



**INNOVATION
ACCELERATOR**

Year in Review

2023



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01

Introduction



Elevating Innovation

*Amidst the Global
Food Crisis in 2023*

“Innovation is embedded in WFP’s operational mindset and culture. We seize all opportunities that enable regional innovations driven by the communities, especially the youth we serve. The lasting impact of innovations gives us a sign of hope even in challenging times.”



Rania Dagash-Kamara,
*Assistant Executive Director Partnerships and
Innovation Department, World Food Programme*



“The situation in the world is critical and worsening by the day. Conflict, climate change and food and fuel inflation are combining to create a food crisis of unprecedented proportions. To overcome these challenges, we must stay ahead of the curve. We must continue investing in innovations and sustainable solutions that address hunger and the climate crisis, build resilience and find new ways to lower the humanitarian needs for the future.”



Cindy McCain
Executive Director, World Food Programme

Dear friends and supporters,

In 2023, amidst stretched donor resources and multiple humanitarian crises, WFP recognized the indispensable role of innovation and technology in making emergency response more efficient and effective while also ending hunger globally. In the words of the WFP Country Director of South Sudan, Ms. Mary-Ellen Mcgroarty: *“Investing in innovation to reduce humanitarian needs is an imperative to deliver on our commitments to the people we serve.”*

Many partners and supporters have stepped up their commitment towards innovations and new partnerships, investing in new technology and business solutions that will amplify their impact for efficiency and effectiveness, but also recognizing the transformative nature of innovations. The startups and innovators in the WFP Innovation Accelerator portfolio, WFP global and all WFP Innovation Accelerator staff, partners and supporters have achieved tremendous results creating positive impact for some of the most vulnerable people across the world. A special commendation goes to WFP's 23,000 staff worldwide, who have consistently spread the seed of hope in the face of adversity.

As we marked the eight-year milestone of the WFP Innovation Accelerator in 2023, I'm eager to share with you eight key inspirations and highlights from 2023 that truly capture the essence of some innovation highlights:

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Supporting Global Humanitarian Efforts : In 2023, the WFP Innovation Accelerator championed innovative solutions for humanitarian responses during crises. Amid the Haiti crisis, more than 200,000 people found themselves displaced across the country. The [Clean Cooking Haiti](#) innovation, implemented by the WFP Haiti country office with support from the WFP Innovation Accelerator, introduced Heat Retention Bags (HRBs) to affected communities in Haiti. These innovative bags use 70 percent less fuel for cooking and store food for as long as 12 hours, easing the impact of the crisis on people's daily lives. The Sudan conflict displaced 330,000 people, leaving them in need of protection and livelihoods. [EYouth](#), an interactive website with 1.6 million users, including 910,000 learners and 200,000 successful job matches, addresses these needs in the Middle East and North Africa region by enhancing skills and safeguarding livelihoods for young refugees and host communities. [The Humanitarian Innovation Accelerator](#) focuses on enhancing emergency management and service access through innovations in Artificial Intelligence (AI), data science, space technology, health tech, and logistics. Participants include Speetar, a telemedicine platform supporting post-conflict communities in Libya that has benefitted over 30,000 conflict-affected individuals in 2023, and Bleagle, which utilizes drones to identify poorly disposed waste.

02

Promoting Efficiency Gains: The pursuit of efficiency gains has been at the forefront of the WFP Innovation Accelerator's mission. In 2023, several innovations have contributed to

the goal of making humanitarian efforts within WFP faster, cheaper and more efficient. [Optimus](#), an alumni innovation that optimizes food basket design, sourcing and distribution, enables WFP operational teams to create tailored scenarios, factoring in operational constraints. Notably, Optimus has been used in 44 country offices, resulting in more than US\$50 million in savings to date, with further growth expected. [plugPAY](#), a digital payment solution, streamlines the often complex and time-consuming process of cash-based transfers assistance. PlugPay scaled up operations to 67,000 payments per month, dispersing more than US\$7 million.

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Driving Localized Initiatives for Climate and Food: Our commitment to localization materializes through transformative initiatives. Earthshot Prize-winning [Boomitra](#) pioneers remote soil monitoring, supporting regenerative land management globally. [S4S Technologies](#), another Earthshot Prize winner, empowers female farmers in India with solar dryers to transform waste agricultural produce into value-added products, facilitates market access and offers financial and quality assurance training. [Sustainable Fuel for Cooking](#) addresses deforestation and energy security by training over 800 women and youth and providing 5,600 individuals in South Sudan with water hyacinth briquettes. [Kitchen in a Box](#) (KIAB), offering secure and sustainable kitchen spaces for schools made from recycled containers, has been a notable collaboration between WFP and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in El Salvador

04

and has benefitted over 3,100 students so far. Additionally, the [Agricultural Innovation for Climate Resilience Programme](#) supports local solutions in sub-Saharan Africa, featuring EnergyAssured's solar-powered pumps in Nigeria, Mechro's water monitoring tool in Malawi and ANKA's green-energy access in Madagascar. These initiatives underscore our commitment to lasting, positive change in the communities we serve.

Employing Technology for Humanitarian Actions: In 2023, the WFP Innovation Accelerator led initiatives harnessing innovative technology to improve our humanitarian approach. **GeoTar** is a WFP innovation that improves targeting in humanitarian operations using Artificial Intelligence (AI). Demonstrating remarkable efficiency, GeoTar presents potential cost savings of up to US\$300,000 per country office. The [Rapid Response Connectivity Carrier](#), a tethered drone solution flying 24 hours a day, provides continuous internet access over a 3-square-kilometre area during natural disasters. [ShareTheMeal](#), WFP's fundraising app that allows people all over the world to provide children with vital nutrition through a simple tap of the phone, reached the 200 million meals milestone in November. In July, I also shared my insights in an [interview with CNN on AI](#).

05

Strengthening the Innovation Culture at WFP: In the past year, we continued the efforts to weave innovation into the very essence of WFP. This journey involved careful investments to nurture the growth of [Innovation Hubs and Units](#) globally, bolstering our knowledge base, and extending direct support to country offices. Through collaborative endeavors with several country offices, we offered tailored assistance by facilitating exchanges and workshops, incorporating innovation into their unique contexts and strategic planning. Within this initiative, Kenya country office's innovation unit emerged as a trailblazer, notably spearheading the expansion of [Meza](#), an AI solution utilizing Optical Character Recognition technology.

06

Catalyzing Innovation with Private Sector: In 2023, we proactively mobilized the private sector to become part of the innovation journey. This pursuit led to the formulation of the **WFP Innovative Finance Strategy for 2024-2025**, a roadmap designed to address the humanitarian funding gap and establish new mechanisms for resource mobilization towards WFP's programmatic activities. Together with the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the WFP Innovation Accelerator launched [WFP BRIDGE](#), a funding mechanism that aims to diversify the overall funding pool for businesses and forge new partnerships between WFP and public and private sector partners. For the first time, WFP can now facilitate the access to loans and guarantees through partnerships with UNCDF. In addition, [SheCan](#), a blended finance initiative, is dedicated to promoting gender-transformative financial inclusion of smallholder farmers and microentrepreneurs.

07

Forging Distinctive Collaboration: In the past year, we forged distinctive collaborations that expanded the horizons of our impact. We proudly joined the [Adaptation Fund](#) as an implementing partner for their **Climate Innovation Accelerator** small grants programme at COP28 this year, which was a significant milestone. With a grant of US\$10 million, the WFP Innovation Accelerator is now positioned to administer and aggregate small grants, amplifying innovation in climate adaptation globally. This year's acknowledgment and support from **Google.org** marks another noteworthy achievement, underscoring the success of collaboration between private and public entities. Building on a history of mentorship, Google.org heightened its commitment in 2023. With the successful acquisition of a US\$2.8 million grant, we co-initiated an accelerator programme that centers around innovation, leveraging technologies such as AI, machine learning, cloud computing and data analysis. In addition, the WFP Innovation Accelerator engaged in the inaugural **Moonshots for Development Innovation (M4D) Challenge** within the dynamic M4D community which comprises representatives from innovation arms within International Financial Institutions like the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank.

08

Reaching the next level to #disrupthunger in 2024:

As we set our sights on 2024, we are eager to continue our journey toward cultivating innovation across the entire organization through the implementation of the **WFP Innovation Strategy**. This aims to guide the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy across WFP to address the global food crisis and funding challenges by fostering innovation through four pillars: innovation agenda strategy, pathway for scaling high potential innovations, governance and innovation culture, and next level innovation partnerships and global ecosystems. Exciting initiatives such as the Innovation Strategy, generously funded by John Deere, the Adaptation Fund, the WFP Innovation Challenge, the second edition of the Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa and the Digital & Green Innovation Accelerator in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), will all be highlighted in 2024.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the innovators and startups collaborating with our WFP Innovation Accelerator team, alongside our global WFP colleagues, partners and supporters, for their unwavering dedication and creativity. Together, we steadfastly uphold our commitment to advancing innovation and shaping a resilient future for the most vulnerable individuals worldwide.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey of innovation, impact and hope. We look forward to further collaboration in 2024!

Sincerely,
Bernhard Kowatsch

Partners and Co-creators

With thanks to our partners, supporters, friends and WFP colleagues who believe in the transformative power of innovation, we have been able to reach a substantial number of people this year and add to the growth we have experienced in the last eight years.

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), and the Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism have all supported us from day one with an initial investment that continues to this day. Our partnership with USAID continued to grow into its fifth year, expanding our joint efforts to catalyse humanitarian and emergency response innovations. In 2023, we were delighted to build upon our relationships with France, Czechia and Norway who all continued their support across multiple years. Under a new strategic partnership agreement between Austria and WFP, and building on past support, we launched a key multi-year partnership for the Innovation Accelerator. We have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government of UAE and the Food Tech Valley, planting the seeds for future collaboration. We were excited to deepen our relationships with the European Commission, the Austrian Development Agency, Luxembourg, the World Health Organization, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) who all continued to support and expand our SDGx Acceleration programme this year.

In 2023 we took our private sector partnerships to the next level. We were delighted to welcome Google.org to our donor portfolio with their support of the Humanitarian Ventures Accelerator in collaboration with our long-time collaborators, Google for Startups. We were thrilled to kickstart our groundbreaking partnership with the

Citi Foundation. Our partnerships with the John Deere Foundation continued to support smallholder farmers and expanded and deepened beyond this to launch the development of the WFP Innovation Strategy. We also expanded multi-year partnerships with Netlight, who are combining digital expertise with venture building, and BASF Stiftung, who are supporting key scale-up innovations. Alongside this, we deepened our relationships with our private sector partnership division in WFP, ensuring even stronger collaboration for 2024 and beyond.

During the COP28 conference, we engaged with and announced three new partnerships related to climate innovation. We achieved a new milestone in securing a grant from the Adaptation Fund to run the Climate Adaptation Innovation Accelerator Programme (CAIAP). This programme, spanning five years, will support and scale climate adaptation innovations in different regions. We also launched our new partnership with CGIAR, who will work with the Accelerator on the Stability-and-Peace Acceleration programme. In addition, we nominated Boomitra and S4S Technologies - two of the WFP Innovation Accelerator's portfolio innovations - for the Earthshot Prize, and were happy to see them selected as winners out of more than 1,100 applicants.

Direct funding support to the WFP Innovation Accelerator from key private and public sector partners was US\$19.2 million. Meanwhile, partner investment to our innovations, either directly or indirectly (e.g., via co-funding), reached US\$95.7 million this year, bringing all-time global innovation support to more than US\$295 million since the launch of the WFP Innovation Accelerator in 2015. In 2023, 22 percent of our funding came from the private sector.

We helped to expand our reach, visibility and partner engagements through events, both in Munich and across the globe. Highlights included our Munich Security Conference pitch event where we were joined on stage by high-level officials, including the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN Organizations



DLR visits World Food Programme HQ in Rome | ©WFP



Nidhi Pant, Co-Founder, S4S Technologies at COP28. | © WFP/Jackie Negro

in Rome, a Member of the German Parliament and the CEO of the Global Blockchain Business Council. We also co-hosted a pitch event with the Greentech Festival in Berlin, where our innovators were joined by key partners and Nico Rosberg, the festival's co-founder and former Formula 1 World Champion. For the second year in a row, we had a strong presence at COP, with an official side event showcasing climate innovations and featuring a panel with key partners and supporters from EY, the Adaptation Fund, Google.org and the governments of the United Arab Emirates and Germany. Throughout 2023, the Accelerator received visits by key friends and partners to exchange ideas and explore avenues of further collaboration. Visitors included Bavarian State Ministries, Agence Française de Développement, Norway, GIZ, CERN, Google, Luxembourg, WFP USA, Technical University Munich, IFAD, WFP country directors and the WFP supply chain unit.

Another highlight generating strong visibility for the Accelerator was the temporary exhibition on our hydroponic innovations at the Deutsches Museum, Germany's biggest museum, receiving more than 100,000 visitors every month. WFP and the Accelerator are now also featured for years to come in the museum's permanent exhibition on Agriculture and Food.

In times of increasing humanitarian need and tightened budgets, it is crucial that we foster and grow our existing partnerships while looking to diversify by seeking new, innovative ways of partnering. To do so, we have increased our private sector engagement, not only through funding support but also by leveraging their know-how and expertise. Last year we systematically collaborated with multiple private sector partners to support our innovations, which we had previously done more on an ad-hoc basis. Now, we have developed to engage with experts through different approaches to mentorship, consulting or coaching based on the needs of our innovations. This has been made possible through the shared desire with our partners to learn and improve on how we collaborate. We are excited to continue developing this muscle in the upcoming year to provide the best possible support to our innovations.

The WFP Innovation Accelerator, in line with the Executive Director's clear priorities of increasing resources, improving effectiveness and scaling up partnerships and

innovation to address the needs of vulnerable populations, also advised other UN organizations, sharing its experience and insights to develop innovation structures and support initiatives. This included active participation in the Rome-based Agencies Innovation Working Group, established at the end of 2022. Collaborative efforts within this framework led to significant milestones such as hosting an IFAD study tour to the WFP Innovation Accelerator and its flagship pitch event in February 2023, along with a visit by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) colleagues in January 2024.

Moreover, embracing the vision of UN 2.0, the WFP Innovation Accelerator advanced partnerships and innovation through the Moonshots for Development alliance, which launched the joint Artificial Intelligence for Climate Resilience in Rural Areas innovation challenge in 2023, in collaboration with IFAD, the Asian Development Bank and other financial institutions. By focusing on these priorities and actively engaging in such initiatives, the WFP Innovation Accelerator not only enhanced its effectiveness but also contributed to scaling up partnerships and innovations, fulfilling the vision of bringing modern solutions to those most in need. In 2023, it further shared its scaling expertise with the UN Innovation Network and the UN Global Pulse Community, demonstrating its commitment to optimizing resources and achieving impactful outcomes throughout the sector.



© WFP/Nadine Stegemann

DLR representatives, Deike Potzel, Eric Beißwenger and Bernhard Kowatsch in front of the AHEAD vehicle at the office opening of the WFP Innovation Accelerator, 2024. | ©WFP/Nadine Stegemann



02

Who are we?



About Us

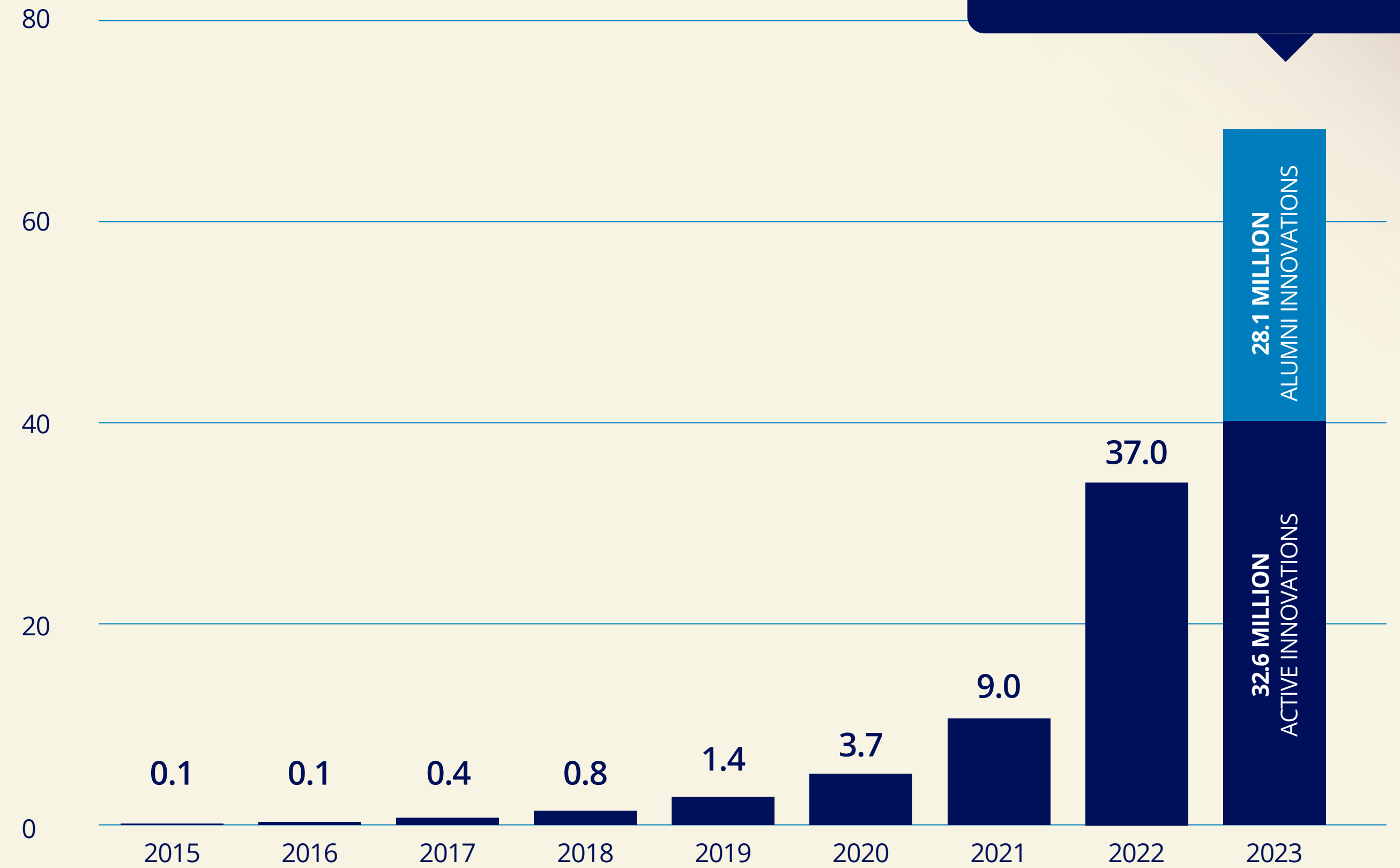


The WFP Innovation Accelerator sources, supports and scales **bold new solutions to achieve Zero Hunger and the wider Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

The WFP Innovation Accelerator was launched by WFP in 2015 to support and scale high-impact innovations to disrupt hunger and achieve the interconnected SDGs. We provide startups with access to funding, mentorship and hands-on assistance, leveraging unprecedented advances in innovation, such as mobile technology, AI, blockchain and innovative finance. We connect solutions with WFP's global network in over 120 countries and territories globally and share our knowledge and lessons learned with the wider community to transform the way we collectively serve vulnerable communities across the world.

Results of innovations supported

No. of people reached (millions)



2023 Results



*Grant Funding that Accelerator-supported innovations received from external sources (additional to the funding it receives from the Innovation Accelerator Special Account).

People reached under programmatic areas

Across the WFP Innovation Accelerator, our innovations span various thematic areas, reaching individuals across different sectors:

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS



Elevating WFP's emergency preparedness and response operations for **257,136 people**.

SUPPLY CHAIN AND LOGISTICS



Enhancing supply chain operations to serve **2,920,981 people**.

NUTRITION



Providing transformational nutrition solutions at scale, reaching **15,962,696 people**.

SCHOOL BASED PROGRAMMES



Supporting access to health and nutrition packages for **4,780,031 individuals**.

FOOD SYSTEMS AND SMALLHOLDER FARMERS



Empowering smallholder farmers and value chain actors for **5,317,477 individuals**.

RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS



Building resilience among communities, reaching **641,324 individuals**.

CASH-BASED TRANSFERS (MODALITY)



Improving the design and delivery of cash and value vouchers and access financial services, reaching **23,913,884 individuals**.

OTHER SDGS



12,045,427 individuals were reached by innovations that address other SDGs.

People reached under cross-cutting themes

CLIMATE ACTION



Strengthening climate change adaptation in food systems and enabling greater community resilience in four key areas: Anticipate, Restore, Protect and Energize, reaching **1,300,956 individuals**.

GENDER



Promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls to provide a route to economic development and resilience, reaching **15,450,882 individuals**.

In 2023

—————↓

We funded and supported **74 innovations:**

39%

are led by women*, reflecting our dedication to **gender equality and empowerment.**

44%

showcase local innovation**, underscoring our support for **grassroots initiatives and community-driven solutions.**

* Innovations which have at least one woman on the core team responsible for decision making, strategy, and/or is one of the founding members of the venture/project.

** Innovation that addresses problems or takes advantage of opportunities that are locally relevant, involving people and resources from the location of implementation. A local Innovation can be an innovation led by a venture/WFP whose headquarters or operations are located in the country of implementation."



Where we work

Afghanistan	GeoTar , CODA, Hesabpay
Angola	SMP Plus
Argentina	Nilus
Armenia	Armenia Project , SMP Plus
Bangladesh	GeoTar , Building Blocks, Optimus, H2Grow
Benin	DARTS
Bhutan	SMP Plus, Log:ie
Brazil	Fiocruz Primary Healthcare Dashboard - Painel Saúde Fiocruz
Burkina Faso	Log:ie, Etherisc
Burundi	H2Grow
Cambodia	PRISM
Cameroon	Fampred
Central African Republic (the)	Log:ie
Chad	GeoTar
Colombia	DARTS , GeoTar , Nilus, Log:ie
Côte d'Ivoire	DARTS , R4, K-Health (Kajou)
Democratic Republic of the Congo (the)	simprints , openFN , STRIATA , Optimus
Dominican Republic (the)	SMP Plus
Egypt	EYouth , EMPACT
El Salvador	Kitchen In a Box (KIAB)
Ethiopia	SMP Plus, Log:ie, Simprints , OpenFn
Gambia (the)	DARTS
Germany	BioAnalyt
Ghana	SORMAS , Data for Good (Flowminder) , Simprints , medtrack , Flare , OpenFn
Guatemala	Log:ie, Guatemala CO
Guinea	DARTS , Optimus
Haiti	Clean Cooking , Optimus, Log:ie, Fampred
Honduras	DARTS , Log:ie
India	Secure Fishing , Take Home Rations, Solar 4 Resilience (S4R), Sahyog
Indonesia	PRISM
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	DARTS
Iraq	GeoTar , EYouth , EMPACT
Italy	Global Upstream Platform (GUP) , GeoTar , plugPAY

Jordan	Building Blocks, SMP Plus, Jordan CO , NeuroTech
Kenya	Toothpick , Boomitra , Sanku, H2Grow ABL, EMPACT, FtMA, Log:ie <i>Kenya CO</i> , <i>RBN Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa</i> , Curafa Franchise Platform
Libya	Jangala , Speetar Inc.
Madagascar	Africa Green Tec
Malawi	SheCan , ScanForm , The Digital Community Score Card
Mali	Ignitia
Mexico	Nilus
Mongolia	PRISM
Morocco	Shezlong
Mozambique	DARTS , mothers2mothers , Rapid Response Connectivity Carrier (R2C2) , PHLV, SMP Plus
Nepal	Timely Logistics , Log:ie
Niger (the)	WASDI
Nigeria	CODA, H2Grow, SMP Plus, Log:ie, NEMO , Fampred , LoMIS , myPaddi
Pakistan	H2Grow, Chakki
Peru	Nilus, Log:ie, SheCan , <i>Rwanda CO</i> , <i>Colombia CO</i>
Republic of Moldova (the)	NEMO
Rwanda	Rebug 2 debug , PHLV, FtMA, SheCan , <i>Rwanda CO</i> , <i>RBN Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa</i>
Saudi Arabia	Dalili
Senegal	DARTS , Fonio Machine , Bleaglee , OPAL
Sierra Leone	DARTS , Erith
Somalia	GeoTar , Log:ie, <i>RBN Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa</i>
South Africa	Rapid Response Connectivity Carrier (R2C2)
South Sudan	Sustainable Fuel for Cooking , CODA, PHLV, Log:ie
Sri Lanka	plugPAY , SMP Plus, PRISM
Sudan (the)	Log:ie
Syrian Arab Republic (the)	Log:ie, Fampred
Tajikistan	Log:ie
Thailand	OpenFn
Togo	iHRIS (IntraHealth)
Türkiye	EMPACT
Uganda	<i>Rwanda CO</i> , <i>RBN Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa</i> , <i>Uganda CO</i> , Simprints , Waterkit Wallet , Opero
Ukraine	Building Blocks, Log:ie, NEMO

United Republic of Tanzania (the)	Rapid Response Connectivity Carrier (R2C2) , Sanku, FtMA, <i>Tanzania CO</i>
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	GeoTar , Log:ie
Yemen	Log:ie, Fampred
Zambia	Emerging Cooking Solutions , PHLV, H2Grow, FtMA, SheCan , <i>Rwanda CO</i>
Zimbabwe	Log:ie, Vaxiglobal
State of Palestine (the) *	Log:ie
Unlisted	Polio Health Camps

● SDG2

● SDGx

● Scale-Up Enablement

● WFP Innovation Network

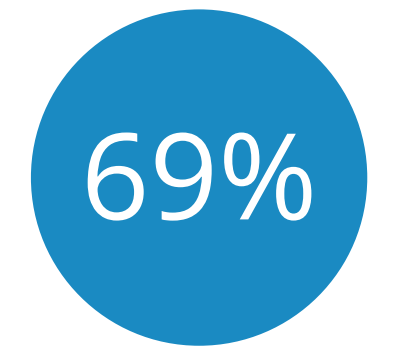
● WFP Frontier

● WFP Innovative Finance

We are 78 innovators



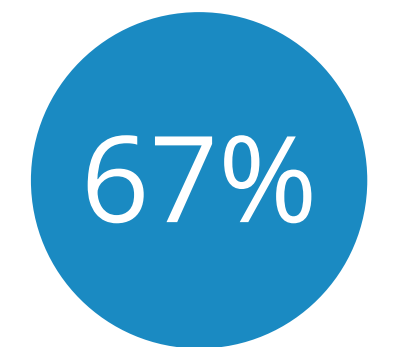
NATIONALITIES



FEMALE



LANGUAGES



FEMALE LEADERSHIP

Ambitious future

By 2025, we aim to support WFP in reaching 100 million people with innovations, raise US\$80 million of funding and launch three flagship innovations per year.

