Year in Review

2022

WFP World Food Programme | INNOVATION ACCELERATOR

South Sudan. 2022. Nyayuit Gol is taking part in a resilience project, Sustainable Fuel for Cooking, to create cooking fuel from water hyacinth. © WFP/Eulalia Berlanga

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01

Introduction

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Welcome letter

Our leadership team

BERNHARD KOWATSCH
Head of the WFP Innovation Accelerator

JOANNA PURCELL
Head of Donor Relations and Partnerships

MIRANDA STOBBS
Head of Marketing and Communications

HILA COHEN
Head of Business Development

JORGE FERNANDES
Head of Innovative Finance, Frontier Innovations and Venture Launchpad

REGINA SCHMIDT
Head of SDG2 Acceleration

BETSY ROSENBAUM
Head of Business Operations

JOSE ALCOCER
Head of SDGx Acceleration

SANDRA RAAD
Head of Innovation Network

CRISTINA KNAPP
Head of Scale-Up Enablement

KATHRIN STEINEBACH
Head of People

2022 - Innovating to help solve the global food crisis, the climate crisis and other global problems

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

In 2022, the world faced one of the worst humanitarian crises since World War II. The emergence of a global food crisis, with 345 million people now marching towards starvation. This was exacerbated by conflict, the climate crisis, COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, further increasing the cost of food and fuel. The need for innovative solutions has never been more important than right now.

The innovators and startups who work with our WFP Innovation Accelerator team, global WFP colleagues, partners and supporters again pioneered new solutions to help improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people across the globe - whether they suffer from hunger, the effects of the climate crisis or other global problems. By reaching over 37 million people through innovations, we continued to save and change lives worldwide.

As we look back at 2022, I want to share some key lessons and inspirations with you:

01 **Climate Action Innovation Challenge:** This year, we ran our first dedicated innovation challenge and accelerator programme focused purely on climate action and food security. Working with climate experts in the WFP programme division and WFP country offices, we specifically sought solutions with the most significant impact potential.

02 **Scaling innovations is a skill** that requires bringing together the best innovators with the support they need. We published a "How to Bring Projects to Scale" guidance to share more of our experience with the wider community.

03 Leveraging the **WFP innovation network** was a strategic priority this year, working with dedicated WFP regional innovation hubs for East Africa in Nairobi, Latin America and the Caribbean in Colombia and country-based innovation units in Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan and Jordan. This network brought tailored innovation support, unique value and expertise to the region.

04 Our **SDGx Acceleration** programme continued to expand its work with other United Nations entities and partners in running their accelerator programmes as a service for global problems like healthcare, vaccines, and gender equality. This year we challenged ourselves to create end-to-end acceleration programmes, most notably a new Humanitarian Accelerator programme co-sponsored by Luxembourg and Austria.

05 Pioneering **innovative finance** for humanitarian purposes, WFP engaged with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) to create WFP Bridge, a loan fund to help scale startups and innovations and further develop the SheCan micro-loan platform for the promotion of women's economic empowerment.

06 Through **frontier innovations**, we explored the use of artificial intelligence for next- level response and blockchain technology for cash-transfers to hungry people. Together with the Global Blockchain Business Council (GBBC) we are exploring the "Food for crisis web3 initiative" with a moonshot target to raise USD 1 billion to tackle the current food crisis and invest in sustainable innovations to end hunger.

07 As part of our **Global Accelerator Platform**, we sought to engage other innovation leaders. We teamed up with Google for Startups, receiving cutting-edge knowledge and support for our programmes. We collaborated with the **World Economic Forum** on their first-ever Humanitarian and Resilience Investing Challenge to find investable startups.

08 We started the year with our first in person bootcamp in two years, as an official side-event at the margins of the 2022 Munich Security Conference. Bringing together **an unusual mix of partners**, we supported the first-ever official startup challenge and pitch event at COP27 with the Government of Egypt, USAID, Google and Microsoft. We also brought some of our innovators, investors and climate grantmakers together at COP27 to reimagine scaling innovations for climate actions.

09 **Innovation** is not just about startups, but is also **critical for innovation teams**. As such, we completed a strategy refresh for the WFP Innovation Accelerator and further pushed the boundaries of new ways of working, organising our team around purpose, accountability, and more agile self-organisation, using a "circle" visual rather than traditional top-down hierarchies.

10 This year, we were humbled to receive four prestigious Anthem Awards, which recognize social impact worldwide. And finally, my TED Talk highlighting how a mindset shift can help tackle the world's biggest challenges has been viewed more than 1.5 million times.

Throughout 2023, we look forward to building and serving global communities together. With our diverse Innovation Accelerator team paving the way and a community like yours collaborating with us, I am hopeful we can make a difference in the future.

Sincerely,
BERNHARD KOWATSCH, *and the WFP Innovation Accelerator Leadership Team*

Click here to read more insights from our impactful 2022

Building Networks for Innovation

This year we continued to build a network of diverse partners and collaborators. The number of people we've been able to reach this year, and the growth we've experienced in the last seven years, has only been possible because of our WFP colleagues, donors, friends, and supporters who believed in us.

The **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development**, the **German Federal Foreign Office**, and the **Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry** have all supported us from day one with an initial investment in the Accelerator that continues to this day. In 2022, we were delighted to welcome **France** and **Czechia** to our portfolio of innovative government partners. **USAID** further supported our work, adding a focus on innovative financing. **Innovation Norway** supported our work for the second time, ensuring that we cultivated private public partnerships. We are excited to deepen our relationships with **Austria**, **Luxembourg**, and the **German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)** who all joined our SDG Acceleration programming this year.

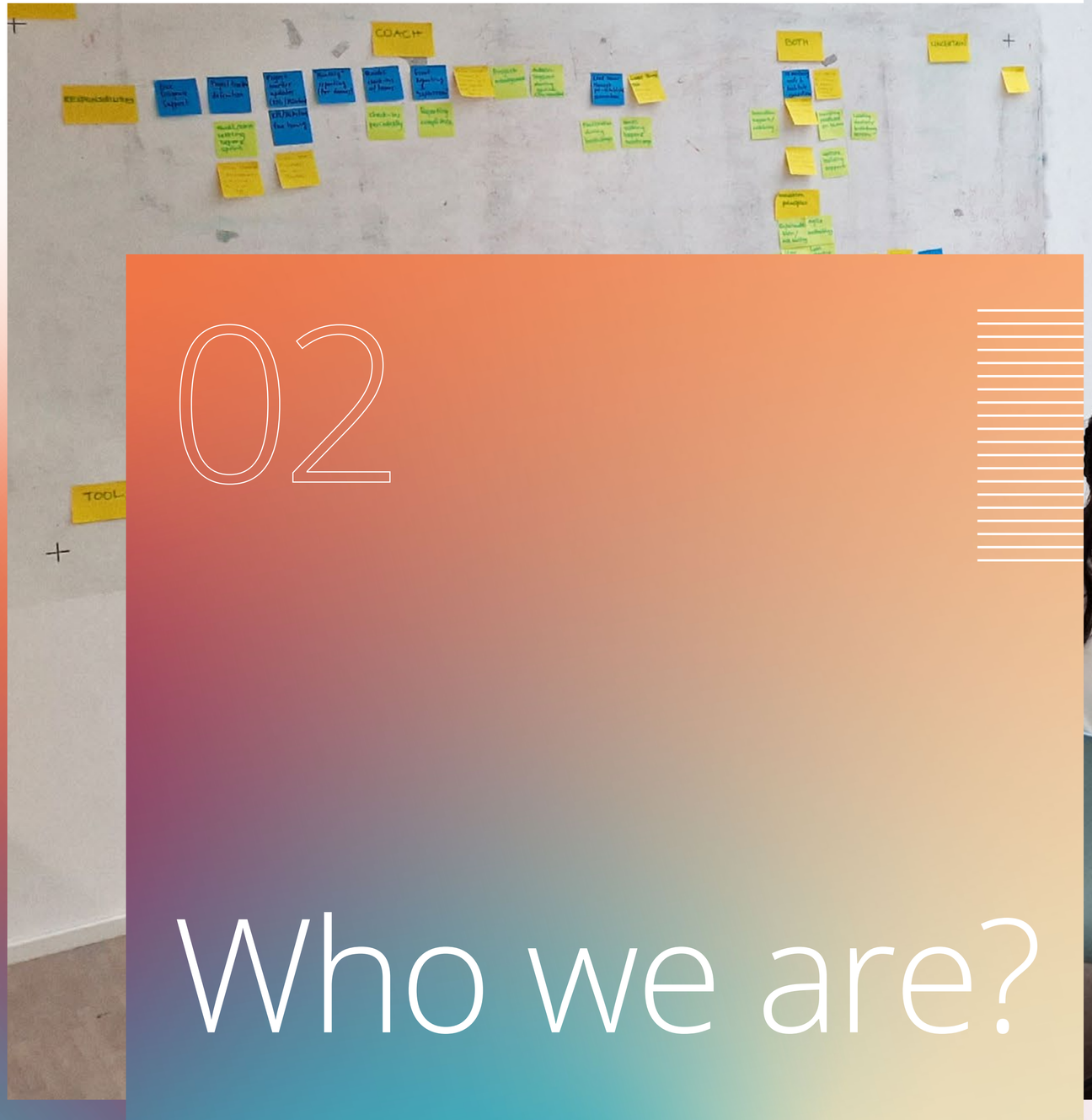
We renewed and deepened our partnership with the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, focusing on innovation in large-scale food fortification, and we were delighted to continue our work with **John Deere Foundation** supporting smallholder farmers, and for whom we conducted a lunch and learn for their staff, and **BASF Stiftung**, supporting key innovation scale-up projects. We cultivated a new partnership with **Netlight**, combining digital expertise with venture building. And we continued to grow our networks, by becoming a member of the **Google for Startups** network - the first United Nations agency to join.

Direct support to the Innovation Accelerator from key private and public sector partners was **USD 19.4 million**, a 20 percent increase on the previous year. Meanwhile, **partner investment**, either directly or indirectly **(co-funding)** to our innovation projects across the globe reached **USD 18.7 million**, bringing all- time global innovation support to **more than USD 200 million** since its establishment in 2015.

Events and outreach picked up as people began to meet in person again. The Accelerator was visited by key friends and partners, including our WFP country directors, USAID, Germany's GIZ, Temasek Polytechnic Singapore and Member of the German Bundestag Wolfgang Stefinger, to exchange ideas and approaches to innovation. At our Munich Security Conference Pitch Event, we welcomed the State Minister of the German Federal Foreign Office, the Bavarian Minister for EU and International Affairs, Iceland's Foreign Minister, the US Consul General of Munich and WFP's Executive Director. The Accelerator team contributed to the Swedish innovation ecosystem, speaking at Swedish Food Tech and at Stockholm +50 and Dubai during Expo 2020, meeting with key innovation actors in the United Arab Emirates.

We are constantly learning how an **innovative approach to partnerships** looks. Sometimes starting small is best when kicking off partnerships, that way we get to take the year working together to really understand each other. We took full advantage of the tools, conducting our meetings and updates over online platforms to ensure that communication remained open and consistent, and of course we learned that meeting in person will always have a place in developing partnerships. In the shared journey of partnerships, we worked to define the necessary strategies, tools and deliverables in order to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

Partners and Co-creators



02

Who we are?

©WFP/Alexander Honsowitz

About us

The WFP Innovation Accelerator sources, supports and scales bold new solutions to achieve Zero Hunger and the wider SDGs.

Based in Munich, Germany, the Innovation Accelerator provides WFP operations, entrepreneurs and start-ups with funding, hands-on support and access to WFP's global operations. WFP is leveraging unprecedented advances in innovation, such as mobile technology, artificial intelligence, blockchain, innovative finance, and new business models. We are sharing our knowledge and lessons learned with the wider community to transform the way we collectively serve vulnerable communities across the world, with the Innovation Accelerator supporting every step of the way.

We received **2,500+** applications **FROM** **128** Countries and territories

31
SPRINT PROJECTS IN 2022

123
SPRINT PROJECTS SINCE INNOVATION ACCELERATOR'S INCEPTION

17 03 OF THEM *graduating*
ACTIVE SCALE-UP PROJECTS IN 2022

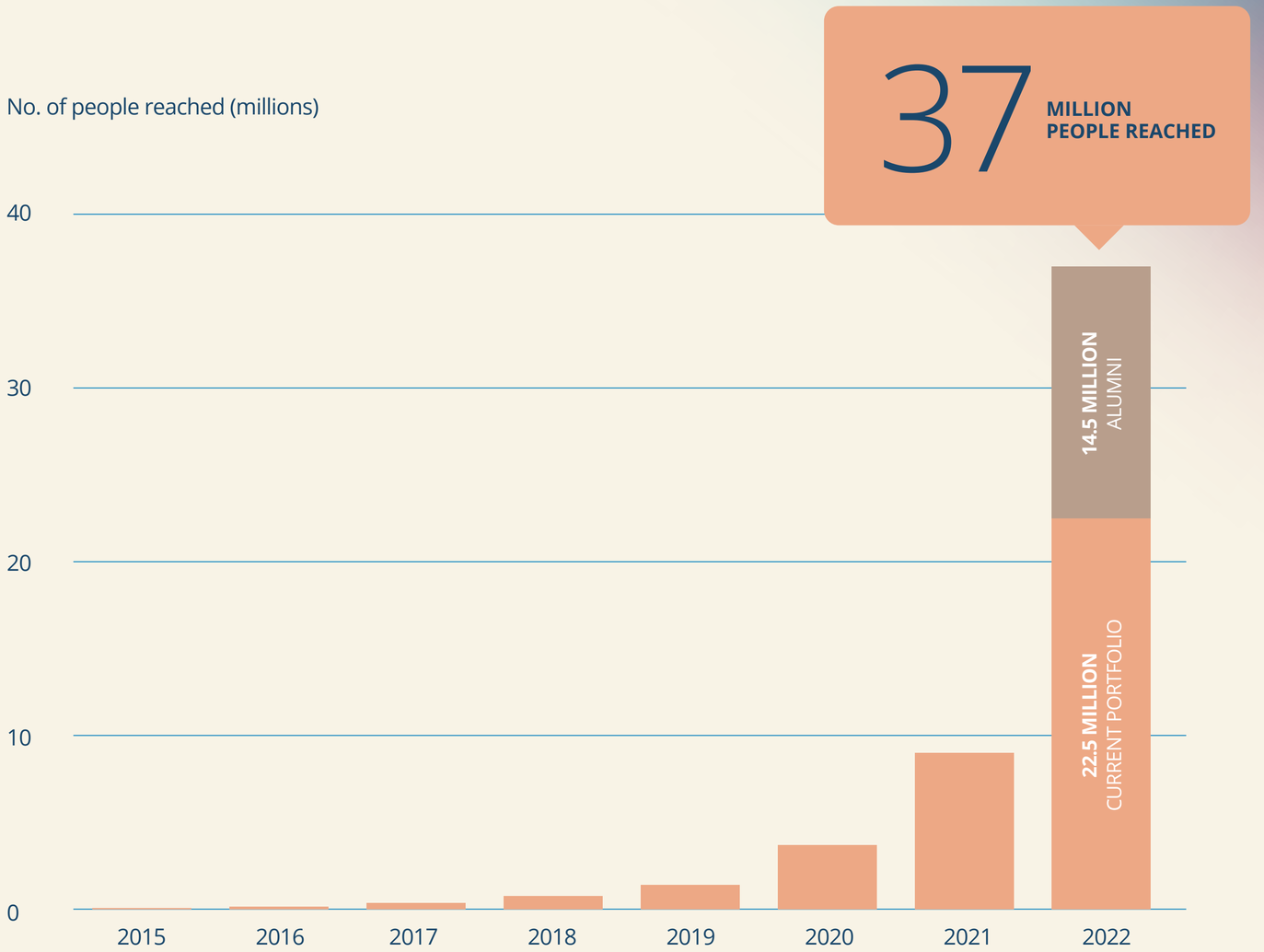
5
ALUMNI PROJECTS

SDGx Acceleration supported
58 **VENTURES**
from 9 innovation programmes

USD 24.5 MILLION
Co-funding in 2022

USD 200 MILLION
Co-funding since the Innovation Accelerator's inception

Results of innovations supported



Results of innovations supported: 37 million people reached

Provided assistance to crisis zones and countries facing post-conflict instability to

7.2

MILLION+ PEOPLE

HELPED

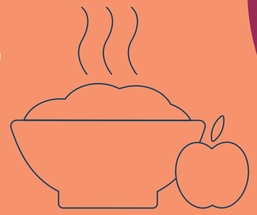
12.6

MILLION+ PEOPLE

from food insecure communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate shocks and stress

10.7

MILLION+ PEOPLE



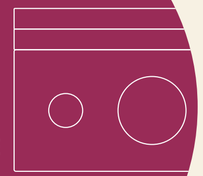
had access to optimized (school) meals or food with an increased nutritional value with innovative Nutrition and School-Based Programmes

HELPED

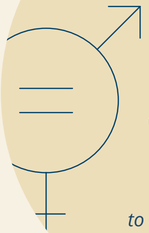
4.2

MILLION+ PEOPLE

made faster, cheaper and more secure Cash-Based Transfers



Created food assistance policies and programmes that offer conditions for



4.1

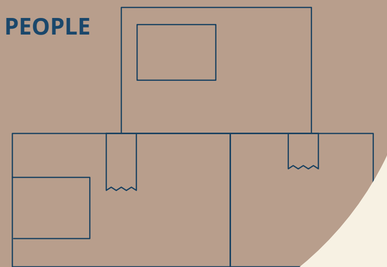
MILLION+ PEOPLE

to advance gender equality and women's empowerment

7.4

MILLION+ PEOPLE

received an efficient and effective distribution of food through Supply Chain and Logistics innovations



HELPED

4.3

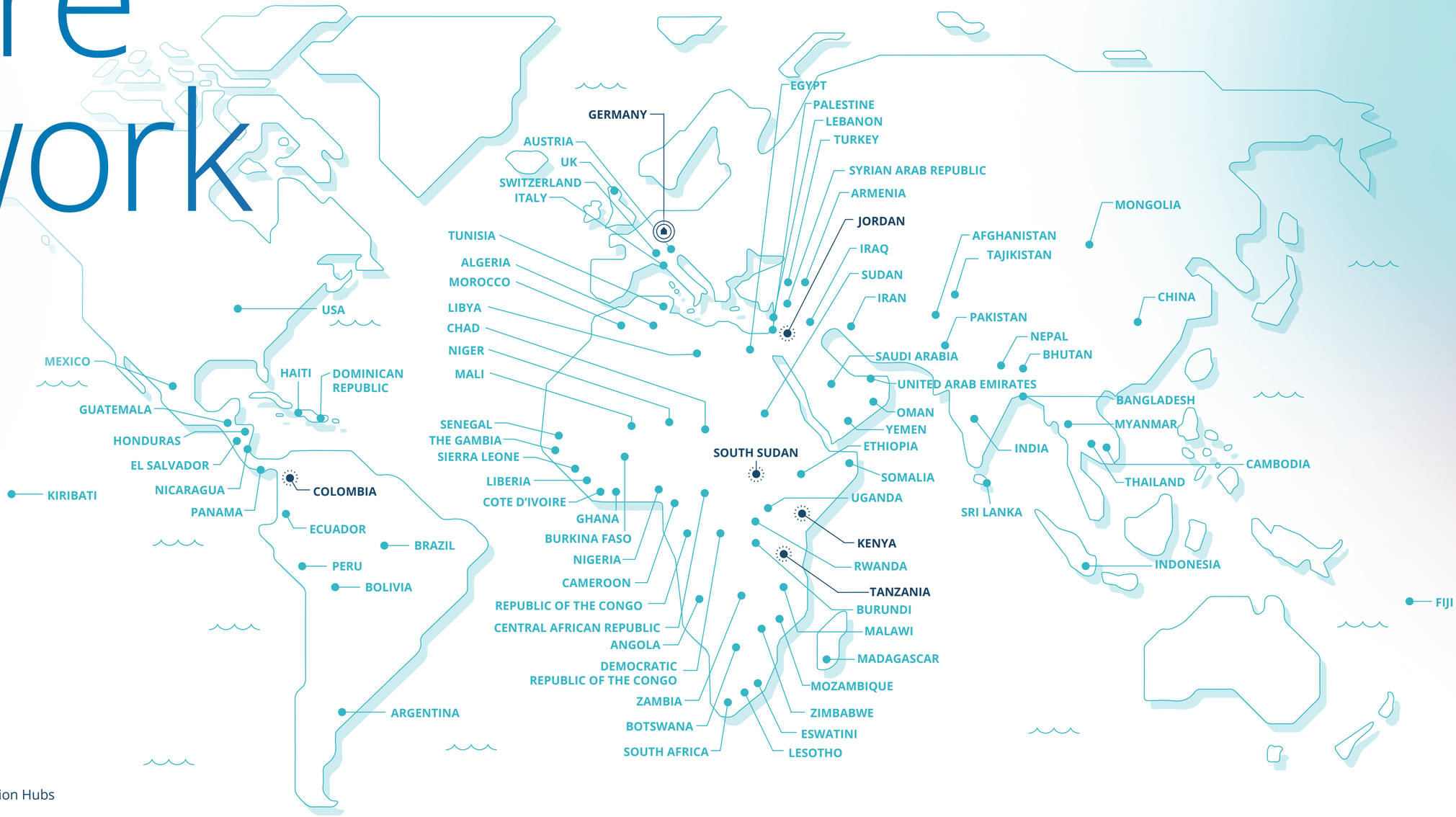
MILLION+

SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

from food insecure communities manage natural resources more sustainably, which enables them to meet today's livelihood needs

Number of people reached in different areas of work adds up to more than 37 million because projects are cross-cutting and can cover multiple areas of work. For example, project Chakki covers both Nutrition and Gender thematic area.

