Who are we?

WFP has long implemented projects with the wider humanitarian community, supporting partners with logistics, engineering, digital identity management, cash-based transfers and emergency telecommunications. Through its SDG Acceleration Programmes, the WFP Innovation Accelerator builds on that history of implementing innovative projects with external partners, driving progress towards Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The SDG Accelerator programmes combine expertise at the nexus of humanitarian and development work, with deep understanding of innovation and venture building frameworks in resource-limited settings, all of which is enhanced by the WFP Innovation Accelerator's global outreach and access to relevant entrepreneurial ecosystems in strategic regions. Since starting activities in 2018, the Innovation Accelerator has delivered over 20 SDG partner programmes and supported more than 190 ventures on their path to scale. Partners involved in these projects, among others, include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UNHRD, WHO, UNFPA, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, the German Development Agency (GIZ), the Austrian Development Agency and Creating Hope in Conflict: A Humanitarian Grand Challenge.

Our calls for applications are an opportunity for us to source the most promising and daring solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), from startups, NGOs, academic institutions or government agencies.

What is the Humanitarian Innovation Acceleration Program?

The Humanitarian Innovation Accelerator Programme aims to support technology-powered solutions addressing pressing global challenges faced in the humanitarian space. The programme will select ventures and solution providers who will receive financial, technical, and methodological support from the WFP Innovation Accelerator.
Accelerator, and other partners. Together with the best and brightest minds globally, we will be able to ultimately improve the lives of vulnerable communities.

What's in it for me?

By submitting your solution, you might be selected to attend the WFP Innovation Bootcamp. Dates for the bootcamp vary from one programme to the other, please check the programme's site to confirm dates. In addition, your solution may be considered for a WFP Sprint Programme, with equity-free 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- to 12-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 will also receive equity-free funding to implement their proposed solution.

Am I eligible to participate? Who can submit applications?

We welcome applications from any registered legal entity including startups, NGO, academic institutions or government agencies, stationed anywhere in the world, that fulfill the programme's eligibility criteria, which can be found [here](#).

For the Humanitarian Innovation Accelerator preference will be given to solutions operating in target geographies: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Uganda, Mozambique, Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Kosovo, Albania, Moldova, Georgia, Laos, Niger, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Afghanistan, Tunisia, Armenia, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Mali, Senegal, and Ukraine.

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 coach from the Accelerator to support and guide you with the management and implementation of the project.
What are the types of innovations do we support?

This Programme supports innovations with specific functional and maturity criteria. We welcome applications from any organizations that meet both criteria below:

**Functional Criteria:** Through this first cohort, we are seeking innovations that enhance emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and prevention through use of the following technologies or approaches in humanitarian contexts: Artificial Intelligence & Data Science, Space/Satellite Technology, Healthtech and Supply Chain & Logistics.

**Maturity Criteria:** We are seeking solutions at two maturity levels; 1) *Scaling* and 2) *Early Stage*. Based on the following solution maturity profiles, applicants will be able to classify themselves between the two workstreams and present any relevant evidence of progress:

**Scaling Workstream**

This workstream focuses on solutions that:
- Have already attained technology feasibility and are undergoing further optimizations according to the market interests.
- Have established users in one or more countries of the geographies of interest or a demonstrated proof of concept in a relevant context.
- Are generating revenue.
- Have identified or implemented functional distribution models and enablers that can help them attain replicability in a viable manner.

**Early Stage Workstream**

This workstream focuses on solutions that:
- Are at least at a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) stage. Proof of concept is preferred.
- Have conducted pilot(s) or already established feasibility.
- Have identified revenue sources and, preferably, should be starting to generate revenue.

During the application review process, the applicable workstream will be confirmed based on the evidence presented by the applicants. The WFP Innovation Accelerator reserves the right to reclassify applicants between workstreams.

You can find examples of projects that we selected and accelerated on our [website](https://innovation.wfp.org).

**What are our selection/scoring criteria?**

- Solutions that are transformative, novel, or innovative.
- Solutions that can have a strong impact on the identified challenge(s) and are scalable, particularly in target countries/geographies.
- Solutions that can prove initial traction and match the profile of either the Scaling or Early Stage workstreams.
- Solutions with a financially viable 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, with the support of an Innovation Committee consisting of WFP representatives along with the programme's sponsors and subject matter experts.

What will we not fund?
- Proposals not presenting clear innovation; innovative ideas that repeat conventional approaches without novel application.
- Proposals that are out of scope of this call. This includes solutions not being relevant to humanitarian action, or not adhering to the sought functional criterias.
- 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 programme website 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 to 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.

What is the closing date?
The Humanitarian Innovation Accelerator is accepting applications until 15 March 2023, 11:59 pm (CEST).

If my application is unsuccessful, am I able to receive feedback?
Due to the highly competitive application process and the high number of applications, not all applications are successful. We place priority on ideas or concepts that are deemed to have high potential to solve the challenges in question in this call. We value all applications. However, we are only able to contact shortlisted applicants.

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 and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. 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, robotics and blockchain — and new business models to transform the way we serve vulnerable communities across the world. Since 2015, the WFP Innovation Accelerator has supported more than 100 projects, with 16 innovations scaling up to achieve significant impact. These projects have impacted 9 million lives in 2021 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.