In the face of the evolving challenges of our current global context, coupled with historic funding shortfalls, we recognize the urgent need to think outside the box and **embrace innovation**. With limited funding, we must strategically depart from traditional approaches and explore innovation solutions that maximize impact with minimal resources.

Embracing innovation will not only optimize our operations but also enable us to more efficiently reach vulnerable communities. At the WFP Innovation Accelerator, we are strategically positioned to engage locally-led solutions and the innovation ecosystems in key regions in order to enable context-specific innovations that serve the needs of vulnerable communities.

Smart ideas and creative thinking are in WFP's DNA, but we must continue to find new and creative ways to streamline our operations, stretch our resources further to achieve our mandate of Zero Hunger. To do so, we must **further expand our collaboration with regional innovation hubs, innovation units and WFP country offices** to emphasize innovation and knowledge management and enable transformative innovation and effectiveness across WFP. Our commitment to taking innovation to the next level involves working with and transforming WFP as a whole. It will fortify every staff member's opportunity to innovate and invest in operations to scale the most impactful innovations and serve the needs of field operations.

The UN as a whole is turbocharging its support to people and the planet by moving towards a forward-thinking culture empowered by cutting-edge skills through UN 2.0. Utilizing a blend of data, innovation, digital, foresight and behavioural science expertise, also known as the quintet of change, it envisions a more adaptive, responsive and inclusive organization. Guided by these principles, the WFP Innovation Accelerator will have a pivotal role and will focus on **strengthening connections within the global WFP Innovation Network**, fostering collaboration and maximizing impact. Through new digital systems, we will cultivate a more agile and forward-looking culture, promoting transparency, data-driven insights and operational efficiency. The forthcoming launch of the WFP Innovation Database in 2024 will further **empower the innovation community** by centralizing and providing easy access to essential data and knowledge.

To address the 'missing middle' funding gaps for impact businesses, we are developing innovative finance solutions, such as WFP BRIDGE, and exploring other innovative finance solutions that will enhance WFP's ability to more efficiently meet community needs. Additionally, the new AI Sandbox initiative aims to create a collaborative platform and environment for WFP colleagues and partners to experiment, innovate, pilot and scale AI models and AI use cases. As the need for data-driven solutions to combat hunger grows and AI technology evolves rapidly, the AI sandbox will become a crucial platform for collaboration and co-creation. It allows us to quickly test and deploy AI systems, granting WFP teams the power

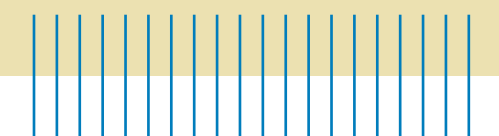
to work more efficiently and make a significant, faster and large-scale impact.

Leveraging successful collaborations within WFP, our Scale-Up Enablement Programme will establish a sustainable method to promote awareness and adoption of proven innovations. This involves defining standardized graduation pathways to seamlessly transition innovations to country or regional offices for continued management. This approach yields triple benefits: bolstering local capacities and fostering a culture of scaling innovation across WFP; ensuring long-term sustainability for innovations; and enabling the Scale-Up Enablement Programme to provide more targeted support to innovations within our portfolio.

Taking innovation to the next level

The WFP Innovation Strategy, which will be completed in 2024, aims to guide the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy across WFP to address the global food crisis and funding challenges by fostering innovation through four pillars: innovation agenda strategy, pathway for scaling high potential innovations, governance and innovation culture, and next level innovation partnerships and global ecosystems.

By harnessing technology, fostering strategic partnerships and adopting adaptive strategies, we can effectively address the pressing humanitarian needs of our time. It is through bold and innovative thinking that we can navigate these challenging circumstances and continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who need it most.

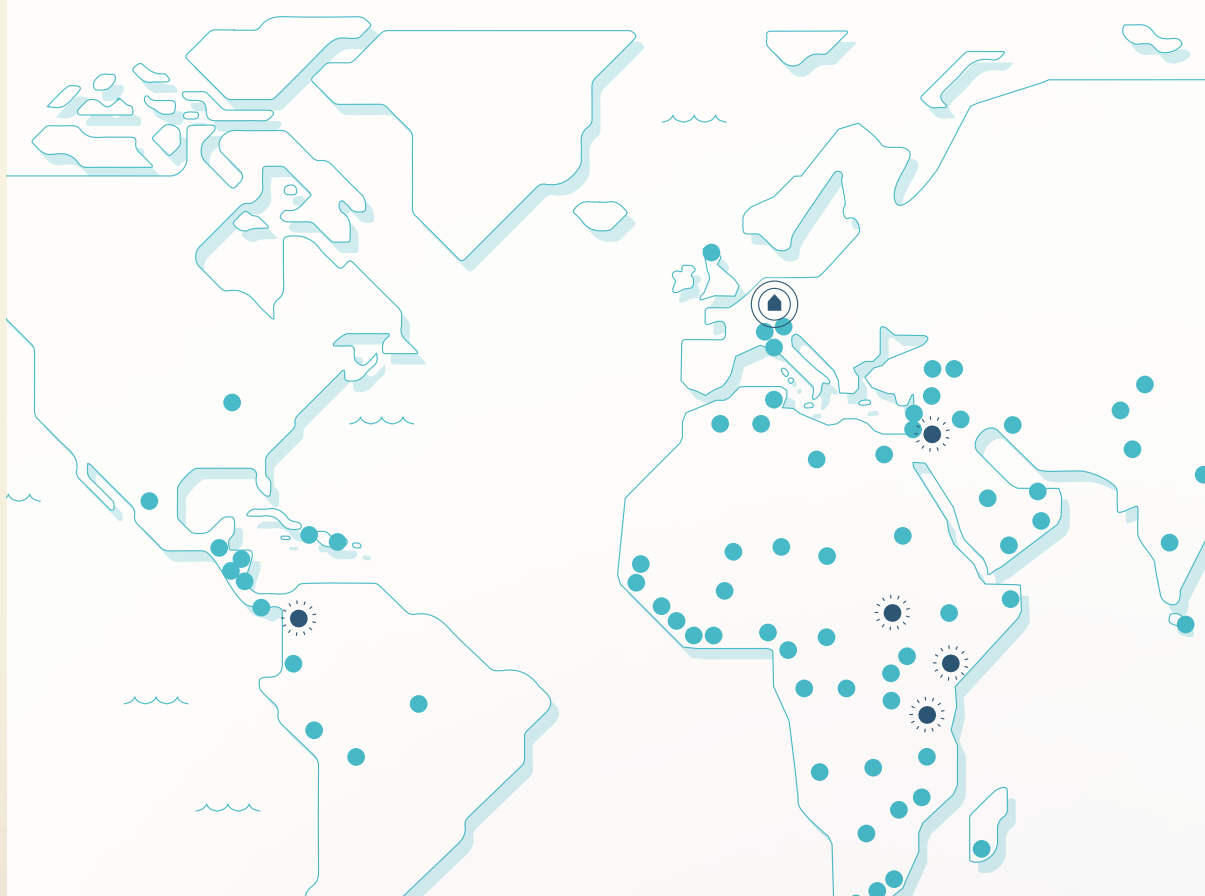


WFP Innovation Accelerator

01

WFP Acceleration

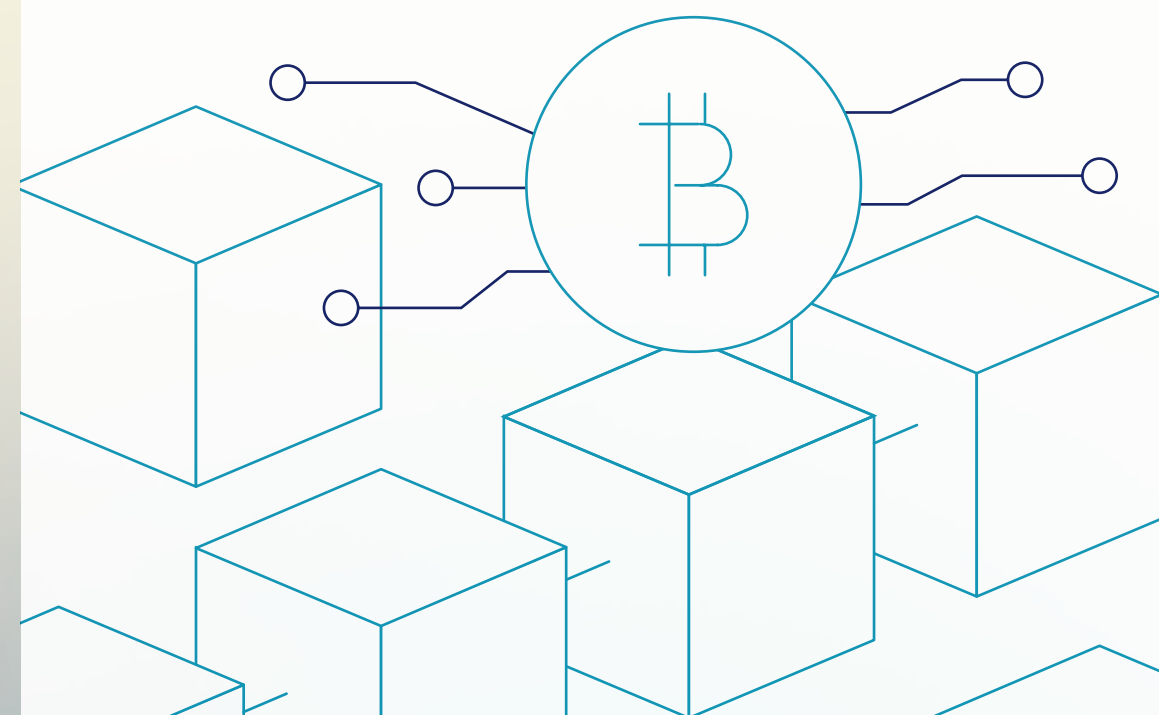
- › **3 Accelerator programmes** for startups, NGOs and WFP innovations
- › **Scale-Up enablement programme**
- › **Global WFP Innovation Network**, Champions Community, regional & field innovation units and hubs



02

Innovative finance, venture platform, frontiers

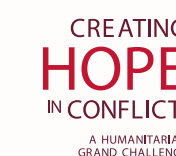
- › **Innovative finance** - Bridge (loan) fund, impact fund and crypto assets
- › **Venture platform**
- › **Frontier innovations** (AI, blockchain, robotics)



03

SDGx Acceleration

- › **Accelerator programmes and innovation projects in co-creation with partners to expand impact on global SDG agenda.**



04

Global Accelerator Platform

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



Our path to scale

WFP Acceleration

Innovation Sourcing
11,600+
innovations

Innovation Bootcamps
199
teams participated

Sprint Programme
168
innovations

Scale-up Enablement
22
innovations

WFP BRIDGE loan & guarantee fund

14
ACCELERATOR PROGRAMMES
IN 2023

- › **Field Innovation Units:** Tanzania, Jordan, Rwanda, Kenya and many others
- › **Regional Innovation Hubs:** Eastern Africa and Latin America & the Caribbean
- › **Virtual & hybrid programmes**

03

What we do



WFP Innovation Network

The WFP Innovation Network is a growing network of 17 WFP country offices with innovation teams or focal points, two regional Innovation Hubs and a diverse community of WFP Innovation Champions based in 156 duty stations. The WFP Innovation Accelerator functions as a global innovation unit of the organization, forging close collaborations with WFP country offices, business units and the broader WFP Innovation Network.

In 2023, the WFP Innovation Accelerator continued emphasizing locally-driven innovation by further investing in the development and growth of innovation capabilities globally, expanding its knowledge resources and providing direct support to country offices. This tailored and localized approach ensures that innovation is not only contextually relevant but also sustainably integrated into the operational and strategic frameworks of country offices.

As a convener of the WFP Innovation Network, the WFP Innovation Accelerator activates and supports WFP innovators globally through the:

- › curation and convening of a **knowledge and peer support network**;
- › building of **unified innovation information and knowledge systems**;
- › provision of **hands-on strategy design and advisory services**, including integrating innovation into strategic plans; and
- › advocating for the allocation of **innovation investment** and resources in the field where needed.

WFP COUNTRIES WITH INNOVATION TEAMS AND FOCAL POINTS

- › **Eastern Africa:** Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda
- › **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru
- › **Middle East:** Jordan
- › **Southern Africa:** Tanzania
- › **Regional Innovation Hubs:** in Kenya for Eastern Africa and in Colombia for Latin America and the Caribbean



WFP Innovation Champions Community

The WFP Innovation Champions Community is a community of practice and purpose that aims to foster collaboration, promote a culture of innovation within WFP, share best practices and amplify visibility of the innovative initiatives and projects across the organization. There are currently **417 Innovation Champions** from 156 duty stations.



WFP colleagues participating in the All Staff Retreat
June 2023, Harare, Zimbabwe | ©WFP/Zoë Harman

The power of convening

At the country or regional level, the WFP Innovation Accelerator coordinates and convenes WFP Innovation teams and supports them through strategic advisory and set-up guidance. This includes connecting them with peers and allies in the organization, working with them on unique challenges and milestones and bringing their work together under one voice for WFP Innovation. Our WFP Innovation Network team organized, contributed to and convened a total of **42 workshops** in

2023, including with WFP country offices in The Gambia and Sudan to help integrate innovation into country strategies and an all-staff retreat to promote an innovation mindset and methodologies in Zimbabwe. More than **1,215 colleagues** attended the first **WFP Innovation Day**, an organization-wide event to promote innovation and share successes and learnings from the field.

Unified innovation systems and knowledge

The WFP Innovation Network continued to play a pivotal role in creating knowledge systems, resources and knowledge exchange opportunities to bolster the capacity of WFP Innovation Teams. 2023 saw the launch of WFP's inaugural **Innovation Guidance Manual** and **Programme Learning Journey**, equipping colleagues with practical knowledge and resources to implement innovation in their strategic plans. This year also marked the launch of another key resource, the **Knowledge**

Management and Communications Toolkit, which provides colleagues with an enhanced framework for innovation-centric knowledge sharing, further bolstering a culture of innovation across WFP. These serve as a hub of information that allows teams to consult and incorporate different concepts as they pilot and scale innovation locally.

People and knowledge-driven network

Throughout 2023, the WFP Innovation Network teams based in country and regional offices developed **41 knowledge products**, providing unique field insights, lessons from innovative practices and expert guidance to support the broader ecosystem. The teams also held a total of **116 events globally**, such as pitch events, innovation challenges, sprints, workshops and demo days, aimed at promoting the exchange of knowledge and engaging the local ecosystem and WFP staff.

In September 2023, over 30 colleagues from across the WFP Innovation Network came together in Nairobi, Kenya, for a five-day strategic workshop to connect meaningfully with each other, hear from WFP leaders, connect with the local innovation ecosystem, re-engage their understanding and commitment towards innovating at WFP and co-create ways to amplify WFP's innovation footprint for greater impact.

A global network of WFP's innovation teams



WFP Innovation teams from around the world meeting in Nairobi in September | ©WFP Kenya

In 2023, the global WFP Innovation Network teams:

DIRECTLY ASSISTED
189,893 people

THROUGH INNOVATION PROJECTS

Raised US\$7.43 million

IN FUNDING FOR INNOVATION

Directly managed 13
INNOVATION PROJECTS ACROSS WFP'S OPERATIONS

Implemented 10
INNOVATION PROGRAMMES

Supported 73 ventures
WITH FUNDING AND ACCELERATION PROGRAMMES

Innovation at WFP is an organization-wide effort firmly rooted in local insights, recognizing that individuals closest to the challenges often hold the key to solving them. The WFP Innovation Network comprises diverse innovation teams strategically positioned across WFP's regional bureaux and country offices, manage their own portfolio of localized innovative solutions.

Driving local solutions to global challenges

The WFP Innovation Network field teams operate seven regional and country-based innovation programmes that have funded and provided acceleration support to 73 local ventures. In 2023, the innovation teams implemented a total of 13 innovation projects directly in WFP's humanitarian operations across multiple countries. Four of these received financial support and one has received technical support from the WFP Innovation Accelerator.

Activating innovation across the organization

The WFP Innovation Network plays a pivotal role in strengthening innovation and creating processes, programmes and projects to maximize impact from the bottom up. This includes integrating innovation into strategic plans of their country offices, strengthening the local innovation ecosystem, positioning innovation as a core function at the country level so that it becomes a cross-cutting activity as well as improving the sourcing of innovations which can be better connected to the needs of country office programme teams.

Take a closer look at the portfolios and achievements of the WFP Innovation Network teams in 2023

WFP's Regional Innovation Hub for Eastern Africa

Nairobi, Kenya



Envisioning a food system in Eastern Africa that is climate-resilient, inclusive, and locally led.

CORE ACTIVITIES

- › Innovation capacity strengthening for country offices in the region
- › Innovation ecosystem building locally and regionally
- › Innovation learning and impact
- › Innovative finance

INNOVATION PROGRAMMES:

- › IGNITE Innovation Challenge supports innovative ventures that can enhance food systems and climate resilience in South Sudan, Rwanda and Uganda and planned in Somalia and Ethiopia.
- › IGNITE Seed aims to support early-stage entrepreneurial teams across Eastern Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda) to build skills and experience in innovation, whilst building the local ecosystem of academic and research institutions.
- › IGNITE Sprout is aimed at innovations looking to find product market fit in the region whilst strengthening the link to local and international academic and research institutions.
- › Innovation Safari supports country offices to innovate to solve operational challenges.
- › The R&D Lab works with a local private sector partner to prioritize operational challenges, then use the innovation R&D process to research and solve them by adapting or building locally suitable solutions.
- › Innovative Finance brings locally and regionally suitable commercial and non-traditional financing options to innovations as well as to support WFP's operations.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- › Provided tailored and strategic innovation support to eight country offices, including serving as a focal point to help integrate innovation into Country Strategic Plans and operations, funding strategically positioned innovation staff roles across the region, building toolkits and training and supporting internal innovation projects.
- › Strengthened the local innovation ecosystem by supporting local innovators in tackling food system challenges, collaborating with local implementing partners, government, academia, research institutions and financial institutions and promoting peer-to-peer exchanges.
- › Created economic growth opportunities for businesses in the region. For example, innovators participating in programmes secured over US\$7 million in follow-on funding.

WFP's Regional Innovation Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean (HZero)

Bogotá,
Colombia



Promoting and accelerating innovations focusing on food security and nutrition in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

CORE ACTIVITIES

- › Innovation support for country offices in the region
- › Innovation sourcing
- › Innovation and acceleration programmes
- › Promoting innovation culture within country offices
- › Fundraising and partnerships for innovation
- › Innovative finance

INNOVATION PROGRAMMES:

- › Acelera HZero innovation programme to accelerate the growth of innovative projects that contribute to zero hunger in the region (Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala and Peru).
- › HZero internal innovation programme to facilitate culture change and integrate innovation within different programmes of WFP.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- › Enhanced WFP's mission to combat hunger in Colombia and the region by accelerating innovative ventures and promoting culture change internally encouraging colleagues to integrate innovation into their work and programmes.
- › Impacted over 200,000 people through ten supported initiatives and forged 70 strategic connections with investors and key innovation ecosystem players through the Acelera HZero innovation programme.
- › Expanded partnerships beyond funding to include partners that provided mentorship and subject expertise support.

WFP Kenya Country Office



Fostering, driving and scaling innovations that can help end hunger.

CORE ACTIVITIES

- › Innovation services for WFP Kenya
- › Sprint acceleration programme
- › Scale-up acceleration programme
- › Knowledge management
- › Innovation challenges focused on youth entrepreneurship

INNOVATION PROGRAMMES:

- › “Vijana in Kilimobizz” youth innovation challenge that supported young entrepreneurs based in the most remote and arid locations in Kenya, where food insecurity is the highest.

INNOVATION PROJECTS:

- › H2Grow brings hydroponic units to enable people to grow food in informal urban settlements and arid and semi-arid regions of Kenya.
- › County Innovation Centres implemented in Isiolo and Tana River support young entrepreneurs and help bridge the innovation gap between rural and urban areas.
- › School Connect is an application that helps digitize information across 28 schools in Kenya.
- › Meza digitizes paper records using AI, saving over 20 percent of health workers' time each month.
- › Toothpick improves crop yield by 80 percent by killing a parasitic weed striga.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- › The WFP Kenya innovation team fosters an organizational culture change both by offering direct innovation support and empowering colleagues with training on innovation methods.
- › To achieve substantial impact on a large scale, the team focuses on the systematic implementation of key innovation processes such as human-centered design, pain point analysis and rigorous testing of innovative solutions, bringing programme units on board from the start.

WFP Rwanda Country Office



Making innovation a cross-cutting enabler of the country office strategic plan and developing innovative financing initiatives.

CORE ACTIVITIES

- › Innovation and project management
- › Culture change initiatives
- › Acceleration programmes
- › Innovation sourcing

INNOVATION PROGRAMMES:

- › [IGNITE Food Systems Challenge 2.0](#) supports the scaling of innovative ventures focused on food systems in Rwanda.

INNOVATION PROJECTS:

- › [SheCan](#) supports smallholder farmers and micro-entrepreneurs through innovative finance initiatives, increasing harvest yield by nearly 20-30 percent.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- › WFP Rwanda is developing its new **Country Strategic Plan** which will integrate and increase the impact of innovation as an enabler across different programmes.
- › The **Ignite Food Systems Challenge 2.0** provided eight ventures with acceleration support and up to US\$30,000 in equity-free funding per innovation, showcasing a successful model for engaging local start-ups and young entrepreneurs to support food security in Rwanda.
- › **WFP Rwanda BRIDGE**, launched in 2023, is an innovative financial instrument designed to catalyse private sector investment in ventures operating across the agriculture value chain. By facilitating access to formal financial products and services, this initiative aims to strengthen agricultural productivity, resilience and livelihoods for individual rural farmers and youth- and women-led small and medium-sized enterprises.

WFP Tanzania Country Office



Mainstreaming innovation by building internal innovation capacity and supporting new solutions for WFP's operations.

CORE ACTIVITIES

- › Innovation sourcing
- › Partnerships development
- › Project management from ideation to implementation
- › Culture change initiatives
- › Innovation services for WFP Tanzania

INNOVATION PROGRAMMES:

- › **Innovation Safari** builds innovation capacities within WFP and the UN through an internal innovation challenge to capture and co-create solutions for daily WFP operations. This initiative was also accepted by other WFP country offices, thus WFP Tanzania supported the WFP Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa to scale it in other countries.

INNOVATION PROJECTS:

Successfully led joint projects across departments, including:

- › **National school feeding census and mapping** for nutrition initiatives mapped more than 17,000 public pre and primary schools. A web map was created to support the initiative.
- › The **Lishe Mobile App** was designed and launched with a main focus on nutrition tracking.
- › **The Youth Consultation and Innovation Dialogue** developed a youth platform under the Vijana Kilimo Biashara (VKB) project aimed at supporting smallholder farmers.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- › Supported local communities in fostering innovation by organizing a national innovation workshop with the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology during National Innovation Week.
- › Strengthened relationships with the Government and identified mutual interest areas for long-term agreements with the Commission for Science and Technology and the Sokoine University of Agriculture.

WFP Uganda Country Office



Accelerating innovative, commercially viable solutions to address food insecurity and climate change and support underserved communities.

CORE ACTIVITIES

- › Innovation sourcing
- › Innovation project management
- › Local and regional innovation partnerships

INNOVATION PROGRAMMES:

- › **IGNITE Food Systems Challenge 2.0** identify, supports and scales innovative solutions that can enhance climate resilience and food security in Uganda.

INNOVATION PROJECTS:

- › The **Malnutrition Eradication Therapy (METU-1)** innovation uses an innovative mixture of sorghum, peanuts, ghee and honey to empower local communities to treat malnutrition.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- › Since launching in 2022, the 12 ventures accelerated through the IGNITE programme have supported over 300,000 smallholder farmers. Key metrics of the ventures such as increased revenue, gender inclusion and workforce expansion also saw positive progress in 2023 compared to 2022. A key metric to note is that cumulatively, the annual income (before tax) for all IGNITE companies has increased substantially, reaching US\$1.9 million in December 2023 from US\$716,000 in 2021. This represents an impressive 68 percent increase, indicating sustained financial growth.
- › The sourcing of innovations is connected to the needs of country office programme teams, directly contributing to WFP's operations in Uganda.
- › Ventures supported by WFP Uganda help catalyse agricultural growth from the grassroots by providing farmers with access to climate-smart inputs, services and market linkages.

WFP Guatemala Country Office

Bolstering innovative solutions to promote resilient food systems in Guatemala.

CORE ACTIVITIES

- › Innovation management for school feeding programmes
- › Initiative risk-layering tools for climate and disaster risk financing
- › Technology training for rural and indigenous women

INNOVATION PROJECTS:

- › **The Anticipatory Actions project** brings community-level financing mechanisms to implement anticipatory actions ahead of forecasted dry spells and mitigate agricultural losses and food insecurity deterioration.
- › **Climate Information Services** provides communities with training and innovative ground sensors to enhance climate data collection and support agricultural decision-making.
- › **Disaster Risk Insurance** provides communities with insurance coverage to proactively address climate-related shocks and mitigate food insecurity.
- › **Pilotas Resilientes** trains women in the operation of drones for local topographic and climate data collection.
- › The **School Feeding Application** connects smallholder producers to schools, bolstering the local food supply within the School Feeding Programme.
- › The **Women Solar Engineers** initiative equips rural and indigenous women with skills to deploy solar systems, fostering electrification in Guatemala's remote areas.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- › Promoted technological innovations, including climate sensors, drone technology and mobile applications, to populations that benefit most from them. The team also facilitated the dissemination of these technological innovations to local partners and government stakeholders, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing in the field.
- › The School Feeding App, piloted by 207 schools and 121 smallholder producers in 2023, proved to effectively reduce meal planning time while increasing menu flexibility in schools.
- › The Disaster Risk Reduction Insurance, with a total coverage of US\$7.5 million, activated US\$606,252 in 2023 to support households impacted by drought and excess rainfall.

WFP Jordan Country Office



Supporting impact-focused startups in Jordan, validating their impact through pilot projects, and helping them scale into country office operations.

CORE ACTIVITIES

- › Capacity-building training for WFP Jordan
- › Innovation bootcamps
- › Start-up funding
- › Start-up mentorship and acceleration
- › Connecting start-ups with government partners

INNOVATION PROGRAMMES:

- › **Youth Innovation in Food Security** is an idea-stage programme that will support youth with capacity-building training, seed funding and entrepreneurship opportunities.
- › Green Accelerator Middle East funds and supports pilot projects for promising early-stage startups working in agri-tech.
- › Grow Innovation Programme supports early-stage impact-focused start-ups, providing capacity-building training, funding and incubation opportunities.