Where we work



WFP Innovation Accelerator Innovation Hubs

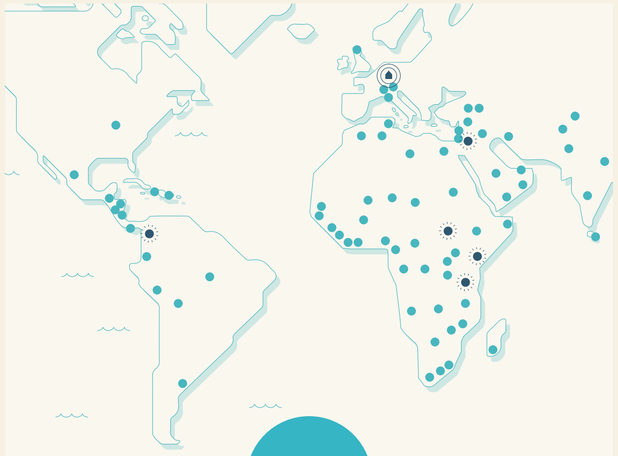
Where we work

Afghanistan	**openFN**, SKAI, CODA,Optimus
Algeria	**Shezlong**
Angola	SMP Plus,Optimus
Argentina	Nilus
Armenia	Armenia Project, SMP Plus,H2Grow
Austria	**#USTOO**
Bangladesh	**simprints, openFN**, Retail in a Box (RIAB), Log:ie,Building Blocks,PIT,R4
Bhutan	SMP Plus
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	**openFN**
Botswana	**Vaxiglobal, mDREET**
Brazil	**Zenysis, openFN**
Burkina Faso	PIT,R4
Burundi	H2Grow
Cambodia	**openFN**, Agri House (Cricket house), Log:ie,Prism
Cameroon	Optimus
Central African Republic (the)	PIT
Chad	PIT,H2Grow
China	Clear Plate
Colombia	**MISION LIAS**, Ancestral Markets, Log:ie,Empact,Optimus
Congo (the) (also referred as Congo Brazzaville or RoC)	Context Insights, Optimus
Côte d'Ivoire	**STRIATA**
Democratic Republic of the Congo (the)	**simprints, openFN, STRIATA**, Optimus
Dominican Republic (the)	SMP Plus
Ecuador	**openFN**
Egypt	**Shezlong**, Dalili
El Salvador	Kitchen In a Box (KIAB), R4
Eswatini	Optimus
Ethiopia	**Zenysis, Dimagi, simprints, openFN**, Voice-to-text, Optimus,R4,SMP Plus,H2Grow
Fiji	R4
Gambia (the)	DARTS
Germany	**UN Digital ID**, Dalili
Ghana	**Flare, Talamus, medtrack, simprints**, RAMANI - CHEETAH, PIT
Guatemala	**openFN**, IBISA - Formentera, School Feeding & Management App (SFMA), Nilus,R4
Haiti	Clean Cooking Haiti,plugPAY, Log:ie, Optimus, R4
Honduras	Log:ie
India	**Dimagi, CHIP (Kushi Baby), simprints, openFN, M'Care Compass**, Annapurti (GrainATM),Takachar, Take Home Rations India, Solar 4 Resilience
Indonesia	Prism
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	DARTS, Optimus
Iraq	**Our UN. Our Culture**, Log:ie,Empact,Dalili
Italy	**Top Secret Helpline**, DARTS,Geotar
Jordan	SMP Plus,Building Blocks,PIT
Kenya	**pamoja Initiative, Flare, mDREET, Sun Buckets, openFN, STRIATA**, agriBORA - Hatua, Boomitra ,Impact AI ,Toothpick,Agsol, Community Inclusion Currencies, Farm to Market Alliance,H2Grow Assets Based Loans,Empact,Dalili,Sanku,R4,H2Grow
Kiribati	**simprints**
Lebanon	Context Insights, Empact,Dalili,Optimus,PIT
Lesotho	Optimus
Liberia	**Health Pass (Ona)**, Optimus
Libya	**Shezlong**, Dalili,H2Grow
Madagascar	**SMILE**, Log:ie,Optimus,R4
Malawi	**simprints**, SoilWatch - SoILPRO, SheCan, Log:ie,Optimus,R4
Mali	Ignitia, PIT
Mexico	**Nilus**
Mongolia	Prism
Morocco	**Shezlong**
Mozambique	**Zenysis, simprints, STRIATA**, OxEO - Novel Hydrological Drought Index, Arable, Retail in a Box (RIAB), PHL Venture,Optimus,SMP Plus,PIT,R4
Myanmar	Optimus
Nepal	Timely Logistics, Log:ie
Nicaragua	R4
Niger (the)	**SoilWatch - SoILPRO**
Nigeria	**myPaddi, Gerocare, Lifestore Healthcre, mDREET, Talamus, Cold Hubs, openFN, M'Care Compass, STRIATA, SMP Plus,PIT,H2Grow**
Oman	Dalili
Pakistan	**Barbershops on Inclusion and Diversity in the Workplace, Zenysis, VaccinateHers**, Chakki,Bioanalyt,H2Grow
Panama	**Top Secret Helpline**
Peru	**Top Secret Helpline**, SheCan, Producers Direct (Digital Cooperatives), Nilus,PIT
Rwanda	Farm to Market Alliance,PHL Venture, SheCan, Meza, AflaSight
Saudi Arabia	Dalili
Senegal	**Dimagi**, Optimus,R4
Sierra Leone	**STRIATA**, Log:ie
Somalia	PIT
South Africa	**Talamus,Zenysis,Dimagi,Health Pass (Ona), openFN, STRIATA, Shezlong**
South Sudan	**Shezlong**, Sustainable Fuel for Cooking, Cockpit, Retail in a Box (RIAB), CODA,Log:ie,PHL Venture
Sri Lanka	Prism,SMP Plus
Sudan (the)	Dalili,PIT
Switzerland	**ACT, #RESPECT CAMPAIGN**
Syrian Arab Republic (the)	Dalili,Optimus,PIT
Tajikistan	CODA
Thailand	**openFN**
Tunisia	Last Mile Ecosystem
Turkey	Empact
Uganda	**Rocket Health,mDREET**
United Arab Emirates (the)	Dalili
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the)	**simprints,SMILE**
United Republic of Tanzania (the)	**Shezlong,mDREET,Health Pass (Ona),simprints,STRIATA**, Imara Tech, Farm to Market Alliance,Sanku,Optimus
United States of America (the)	**#UNA IDEA,Zenysis,Dimagi,Health Pass (Ona),openFN,STRIATA,Sun Buckets**
Yemen	**Digital Humanitarian Response (SecDev),Dimagi**, FamPred, Dalili,Optimus,H2Grow
Zambia	**Zenysis,Health Pass (Ona),STRIATA**, SheCan, plugPAY,Zambia Food Dryers, Farm to Market Alliance,PHL Venture,Optimus,R4,H2Grow
Zimbabwe	**Vaxiglobal,mDREET,Talamus,simprints**, OxEO - Novel Hydrological Drought Index,SoilWatch - SoILPRO, Mushroom IFPS, Log:ie,Optimus,R4
State of Palestine (the) *	Dalili,H2Grow
Global	AHEAD,GDAI,Blockchain to Save and Change Lives Call For Applications, WFP Innovation Bridge, Cloud to Street,Share The Meal

We are 82 innovators

44	67%	25	70%
NATIONALITIES	FEMALE	LANGUAGES	WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

WFP Innovation Accelerator



01

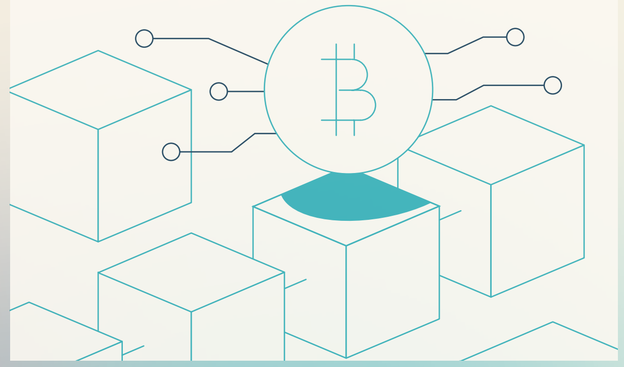
WFP Acceleration

- 3 Accelerator programmes for startups, NGOs and WFP innovations
- Scale-up enablement programme
- Global WFP innovation network, Champions
- Community, regional & field innovation units and hubs

02

Innovative finance, venture platform, frontiers

- Innovative finance - Bridge (loan) fund, impact fund and crypto assets
- Venture platform
- Frontier innovations (AI, blockchain, robotics)



03

SDGx Acceleration

Accelerator programmes and innovation services for diverse global problems like healthcare, gender equality, climate change and humanitarian innovation

World Health Organization

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Bill & Melinda Gates foundation

Luxembourg Aid & Development

Austrian Development Agency

UNFPA

Creating Hope in Conflict: A Humanitarian Grand Challenge

04

Global Accelerator Platform

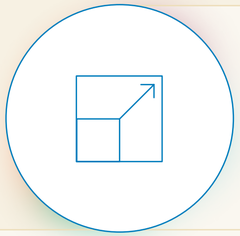
- Munich, USA, Middle East and Asia platform
- Platform alliances (WEF, Google, YPO)
- Ecosystem & community

World Economic Forum

Google

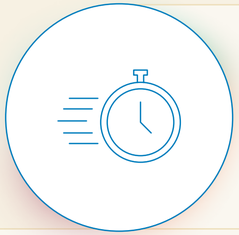
YPO | EUROPE ONE Chapter

Our path to scale



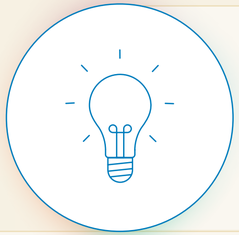
Scale-Up Enablement

Enabling the rapid scale-up of high-impact innovations by providing tailored strategy, fundraising, communications, knowledge management and mentorship support, helping projects to multiply their impact within and beyond WFP.



Sprint Programme

A circa six-month acceleration programme that provides funding, hands-on support and access to WFP operations to help projects develop prototypes and reach proof-of-concept.



Innovation Bootcamps

Circa five-day, high-intensity workshops with expert mentors and facilitators to help teams dive deep into challenges, ideate solutions and refine project plans.

Innovation Sourcing

Sourcing bold ideas from the brightest minds through our online application site, active sourcing and Innovation Challenges.

- **Country-based Innovation Units:** Tanzania, Jordan, South Sudan, Kenya
- **Regional Innovation Hubs:** Eastern Africa and Latin America & the Caribbean
- **Tried and tested hybrid programme delivery**

In the spotlight 2022

Tap on the photo to play Bernhard Kowatsch's TED Talk on the mindset shift needed to tackle big global challenges.

The Innovation Accelerator visibly supported innovations helping to solve global food and climate crises and other global problems throughout 2022.

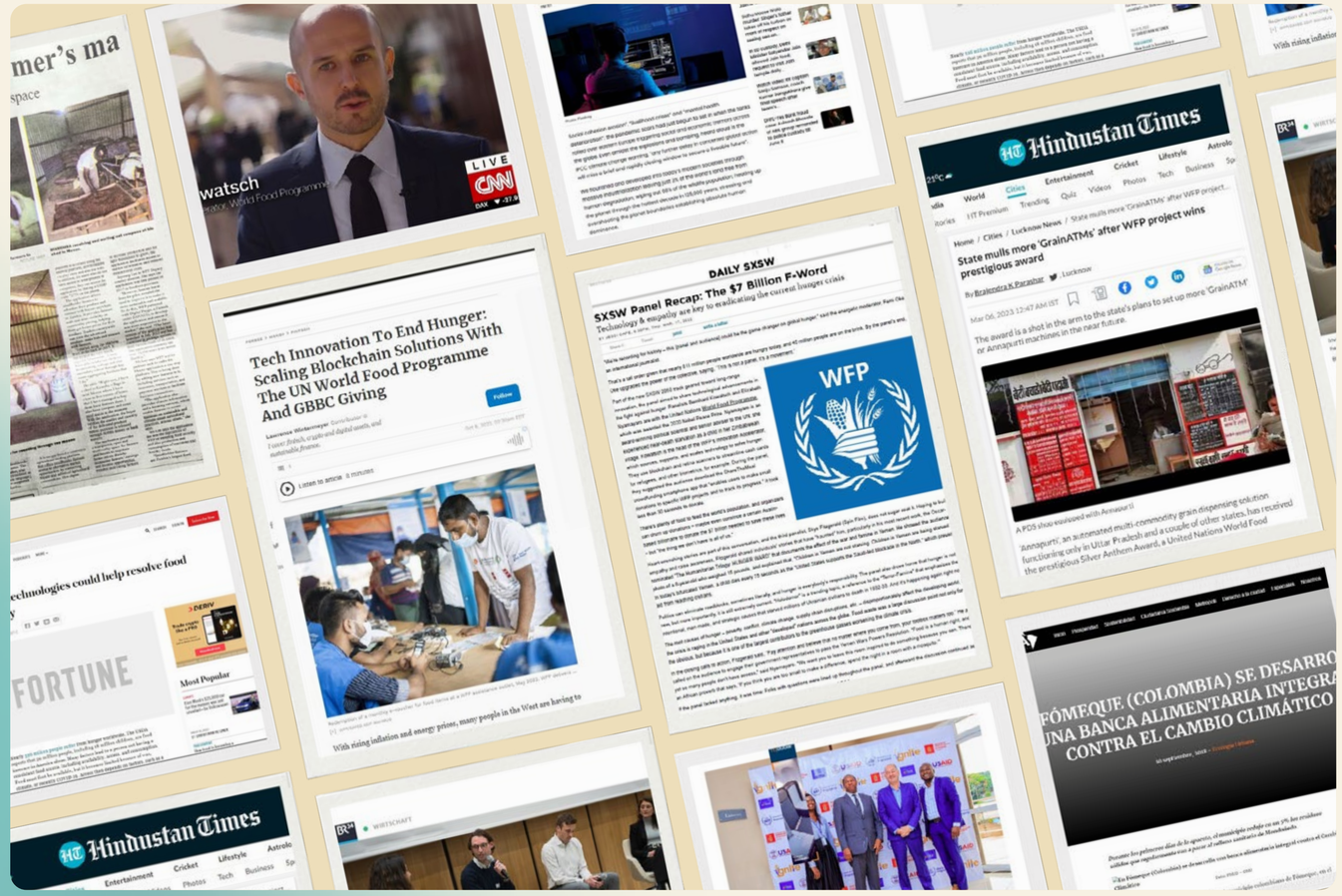
The WFP Innovation Accelerator received **3,346 media mentions** across **97 countries**, reaching over one million people. Coverage included in various publications, including **Beyond Innovation**, **BR24**, **Daily Beast**, **Eco Africa (Deutsche Welle)**, **Forbes**, **Fortune Magazine**, and **Newsweek**. The Accelerator delivered more than 1.8 million social media impressions on social media. On LinkedIn specifically, our business-centric audience is now over 35,000 members, with visitors from over 50 countries in 2022.

Head of the Innovation Accelerator, Bernhard Kowatsch's TED Talk on how innovation and technology can fight global hunger posted on the TED website in May 2022 has over 1,600,000 views.

The WFP Innovation Accelerator received four Anthem Awards (by the Webby Awards), honouring the purpose and mission-driven work of people, companies, and organisations worldwide. These included wins for WFP's microsite, The Great Enablers: a tradition of innovation and technology at WFP, the Innovation Accelerator's virtual bootcamps as a driver of community space, the Innovation Champions Community as a corporate initiative, and the #SheSpeaksUp campaign.

In 2022, the WFP Innovation Accelerator produced **116 knowledge products**, including blog posts, educational videos, case studies, factsheets, guidelines, webpages and social media cards. We produce innovation case studies to share practical examples of how innovation can enhance humanitarian and development work. The Accelerator's knowledge and communication products are increasingly produced in languages other than English, as we emphasise the value of locally-led innovations and strive to engage audiences in countries where WFP operates.

In the spotlight 2022



3,346
MEDIA MENTIONS

97
COUNTRIES

OVER
1.6M
TED TALK VIEWS

OVER
1.8M
SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS

LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS OVER
35,000

116
KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Ambitious future

By 2025, we aim to **positively reach the lives of 100 million people** and raise **USD 80 million of funding**, and launch three flagship innovations per year.

With the foundational work done so far in the area of Zero Hunger and SDG support, the Innovation Accelerator is fast becoming a key enabler for the SDGs.

To reach our goals, we will grow our **global WFP Accelerator presence** and leverage regional innovation networks by building up additional ecosystems in the United States, Middle East and Asia.

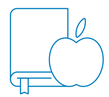
Further efforts will be invested in an **Innovation Fund and Venture Launchpad**. Our **SDGx Acceleration programmes** will continue to grow, working with partners solving critical sustainable development challenges through innovation.

Areas of work

These icons are a legend to demonstrate how the innovations that the WFP Innovation Accelerator supports align with WFP's corporate priorities and activities.

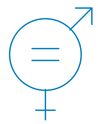
Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Response

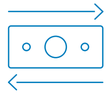
Nutrition and School-Based Programme



Supply Chain and Logistics

Gender Equality



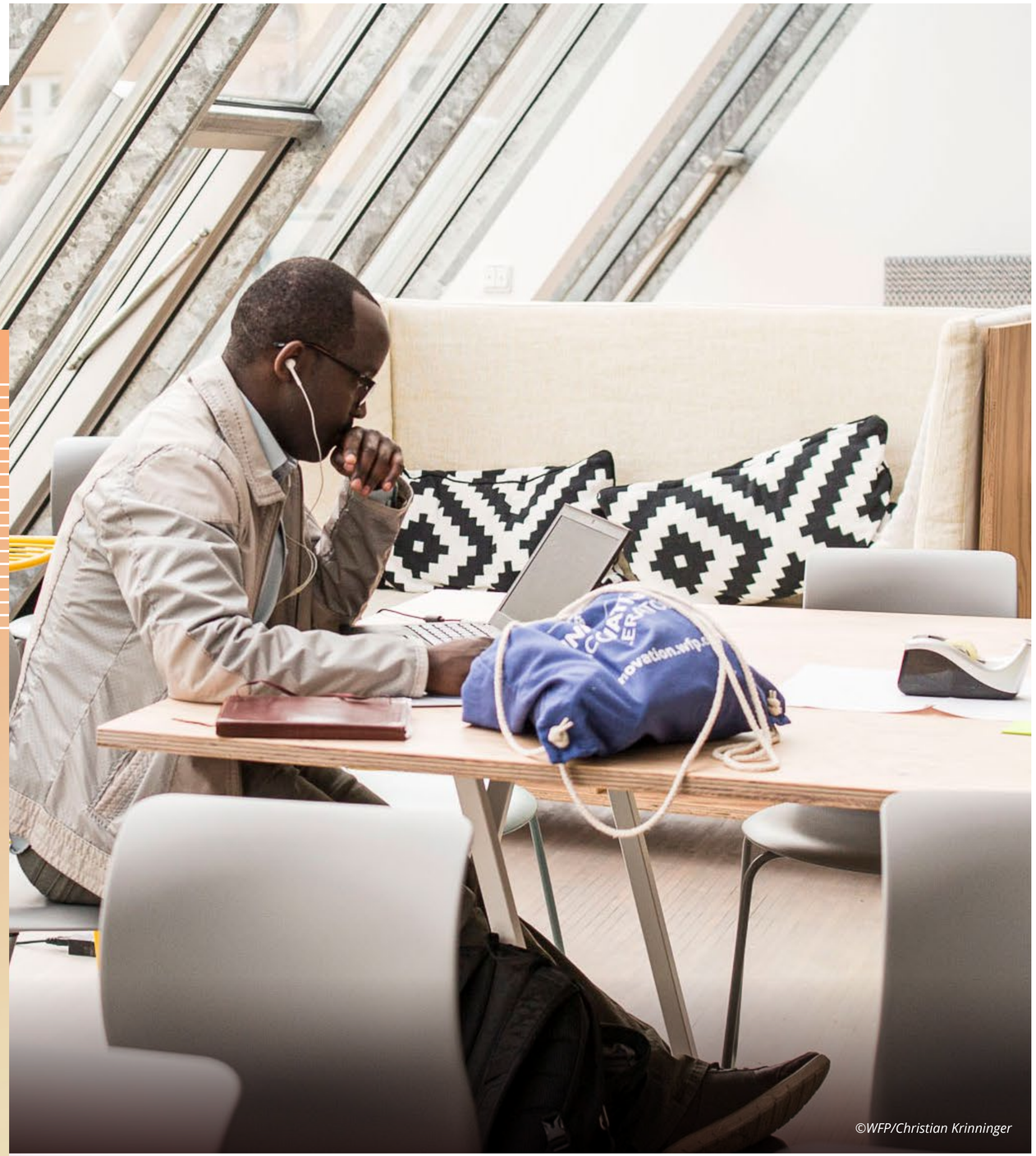


Climate Actions and Resilience Building

Cash-Based Transfer

03

What we do



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WFP Innovation Network

Innovation and collaboration throughout the organization is vital for ensuring that the entire innovation community of WFP is geared towards positively reaching 100 million people by 2025.

Recognizing the maturity of the Innovation Accelerator, and that WFP already has a huge element of work in the area of innovation, we decided that it was time to establish our WFP Innovation Network. We are now bringing all areas of work for WFP in innovation to the next level. To positively influence the wider innovation ecosystem, we

- **Launched One Voice for Innovation**, which vitalized the operating model of collaboration between WFP Innovation Hubs and Units and the Accelerator to act as one global team. It focused on joint knowledge management and applied learning. One Voice for Innovation was launched in close coordination with the currently active Innovation Hubs and Units in Jordan, Tanzania, Kenya, Colombia and the Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa, to ensure local contexts and voices are represented.
- **Published the WFP Guidance to integrate innovation in Country Strategic Plans**. We provided WFP corporate guidance on integrating innovation in Country Strategic Plans (CSP) in close alignment with the Programme Unit in World Food Programme. The ensuing adapted guidance for integrating innovation in WFP Programme was then included in the corresponding corporate platform, available to all WFP country offices and programme officers. In addition, the Accelerator initiated a transfer of knowledge to Regional Bureaux, starting with the regional bureaux in Nairobi Innovation Hub to enable best practices support to the Countries in the region requesting support on their CSP. Sudan was the first country office to benefit from hands-on Theory of Change facilitation in the new format, from the Accelerator in early 2023.
- **Launched Pilot of Project Incubator Programme (PIP)**, a voluntary programme for the WFP Innovation Champions. PIP created the opportunity for teams to come together and learn the foundational skills of ideation and problem solving, utilizing real WFP use cases with the help of skilled facilitators.

Thematic Areas of Focus

WFP Innovation Champions: At an individual level via the Innovation Champions Community, we enable WFP staff across all divisions or regions to become agents of change, by learning various innovation approaches and projects and connecting with like-minded people across the organization. The champions community includes 461 members of 104 different nationalities across 125 duty stations at WFP. The Innovation Champions Community was recognised in an Anthem Award in 2022.

Global Innovation Hubs and Units: At a country office or regional bureau level through strategic set up support, the convening of WFP Innovation hubs and units, through strategic alignment and advisory, bespoke hands-on set-up and scaling support and knowledge management. The hubs in turn, bring tailored innovation support, unique value and expertise to their region.

In 2022, in addition to continuous advisory from the Accelerator, we also provided support for Innovation Units and Hubs by deploying three senior innovation consultants on temporary duty assignment to support the operations of the Colombia country office, Kenya country office and Regional Bureau in Nairobi.

In September 2021, the Accelerator provided a one-year USD 500,000 grant to the Kenya Innovation Unit. As a result, by October 2022, the unit increased its capacity to absorb and manage innovation projects by 375 percent, set up innovation centers in Kenya's arid and semi-arid regions, and launched a strategic Innovation Consultancy service for internal and external innovation.

Innovation Strategy Activation: The Accelerator provided corporate guidance to WFP on the integration of innovation in programmes, and regularly published tools and adapted frameworks for designing and implementing innovation-led programmes and activities centered around people. In late 2022, the Accelerator initiated a Strategy Activation project with the Regional Bureau for Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe to drive the implementation of their strategy across five strategic opportunities.

Scale-Up Enablement

Scaling impactful innovations is a key enabler to ending world hunger by 2030. The Innovation Accelerator aims to deliver tailored services that leverage the Accelerator's expertise, access, and network, to exponentially scale the most impactful innovations to reach this goal.

In 2022, the Scale-Up Enablement programme reached over 25 million people, including Alumni projects, and spanned over 67 countries. The portfolio expanded from eight projects in 2019 to 22 projects in 2022. Five new high impact innovation projects were onboarded to the Scale-Up Enablement portfolio in 2022, namely: *Nilus, Solar 4 Resilience Technologies, Payment Instrument Tracking, Take Home Rations and R4 - Rural Resilience initiative*. In 2022, we also successfully graduated three innovative solutions into the WFP landscape: Logle, Prism and School Meal Programme (SMP) PLUS, bringing the total number of graduated projects to eight.

Instrumental to achieving this level of impact was creating strong links with WFP's ecosystem. Throughout 2022, we actively engaged with WFP business units, country offices, and regional bureaux to create integrated strategies for each thematic area, including nutrition, supply chain, resilience and climate action, to better position our efforts to source, embed and scale innovative solutions within the WFP landscape.

We strengthened key partnerships with global social innovation players, for example the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, leading to a joint Innovation in Large Scale Food Fortification programme supporting data-driven projects that ensure staple fortification.

We also provided guidance on how to bring projects to scale, sharing best practices and lessons learnt on what are the enabling factors to scale high impact innovations, providing a clear path to scale roadmaps through the Scale-Up enablement programme.

Learn about
how we bring projects to scale.

Scale-Up Enablement Alumni

From 2019 to 2022, eight projects graduated from the accelerator. Graduated projects join the Alumni Programme, which provides continuous support from business development, marketing and external visibility, to access to a network of experts and mentors.

This way, we enable graduated projects to continue to showcase their achievements, share their path to scale lessons and promote how to scale innovation.

In 2022, we welcomed three projects to the Alumni Programme: PRISM, School Meal Programme (SMP) PLUS and LogIE. These projects completed their path to scale within the WFP Innovation Accelerator and are now being used by WFP as a corporate solution to support global programming.

The Alumni Programme currently supports the following projects: Building Blocks is a WFP corporate project and the humanitarian sector's largest blockchain-based cash distribution system that leverages blockchain to coordinate with other humanitarian agencies and transfer cash assistance to refugees securely and efficiently. In 2022, Building Blocks served four million people in three countries and saved USD 3 million in bank fees.

Share the Meal is WFP's fundraising app that allows people all over the world to provide children with vital nutrition through a simple tap of the phone. In 2022, Share the Meal raised over USD 28 million globally. Since the launch of Share the Meal, over 170 million meals have been shared with people in need.

Empact is a platform that connects refugees, displaced people and vulnerable host communities to the future of work by providing digital skills through a tailored, focused vocational training programme. Empact partners with leading tech firms to connect trainees with online work opportunities. EMPACT reached 76,800 people in Lebanon, Iraq, Kenya, Turkey, Palestine, Zimbabwe and Colombia.

School Meal Programme (SMP) PLUS is an AI-powered tool creating school menus that are affordable, nutritious, and uses locally sourced and culturally acceptable ingredients. In 2022, more than three million school children were reached by school meals designed by SMP Plus.

PRISM is a climate risk monitoring system that integrates geospatial data on hazards such as droughts, floods, tropical storms, and earthquakes, along with information on socioeconomic vulnerability, to inform disaster risk reduction and social assistance programmes. In 2022, PRISM was recognized as a digital public good aligned with the Digital Public Goods Standards.

LogIE is an interactive map designed for and by humanitarian logistics responders to improve coordination, information sharing and the quantity and quality of the data available in emergency response and preparedness. In 2022, LogIE was active in 9 countries including Corporate Scale-Up locations such as Ukraine and Haiti.

Cloud to Street is a remote sensing platform that predicts, maps and analyzes floods in real time. In 2022, Cloud to Street indicators showed that 31 governments and institutions were supported by the platform, 169 countries were mapped, and territories of over 500 million people were monitored. Over the last three years 7,000 refugees were relocated in the Republic of Congo from high-risk areas based on Cloud to Street data, with USD 12.5 million emergency aid distributed.

