

Stability-and-Peace Accelerator

Building resilience through innovation.

Apply by 16 February 2024, 11:59 pm (CET)

Powered by: **IWMI** International Water Management Institute

An Acceleration Programme by:



INNOVATION ACCELERATOR



INITIATIVE ON Fragility, Conflict, and Migration



Frequently Asked Questions

Start-Ups and Companies

The global challenge of hunger and malnutrition is felt most acutely in fragile and conflict-affected settings (FCAs), where over 1.5 billion people face unprecedented threats to food security and livelihoods. The World Food Programme (WFP) Innovation Accelerator, in partnership with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), is launching the "[Stability-and-Peace Accelerator Programme](#)" to seek and scale high-impact innovations that bolster food, land, and water systems (FLWS) in these vulnerable regions.

We are calling on innovators, entrepreneurs and changemakers to come forward with groundbreaking solutions that can drive resilience, ensure food and nutrition security, enhance climate adaptability and promote social cohesion and sustainability among communities battered by conflict and fragility.

The WFP Innovation Accelerator and CGIAR will support selected teams through a comprehensive programme designed to accelerate the development of promising solutions and prepare them for scaling. This includes financial, technical and business support, enhancing the innovation's potential for success and growth. Our focus is on sourcing and nurturing solutions that are not only innovative but also sustainable and scalable, with the potential to create lasting positive change in some of the world's most challenging environments.

We encourage startups and nonprofit innovators to submit their innovative solutions that help end hunger, reinforce communities against unexpected disruptions, ensure consistent access to nutritious food, foster inclusive economic opportunities, engage youth and enhance the resilience of food systems amidst the challenges of climate change.

What's in it for me?

- Fully funded 5-day immersive in-country bootcamp
- 6-month Sprint acceleration program combining business-oriented training, mentoring, and technical assistance
- Networking and technical assistance from CGIAR, the world's largest network of scientists.
- US\$30,000 equity-free grant for each of the winning innovations with a proven sustainable business model and scaling plan
- Exposure to national and international funders
- Post-acceleration support

What is the Innovation Bootcamp?

The Innovation Bootcamps help selected teams dive into challenges, ideate solutions, and refine project plans over 5 days. Bootcamps introduce participants to innovation techniques such as human-centered design and the lean start-up method to create viable business models and solutions.

What is the Sprint Acceleration Programme?

Our Sprint Programme is an intensive 6-month acceleration programme that helps projects and start-ups get ready for scale. Projects in this programme will receive guidance and space to bring their idea to life with the support of both CGIAR and the WFP Innovation Accelerator.

Winning teams will also receive US\$ 30,000 of equity-free funding.

Am I eligible to participate?

Yes! Anyone from a startup or an NGO who has a presence or is willing to be present in one of the 4 mentioned countries (Jordan, Kenya, Nigeria, or Yemen) is eligible to submit ideas.

Do I need to have a team?

Yes, your project should have a dedicated team that will manage its overall execution. If your application is successful, you will also be assigned a part-time project manager from the WFP Accelerator to assist with the management and implementation of the project alongside technical and scientific support from CGIAR.

What do I need to apply?

Your startup or NGO must be incorporated or recognized as a legal entity, and operating as a non-profit or for profit, at the time of application.

What are the types of innovations that you support?

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

What are the selection criteria?

- Level of innovation/innovativeness: The solution is novel, innovative, and has a strong social impact regarding the mentioned themes.
- Relevance to the context: The solution addresses at least one of the priority areas, suitable to at least one of the 4 country contexts, and provides concrete solutions to end-users/target beneficiaries.
- Sustainability and scalability of the solution: The solution presents a clear business model and sustainable revenue model.
- Quality of the team: Proven competence, technical coherence, commitment, motivation, entrepreneurial mindset, diverse and inclusive team.
- Clearly defined needs: The solution has an area of expansion or improvement, which can be saturated through venture and capacity building as well as research and development.

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 both WFP Innovation Accelerator & CGIAR, with the support of an Innovation Advisory Board consisting of WFP & CGIAR experts.

What will we not fund?

- Proposals not presenting clear innovation; innovative ideas that repeat conventional approaches without novel application.
- Proposals that are purely focused on food production. Traditional farms, even if they can have a strong impact on the local systems
- 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 consider the current context, do not meet the specific needs mentioned in the call for applications, and are not present or willing to be present in one of the 4 mentioned countries.

How do I submit my application?

To submit your solution, visit our [Application Page](#) 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 45 min.

Will my idea be published?

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

Can I apply more than once?

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

What is the closing date?

The Innovation Challenge is accepting applications between **29 January** and **16 February 2024 at 11:59 pm (CET)**.

Can I apply after 16 February 2024?

No, the application portal will be closed.

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

Kindly note that the selection of the winners is based on a competitive process, including in-depth reviews made against a set of criteria (detailed above). We place priority on proposals that are deemed to have high potential in the fight against hunger—regardless of their origin. While we value all applications we are only able to contact shortlisted applicants.

It's time. #DisruptHunger with us!

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

About CGIAR & the WFP Innovation Accelerator

CGIAR dedicates itself to transforming food, land and water systems amidst the climate crisis. With a network of global partners, CGIAR innovates in areas like climate action, environmental health, gender equality and poverty reduction. Their research and solutions, developed in collaboration with farmers, universities, governments and global associations, are focused on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. CGIAR's strategic approach integrates advancements in science and technology to address pressing global challenges, ensuring lasting and positive impacts on vulnerable communities around the world. Their commitment to these goals is evident in their widespread, impactful work across multiple key impact areas.

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 staff and field operations in over 120 countries and territories. From its base in Munich, Germany, the Innovation Accelerator has grown to become one of the world's leading social impact startup accelerators. In 2023 the Innovation Accelerator is running 16 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. Since launch, that Innovation Accelerator has maintained a 2X annual growth rate, and secured over USD 200 million in grants. Learn more about us innovation.wfp.org.