INNOVATION PROJECTS:

- › [Decapolis](#) is an innovative blockchain traceability platform for smallholder farmers.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- › Innovation is now considered a core function at the country office level. It has become a cross-cutting support activity on WFP Jordan's new Strategic Plan and multiple programmes now embrace innovation with a more inclusive approach.
- › Through Decapolis, WFP supported 730 farmers, procured and traced 960 tons of fresh produce for school meals and created 368 jobs, including positions for 95 women and 30 Syrian refugees.
- › Local smallholder farmers are generating higher revenue and receive capacity-building training on the best and safest farming practices through innovation projects and programmes.

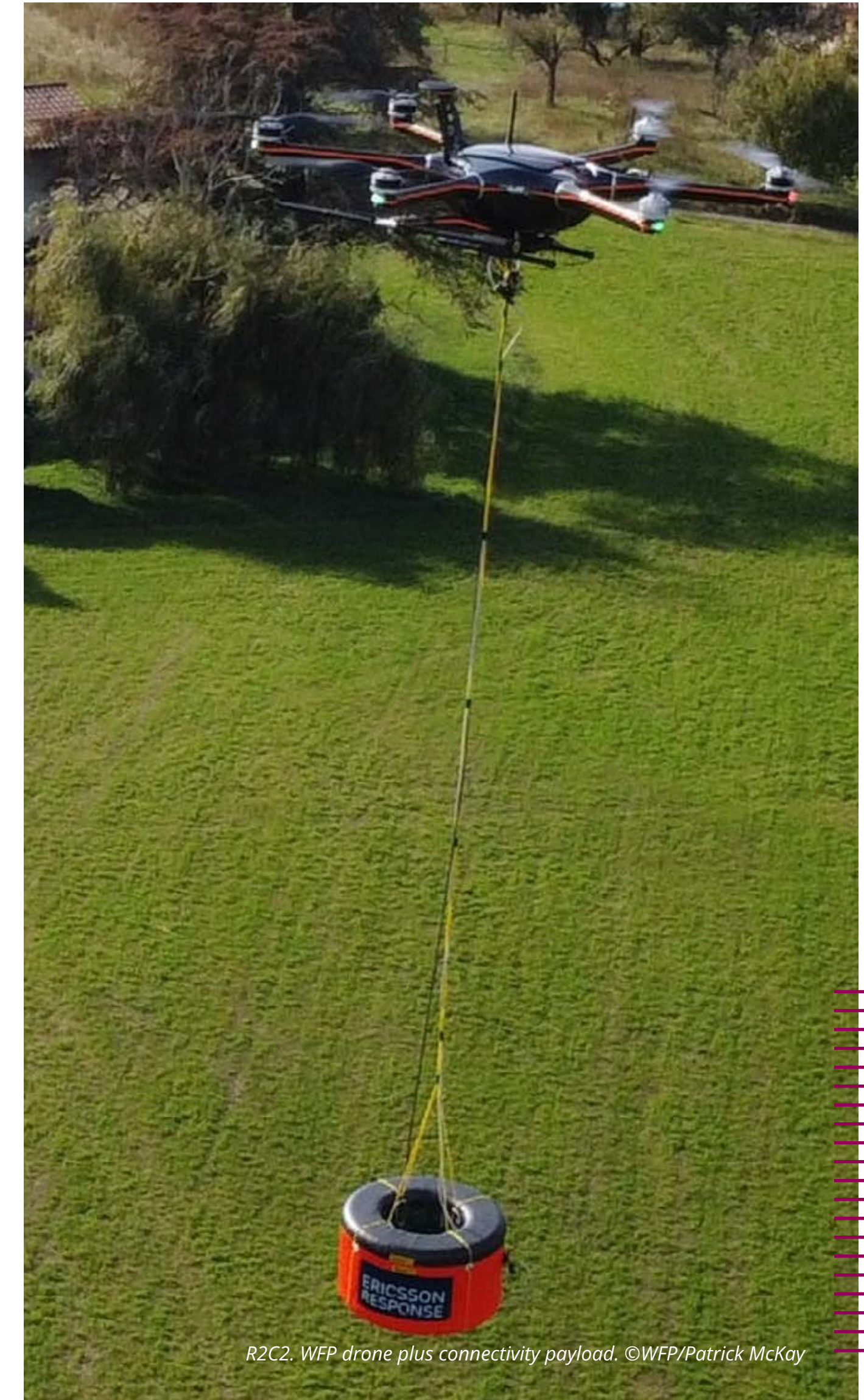
SDG2 Acceleration

SDG2 Acceleration identifies and enables innovators from WFP and social ventures with high-impact solutions to be ready to scale and contribute to achieving Zero Hunger and the other SDGs. In 2023, we supported 20 innovations across 32 countries and territories through the Sprint Programme. Furthermore, we forged remarkable collaborations internally - with WFP headquarters units, regional bureaux, and country offices - and externally - with Google, CGIAR and the Adaptation Fund - that aim to expand our impact.



Increasing innovations to support global humanitarian efforts

In the context of an unprecedented food crisis, we strategically shifted to increase engagements with innovations in the humanitarian sector that contribute to the WFP saving lives agenda, aiming to feed people faster, on a larger scale, and at a lower cost. Throughout 2023, we closely collaborated with WFP HQ divisions, such as Emergency Preparedness and Response and Supply Chain & Delivery. By sourcing solutions for humanitarian assistance and supply chain resilience, we aim to ensure that every donor dollar goes further in addressing hunger while reducing the need for ration cuts. We launched the WFP Innovation Challenge “Relief and Resilience” in June 2023, which focuses on preparedness and prevention, effective relief assistance and supply chain resilience. Out of 1,419 applications from over 122 countries (including 64 internal applications), we selected 8 innovations to participate in the November 2023 WFP Bootcamp. Our current portfolio includes highly promising innovative solutions in the area of cash-based transfers (plugPAY, Darts), emergency operations (R2C2, GeoTar), and supply chain management (GUP) with the objective of increasing speed and reducing costs in emergency response. These innovations not only have the potential to enable WFP to reach more people in need effectively but also have the potential to create efficiency gains for WFP in cost savings of more than US\$1 million per year.



R2C2. WFP drone plus connectivity payload. ©WFP/Patrick McKay



Driving transformative initiatives for climate and resilience

Our commitment to contribute to the WFP changing lives agenda and continue supporting localized initiatives for climate and resilience materializes through transformative initiatives. **Ignitia** offers AI-powered hyper-local weather forecasts for smallholder farmers. The startup provides reliable weather information, location and crop-specific climate-smart agricultural advice to enable farmers to grow and improve yield sustainably. **The Clean Cooking Haiti** project produces heat retention bags to promote the transition to clean energy sources in households, improving the health of cooks and their families by reducing indoor pollution. **Kitchen in a Box (KIAB)** builds smart kitchens for schools in El Salvador from recycled shipping containers, equipping them with state-of-the-art technology, including solar panels, that provide renewable energy to reduce greenhouse gases and costs.



Kitchen in a Box. ©WFP

Forging distinctive collaborations to foster SDG2 innovations

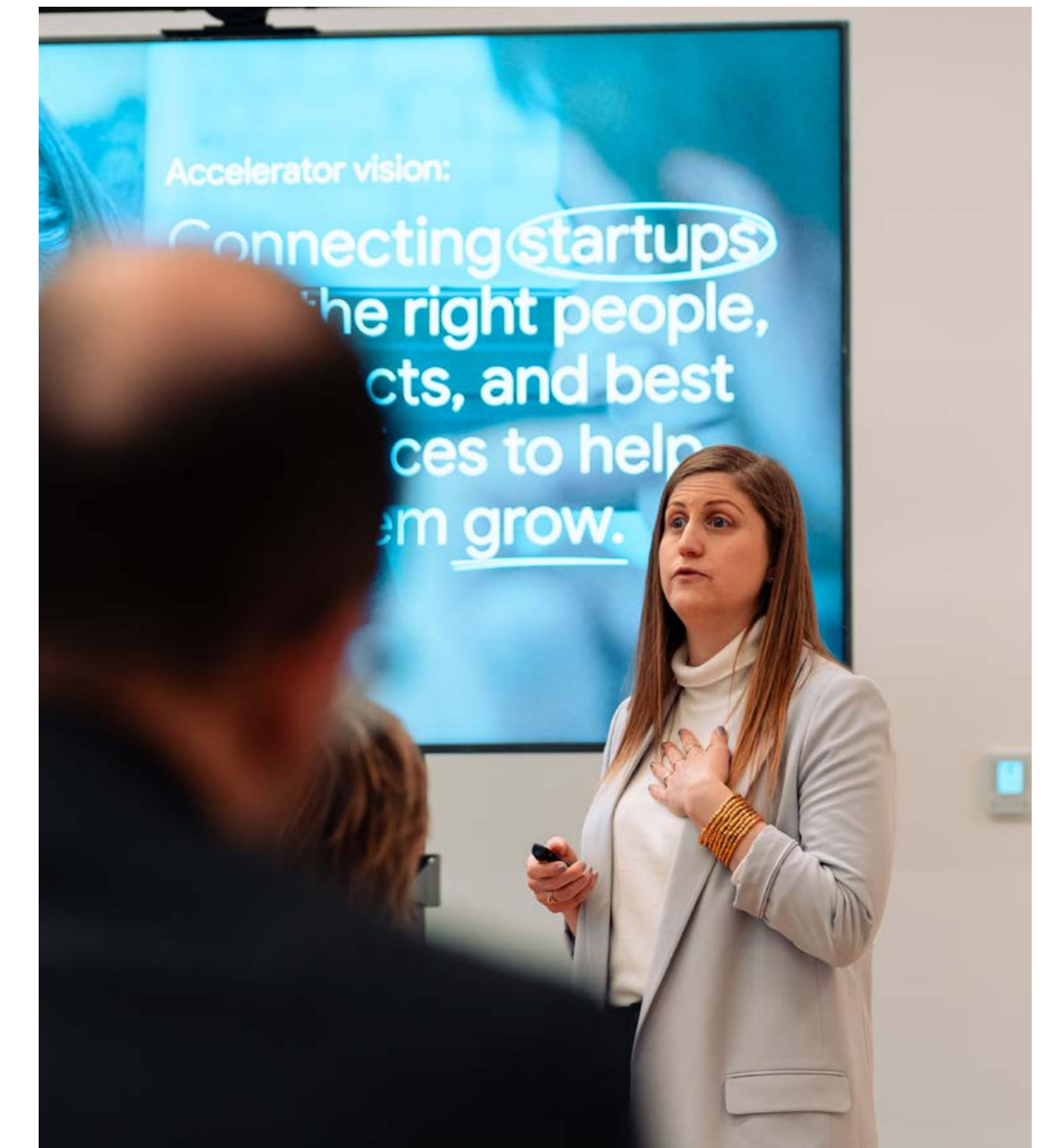
Enabling innovation in WFP

The SDG2 Acceleration team has further strengthened its collaboration with many WFP headquarters units, regional bureaux, and country offices. In 2023, we launched the **WFP Iraq Innovation Service** in the area of climate action and resilience. Jointly conducted with WFP Iraq and the Iraqi government, this programme focuses on addressing crucial areas of water scarcity, climate-smart agriculture and livelihoods through a holistic and sustainable model. The support has been designed across three phases: needs assessment, solution sourcing and implementation. The **2023 South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Innovation Programme** was delivered in partnership with the WFP South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) unit with the objective of expanding promising solutions of the Global South. This customized six-week programme accelerated four national-level innovations from India, Nepal, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo. We also supported the **Regional Bureau Cairo (RBC)** through an innovation service to leverage innovations for their strategic priorities. In the priority area of self-reliance for refugees, we facilitated a joint workshop for WFP and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to identify pain points and areas for collaboration.

Addressing the SDGs with partners

Creating partnerships with external entities unlocks a great opportunity to accelerate innovations further through focused technical and financial support. The **Humanitarian Ventures Accelerator** was launched in 2023 in partnership with Google for Startups. Generously backed with a grant from Google.org, its mission is to accelerate internal ventures from different WFP units, such as Emergency Preparedness and Response, Supply Chain & Delivery or Management Services, that integrate technological innovation, potentially transforming the way humanitarian aid is delivered and managed. We partnered with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), a consortium member of **CGIAR**, to run an acceleration programme launching in 2024 to enhance **CGIAR's Fragility, Conflict, and Migration Initiative**. The purpose of this programme is to identify and enable the scaling of high-impact, high-potential innovations that promote the resilience of food, land and water systems in fragile and conflict-affected settings, especially in migrant and host communities. Together with our partners, we will support two cohorts of four innovations over the next two years.

The WFP Innovation Accelerator joined the Moonshots for Development (M4D), a partnership among the innovation labs of international financial institutions, to launch the "AI for Climate Resilience in Rural Areas" Innovation Challenge in late 2023. This joint initiative is a collective effort to identify and scale AI-driven technologies to empower rural communities and help them adapt and build resilience to climate change. Throughout the programme, nine startups were selected to receive training and establish essential network connections to scale their innovations in 2024.



Google for Startups. © WFP/Benjamin Härer

The WFP Innovation Accelerator was selected in a multi-stage, competitive process to run the **Climate Adaptation Innovation Acceleration Programme (AFCIA)** for the Adaptation Fund over a period of five years. Set to commence in 2024, this programme aims to identify and accelerate the development of ten climate ventures at early and growth stages in close collaboration with WFP country offices. These ventures are expected to contribute significantly to climate adaptation efforts within different regions. In 2024, the programme will focus on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Africa Green Tec

Active in:
Madagascar

Thematic Area:
Resilience & Livelihoods



Solar-powered cold chain and renewable electrification across sub-Saharan Africa at scale.

Globally, inadequate storage can cause a loss of up to 40 percent of food production post-harvest, causing food spoilage and waste of valuable food. An estimated 1.3 billion metric tons of food - one-third of all food produced - is lost annually.

Africa GreenTec has developed a modular, mobile solar-powered and turnkey cooltainer system that can store up to ten tons of produce. The start-up localizes its operations, hiring and training local communities to run and maintain the coolers. As a result, Africa GreenTec reduces food loss and provides farmers with better access to markets, ultimately increasing their revenues.

“Implementing the cooltainer in Ambovombe aimed not just to introduce new technology, but also to impact knowledge and transform lives. From project initiation to training and hiring, we are dedicated to sustainable impact and the economic well-being of the community. As we anticipate operations, our focus is on impacting an even larger number of people in the local fishing sector.”

ARNEL VELONIRINA
Africa Green Tec project coordinator



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › 50 fish retailers participated in theoretical and practical training on freshness of fish, where they learned about fish hygiene, the management of time, temperature and treatment and good financial management. They also learned how to treat fish from the sea until the arrival at the cooltainer and how to distinguish between good and spoiled fish.

Armenia Project

Active in:

Armenia

Thematic Area:

Resilience & Livelihoods



An asset-backed loan model for agro-businesses in Armenia to install solar stations and reduce the cost of food production.

Micro-enterprises in Armenia’s agribusiness sector often do not use modern mechanized processes, resulting in low productivity. Comparatively high production and electricity costs further constrain productivity. Installing a solar station could reduce overall production costs substantially, but many micro-enterprises cannot afford this US\$10,000 investment.

The Armenia Project aims to set up a financial model with the private sector to provide affordable access to credit for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Under this model, SMEs will be able to install solar stations and reduce their energy dependency and operational costs, potentially reducing electricity costs by 30 percent.

“My son recently completed his education in Yerevan. Upon learning that our family business was chosen to receive a solar panel for enhanced operational efficiency, he promptly decided to return to our village. With his professional expertise, he possesses a deep understanding of the techniques and machinery involved, surpassing our own knowledge.”

OWNER OF THE “SARI KAT” MILK PROCESSING COMPANY



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › The solar stations generated US\$46,151 savings in 12 months, which allowed for expansion plans and equipment upgrades of the SMEs.
- › In other cases, companies not only facilitated employment for individuals but also acted as a key player in supporting local farmers.



Boomitra

Active in:
Kenya

Thematic Area:
Food Systems & Smallholder Farmers



Accelerating soil carbon removal on a planetary scale.

Over one third of global soils are significantly degraded, hampering food production, water distribution and carbon storage, and impacting farmer livelihoods worldwide. Improving soil health is essential: soils form the foundation of food and water systems and act as the largest land-based carbon sink, with the potential to store over nine gigatons of carbon dioxide annually.

Boomitra, utilizing satellites and AI, measures soil moisture, nutrients and carbon, aiding farmers in reducing water and nutrient use by 30 percent while enhancing soil fertility. Combining insights with carbon credit payment schemes, Boomitra empowers farmers to adopt regenerative land management practices.

“My harvest has increased. Previously, I would get nine bags of maize from one acre but now I get 18-24 bags on the same acre. I am grateful to FTMA and Boomitra for training me on conservation agriculture.”

HANNAH KARANJA
a farmer in Kenya



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › Two apps were developed in Kenya: one to enable onboarding of farmers and the other to provide farm and soil insights to farmers to enhance their productivity.
- › Boomitra was awarded GBP1 million (approximately US\$1.27 million) by the Earthshot Prize to accelerate growth and access new markets.

Clean Cooking



Active in:

Haiti, Chad

Thematic Area:

Emergency Operations, Resilience & Livelihoods



Saving up to 70 percent of energy needs in WFP school canteens through heat retention bags.

Globally, 2.6 billion people lack clean cooking access. In Haiti, 95 percent of schools cook on open fires, resulting in toxic smoke, burn injuries and negative environmental impacts. This traditional cooking method also incurs high energy costs for schools diverting funds from other areas.

Clean Cooking Haiti introduces clean and modern cooking solutions in schools. As part of this initiative, WFP is piloting heat retention bags to support schools' transition to cleaner energy sources and reduce their energy needs. Heat retention bags are locally produced by women in Port au Prince using upcycled plastic waste widely used in households and schools.

"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 in Haiti



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › Clean Cooking conducted trainer coaching, workshops and demonstrations for WFP staff, cooperating partners and schools.
- › 100 percent Haitian recipes were cooked in WFP school canteens (Home Grown School Feeding and traditional) and Haitian households.
- › Produced and distributed sensitization materials, including 12 videos and brochures in French and Creole, to explain the use of heat retention bags.
- › The team also developed and conducted baseline assessment to inform scale up of the innovation.

DARTS



Country of implementation:

Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Columbia, Mozambique, Gambia

Topic of focus:

Cash-Based Transfer



DARTS is a web app with advanced machine learning that enables WFP country offices to ensure accurate, accountable cash transfer data and reconciliation.

In 2022, WFP distributed a historic US\$3.26 billion in cash assistance across 72 countries and territories. However, due to limited digital infrastructure, low data literacy and diverse partner systems, challenges persist in ensuring all recipients receive funds.

DARTS (Data Assurance and Reconciliation Tool Simplified) is a user-friendly web app with advanced machine learning modules. It enables WFP to implement controls on large cash transfer data and generate reconciliation reports. Reconciliation is vital in cash assistance programs, ensuring accountability, evaluating efficiency, building trust and ensuring accurate fund distribution.

“Most user friendly software in the UN.”

HOSNA MALEKZADEH

Business Support Supply Chain, WFP Iran

“Smart, user friendly and making life easier!”

EHSAN NOTASH

procurement assistant, WFP Iran



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › In 2023, DARTS achieved widespread adoption in Guinea, Senegal and Sierra Leone, being implemented for all cash operations, with plans for further scale in 2024.
- › Reconciliation for almost all cash-based transfer operations in Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Iran, Senegal, Sierra Leone and The Gambia ensured efficient fund distribution, reaching US\$6.3 million to the intended beneficiaries.
- › Across different WFP country offices using the web app, DARTS on average saves six years of work for every year it is implemented.



Country of implementation:

Zambia

Topic of focus:

Nutrition

Emerging Cooking Solutions



Effectively delivering affordable clean cooking stoves and biomass pellets to low-income communities through Emerging Cooking Solutions' utility model.

Dirty fuels and inefficient stoves pose environmental and health risks to billions of people globally. Transitioning to clean cooking is challenging due to cost and accessibility issues. Current clean cooking solutions struggle to scale, especially when targeting low-income communities.

Emerging Cooking Solutions (ECS) introduces an innovative utility model. ECS lends modern stoves to users in low-income communities, who buy biomass pellets at a 40 percent lower price compared to charcoal. The modern stoves are connected to an internet of things system, which allows ECS and its users to collect data and monitor stove usage to calculate its impact.

“Previously, I would spend more than ZMW 1000 (approximately US\$37) on cooking fuel, but with the Mini Moto, my monthly expenditure on cooking fuel has reduced to either ZMW 260 or ZMW 130 (US\$10 or US\$5). Additionally, the stove allows me to prepare meals in the shortest possible time.”

NAMATE LIANGWILE

an ECS customer from Chilenje, Zambia



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › 300 clients have purchased the services, reaching over 1,000 individuals across their households, all of whom now have the chance to prepare meals in a clean and efficient manner.
- › Clients currently use an average of 1.3kg of pellets per day, suggesting potential adaptability.

EYouth



Active In:

Egypt, Iraq

Topic of focus:

Resilience & Livelihoods, Emergency Operations



EYouth provides learning and training opportunities for refugees and host communities through their AI-based tech learning platform.

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is home to over 100 million young people between 18 and 35. The region experiences the highest global rate of youth unemployment, at 55 percent, and faces the challenges of food insecurity.

EYouth provides learning and training opportunities for refugees and host communities through their AI-based tech learning platform. The venture offers different types of online learning paths through an interactive methodology that helps young people acquire the necessary skills and find the right job.

“Beyond skills, 2,500 refugees and local youth find open doors. Our training equipped them to enter Egypt’s job market, raising incomes and fueling the nation’s growth. Individual lives transformed, a country empowered.”

YOMNA ALI

EYouth education manager



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › 2,206 people received a one-day training in employable and digital skills to provide them with a clear idea of the skills they need to have a better livelihood.
- › 500 people received employable and digital skill training for three months to provide them with the skills they need for strong job opportunities.



Fonio Machine

Active in:
Senegal

Thematic Area:
Nutrition, Supply Chain & Logistics



Fonio, the climate-resilient and indigenous superfood, improves food security and generates income across the African continent.

Over 38 million people in West Africa face acute food insecurity. Fonio is a nutritious and climate-resilient West African staple crop that has recently suffered a production decline due to manual processing difficulties.

The Fonio Machine processes fonio 30x faster than traditional methods. It is sold to women-led processing units through partnerships with financial institutions to support sales. Following extensive testing with the World Bank, 300 Fonio Machines are now active in eight African countries. The team also promotes awareness and training. Through its school meal programmes, WFP is testing fonio introduction in Senegal, supporting local farmer and, women cooperatives while enhancing children’s nutrition.



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › Fonio was introduced in the school menu of seven schools in the Kolda region and was endorsed by seven school directors.
- › 14 school cooks were trained on the preparation of fonio and food safety, and the innovation team received positive feedback on ease of preparation.

GeoTar



Active In:

Afghanistan, Iraq, Chad, Colombia, Bangladesh, Venezuela, Somalia

Topic of focus:

Emergency Operations



A geospatial system for WFP operations, enhancing targeting and prioritization decisions through user-friendly vulnerability profiling and analysis.

Geographic targeting, commonly used to identify areas needing assistance, often faces biases from outdated data. This can result in significant inclusion and exclusion errors in food assistance, adversely affecting the effectiveness and fairness of food assistance.

GeoTar is developing the Geospatial Vulnerability Framework (GVF) and Index (GVI) for improved geographic targeting. By considering climate change, agricultural capacity, service utilization and access, GeoTar creates detailed vulnerability maps for the lowest administrative levels without household data. This aims at enhancing operational decisions in WFP country offices, ultimately saving and changing lives.

“The indices provided by GeoTar [to the vulnerability analysis and mapping retargeting efforts] remain a good compass for us, even beyond the targeting.”

MOCTAR ABOUBACAR

Head of Research Assessment and Monitoring, WFP Afghanistan



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › With its pilots, GeoTar demonstrated its operational effectiveness in the geographic targeting process, leading to cost saving of US\$100,000 and saving three months of processing time, particularly in data-scarce environments.
- › GeoTar showcased its agility as a system capable of rapidly establishing a data pipeline. Within just three weeks, it produced granular analysis at the most operational administrative level in a country, contingent on context and data availability.

Global Upstream Planning (GUP)

Active In:
Global

Topic of focus:
Supply Chain & Logistics



A statistical insights tool that supports the global WFP supply chain network to ensure better, faster and more transparent decision-making.

The uncertainty of WFP operations makes the global supply chain very difficult to analyse. To maximize food delivery, WFP must determine where to send food, where to store it and how to best use its limited financial resources. This complex upstream planning issue not only affects countries with unpredictable funding but also demands responsive, data-driven decisions for developing emergencies.

Global Upstream Planning (GUP) is a system that models WFP's global supply chain network, focusing on upstream operations up to recipient countries. It provides data-driven insights to improve decision making in sourcing and delivery planning for HQ core units and regional bureaux.

"GUP has supported the Western Africa Region in preparing cross-functional sourcing and delivery plans aimed at strengthening timely purchases and prepositioning food for our operations. This initiative is characterized by a comprehensive approach that takes into account cross-functional collaboration between different units, operational challenges, accessibility, market capacity, efficiency and effectiveness."

SEDRIC ZAMEDJO
supply chain planning officer, WFP Regional Bureau for Western Africa



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › GUP is now planning the delivery of more than 250,000 mt of food per year in West and Central Africa.
- › GUP's system has reduced the speed to plan the replenishment of corporate inventory in WFP's Regional Bureau for Western Africa from two weeks to two days.
- › GUP has been used to justify building 3,000 mt of strategic stocks of specialized nutritious food (SNF) in Mombasa to cover regional emergencies.

Ignitia



Active In:

Mali

Topic of focus:

Food Systems & Smallholder Farmers



Ignitia uses a reliable and accessible SMS forecast and weather intelligence platform to provide smallholder farmers in the tropics with accurate, actionable and affordable weather forecasts that will help them improve agricultural yield.

In sub-Saharan Africa, over 96 percent of cultivated land is rain-fed. Climate change-induced shifts in rainfall patterns pose a major threat, accounting for up to 80 percent of yield gaps among farmers. Reliable weather information is crucial for enhanced yields, reduced costs and improved climate resilience.

Ignitia, operating in 11 countries, delivers localized forecasts to farmers through an advanced physics and AI predictive model optimized for the tropics that is twice as accurate as global models. It offers farmers location-specific climate-smart advice, aiding sustainable growth. To date, Ignitia has provided services to 2.7 million smallholder farmers, of which approximately 700,000 are recurrent. WFP supports Ignitia with grant funding to further refine and validate its agribusiness and agripreneur business models.

