Deadline: extended until 25 September, 2022 11:59 pm (CEST)

What We Are Looking For

We are looking for solutions that can contribute to building and strengthening pandemic preparedness capabilities and would ideally be focused on one or more of the following priority topics:

1. **Strengthening of laboratory systems to enable validation of infectious disease incidence**

It is important and often critical that notification of laboratory test results happens as soon as it becomes available for appropriate actions to be taken. To enable validation of infectious disease incidence, we are looking to support digital solutions that:

- allow patients to schedule lab tests and receive test results;
- enable real-time display of the ongoing status of laboratory tests for health professionals;
- allow for immediate notification of lab test results for appropriate actions to be taken where necessary, particularly in disease surveillance and contact tracing.

Important considerations (in addition to general Call for Innovation eligibility criteria):

- solution should take into consideration the local context, whereby patients from rural communities have to travel long distances to their nearest health post for test results;
- preference will be given to solutions that could also be applied to other disease areas beyond COVID-19, providing a discreet way to share diagnostic results.

2. **Online training/e-learning platform for health professionals**

COVID-19 has highlighted the continuous need to enhance health workers' skills and capabilities. We are looking to support digital/technology-powered training/e-learning platforms with curated content, that would allow health workers to update their skills, for both pre-registration and refresher training, in areas including but not limited to:

- Vaccine delivery (must-have)
- Enabling safety protocol for health facilities (must-have)
- Epidemic-specific symptoms monitoring
- Use of personal protective equipment

Important consideration (in addition to general Call for Innovation eligibility criteria):

- training platforms and applications should consider user-centered design approaches and learning needs assessments in both their design — to enhance user experience — as well as the provision of relevant content.

3. Strengthen traveler enrolment schemes

As a part of case monitoring and contact tracing, there is a need for a system for enrolling travelers who have visited high risk locations. This includes enabling functionalities such as strengthening border health security, screening, and follow-up with suspected infected persons at every point of entry. We are looking to support digital solutions that:

- document detailed contact history about the time, place, and person for each high-risk encounter;
- create a listing of high-risk contacts linked to suspected and existing cases;
- create a record to input demographics and risk factors of high-risk contact;
- integrate with the case management applications and surveillance tools, to confirm whether suspected cases are positive or not.

Please refer to the Digital Health Innovation Accelerator Program page for detailed information on eligibility and evaluation criteria.

To submit your application, please fill in **this Application Form** before **11 September 2022, 11:59 p.m. (CEST)**.