

Frequently asked questions

Technology-powered solutions to ensure **zero hunger** for all in Africa



Frequently Asked Questions

Who are we?

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

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

Our calls for applications are an opportunity for us to source the most promising and daring solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), from startups across the world.

What is the Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa (KAAIA 2.0)

The Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa aims to support high-impact solutions and agricultural entrepreneurs addressing resource efficiency when farming in LMICs. The programme will select early-stage ventures and solution providers who will receive financial, technical, and methodological support from the WFP Innovation Accelerator and its partners. With the collaboration of talented individuals globally, we will be able to drive climate resilience, protect natural resources, and improve food security, income and employment in Africa.

Why should I apply?

By submitting your solution, you may be selected to attend a WFP Innovation Bootcamp, which will provide resources and guidance for your solution to expand its impact. Dates

for the bootcamp vary from one programme to the other, please check the programme's site to confirm dates. In addition, your solution may be considered for a WFP Sprint Programme, with equity-free funding, and access to our support and insight.

What is the WFP Innovation Bootcamp?

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

However, participation in Bootcamp does not guarantee any individual or team a place in the WFP Sprint Programme. To be eligible for the WFP Sprint Programme, all teams must submit a separate application, after completing the Bootcamp. For the Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa, we will select up to 9 teams to enter the Bootcamp.

What is the WFP Sprint Programme?

Our Sprint Programme is an intensive 9 to 12-month acceleration programme that helps projects and start-ups reach proof of concept, develop prototypes ready for implementation and/or scale. Innovations in this programme will receive guidance and space to bring their idea to life from the WFP Innovation Accelerator, and access to WFP's global network of partners and resources.

3 teams shall be selected and also receive up to EUR250,000 per team.

Am I eligible to participate? Who can submit applications?

We welcome applications from for-profit registered legal ventures incorporated in Africa that fulfill the programme's [eligibility criteria](#).

Do I need to have a team?

Yes, your project should have a dedicated team that will manage its overall execution if your application to the WFP Sprint Programme is successful. Please refer to the programme's site for the full eligibility criteria.

What types of innovations do we support?

The Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa supports innovations that are at an early stage and building value for social impact. Innovations should be able to demonstrate that they:

- Are at least at a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) stage.
- Have conducted pilot(s) or already established feasibility.
- Have a product or service with a verified potential of commercial value and impact.

These solutions should be focused on one or more of the following priority topics:

- Inclusion of Marginalised Groups in Food Security
- Enhanced Nutrition for women (pregnant and lactating)
- Circular solutions and reduction of post-harvest losses

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

What are the selection criteria?

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

How will the winners be selected?

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

What will we not fund?

- Proposals not demonstrating clear innovation; innovative ideas that repeat conventional approaches without novel application.
- Proposals for which proof of concept cannot be demonstrated, even at a small scale (from an operational perspective)
- Proposals for which impact is not quantified and proved.
- Proposals that do not clearly consider the current context of available financial systems and infrastructure in relevant geographies.

How do I submit my application?

To submit your solution, visit our [programme website](#) and fill out the [application form](#).

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

Will my idea be published?

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

Can I apply more than once?

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

What is the closing date?

KAAIA 2.0 is accepting applications until **8 February 2024 at 11:59PM (CET)**.

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

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

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

About the WFP Innovation Accelerator

The WFP Innovation Accelerator was launched by the UN World Food Programme in 2015 to source new ideas, sprint pilot projects, and scale high-impact innovations by connecting them with WFP's global network of more than 23,000 staff and field operations in over 120 countries and territories. From its base in Munich, Germany, the WFP Innovation Accelerator has grown to become one of the world's leading social impact startup accelerators. Each year, it offers 15 programmes addressing a wide range of social impact and sustainability issues, including climate change, primary healthcare, gender equality, and emergency response. In 2022 alone, its portfolio of over 150 innovations reached 37 million people worldwide, with a 2X growth rate every year since its launch, and secured over \$200 million in grants

Find out more about us at innovation.wfp.org. Subscribe to our [e-newsletter](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#), and watch our videos on [YouTube](#).