“Thanks to Ignitia’s service, no farmer in the village takes any action without consulting me. They consider me a soothsayer.”

ELHADJ MOUSSA TRAORÉ

President of UCPTC (Union des Coopératives des Producteurs et Transformateurs de céréales)



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › With a recurrent customer base of 700,000 people, Ignitia expanded with the WFP Innovation Accelerator into Mali. There, in 2023, 5,481 smallholder farmers, who otherwise would not have had access to the service, directly received daily weather forecasts and weekly climate smart advisories via SMS.
- › A successful mission in collaboration with WFP Mali was organized to receive feedback from beneficiaries and introduce bundling of Ignitia services to cooperatives working with WFP, which received positive response for a commercial business model.

Kitchen in a Box (KIAB)

Active In:
El Salvador

Topic of focus:
Nutrition, School Feeding



Promoting access to safe infrastructure to prepare and deliver nutritious school meals.

In El Salvador, many public schools do not have adequate infrastructure to prepare, store and consume school meals. Financial constraints and a lack of knowledge lead to the use of makeshift facilities like wood-burning stoves and provisional warehouses, compromising a healthy feeding and learning environment.

Kitchen in a Box addresses this issue by repurposing recycled containers into weather-resistant kitchens. It provides essential materials for food preparation and storage and offers training in safe cooking and nutrition. The innovation also incorporates rainwater harvesting for water access, solar panels for renewable energy and the establishment of school gardens, promoting a holistic approach to school feeding.

“Kitchen in a Box is a multidimensional solution that allows school feeding with an environmentally friendly approach and adaptation to climate change in El Salvador’s dry corridor, where every drop of water is important. WFP’s commitment to school feeding is firm, considering it a gateway to a healthier future for the next generation.”

RIAZ LODHI
WFP El Salvador country director



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › In El Salvador, Kitchen in a Box provided 85,888 meals in two months to children benefiting from the government’s school feeding programme.
- › In El Salvador’s dry corridor, the efficient use of water through modern irrigation systems and renewable energy solutions, such as school gardens and rainwater harvesting, reduced the impact of the use of firewood currently used in kitchens, which negatively affected the environment. Overall, Kitchen in a Box reduced the burning of 876 kg of firewood per month.

mothers2mothers



Active In:
Mozambique

Topic of focus:
Nutrition



mothers2mothers (m2m) is an African primary health care organization that employs women living with HIV as community health workers, known as Mentor Mothers.

Chronic malnutrition costs African economies 3-16 percent of GDP annually, affecting 600 million people who lack access to quality healthcare to overcome malnutrition. In 2020, half a million people aged 10-24 were newly infected with HIV globally, with sub-Saharan Africa having the highest youth HIV rates, especially among girls.

mothers2mothers (m2m) employs HIV-positive women as community health workers, known as “Mentor Mothers”. They deliver integrated health services, including nutrition education, assessments, referrals, counseling and tools for home gardens, ensuring families have comprehensive care. m2m’s approach addresses the multifaceted health challenges faced by vulnerable populations.

“When I started classes at culinary school, I was unemployed. With the trainer’s encouragement, I realized that this was a great opportunity to support myself. I started a badjia (bean fritter) business, and I have since seen a good profit and can provide a better life for my family. I am very happy and thankful for the opportunity to participate in this programme.”

ZENA USSENE

38 years old, a mother who participated in the culinary school in Pemba, Mozambique



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › 70 implementors were trained for culinary demonstrations, including 48 Mentor Mothers, 15 health providers and seven m2m programmatic staff. Mentor Mothers were trained on how to conduct radio listening sessions. Implementors will be able to incorporate culinary training into their day-to-day work.
- › 1,035 participants attended the culinary school and 958, or 93 percent, completed the package of five sessions that help the population embrace a broader view of nutrition and abandon beliefs that can lead to malnutrition.
- › 956 community members (91 percent) participated in a radio session, and 727 (76 percent) completed the full package of eight sessions.

plugPAY

Active In:

Sri Lanka

Topic of focus:

Cash-Based Transfers



plugPAY is a digital payment platform that enables people to receive cash assistance through a one-stop shop and modality of their choice.

Implementing cash-based transfers (CBT) is intricate, demanding significant information and effort from partnering financial service providers (FSPs). This collaboration often limits WFP country offices to working with a single FSP, limiting choice and financial inclusion for recipients.

plugPAY is a digital payment solution facilitating quick cash assistance delivery to vulnerable communities. Deployed in WFP country offices in Zambia and Sri Lanka, plugPAY has aided over 600,000 people with a transfer value of US\$7 million. The solution, which generated US\$148,000 savings in the WFP Sri Lanka country office in 2023, is slated to roll out in Nepal, Bangladesh, Nigeria, the Philippines and Tunisia in 2024, showcasing successful collaboration between WFP and various partners, including banks and telecom companies.

“Money through the bank is the best idea, because everyone has it and they can get the money day to day. People change phone numbers frequently but not bank accounts. Transfers to bank accounts are the tidier option”

MS. ELACKIYA

an employee at the Divisional Secretariat, Kayts, Sri Lanka



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › Operations scaled up to 67,000 payments per month, dispersing more than US\$7 million.
- › In Sri Lanka, plugPay successfully made payments through 11 different banks.
- › plugPAY provided beneficiaries with diverse disbursement modalities, including beneficiary withdrawal, card payment and transfer, to best serve their needs and contexts.

Rapid Response Connectivity Carrier (R2C2)



Active In:
Mozambique, South Africa,
United Republic of Tanzania

Topic of focus:
Emergency Operations



The Rapid Response Connectivity Carrier, or R2C2, is a 90-meter communications tower that can be packed into two suitcases, enabling communications in emergency response.

Natural disasters impact 217 million people annually, disrupting telecommunications and impeding efficient emergency response.

R2C2, a tethered drone solution, operates 24/7 and offers internet access to thousands over a three km² area during crises. A single cable supplies both power and data connection, replacing limited hotspots and handheld radio networks. The prototype is developed and successfully tested for technical features. R2C2's potential solar power further enhances its eco-friendly and adaptable nature, revolutionizing connectivity in disaster-stricken regions.

“In a future emergency, we’ll be able to use a tethered drone to provide connectivity for the responders in the immediate area and the community”

PATRICK MCKAY
IT operations officer, WFP Regional Bureau for Southern Africa



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › In Stellenbosch, South Africa, WFP tested the first-ever humanitarian connectivity airship.
- › In Morogoro, Tanzania, there were 80 simultaneous connections and a total number of 560 connections over two days.
- › In Oslo, Norway, the Elistair heavy-lift drone lifted its heaviest weight ever and WFP tested a 5G network payload - both humanitarian firsts.

Rebug2Debug



Active In:

Rwanda

Topic of focus:

Food Systems & Smallholder Farmers



Rebug2Debug aims to redefine food waste reduction by using the Black Soldier Fly Larvae (BSFL) to convert waste into organic fertilizer and nutritious feed.

Around 30 percent of global food is wasted annually, including in developing countries with limited access to post-harvest facilities, such as Rwanda. Apart from food waste, widespread food insecurity affects hundreds of millions due to issues like low productivity and affordability.

Rebug2Debug's innovation utilizes the Black Soldier Fly Larvae (BSFL) to process organic waste, providing protein-rich feed and organic fertilizer. This circular solution aims to enhance smallholder farmers' productivity in Rwanda by offering affordable organic fertilizer and reducing the cost of protein production through the use of BSFL in high-quality, cost-effective animal feed.

"The fertilizer works so well in vegetables and bananas, for my case I am intercropping bananas and collard greens. I also apply the fertilizer during the dry season because I have a water source (borehole) and this gives me confidence because the fertilizer helps the soil to hold water during these dry days."

OFUMBI EDITH

a farmer in Nakasseke District, Uganda, growing bananas and collard greens



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › Utilizing insect technology, Rebug2Debug's process of transforming coffee pulp and organic waste into fertilizer is five times faster than conventional composting methods.
- › The production process of this fertilizer prevents the emission of two tons of CO2 equivalent per ton of fertilizer produced, contributing to a substantial reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Secure Fishing

Active In:

India

Topic of focus:

Resilience & Livelihoods



Leveraging information technology to increase safety, precision, productivity and food security of fishermen.

Odisha, India, faces severe climate challenges, impacting 1.5 million small-scale fishermen with incomes below the national average and global poverty line due to frequent cyclones, flooding and droughts. Limited information on weather patterns and restrictions leads to prolonged fishing closures, and government compensations are often insufficient.

The Secure Fishing app addresses these issues by offering real-time information on safe fishing spots and routes. The app aims to enhance safety, asset protection, productivity, and environmental conservation for fishermen, mitigating the high risk of food insecurity caused by significant asset loss, meager incomes and inadequate compensations in this climate-vulnerable region.

“With the Secure Fishing app in my mobile phone, my venture into the sea is now risk-free. It eases my mind before I start. I know I can reach someone when in distress in the sea. I always return with more catches of fish than before.”

BABAJI PARIDA

a marine fisher in Kendrapara, India



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › About 3,500 users have downloaded the Secure Fishing app.
- › Users of the Secure Fishing app have seen a 25 percent increase in their catch, even when using the app for a brief period.

Sustainable Fuel for Cooking

Active In:
South Sudan

Topic of focus:
Resilience & Livelihoods



Promoting access to affordable alternative cooking fuel by training communities in the production, use and market of water hyacinth briquettes.

Rural communities in South Sudan currently face cooking fuel shortages due to scarce firewood and expensive charcoal. This particularly affects nearly one million people grappling with climate change.

Sustainable Fuel for Cooking addresses this challenge by building community resilience through affordable, safe cooking fuel made from water hyacinth. The easy-to-learn, cost-effective production process involves local resources, ensuring sustainability and market acceptance. This innovation saves time and money for communities, reduces protection risks for women collecting firewood and presents income-generation opportunities, combating food insecurity and enhancing overall community well-being.

“This innovation allows women to cook meals for their families without having to go on dangerous journeys to collect firewood.”

TRAINING GROUP PARTICIPANT



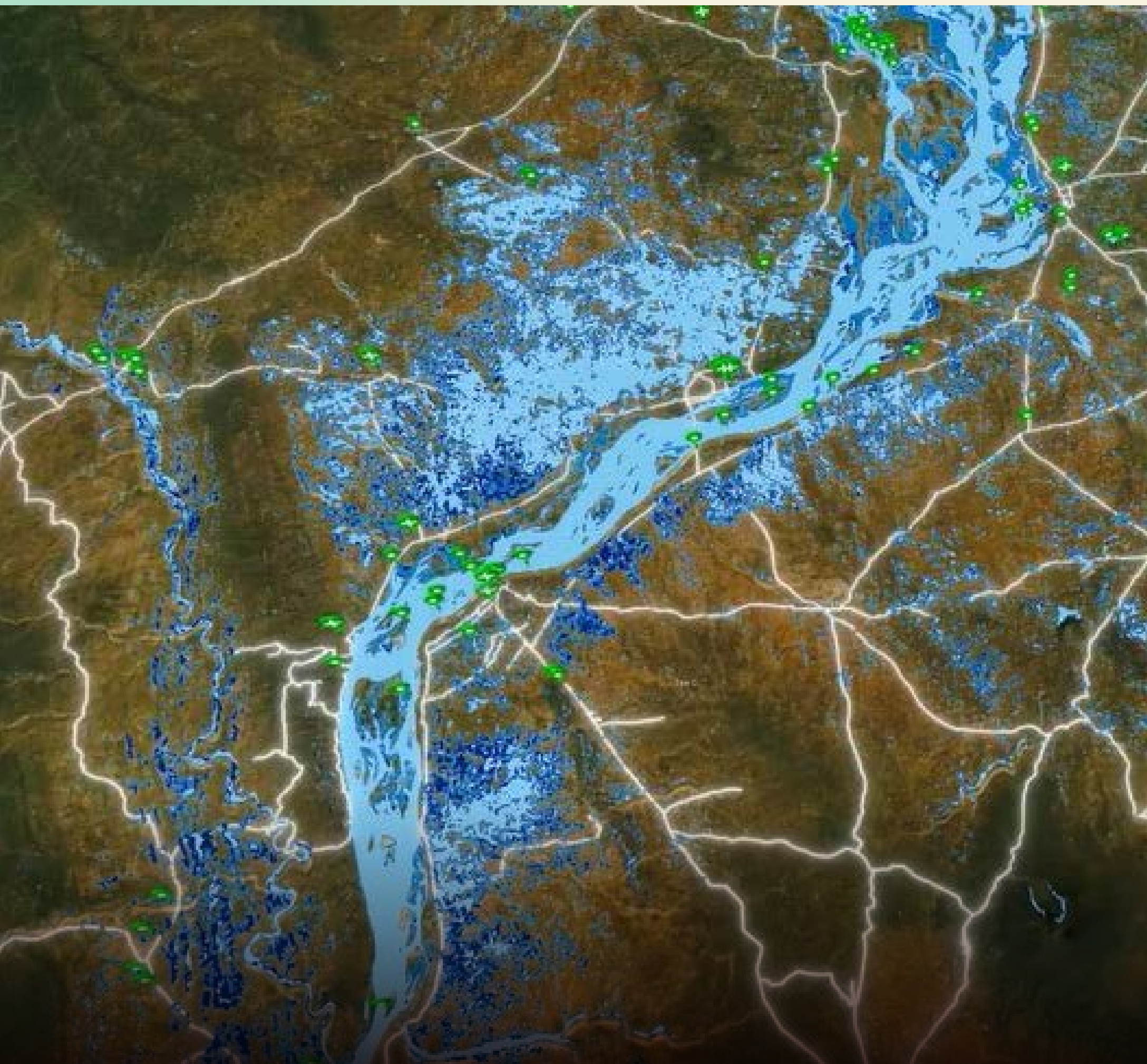
HIGHLIGHTS:

- › 95 percent of households reported that the provided training was useful and that they continue applying skills learned on briquettes production.
- › 98 percent of households indicated that they would recommend the use of water hyacinth briquettes to other community members.
- › 37 percent of households reported witnessing other community members engaging in production or selling water hyacinth briquettes, showing the potential for organic adoption of the innovation due to the success of the sprint.

Timely Logistics

Active In:
Nepal

Topic of focus:
Emergency Operations



Geohazard network analysis (RA2CE) for faster and better-informed emergency response.

As global natural hazards increase, access to transport logistics information becomes crucial for disaster response.

Timely Logistics uses RA2CE (Resilience Assessment and Adaptation for Critical Infrastructure), a geohazard network analysis model, to calculate real-time disaster impact on transportation networks. Analysing disruptions helps identify accessible locations like health centers and markets, aiding emergency responders in faster, life-saving actions.

RA2CE builds on existing tools, offering reliable information for planning and risk management, ensuring effective disaster preparedness and response strategies.



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › A simulation exercise was organized under the overall coordination of Nepal Red Cross Society of Bardiya district and technical support of WFP, validating that the information produced by the RA2CE tool is useful and supportive to develop emergency response plans.

Toothpick



Active In:

Kenya

Topic of focus:

Food Systems & Smallholder Farmers



The Toothpick Project provides smallholder farmers with a bio-herbicide technology to help them manage striga (witchweed), a destructive parasitic weed attacking the roots of staple crops in sub-Saharan Africa.

Striga, a major threat to African food security, affects 40 million farms in sub-Saharan Africa.

Toothpick's bio-herbicide, one of the world's first to be commercialized, targets this pest. Operating as a pilot social enterprise in Kenya, the *Kichawi Kill* bioherbicide, delivered on toothpicks, utilizes locally sourced fungus strains to inhibit striga. The innovation restores crop yield and overcomes 20-100 percent of loss, promoting food security and increasing income. In June 2023, Toothpick developed an approved seed-coating product that enhances affordability, extends shelf-life and simplifies distribution, ensuring widespread access to this safe, effective and environmentally friendly solution.

“Where there is victory, there is history. Developed over decades of lab research, field trials and relationships with stakeholders, *Kichawi Kill* has a rich history. We are grateful to our farmers for their belief in our product. The future is fungi and we are humbled to be at the helm of such a transformative agritech movement.”

DORCAS KEMBOI

General Manager



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › The number of farmers who adopted Kichawi Kill increased from 2,424 to 4,363 in 2023.
- › The Kenya regulatory board accelerated Toothpick's seed-coating technology, granting approval eight months earlier than expected. This new product, first manufactured and distributed during the grant period, reduces prices by 60 percent, increases shelf life and dramatically improves distribution logistics.

Scale-Up Enablement

At the WFP Innovation Accelerator we believe that scaling impactful innovations is a key enabler to ending world hunger by 2030. The WFP Innovation Accelerator aims to deliver tailored services that leverage its expertise, access and network to scale the most impactful innovations.

In 2023, the Scale-Up Enablement programme and its Alumni innovations reached more than 46 million people across 48 countries. **The Scale-Up Enablement programme grew its impact by over 59 percent in 2023.**

The rapid scale up of our ongoing innovations, such as Nilus, Sanku and Building Blocks also contribute to this impressive increase in reach. Two of our flagship Scale-up innovations received recognition this year, with S4S Technologies winning the Earthshot Prize for “Building a Waste-Free World” and Nilus being recognized on Norrsken’s Impact/100 list, as Schwab Foundation’s social entrepreneur of the year 2023 and receiving a grant from the Humanitarian Innovation Programme (HIP) Norway for scaling innovation in humanitarian crises.

Throughout 2023, we actively engaged WFP business units, country offices and regional bureaux to create integrated

strategies for each of our core thematic areas, including nutrition, supply chain, food systems, cash-based transfers, resilience and climate action. We contributed to strategic dialogue, field missions and programme operations to better position our efforts to source, embed and scale innovative solutions within the WFP landscape.

We also guided innovations on how to scale, sharing best practices and lessons learned on the enabling factors to scale high impact innovations, providing clear path-to-scale roadmaps through the Scale-Up Enablement programme.



Scale-Up Enablement Alumni

Since the inception of the Scale-Up Enablement programme in 2019, eight innovations have graduated and joined our Alumni programme, which provides ongoing light-touch strategy and technical support, marketing and external visibility, as well as access to a network of experts and mentors.

Through the alumni programme, we enable graduated innovations to continue showcasing their achievements and share what they have learned on their path to scale.

Active innovations within the alumni programme include the following:

Building Blocks is a WFP corporate innovation and the humanitarian sector's largest blockchain-based cash distribution system. It leverages blockchain to coordinate with other humanitarian agencies and transfer cash assistance to refugees securely and efficiently. In 2023, 2.2 million people received assistance and transfers by Building Blocks in Jordan, Bangladesh and Ukraine.

ShareTheMeal 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 2023,

ShareTheMeal raised over 39 million meals, equivalent to US\$31.6 million and reached the 200 million meals milestone in the same year.

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. In 2023, over 4,000 people participated in the digital skills training, subsequently benefiting over 21,000 household members in Iraq, Kenya, Turkey and Egypt.

School Meal Programme (SMP) PLUS is an AI-powered tool creating school menus that are affordable, nutritious and use locally-sourced and culturally-acceptable ingredients. In 2023, SMP PLUS designed menus that reached over 4 million children.

PRISM is a climate risk monitoring system that integrates geospatial data on hazards, such as droughts, floods, tropical storms and earthquakes, with information on socioeconomic vulnerability to inform disaster risk reduction and social assistance programmes. PRISM was also 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. LogIE is active in 22 countries and continues to update and improve its platform for data optimization and user friendliness.

Chakki



Active In:
Pakistan

Topic of focus:
Nutrition



Engaging small-scale producers to fortify wheat flour for the hardest-to-reach population in Pakistan.

The 2018 National Nutrition Survey highlights Pakistan’s malnutrition crisis, attributing it to a lack of diet diversity that affects all life stages. With 37 percent of Pakistanis food insecure and 42 percent of reproductive-age women anemic, fortifying foods with essential nutrients is critical.

In Pakistan, most households buy wheat flour from one of the country’s 70,000 small-scale mills (Chakkis), which serve 89 percent of the population. However, these Chakkis typically do not fortify flour, missing a significant opportunity to combat malnutrition. Chakki, an initiative equipping these mills with technology, skills and funding, aims to fortify flour at the grassroots, addressing malnutrition by educating consumers and enhancing flour quality.

“With very little investment, fortification can make a huge impact on diets, health and social assistance.”

MAHAMADOU TANIMOUNE
Policy Programme Officer in the Pakistan WFP Country Office



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › Chakki has supported the fortification of over 696 megatons of flour, representing 83 percent of commercial production in the two pilot districts of Islamabad and Rawalpindi.
- › Over 3 million people in Pakistan consumed fortified flour purchased from the supported flour mills.
- › In 2024, WFP will triple the number of small-scale mills it supports to 155 across 22 districts in Pakistan.

Sanku



Active In:
Tanzania, Kenya

Topic of focus:
Nutrition



Equipping small-scale mills with tools, knowledge and resources to build fortification capacity and enrich flour with essential micronutrients.

Food fortification, a cost-effective method to enhance food with vitamins and minerals, is underutilized in Tanzania, where up to 95 percent of its over 50 million people rely on small mills for flour, therefore missing the fortification implemented in large-scale mills. Sanku addresses this gap by equipping small mills with fortification tools, training and internet of things-enabled dosifiers that accurately add essential nutrients to flour. This initiative enables small-scale fortification at no extra cost to millers or consumers. Sanku’s model, extending to Tanzania and Kenya, includes remote monitoring of dosifier usage via the machine’s cellular link, ensuring widespread nutrient enhancement without financial burdens.

“Thank you very much to WFP and Sanku. Now, I am going to produce fortified flour which will help improve my customers’ health and my income as well.”

KABHATEYE
a miller in Tanzania



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › Sanku launched the first in-country nutrient-premix-blending facility in Tanzania to reduce costs, give Sanku more control over its supply chain and serve Sanku’s current operations in Tanzania and Kenya. As it scales, this facility has the capacity to serve most of the East Africa region.
- › Sanku produced 100 percent of its own flour bags for Tanzanian millers in Dar es Salaam, introducing in-house cutting and baling to reduce stock-related inefficiencies and costs and improve quality.
- › By partnering with 1,060 mills, Sanku provided 7.1 million people with access to fortified flour in Tanzania and Kenya.

BioAnalyt



Active In:

Global

Topic of focus:

Nutrition



Developing a cutting-edge portable solution for efficient and accurate food fortification testing, aimed at enhancing global health outcomes.

Over 2 billion people suffer from micronutrient deficiencies worldwide, causing significant health and economic impacts. Despite food fortification efforts, about half of all fortified foods fail to meet required micronutrient standards, eroding public trust and diminishing intended health benefits. There is a critical demand for more precise, accessible food fortification verification methods to ensure effectiveness and rebuild trust. BioAnalyt is answering this call with iCheck Modular, an all-in-one device offering rapid, cost-efficient testing for food fortification, quality and safety. By leveraging advanced data processing and machine learning, it enhances decision making, monitoring and compliance in food fortification. Its connectivity features, like Bluetooth and Wi-Fi, ensure seamless integration with digital management systems, making it an ideal solution in varied contexts.

“We believe that digitization has the potential to strengthen food fortification [compliance] and the 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



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › With WFP's support, BioAnalyt successfully completed developing the iCheck Modular functional prototype on-time and on-budget.
- › Following graduation, BioAnalyt will develop the technical prototype and zero series, culminating in a market-ready device that is expected to launch at the end of 2024.
- › Through improved micronutrient testing and monitoring, BioAnalyt expects to positively impact the health outcomes for millions of vulnerable individuals around the world.

CODA



Active In:
South Sudan, Afghanistan

Topic of focus:
Nutrition

Digitizing nutrition programming for efficient planning, monitoring and decision making.

Traditional field operations often use inefficient, error-prone paper systems for data collection, impeding stakeholder decision making and potentially harming community health, especially in UN emergency zones grappling with hunger and food security. Conditional On-Demand Assistance (CODA) introduces a digital transformation, enhancing nutrition program management and individual data tracking through mobile devices and smartcards. This innovative approach discards outdated paper records, allowing for precise, individual-level monitoring and tailored assistance. CODA ensures personalized support, acknowledging the unique needs of each person, significantly improving the accuracy and impact of aid distribution in challenging environments.

“CODA simplifies the work and it eases our workload. It saves us time and is much faster than traditional methods.”

ELIZABETH ATANASIA
World Vision South Sudan



HIGHLIGHTS:

- > In 2023, over 25,000 children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women were enrolled in CODA.
- > The next generation version, CODA 2.0, will be rolled out in 2024 in South Sudan and Nigeria.



Take Home Rations



Active In:

India

Topic of focus:

Nutrition, Gender Equality



Enhancing nutrition for children and women in India.

In developing countries, malnutrition in children and women often worsens after six months of age due to inadequate feeding and care practices, including poor complementary feeding. School-based nutrition programmes offer a chance to enhance health and educational access. In India, WFP aids the government in elevating supplementary nutrition quality, demand and intake.

Take Home Rations aims to fill nutritional gaps with complementary feeding and boost the nutritional product supply chain efficiency. Employing a hub-and-spoke production model, it fosters shorter, robust supply chains by leveraging existing networks of women’s self-help groups and integrating government training schemes. An innovative app-based training programme provides these groups with short tutorials on product development and distribution, supporting nutrition and empowerment.

“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



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › Developed a learning management system to provide training and capacity building for women’s micro-enterprises in Uttar Pradesh, where 12 e-learning modules and software solutions have been developed and will be deployed in February 2024.
- › Procured Android tablets to deploy the software solution addressing the capacity-building needs for women’s micro-enterprises in Uttar Pradesh.
- › Deployed a QR code printing machine and software solution for a pilot on improved efficiency of the supply chain of fortified blended foods in Uttar Pradesh.

Farm to Market Alliance

Active In:
Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia, Tanzania

Topic of focus:
Smallholder Farmers



public-private partnership



Investing in the final steps of the farming process through our Farmer Service Centre Model.

Smallholder farmers are key to building sustainable food systems, advancing food security and achieving zero hunger, but face challenges like limited agricultural knowledge and access to inputs, structured markets, fertilizers and other services. The Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) addresses these issues through Farmer Service Centers, which serve as vital links to farming communities, facilitating access to necessary resources and structured markets. These centers generate income for themselves via direct sales or commissions from established connections. FtMA collaborates with diverse last-mile actors, including agri-preneurs, village-based agents, farmer cooperatives and agro-shops, to set up these centers, enhancing the support network for smallholder farmers and driving forward food security.

“The support from FtMA has significantly bolstered the growth of my business. I am proud to say that my enterprise stands on a stable foundation. I have been able to provide a better education for my children and FtMA has not only transformed my life but has also brought about positive changes within our community.”