Dalili is a mobile app that collates and displays items, prices and promotions at local stores thus enabling people to find the best prices and deals. In 2022, Dalili continued its operations in several countries, including Level 3 Emergencies in Yemen and Syria.

Farm to Market Alliance

Active in:
Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia

Thematic area:
Smallholder Farmers, Private/Public Sector Alliance

The Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) is a consortium of public and private institutions that aims to reduce hunger and poverty by providing smallholder farmers an opportunity to engage in structured, gainful and self-sustaining food systems governed by positive commercial forces. The joint vision of FtMA members is to enable a sustainable agricultural system through strengthened markets, aligned with national policy priorities, to empower farmers to improve their income level and resilience and to enhance global food security.

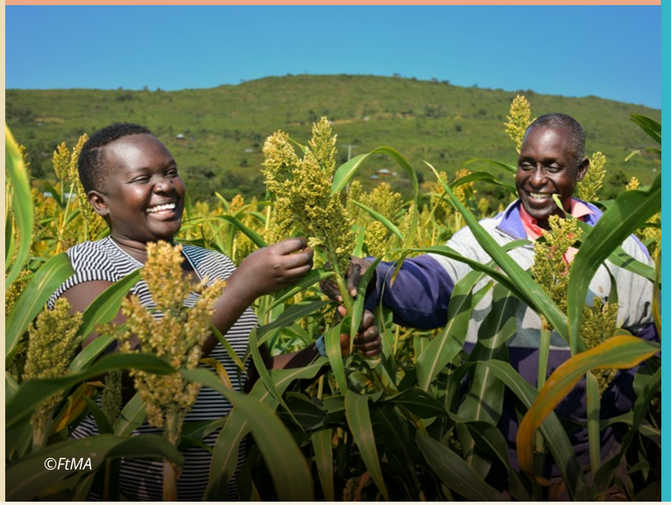
©FtMA

IN 2022

- Aggregated 97,217 metric tons of food crops with a value of USD 33 million
- Geographically expanded FtMA within operational countries, growing the Farmer Service Centre network, identifying and establishing centers in locations of high potential for growth
- Increased farmer enrolment across the countries
- Increased engagement with women by targeting female led Farmer Service Centre, an attractive opportunity for women due to low start-up costs.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Served **more than 490,000 farmers** of which **45 percent** were women
- Reached **2.45 million people** in 2022 reflecting a 63 percent increase from 2021
- **1,875** registered Farmer Service Centres representing 56 percent growth since 2021
- USD 2,600,000 earned in commissions from partners through an average of three income streams per Farmer Service Centre.


©FtMA

"FtMA gave me a mentor from Kuza who trained me in business and my mind shifted from farming only to venturing into other businesses. He trained me once or twice a week until I understood how to do business."

JOSEPH MARANGU
Farmer Service Centre Member, Meru County

INTERNAL PROJECT

H2Grow

Active in:
Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Burundi, Chad, Djibouti, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Namibia, Nigeria, Palestine, Peru, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Thematic area:
Innovative Financing

H2Grow is WFP's hydroponics initiative bringing locally adaptable and affordable hydroponic solutions to vulnerable communities around the world. By developing low-tech hydroponic systems from local materials, growing fresh vegetables or animal feed in deserts, refugee camps or urban informal settlements, H2Grow supports food-insecure families to increase their access to fresh food and raise their income.

IN 2022

- Gained **nine additional institutional members** on the H2Grow platform namely - **IRC, World Vision, SOS Somalia and Yemen, Christian Aid, Kafaa Foundation, Intracen, One Acre Fund and Econogy Project**.
- Commenced **building of 41 hydroponic units** for home grown school feeding programs in Burundi with potential to reach an additional **41,000 school children** eating nutritious food grown from hydroponic gardens once completed
- Showcased H2Grow at COP27 in November 2022 reaching a global audience
- Launched the Asset Based Loan model project in Kenya in search of sustainability
- Doubled the number of people we serve within H2Grow's 21 countries since inception with growing interest from Latin America and Central Asia.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 16 percent growth in H2Grow platform institutional membership
- 30 percent growth in H2Grow platform individual membership from 270 the previous year to 351 in 2022.
- More than 89,000 people reached in 2022 which is 2x the previous year's figure (data based on 15 out of 21 countries which had reported at the time of publication).
- 47 percent of people reached are female
- 28 percent cost savings achieved by livestock farmers in Nigeria growing hydroponic fodder

©WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud

"My fellow students and I participate in planting the vegetables in the hydroponic garden set up at our school, and I apply the agricultural science and chemistry I learn in class through the garden. I want to become a crop scientist in the future."

CHRISPINE
Student at Lundazi Boarding Secondary School, Zambia

INTERNAL PROJECT

H2Grow Asset-based Loans

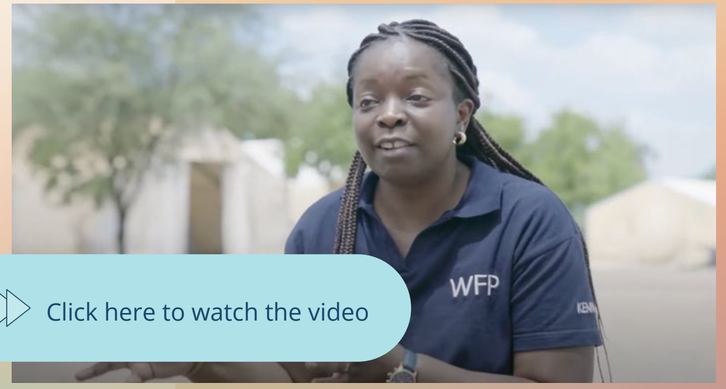
Active in:
Kenya

Thematic area:
Innovative Financing

H2Grow Asset-based Loans aims to make hydroponics assets affordable and accessible through fair and transparent loans. Our vision is to build a more sustainable path to finance hydroponics assets but also to function as an internal case study to inform WFP's efforts in blended finance.

IN 2022

- Raised new funding from BASF Stiftung, Innovation Norway and through the Share the Meal app
- Onboarded an implementing partner to set up 30 hydroponic vegetable units each to be allocated to two farmers to run and manage
- Identified implementation sites in the informal settlements of Nairobi to set up the hydroponics units but implementation was delayed by slow land allocation approval by the county government



Click here to watch the video

HIGHLIGHTS:

- USD 320,000 in funding raised

©WFP/Gulia Rakhimova

"Before hydroponics, we could only eat Ugali [a type of stiff porridge]. After hydroponics were brought in we could eat vegetables. Also when we started hydroponics in 2018, we could harvest vegetables 17 times per year. Every two weeks we could harvest."

HYDROPONICS FARMER
Nairobi

INTERNAL PROJECT

PHL Venture

Active in:
Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan, Zambia

Thematic area:
Smallholder Farmers

The WFP Post-Harvest Loss (PHL) Venture was launched in partnership between WFP's Food Systems Unit and the WFP Innovation Accelerator to support WFP country offices to develop and scale innovative and sustainable business models for PHL programmes. The PHL Venture allows smallholder farmers to access PHL technologies, with the aim of improving household food security and incomes while enhancing income opportunities for other value chain actors. Participating farmers were able to significantly reduce their post-harvest losses, leading to a threefold increase in their income.

Since the soft launch of the PHL Venture in late 2020, the project has expanded to four WFP countries and has managed to secure multi-year financial contributions for scaling up PHL activities in the active countries.

©WFP/PHL

IN 2022

- Supported four focus countries (Mozambique, South Sudan, Rwanda, Zambia) to develop and scale base business models with private and public sector partners;
- Secured USD 1.59 million from multiple donors to support country offices to implement PHL market infrastructure development activities.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Reached 1,125,000 people in the four active countries
- Of the people reached 216,000 were farmers directly engaged
- Secured USD 1.59 m in funding
- **46 percent** of the people we served were female

"With the plastic silo that WFP gave us, my family can store grain until the next harvest. We no longer worry about having to sell soon after harvesting to avoid insect infestation. Instead, we can now store more grain and sell it during the lean season when prices are higher. We now have food for the whole year and extra money that we can use for other things around the house. We also managed to buy another plastic silo, now we can keep more grain to take advantage of the increase in prices of commodities like beans which can double during the lean season."

SMALLHOLDER FARMER
Nyagatare, Rwanda

INTERNAL PROJECT

R4 Rural Resilience

Active in:
Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Ethiopia, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Senegal, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Thematic area:
Livelihoods & Resilience, Climate

R4 works to secure smallholder farmer's livelihoods and build resilience to climate-related shocks.It combines four risk management strategies:

1. **R**isk Retention: Access to savings
2. **R**isk Transfer: Access to microinsurance
3. Prudent **R**isk Taking: Increasing investment, including access to credit and market
4. **R**isk Reduction: Use of best-practice agricultural techniques, of postharvest loss management, and others

R4 Rural Resilience enables vulnerable rural families to increase their food and income security by managing climate-related risks. Currently, R4 Rural Resilience operates in 15 countries.

This year, R4 Rural Resilience commenced expansion in collaboration with the Innovation Accelerator, including the provision of microinsurance to smallholder cocoa farmers in West Africa. R4 Rural Resilience conducted feasibility studies to design and implement an integrated and sustainable microinsurance scheme in the new value chain. The first phase of the project is set to start in Ivory Coast in cooperation with local private insurance companies and distributors, with plans to expand into additional West African countries.

INTERNAL PROJECT

IN 2022

- WFP helped over 2.8 million people benefit from climate adaptation practices and assets through WFP's climate risk management programmes, such as R4 Rural Resilience. These assets help capture water and improve watershed management, as well as improve soil conservation through a variety of interventions.
- In Ethiopia, farmers insured through R4 saved more than twice as much money as those without (and they invested this money in their farming).
- USD 261,000 in support to 6,321 smallholder farmers and micro-enterprises, benefiting 31,600 people in Guatemala.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Reached 2.8 million people across 15 countries in 2022.
- 87 percent of insured households in Kenya were headed by women, helping to close the gender gap on income inequality.

© WFP/Samantha Reinders

"I had never heard of the word insurance before but with the erratic rains, I understood this could be a smart way to protect my livelihood".

KHADIJA
R4 Malawi Participant

Solar 4 Resilience

Active in:
India

Thematic area:
Sustainable Resilience and Livelihoods

Solar 4 Resilience is a project started by WFP, the state government of Odisha in India, and the private company S4S Technologies. Solar 4 Resilience aims to scale the use of solar-based technologies for building resilience and livelihoods of female small-holder farmers. The project focuses on vegetables, millet, fish/seafood and other commodities. Solar 4 Resilience builds on a model developed by S4S Technologies, in which women receive low-interest loans from local banks to purchase innovative solar dryers. Solar dryers are used to process perishable food that would otherwise be thrown away. These female micro-entrepreneurs then get access to markets to sell processed food, as well as training in finance and quality assurance.

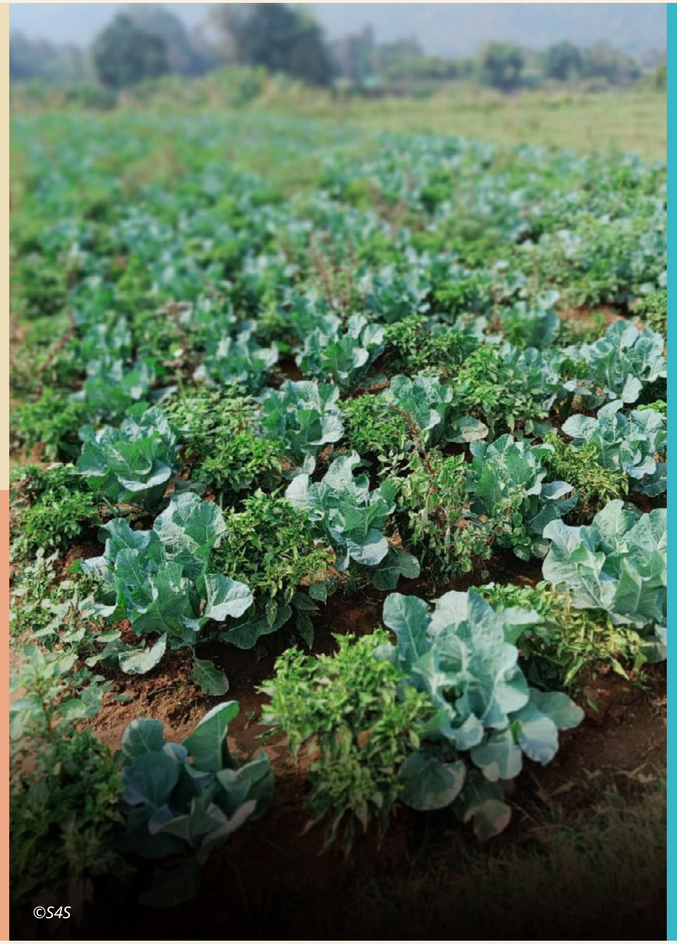
The first phase of the Solar 4 Resilience project started in Odisha with plans to scale in the region in line with the government policies.

IN 2022

- Over 300,000 people in India earned USD 12 million of extra income
- Women micro-entrepreneurs processed 60,000 tons of food for over 1,400 institutional customers
- Each woman micro-entrepreneur created new recurring income of up to USD 1,200 per year

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1,200 women engaged
- A network of 60,000 farmers received access to markets
- 60,000 tons of annual processing capacity was built
- 1,400 institutional customers bought valued-added products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"Previously I was doing only farming work. Now I work on solar drying with my husband too. It gives financial support and we are happy to work on it. This extra money will help me pay school fees in June and for farm inputs. We are happy to work on it in the future also."

SUNITA MUTHE,
from Village Khamkheda, Aurangabad

EXTERNAL PROJECT

Logle

Active in:
Colombia, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Madagascar, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Ukraine, Zimbabwe.

Thematic area:
Supply Chain and Logistics, Emergency Response

Logle is a tool that changes the way we are collecting, analysing and sharing humanitarian logistics information. The tool has been designed for and by humanitarian logistics responders to improve coordination, information sharing and the quantity and quality of the data available in emergency response and preparedness.

Logle is an open-source tool that aims to provide the community of humanitarian logistics responders promptly with accessible, fast and effective logistics information to help improve humanitarian response.

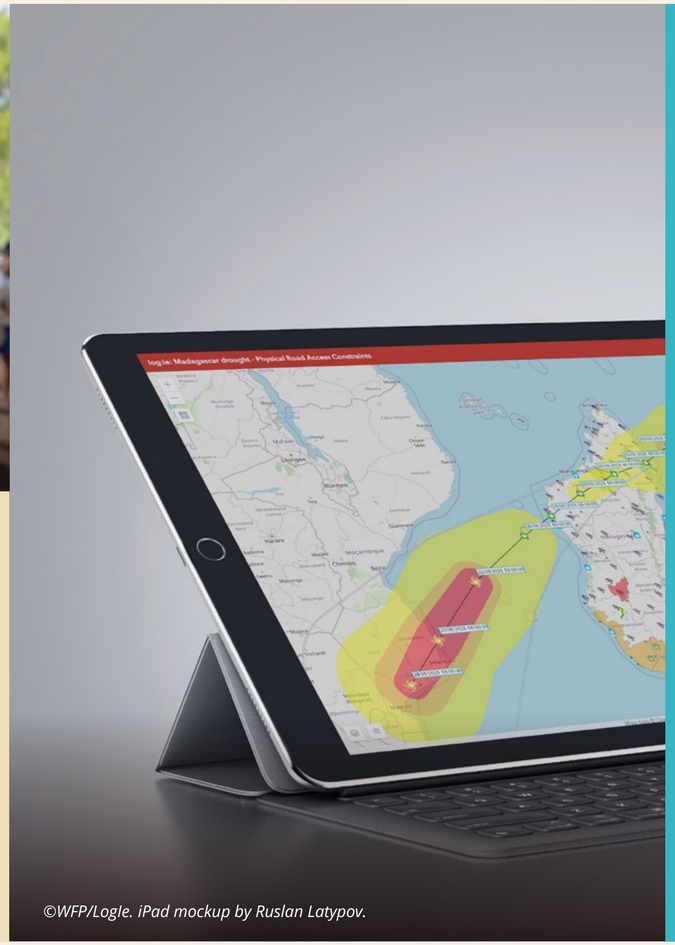
Humanitarian response relies heavily upon dynamic supply chain systems. But often, the critical data needed to make conscious, timely and effective decisions is not available at the speed or reliability required by humanitarian responding agencies.

The Logistics Cluster Information Exchange platform (Logle) seeks to change this.

©WFP/Logle.

IN 2022

- Assisted in the emergency response in Ukraine
- Developed further material to train members of the Logistic Cluster



©WFP/Logle. iPad mockup by Ruslan Latypov.

"In Haiti, being ready to respond to an emergency isn't a choice we can afford. It is a responsibility! It's never a question if an emergency will happen but when. And at those moment we are thankful of our team of responders that are ready to work round the clock to deliver relief to the affected population"

YENDI GERVE
WFP Haiti, Port-au-Prince, Logistics Sector Assistant

INTERNAL PROJECT

Nilus

Active in:
Argentina, Mexico, Peru

Thematic area:
Sustainable Resilience and Livelihoods

Poverty should not be more expensive. Nilus lowers the cost of poverty by 24 percent by leveraging the power of disintermediation, food rescue and community group buying to lower the cost of living for low-income people.

Nilus develops technology to procure food and groceries directly from farmers and producers, qdistributing them among low-income people through community group buying networks led by women, who consolidate individual orders to access wholesale prices. Nilus offers products at just three quarters of their market price to families and community kitchens in food deserts, reducing food waste and securing financial sustainability by guaranteeing a low-cost way of doing business in the community.

©Nilus

IN 2022

- Nilus represented average savings of 24 percent to over 115,000 people in Buenos Aires and Mexico City, totalling an estimated USD 546,000.
- Started work in Peru in collaboration with WFP and local actors

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Average food savings of 24 percent
- 115,000 people reached

"My motivation mostly comes from the work culture and also from offering people healthy options. I'm changing the way people eat in the neighborhood by also changing the way I eat."

ZAMEER HAIDER
Community leader

EXTERNAL PROJECT

Optimus

Active in:
Afghanistan, Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Ethiopia, Ethiopia, Gambia, Haiti, Madagascar, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Philippines, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Thematic area:
Supply Chain and Logistics, Nutrition and School Feeding, Emergencies

Optimus is an innovative optimization tool that puts advanced analytics at the center of WFP's decision-making processes. Via this online decision support system, WFP staff on the ground can quickly explore and compare different operational plans, allowing them to rapidly identify the most cost-effective ways to assist people in need.

WFP operations face complex challenges on a daily basis. As situations evolve, Optimus' advanced analytics allows users to explore multiple scenarios in order to optimize food basket design, transfer modality selection, sourcing and delivery strategies.

By comparing various data sources—from numbers of people we serve to sourcing options, transport routes to nutritional values—WFP staff can quickly identify optimal operational plans that achieve programmatic goals (e.g. nutritional value targets at the lowest cost) whilst respecting operational constraints (e.g. funding levels and supply chain lead times).

IN 2022

- Used in **44** of WFP's **operations**, including all Level 3 emergencies
- More than **USD 50 million** confirmed efficiency gains since implementation
- Over **7.2 million people reached**
- Received Innovation Award at the WFP Global Management Meeting event in Munich in June 2022

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Reached over 7.2 million people, of which 6 million people in Madagascar and Ethiopia with food baskets and sourcing strategies optimisation designed by Optimus

©WFP/Sitraka Niaina

"By using Optimus we have been able to showcase the benefits of local procurement, meaning we are reducing lead times and reducing the backlog from various ports by reducing our reliance on international procurement. By procuring locally we were able to reduce quality issues related to storage at the port and the lead time by almost two months. "

GINA RATOVOARISO
Procurement Officer at the Madagascar WFP Country Office

INTERNAL PROJECT

BioAnalyt

Active in:
Pakistan

Thematic area:
Nutrition

BioAnalyt's mission is to democratize and improve the transparency of nutrient testing. The organization has received global recognition for its innovative, field-based solutions that enable real-time measurement of micronutrients. Building on this experience, BioAnalyt is developing new solutions that will improve local access, facilitate quality control and assurance of fortified foods, provide stakeholders with high-quality, actionable data to support decision-making, and ultimately drive improved health outcomes.

BioAnalyt has successfully:

- Developed a functional prototype of iCheck Modular. Unlike incumbent iCheck devices, Modular will enable testing of multiple parameters in a single device, reducing the burden on producers to purchase and perform multiple tests during production.
- Developed and piloted iCheck Connect, a digital companion that enables the direct transfer of data from iCheck devices to the web for data analysis by recording, analyzing, and visualizing measurement results.
- Demonstrated the efficacy of a multi-stakeholder approach through its instrumental role in providing iCheck solutions as part of a Pakistan-based pilot involving industry and government.

EXTERNAL PROJECT

©Nutrition International 2022

IN 2022

- Piloted iCheck Connect with 29 edible oil producers in Pakistan, leading to improved internal quality assurance
- Supported execution of more than 6,000 tests on edible oil
- 70 percent increase in fortification adequacy over a three-year period
- Improved health outcomes for local citizens

HIGHLIGHTS:

During 2022, BioAnalyt played an instrumental role in a Pakistan-based pilot programme led by Nutrition International. The pilot is focussed on using digitization to ensure QA/QC for food fortification and enable data-driven decision-making at the local and national level. To date, BioAnalyt's role has included:

- Providing laboratory equipment and testing devices to millers and government labs
- Developing a new platform ('iCheck Connect') to send and receive data between millers and food authorities

Key achievements include:

- Piloted iCheck Connect with 29 edible oil producers, leading to improved internal quality assurance
- Supported execution of more than 6,000 tests on edible oil
- 70 percent increase in fortification adequacy over a three-year period
- Developed stronger partnership working across industry, associations and government, including establishment of data-sharing between key players
- Improved health outcomes for local citizens
- Based on its success in demonstrating the efficacy of digitization and multi-stakeholder engagement, the pilot has been extended for a further five years.

"We believe that digitization has the potential to strengthen... food fortification [compliance], and introduction of these modern tools and technologies in Pakistan is also helping to improve the adequacy of fortification. This will definitely improve the availability and consumption of fortified oil resulting in improvement of Vitamin A and D intakes, which will eventually result in a reduction of deficiencies."

ZAMEER HAIDER

National Programme Manager - Food Fortification, Nutrition International

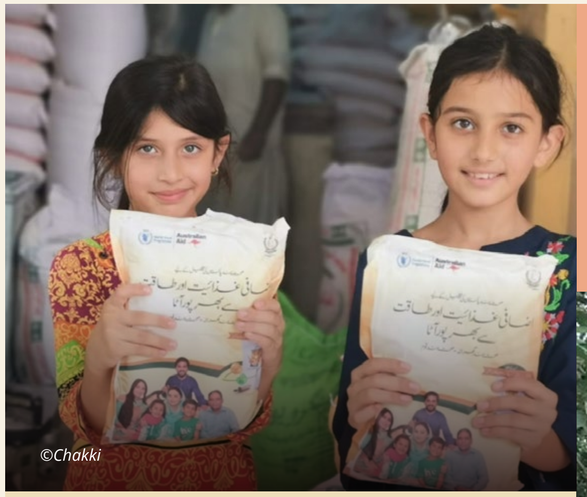
Chakki

Active in:
Pakistan

Thematic area:
Nutrition and School Feeding

Project Chakki (or small millers) is an innovative approach to improving access and consumption of fortified wheat flour for up to 70 percent of the population in Pakistan. The project equipped the small scale grinders (Chakkis), with innovative technologies, skills, and funding mechanisms to fortify flour, educate their clients, and tackle malnutrition across the country.

As part of the Scale-Up Enablement programme, the project focuses on private sector demand creation for business model sustainability.



IN 2022

- Reached 2.2 million people in 2022
- Increased consumer demand for fortified food from 26 percent to 93 percent
- Set up a revolving fund with local nutrition stakeholder to cover the cost of transition to fortified flour for small mills

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Reached 2.2 million people
- Raised USD 700,000 in funding
- Project integration in government social security net programmes

"Fortifying Chakki/Small Mill Flour is a unique opportunity to achieve high public health impact with relatively low investment. It is easy to scale up with sustainable demand and market targeting 70 percent of Pakistani customers".

MAHAMADOU TANIMOUNE
Head of Nutrition Unit, WFP Pakistan

INTERNAL PROJECT

CODA

Active in:
Afghanistan, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar

Thematic area:
Nutrition and School Feeding

CODA (Conditional On Demand Assistance) is a digital solution designed to simplify and streamline nutrition programme guidelines and to record individual data. Using a mobile device and a durable smartcard, CODA replaces paper-based records to ensure individual information can be recorded, tracked, and monitored at an individual level. The goal is to empower users to provide better assistance to people and to enable stakeholders to make informed decisions through near to real-time data.

CODA fills a gap commonly identified in WFP operations related to case management, identification of people in need, optimization of resources, and informed decision making. The service is composed of both operational services and the digital product, to ensure that the right community receives the right assistance at the right time.

IN 2022

- Started development of CODA 2.0 to get it ready for testing in 2023 as an open-source solution/digital public good;
- Gathered lessons learned from CODA 1.5 experience and incorporated in CODA 2.0 development and implementation plans
- Following the above lessons, a scoping mission was planned in South Sudan; a clear monitoring and evaluation matrix is being implemented; better collaboration and communication channels were created among different stakeholders across the WFP
- Initiated a user centric software development process through user community calls and feedback surveys

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Migrated to CODA 2.0 in three countries (Afghanistan, South Sudan, Tajikistan)
- Reached 98,966 people in 2022
- Implemented CODA 1.5 in 211 health facilities in 2022

©WFP/CODA

"As digitalisation strives to make processes more efficient, CODA supports nutritional work at different levels. From community health workers receiving a robust tool to help with their work, to programme implementers being able to access near-real time data. Especially, though, CODA is here for the people we reach with our programmes, so that they can get better nutritional care."

SOFIA MARCHI
CODA Business Analyst

INTERNAL PROJECT

Sanku

Active in:
Tanzania, Kenya

Thematic area:
Nutrition and School Feeding

Sanku provides fortification tools, training and other support to small maize flour mills, enabling them to fortify their flour with essential micronutrients. Sanku installs its fortification technology (the "dosifier"), which adds a precise amount of critical nutrients to flour, onto the small East African flour mills that produce and sell the staple food to millions of families. Sanku offsets the costs of the millers' nutrients by bulk buying empty pink flour bags, which are then sold to the millers to pack their flour. The margins from flour bag sales cover the entire cost of the millers' nutrients, so mills can fortify their flour at no added cost. Sanku's IoT-enabled dosifiers facilitate remote monitoring of the accuracy of nutrient premix dosing and quantity of fortified flour produced.

Supported by the WFP Innovation Accelerator and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Sanku is working to scale in Tanzania, with plans to expand to at least two additional countries, and develop solutions to reach new populations.

IN 2022

- Reached 4.5 million people, of which 276,631 are in Kenya
- 822 total dosifiers installed, with 193 dosifiers being installed in project mills; (182 in Tanzania, 11 in Kenya)
- Trained operators at the target mills on fortification and Sanku's fortification technology;
- Started operations in Kenya as a regional expansion plan.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Reached 4.5 million people in 2022
- Sanku has now partnered with more than 794 mills with a total of 822 dosifiers installed
- Established Kenya office

©Sanku

"At Sanku, we feel very privileged to have progressed through every stage of the World Food Programme's Innovation Accelerator. This partnership has enabled us to further innovate our model, build capacity by growing our local team, and ultimately have the resources and support to scale our solution across East Africa and beyond. Connecting with WFP's country offices and their network of technical experts means that we are not alone on our journey to end malnutrition for 100 million people this decade"

MICHELLE THOMPSON
Director of Development

EXTERNAL PROJECT

SMP Plus

Active in:
Angola,Armenia, Bhutan, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Jordan, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sri Lanka

Thematic area:
Nutrition and School Feeding

The School Menu Planner (SMP) PLUS is an easy-to-use, online menu creation platform that uses artificial intelligence to create cost-efficient, nutritious, and local menus, in just a few minutes. Based on local and seasonal food availability, nutritional requirements of the targeted children, and local eating habits, the algorithm finds the best combination of ingredients to create a menu that is affordable, nutritious, locally-sourced, and culturally acceptable.

SMP PLUS is accessible online and free to use for Governments and partners.

IN 2022

- The number of countries implementing SMP Plus tripled to nine. Nutrition officers in an additional 18 countries were trained.
- 3.4 million children were reached in 2022 - more than double the reach in 2021 (data from eight of nine active countries with Nigeria only reporting four out of 36 states at the time of publication)
- Trained users in ten countries to use SMP Plus for menu design (Benin, Cabo Verde, El Salvador, Guatemala, Iraq, Lebanon, Malawi, Nepal, Philippines, Sudan)

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 3.4 million school children ate healthier meals in 2022 - almost double the number from 2021
- Up to 15% cost savings in multi-million dollar school meals programmes
- Up to 50% improvement in the nutritional value of school meals
- Up to 60% increase in the amount of food procured from local smallholder farmers

©WFP/Vincent Tremeau

"After being introduced to SMP PLUS, the Government reported an 86 percent decrease in the time required for menu planners to adjust menus and conduct nutritional calculations. They also remarked that they can now trust that their designed menus are meeting the nutritional needs of students, therefore contributing to the nutritional objectives of the programme."

MARIA FULCAR,
Dominican Republic WFP Country Office

INTERNAL PROJECT

Take Home Rations India

Active in:
India

Thematic area:
Nutrition and School Feeding

In India, WFP is supporting the Government of Uttar Pradesh in improving the quality, demand, and consumption of supplementary nutrition. This is distributed as Take-Home Rations under India's Integrated Child Development Services scheme by providing technical assistance and conducting need-based pilots.

WFP India is currently providing technical support to the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission for production of supplementary nutrition products through a decentralized and community-driven process in 204 blocks across 43 districts for distribution through the Integrated Child Development Services scheme.

In order to scale, WFP India with the support of the Innovation Accelerator, is integrating a hub-and-spoke model of production in order to create shorter, more resilient supply chains for the distribution of these products (e.g. porridge pre-mixes). This is done by leveraging the strong existing networks of women's self-help groups, and integrating government training schemes to these groups. Through an innovative app-based training programme, these groups are provided with short tutorials to develop and distribute their products.

IN 2022

- More than 300 women were provided on-site training for operation of the Take Home Rations units, while 4,000 are expected to be trained through the app-based learning methods.
- The State Government has operationalized 74 Take-Home Ration production units, which can cover the needs of up to 3.2 million people.
- The State Government secured the investment of USD 150 million for scaling up the project to 204 Take-Home Ration units across its 43 districts.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- More than 300 women trained for operation of the Take Home Rations units
- 74 production units set up by the State Government that would cover up to 3.2 million people

©THR

"My child loves to consume the Halwa (porridge) received from the Anganwadi Centre. He demands it two to three times a day and makes a fuss when I delay. He recognizes the light green color of the Take Home Rations packet and doesn't allow anyone to take it."

ANURADHA

Mother of two-year-old Govind, who was a low-birth baby at the time of birth. Today, Govind is around 11 kg and is full of energy and enthusiasm.

INTERNAL PROJECT

Payment Instrument Tracking

Active in:
Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Peru, Somalia, Sudan, Syria.

Thematic area:
Cash Based Transfers

Cash is one of the most effective ways for WFP to help families fight hunger, malnutrition and improve their food security. Where markets and financial sectors are functioning, putting money directly into people's hands, particularly women, helps people buy what they need and may be a starting point for digital financial inclusion.

Cash transfers can be made by providing families with debit cards, sim cards for mobile money or e-vouchers, among other mechanisms. The tracking of payment cards and verification of people's identity is an important process for WFP to ensure transfers are delivered to those intended.

Driven by core operational challenges on the ground, the Payment Instrument Tracking application helps to ensure that payments reach the intended recipients, easier and faster. It provides the ability to digitally capture the end-to-end process for tracking payment cards, including their last-mile delivery.

The use of paper forms and manual tracking of payment cards can cause time delays and errors. Payment Instrument Tracking replaces manual card distribution and identity verification, enabling WFP to provide a better experience to the people we serve through simple and secure card distribution. The application operates on Android devices that can be adapted to different contextual needs. A user-friendly web application allows the detailed tracking of payment cards and easy generation of reports.

INTERNAL PROJECT

IN 2022

- Expanded operations to 14 countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Peru, Somalia, Sudan, and Syria.
- WFP internal systems integration improved user experience and extended the tracking process to include additional types of payment cards.
- PIT's use of technology was enhanced, including Optimal Character Recognition for identity verification as well as increased adaptability to contextual differences.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Distribution of 130,000 payment cards

©WFP/Gabrielle Menezes

"The application helps us track SIM cards from the moment they arrive at WFP until they are distributed to people we serve. Now, the Cooperating Partner only has to scan each SIM card and the app automatically produces a distribution report. The application has an immeasurable gain for us at WFP."

WFP OFFICER
Mozambique country office

PRISM

Active in:
Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Sri Lanka

Thematic area:
Emergency including RAM

PRISM enables governments in low- and middle-income countries to access climate hazard data through an open-source software solution which highlights the risks and impacts of droughts, floods, and tropical storms. By bringing different data streams into a single interactive map, PRISM rapidly presents decision makers with actionable information on vulnerable populations exposed to hazards, allowing them to prioritize assistance to those most in need.

PRISM grew from a country initiative in Indonesia and Cambodia, to an Asia-Pacific regional initiative. PRISM is now included in the Digital Public Goods Alliance registry in 2021, recognizing its contribution as open source software to achieve the SDGs, with a focus on climate risk reduction.

PRISM is active in four countries in Asia and is expanding to Sub-Saharan Africa with two upcoming deployments, and plans for deployments in Latin America early next year

IN 2022

- PRISM was the primary information system used by the Government of Cambodia's National Committee for Disaster Management.
- During major flood events, PRISM provided key information on the extent of floods and its impact on vulnerable communities
- Outputs from PRISM in Cambodia are provided to humanitarian partners, and provided critical information on population needs, which ultimately led to funding for recovery programmes

HIGHLIGHTS:

- PRISM is active in four countries in Asia

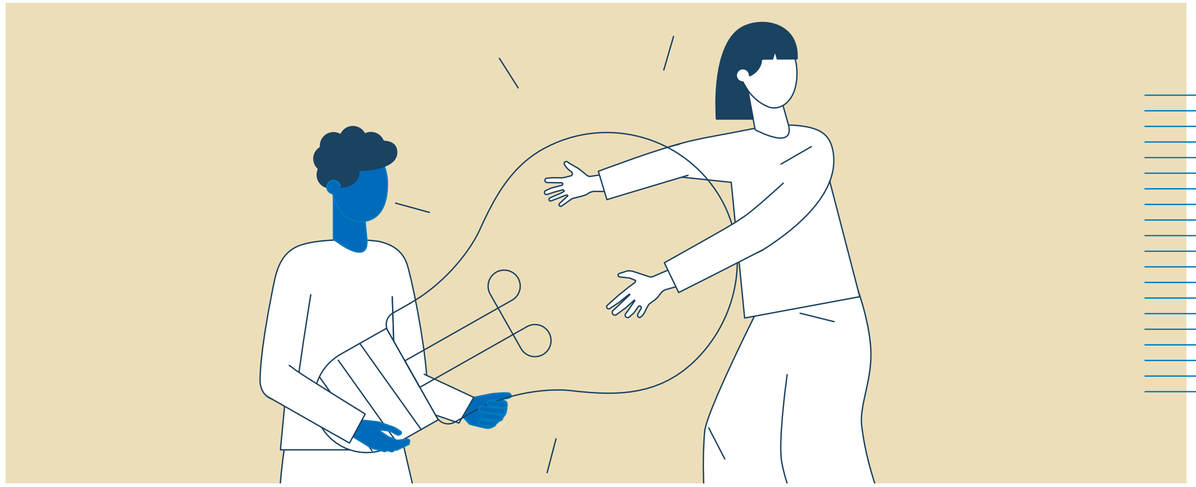
©WFP/Cesar Lopez

"[the maps] enabled the Cambodian government, WFP and humanitarian partners to better understand the geographic extent of the floods over time and target emergency assistance where it was most needed."

KURT BURJA
Programme Policy Officer for WFP Cambodia.

INTERNAL PROJECT

SDG2 Acceleration



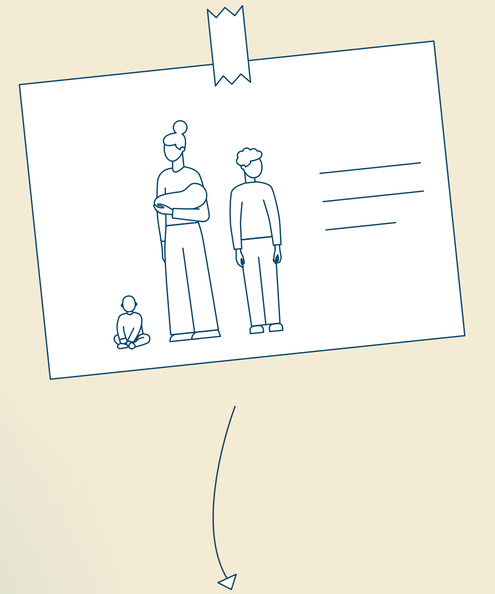
In 2022, the Innovation Accelerator made strategic decisions to focus on a smaller, high-potential portfolio of projects with the goal of maximizing its reach, product-market fit, and potential scalability.

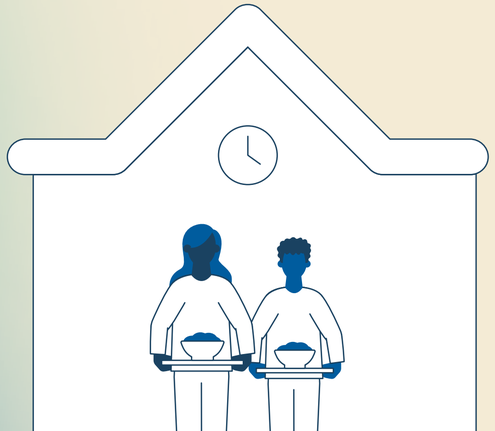
Our Sprint Programme identifies and enables innovators from WFP and external ventures to be ready to scale their high impact solutions to achieve zero hunger. In 2022, the WFP Innovation Accelerator supported 31 sprints across 25 countries and territories.

We did this by awarding larger grant sizes to teams such as Annapurti, Aflasight and Plug Pay, which were able to demonstrate immense traction and readiness to scale due to the increased investment in human and financial resources. We provided all teams with new mentor offerings from our key expert partners such as John Deere, Netlight, and others. And we provided training for project teams in commonly requested topics such as Impact Measurement and Community Driven Development.

Our specific workstream on Climate Action for Food Security took a holistic, needs-based approach to tackle climate and food systems challenges across WFP. To this end, the team conducted a comprehensive analysis of all country strategic plans (CSPs) of WFP and identified opportunities for innovations for smallholder farmers and food systems to support climate action. With WFP's Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Programmes Unit, we launched the 2022 Climate Innovation Challenge to strengthen support for startups and innovations and received a record-breaking 822 applications with projects ranging from clean energy and low-tech climate solutions to cutting-edge forecasting and agricultural technology. Seven teams pitched their solutions to more than 100 guests post-COP27.

Localized innovation for women's livelihoods and food security



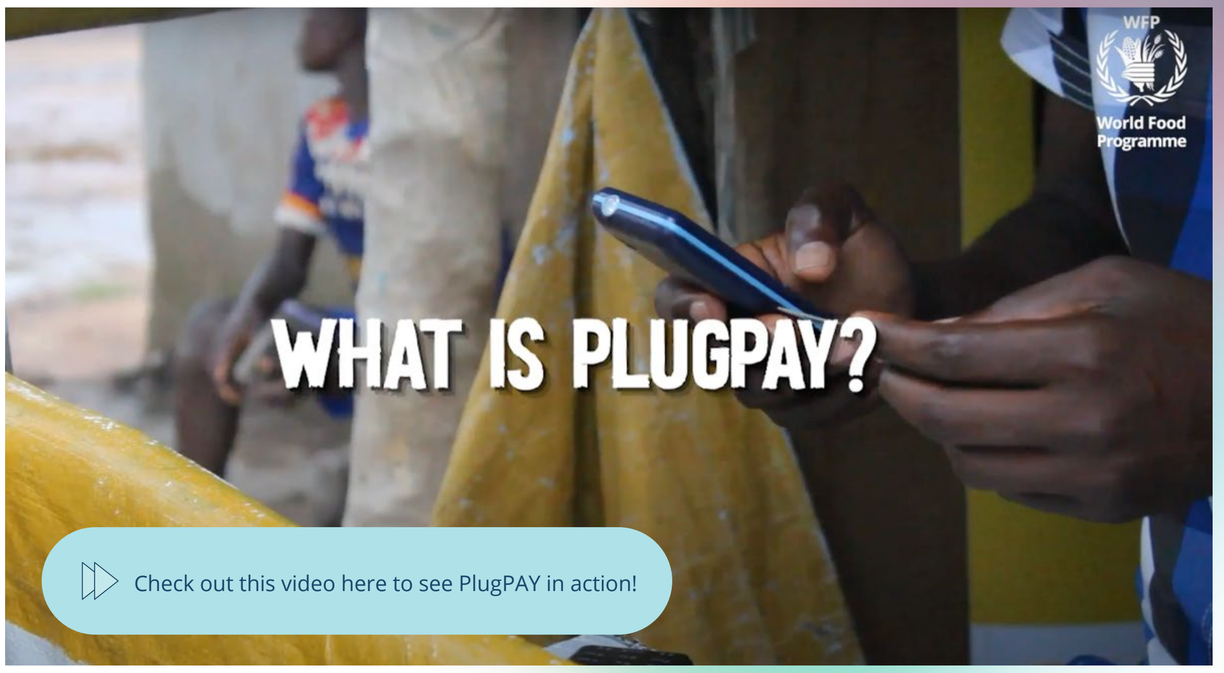


In Zimbabwe, accelerating climate-resilient agriculture to enhance local food production really pushes the needle. The country is susceptible to climate-related shocks, especially because of the vulnerability of key populations. Over one-third rural households and over 80 percent of urban households are food insecure; nine out of every ten children have no access to nutrition; similarly, this is true for women of childbearing age. Since the agriculture industry employs 60-70 percent of the population in Zimbabwe, supporting smallholder farmers in their resistance to shock is a key focus area.

This is where Mushroom Integrated Food Production System (IFPS), a woman-led project and organization operating in Zimbabwe, came in. The project trains women in an integrated food production approach that builds on fungiculture, through a mix of recycling and upcycling of agro-industrial lignocellulosic biomass. By providing women mushroom starter kits, the project trained women to grow and sell high-value mushrooms and its by-products that can be used as a fertilizer and animal feed. The project aims to increase food security and diversify diets while increasing income-generating opportunities for mushroom growers, of which 70 percent are women.

During the sprint, Mushroom IFPS trained 1,157 women in mushroom growing in Harare. Starter kits are sold at USD 3.50 and can produce up to five kilos per week, which are then sold at USD 25, thus enhancing women's incomes. The growers' incomes more than doubled, from below USD 100/month to USD 300/month. As the growing kits required minimal time and labour, growers could engage in other income-generating activities.

Enabling SDG2 teams from Sprint to Scale



More than 90 percent of the 27 million people that WFP reached with Cash-Based Transfers (CBT) around the globe were financially excluded in 2020. In the meantime, traditional Financial Service Providers (FSPs) used by WFP Country Offices are often slow, taking up to nine months just to contract one FSP.

To foster financial inclusion in 2021, PlugPAY joined our Sprint Programme with the ambition of allowing people to rapidly receive cash assistance directly from WFP accounts via their financial instrument of choice. PlugPAY provides cash through multiple channels, leveraging WFP's corporate systems like SCOPE.

By the end of 2021, the project team validated their proof of concept in Zambia, reaching 17,000 people and reducing WFP's transfer costs to FSPs from 6 percent to 0.2 percent, while the onboarding time for users was reduced by 90 percent. PlugPAY was awarded a second Sprint Grant in April 2022 to accelerate its product development and get ready to scale up. During the second Sprint, the team scaled up their operations in Zambia. Additionally, the project launched in Sri Lanka reached over 25,000 people altogether. PlugPAY reached one million USD transfer value milestone by the end of December 2022.

AflaSight

Country of implementation:
Rwanda

Topic of focus:
Support to Smallholder Farmers

EXTERNAL PROJECT

©WFP/AflaSight

AflaSight is a start-up, based in Rwanda, that uses ground-breaking sorting machinery that can detect and sort aflatoxin-infected grains. It is the first of its kind in Africa, promoting health and food security in the country.

AflaSight had participated in the WFP Innovation Accelerator Bootcamp in March 2021 and subsequently joined the Sprint Programme in May 2021. By the end of 2021, the project team validated their solution's feasibility, reducing aflatoxins by up to 90 percent, with only a five percent volume loss, and processing up to 20 metric tons of maize per hour. After the success of the first Sprint, AflaSight was awarded a second Sprint in May 2022 to test their business model further. AflaSight treated over 2,600 metric tons of grains throughout 2022, reaching over 8,000 smallholder farmers and preventing over 100,000 people from consuming aflatoxin-infected foods. As result, farmers can safely clean maize of aflatoxin and sell a healthy harvest in premium markets. This boosts farmers' incomes, brings safe, healthy products to local markets, and supports local food systems.

"The aim of this pilot is to support solving the issue of aflatoxin in maize – both in Rwanda and Africa more broadly. The goal is for people to consume less contaminated food and establish the quality link for smallholder farmers – connecting them with premium buyers. This would enhance smallholder farmers' incomes, livelihoods, and food security."

EDITH HEINES
WFP Country Director for Rwanda

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Treated over 2,600 metric tons of food against aflatoxin infection
- Reached 8,040 smallholder farmers, helping them increase their income by 6 percent on average

Agrihouse

Country of implementation:
Cambodia

Topic of focus:
Nutrition

EXTERNAL PROJECT

©WFP/Cricket House

Agrihouse is a Cambodia-based startup that works together with WFP Cambodia to develop a nutritionally balanced and cost-effective cricket-based snack to address malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.

In 2022, product development was completed and validated with users. The team tested large-scale production outputs in partnership with local manufacturing company LyLy foods. Following this, the team secured complete certification for the product, achieved targeted nutritional profile foods rich in iron, calcium, and B12 to supplement, and is ready to get the product to the market in the upcoming months. Additionally, they also built expertise to take the product beyond Cambodia to serve as a nutritious snack alternative across regions of the world. Currently, the project is focusing on creating brand awareness through behaviour change campaigns.

HIGHLIGHTS:

› Agrihouse completed the development and testing of the product that is market ready along with the required certifications

Agsol

Country of implementation:
Kenya

Topic of focus:
Livelihoods

©Agsol/Ismael Bett

EXTERNAL PROJECT

Agsol offers a solar-powered agro-processing machine for small, off-grid farming communities. The project focused on solar milling to improve access and affordability of staple food processing for refugees and host communities.

The project team tested marketing and sales models for solar-powered milling machines in Kakuma and Kalobeyei in Turkana County in order to develop a replicable business model. Agsol does not have a physical presence in County, Kenya, in order to incorporate partners who already have roots in the area. Three major business models were implemented through three key partnerships: Sales and Marketing Partners, Financing Partners, Utility Partners.

"The success of the project will depend on the partnerships Agsol will create with different stakeholders who work with the refugee and host communities in Kakuma"

MATT CARR
Agsol CEO

"Before we talked to our John Deere mentor, we were focused on a safer business model for our business, but slow in terms of our users' access to funding. We are now exploring less "safe" models that could provide our customers faster access to finance the purchase of solar mills"

ISMAEL BETT
Project Manager | Agsol - Solar powered agro-processing machines producers

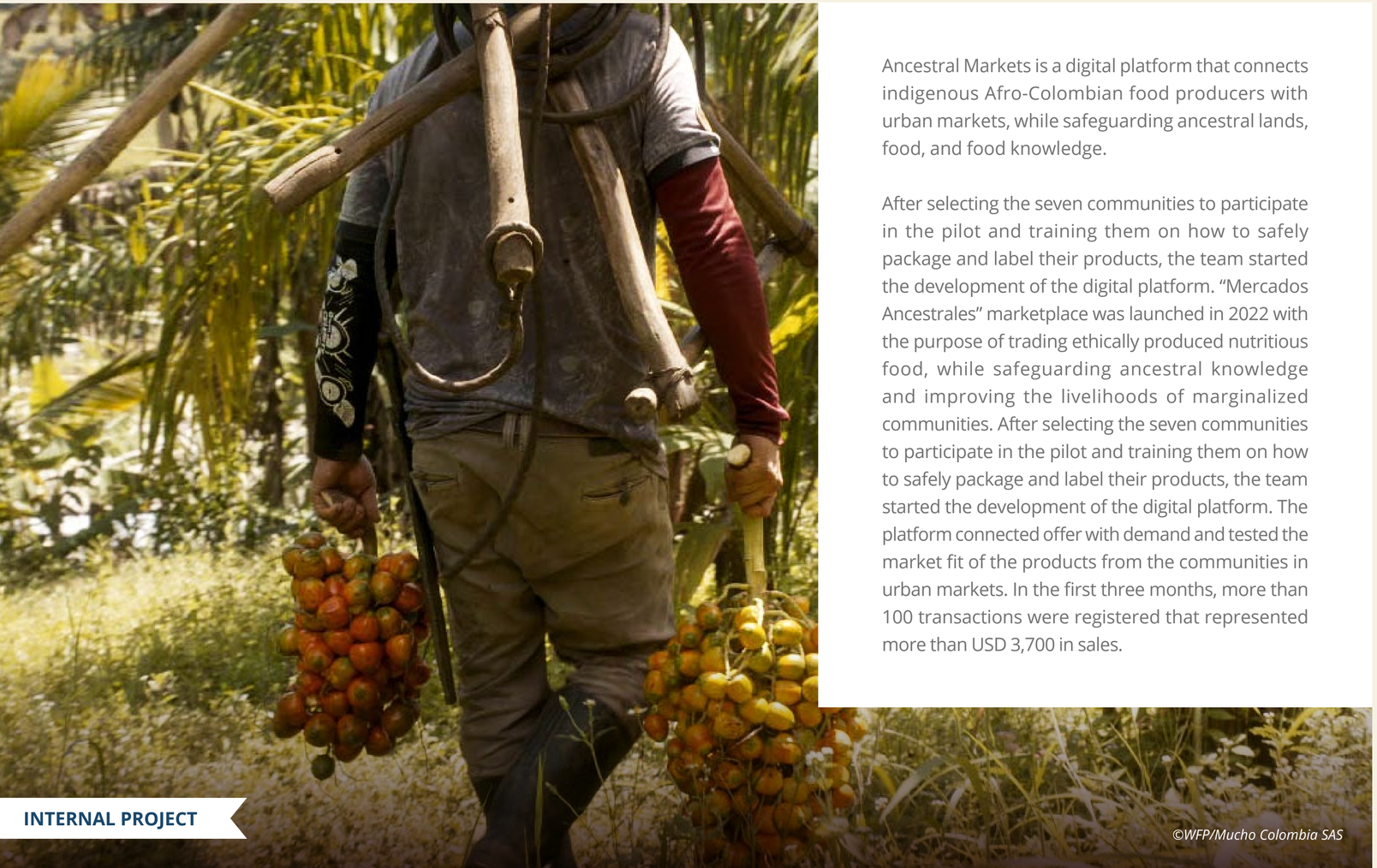
HIGHLIGHTS:

› Two milling machines were put into operation, reaching 150 customers each per month

Ancestral Markets

Country of implementation:
Colombia

Topic of focus:
Livelihoods



INTERNAL PROJECT

©WFP/Mucho Colombia SAS

Ancestral Markets is a digital platform that connects indigenous Afro-Colombian food producers with urban markets, while safeguarding ancestral lands, food, and food knowledge.