NEEMA VEGULA
Farmer Service Centre, Wanging’ombe, Njombe, Tanzania



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › In 2023, FtMA registered a 44 percent increase of Farmer Service Centres, from 1,898 to 2,740. This impacted over 615,000 farmers and over 2.6 million families benefited from improved food security.
- › Over 67,000 metric tons of crops valued at over US\$31 million were aggregated and sold through Farmer Service Centres.
- › The programme supported the planting of over 1.2 million trees and currently, 30 percent of FtMA-supported farmers are adopting climate-smart agriculture practices.

Post-Harvest Loss Venture



Active In:
Mozambique, Rwanda,
Zambia, South Sudan

Topic of focus:
Smallholder Farmers



Enhancing food security and income for smallholder farmers through post-harvest loss management.

In developing countries, the adoption of post-harvest storage and handling technologies by smallholder farmers is low due to a fragmented ecosystem and lack of incentives for market players, contributing up to 40 percent of food losses post-harvest. WFP's Post-Harvest Loss (PHL) Venture aims to increase the uptake of these technologies among smallholder farmers through partnerships with local public and private sectors. This initiative introduces innovative business models to make PHL solutions both affordable for farmers and commercially viable for supply chain participants, addressing the root causes of post-harvest losses and improving food security by ensuring more produce reaches the market.

“With the plastic silo that WFP gave us, my family can store grain until the next harvest. We now have food for the whole year and extra money that we can use for other things around the house.”

SMALLHOLDER FARMER
Nyagatare, Rwanda



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › In Mozambique, WFP supported the supply chain of hermetic bags, resulting in 3,157,817 being sold country wide in 2023.
- › In Zambia, 63 Ministry of Education staff were trained in storage and management for the Home-Grown School Meals programme, benefiting 1.9 million learners, providing meals in some schools and reducing dropouts.
- › In South Sudan, PHL Venture enhanced post-harvest loss technologies for over 2,500 farmers, providing 1,612 hermetic storage solutions and constructing 15 improved granaries, aiding over 2,000 households with secure grain and seed storage.

Nilus



Active In:
Argentina, Mexico,
Peru, Columbia

Topic of focus:
Supply chain



Technology to lower the cost of living for low-income people, leveraging the power of disintermediation, food rescue and community group buying.

Globally, over 2 billion people face food insecurity, unable to afford daily healthy meals. Excessive intermediation and informality make healthy foods in low-income neighborhoods at least 25 percent more expensive than in middle-income areas, a concept called the poverty tax. Nilus aims to eradicate hunger by lowering the cost of healthy food and groceries for low-income people. Its technology streamlines inefficiencies by connecting producers directly with consumers. The initiative empowers female community leaders to organize purchases and distribution, using their homes for logistics, ensuring safety and affordability - often at 70 percent less than market prices. Strategic partnerships with logistics firms, food banks and producers enable Nilus to deliver nutritious food efficiently to communities.

“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.”

NILUS COMMUNITY LEADER



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › In 2023, Nilus collaborated with the WFP Innovation Accelerator and WFP Peru to launch operations in the country, targeting social gastronomy channels, reaching 9,000 community members and leaders.
- › In 2023, Nilus rescued 3.5 million tons of food from being wasted.
- › In 2023, Nilus saved 8,000 tons of CO2 equivalent.

Optimus



Active In:
44 countries

Topic of focus:
Supply chain



An online optimization tool that helps identify the most cost-effective way to reach the people WFP serves.

WFP navigates daily challenges such as funding gaps, access issues due to weather or conflict, changing regulations and emergencies requiring quick action. Leveraging data and analytics is essential for managing these complexities and evaluating solutions swiftly. Optimus, an innovative online tool, empowers users to analyse WFP operations comprehensively, using advanced analytics to simulate various scenarios. The tool delivers operational excellence, focusing on three key decision-making areas: food basket design, transfer modality selection and sourcing and delivery plans. By optimizing these decisions, teams can identify operational plans that achieve programmatic goals at the lowest cost, whilst respecting operational constraints such as funding levels and supply chain lead times.

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

GINA RATOVOARISO
Procurement Officer, WFP Madagascar



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › Optimus reduced WFP Haiti’s operational costs by US\$273,000, with greater impact expected in 2024 as longer term recommendations are being implemented, such as the inclusion of fortified rice in school meals.
- › Optimus was used to evaluate the nutritional adequacy of the minimum expenditure basket (MEB), which highlighted the need to introduce fortified cereals in the diet of refugees.
- › WFP Bangladesh presented the Optimus analysis during a donor meeting, who agreed to increase the transfer value by US\$0.50 per person per month. This ensured people would be able to reliably access fortified commodities through their cash-based transfers.

H2Grow



Active In:
Bangladesh, Burundi,
Nigeria, Pakistan, Zambia

Topic of focus:
Livelihoods



Bringing locally adaptable and affordable hydroponic solutions to vulnerable communities worldwide.

Unreliable water supply, limited land access, poor soil quality and seasonal and climate-related challenges prevent communities worldwide from growing food and exacerbate food insecurity. These issues intensify in desert areas, refugee camps and densely populated urban areas. WFP’s H2Grow offers hydroponic solutions in these difficult environments, enabling soilless farming that uses up to 90 percent less water and 75 percent less space while doubling production rates compared to traditional farming. By developing low-tech systems from local materials, H2Grow facilitates the growth of fresh vegetables and animal feed, supporting food-insecure families in diverse environments to enhance their nutrition and income.

“My fellow students and I participate in planting the vegetables in the hydroponic garden set up at our school. 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



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › In Pakistan, WFP supported the uptake and adoption of hydroponic technology by the local community with trust building, which resulted in the sustainable development of dried condiments like chili, garlic, onion and mint powder.
- › In Nigeria, the climate-smart hydroponic fodder production innovation reached 923 people with direct transfers from WFP through cooperating partners to improve their food security and nutrition status.
- › In Burundi, to increase and diversify food production WFP has rolled out the hydroponic smart agriculture system in seven provinces to support Home Grown School Feeding Programme. Nine hydroponic greenhouses in two provinces are currently in production and have produced 1.8 mt of fresh vegetables for 9,793 schoolchildren. Six additional new greenhouses have been operationalized with the installation of new hydroponic production systems, enabling a significant increase in vegetable production.

H2Grow

Asset-based Loans



Active In:

Kenya

Topic of focus:

Livelihoods



A loan programme making commercial hydroponics more affordable and accessible.

In high-density urban informal settlements, limited land and poor soil hinder vegetable cultivation for consumption and market sale, exacerbating food insecurity and economic hardship. Aspiring vegetable farmers often struggle to access finance, knowledge and modern technology. H2Grow Asset-based Finance aims to make hydroponics assets affordable and accessible through fair and transparent loans. Using an innovative financing model, it aims to sustainably finance hydroponic systems, establishing market linkages for farmers while providing an internal case study for WFP's efforts at blended finance for hydroponic initiatives.

“Before hydroponics, we could only eat Ugali. After hydroponics were introduced, we could eat vegetables. Also, when we started hydroponics in 2018, we could harvest vegetables 17 times per year. Now, every two weeks we can harvest.”

HYDROPONICS FARMER

Nairobi



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › 30 hydroponic units were installed in informal settlements in Kibera, Kenya, reaching over 300 households, and five hydroponic units were installed in Wajir, Kenya, impacting over 50 households.
- › Through this initiative in Kenya, WFP strengthened hydroponic value chains and business models through market linkages, value addition support and agronomist support.

R4 Rural Resilience Initiative



Active In:

Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Senegal, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Topic of focus:

Livelihoods



Enhancing food security and financial resilience for smallholder farmers through integrated climate risk management.

Smallholder farmers, responsible for over a third of global food production, face increasing challenges due to climate shocks, jeopardizing both their livelihoods and food security. WFP's R4 Rural Resilience Initiative provides insurance to rural communities in 15 countries. R4 integrates four risk management strategies: risk retention, risk transfer, risk management and risk reduction. By offering insurance products within a comprehensive climate risk management package, R4 enhances resilience, enabling farmers to mitigate losses from extreme weather events and explore new crop opportunities. For instance, the provision of micro-insurance that covers rice production to cocoa farmers in Côte d'Ivoire is a component of an integrated climate risk management package, which will de-risk newly formed value chains of alternative crops in the cocoa-growing region and ensure that farmers are resilient against climate shocks.

"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



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › Focus groups with farming cooperatives and local stakeholders in the Callaway region of Côte d'Ivoire revealed a strong demand for agricultural insurance to mitigate climate-induced losses and barriers to accessing credit and inputs. Farmers emphasized the lack of accessible insurance as a significant obstacle, sharing experiences of climatic challenges.
- › In 2023, R4 launched an innovative weather-based drought index insurance scheme that provided financial protection for 5,111 rice farmers in Côte d'Ivoire against climate shocks, such as dry spells or excess rainfall, impacting 25,555 households. This scheme was launched in partnership with the consortium 'Consortium d'Assurance pour le Développement de l'Assurance Agricole Indicielle en Côte d'Ivoire' (DAAI-CI), initiated by African Risk Capacity (ARC), coordinated by Cabinet Africain de Solutions d'Assurances Inclusives (CASA) and several participants from the public and private sectors.
- › This pilot programme in Côte d'Ivoire aims to integrate insurance into a support package for rice cooperatives and federations, enhancing their productivity and resilience. This approach acknowledges the benefits of insurance in improving farmers' access to financial services, boosting their productivity and access to markets.

Solar 4 Resilience (S4R)

↑
EXTERNAL
INNOVATION

Active In:

India

Topic of focus:

Smallholder Farmers



Building resilience by transforming women farmers into micro-entrepreneurs through solar-powered food dehydration systems for climate-resilient food processing.

Solar 4 Resilience (S4R) is an initiative started by WFP, the state of Odisha in India and the private company Science for Society (S4S) Technologies. It provides entrepreneurs with solar-powered food preservation and processing capabilities to convert cosmetically damaged produce (vegetables, fruits, spices and marine products) into food ingredients using solar energy, bypassing the need for coal, wood or electricity. This process not only reduces food wastage and CO2 emissions but also supports the food and beverage industry with sustainable ingredients. By processing at the farm gate, women entrepreneurs can double their profits to escape poverty.

“With processing work, I gained confidence that I can now do something independently. That is the biggest marker. Before, I would eat last in my household, now I eat with the family. My children see me differently, as a role model. I am more involved in the household decision-making activities, and this is not limited to the household sphere - it’s across villages and communities too. Women like me become representatives in our villages and have started taking on leadership positions. I now have the power to dream.”

SHOBHA RATHOD

S4S entrepreneur



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › After launching a partnership with the government of Odisha, the S4R initiative selected, identified and trained 36 women in Odisha to become entrepreneurs and operate solar-powered equipment to produce food ingredients.
- › In 2023, more than 44 tons of raw vegetables have been processed by the units and US\$1,495 in income has been generated in less than three months of processing, benefiting 36 female micro-entrepreneurs and another 300 community members indirectly.

Payment Instrument Tracking (PIT)



Active In:
23 Countries

Topic of focus:
Cash-based transfers



Payment Instrument Tracking is a solution that enables WFP to track the end-to-end process of card and food distribution and verifies recipients' identity in the process.

WFP, a leading provider of humanitarian cash assistance, empowers individuals with choice and dignity. Still, manual processes for handling payment cards and distributing food are prevalent in many areas, causing long waiting times for recipients and increasing the risk of cash- and food-assistance assurance gaps. Payment Instrument Tracking (PIT) offers a digital solution for tracking payment cards and verifying identities, ensuring accurate distribution of payments and food assistance. PIT is designed to be simple, intuitive, efficient and flexible, streamlining payment card distribution and food assistance distribution while enhancing the overall experience for the people WFP serves.

“The PIT application helps us track SIM cards from the moment they arrive at WFP until they are distributed to the 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 brought immeasurable gains for us at WFP.”

OFFICER
WFP Mozambique Country Office



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › The solution is operational in 23 country offices, where it has been used to digitally distribute and manage cards.
- › In 2023, PIT deployed in Ethiopia and Palestine to digitize the emergency food distribution process and assurance standards for 1.9 million people.

WFP Innovation BRIDGE



Unsplash/Desola Lanre-Ologun

WFP Innovation BRIDGE, the first funding facility under the 'WFP BRIDGE' initiative (outlined in the Innovative Finance section later in this report) launched in September 2023. WFP Innovation BRIDGE offers innovative impact businesses disrupting hunger access to loans and guarantees with flexible, risk-tolerant and affordable terms.

BRIDGE expands WFP's funding continuum beyond grants towards investments, provides impact businesses with crucial funding for scaling, which they might not have otherwise access to, reduces risks for future investors and promotes

business growth and sustainability. It also allows WFP to establish longer-term relations with the businesses and to reinvest the investment repayments towards WFP's innovation portfolio in the future.

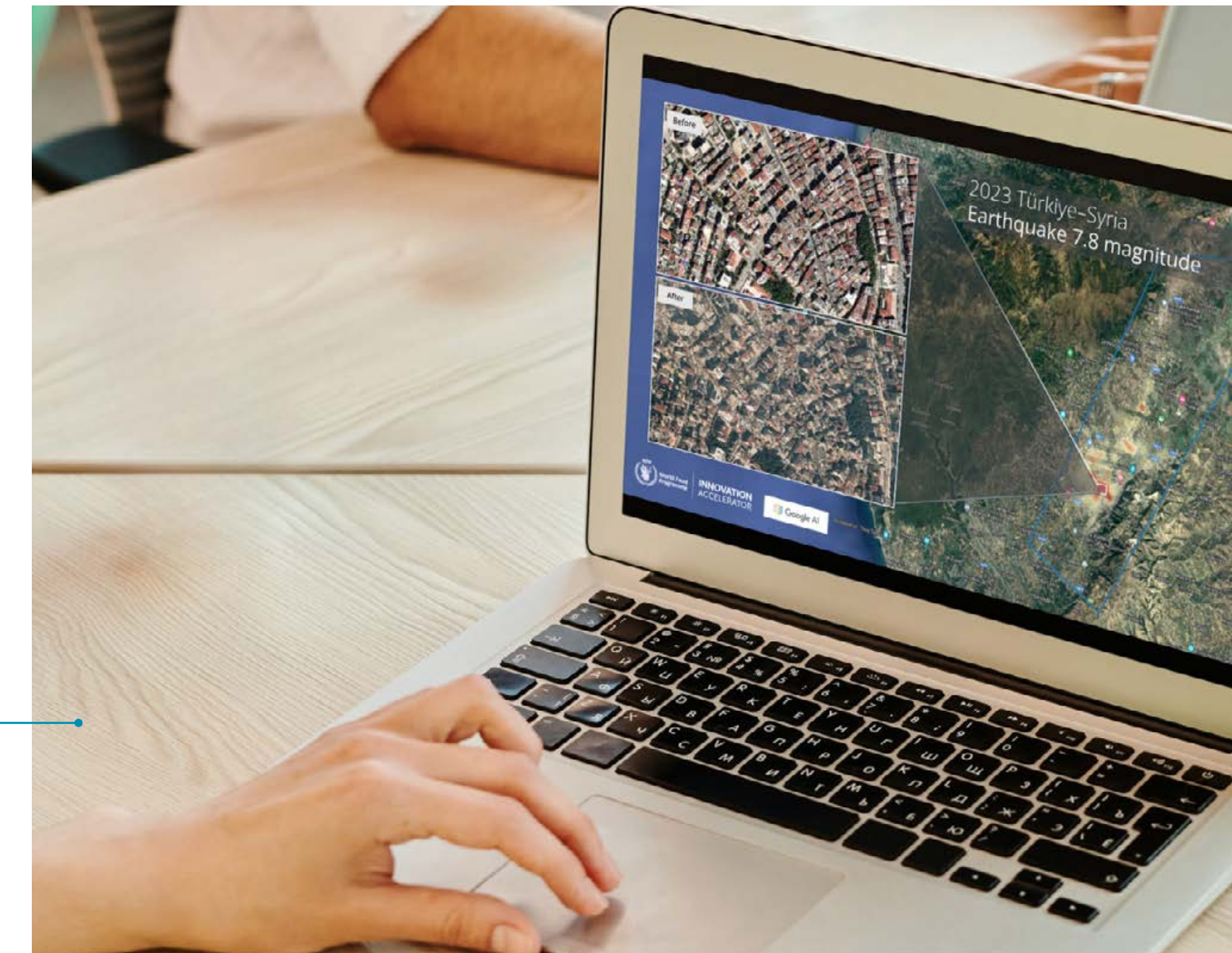
WFP Innovation BRIDGE transforms how WFP can engage with businesses and funders for more sustainable food systems. As such, WFP Innovation BRIDGE will play a key enabling role in attracting greater investments for innovative impact businesses, primarily from the portfolios of the WFP Innovation Accelerator and other WFP Innovation Hubs and Units.

Frontier Innovations

New technologies are rapidly developing and deeply transforming our lives and the world we live in, including in humanitarian aid. At the WFP Innovation Accelerator, the Frontier Innovations team explores and implements game-changing innovations and cutting-edge technologies, such as AI, blockchain, web3, fintech, autonomous vehicles and robotics, to support humanitarian and development assistance and deliver efficiency and effectiveness gains to WFP operations.

In 2023, we deepened our collaboration with research organizations, such as the German Aerospace Center (DLR), and established new, AI-focused partnerships with Netlight and CERN. In addition, we strengthened our collaboration with technology firms, such as Google Research, and supported cutting-edge start-ups such as Etherisc, Aidonic and HesabPay.

SKAI is an open-sourced tool that uses satellite imagery and AI to automatically assess building damage on a large scale. ©WFP



Advancements in machine learning and AI

One of our flagship innovations, SKAI, which uses satellite imagery and AI for damage assessment, was operationalized to assess even more major disasters in 2023. In June 2022, SKAI's technology was made open source on the Github repository, making this tool available to all. Since then, SKAI has scanned and assessed 2.5 million buildings affected by real-world disasters in Turkiye, Morocco, Pakistan, South Africa, Myanmar, USA and Libya in near real time. In the context of disaster response, the Google Research SKAI team supported and informed multiple humanitarian actors, including Crisis Ready and Mercy Corps. Moreover, a working group formed by UN agencies and private collaborators, called Disha, has been working to turn SKAI into a multi-use software product for the broader humanitarian sector.

In 2023, the Frontier Innovations team also continued investing in FamPred, a collaboration between the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and WFP that aims to develop a complex forecasting model for imminent famines based on increasing data availability, ranging from earth observations to economic indices, food prices, household assessment and other factors. The solution aims to extend HungerMap Live's monitoring system to forecast food insecurity in a time horizon of 30 to 90 days. To further develop the innovation, the Frontier Innovations team has begun evaluating FamPred's application in WFP country operations to foster and promote an anticipatory actions approach and facilitate the pre-positioning of emergency aid, optimizing resource allocation at the field level.

To develop WFP into a more efficient and effective organization, we invested in the exploration of natural language processing (NLP) technology to automate knowledge management processes and the collection of feedback and requests from the people that WFP serves via hotlines. In the context of feedback collection, we piloted the usage of natural language processing to provide real-time category recommendations for hotline operators and to identify categorization errors.

Also in 2023, we established the AI Sandbox platform, in collaboration with the TEC division, which allows WFP's AI practitioners and external partners to collaboratively and responsibly develop, pilot, experiment and scale with AI solutions to assess their feasibility and impact. As the need for data-driven and AI solutions to combat humanitarian challenges grows, the AI Sandbox allows WFP to test and validate AI systems more quickly and safely, enabling effective, efficient and scalable humanitarian and development work. In this way, we can ensure that each dollar spent in humanitarian efforts reaches more people with more effective care. The AI Sandbox is expected to show promising impact in the development, experiment and scaling of AI solutions across WFP operations in 2024.

Advancements in Blockchain

We collaborated with Etherisc in a pilot in Burkina Faso to make climate risk insurance faster, cheaper and more transparent for smallholder farmers. The innovation produces a single source of real-time claims data using a blockchain-based data source, doing so while minimizing the need for individual stakeholders to verify weather data before claims are paid. It is expected that Etherisc will reduce the time to pay farmers, enhancing efficiency.

We are operating three additional blockchain-based initiatives related to the traceability and increased data assurance of cash-based transfers: Food for Crisis, together with the Global Blockchain Business Council, which aims to attract new funds to disburse for emergency needs and promote the development of solutions that foster more efficient and transparent cash assistance; HesabPay, which aims to empower cash recipients to redeem their WFP assistance in the local market with the choice to cash-out or make a digital cashless payment; and Aidonic, which aims to efficiently automate cash-based transfers and e-voucher operations for WFP.



Burkina Faso. Food delivery and distribution.
© WFP/Cheick Omar Bandaogo

SKAI



Active In:
In development in Peru

Topic of focus:
Emergency and Rehabilitation



SKAI is an open-sourced tool that uses satellite imagery and AI to automatically assess building damage on a large scale. It helps speed up humanitarian assistance to affected households after disasters.

A lack of on-the-ground information is a major obstacle to a quick and effective response during humanitarian crises. Locating and reaching affected populations pose significant challenges in areas where infrastructure and communication networks are compromised.

SKAI uses AI and satellite imagery to enable real-time insights and actionable intelligence for effective decision-making during disaster response. By fusing cutting-edge machine learning algorithms and vast satellite data, SKAI enables organizations to make data-driven decisions with unprecedented precision and speed. From rapid building damage assessment to situational awareness and resource allocation, SKAI has the potential to transform the way we respond to crises.

“Thank you and your research team for using machine learning technology and satellite imagery to generate building damage assessments in the most-impacted district of Dera Ismail Khan. The reach and precision metrics of your findings are commendable.”

MUHAMMAD MUGHEES SANAULLAH
Director, Performance Management and Reforms Unit,
Government of Pakistan



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › In 2023, SKAI assessed more than 700,000 buildings and identified more than 25,000 as damaged across four disasters.
- › SKAI informed the WFP Emergency Unit with building damage assessments following the February 2023 earthquakes in Turkiye.
- › SKAI informed two organizations - Crisis Ready and Mercy Corps - with SKAI analysis in Derna, Libya and for Hurricane Mocha in the North Indian Ocean, respectively.
- › SKAI started to assist the National Institute of Civil Defense in Peru (INDECI), to explore feasibility of SKAI integration in their disaster management process.
- › SKAI was presented as part of DISHA at the AI for Good Summit in Geneva, Switzerland.

NEMO



Active In:

Ukraine, Nigeria and Moldova

Topic of focus:

Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Response



NEMO aims to streamline and improve the quality of collected feedback and complaints by using AI to provide real-time categorization recommendations of hotline calls.

WFP annually targets millions through its operations, generating substantial textual feedback data. Extracting actionable insights from this vast, unstructured information poses a challenge.

WFP addresses this by employing customized open-source AI algorithms and off-the-shelf AI services. The integration of state-of-the-art natural language processing technology enhances this key process for humanitarian work. This AI-natural language processing combination improves data collection efficiency through automated speech-to-text for feedback call transcriptions, real-time call categorization assisting hotline operators, and error identification across a large call volume collected to assist hotline managers quality checks.

“NEMO’s error report use-case is a great success in terms of results from the pilot and would be the logical one to prioritize should we decide to pursue scaling.”

RONALD TRAN BA HUY

Deputy Director, WFP Research Assessment and Monitoring Division



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › Within five months, the team developed an MVP model and user interface for community and feedback mechanisms hotline operators to increase their efficiency in feedback and complaints collection.
- › The team piloted randomized experiments with WFP country offices in Ukraine, Nigeria and Moldova to assess efficiency gains in data collection for operators and categorization quality checks.
- › The team demonstrated the value and complexities of interdisciplinary collaboration on AI solutions by developing NEMO with WFP colleagues from different units and country offices.

Etherisc



Active In:
Burkina Faso

Topic of focus:
Microinsurance



Etherisc is a blockchain-based, open-source platform that automates agricultural index insurance, making it more transparent, cheaper and faster.

Around 270-500 million smallholder farmers lack agricultural insurance in developing countries, leaving them vulnerable to climate-related crop and income loss. Inaccessibility, affordability issues and distrust in traditional insurers hinder their access to reliable climate risk insurance solutions.

To respond to this challenge, Etherisc has created an open-source, blockchain-based technology platform which allows end-to-end automation of parametric insurance products. The platform produces a single source of real-time claims data while removing the need for each stakeholder to separately verify weather data before claims are paid out. This automation will enable claims to be paid faster while cutting costs. Leveraging blockchain's real-time transaction tracking also enhances transparent monitoring for all stakeholders. Currently, Etherisc's policyholders consist of 51 percent women and 49 percent men.

“Our collaboration with WFP has truly underscored the need for and power of deploying the right technological solutions to speed up claims for smallholder farmers. With our partners ARC Ltd. and Yelen Assurance and with WFP’s extensive global footprint, we look forward to making a real impact on the climate resilience of vulnerable communities.”

MICHEL BERENDE
Chief Inclusive Officer, Etherisc Impact



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › In 2023, Etherisc built a single source of real-time, trusted data for 5,500 smallholder farmers covered by climate risk insurance in Burkina Faso.
- › As of 6 November 2023, 66 percent of policyholders were expected to receive a claim at an average individual amount of CFA7,300 (~US\$12). Most payouts would be disbursed to millet farmers in the east region.
- › WFP is able to view and use the developed data dashboard to generate timely insights.

FamPred

Active In:

Piloted in Yemen, Haiti, Cameroon, Syria and Nigeria

Topic of focus:

Food Security and Anticipatory Action



with external support from DLR

As an extension of WFP's HungerMap LIVE, a dashboard offering live data on food systems, FamPred uses WFP proprietary and public datasets to predict food insecurity.

FamPred, a collaboration between the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and several WFP divisions, addresses these issues by creating reliable algorithms for a 90-day forecasting window. The initiative aims to enhance operational efficiency by utilizing various data sources, including earth observations and economic indices. FamPred's complex forecast model focuses on imminent famines, offering a 30 to 90-day horizon for food insecurity prediction. The team has also expanded its scope to include scenario testing, seasonal forecasts and national predictions to improve communication with governments and donors.

“Forecasting has a central role in building evidence to shape our programmes.”

RAUL CUMBA

Head of Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping, WFP Regional Bureau for the Middle East, Northern Africa and Eastern Europe (Syria, Damascus)



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › FamPred developed and tested a forecasting methodology to anticipate the levels of insufficient food consumption 30 and 60 days in advance as indicated by WFP's real time monitoring.
- › FamPred also piloted an early warning system for six months in five high-priority countries: Cameroon, Haiti, Nigeria, Syria and Yemen. The shared data was used to improve WFP operations and quantify the effect of cuts. It was implemented as a scenario testing tool.
- › FamPred attracted interest from Google Research and Microsoft AI for good, who are now helping to develop different aspects of the tool.



Food4Crisis



Active In:
In design and in development globally

Topic of focus:
Fundraising and cash-based transfers



Raise, track and trace donor funds, utilizing Web3 technologies to drive innovation addressing the worsening global hunger crisis.

Humanitarian organizations increasingly explore alternative sources of donation and solutions that contribute to WFP's mission to save and change lives.

The WFP Innovation Accelerator partnered with the Global Blockchain Business Council (GBBC) to attract additional funds from new donors reached by GBBC. The goal is to create a US\$1 billion fund. The funds raised will be destined for emergency needs and to develop innovative and sustainable solutions to help disrupt global hunger. The technical solution includes the development of a more efficient, trustable and transparent cash-based assistance process using Web2 and Web3 tools.

"It is a great honor and privilege for GBBC to partner with Nobel Peace Prize winner WFP on Food for Crisis. We believe technology tools including blockchain and digital assets can be utilized to serve the most vulnerable people and accelerate solutions to some of humanity's most pressing and large-scale problems: acute hunger and malnutrition. We can achieve SDG 2, zero hunger, together."

SANDRA RO
CEO, GBBC



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › The team signed a Memorandum of Understanding with GBBC formalizing the Food for Crisis initiative.
- › Food for Crisis was announced at the World Economic Forum in Davos and at the UN General Assembly in New York, launching the initiative alongside our external partners.
- › Food for Crisis defined external technical supporters to carry out its first pilot.

AHEAD



Active In:
In development

Topic of focus:
Fleet Management



AHEAD aims to provide safe, efficient delivery of humanitarian assistance in hazardous environments through semi-autonomous, tele-operated all-terrain vehicles (ATVs).

The challenges of delivering humanitarian assistance in hazardous contexts can harm effectiveness of WFP assistance and put the lives of WFP personnel at risk.

AHEAD, developed in collaboration with the German Aerospace Center (DLR), aims to enhance last-mile delivery for WFP in disaster-stricken areas. Through tele-operated capabilities for all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), it ensures safe delivery of assistance, reducing costs and environmental impacts. The technology, successfully demonstrated in late 2022 near Munich, Germany, addresses security and health threats in hazardous environments. Field tests in South Sudan are planned in two to three years, validating AHEAD's potential in overcoming challenges like conflict zones, mine fields, floods and ongoing medical emergencies.

“Since the start of our collaboration in 2019, we have worked intensively on the topics of fleet management and autonomous vehicles, drones, geoinformation, preventing and forecasting hunger. The focus has always been on the mutual transfer of knowledge and technology. One of the highlights of the collaboration is the AHEAD (Autonomous Humanitarian Emergency Aid Devices) vehicle. This initiative involves the further development of a vehicle that can be remotely controlled and uses spaceborne and airborne Earth observation technologies to deliver humanitarian aid to areas in need.”

ANKE KAYSSER-PYZALLA
Chair, DLR Executive Board



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › The team expanded the partnership in progress with the DLR until February 2024, paving the way for an ongoing partnership in the upcoming years.
- › The team continued to make progress on the technology readiness level of AHEAD.
- › DLR secured US\$2-3 million of additional funding for AHEAD.

AI Sandbox

Active In:
In development

Topic of focus:
AI for Humanitarian Sector and SDGs

↑
**EXTERNAL
INNOVATION**



AI Sandbox initiative aims to create a collaborative environment that provides WFP colleagues and partners with a platform to experiment, innovate, pilot and scale AI models and use cases.

As the demand for data-driven solutions to combat hunger rises, the AI Sandbox emerges as a vital tool. Facilitating quick testing and deployment of AI systems, the AI Sandbox empowers WFP teams to work efficiently and impactfully at scale. Intra-organizational collaboration enables the scaling of AI within WFP, piloting impactful use cases with scalability potential. This involves investing in talent, building an ethical governance framework, and establishing a responsible-use roadmap. The WFP Responsible AI Task Force oversees and monitors AI initiatives, ensuring alignment with individual and organizational goals. Through the AI Sandbox, a dedicated technology platform supports AI pilots, fostering experimentation in a responsible and safe manner.



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › The team [successfully facilitated and prepared for the launch of the AI Sandbox](#) in January 2024.
- › The AI Sandbox received key turnaround and investment of funds through WFP in cloud technology for AI use case developments.

Innovative Finance



© WFP

Mounting humanitarian and development needs stemming from climate shocks, pandemics, conflicts and soaring food and fuel prices have resulted in a growing global food crisis.

Traditional donor funding falls short of WFP's funding requirements and the global funding needed to achieve SDG2. Innovative finance solutions are needed to adapt to the evolving funding landscape, especially in areas where innovative finance is most effective, to support WFP alongside traditional funding sources.

In 2023, the WFP Innovation Accelerator intensified its innovative finance activities to mobilize additional resources for programmatic interventions and to foster financial inclusion for the people we serve. The Innovative Finance team focused on four core activities:

- › The **WFP Innovative Finance Strategy** 2024-25 has been developed through a cross-organizational consultation co-led by innovative finance teams from the WFP Innovation Accelerator and Corporate Finance Division;
- › **WFP BRIDGE**, a catalytic funding facility established together with UNCDF, provides concessional loans and guarantees to scale businesses contributing to the Zero Hunger agenda;
- › **SheCan**, a financial inclusion initiative, leverages a blended finance approach and WFP's expertise in delivering first mile technical assistance to drive equal economic participation for women within the food value chain; and
- › **Catastrophe Bond for Climate Resilience**, a financial instrument, scales financial resources for anticipatory and early action by transferring severe, natural catastrophe risks to capital market investors.

Key Highlights

- › **WFP Innovation BRIDGE** was launched in September 2023 and WFP Rwanda BRIDGE was launched in November 2023, both in partnership with UNCDF.
- › **SheCan** successfully closed a pilot in Zambia, reaching 6,241 people, 73 percent of whom are women smallholder farmers, and achieved a remarkably low default rate of less than 1% on the loan amount. SheCan also began scaling operations from eight to 26 districts across Zambia. A new SheCan pilot launched in Malawi, expanding the scope to four active countries: Malawi, Peru, Rwanda and Zambia.
- › Work to develop the **Catastrophe Bond for Climate Resilience in sub-Saharan Africa** began in collaboration with WFP's Climate and Resilience Unit and Corporate Finance Division.
- › The **WFP Innovative Finance Strategy 2024-25** was developed and is to be approved by WFP's management for implementation in 2024.

WFP Innovative Finance Strategy 2024-25

The Innovative Finance Strategy, a key enabler of WFP's Strategic Plan (2022-2025), aims to mobilize new resources, enhance financial efficiency and link financial flows to impact. By embedding this strategy throughout the organization, WFP can more effectively address global food security challenges. It sets out strategic goals to mobilize resources, design sustainable interventions, foster internal innovation, forge

partnerships and enhance organizational capacity. Developed through a consultative process bringing together units across WFP, and external thought leaders and practitioners, the strategy outlines key success factors and strategic areas for implementation, aiming to enable, steer and execute impactful interventions efficiently.

WFP BRIDGE

Launched in September 2023, WFP BRIDGE is the first initiative of the strategic partnership between WFP and UNCDF that began in 2022. This funding facility will use grant funding to invest concessional loans and guarantees in businesses (both for- and non-profit organizations with revenue generating business models, not internal UN initiatives) contributing to the WFP's mission. Wherever possible, WFP BRIDGE will co-invest with and de-risk private sector investors in order to release additional funding flows into the humanitarian and development sector. WFP BRIDGE embodies WFP's commitment to finding new, innovative and diverse ways to fundraise, while forging new public and private sector partnerships for zero hunger and the SDGs, and ultimately increasing WFP's impact per dollar through its revolving nature.

WFP BRIDGE's scalable architecture allows WFP to establish separate funding windows with dedicated investment strategies aligned with its programmatic activities. The first two facilities, launched in 2023, are WFP Innovation BRIDGE and WFP Rwanda BRIDGE.

WFP Innovation BRIDGE seeks to address the lack of suitable funding options between grants and conventional financial instruments, which is often referred to as the 'missing middle'. Especially innovative impact businesses active in challenging or humanitarian contexts face barriers to grow their solutions and maximize their impact. Grants are often constrained in size and irregular in nature. Conventional financial instruments, like bank loans, may have prohibitive costs of capital and unsuitable terms and conditions. WFP Innovation BRIDGE was set up with the intention to cater to the specific needs of innovative business models and provide the support entrepreneurs need on their journey to scale.

WFP Rwanda BRIDGE, launched in November 2023, targets agriculture value chain businesses and focuses on youth job creation in Rwanda. The investment thesis of WFP Rwanda BRIDGE aims to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and positively impact local food systems, with a focus on youth and women.



SheCan

SheCan, a blended finance initiative, facilitates support from donors and private lenders for WFP’s financial inclusion and women’s economic empowerment programmes.

Focusing on smallholder farmers and micro-entrepreneurs in WFP-assisted areas, SheCan addresses systemic barriers hindering women’s access to crucial financing by increasing financial literacy, enabling the use of digital banking tools and improving access to markets.

With a commitment to financial inclusion and gender equity, SheCan provides access to affordable financing through a blended model that combines crowdfunding, impact investments and donor funds. SheCan also supports microfinance institutions (MFIs) to access diverse funding, incentivizing them to serve remote rural areas with affordable, gender-mainstreamed microloans. In essence, SheCan acts as a de-risking mechanism for MFI investors, using WFP’s field presence and financial inclusion expertise to connect first-mile customers with essential and affordable financial services. Through these efforts, SheCan aims to foster the economic development of women in underserved regions.

In 2023, SheCan successfully closed a pilot in Zambia and started to scale up operations with two microfinance institutions. A new SheCan pilot was also launched in Malawi, working with two microfinance institutions to expand their

geographical reach. In Rwanda, the first SheCan crowd-lending campaign, created through the [Lendahand](#) platform, exceeded its initial target of US\$200,000 at zero percent interest to the SheCan-affiliated microfinance institution. This access to additional and affordable capital improved the terms of the microloans to SheCan participants, including the waiving of collateral requirements and upfront fees.

To increase operational efficiency, the team introduced the “SheCan toolkit” which standardizes processes and streamline operations for WFP country offices. Further enhancing its impact, SheCan deepened its collaboration with the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative (R4), another WFP Innovation Accelerator portfolio innovation focusing on climate risk insurance. Together, they developed an integrated product, merging micro-climate risk insurance with productive microloans. This innovative approach aims to bolster the economic and climate resilience of smallholder farmers and microentrepreneurs. The pilot for this collaboration is scheduled to launch in Iraq in 2024.

In a pivotal move for expansion, SheCan, in partnership with R4, secured a US\$500,000 grant from the Citi Foundation. SheCan and R4 will use this funding to scale operations by leveraging

a digital platform to provide seamless access to micro-credit, micro-insurance and market services to people WFP serve. This strategic initiative demonstrates SheCan’s commitment to advancing economic opportunities and climate resilience for vulnerable communities by leveraging innovative technologies, business approaches and partnerships.

OVERALL, SHECAN PROVIDED AFFORDABLE, GENDER MAINSTREAMED MICRO-LOANS TO 5,900 INDIVIDUALS IN 2023 ALONE, 73 PERCENT OF WHOM WERE WOMEN, AND SAW A REMARKABLE REPAYMENT RATE OF 99 PERCENT.

“Investment in innovation and technology to promote financial inclusion and economic empowerment for smallholder farmers in Zambia is paving the way for vulnerable people, especially women, to have a more sustainable and prosperous future. I am immensely proud of the remarkable successes of our innovative work with the WFP Innovation Accelerator through the SheCan project. I look forward to seeing the transformation of lives in the first phase of the project scaleup, which is strategically planned to deepen our impact and enhance financial literacy and access for smallholder farmers.”

Cissy Byenkya Kabasuuga – WFP Zambia Country Director



The World Food Programme in Peru, with the support of the WFP Innovation Accelerator and the Los Andes de Cajamarca Association (ALAC), is implementing the “Ellas Pueden” project. ©WFP/Maria Elena Melgar

Catastrophe Bond for Climate Resilience

The increasingly challenging global hunger landscape threatens to outpace efforts to mobilize resources. In 2023, WFP faced one of its largest funding shortfalls, with contributions under US\$10 billion despite a humanitarian appeal of US\$25.1 billion.

To close the funding gap related to climate-related risks, WFP has been establishing pre-arranged climate and disaster risk financing and insurance mechanisms. In the upcoming years, WFP is committed to advancing climate and disaster risk financing, insurance and anticipatory action to help governments and communities across the world better manage the impacts of climate-induced losses and damages and recover faster.

A catastrophe bond is a financial instrument that transfers the risk caused by catastrophic events, such as earthquakes, floods or droughts, from insured parties to financial markets. Sponsors, such as insurance companies, corporations, governments and other entities, use catastrophe bonds to transfer disaster risks to bond investors, who risk losing some or all of their capital if a specified catastrophic event occurs. In exchange, they receive a coupon that reflects the insurance premium for such a risk. In close collaboration with the WFP's Climate and Resilience Unit Finance team of the Programme Division and Innovative Finance team of the Corporate Finance division, the WFP Innovation Accelerator is developing a

catastrophe bond for climate-induced catastrophic drought conditions. The bond will offer financial protection in sub-Saharan Africa and aims to mobilize up to US\$100 million in catastrophic insurance coverage to support at-risk people with resilience-building anticipatory action and emergency response initiatives.

In 2023, we confirmed the ongoing drought in sub-Saharan Africa as the initial use case for the catastrophe bond. The instrument will target countries such as Madagascar, Mauritania, Somalia and Zimbabwe, where WFP lacks sufficient financial protection from existing insurance solutions in the event it must respond to the needs of local communities impacted by severe drought. Throughout the year, we have also engaged multiple partners including risk modeling agencies, structures, insurance brokers and donors. This helped us better understand how to maximize the benefit of the mechanism for WFP and improve the mechanism's potential to mobilize large scale and affordable financial protection from investors once launched.

IN 2024, WFP WILL CONTINUE WORKING TO MOBILIZE PARTNERS, INCLUDING DONORS AND SPECIALIST SERVICE PROVIDERS, TO SUPPORT THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INSTRUMENT. WE AIM TO HAVE WFP OPERATIONS BENEFIT FROM THE CATASTROPHE BOND'S ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL PROTECTION BY EARLY 2025.

"Since 2018, WFP has been using insurance to finance early humanitarian responses, particularly through the ARC Replica programme with the African Risk Capacity. This work has yielded important lessons, with 5.7 million people protected since 2018, for a total coverage of US\$179 million. In total, WFP received US\$25 million in disbursements, which were distributed as food and nutrition assistance to more than 800,000 food-insecure people affected by droughts or tropical cyclones. However, these systems are not sufficient to respond to most catastrophic events. The Africa Drought Cat Bond would be the first of its kind and would provide WFP with resources to continue to innovate in disaster risk financing to support the most vulnerable communities."

Mathieu Dubreuil – WFP lead advisor for climate & disaster risk financing & insurance



Niger. WFP organization of a training of trainers on Community Based Participatory Planning and FFA Technologies adapted to Arid and Semi-arid contexts in Dosso. ©WFP

SDGx Acceleration

Given the many global challenges we face and WFP’s global commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the WFP Innovation Accelerator expanded to create the SDGx acceleration unit in 2019 to support SDGs beyond SDG2: Zero Hunger. In doing so, we help enable further progress toward zero hunger as we dedicate needed resources to interlinked SDGs in health, economic empowerment and gender equality.

As the fifth anniversary of the SDGx programme approaches in 2024, we continue to foster global partnerships and holistic solutions that help achieve the SDGs.

innovative solutions like smart vaccine distribution, digital health resources, food waste processors and hydroponic farming tools to build resilience in diverse communities.

In the SDGx Acceleration team, the WFP Innovation Accelerator collaborates with a broad range of partners and UN agencies to identify high-impact innovators working on critical social and environmental challenges. Together, we support them with access to the relevant funding, knowledge and networks necessary to expand their reach.

We also laid the groundwork for the second edition of the Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa, which will be launched in early 2024. The first edition saw three health-focused innovations that reached 412,448 people with solutions that reduced vaccine series dropout rates, provided sexual health information and reduced ambulance response time. After this success, the second edition of the Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa is committed to identifying and supporting innovative solutions that enhance food security and food systems resilience throughout Africa.

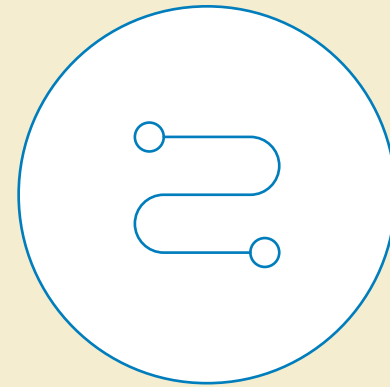
This year, we focused on expanding our sprint portfolio, providing leading innovations with end-to-end support to enable further impact. The 28 innovations who participated in an SDGx sprint this year reached more than 5.6 million people, providing

In total, we executed eight SDGx programmes in 2023, covering SDGs:



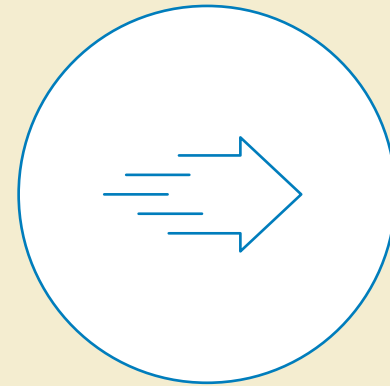
and engaging 66 innovation teams across workshops, bootcamps and sprints.

About SDGx



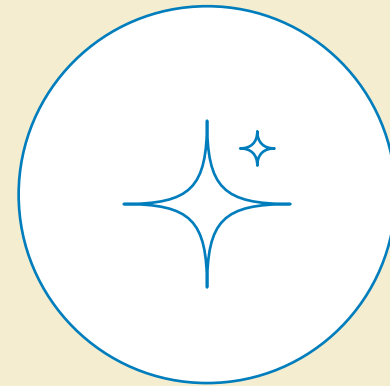
End-to-End Acceleration Programmes

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.



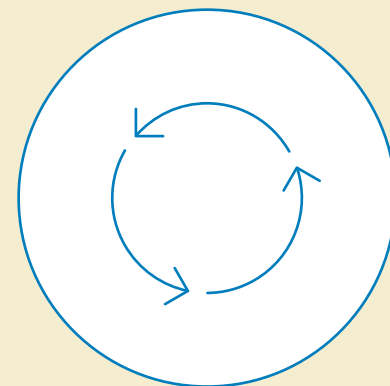
Acceleration as a service

We design and deliver custom acceleration programmes via 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.



Collaborative innovation journeys

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.



Humanitarian Innovation Accelerator

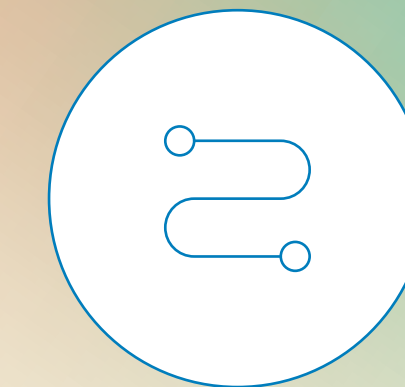


Active In:

Uganda, Libya, Senegal, Jordan, Somalia, Burkina Faso and Niger

Powered by:

The Government of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA)



The compounding challenges of conflict, climate shocks, and economic instability have meant that while humanitarian needs have increased, resources have become scarce. Innovation must quickly disrupt business-as-usual in the humanitarian sector and develop locally-led, scalable solutions.

The Humanitarian Innovation Accelerator (HIA) pilots and scales innovative solutions to strengthen the capacity of humanitarian actors to address complex challenges and improve the lives of communities affected by humanitarian emergencies. In June 2023, we selected 16 ventures with solutions leveraging AI, data science, space and satellite technology, health tech as well as supply chain and logistics to participate in a WFP Innovation Bootcamp. Teams also had the opportunity to pitch to and network with relevant stakeholders and humanitarian organizations during a two-day event in Luxembourg. Subsequently, seven of these teams were selected to receive funding and participate in a 12-month sprint programme that supports them in implementing their growth plans and furthering their impact.

“Traditional humanitarian support and action are not enough to cope with current problems, and that is why we need to put technology to work.”

FRANZ FAYOT

Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs, Luxembourg



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › In July 2023, the HIA teams participated in a 2-day networking and pitch event in Luxembourg. Franz Fayot, Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs and Minister of Ministère de l'Économie, Luxembourg, and Heinz Habertheuer, the Deputy Managing Director of the Austrian Development Cooperation, attended the event, as did representatives from over 80 relevant organizations, including major humanitarian agencies, private sector corporations, prominent NGOs and governmental institutions.
- › Four scaling ventures were selected to receive up to EUR 500,000 in equity-free grant funding and sprint support.
- › Four Early-stage ventures were selected to receive up to EUR 150,000 in equity-free grant funding and sprint support.

SDGx Sprints: Humanitarian Innovation Accelerator Programme HIA Sprints

Bleaglee

SENEGAL

Bleaglee is greening the humanitarian response supply chain by reducing waste and mitigating the climate crisis.

Opero

UGANDA

Opero transforms human waste treatment in humanitarian settings by providing safe, easy-to-deploy, robust, and sustainable fecal waste treatment plants.

Waterkit Wallet

UGANDA

WaterKit Wallet is the first mobile money-powered credit access card providing direct credit access to water, sanitation and energy products at zero percent interest rates through community village stores.

Speetar Inc.

LIBYA, SOMALIA

Speetar Inc. is a telehealth platform that provides affordable healthcare to conflicted-affected communities in Libya.

Jangala

LIBYA

Jangala is an open-source, plug-and-play internet connectivity solution for conflict and humanitarian settings.

WASDI

NIGER

WASDI is an entirely cloud-based Earth Observation solution that helps prevent disasters and respond and assess flood, droughts and resettlements.

OPAL

SENEGAL

OPAL is a privacy-preserving technology and governance system that shares sensitive information safely and ethically for humanitarian action.

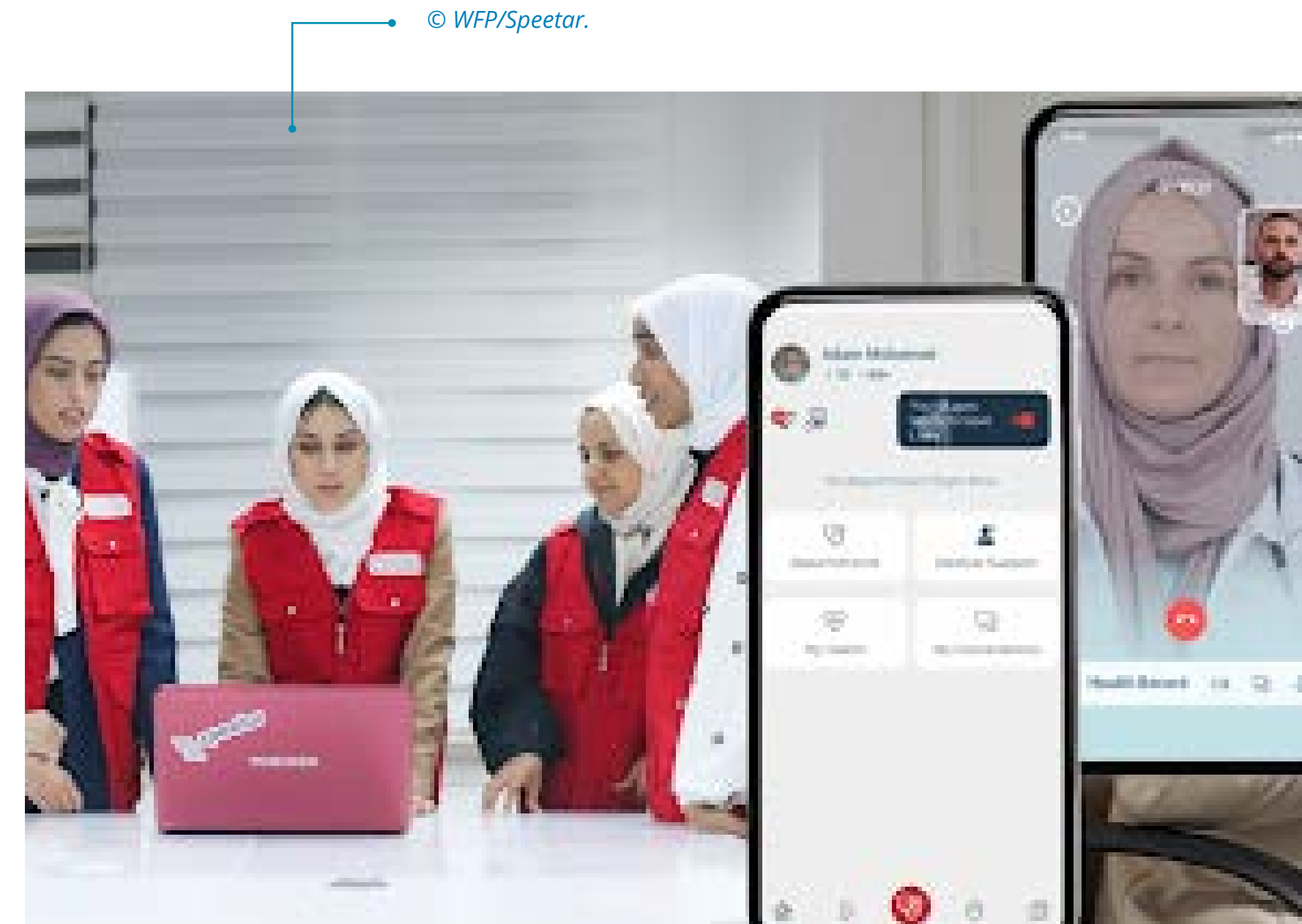
Neurotech

JORDAN

Neurotech offers an innovative energy monitoring and management solution for equitable electricity distribution, particularly in vulnerable contexts.



Opero. © WFP/Opero.



© WFP/Speetar.

Agricultural Innovation for Climate Resilience

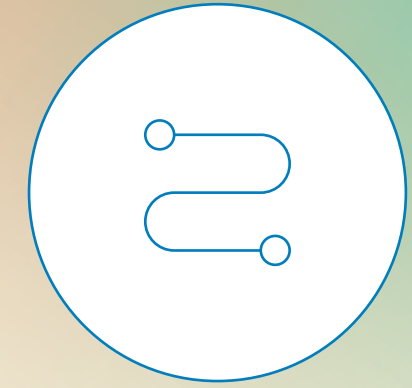


Active In:

Malawi, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, Ethiopia and Madagascar

Powered by:

GIZ and its Fund for the Promotion of Innovation in Agriculture (i4Ag), and commissioned by BMZ



Climate impacts such as rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, extreme weather events, pests and diseases pose enormous challenges to smallholder farmers by altering growing conditions and decreasing crop yield.