After selecting the seven communities to participate in the pilot and training them on how to safely package and label their products, the team started the development of the digital platform. “Mercados Ancestrales” marketplace was launched in 2022 with the purpose of trading ethically produced nutritious food, while safeguarding ancestral knowledge and improving the livelihoods of marginalized communities. After selecting the seven communities to participate in the pilot and training them on how to safely package and label their products, the team started the development of the digital platform. The platform connected offer with demand and tested the market fit of the products from the communities in urban markets. In the first three months, more than 100 transactions were registered that represented more than USD 3,700 in sales.

“Oh yes, I know what Ancestral Markets is about. It works in a similar way to any social media platform, like Facebook or Instagram, allowing us, communities, to sell our products and support our traditional knowledge”

PROGRAMME PARTICIPANT FROM A COMMUNITY IN COLOMBIA.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 113 transactions representing more than USD 3,700 in the first three months of the platform
- 14 products from seven communities offered in the platform
- Provided 308 people with a source of income
- Total of more than 1,200 people positively reached by the project (during trimester one and two of 2022)

Annapurti

Country of implementation:
India

Topic of focus:
Supply Chain

INTERNAL PROJECT

©WFP/Annapurti (Grain ATM)

WFP India has designed, developed, and deployed an automated multi-commodity dispensing solution - i.e. “Annapurti” - in recognition of the challenges faced by the Government to provide full entitlement to the people. The overall aim to further strengthen the efficiency of the government’s food-based social safety nets that ensure access to food for 813 million people every month.

By the end of 2022, WFP India has installed Annapurti solutions in five Fair Price shops in five states. Around 59,000 people in four states, targeted to benefit from the Public Distribution System, received 293 MT of wheat and rice entitlements through WFP’s Annapurti (automated grain distribution machine). Additionally, six solutions ready-to-deploy will be completed based on the completion of integration by states. The scale-up request has been received by the WFP from all respective states, where total requirements exceed 2000 new Annapurti solutions.

“Annapurti is a path breaking innovation to provide anytime access to foodgrains for National Food security Act beneficiaries especially migrants. “

SUDHANSHU PANDEY
Former Secretary (Department of Food and Public Distribution)

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Enabled 24/7 access of full entitlements to beneficiaries while reducing the time to access by 70 percent.
- Distributed 293 MT of wheat and rice entitlements in India

Arable

Country of implementation:
Mozambique

Topic of focus:
Smallholder Farmers

EXTERNAL PROJECT

©WFP/Alfredo Novela

The project focused on providing local weather and crop data through Arable's novel hardware to improve the effectiveness of WFP's last-mile climate services benefiting smallholder farmers.

30 Arable sensors were deployed in five rural communities in Tete, Mozambique. WFP staff, intermediaries, and government agents were onboarded and trained on deploying Arable sensors and accessing the data. Later, WFP Mozambique conducted sensitization days with all the local communities to explain how Arable sensors work and their benefits for field operation decisions. Arable was integrated with WFP's RapidPro technology, enabling farmers to receive weather alerts directly on their phones when they could not access traditional community weather bulletin boards. As part of the success story of the Mozambique project, WFP Guatemala developed an interest in using Arable devices for capturing and disseminating localized weather forecasts to growers.

"The climate services component of R4 has become the glue between the different components because it allows the National Institute of Meteorology to better monitor meteorological circumstances and creates a platform and a comparative basis for the microinsurance product to thrive."

PEDRO CHILAMBE
Former Integrated Climate Risk Management Project Coordinator, WFP Mozambique.

HIGHLIGHTS:

› 153 growers and 145 intermediaries (government, NGOs and WFP personnel) received access to reliable, localized weather data and forecasts for the last year through both Arable's app and a custom SMS tool.

Armenia Project

Country of implementation:
Armenia

Topic of focus:
Innovative Finance

INTERNAL PROJECT

©WFP

The Armenia Project aims at setting up a financial model with the private sector to provide affordable access to credit for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) involved in food production to install solar stations and therefore reduce their energy dependency and operational costs.

In 2022, the team tested different outreach channels to receive applications of eligible SMEs as well as vetted private companies that would receive the 30 percent subsidy to install solar stations at the selected businesses. Two private sector companies were selected to receive the subsidy after they installed solar stations at 20 selected businesses that were required to make a 10 percent down payment before receiving the solar stations. All the SMEs received their solar stations in Q4. The team will be measuring the operational cost savings the SMEs are making on a monthly basis and their loan repayment performance before scaling up the project.

"I was very excited when I saw WFP's announcement of the new project that helps small entrepreneurs like me to get access to private financing to support business growth."

MARTIN
from Mets Sariar village, who submitted an application to Project Armenia

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Reached 105 people who are directly reached by the project
- Validated the willingness of private companies to provide loans when a relatively small subsidy is given to reduce the default risk of loan seekers who do not have collateral
- Solar systems are expected to reduce electricity costs resulting in 30 percent savings for business.

Boomitra

Country of implementation:
Kenya

Topic of focus:
Smallholder farmers

EXTERNAL PROJECT

This project aims to increase the resilience of Kenyan smallholder farmers by equipping them with knowledge and tools to improve soil health, yield, and access to carbon revenue.

Key achievements included the signing and listing of the project on the Verra registry, a Project Level Agreement was signed by Cereal Growers Association, the implementing partner for the Farm to Market Alliance, and the Boomitra Representative App was developed to help with farmers' onboarding. Virtual and capacity-building sessions were held for 570 Farmer Service Centers and agribusiness coordinators in 13 counties.

©WFP/FtMA

"Carbon credits will create an extra revenue stream to smallholder farmers and enhance the extension services provided to farmers by FSCs, which are critical to the adoption of climate smart agricultural practices."

JOHN MAKUGE
Farm to Market Alliance Project Manager

HIGHLIGHTS:

› 600 people trained on how to improve agricultural practice and generate carbon revenue using the Boomitra app.

Clean Cooking Haiti

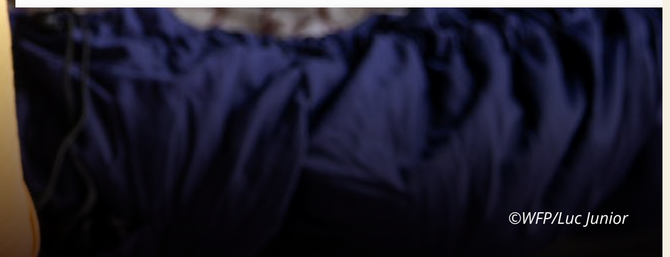
Country of implementation:
Haiti

Topic of focus:
School Feeding

INTERNAL PROJECT

Clean Cooking Haiti introduces Heat Retention Bags in WFP School canteens.

In 2022, WFP Haiti produced 2,800 Heat Retention Bags (HRBs), made with approximately 2,800 m3 of upcycled local plastic waste to support 400 schools' and 1,400 cooks' transition to cleaner energy sources and reduce their energy needs. These HRBs were initially tested with 30 Haitian cooks in ten school canteens before expanding to 400 schools. With thorough training, despite civil unrest and insecurity incidents in Haiti, the project generated strong evidence of demand for the HRBs for feeding programmes, as well as for the usage of the bags at the household level. Beyond school feeding, the WFP Resilience team in Haiti purchased and implemented 450 HRBs to complement an emergency response intervention of households in Cite Soleil. In addition, an assessment mission was conducted with WFP Chad to explore the scaling of HRBs.



©WFP/Luc Junior

"I used the bags to soak the beans overnight. In the morning my children couldn't wait to open the bag and see the result. They called it the magic bag!"

ROSITA NÉRÉE
School Cook

"I put my beans in the bag before I went to the mass and when I got back home, they were ready to eat."

GLORIEUSE JULIEN
School Cook

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 2,800 HRBs produced in Haiti allowed the team to convert over one Olympic pool of plastic waste into sustainable cook stoves.
- Up to 70 percent reduction of fuel needed to cook common school recipes. This allowed WFP to reduce the energy needed to cook by 90 percent.
- Reduction of cooking time from 4-5 hours to under 30 minutes

FINAL COUNT OF PEOPLE REACHED:

1,400 cooks directly reached.
400 schools directly reached.
105,210 children indirectly reached at school level.
7,000 people indirectly reached at cooks' household level.

Clear Plate

Country of implementation:
China

Topic of focus:
Innovative Finance

EXTERNAL PROJECT

©Clear Plate

Clear Plate is an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered app which aims to reduce food waste and help achieve zero hunger. Clear Plate developed a platform that promotes social behavior change to reduce waste, while also generating funds for selected charities. Users take photos of their food plate after a meal, the photo is recognized using AI, and users collect points and redeem points. These points can then be used to donate charity meals for people in need or exchange them amongst themselves.

In 2022, the Clear Plate team launched a social campaign to attract 674,700 young people across China to download the app and reduce food waste by 601 tonnes, increased user weekly retention by over 20 percent, and validated that core users of the app have a strong willingness to donate in cash for WFP projects. Nearly 60 percent of Clear Plate users donated using the platform.

"I fully participated in the Clear Plate Campaign for one month. During the activity, I deeply realized the traditional virtues of the Chinese nation of hard work and thrift and also formed the good habit of thrift."

BO ZHANG
student of KaShi University

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Reduced 2325.5 tonnes of CO2 emissions
- Nearly 60 percent of Clear Plate users donated using the platform
- Increased user weekly retention by 20 percent

Cockpit

Country of implementation:
South Sudan

Topic of focus:
Nutrition/School Feeding

INTERNAL PROJECT

©WFP Gabriel Baptista

Cockpit is a service designed to enable WFP field staff to timely access automated, integrated and visualized data analyses to optimize WFP's school feeding programming.

Through the Cockpit project, WFP cooperating partners were trained and were regularly submitting school attendance and stock availability data for close to 1000 schools through WFP's Data Collection Platform. Key WFP South Sudan staff were also trained to develop and operate the Cockpit dashboard to visualize data trends, identify anomalies, conduct data quality checks, and take efficient and effective evidence-based decisions.

"It is real-time and issues can be picked up immediately. Useful for decision making and monitoring at WFP, Ministry and any other education partners that would rely on enrollment and attendance."

REGINA MUNENE
Head of School Feeding, WFP South Sudan

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Close to 100 percent of all WFP school attendance and stock availability data in South Sudan is digitized and submitted through WFP's Data Collection Platform

Context Insights

Country of implementation:
Congo, Lebanon

Topic of focus:
Emergency Response

EXTERNAL PROJECT

©WFP Mozambique

Context Insights is a crowdsourcing solution that provides localized forecasts. They run prediction markets online and via SMS to gather the *wisdom of the crowd* and generate forecasts in data-poor markets.

The problem the team is aiming to solve is the data gap in emerging economies. Closing these gaps can cost USD 1 billion annually, and poor statistics may undercount global poverty by 300 million people. During the 6-month Sprint Programme, the team generated accurate and actionable commodity price data to support the Mbala Pinda smallholder farmers cooperatives in the Republic of the Congo, and generated accurate and actionable spot and forecast foreign exchange data and insights in Lebanon.

"While there were early challenges with getting the project off the ground: with some women unable to accurately measure their cassava or having trouble with the phones, the incentive structure ensured that they were invested in participating, and the visits with them to check in have been really productive, with participants showing a lot of interest and engagement."

ROSALINE BOCKARIE
Project Coordinator

HIGHLIGHTS:

› Context Insights reached 153 women in the Republic of the Congo, with all of them sending data to the pilot programme.

Community Inclusion Currencies

Country of implementation:
Kenya

Topic of focus:
Resilience

EXTERNAL PROJECT

©Grassroots Economics 2022

This project evaluated the use of Community Inclusion Currencies (CIC) with Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT), to decentralize and empower mutual credit issuance and exchange in rural Kenya.

Three cohorts of village savings and loans associations (VSLAs) were evaluated: 1) control groups, 2) groups that received cash and training, and 3) the CIC groups: VSLAs who received cash, CICs, and training. Compared to other cohorts, the CIC cohort reported a higher overall increase in diet diversity and food consumption. The Community Inclusion Currencies cohort also showed a significant increase in savings, local spending and development of farm assets compared to the other cohorts. Under conditions of chronic drought, the CIC cohort was less negatively affected than the other cohorts. Overall the CIC cohort showed an increased ability to work together to support each other, demonstrating social cohesion, and participants reported they would recommend the CIC network to other groups.

"Mumo vouchers (CIC) have changed the lives of the people in my community. I'm happy to see people meet every week to trade using vouchers creating trust amongst them. I'm grateful for the project and it's my prayer that it continues for the benefit of this community."

TALIB MUTOGI
Kitui-East area Chief

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 5x local trade multiplier effect: Over eight months, DLT (blockchain)-facilitated and recorded transactions between CIC users showed an average 5x local trade multiplier effect; showing that each CIC traded hands on average five times resulting in a significant increase to local spending.
- 95 percent of the CIC group reported that the voucher increased food availability in their VSLA. CIC users overwhelmingly showed increased trade, savings and food security outcomes compared to groups receiving only cash assistance.

DARTS

Country of implementation:
Gambia, Iran (Development in HQ)

Topic of focus:
Cash Based Transfers

INTERNAL PROJECT

©WFP/DARTS

DARTS is a first of its kind self-service application that enables users to perform control functions on cash transfer data, thus reducing the effort and time required to execute the task and making sure that the right amount of money was sent to the right people at the right time.

The application started as just an idea. However, with the presence of the cash-based transfer team at the WFP Innovation Accelerator, a collaboration was formed that helped turn the idea into a reality. The team was able to build the DARTS application and reach on 44,000 people. After its launch, DARTS was used by country offices in Iran and Gambia that participated in the minimum viable product and the tool is now being requested to be used by the Sierra Leone Country Office.

"It literally takes me less than 5 minutes to get the results! I am loving it."
"... without Darts it would probably take me 45 min"
"Very user friendly"

HOSNA MALEKZADEH
Analyst at WFP Iran country office

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Scale and Adoption Rate: DARTS has been utilized to analyze and identify gaps for all the 2022 cash transfers in Iran and it is still being used on a continuous basis in 2023 to cover all cash assistance completely in self-service mode.
- Efficiency increase: DARTS has enabled a more than 9-fold increase in efficiency for staff in Iran to produce a reconciliation report for each intervention and cycle.

GeoTar

Country of implementation:
Development in HQ Italy

Topic of focus:
Emergency Response

INTERNAL PROJECT

©Alhagie Manka ©WFP/Mamadou Jallow

GeoTar is constructing an innovative geospatial multidimensional vulnerability score to inform geographic targeting and prioritization at the lowest possible admin level, and down to the individual household level.

Geographic targeting often comes with limited precision (inclusion and exclusion errors). This has serious implications for WFP and the people it serves, as people in need may not receive the assistance they urgently require, while others receive it just because they happen to be in the right place at the right time. The team started their project in October 2022, selecting three countries Iraq, Chad, and Colombia to develop their solution. So far, the team has completed the targeting approach design and construction of vulnerability dimensions and indicators in Iraq and Chad. The team also hired a dedicated geospatial analyst for full-time support of the project.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Construction of vulnerability dimensions and indicators in two countries (Iraq, Chad)

Ignitia

Country of implementation:
Mali

Topic of focus:
Smallholder Farmers

EXTERNAL PROJECT

©WFP/Benoit Lognone

The project aimed to provide SMS-based weather forecasts and agricultural advisories to 5,000 farmers in Mali to improve food security and build their resilience. 72 percent of farmers received the messages and found them easy to understand (79 percent) and relevant (95 percent). The information was seen as accurate (94 percent) and helped 89 percent of farmers change their practices, such as planning their crop operations and making decisions about para-farming activities. 94 percent of farmers who received the messages were satisfied, and even other farmers not enrolled showed interest by seeking out the information from those who received the messages. This project has helped demonstrate the role and importance of timely weather and climate information to improve farmers' decision-making processes and overall food security.

"This project has brought us nothing but happiness. We really appreciated that the weather forecast messages were sent in Bambara. For the next time, please make sure that the advisory messages are also sent in Bambara. We want you to increase the number of beneficiaries and send the SMS from May during the next season."

AMADI COULIBALY
ULPC (Local Union of Cereal Farmers)

HIGHLIGHTS:

- At the end of the project, the weather forecast accuracy perception from farmers was 94 percent, and these messages helped about 89 percent of smallholder farmers change at least one of their farming practices, especially in the areas of fertilizer application, chemical spray, drying and storage.

Imara Tech

Country of implementation:
Tanzania

Topic of focus:
Smallholder Farmers

EXTERNAL PROJECT

©Imara Tech/Ikram Poppe

Imara Tech is a Tanzanian start-up that mechanizes small farms with locally made agricultural machines. Imara Tech's first product is a Multi-Crop Threshing (MCT) machine, which threshes staple crops up to 75 times faster than traditional methods. The MCT can be used as an income-generating business, earning operators $10/hour and saving farmers time and labor.

Imara Tech has been testing the effectiveness of different marketing channels in 2022 as they continue scaling up their operations across Tanzania, including a dealership model that leverages the proximity of existing agro vet shops to smallholder farmers. Going forward, Imara Tech is exploring a new business model consisting of cooperating with asset-based loan providers who would finance trained youth to purchase Imara Tech's machines and service farmers to own the machines once they fully repay the loans.

"It [Imara Tech MCT] saves time when threshing and increases the quality of the maize, when compared with manual processing."

SMALLHOLDER FARMER
served by Imara Tech in the Arusha region, Tanzania

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Reduction of shelling time by 75 percent by the smallholder farmers serviced
- Reached 7,986 smallholder farmers, helping them reduce labor costs by 5 percent

ImpactAI

Country of implementation:
Kenya

Topic of focus:
Emergency Response

INTERNAL PROJECT

©WFP/ImpactAI

ImpactAI is a WFP Emergency Operations Division innovation project that was developed to implement an AI-based infrastructure damage assessment to support WFP operational response in an event of an emergency.

The project is not another AI model for damage assessment but is rather a training data collection exercise for disasters that can happen in a country. The project directly changed the lives of people because the training was done in the Kibera slum in Kenya where WFP runs the EMPACT project. This innovation project has been successful because it supports WFP's saving lives (during an emergency) and changing lives motto by providing livelihood opportunities to the most vulnerable.

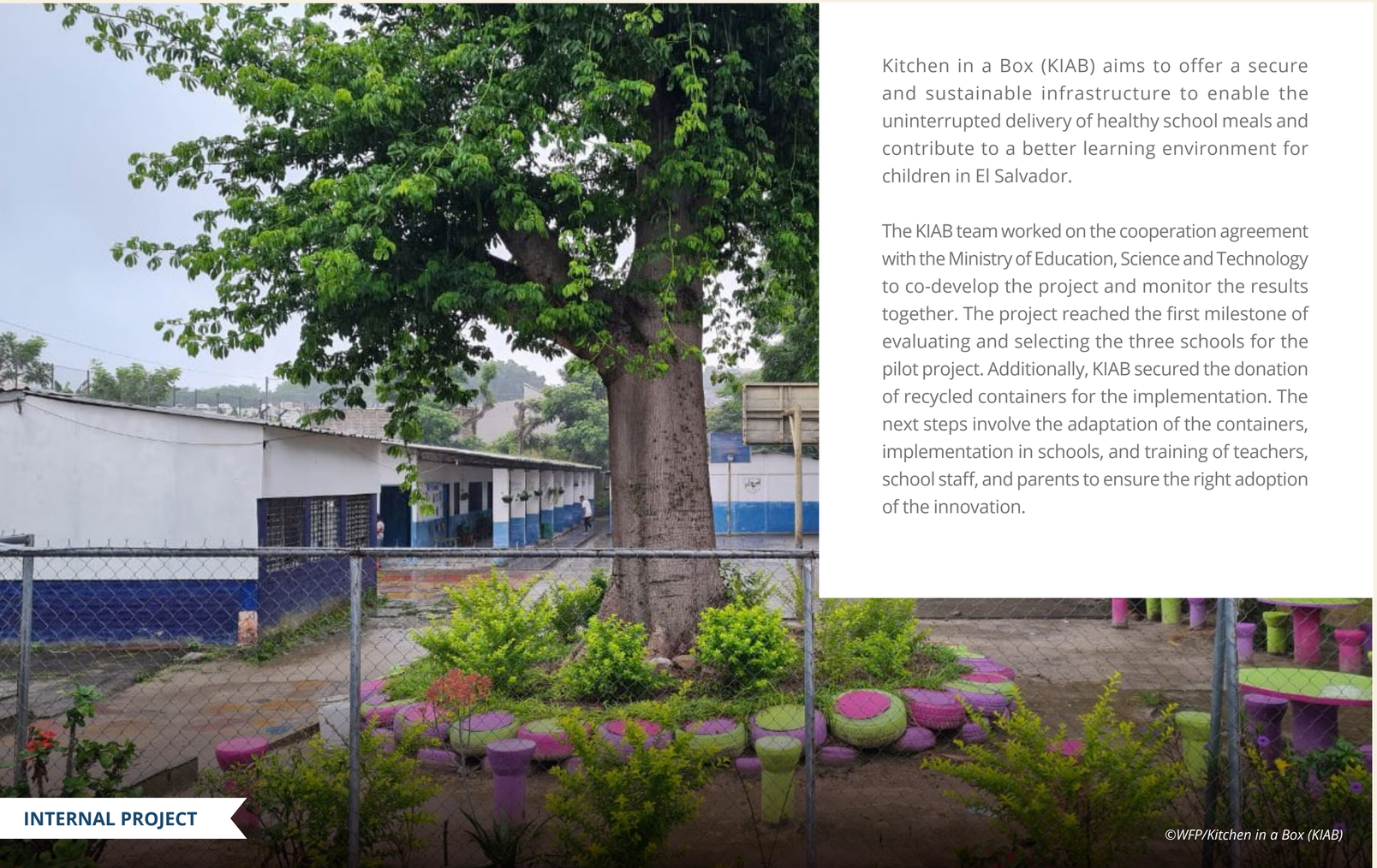
HIGHLIGHTS:

- ImpactAI managed to train 30 people on image annotation of disasters from satellite images providing direct support (financial and training)
- ImpactAI generated more than 40,000 labeled building polygons of disaster (floods, earthquake, cyclone, and volcanic eruption) on five WFP countries (Chad, Afghanistan, Haiti, Madagascar, and Guatemala)

Kitchen in a Box

Country of implementation:
El Salvador

Topic of focus:
School Based Programmes



INTERNAL PROJECT

©WFP/Kitchen in a Box (KIAB)

Kitchen in a Box (KIAB) aims to offer a secure and sustainable infrastructure to enable the uninterrupted delivery of healthy school meals and contribute to a better learning environment for children in El Salvador.

The KIAB team worked on the cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to co-develop the project and monitor the results together. The project reached the first milestone of evaluating and selecting the three schools for the pilot project. Additionally, KIAB secured the donation of recycled containers for the implementation. The next steps involve the adaptation of the containers, implementation in schools, and training of teachers, school staff, and parents to ensure the right adoption of the innovation.

"Together we can change lives because good nutrition is essential for a good education."