Often, small-scale farmers, women and marginalized communities are being hit hardest, exacerbating existing inequalities.

The Agricultural Innovation for Climate Resilience (AICR) programme supports high-impact agro-entrepreneurs in sub-Saharan Africa that enhance resource-efficient farming practices and climate resilience of smallholder farmers. AICR prioritized local innovations to increase adoption rates and promote long-term changes in efficiency, soil and water conservation and renewable energy. Local solutions are prioritized as this enhances the adoption of innovation and promotes long-term change.



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › Over 1200 applications were received from 52 countries.
- › 15 ventures attended the AICR innovation bootcamp, all of whom were local innovation teams based in sub-Saharan Africa.
- › Ten ventures were selected to receive up to EUR 150,000 in equity-free grant funding and sprint support.

DGIx Digital & Green Innovation Accelerator

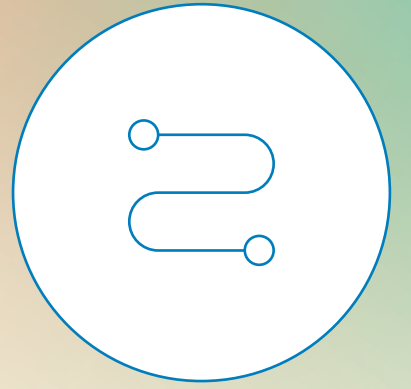


Countries represented in bootcamp:

Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Ghana, Cameroon, Malawi, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo

Implemented in collaboration with GIZ. Powered by:

GIZ, BMZ and the EU



With increased digitalization and threats of climate change, it is vital to leverage digital technology to improve the lives of vulnerable communities.

The twin transition approach states that digitalization and sustainability need not be in opposition to each other but can work together to create stronger, more flexible and resilient economies.

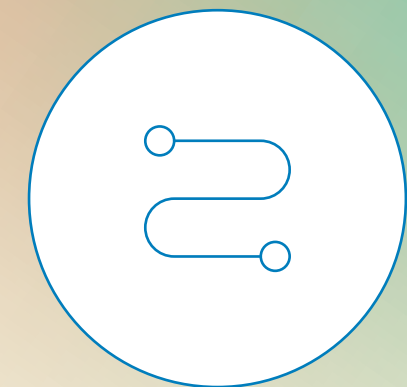
The DGIx Digital & Green Innovation Acceleration Programme embraces the twin transition and supports promising digital solutions that solve some of the most pressing environmental challenges, including biodiversity loss, climate change adaptation, mitigation and building resilience. Its first cohort, focused on innovations in Africa, launched in 2023.



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › Ten ventures, representing ten African countries, attended an online innovation bootcamp.
- › 70 percent of the bootcamp teams were local innovation teams, implementing solutions in their own communities.
- › The bootcamp teams were also invited to present their solutions at COP28 during an EU side event focused on digital and green initiatives. The teams will also participate in a two-day experience in Kigali, Rwanda in January and some will be selected to participate in a sprint programme.

Digital Health Innovation Accelerator Programme



Active In:

Ethiopia, Thailand, Ghana, Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo

Powered by:

BMZ Digilab – initiated by BMZ together with GIZ, the German Development Bank KfW and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



The outbreaks of infectious diseases in recent years, including the COVID-19 pandemic, are devastating the livelihoods of communities around the world and hindering progress towards the SDGs, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

The Digital Health Innovation Acceleration Programme (DHIAP) supported scalable digital solutions using open standards, open source or open data approaches to improve pandemic preparedness and support community and health system recovery from COVID-19. 18 teams participated in the bootcamp and pitch event, eight of which entered the sprint, receiving tailored support and gaining access to up to US\$250,000 to grow and further their impact.



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › DHIAP innovations raised US\$4.9 million in co-funding and improved the systems and programmes of six national governments
- › Two innovations, OpenFn and SIMPRINTs, launched open-source technology, creating further opportunities for collaboration and innovation

Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa

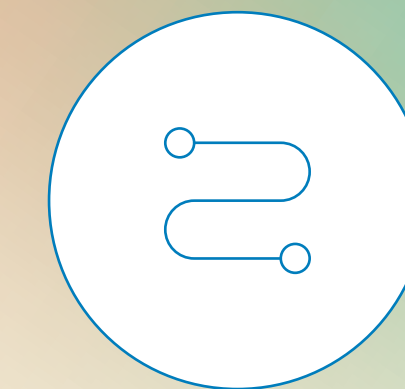


Active In:

Kenya, Ghana, Zimbabwe and Nigeria

Powered by:

Austrian Federal Chancellery, Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the Kofi Annan Foundation



At least 400 million people worldwide still do not have access to basic health care. Africa carries 25 percent of the world’s disease burden, but its share of global health expenditures is less than 1 percent.

In 2023, the Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa (KAIAA) supported innovative solutions from Africa that focus on achieving high-quality universal health coverage. Nine teams participated in the bootcamp and pitch event, three of whom received EUR 250,000 and access to a sprint programme to grow and further their impact. By Investing in African-led initiatives, we hope to sustainably and impactfully improve health care coverage throughout Africa.

“With this prestigious million-euro Award, we are supporting long-term innovative start-ups in African countries and promoting further strengthening of cross-continental relations. At the same time, we are helping to improve healthcare for the population through digital innovations.”

KARL NEHAMMER

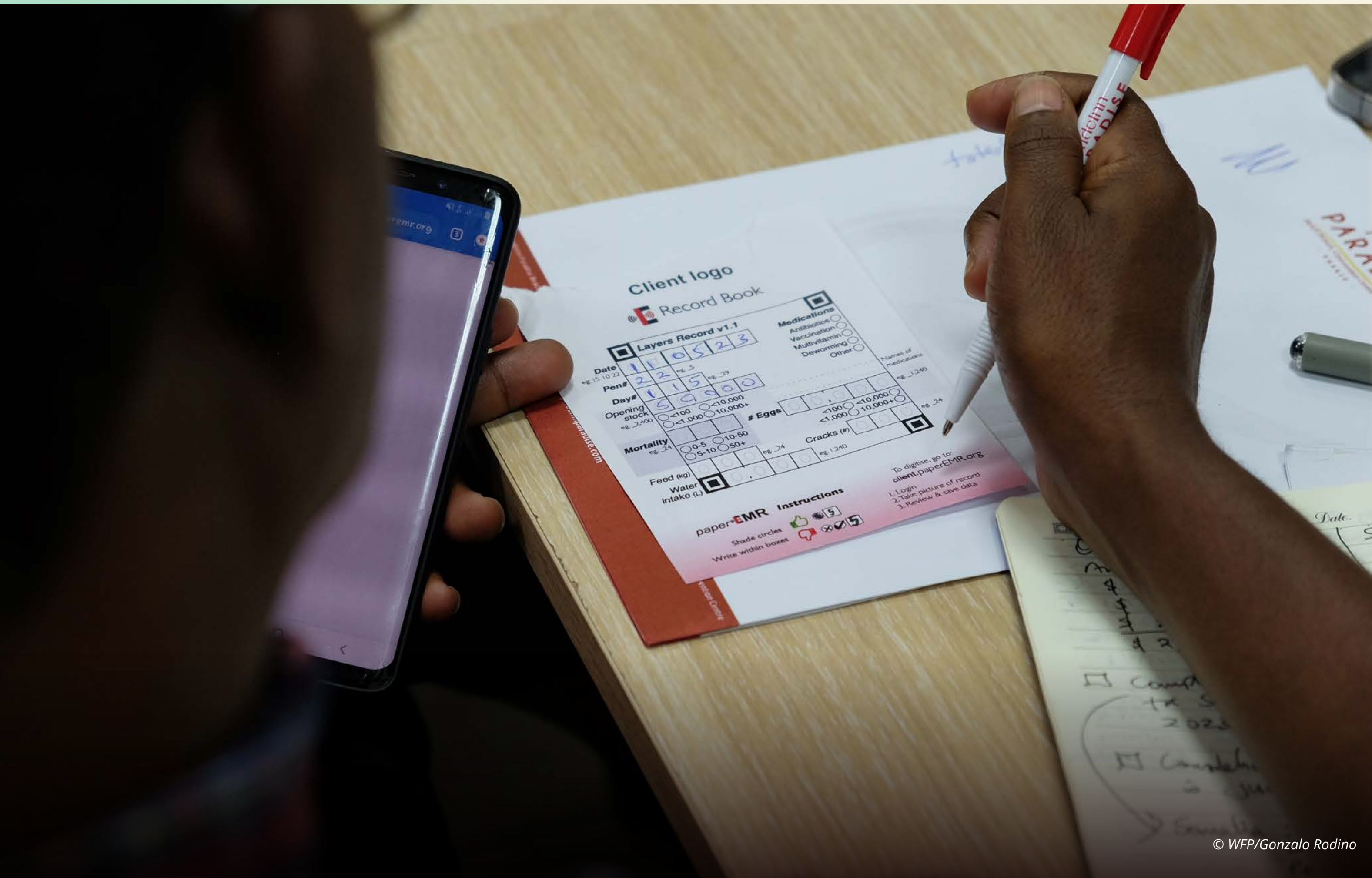
Federal Chancellor of Austria



HIGHLIGHTS:

- › The nine teams in KAIAA 1.0 raised US\$12 million in co-funding and all reported forming useful partnerships through the KAIAA ecosystem.
- › Throughout the programme, 332,448 digital vaccination records were created, 45,800 individuals attended immunization awareness campaigns and 80,000 people accessed sexual health products and services.

FARID Health Camps Programme



Some of the most difficult places in the world to provide health services are those suffering from conflict, instability and limited capacity.

This is especially critical for children under 5, pregnant people and nursing mothers living in access-compromised areas, where public health services are non-existent.

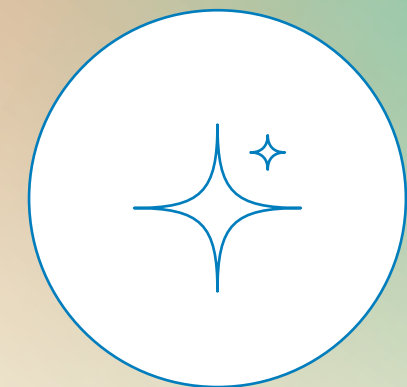
The Far-Reaching Integrated Delivery programme (FARID), supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, brings together non-traditional Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) actors such as World Vision International, Save the Children, the Center of Humanitarian Dialogue and Acasus to reach children in inaccessible areas. FARID uses an innovative health camp model to supply children with vaccines and other interventions.



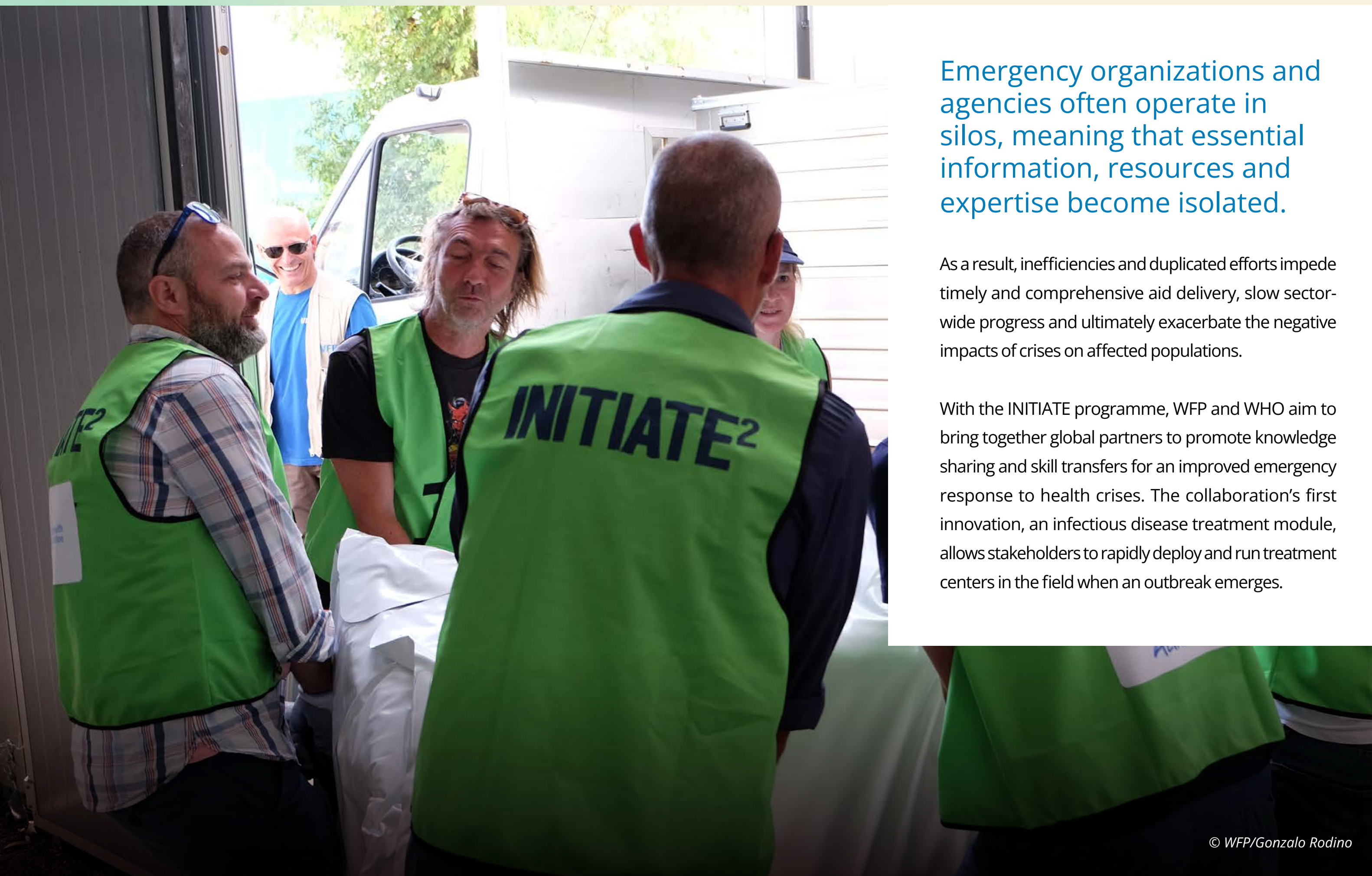
HIGHLIGHTS:

- › FARID implemented the first health camp in March 2023 and has since delivered over 1,600 health camps.
- › 27,000 children in the implementing districts have received the penta 1 vaccine and 22,000 have received MCV/MR vaccines.

INITIATE



Active In:
In design



Emergency organizations and agencies often operate in silos, meaning that essential information, resources and expertise become isolated.

As a result, inefficiencies and duplicated efforts impede timely and comprehensive aid delivery, slow sector-wide progress and ultimately exacerbate the negative impacts of crises on affected populations.

With the INITIATE programme, WFP and WHO aim to bring together global partners to promote knowledge sharing and skill transfers for an improved emergency response to health crises. The collaboration's first innovation, an infectious disease treatment module, allows stakeholders to rapidly deploy and run treatment centers in the field when an outbreak emerges.

“We realized that we have been able to deliver care that normally, in other outbreaks in the past, we had only dreamt of.”

MARTHA LADO CASTRO-RIAL
Director of Clinical Programs and Health Policy, Partners in Health



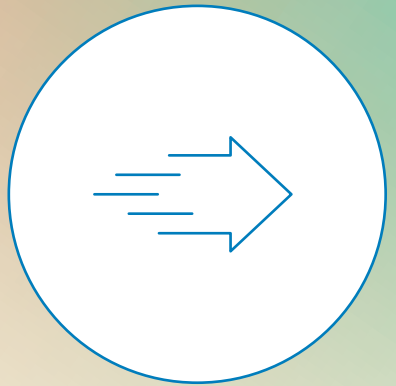
HIGHLIGHTS:

- › In June 2023, WFP and WHO completed six days of workshops and testing on the first near-complete version of the Infectious Diseases Treatment Module at the UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) base in Brindisi, Italy. Over 70 participants from partner organizations joined to test medical and logistics scenarios and co-develop the final structure.
- › Various partners expressed the game-changing potential of this module for medical workers in emergency response to infectious diseases.
- › The second round of INITIATE was launched in November 2023, during which the consortium decided on the solution that will be worked on in 2024.

MIT Solve Novel Measurement for Performance Improvement



Active In:
Brazil, India, Malawi, Kenya and Rwanda



Primary health care is vital, but millions of individuals cannot access it due to cost, accessibility and quality of care challenges.

In addition, these primary health care systems often lack comprehensive performance evaluations, making it difficult to identify areas for improvement.

The Novel Measurement for Performance Improvement programme, supported by MIT Solve and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, brought together six teams focusing on innovative methods to measure primary healthcare improvement. The programme conducted an intensive innovation week and three months of structured acceleration support to share knowledge, tools and innovations to build empowered teams and reach project milestones.



HIGHLIGHTS:

- > Innovators in this cohort reached over 4.4 million people in 2023 and worked to improve the systems and programmes of six national governments.

Ecosystem and knowledge sharing

We bring together key actors across sectors to exchange valuable knowledge, experience and connections that enhance the conditions for impact innovation that benefits the people that we serve.



The WFP Innovation Accelerator and Google For Startups kick-off an exciting new programme to develop and scale 10 ventures created and developed within WFP, anchored in technological innovation. | © WFP/Benjamin Härer

SDGx Community

With a community of more than 700 innovators globally comprised of alumni and active programme participants, the SDGx Community aims to create meaningful connections between like-minded innovators and provide additional resources and support. In 2023, over 200 innovators participated in 12 online community events and two in-person gatherings.

Mentoring and Support Network:

We strategically collaborate with industry leaders such as Netlight, Google for Startups, and John Deere to connect with innovators in different capacities to provide mentoring, technical expertise, or connections to potential partners. Additionally, with a mentoring support network of over 400 ad-hoc mentors, we create spaces for innovators to meet with mentors to receive expert guidance specific to their current challenges.

In the spotlight 2023

The WFP Innovation Accelerator continues to fly the flag of innovations working to solve the greatest global challenges we face.

In 2023, the WFP Innovation Accelerator strategically focused on elevating innovations through diverse channels, highlighting their models and impact. By bringing awareness to game-changing solutions, we hope to not only catalyse new opportunities for our portfolio innovations but also share knowledge to prepare us for the next era of innovation.

For the first time ever, the WFP Innovation Accelerator and the WFP Innovation Hubs and Units joined together under the WFP Innovation brand, bringing together all innovation efforts across WFP and providing a platform for innovative solutions in our operations.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Overall, the WFP Innovation Accelerator produced 90 external knowledge products, including audio events, blog posts, articles and op-eds, educational videos, case studies, factsheets, guidelines, webpages and social media assets.

A case study of WFP in a February 2023 [white paper published on the World Economic Forum from ODI](#) (formerly the Overseas Development Institute) and the Humanitarian and Resilience Investing Initiative showcases our work

in innovative finance, demonstrating how it facilitates investment in frontier markets. It also uses the WFP Innovation Accelerator as an example of how to build an organizational structure and construct systems and procedures that foster innovation. We also contributed to a [white paper from Tetra Pak](#) on global food systems, which explores how we can better sustain the planet and its people by 2040.

A new Innovation Guidance Manual was made available in 2023 as part of WFP's Programme Guidance Manual, which aims to strengthen our colleagues' understanding of WFP's work in innovation and key strategies they can employ in their specific country context. Additionally, we created a [new 'knowledge' page](#) on our website to make knowledge content accessible to everyone, including WFP colleagues and other humanitarian and development organizations.

In 2022 and 2023, the UN Technology and Innovation Laboratory (UNTIL) transitioned to [UN Global Pulse Finland](#), a branch of [UN Global Pulse](#) focused on scaling innovation. The WFP Innovation Accelerator shared many insights and learnings with UN Global Pulse to help them develop their new scale-up function. This included providing guidance and advice for its set up, content for their scaling programme and taking part in interviews for research and [webinars](#).

As part of our intention to share learning and our experience with the broader UN system, we engaged in various exchange sessions around different topics, such as community management best practices and scaling innovations. This culminated with our participation in the UN System Staff College (UNSSC) organization SPACE event, where WFP joined and shared case studies across the topics highlighted by the UN Innovation Toolkit.

The WFP Innovation Accelerator is rooted in an active ecosystem within Munich, including through engagements with different departments within the Technical University of Munich (TUM). We participated in a panel discussion on sustainable leadership as part of the TUM Africa Global Talent programme, as well as hosted the German Jordanian University and TH Köln in our office for an exchange on water-focused innovations as part of a research project.



From the left: Bernhard Kowatsch, Noopur Desai, Stuart Mclaughlin, Sandra Ro, Jay Collins at the WFP Innovation Accelerator panel: Galvanizing Impact Innovation for Zero Hunger at the World Economic Forum. | ©WFP

In the news

The WFP Innovation Accelerator was featured in several top-tier news publications, including CNN, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ), Reuters and Devex. In addition to news publications, we contributed in-depth information on how innovation can support the humanitarian space and the value of our portfolio innovations in journal articles for the World Economic Forum, Rural 21 and the Diplomatic Courier.

The launch of WFP BRIDGE, strategically placed around the UN General Assembly, also garnered media attention, including a feature in Impact Investor where Bernhard Kowatsch, Head of the WFP Innovation Accelerator, outlined how we source, support and scale high-impact innovations to achieve SDG2, with a focus on WFP BRIDGE and SheCan. Additionally, the World Economic Forum's Humanitarian and Resilience Investing (HRI) Initiative call to action, which WFP endorsed, highlighted WFP BRIDGE as one of the contributing projects.



Social media

On social media, we continue to grow an audience dedicated to uplifting innovation. We are now a community of over 50,000 innovators on LinkedIn and over 13,000 on Twitter, sharing insights and learning from our innovations around the world. These platforms enable us to communicate with future innovators across the globe, as well as governments, partners, WFP colleagues and the wider humanitarian sector.

Our 2023 social media strategy fed into the wider WFP Innovation Accelerator mission by focusing on impact and growth. In 2023, our LinkedIn followers increased by 46 percent and our engagement on both LinkedIn and Twitter continues to grow. We strategically identified our audience personas to ensure our content remained curated and relevant.

We also leveraged unique content opportunities such as LinkedIn audio events and LinkedIn newsletter features to reach wider audiences. We spotlighted relevant innovations on international UN days such as International Women's Day, where we ran #SheInnovates campaign, reaching 42,541 people and receiving 838 reactions online in a few weeks. To ensure climate innovation was central to WFP's priorities and the SDGs, we ran a COP28 campaign and garnered more than 700 registrations for our COP28 side event and 29,900 impressions across platforms. We also launched several high-performing campaigns tied to strategic targets of different circles, including the Agriculture Innovation for Climate Resilience Programme, which received over 71,356 organic impressions on LinkedIn and Twitter, and the Humanitarian Innovation Accelerator Programme, which received over 55,988 organic impressions.

Events

Leveraging the global network and presence of WFP, we elevated our portfolio innovations to the world stage at several high-level events. In December, Boomitra, S4S Technologies and EcoRich joined us in Dubai to share their innovation journeys and solutions to the climate crisis at the most impactful global forum on climate change, COP28. Our partners in climate innovation - the Adaptation Fund, Google.org, the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) also discussed how to nurture an ecosystem of climate innovation. Additionally, in November 2023, Bernhard Kowatsch spoke as an expert at the German Bundestag Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues on how innovation and technology transform humanitarian response.

1,014 media mentions
across 73 countries with
a total reach of 241,280

5.23 million

SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS

90

KNOWLEDGE-SHARING PRODUCTS

50,000+

LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS

13,300+

TWITTER FOLLOWERS

04

Conclusion



Lessons Learned

Localizing innovation to enable those we serve tap into their potential

01. Involving communities in the innovation process increases the likelihood of solution adoption

Employing human-centered design in community-based initiatives leads to greater community involvement, ownership and sustainability of the solution in the long run. Consider the case of ‘Sustainable Fuel for Cooking’, an innovation in South Sudan which introduced a sustainable alternative cooking fuel made from the locally prevalent water hyacinth plant. From the start, it involved the community at every step, starting with initial testing of the locally produced water hyacinth briquettes, the production of the prototypes and the further iterations until the final prototype was validated. The solution’s next steps focused on optimizing the production process and training community members in briquette production and usage for cooking. This iterative approach based on continuous feedback from the community ensured the solution was well-suited to their everyday needs. Surveys revealed high satisfaction and adoption rates: 98 percent of participating households would recommend briquettes to others, with spontaneous adoption noted even among non-participating households.

KEY TAKEAWAY

By involving communities and sharing knowledge into the production and innovation process (i.e., testing, measuring, and validating the solution) we can bolster community resilience and promote the adoption of the innovation in their daily lives.

02. Collaborating with the government enhances the sustainability and scalability of country-specific innovations

The WFP Innovation Accelerator has been working with the WFP Iraq country office to systematically leverage innovations to support the reconstruction of the country in areas such as climate change, water scarcity, marshlands revival and livelihoods. Our approach involved conducting a series of needs assessment workshops with diverse stakeholders in the ecosystem (government, other UN agencies and startups) where representatives of the government ministries were co-creators of innovation initiatives. This co-creation model allowed bringing in perspectives around sustainability from the government’s experience while increasing strategic alignment and resource mobilization that can contribute to the overall holistic development of the country. The goal was to avoid isolated projects that do not contribute to the local ecosystem development, ensuring the long-term viability of innovation efforts and alignment with existing government initiatives, thus facilitating systemic development and the scaling of solutions across the country.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Co-creating solutions with government and other key local stakeholders from the start, roots innovation in local needs and expertise; it creates community ownership and ensures the solutions are designed with a multifaceted understanding of the challenges they aim to address.

03. Cooperation with local stakeholders amplifies innovation visibility and knowledge exchange within the ecosystem

Securing buy-in from local stakeholders, especially in relevant governmental ministries, is paramount for driving innovation forward. One example comes from [Medtrack](#), a venture supported by WFP's SDGx Acceleration Programme. In Ghana, Medtrack deployed electronic health records in a health center and two hospitals within hard-to-reach communities of the Gomoa East Health District. The success and high adoption rate of their solution caught the attention of the Ghana Health Services' Gomoa East Health Directorate. Inspired by the impact seen in these initial facilities, the directorate approached Medtrack to expand their solution to 31 additional health facilities under their management. This initiative not only allowed Medtrack to double their reach during the pilot phase but also highlighted the importance of internal knowledge sharing within the local ecosystem, as the directorate's awareness and subsequent collaboration stemmed from observing the solution's effectiveness elsewhere.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Collaborating with the public sector can significantly extend the reach and impact of innovations, where knowledge-sharing among local stakeholders and the visible success of an innovation can prompt other stakeholders to engage.