RIAZ LODHI
Country Director, WFP El Salvador.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Three schools selected for the pilot implementation
- Donation of recycled containers secured

Last Mile Ecosystem

Country of implementation:
Tunisia

Topic of focus:
School Based Programme

INTERNAL PROJECT

©WFP/The Last Mile ecosystem (LME)

The Last Mile Ecosystem (LME) is a digital ecosystem ensuring a shorter and more efficient food supply chain, by connecting local farmer cooperatives with the school feeding market through a network of transporters.

The main goal was to establish an LME full-scale digital interactive prototype and to test it across two governorates in Tunisia where several potential schools, local farmer cooperatives, and transporters will be targeted. After having set up an interactive prototype for the central kitchen of Nadhour, the team carried out a field visit to Siliana to detect the links and the differences between the two environments and opted to adapt the solution to the needs of Siliana's decentralized kitchens. This design now allows schools with a central kitchen or a decentralized kitchen with autonomy in terms of plant supply (local farmer, vegetable garden) to ensure a balanced meal for students.

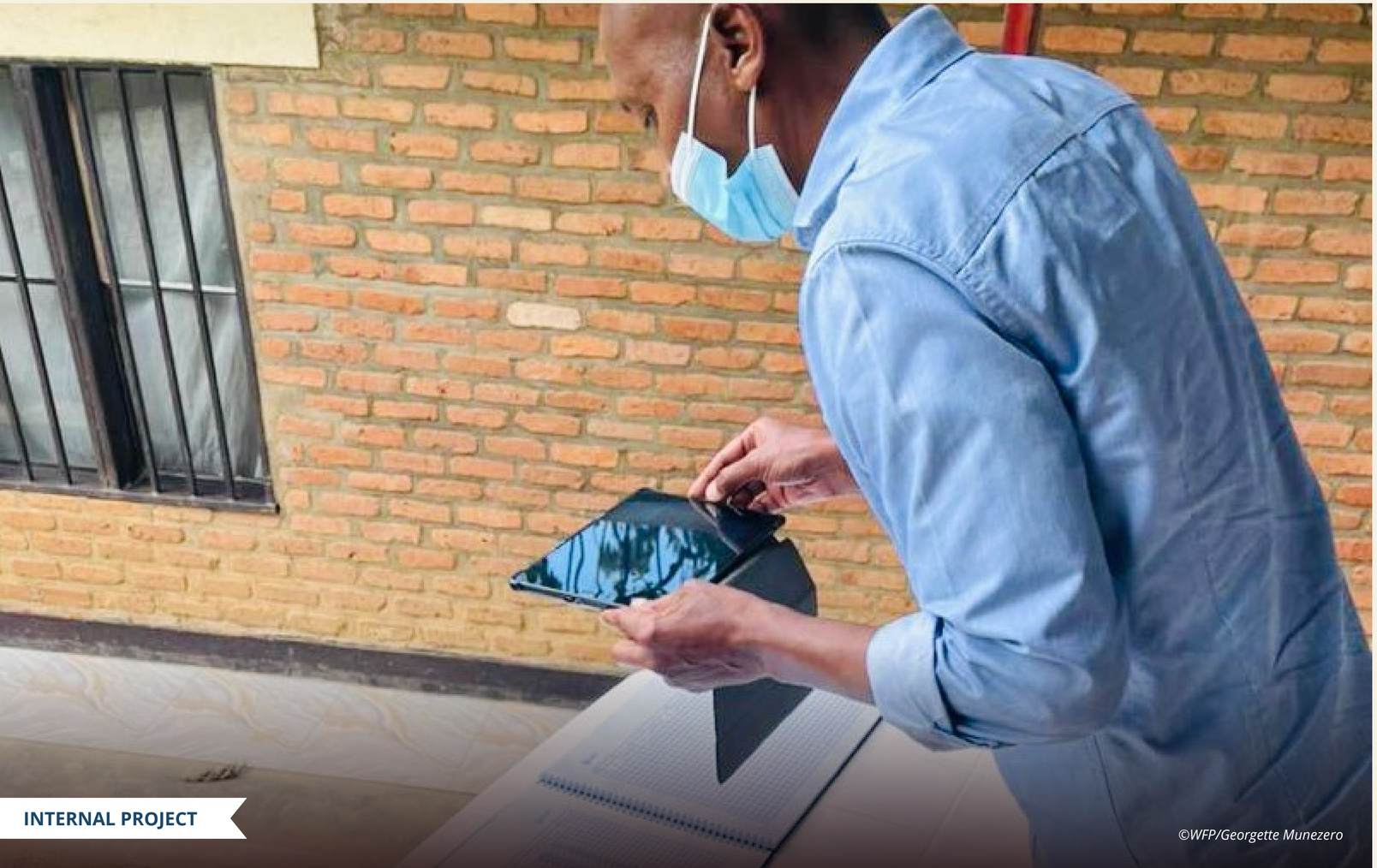
HIGHLIGHTS:

- Two prototypes were created and tested, one in a centralized and other for a decentralized school structure
- Training was successfully administered to four end users in the selected school

Meza

Country of implementation:
Rwanda

Topic of focus:
Nutrition



INTERNAL PROJECT

©WFP/Georgette Munezero

MEZA is an Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology to rapidly collect data from remote and low-resource health clinics, enabling WFP and governments to have the information they need to provide high-quality, context-specific, and timely support.

Meza's focus in 2022 was to validate its proof of concept and compliance with WFP's data privacy and safety procedures. After a successful benchmarking of Meza against other OCR technologies and validation of Meza led by WFP's TEC division in early 2022, Meza was deployed to Rwanda to be tested in a WFP Nutrition Programme in the country. The pilot achieved its main objective by providing a decoding accuracy level of more than 90 percent where trained health workers from six health centers submitted 269 nutrition logbooks in a period of seven weeks.

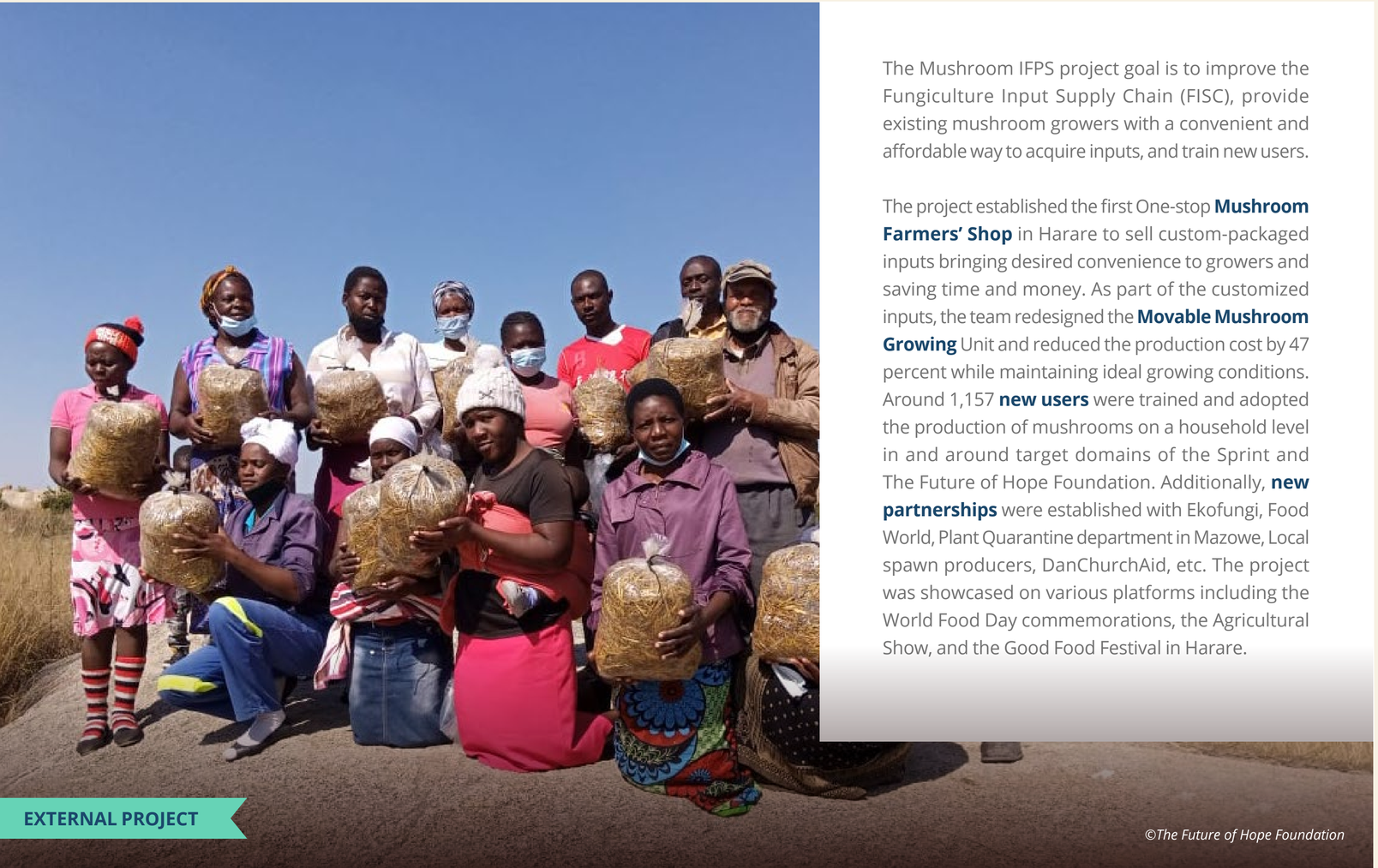
HIGHLIGHTS:

- Reached 2,557 people whose data were digitized
- Achieved 98.4 percent accuracy level of numeric data

Mushrooms IFPS

Country of implementation:
Zimbabwe

Topic of focus:
Livelihoods



EXTERNAL PROJECT

©The Future of Hope Foundation

The Mushroom IFPS project goal is to improve the Fungiculture Input Supply Chain (FISC), provide existing mushroom growers with a convenient and affordable way to acquire inputs, and train new users.

The project established the first One-stop **Mushroom Farmers' Shop** in Harare to sell custom-packaged inputs bringing desired convenience to growers and saving time and money. As part of the customized inputs, the team redesigned the **Movable Mushroom Growing** Unit and reduced the production cost by 47 percent while maintaining ideal growing conditions. Around 1,157 **new users** were trained and adopted the production of mushrooms on a household level in and around target domains of the Sprint and The Future of Hope Foundation. Additionally, **new partnerships** were established with Ekofungi, Food World, Plant Quarantine department in Mazowe, Local spawn producers, DanChurchAid, etc. The project was showcased on various platforms including the World Food Day commemorations, the Agricultural Show, and the Good Food Festival in Harare.

"Always think about how we are going to ensure sustainability of the project going forward."

ASIA SULTAN
WFP Sprint manager

HIGHLIGHTS:

› Establishment of the Mushroom Farmers' One-Stop-Shop is just what the doctor prescribed for addressing the Fungiculture Inputs Supply Chain 'FISC'

plugPAY

Country of implementation:
Zambia & Sri Lanka

Topic of focus:
Cash Based Transfers

©WFP/Alice Rahmoun

INTERNAL PROJECT

plugPAY is a digital payment solution that allows people to rapidly receive cash assistance, using a human-centered approach and incorporating direct transfers from WFP accounts so that people can receive payments via their financial instrument of choice, hence fostering financial inclusion.

During Sprint 1, the project team validated their proof of concept in Zambia, reaching 17,000 people and reducing WFP's costs to Financial Service Providers from 6 to 0.12 percent while the onboarding time for users was reduced by 90 percent. plugPAY was awarded a second Sprint in 2022 to accelerate its product development. The project team has automated many of their processes in 2022 to scale up their operations in Zambia and launched in Sri Lanka, reaching over 25,000 people altogether and is close to hitting the USD 1 million transfer value milestone.

"WFP Sri Lanka decided to pilot what we call plugPAY to ensure that for the coming CBT assistance that we will be providing to the affected population, we will bring better transfer mechanisms."

AMERICA CARCAMO
Programme Policy Officer - CBT Emergency, WFP Sri Lanka

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Reduced WFP's costs to Financial Service Providers in Zambia from 6 to 0.12 percent
- Reached 25,261 people in Zambia and Sri Lanka
- Reduced WFP Cash-Based Transfers contracting time by over 90 percent

Producers Direct

Country of implementation:
Peru

Topic of focus:
Smallholder Farmers

EXTERNAL PROJECT

©WFP/Producers Direct

Producers Direct is an innovative digital farmer's cooperative model that fosters the inclusion of women smallholders and youth in food value chains in Peru. By providing them with training and digital solutions, it aims to unlock the farmers' potential, access to markets, and incomes.

The project team continued to work with Peruvian female smallholder farmers to create 'FarmDirect', a digital cooperatives platform aiming to aggregate produce and connect these farmers to markets. The team implemented in-person workshops and training and got a broader and better understanding of (1) digital literacy familiarity and digital confidence at different levels through accessibility challenges and (2) financial literacy importance.

"This project has given me several opportunities. I have learnt a lot from the training and now I'm able to farm better vegetables. Now, I can share all what I've learned with other women. I can show them how to grow onions, tomatoes or even cucumbers, which have to be cultivated in the upper parts so they grow better. We have the opportunity to exchange ideas with other women to improve our productivity."

ROSALÍA AGUILAR
Las Lomas, Piura

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 139 women have access to the FarmDirect platform.
- 18 youth were trained to use FarmDirect to support surplus food crop aggregation (Sprint 1).

Retail in a Box

Country of implementation:
South Sudan, Mozambique, Bangladesh

Topic of focus:
Supply Chain

INTERNAL PROJECT

©WFP/Nuno Pedro

Retail in a Box brings retail solutions to vulnerable communities with limited or no markets. The retail solutions enable people we serve with the power of choice through access to shops where they can redeem their cash-assistance.

Country Offices select from a menu of structures and layouts to create their unique context-specific Retail in a Box. Best practices and operating procedures are included in the package to equip rural areas with the access to markets. The solution has served 10,000 people that had no access to markets in Bangladesh, 15,000 people in Mozambique where the team trained 149 retailers and has set up nine shops in rural areas, and 35,000 people in South Sudan who could now, for the first time in ten years, choose the products they and their families want to eat.

HIGHLIGHTS:

› In total, Retail in a Box served 60,000 people, injected over USD 1 million monthly to the local economy, provided retail best practice training to 441 retailers and has set up 29 retail shops across three countries.

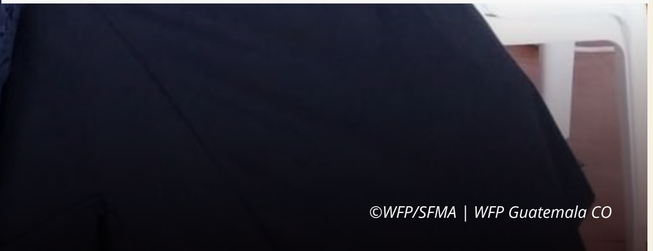
School Feeding Management Application

Country of implementation:
Guatemala

Topic of focus:
School Based Programmes

INTERNAL PROJECT

The School Feeding Law in Guatemala requires that 70 percent of school meals purchases be procured through home-grown school feeding (HGSF). However, market participation from family farmers is currently low. To encourage market participation and facilitate market transactions, the Guatemala WFP Country Office (CO) has developed a smartphone app: the School Feeding Management Application (SFMA or 'the app'). The aim of this app is to connect schools and registered suppliers (family farmers) to facilitate a more efficient procurement process and optimize sourcing from local suppliers. Currently, the pilot is being implemented in 210 schools, with an attendance of 64,978 students, and includes 130 local producers in 59 municipalities in six departments in Guatemala. The first and second rounds of user training have been concluded and the performance of the mobile application has been validated, which will be used in the first quarter of the 2023 school year after a third round of training.



©WFP/SFMA | WFP Guatemala CO

"The application will be for us a tool that can be used by Parent Organizations to facilitate the planning, execution, and accountability processes of the School Feeding Program, and strengthen the link with local producers in each community to provide fresh and nutritious food."

CLAUDIA RUIZ CASASOLA DE ESTRADA
Minister of Education of Guatemala

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 206 schools in the country are prepared to use a mobile application (either the old version or the new version) for school meal planning, determining the products needed for the meals, and to be able to prioritize the 130 family-farming suppliers in their area.

Sustainable Fuel for Cooking

Country of implementation:
South Sudan

Topic of focus:
Livelihoods

INTERNAL PROJECT

The project aims to provide an affordable, improved, and safe alternative cooking fuel in South Sudan by training targeted groups on the production and market of bio-briquettes made from the abundant and invasive water hyacinth plant.

The water hyacinth briquettes are a cost-effective and safe alternative to firewood and charcoal, and the production process is easy to learn. After developing the prototype of the bio-briquette, the team hired local staff and kicked off with an awareness phase that involved demonstrations and training for different groups in Bentiu. As the next steps, the team will focus on optimizing the production, developing the value chain, and creating micro-businesses that sell bio-briquettes in the market. The objective is to make water hyacinth-based energy the cooking fuel of choice and enable women to be safer and provide a better future for their families.

©WFP/Eulalia Berlanga

"This project allows women to cook meals for their families without having to go on dangerous journeys to collect firewood".

WOMAN FROM A TRAINING GROUP

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 20 demonstrations and trainings delivered on the production of water-hyacinth briquettes
- Around 300 women received training on production of water-hyacinth briquettes in Bentiu

Takachar

Country of implementation:
India

Topic of focus:
Smallholder Farmers

EXTERNAL PROJECT

©Takachar

Takachar as a solution brings small-scale, portable processing units directly to the farm to locally upgrade farmers' residues into valuable bioproducts such as fuels, fertilizers, and activated carbon precursors at the farmgate and increasing their income while reducing the harmful air pollution from waste burning.

Results from a pilot phase conducted in one village showed a seven percent increase in net income for farmers and 16 MT of crop residue averted from being burned in the open air. A commercial scale unit is currently under development. Takachar's innovation has won a variety of recognition, including Prince William's Earthshot Prize and the XPRIZE Carbon Removal competition funded by the Musk Foundation and more recently Bill Gates' Breakthrough Energy.

"For the people being affected by climate change and air pollution...only when you have that feeling emotionally can you then be driven to do something about it."

VIDYUT MOHAN
Co-Founder Takachar

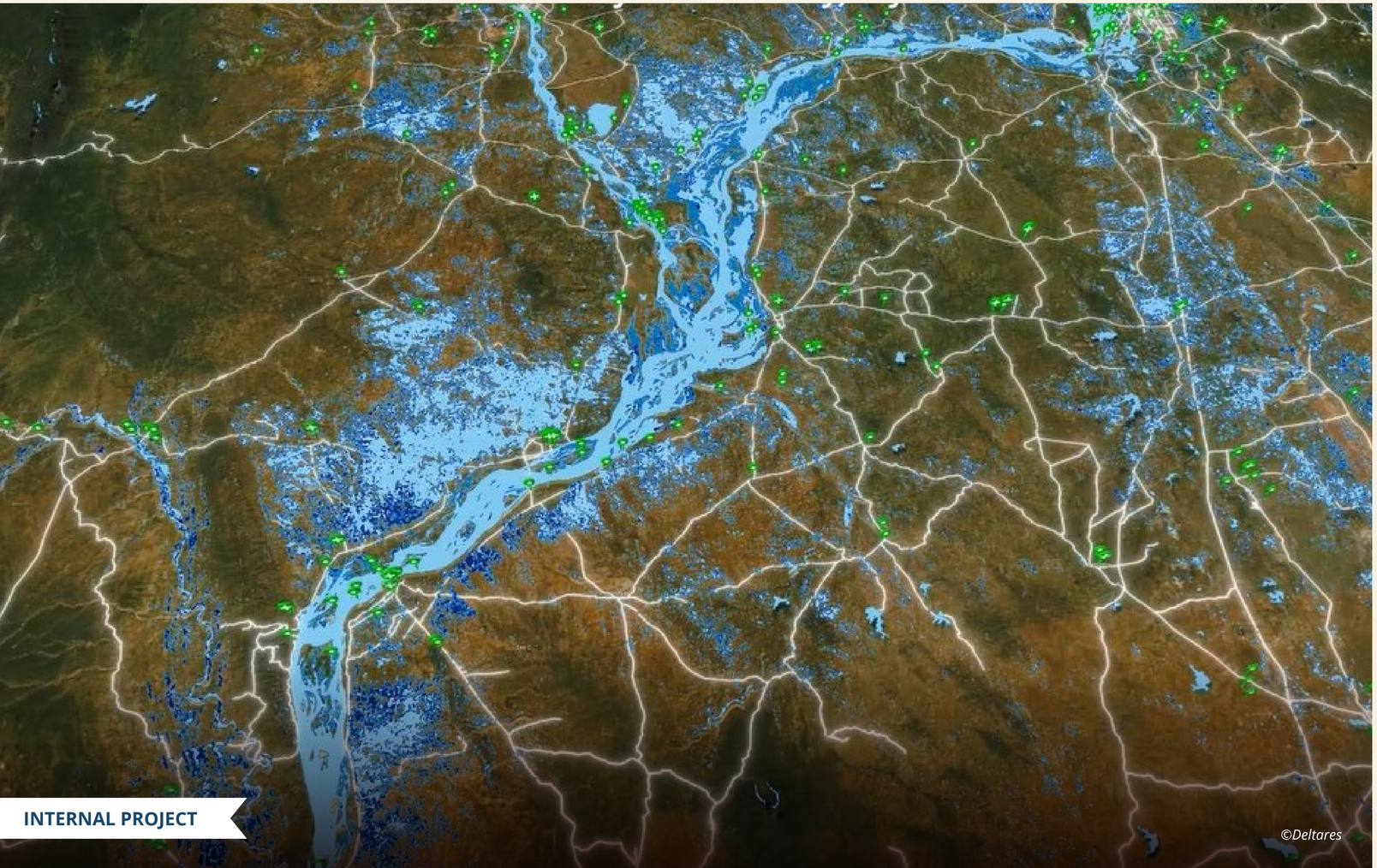
HIGHLIGHTS:

- Farmers experienced on average a 21 percent increase in yield
- Five to 10 percent of Improvement in crop yield due to application of biochar
- Water requirement of paddy was reduced by about 15 to 20 percent per acre due to biochar use

Timely Logistics

Country of implementation:
Nepal

Topic of focus:
Emergency Response



©Deltares

INTERNAL PROJECT

Timely Logistics uses RA2CE, a geohazard network analysis model developed by Deltares, to calculate the impact of disasters in near-real-time through analysis of disruptions in the transportation network and their impact on reaching points of interest, such as health centres, airports, schools, and markets.

The project plans to integrate race RA2CE, which builds on existing tools and platforms, in a simple interface to deliver tabular reporting, providing critical information for planning and risk management strategies through a reliable mechanism. In the first phase, the project team validated user requirements and defined success criteria. As a next step, with the support of Deltares, the project will develop the first prototype which will undergo subsequent validation testing via simulations. The team is also seeking government engagement in the development of the solution to ensure adoption, and therefore a more effective emergency response.

HIGHLIGHTS:

› The project has reached the first milestone of validating user requirements and defining success criteria to develop the prototype and go through testing for features validation.

Toothpick

Country of implementation:
Kenya

Topic of focus:
Smallholder Farmers

EXTERNAL PROJECT

©The Toothpick Project/Claire Baker

The Toothpick project sprint focused on reaching rural farmers at scale, where the team tested methods of (1) training Village Inoculum Producers; (2) delivery of Village Inoculum Producer Kits and Kichawi Kill products; and (3) communications and marketing strategies to farmers.

Identifying the most effective methods for these three areas is critical as the team strives to reach scale sustainably by 2025. The sprint project was mainly to evaluate methods of distribution and marketing to identify an effective and efficient path to scale. The methods involved training of village Inoculum producers, delivery of village inoculum producer kits and Kichawi kill products and communications/marketing strategies to farmers. The pilot was tested in seven counties in Kenya.

"I heard about Kichawi kill from my friend Janet who is a good farmer. Because I had doubt I purchased two buckets for trial and surprisingly I didn't see Striga emerging from my farm. I am hopeful that I will get some yield this season as you can see how my maize looks like."

LILIAN MAKOKHA
Smallholder farmer, Bungoma Count

Zambia Food Dryers

Country of implementation:
Zambia

Topic of focus:
Resilience

©Zambia Food Dryers

INTERNAL PROJECT

In collaboration with the Government of Zambia and the private sector, Zambia Food Dryers is introducing and promoting access to Solar Food Dryers to safely dry nutritious foods for both household consumption and sale to local markets.

The aim of the project is to introduce simple and affordable solar food dryers to rural households, specifically targeting pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls, in order to help them reduce post-harvest loss of fruit and vegetables, improve their dietary diversity during the lean season and generate an income from surplus sales. WFP will establish partnerships with the private sector to sustain the supply of solar equipment.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 21.5 percent of rural households could access and utilize solar food dryers
- 14 private sector companies provided solar dryer services

SDGx Acceleration

Aligned with WFP's global commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the WFP Innovation Accelerator established the SDGx Acceleration unit in 2019. The goal is to foster global partnerships and holistic solutions that help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this spirit, the Innovation Accelerator works in co-creation with a broad range of partners and United Nations agencies to identify high-impact innovators working on critical social and environmental challenges, and supports them with access to the relevant funding, knowledge and networks necessary to expand their reach.

This year we carried out nine programmes which supported 58 innovations, working towards SDGs 3, 5, 6, 7, and 16, to implement projects in 29 countries and territories. This includes 16 ventures in programmes that SDGx ran end to end, of which three were selected for a sprint programme and received WFP funding. The additional 20 ventures, 20 United Nations intrapreneurial teams, and two special innovation projects were supported in collaboration with our partners.

In total, our portfolio of sprint ventures reached over 460,000 people this year. However, as our support lays the foundations for sustainable innovations, our ventures' impact does not stop after the programme ends. The 153 teams who went through our programmes in previous years went on to reach over ten million people in 2022.

We also designed two multi-partner programmes which are set to begin early 2023. Firstly, the Agricultural Innovation for Climate Resilience Programme will support innovative solutions enabling farmers and other agriculture stakeholders in low and middle-income countries to build capabilities and mitigate the effects of climate change (SDG 13). Secondly, the Humanitarian Innovation Accelerator Programme will support technology-powered solutions addressing emergency and humanitarian challenges faced by vulnerable populations and humanitarian actors (solutions will target various SDGs including 3, 4, 6, 7, and 16). Both programmes will pool expertise, resources and ecosystems from the WFP and from partners to find, support, and scale the best innovative responses to their SDGs of focus.

SDGx Acceleration: Good health and well-being

At the beginning of this year, we ran two separate innovation programmes focussing on SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being. With the support of BMZ's digilab and GIZ, we launched the Digital Health Innovation Accelerator Programme (DHIAP) to support ventures working on pandemic preparedness in low- and middle-income countries, with a focus on local buy-in, gender inclusivity and inclusion of people with disabilities. With the support of the Austrian Federal Chancellery, the Austrian Development Agency, and the Kofi Annan Foundation, we launched the Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa (KAAIA). The first edition of the award focused on supporting entrepreneurs striving to achieve SDG 3, target indicator 8 (Achieve universal health coverage).

Collectively, the programmes received 530 applications. 20 innovators progressed to WFP innovation bootcamps, during which they received intense virtual training consisting of cohort-wide and individual sessions with technical and industry mentors. After pitching to a panel, three ventures per programme were selected to be a part of the SDG 3 Sprint Programme, a twelve-month acceleration programme commencing in September 2022. These teams have been provided with equity-free funding and hands-on support to grow their solution and improve the health and well-being of people we serve. Creating a joint sprint programme has led to a more diverse cohort of SDG3 innovators who are able to network, collaborate and learn from each other during their sprint phase.

THE SIX PROJECTS IN THE SDG 3 SPRINT PROGRAMME ARE:

From The Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa:

01

FLARE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLATFORM (GHANA)
A platform which coordinates emergency responders so that they can instantly dispatch help, provide life-saving care over the phone, and coordinate the right pathway to care.

02

VAXIGLOBAL (ZIMBABWE)
Contactless biometrics to minimize resource wastage, improve data quality with open standards and enable the scaling up of vaccination campaigns in African countries.

03

MYPADDI (NIGERIA)
An educational app working to destigmatize sexual and reproductive health by providing young people with the possibility of discreet counselling, particularly concerning contraception, sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases.

From Digital Health Innovation Accelerator Program:

04

OPENFN LIGHTNING
A Digital Public Good (DPG) for workflow automation, driving efficiency in the social sector by helping organizations achieve real-time, enterprise-grade systems interoperability and scale their interventions with confidence.

05

SIMPRINTS (GHANA)
A biometric technology for use by governments, non-government organizations, and nonprofits for people in low and middle-income countries who lack proof of legal identity. Simprints will be developing and testing a solution to verify vaccine delivery, fight pandemics and strengthen health systems globally.

06

MEDTRACK (GHANA)
A health information management solution for healthcare providers and patients, that allows facilities to capture a comprehensive picture of patient health information, medical history and other clinical data whilst ensuring data privacy.

End-to-End Acceleration Programmes

We create and manage complete accelerator programmes to identify and support high impact innovations on their path to scale. We do this by running global or local innovation challenges, and subsequently offering funding and access to coaching, mentoring and relevant networks.

Acceleration as a service

We design and deliver custom acceleration programmes by co-creation with other organizations to support impactful startups, or intrapreneurial teams, and help them reach their full potential. These programmes may be run independently or integrated into our end-to-end accelerators.

Innovation services & projects

We help organizations or multi-stakeholder initiatives tackle complex problems in a creative and efficient way. We do so by enabling collaborative journeys that harness new ways of working through open innovation, human-centered design and entrepreneurial frameworks.

Ecosystem & knowledge sharing

We bring together key actors across sectors to have valuable knowledge, experience exchanges and connections that will ultimately enhance the conditions for impact innovation so that they flourish and benefit the people that we serve.

United Nations Culture Change (SDG 5)

UNITED NATIONS CHIEF EXECUTIVE BOARD (CEB)

The WFP Innovation Accelerator with Leadership and Culture Workstream of the CEB Task Force on Addressing Sexual Harassment within the Organizations of the United Nations System, including the Food and Agriculture Organization, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and UN Women, ran a system wide United Nations Culture Change Innovation Challenge. We hosted a joint call of innovation and ran an innovation bootcamp in 2022 with promising ideas that seek to address sexual harassment through leadership and organizational culture change.

Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa (SDG 3)

AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, AUSTRIAN FEDERAL CHANCELLERY, KOFI ANNAN FOUNDATION

The first edition of the Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa (KAAIA) was launched, aiming to support innovative solutions from across the African continent to contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 3, Good Health and Well-Being, with a strong focus on achieving high quality universal health coverage. We received over 300 applications from 38 African countries, from which 9 teams participated in a WFP Innovation Bootcamp, and had the opportunity to pitch to a high level jury. Three teams were selected to receive EUR 250,000 and access to a WFP Sprint Programme, in which the teams started implementing their growth plans to further their reach.

Lagos, Nigeria, November 2022. © WFP/Carlos Paniagua-Ferrari.

BMGF FARID Workshop. Mombasa, Kenya, December 2022. © WFP

Initiate2. Hear-phase Workshop. Brindisi, Italy, March 2022. © WFP/Emma Lee.

Digital Health Innovation Accelerator (SDG 3)

BMZ DIGILAB

The Digital Health Innovation Accelerator Programme is powered by the WFP Innovation Accelerator and BMZ digilab – the digital-innovation lab, initiated by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) together with GIZ, the German Development Bank KfW, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

In 2022, two cohorts, consisting of scalable digital solutions that build pandemic preparedness, received technical and financial support through DHIAP. The first cohort was "open challenge" which sourced innovations that worked in any low or middle income country, and the second was "local challenges" which sourced innovations working in selected priority countries including Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

MIT SOLVE Digital Innovation Accelerator (SDG 3)

BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION AND MIT SOLVE

As part of our ongoing partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, five teams supported by Gates and MIT solve were invited to participate in the Digital Health Innovation Accelerator bootcamp and pitch event. Solvers also received mentorship, access to a global network of relevant partners in the public health space, and the opportunity to apply for further sprint support and equity free funding.

Initiate^2 (SDG 3)

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) AND UNITED NATIONS HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE DEPOT (UNHRD)

WFP and the WHO launched a five-year programme at the G20 that aims to bring together emergency actors, academic institutions, and international and national partners to promote knowledge sharing and skills transfer for an improved emergency response to health crises.

This year, the programme focused on designing an infectious disease treatment module which allowed stakeholders to rapidly deploy, set up, and run treatment centres in the rural area when outbreaks emerge.

Creating Hope in Conflict: A Humanitarian Grand Challenge (SDG 3, 6, 7, 16)

HUMANITARIAN GRAND CHALLENGE

In 2022, we continued to support 68 teams including seven newly funded teams selected by Humanitarian Grand Challenge, which solve the most pressing issues within conflict and disaster zones including water and sanitation, energy, health services and supply, and access to life-saving information. Our role is to support innovators with technical advice through a series of deep dives, strategy lab workshops, and mentor matching, as well as, convening a pitch event at the Grand Challenges Annual Meeting in Brussels, which we hosted in collaboration with the Gates Foundation.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation FARID Workshop. Mombasa, Kenya, December 2022. © WFP/Gonzalo Rodino.

FARID Health Camps Programme (SDG 3)

BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

The Far Reaching Integrated Delivery programme (FARID) brought together non-traditional Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) actors such as, World Vision International, Save the Children, the Center of Humanitarian Dialogue and Acasus, to work together in an ecosystem approach to reach children in inaccessible areas. The goal of the programme was to create an innovative health camps model to supply children with vaccines and other survival interventions.

Learn and Do ‘22 (SDG 3 and 5)

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

This learning programme coached UNFPA colleagues to build sustainable innovation skills, capabilities and mindset in order to foster innovation and drive goals. 11 teams from six regions were supported to design, rapidly prototype, and test bold solutions to problems related to family planning uptake, gender based violence, raising development funding, and generating real-time data which supports UNFPA programming.

Initiate2. Hear-phase Workshop. Brindisi, Italy, March 2022. © WFP/Gonzalo Rodino.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation FARID Workshop. Mombasa, Kenya, December 2022. © WFP/Gonzalo Rodino.

Frontier Innovations

New technologies are rapidly developing and deeply transforming our lives and the world, including in humanitarian aid. At WFP Innovation Accelerator, we explore game-changing innovations and new technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, autonomous vehicles, and robotics to support humanitarian and development assistance.

This year, we deepened our collaboration with research organizations such as the European Space Agency, the German Space Agency, mature technology firms, such as Google Karmel Group, and cutting-edge start-ups such as IBISA SA, agriBORA GmbH, and HesabPay.

One of our most advanced projects, SKAI - AI for damage assessment, was operationalized by relevant WFP business units to assess several major disasters in 2022. Moreover, a working group formed by United Nations agencies and private collaborators have been working on turning SKAI into a software product that is useful to the broader humanitarian sector with various use cases. We initiated several new AI projects, aiming to better predict famine, drought, crop yield, agricultural market price, environmental impact of on-land assets, and more.

On the blockchain side, we continued researching and evaluating the use of crypto and digital assets as means to raise additional funds from the private sector. In that regard, we partnered with different entities such as The Giving Block, a crypto fundraising platform and Global Blockchain Business Council (GBBC), the largest blockchain business association, dedicated to enabling organizations to leverage the crypto and blockchain ecosystem. We used the expertise of key blockchain technology players on blockchain pilots in our country offices to gather real-life evidence on the benefits of using blockchain to deliver to vulnerable people. By doing so, we can unlock alternative sources of funding and identify the most innovative, suitable and feasible blockchain use cases for our unique operational context, while keeping the people we serve in the front and centre .

Spotlight projects

The AHEAD all-terrain vehicle in DLR site. ©WFP/Heath Morrell

SKAI

In 2022, SKAI surpassed expectations by achieving 77 percent in cost savings and accelerated the speed of assessing damage by 92 percent. In addition, SKAI machine learning source codes went open-source on the Github repository.

In April 2022, severe flooding and landslides in South Africa caused the death of 448 people, displaced over 40,000 people. In June 2022, floods in Pakistan affected at least 33 million people. Under this context, SKAI came in by assessing 1,100,449 buildings for flooding damage in South Africa and Pakistan. In response to Hurricane Ian's trail of damage, Google Research AI, worked with GiveDirectly in the US to provide USD 2 million in cash assistance to more than 2,900 low-income households in heavily affected areas identified by SKAI algorithm.

BLOCKCHAIN TO SAVE AND CHANGES LIVES

In 2022, we launched the Blockchain to Save and Change Lives call for application which sourced blockchain startups with robust and field ready products that could improve supply chain and financial inclusion. To pilot the solutions presented by the selected startups, we collaborated with WFP country offices, including Afghanistan, Mali, Burkina Faso, Peru, Kenya, and the Philippines and actively engaged with partners in the blockchain ecosystem to better understand its technology, opportunities and limitations, and initiate crypto fundraising activities.

AHEAD ROBOTICS PROJECT

In November 2022, the accelerator team visited the DLR (German Space Agency) and saw the successful driverless teleoperation of the AHEAD all-terrain vehicle project. AHEAD vehicles, which WFP already used successfully in crisis areas, are off-roaders which can move in any terrain, even in water or swamps, and can overcome climbing obstacles of up to one metre.

The vehicle is equipped with several sensors for real-time monitoring of its surroundings and automated for remote control. To be able to make safety and emergency stops at any time, the vehicles capture their surroundings with perception sensors, depth cameras, stereo cameras and LIDAR systems. Watch the video of the first teleoperation here.

Exploring applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the humanitarian space

EARTH OBSERVATION & AI FOR SDG INNOVATION PROGRAMME

The Φ-lab at the European Space Agency, with the WFP Innovation Accelerator, launched the EO & AI for SDGs Innovation Programme to search for cutting-edge innovations that use EO and AI technologies to address the challenges that WFP faces in its operations, while striving for business viability and industry leadership.

The programme selected, funded, and supported three start-ups based in Germany, Luxembourg, and the United Kingdom to co-design and test their AI-based solutions with WFP stakeholders in the country offices, ranging from Afghanistan, Guatemala, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, and Zimbabwe.

AGRIBORA - HAUTA

agriBORA GmbH was selected to go through Earth Observation & AI for SDG Innovation Programme. Together with WFP Kenya Country Office, it launched project Hauta. It was designed to support the Farmer Service Centres (FSCs) in the integration of digital tools, introduced an automated system for field-level monitoring and demonstrated crop yield estimation. It on-boarded 30 FSCs and 6,775 farmers onto its platform, and collected 396 live data geotagged by FSCs and farmers.

IBISA - FORMENTARA

IBISA SA designed forecast-based microinsurance for smallholder farmers with the support of WFP Guatemala country office and technical experts from the European Space Agency.

Based on ECMWF ERA5 and 10 days forecast data and field visits, the insurance product can be sold at USD 15 per policy. It will provide smallholder farmers payouts when there are 25 consecutive lack-of-rainfall days and when there are 35 dry days, amounting to up to USD 77 in payouts.

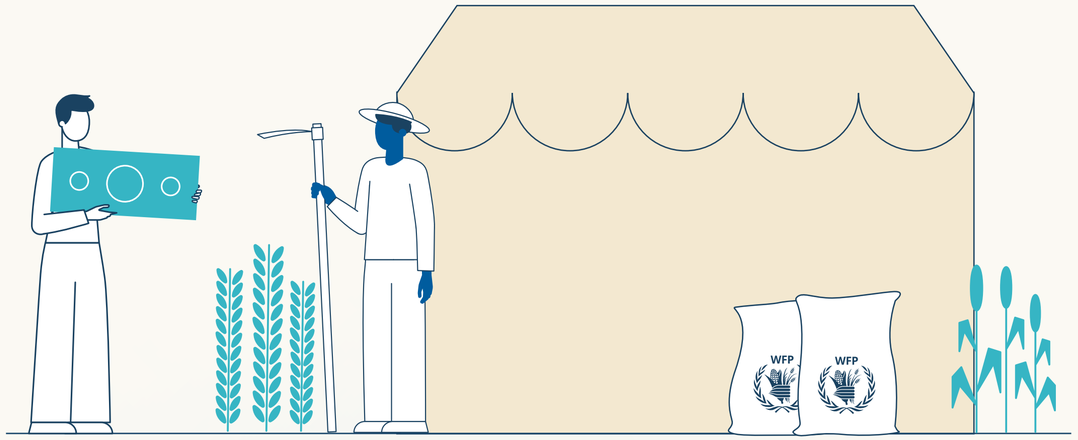
OXEO - NOVEL HYDROLOGICAL DROUGHT INDEX (HDI)

Oxford Earth Observation Limited took part in the Earth Observation & AI for SDG Innovation Programme. Together with WFP stakeholders, it explored the development of a novel Hydrological Drought Index (HDI), which took into consideration more complex factors such as surface water runoff. We found that in Mozambique and Zimbabwe, the HDI could improve the forecasting of vegetation growth in agricultural areas by an average of 20 percent over a conventional Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) in the short term. WFP aims to further validate the reliability, interpretability, and scalability of the HDI model and roll it out in drought-prone areas.

Exploring applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the humanitarian space

AGRICULTURAL MARKET PRICE PREDICTION

There are many hard-to-reach markets, mostly in rural or conflict-prone areas, in which WFP has only limited coverage. It was challenging to monitor prices for a large number of crops and commodities. Agricultural Market Price Prediction, through a collaboration between WFP's Research, Assessment and Monitoring Division Economic Markets Unit (RAMAE) and Google Research AI, aims to fill in these gaps by



- Leveraging the spatial interpolation between markets: prices across markets are often correlated and such correlation can be used to estimate prices for markets where prices are missing.
- Using interpolation of prices across crops: it may be possible to estimate the price for one crop based on prices for other crops in the same or neighbouring markets.

SOILWATCH - SOILPRO

Different WFP teams collaborated on this project: WFP's Livelihoods, Asset Creation and Resilience Unit (PROL), Research, Assessment and Monitoring Division Climate & Earth Observation Unit (RAMC), and Emergencies Operations Division Global Food Security Cluster (EMEF).

SoilWatch is a Finnish start-up that specializes in soil monitoring using machine learning and satellite images. It works closely with WFP stakeholders, especially the RAMC team, in enhancing the intelligence of the Asset Impact Monitoring from Space (AIMS) service.

The AIMS system has been used for evaluating WFP's Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programmes, which rehabilitated 126,900 hectares of land to date and directly benefited 9.6 million people. Building upon the success of AIMS, SoilWatch uses machine learning to help support site prioritization for FFA implementation, monitor FFA sites and develop soil and vegetation indicator workflows. The project covered use cases in Afghanistan, Malawi, Niger, and Zimbabwe and successfully led to the definition and design of a broad set of 35 vegetation and soil indicators.

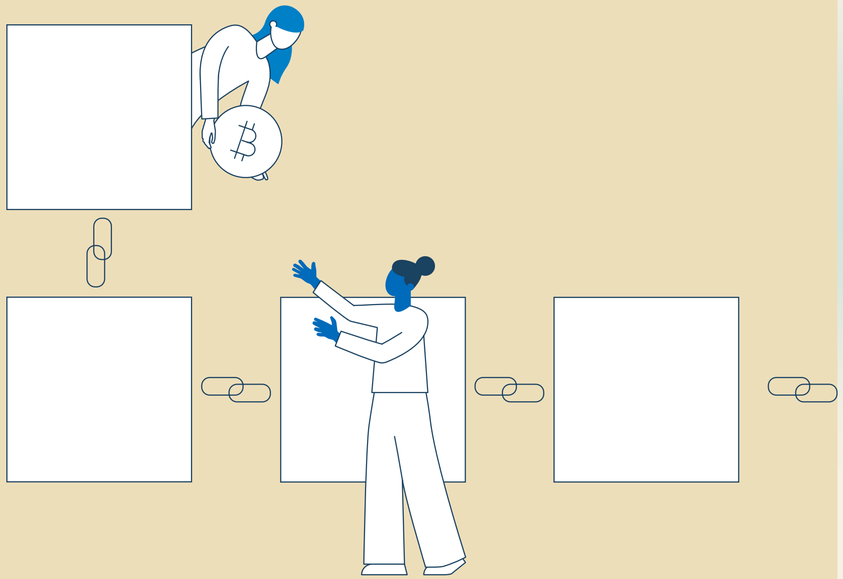
FAMPRED

How can we predict famine so well in advance so we can provide much-needed support just in time? WFP's Research, Assessment, and Monitoring Division Hunger Monitoring Unit works on FamPred project to develop a reservoir-computing-based machine learning model using WFP proprietary and publicly available datasets in predicting food insecurity.

In the first pilot, the project validated the technical model to predict food insecurity 30 days in advance in Yemen, Mali, Syria, and Nigeria. The WFP Innovation Accelerator supported FamPred with technical support in 2022, and is gearing up to provide sprint support in 2023.

GLOBAL DATA ACCESS INITIATIVE

The Global Data Access Initiative aims to develop the ultimate AI application platform for humanitarian operations. Led by United Nations Global Pulse, and steered by WFP, United Nations Development Programme, Google.org, Patric J McGovern, McKinsey, and Jay Hodges, the Global Data Access Initiative has been developing SKAI - AI for damage assessment and other algorithms and applications that can serve different use cases across humanitarian sector (for more information, see the section on SKAI).



Exploring applications of blockchain in the humanitarian space

In 2022, we focused on the assessment of suitable blockchain projects, as well as gathering the support of country offices for implementation to launch these projects. By the end of 2022, we kick started the design of pilot projects and prepared ourselves to initiate crypto fundraising activities in 2023.

Exploring applications of robotics in the humanitarian space

AHEAD

WFP partnered with the German Aerospace Center (DLR) in 2019, to research and develop technology to enable remote operation of All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) for last-mile delivery of supplies in complex scenarios. DLR's extensive experience in the research and design of tele-operated vehicles for space exploration was crucial to this collaboration. The goal of the partnership was to investigate, research and develop remote-operated robotic transport - in the form of ATVs - and to subsequently demonstrate that these assets could be used to deliver assistance in challenging scenarios (both by WFP and other humanitarian organizations). The overall project includes the design, development, and testing of equipment that can be installed on standard ATVs to enable their remote operation. The ultimate goal for WFP is to incorporate ATVs and their powerful technology into its emergency programs across the globe (where applicable). (For more information, see AHEAD in the spotlight section)

Innovative Finance

Mukakarisa taking care of livestock in the cooperative farm. © WFP/Irihose Mugiraneza Benjamin

Designing and developing impact focused funding mechanisms is one of the Innovation Accelerator's core concepts.

The urgency to work on innovative finance is clear to us: grant funding in the coming years will not be enough to reach the SDGs by 2030. New forms of sustainable financing, pooling capital from public donors, philanthropies, development banks, and impact investors are crucial to closing the funding gap and achieving social impact at scale.

The Innovation Accelerator intensified the Innovative Financing activities launching the Innovative Finance and Venture Launchpad portfolio, with the objective to act as an enabler for WFP, mobilise additional resources for programmatic interventions and to foster financial inclusion for the people we serve.

Two pioneering mechanism are SheCan, a Blended Finance platform that promotes women's economic empowerment, and WFP Innovation Bridge, a catalytic financing facility that provides recoverable grants and concessional loans and guarantees, to early stage innovations in close partnership with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

WFP leverages strong collaborations internally with other Innovative Financing teams across WFP and with leading external stakeholders across the humanitarian sector and impact investment ecosystem to deliver impact at scale.

Key Highlights:

- SheCan was launched in Zambia, Rwanda and Peru, where it positively reached more than 10,000 people
- WFP Innovation Bridge was designed in partnership with UNCDF

SheCan

SheCan is a blended financing initiative aiming to drive economic empowerment for women through financial inclusion. The platform combines crowdfunded capital from individual impact lenders alongside WFP's donor funds to enable Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) to have access to affordable capital, reduce transactional risk and reap operational efficiency gains. Moreover, SheCan provides digital and financial literacy training to the target stakeholders, notably smallholder farmers and micro-entrepreneurs, and connects them to robust agricultural markets and practices.

SheCan therefore aims to incentivize MFIs to increase access to affordable and ethical financing to smallholder farmers and micro-entrepreneurs. Ultimately, the platform's objective is to make financial inclusion and gender transformative programmes more sustainable.

In 2022, SheCan launched its field operations in Zambia, Rwanda, and Peru, serving 2,026 small farmers and micro-entrepreneurs and positively reaching 10,116 people in total. In 2023, SheCan aims to positively reach over 100,000 individuals. The SheCan team is actively working with two WFP country offices in Malawi and Nigeria, which plan to launch the initiative in 2023, and has received interest from other WFP country offices, demonstrating the initiative's potential for growth and impact.

"By working with a financial institution, I was able to increase my harvest, which enabled me to earn enough money to finance education for my children up to the university, pay for the supply of water in my house and bring in electricity for kids to study well at home."

Brandine Mukakarisa, farmer in southern Rwanda

On 1 July 2022, UNCDF and WFP signed a Partnership Agreement joining forces to drive action against hunger.

Preeti Sinha, Executive Secretary, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF); and David Kaatrud, WFP Programme Director, Humanitarian and Development Division.

© WFP/Irihose Mugiraneza Benjamin

WFP Innovation Bridge

Scaling innovative impact models disrupting hunger requires a solid continuum of support and investment. The WFP Innovation Accelerator is establishing a range of additional funding mechanisms that support innovators through the various stages of their scale. The WFP Innovation Bridge is a catalytic financing facility that provides recoverable grants and concessional loans and guarantees, in close partnership with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

Work on the WFP Innovation Bridge progressed rapidly in the second half of 2022. The facility is expected to be launched in early 2023, with the first investments shortly thereafter. Four to seven venture philanthropy investments into innovative businesses, which contribute to the mandate of WFP, are expected via WFP Innovation Bridge in 2023.

The Accelerator's Innovative Finance team actively collaborated with WFP headquarters and other units on the establishment of WFP Innovation Bridge and will share the lessons learned from the creation of the Facility with teams across WFP. Moreover, the Innovative Finance team at the WFP Innovation Accelerator will support other country offices to leverage the same mechanism to multiply its potential reach.

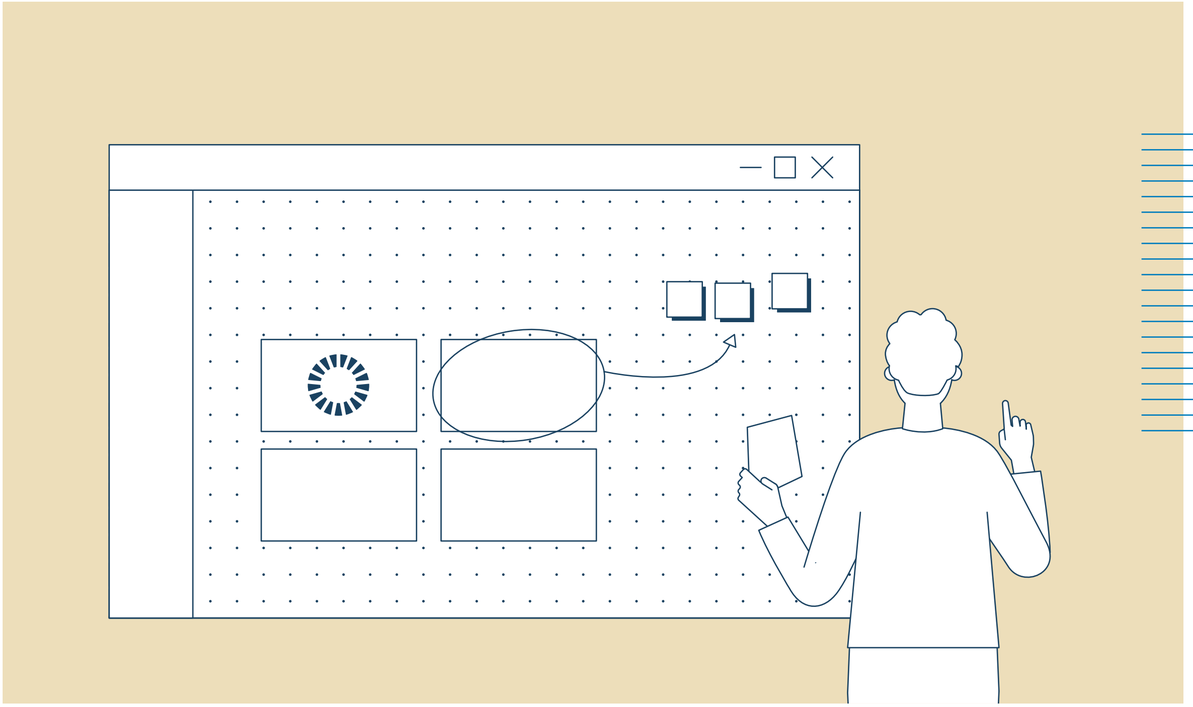
"This partnership comes at a critical time. The world is facing a global hunger crisis of unprecedented proportions in 2022. Either we rise to the challenge of meeting immediate needs at scale while at the same time, supporting programmes that build long-term resilience at scale, or we will face even greater challenges down the line. The partnership will support WFP's mandate to save lives and change lives by leveraging new financing mechanisms." WFP Programme Director, Humanitarian and Development Division, David Kaatrud

04

Conclusion

© WFP/Gulia Rakhimova

Lessons learned



Pivots, failures and change are an inherent part of the innovation process.

Lessons learned and reflections from responding to these challenges give ground for growth, foster novel ways of thinking and spur further innovation.

We share some critical lessons learned across our activities and projects, from designing innovation programmes, scaling effectively, and fostering thriving partnerships, to building frontier innovations and sustainable financing models—while placing people at the forefront of these efforts.

Design. Fail. Iterate. Repeat. Scale.

01 Staying anchored to your core identity

Define your core focus to guide your decision-making. In the innovation sphere, many new parts can come into play as you design your activities, portfolio, and other elements you want to include as part of your start-up. Start-ups and innovators often face the temptation to spread themselves thin and say yes to all proposed ideas and experiments. Yet, to generate consistent result, you need to create depth. That means saying no to elements that can be distractions or "nice-to-haves" that will otherwise reduce the focus on your start-ups "must-have" elements. In 2022, the WFP Innovation Accelerator defined three North Stars to guide our work and strategy through 2025: reach 100 million people, raise USD 80 million annually, and launch three flagship innovations annually. *Focus provides clarity on where your priorities lie and what activities bring the most value to your stakeholders — most importantly the people you assist — guiding your decisions on when to say no.*

02 Designing tailored financing models

Increase funding for highly impactful innovations to help reach their potential. Shortfalls in funding and gaps between funding cycles can hinder the progress of innovations and ventures' operational sustainability. By awarding larger grant sizes and acting as enablers to attract co-funding, we promote venture sustainability and facilitate rapid scale. In 2022, we increased resources and the speed of funding for select pilots under the WFP Sprint Programme (for example, plugPAY, Annapurti), which yielded tangible results for the year and projected results for 2023. After assessing the performance of our innovation portfolio projects over the last few years, we decided to fund fewer projects and invest more in specific projects with long-term potential. *This learning shows that by enabling stable funding for high-potential start-ups and innovations that best align with your objectives, you can create desired change at scale. Prioritizing projects based on their potential impact is essential when resources are limited.*

For innovative finance to reach its full potential, engage diverse stakeholders. Our collaboration with WFP's internal teams helps ensure innovative finance initiatives adhere to organizational policies and programmatic priorities. Understanding existing mandates and systems has also been critical to leveraging partnerships with other United Nations agencies. In 2022, WFP entered into a partnership with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) to support WFP's mandate to end world hunger while leveraging UNCDF's unique capital mandate and systems. In 2023, a new innovative finance mechanism, WFP Innovation Bridge, will launch to stimulate additional private-sector capital for innovation projects. Our work shows that innovation can succeed where there is no precedence. *This is true as long as the innovation clearly contributes to your organization's mission and if you take the relevant stakeholders on the innovation journey from the start. For that, it is important to identify and map the areas where innovation is needed - the 'grey zones' of no precedence that we are aiming to define along the journey - and the desired outcomes at the end of the journey. The critical task of the innovator is to actively listen to valuable suggestions and concerns raised, navigate the process and steer key stakeholders, who often bring new viewpoints and new ideas to the table.*

Learn how our work in innovative finance enables us to unlock investment in frontier markets

03 Data-driven programme design to maximize our reach

Gather detailed feedback as you design and enhance your innovation programmes. All of our innovation projects follow the human-centered design approach, which considers end-user feedback and needs at the local context at every step. For example, we learned that engaging in mixed-cohort bootcamps (in terms of maturity and size of the innovation teams and ventures) benefits the ventures, allowing them to learn from each other and create broader networks. A common problem for innovators in mixed cohorts is that standardized innovation content and exercises will not be relevant to all teams at all stages. *To maximize the outcomes of the programme, our design team created flexible curricula for mixed cohorts that allow innovation teams to choose specific areas of focus and exercises that fit their topic and maturity. This approach was tested in our most recent innovation bootcamp and received highly positive feedback from innovators.*

Use data to make informed decisions. Setting up a more extensive Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework allowed us to make more data-driven decisions about the ventures we source and the design of our SDGx Acceleration programmes. The data collected served as a valuable reference point to measure the outputs and outcomes of our programmes. It helped us understand which programme features can be enhanced; for example, we developed more flexible curricula to allow innovators of different experience levels to benefit equally from our programmes. *While MEL frameworks require dedicated expertise, resources and time to implement, they are essential to innovation programmes that will enable agile and informed decision-making as you test and optimize your solutions.*

04 Setting innovation projects for scale

Cultivate in-country relationships and align your activities with organizational priorities to gain buy-in. Implementation and long-term sustainability of innovation projects depend on cross-organizational relationships. By collaborating with key stakeholders such as WFP units and tapping into the expertise of WFP country offices, we conducted thorough research on the organization's strategic plans and roadmaps that informed our work in 2022. This data-driven and collaborative way of working helped us identify organizational needs for innovation and obtain the required buy-in for innovation projects. *Nurturing and maintaining active contact with WFP country offices and knowing their priorities is critical for us to have an ongoing funnel of operations where we can introduce innovation teams and support other innovation activities. The unique value proposition that we provide to external start-ups and companies is access to WFP's operations. As one of the largest humanitarian organizations active in more than 120 countries, WFP's presence can allow for the exponential scaling of innovative solutions. As a corporate innovation function, it is important that you define what is your unique value proposition and dedicate time and resources to preserving and strengthening it.*

Prioritize and segment projects in your portfolio. We aligned our Scale-Up Enablement portfolio with key WFP programmes strategic focus areas, such as Climate Adaptation, Gender, Financial Inclusion and prioritized innovations using criteria including scale potential, difference made, return on investment, and risk management. As a result, the portfolio of projects are segmented into three distinct groups: *Invest* (prioritize strategic business development support), *Manage* (prioritize project management support), or *Graduate* (for projects that have reached their potential within the programme). *With this approach, you can identify innovation projects requiring a more strategic level of support to reach impact at scale, whilst continuing to support projects already on this path until they graduate.*

Tailor services offered to innovation projects, and excel in those areas. Scaling projects successfully requires topic expertise and considerable effort. Given that our venture and start-up portfolio is very diverse and technical needs go along with it, we decided to concentrate our resources on a spectrum of services we excel in, such as business modeling, business growth, and market access. Activities outside of the scope of our focus are redirected to the mentor network and other support structures within or outside WFP. *Intent and focus need to be the driver in the design of your scale-up enablement team and in the support that you provide to scaling innovations.*

05 Harnessing emerging technologies

Employ lean start-up methodology. We need to strike the right balance between the desire to innovate and the need to abide by internal policies and procedures, especially when it comes to frontier technologies such as blockchain. *Gathering palpable and quantitative evidence through small-scale pilots conducted in controlled environments or sandboxes in collaboration with WFP country offices is an essential step in the innovation process. This enables identifying truly tangible solutions with comparably smaller funds while ensuring that innovation is implemented responsibly and safely.*

Projects powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) may take longer to mature. The development cycle for AI projects is complex and involves various stages, including problem discovery, data collection, purification, modeling, evaluation, deployment, and production. Data availability remains a challenge for many AI projects, particularly in the countries where we work. For example, due to the lack of access to satellite imagery, we needed to spend extra time acquiring drone photographs for SKAI, an AI project which assesses damage by comparing pictures before and after disasters. To address this challenge, we aim to standardize data collection for different AI use cases and to establish more collaborations with satellite imagery providers. *A deep understanding of the frontier technology you are leveraging enables you to design realistic timelines and take into account technical elements that need to be prioritized.*

06 Engaging the ecosystem

Communicate your value proposition transparently. We have found that it is important to clarify what your programmes offer and how to create the most value for start-ups and innovators participating in them. We are organizing and standardizing our efforts and building more communal elements to ensure the offering is easy to access for other organizations, companies, NGOs, and individuals eager to contribute to our mission. *Start-ups by design have limited time and need to focus. To positively contribute to the innovation ecosystem, we believe in transparent communication about potential funding opportunities and what is included (and what is not) in our programmes, so that ventures and start-ups can make an educated choice if they should apply to our programmes. By making the information and knowledge about your work and value proposition easily accessible, you can create new opportunities and help members in your ecosystem feel a mutual benefit.*

Work with organizations outside of the humanitarian and development sector to bring specialized expertise and resources. Leveraging partnerships that can provide expertise not only from a humanitarian and development perspective but also from an operational and technological perspective has proven crucial for frontier projects that use emerging technologies such as blockchain, artificial intelligence, and robotics. For example, WFP's collaboration with the German Aerospace Center (DLR) provided innovative technology and resources to the project AHEAD, which prepares all-terrain vehicles for remote operation on routes that pose the highest risk to human drivers. *In such collaborations and partnerships, it is important to define clearly what success looks like, what are the expected roles of each entity, and what are the expected results.*

07 Unlocking potential through mentorship

Define your mentor model. In 2022, we updated our mentor support framework for our innovation programmes and project portfolios. We saw a growing demand from individuals and companies (through their employees) to provide mentorship time. For our innovation teams, the benefit of mentorship is having access to best-in-class expertise; for companies, donating time to mentorship gives employees a sense of contribution to an impactful cause. Diversity and inclusion also matter in mentorship, and we factor that into our mentor pool. *Our experience shows that the matching process of innovation teams and mentors is quite time-intensive. In addition, we decided to steer away from one-off short mentoring sessions (30-60 minute sessions) with several mentors to replace it with a model where the same mentor meets multiple times with the same team. Even though we use a smaller pool of mentors, this design ensures that the ultimate contribution of each mentor to their innovation team is more significant.*

Foster relationships with mentors. We collect feedback from mentors to improve our mentorship programmes. This enabled us to make valuable connections between mentors and venture project teams. *We learned that we could improve our matching and briefing processes by collecting clear needs and problem statements in advance. As we engaged more mentors, especially through our partners, we realized the importance of regular communication with a partner focal point, who is nominated to coordinate the needs and interests of the mentors.*

Gather input from innovation teams to enhance learning resources. Our new "Expert Series" pilot, a series of masterclasses and workshops delivered by experts, revealed important learnings about offering capacity-building opportunities for innovators. The needs assessment conducted with the innovation teams indicated that "Impact Measurement" and "Co-Creation with Communities" were priority topics to cover in learning sessions. Additionally, testing alternative formats such as a 90-minute workshop format as well as one-on-one sessions with several teams allowed us to learn more about teams' preferences and assess the value-add. *Gathering participant feedback is critical to improve innovation programmes — in this case, the teams considered the Expert Series topics as "very useful" for the project implementation and expressed their preference for the one-on-one session format as well.*

08 Providing value efficiently

Dedicate time to back-end processes to boost efficiency in the future. Since its inception, the WFP Innovation Accelerator has designed its innovation programmes to host external start-ups. Initially, funds for start-ups and companies were disbursed through the WFP procurement process. In 2021, we piloted a grant management system, the first in the United Nations system, to dispense such funding and fully rolled it out in 2022. This new process cut the time it takes to onboard new ventures from nine months to less than two months; it includes a thorough review, operational and financial due diligence, and an approval process. *For corporate innovation functions, this new grant system shows that, in some cases, you can rely on existing processes as an interim solution. If you aim to scale the same activity (in this case, funding of external innovation teams) you need to take the time with relevant internal stakeholders, such as finance and legal units, to establish a new process and the tailored documentation required for this activity. In the long-run, these efforts maximize effectiveness and efficiency.*

Strengthen the organization's internal innovation ecosystem. After years of working with colleagues in WFP Innovation Hubs and Units at the regional and country levels, it became evident that finding a common voice and operational model for innovation across WFP was essential. "One Voice for WFP Innovation" was developed to unite innovation teams across the organization and prioritize collaboration on innovation strategy, knowledge management, project management, internal innovation culture and other critical areas. An important step to move this joint effort successfully was the full involvement of all parties to speak openly, share insights and contribute inputs and this approach will continue to feed this work in 2023. *The expansion of WFP's Innovation Units and Hubs started organically in 2015. While each Hub designed itself to respond to the local landscape, we learned that to create a powerful innovation culture, leverage opportunities globally, cross-learn and amplify our reach. Dedicated resources and an operating rhythm (such as a convening team, regular meetings, simple sharing protocols, open communication) must be in place to enable the most out of the network.*

Learn how to foster innovation in your organization with these 5 tips from WFP's experience

09 Putting people at the heart of your design

Use the human-centered design methodology as the foundational framework to guide the collaboration in multi-partner programmes. Human-centered design combines a clear process, tools, and mindsets that can provide clarity around how to collaborate across organizations, and the different roles and ways that partners can contribute to the innovation process. For example, the INITIATE2 project is a multi-stakeholder project with WFP, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) and other partners, where the current focus is to design an innovative hospital structure for containing ebola outbreaks. The WFP Innovation Accelerator has used human-centered design to guide this collaboration between partners who are working together for the first time, and we have led the collaboration through rounds of research, prototyping and testing of this infectious disease treatment module structure.

The human-centered design methodology has provided a process, language and practical ways for each partner to contribute to the design of the structure, allowing them to work together in a novel way, leveraging each other's strengths. The end result is an exciting new product that will be validated through feedback from medical experts and communities, in line with the human-centered design process.

Creating a sustainable impact requires a clear vision and an unwavering focus on your mission. Start-ups, entrepreneurs and organizations working for social impact face significant challenges, from limited funding to barriers to scale and impact measurement. Our goal is to turn these challenges into opportunities to drive positive change. As a corporate venture arm and innovation team of a large organization, we believe these lessons learned can be useful for any public or private sector innovation team and other organizations.

Quotes from our Partners

"Innovation can make a crucial difference in the fight against hunger. We continue supporting WFP Innovation Accelerator to bring anticipatory, sustainable, and inclusive solutions to scale. I am proud that the Foreign Office is co-funding the WFP Innovation Accelerator."

SUSANNE FRIES-GAIER
Humanitarian Director, German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)

"Innovations can create impact at scale, to fight hunger and empower people to better adapt to the climate crisis. The WFP Innovation Accelerator offers innovative and realistic solutions to disrupt hunger."

JOACHIM BLEICKER
Ambassador, Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the UN Organizations in Rome

"As humanitarian needs are desperately growing, humanitarian actors need to find innovative solutions to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their actions on the field. That is why France is proud to support the WFP Innovation Accelerator. Its role is crucial to pilot new instruments and scale-up promising innovations to respond to the operations challenges faced by WFP and the wider humanitarian community."

CÉLINE JURGENSEN
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations in Rome

"At the Innovation Accelerator, tech for good innovations are already supporting and helping those in need in some very creative ways. I was blown away by the creativity in problem solving and thoughtfulness to address decarbonization as well as hunger. The Innovation Accelerator has created more than innovations that help the most vulnerable; they have created a network of amazing humans working together to do bigger and better together to help others. If you can help by investing, please support some of their initiatives."

SANDRA RO
CEO of the Global Blockchain Business Council

"At the Google for Startups Accelerator, we are proud to be collaborating with the World Food Programme Innovation Accelerator. We're blown away by the constant innovation coming from startups that tackle global challenges in our programmes. Accelerating climate action, which is an impactful step in addressing world hunger, is a shared responsibility for everyone, so we aim to foster a thriving ecosystem for startups working in this area, providing our global scale, as well as our tech and product expertise. Their impact is inspiring and we're pleased that together we can support them on their mission."

NOA HAVAZELET
Head of Google For Startups Accelerator Europe

"Ending global hunger requires new partnerships and innovative approaches. USAID applauds the WFP Innovation Accelerator's work to crowd in private sources of financing that will help to sustainably scale critical solutions to food insecurity. USAID is proud of its partnership with the WFP Innovation Accelerator and looks forward to supporting further creative ideas in the march towards Zero Hunger."

MARGARET SCHMITZ
Division Chief, Private Sector Engagement, Diaspora and Innovation at USAID - Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance

"Investment in innovation and technology has transformed our work across WFP operations, helping us solve real world problems in difficult situations, ultimately reaching more people in need. From cash-based transfers to blockchain, to data-empowered decision making, innovation is essential for upping the value of technology in humanitarianism. The Innovation Accelerator and WFP Technology Division are partners in enabling our organization to respond faster and better to the world's biggest challenges."

JAY MAHANAND
Chief Information Officer and Director of the Technology Division, World Food Programme

M&E ANNEX I

Overarching Goals

WORK AREA	INDICATOR	2021 RESULTS	2022 RESULTS
Through innovation, enable WFP and the larger humanitarian and development community to effectively and efficiently accelerate impact towards the achievement of the SDG Agenda 2030.	Number of people reached through projects	**9 million** people reached	**37 million** people reached (22.5 million people reached by active projects; 14.5 million people reached by alumni projects) Out of 37 million people reached, 21.2 million people were reached by internal projects, 15.8 million people were reached by external projects *The number of people reached is calculated following WFP guidance note on tier 1, tier 2 and tier 3 beneficiaries. Tier 3 beneficiaries are not counted in the final number
	Number of country offices, WFP units or other organizations taking on/adopting projects	**67 countries and territories** where projects were active in 2021	**88 countries and territories** where projects were active in 2022
	Cofunding: external funding secured by the projects since the inception (benchmarked by funding secured through direct contributions to the Innovation Accelerator)	**USD 180 million**	**USD 200 million**

M&E ANNEX I

Innovative Finance & Frontier Innovation

WORK AREA	INDICATOR	2021 RESULTS	2022 RESULTS
Through innovation, enable WFP and the larger humanitarian and development community to effectively and efficiently accelerate impact towards the achievement of the SDG Agenda 2030.	Number of countries where the frontier innovation portfolio is in operation.	**6 countries** (Ethiopia, Fiji, Kenya, Lebanon, Mozambique,Tanzania)	**10 countries** (Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Yemen, Zimbabwe)
	Number of frontier projects testing ambitious innovation agenda with learnings fed into refining the sourcing and design processes.	**7 projects** (AHEAD, Atrium, Blocks for Transport, SKAI, Smallholder Farmer Procurement platform, Voice-to-text, WFPx)	**11 projects** (SKAI, GDAI, agriBORA - Hatua, IBISA - Formentera, RAMANI - CHEETAH, OxEO - Novel Hydrological Drought Index, Voice-to-text, FamPred, SoilWatch - SoILPRO, AHEAD, Blockchain to Save and Change Lives Call For Applications)
	Number of countries and territories where the innovative finance portfolio is in operation.	-	**4 countries** (Rwanda, Zambia, Peru, Malawi)
	Number of new innovative Finance mechanisms designed	-	**2** (WFP Bridge, SheCan)

M&E ANNEX I

Innovation Sourcing, Programmes and Sprints

WORK AREA	INDICATOR	2021 RESULTS	2022 RESULTS
Identify transformational innovations within and outside of WF	Number of formal innovation sourcing challenges conducted	**3** Innovation Challenges	**3** Innovation Challenges
High impact innovations identified	Number of applications received, disaggregated by sourcing channel: a) internal b) external c) other	**76** internal; **1,291** external;	**51** internal; **2,486** external
	Total number of “quality” applications disaggregated by those that receive: a) selected for bootcamp b) funding and active technical support	**24** teams selected for bootcamp; **18** teams receiving funding and support;	**21** teams selected for bootcamp; **31** teams receiving funding and support;
	Number of projects entering a subsequent sprint phase	**5** projects entering a subsequent sprint phase; **1** project entering directly to Sprin	**5** projects entering a subsequent sprint phase; **1** project entering directly to Sprint
	Number of projects that go into scale-up	**1**	**1**
	Total number of projects receiving funding or support	**40** projects receiving funding and project management support	**31** projects receiving funding and project management support

M&E ANNEX I

Scale-up Enablement

WORK AREA	INDICATOR	2021 RESULTS	2022 RESULTS
Support and consolidate the next breakthrough and most impactful innovations towards their path to scale.	Number of projects/innovation products/teams supported through co-design and adoption of the “path to scale” plan.	**12** path to scale plans	**12** path to scale plans
	Number of projects that are transferred to sustainable structures	**4** projects (Cloud to Street, Empact, Prism, STM)	**3 projects** (SMP Plus, Logie, Prism)
	% Scale-Up Projects receiving 1 million or more	**3 projects**	**5 projects**

M&E ANNEX I

SDG Acceleration

WORK AREA	INDICATOR	2021 RESULTS	2022 RESULTS
Support and consolidate the next breakthrough and most impactful innovations towards their path to scale.	Number of programmes or workshops conducted for external partners.	**6 programmes; 2 workshops**	**9 programmes**
	Total number of projects obtaining Sprint support (funding or support)	**132 projects** (Venture:67; Concept:10; Proof of Concept:24; Transition to Scale: 31)	**58 innovations**, including 16 ventures in programmes that SDGx ran end to end, of which three were selected for a sprint programme and received WFP funding. The additional 20 ventures, 20 United Nations intrapreneurial teams, and two special innovation projects were supported in collaboration with our partners

M&E ANNEX I

Knowledge Sharing and Community Building

WORK AREA	INDICATOR	2021 RESULTS	2022 RESULTS
Inspire and inform WFP and the humanitarian community by sharing knowledge, lessons learned, and establishing an innovation community and necessary infrastructure in support of knowledge management.	Number of external Knowledge Management Products created	**112 external knowledge products** (41 Blogs; 18 Social Media Cards/Slideshows; 5 Videos; 39 Web pages; 7 Toolkits/Guidelines; 1 Twitter Space; 1 Webinar)	**116 knowledge products**, including blog posts, educational videos, case studies, factsheets, guidelines, webpages and social media cards
Build collaborative networks and partnerships that support the Accelerator **Explore potentially transformative innovations that can be leveraged to achieve Zero Hunger**	Accelerator coverage indicated through: a) media mentions b) digital reach on topics in relation to innovation trends, disruptive technology, humanitarian sector application etc	**2,460 media mentions** with a digital reach of 1,033,253. 1,715,523 social media impressions delivered; 13,690 views accrued for blog stories on Medium.	**3,346 media mentions** with Over 1.8 million social media impressions

Year in Review

innovation.wfp.org | global.innovation@wfp.org | #disrupthunger

2022

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