04. Test the new technologies and software in contexts they are intended for

For the minimum viable product (MVP) of a software solution intended to facilitate in-field operations, it is imperative to get detailed feedback from the end users focusing on how the software meets humanitarian programme needs and their experience of the interface. The WFP Innovation Accelerator along with teams from the WFP Headquarters, Regional Bureau Nairobi and South Sudan country office, conducted a pre-testing exercise in South Sudan for WFP's [CODA \(Conditional on Demand Assistance\)](#), a tech solution that digitizes nutrition programming. This pre-test aimed to assess how ready the software was for real-world application. It involved documenting user feedback on multiple input devices and observation by the WFP teams against predefined key performance indicators. The test, conducted over two weeks in multiple locations, considered challenges such as limited access to power and internet connectivity. This software pre-testing approach was instrumental in planning for future development of the innovation, maximizing its practicality in programme operations.

KEY TAKEAWAY

The careful pre-testing of new software in the actual intended environment ensures it's both effective and user-friendly, maximizing its effectiveness in humanitarian programmes on the ground.

05. Harness knowledge from stakeholders on the ground to tailor solutions for the local context

Even with a solid project plan, it is crucial to have a **deep understanding of the unique needs and circumstances of the populations in each location we aim to assist.** Take SheCan, WFP's innovative finance initiative that supports smallholder farmers and micro-entrepreneurs. As we launched pilots in various locations, it became clear that their success depended heavily on the local context. In Peru, we discovered that SheCan's loan offering was not receiving as much interest as anticipated, indicating the need to involve the population more effectively. Thanks to insights and local knowledge provided by WFP Peru and Country Office's affiliations with key local banking and insurance institutions, the team was able to build local partnerships and improve targeting, gain credibility among micro-entrepreneurs and facilitate the provision of financial products more aligned with the needs of the local community.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Even well-conceived pilots may require adjustments based on local context and the needs of the communities they serve; innovation teams should remain flexible continuously seeking and incorporating local insights.

Lessons Learned

Implementing innovations in humanitarian contexts

06. Innovations require agility and foresight to thrive in emergencies and conflict-affected environments

In contexts where active conflict is unfolding, uncertainty around programme implementation and scope changes increases significantly, and timeline delays are highly likely. It is crucial to employ **agile methods and maintain direct communication with field teams** to quickly adjust and implement new strategies. In one of our programmes which involved local data collection, the use of technology for data collection and tracking was not possible at the time due to local restrictions. Traditional ways of data collection and tracking needed to be used (paper or observations). We developed a system to collect and digitize data outside the affected areas for integration into our database, resulting in a hybrid approach that combined traditional and digital data collection methods.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Agility and foresight are essential in conflict-affected areas to overcome challenges in programme implementation.

07. Assembling diverse partners into an agile, neutrally-facilitated ecosystem can accelerate innovation

In initiatives working in areas of conflict or emergency, where an ecosystem of partners that have never worked together need to be engaged and where each plays a different role in the collaboration, the **WFP Innovation Accelerator has been experimenting with an agile ecosystem approach**. Within this framework of collaboration, each partner is accountable for a portion of the design and implementation of the new solution while the WFP Innovation Accelerator remains a neutral convener. The WFP Innovation Accelerator provides partners with the necessary tools and methodologies for co-design, learning, and progress monitoring, streamlining collaboration. This enables technical experts to focus on their areas of expertise freeing them from the broader project management and stakeholder engagement responsibilities. Serving as a neutral facilitator, the WFP Innovation Accelerator has successfully navigated working barriers across a wide array of partners in its SDG Acceleration programmes, fostering a culture of open communication and a faster-paced collaboration model.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Bringing together a diverse group of partners and stakeholders under a neutral facilitator can significantly enhance the ways of working and pace of innovation.

08. A focused gender strategy and specialized expertise can enhance gender mainstreaming in innovations

The WFP Sprint Programme has improved its gender marker assessment to better **incorporate gender considerations into innovations from the start**. Initially, the assessment process had limitations due to the reviewers' varied levels of expertise on gender issues which influenced the impact of gender-sensitive recommendations. To address this, a revised Gender Analysis tool has been introduced to provide a more nuanced approach. This tool enables Innovation Consultants to evaluate solutions more accurately for gender outcomes. It assesses sprints through a gender and inclusion lens by examining the innovation's monitoring and evaluation systems. Specifically, it looks at how well the analysis of diverse needs has been integrated into the programme design, including feedback mechanisms, information sharing, and decision-making processes that cater to these needs. This ensures that gender considerations are effectively mainstreamed throughout the innovation process.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Implementing a specialized gender strategy and using targeted expertise can significantly improve the integration of gender considerations in innovations, leading to more inclusive and effective outcomes.



Rwanda. Smallholder farmer Mukakarisa Blandine joined a small group in a cooperative to work together to be able to buy fertilizer for her crops. | © WFP/Irihose Mugiraneza Benjamin

Lessons Learned

Sustainable funding for innovations, including innovative finance

09. Innovative finance mechanisms are mostly theme independent and broadly applicable

One significant lesson for Innovative Finance in effectively supporting WFP's global strategic plan is the importance of **adaptability and responsiveness**. Innovative finance solutions are primarily thematically agnostic, meaning they are suitable for a variety of programmatic priorities and needs across the humanitarian and development sectors, and they help unlock different funding opportunities instead of strictly adhering to predefined themes or sectors. Therefore, regular communication and direct consultations with WFP Country Offices, Regional Bureaux, and headquarters teams have been crucial in identifying use cases for innovative finance. This approach ensures that our financial solutions stay aligned with the shifting needs of WFP field offices and the changing funding environment.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Embracing thematic agnosticism in innovative finance fosters versatility and alignment with WFP's diverse and evolving needs.

10. Investment readiness support can help social impact ventures move away from grant reliance

While grants are critical in providing initial funding, they often create a dependency mindset that hinders sustainable growth. Dedicated **investment readiness support** regarding areas such as strategy, finance, and impact measurement, enables impact businesses to develop robust business models, articulate value propositions, and establish clear pathways to profitability, making them more attractive to investors. In 2023, as part of the WFP Innovation Accelerator's "Investment Readiness" curriculum, we delivered introductory sessions and tailored support to more than 10 innovative businesses and ventures, to help them strengthen their investment readiness. Of these, some are currently considered for investment by the recently launched WFP Innovation BRIDGE funding facility, which targets ventures at the "missing middle" providing them access to concessional debt and guarantees.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Technical assistance and support in investment readiness are pivotal in moving innovative ventures beyond grant dependency, promoting their long-term sustainability.

Lessons Learned

Exploring frontiers and emerging technologies

11. Targeted strategy and data control steps can help bridge country-specific data variances

Designing data strategy at scale and generation of global models requires introduction of a heavy data control step to address gaps in different countries in order to **ensure standardized operational outputs**. Geotar is a targeting tool that helps WFP carry out targeting with high precision and minimal exclusion errors. Although its source data originates from varied entities including governmental databases, the inherent diversity in data types, formats, and structures presents challenges. Given the impracticality of unifying source data from 120 countries, the Geotar team aims to harmonize the tool's outputs while allowing for essential customization. This involves establishing data control and processing measures tailored to the global model, thereby aligning final outputs with WFP's operational standards and global benchmarks. Geotar's efforts are part of the Humanitarian Ventures Acceleration Programme, in collaboration with WFP and Google, focused on developing a backend capable of handling extensive processing efficiently and rapidly. The beta version of this solution will undergo testing in five different WFP operations this year.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Reflecting on the actual problems and investing in careful design and planning can generate enduring value for data-driven ventures.

12. Handling sensitive data imposes significant overhead on AI frontier innovations

Exploring frontiers and emerging technologies, exemplified by the NEMO AI innovation, has provided valuable lessons for the development and implementation of artificial intelligence technology within WFP. One crucial realization is the significant overhead that sensitive data imposes on AI solutions, encompassing specific data privacy and security requirements. Managing sensitive data can extend the timeline for the Proof of Concept (PoC) or Minimum Viable Product (MVP) phase by an additional one to two months. This complexity underlines the importance of assembling a diverse and skilled team. Given the scarcity of AI talent, it is crucial to strategically allocate roles. An effective AI innovation team should include AI engineers and practitioners, business analysts, and project managers. This approach ensures that innovations not only adhere to technical specifications but also align with broader organizational goals and project requirements.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Handling sensitive data in AI innovations introduces significant overhead, and the success of these solutions in such contexts hinges on forming teams with a balanced mix of skills, including AI expertise, business analysis, and project management.

13. Leveraging AI can dramatically improve data management efficiency when coupled with user-centered design

WFP works on multiple projects with millions of people targeted every year, creating and collecting a large amount of textual information. Keeping track and producing actionable insights from this huge source of unstructured data can be challenging. The integration of Natural Language Processing (NLP) and AI bears the potential to significantly enhance efficiency in data collection and data quality processes. A prime example of this integration is WFP's NEMO AI innovation, which has led to significant improvements: a reduction in the time required for calls by up to 15 percent and a substantial increase in the case handling capacity within the same timeframe (up to 50 times more cases). These advancements underscore the potential of AI to transform data management processes. However, the true success of such implementations depends on meticulous attention to the design of human-machine interfaces and processes. It's crucial to consider how information, such as recommendations and probabilities, is presented to users. **This focus on user-centric design ensures that the technology not only enhances efficiency but also remains intuitive and accessible to its users.**

KEY TAKEAWAY

When coupled with user-centric design, leveraging AI and NLP can significantly speed up data management tasks, especially in handling large volumes of unstructured data.



SKAI. | © WFP

Lessons Learned

Enabling factors for scaling and bringing innovation to new contexts

14. Ventures must continuously prepare for various futures and adapt to change as they scale

Many of our supported ventures scale under uncertain conditions due to political instability, the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, economic crises, and climate disasters. Their experience offer valuable insights into enabling factors for scaling in volatile contexts:

- › Ventures need to constantly adapt to the changing context and be prepared for a wide variety of potential futures. Hence, eliminate long-term strategies; instead, focus on making flexibility and adaptability an integral part of the venture culture.
- › Make continuous learning a central part of the organization's culture, focusing on acquiring knowledge and adapting to what proves effective.
- › Tailor approaches to a local context and build local capacity and ownership to promote the sustainability of the solution.
- › Ground the venture in a clear purpose and strive to design a sustainable business model to maximize the venture's resilience.
- › From the start, incorporate risk assessment and contingency planning into the venture's design; having a risk mitigation plan in place can help factor in unexpected challenges throughout the innovation lifecycle.

KEY TAKEAWAY

To scale effectively, ventures need to embed flexibility into their operations, continually adapt to a local context, and sustain their growth through a sustainable business model that helps anticipate and mitigate risks.

15. Effective scaling balances expanding reach within existing markets (scaling up) and entering new ones (scaling out)

Scaling up entails reaching more people in existing markets while scaling out requires expansion and diversification. While scaling out is important to extend potential reach to new geographies and introduce an innovation to a new market, we are cognizant of resource allocation on where scale can achieve the most impact. One example in WFP's Scale-Up Enablement portfolio is the R4 initiative, an innovative integrated climate risk management approach that enables farmers to access crop insurance by participating in risk reduction activities. While its approach has been launched and is active in over 22 countries, the programme plans to focus on deepening impact and identifying efficiencies in existing geographies after the current expansion plan. This will allow the team to scale its work in areas of demonstrated and proven impact, rather than piloting its approaches in new country contexts.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Effective scaling can be achieved not only by expanding the reach to new markets, but also by deepening the impact in the existing ones.

Lessons Learned

Ways of working and back-end- processes that support innovation

16. A structured alumni programme can help maintain a connection with innovations beyond their initial acceleration phase

Maintaining a connection with innovations beyond their initial acceleration phase is essential for evaluating their long-term effectiveness and impact. Continuous support and communication channels for these solutions are vital for sustaining and scaling their impact over time. However, the challenge often lies in the absence of structured follow-up mechanisms. To address this, WFP's Scale-Up Enablement team has initiated a structured Alumni programme with consistent check-ins to grasp their challenges and offer support during various growth stages, ensuring that these ventures stay integrated with WFP's innovation community for ongoing knowledge exchange. This approach not only provides Alumni innovations with continual access to resources and mentors but also allows the WFP Innovation Accelerator to keep track of their growth, challenges, and evolving needs even after graduation.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Establishing structured follow-up mechanisms for innovations post-acceleration can help understand and support their long-term growth and impact.

17. Knowledge management offers untapped potential for innovation pipeline and strategy development

Knowledge management fuels innovation by facilitating the scaling and replication of best practices. Beyond that, it can also provide valuable insights into high-potential solutions and untapped areas for innovation throughout the organization, which has been instrumental for WFP's Scale Up Enablement team to understand innovations across their levels of maturity. Yet, knowledge management within a large organization like WFP can pose challenges, demanding substantial time for research, networking, and information retrieval. At the same time, our engagement with colleagues across Country Offices revealed a demand for a centralized knowledge system for innovation. Drawing on user research and consultations with innovation teams, we designed an optimal solution—a co-owned database where users can not only share their knowledge but also gain access to insights from other teams.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Creating knowledge management strategy, systems and shared databases can facilitate the sharing of lessons learned and replication of best practices, spurring more innovation within the organization.

18. Preparation and targeted engagement with a select few mentors enhance the mentorship outcomes for ventures

Mentor matching process is crucial, but can be complex. We found innovators gain more from mentoring sessions after receiving training or guidelines on how to meaningfully engage with mentors and what kinds of questions they should prepare. We also found that starting sessions with new mentors often involves significant time spent on introductions and project briefings, which halves the time available for actual problem-solving. Continuously working with the same mentor over multiple (around five) sessions has proven to be a more efficient strategy. It saves time, deepens the mentor's understanding of innovations, providing teams with more focused and actionable insights.

KEY TAKEAWAY

In certain cases it may be better for ventures to have a pre-training and schedule more sessions with a smaller number of mentors as this facilitates more in-depth discussions about topics of expertise.

19. Having an innovation team with varied technical skills is critical for meeting the unique needs of innovations as they scale

The journey to scale is unique for each innovation and dependent on the strategic and technical needs of the venture. Sourcing the right expertise for a specific venture's needs can therefore be challenging, as the backgrounds of project managers may not always be aligned with new technical areas. For example, WFP's [H2Grow](#) innovation has required multiple iterations of high-tech hydroponic systems in order to develop low-tech alternatives that can be adapted to local contexts and ensure accessibility for a diverse range of users. In examples such as these, where innovations are technologically complex, it is critical to be able to tap into the community of highly specialized professionals; generic advice rarely suffices for such ventures. It is therefore important to have a flexible in-house pool of technical experts or the mentor community to support such innovations.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Each innovation's journey to scale is unique underscoring the necessity for a versatile innovation team and pool of mentors to provide the tailored support to ventures as they scale.



H2Grow, WFP's hydroponics project, helps vulnerable communities to build their own hydroponic systems so that they can grow food in impossible places. | © WFP/Julia Mills

Lessons Learned

Building an innovation culture

20. When innovation-minded teams form a network, iteration is at the heart of strategy

The key to forming a successful innovation network lies in making continuous iteration a fundamental part of the strategy. Involving key stakeholders early on and promoting co-ownership across the network are essential for this strategy to work. This also means listening to feedback and not shying away from modifying the terms of engagement, halting certain activities, and launching new ones to ensure the network's offerings remain effective for the intended result. Our journey with the WFP Innovation Champions Community since 2020 exemplifies this. When we noticed a decrease in engagement following the change in community manager, we adopted a new strategy in 2023 to re-engage the community, introducing networking events and brainstorming sessions with the new community manager. We realized that while our initial community setup was effective, this change revealed opportunities for evolving our community approach. Ongoing feedback and retrospective meetings, along with experimenting with different meeting formats, led to a refined model steering the community towards a deeper and more purposeful engagement where members have higher involvement in innovation-related activities.

KEY TAKEAWAY

As much as in the innovation process, the backbone of a thriving innovation network lies in iteration, including by encouraging co-ownership, actively incorporating feedback, and discontinuing initiatives that no longer align with needs.

21. Invest both in digital systems and an innovation mindset to harness collective knowledge

Measuring the success of knowledge management and culture initiatives often relies on digital analytics and monitoring online community engagement. Yet, the full impact of knowledge extends beyond what digital metrics can capture. As the WFP Innovation Network grows, the value of community engagement and personal interactions in promoting a culture of knowledge sharing becomes more apparent. Metrics like website visits, for example, don't show whether the shared knowledge was practically applied. However, we can intentionally design our events, workshops, and community resources to facilitate the capturing and exchange of knowledge. This realization prompted us to intensify our commitment to knowledge management within the WFP Innovation Network and the role it can play in the scale-up of innovations. Since knowledge is predominantly disseminated through human interaction, we create space and opportunities for our community to engage, share insights, and collaborate. Knowledge management also helps us embrace failures as learning opportunities, fostering an innovation mindset and using our collective knowledge effectively to innovate and replicate what works across the entire ecosystem.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Advancing a culture of innovation demands dual investments in digital systems (such as shared databases and online communication platforms) and in cultivating relationships and an innovation mindset.

Lessons Learned

Partnerships and ecosystem engagement for innovation

22. When innovation-minded teams form a network, iteration is at the heart of strategy

When convening multiple stakeholders (e.g., government, external ventures, implementing partners, etc.) for a joint initiative, securing buy-in from all parties and establishing clear roles and responsibilities becomes crucial right from inception. This was the key issue when one of our recently onboarded innovations encountered unforeseen implementation delays. External ventures that have been operating independently in their respective contexts and are new to working with WFP may not understand the new responsibilities or considerations for a successful joint implementation, such as internal procurement procedures or reporting requirements. Joint coordination and clarity on roles and responsibilities among stakeholders, as well as a thorough onboarding for the external organizations, are critical for timely and successful implementation. In addition, a central technical and operational focal point and backstopping manager can help drive progress forward, with scheduled periodic touchpoints to ensure milestones are being met by all stakeholders.

KEY TAKEAWAY

For joint ventures to flourish, it is critical to maintain open lines of communication and alignment among all stakeholders; early buy-in and clear definition of roles and responsibilities are fundamental from the onset of the project.

23. Collaboration with private sector partners enables access to focused technical expertise

Google.org and the WFP Innovation Accelerator launched a joint innovation programme to accelerate WFP internal ventures focused on technological innovation. The programme was driven by a co-design and co-creation mindset from the start. Both sides explored tools like the programme master plan, a sheet that serves as the programme control room, providing an overview of all programme plans, stakeholders involved, links, tools and resources. Creating a shared knowledge and information hub for the programme allowed streamlining and merging insights and practices from each partner's experience. This eventually set the ground for co-creating new tools and ways of working for the new innovation programme.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Developing innovation programmes with diverse stakeholders enables cross-pollination of best practices and tools, ultimately shaping an innovative and fully-fledged programme.

23. Innovation thrives on multi-stakeholder collaboration

This year, the WFP Innovation Accelerator joined Moonshots for Development (M4D), a dynamic working group of innovators from International Financial Institutions, Multilateral Development Banks, and UN agencies. What initially began as a long series of meetings to set the scene swiftly evolved into an ambitious and effective alliance aimed at pioneering breakthrough innovations to address climate resilience in rural areas through AI. Each participant brought to the table a wealth of expertise spanning from deep technical knowledge to a nuanced understanding of local needs. Moreover, all members actively contributed to designing the sourcing and selection process, openly sharing both successes and failures from previous experiences in running Innovation Challenges. While alignment among six international organizations needs capacity and time, the cohort reaped immense benefits. Exposure to diverse perspectives across sectors catalysed exponential learning and fostered invaluable networking opportunities for both the participants and organizers.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Although creating an innovation programme involving multiple stakeholders can be time-consuming and effort-intensive, the investment is worthwhile; the multi-stakeholder approach facilitates substantial learning, with each member's unique expertise enriching the innovation process.

Quotes from our Partners

“Innovation is key to strengthen the resilience of people in need. This is even more important in times of multiple crises. We must make the best possible use of every euro to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable people and thus reduce humanitarian needs in the long term.”



JOCHEN STEINHILBER

Director-General for Policy Issues, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

“I firmly believe that we will be able to overcome some of the most urgent humanitarian challenges through innovation. Innovations can also contribute to closing the ever-increasing funding gap in the humanitarian space and have the power to propel individuals out of precariousness. WFP and others have proven the successful application of new technologies and the scaling of successful solutions to make them available in the field. This is an important contribution to making the humanitarian system more efficient and deliver to the people in need.”



DEIKE POTZEL

Director General for Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation, Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Assistance, German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)

“The crises and conflicts in various parts of the world last year clearly showed how important a reliable and sufficient supply of more than just food is. But also how effectively and quickly the WFP can respond to disasters to support people in greatest needs. In the medium and long term, however, the population must be able to establish its own and stable supply. That’s why we are all called upon to continue to promote sustainable and resilient agriculture and forestry not only here, but also to support other countries. Therefore the WFP Innovation Accelerator is a very important and forward-looking instrument.”



MICHAELA KANIBER

Bavarian State Minister for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism

“USAID-BHA believes in innovation because it knows it needs new ideas, new partnerships and new processes to come in in the international humanitarian system and make humanitarian assistance more efficient, cost-effective, sustainable and equitable. To help the WFP Innovation Accelerator to achieve this vision, USAID-BHA provides critical funding and technical assistance to WFP Innovation Accelerator’s core mandate. By working side by side in the humanitarian innovation ecosystem, we bring together partners on issues of humanitarian assistance.”



MAGGIE SCHMITZ

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

Quotes from our Partners

“I see that grant to WFP Innovation Accelerator as really a natural extension of our commitment to innovation and philanthropy and by supporting the WFP Innovation Accelerator, we are aiming to help facilitate the scaling of high potential innovative solutions to improve food access, to drive agricultural productivity and to create more resilience in vulnerable communities.”



JUSTIN ROSE

President, Lifecycle Solutions, Supply Management and Customer Success, John Deere

“I am adamant to put in place an enabling environment for innovation in The Gambia because I am confident it will make our operations better, allow us to tap into new opportunities for partnership and fundraising and create a lasting impact for the people we serve beyond my tenure in this Country Office. Working with the team of the WFP Innovation Accelerator is an essential step in helping us put together a coherent and transformative plan forward.”



MIRANDA SENDE

Country Director and Representative, The Gambia, World Food Programme

“Innovation is embedded in WFP’s operational mindset and culture. We seize all opportunities that enable regional innovations driven by the communities, especially the youth we serve. The lasting impact of innovations gives us a sign of hope even in challenging times.”



Rania Dagash-Kamara,
Assistant Executive Director Partnerships and Innovation Department, World Food Programme

Overarching Goals

WORK AREA	INDICATOR	2022 RESULTS	2023 RESULTS
<p>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.</p>	Number of people reached through projects	37 million people reached (22.5 million people reached by active innovations; 14.5 million people reached by alumni innovations)	60.7 million people (32.6 million people reached by active innovations; 28.1 million people reached by alumni innovations)
	Number of countries and territories where Innovation Accelerator’s active and alumni innovations are active	88 countries and territories	70 countries and territories
	Grant funding catalyzed: Grant Funding that Accelerator-supported innovations received from external sources (additional to the funding it receives from the Innovation Accelerator Special Account)	US\$24.4 million	US\$95.7 million
	Percentage of local innovation	-	44%
	Percentage of women-led innovation	-	39%

Innovative Finance & Frontier Innovation

WORK AREA	INDICATOR	2022 RESULTS	2023 RESULTS
<p>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.</p>	<p>Number of countries and territories where the frontier innovation is in operation</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>9</p>
	<p>Number of frontier innovations testing ambitious innovation agenda</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>9</p>
	<p>Number of countries and territories where the innovative finance portfolio is in operation</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>4</p>
	<p>Number of active innovative finance mechanisms</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>

Innovation Sourcing, Programmes and Sprints

WORK AREA	INDICATOR	2022 RESULTS	2023 RESULTS
Identify transformational innovations within and outside of WFP	Number of formal innovation sourcing challenges conducted	3 Innovation Challenges	2 Innovation Challenges
High impact innovations identified	Total number of “quality” applications disaggregated by those that receive: a) selected for bootcamp b) funding and active technical support	21 teams selected for bootcamp; 31 teams receiving funding and support;	12 teams selected for bootcamp; 20 teams receiving funding and support;
	Number of innovations entering a subsequent sprint phase	5 innovations entering a subsequent sprint phase; 1 innovation entering directly to Sprint	8 innovations entering a subsequent sprint phase; 1 innovation entering directly to Sprint
	Number of innovations that are ready for scale-up	1	0
	Total number of innovations receiving funding or support	31 innovations receiving funding and project management support	22 innovations receiving funding and project management support

Scale-Up Enablement

WORK AREA	INDICATOR	2022 RESULTS	2023 RESULTS
<p>Support and consolidate the next breakthrough and most impactful innovations towards their path to scale.</p>	<p>Number of innovation products/teams supported through co-design and adoption of the “path to scale” plan</p>	<p>12 path to scale plans</p>	<p>14 innovations/teams supported in the active Scale-Up portfolio</p>
	<p>Number of innovations that are transferred to sustainable structures</p>	<p>3 innovations (SMP Plus, Logie, Prism)</p>	<p>0 graduated innovations</p>

SDG Acceleration

WORK AREA	INDICATOR	2022 RESULTS	2023 RESULTS
<p>Support and consolidate the next breakthrough and most impactful innovations towards their path to scale</p>	<p>Number of programmes or workshops conducted for external partners</p>	<p>9 programmes</p>	<p>9 programmes</p>
	<p>Total number of innovations obtaining Sprint support (funding or support)</p>	<p>58 innovations</p>	<p>28 innovations</p>

Innovation Network

WORK AREA	INDICATOR	2022 RESULTS	2023 RESULTS
Mainstream innovation within WFP operations for enhanced efficiency, effectiveness and impact in addressing global food insecurity	Number of Innovation Champions	443	412
	Number of innovation hubs and units supported	6	8
	Amount of grant funding WFP country offices and regional bureaus mobilized for innovation initiative	-	US\$6.6 million
	Number of workshops and events	23	42
	Number of external knowledge management products created	116 knowledge products , including blog posts, educational videos, case studies, factsheets, guidelines, webpages and social media cards	150 knowledge products including audio events, blog posts and articles, educational videos, case studies, factsheets, guidelines and webpages

Media Mentions

WORK AREA	INDICATOR	2022 RESULTS	2023 RESULTS
<p>Build collaborative networks and partnerships that support the Accelerator</p> <p>Explore potentially transformative innovations that can be leveraged to achieve zero hunger</p>	<p>Accelerator coverage indicated through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) media mentions b) digital reach <p>on topics in relation to innovation trends, disruptive technology, humanitarian sector application, etc.</p>	<p>3,346 media mentions with over 1.8 million social media impressions</p>	<p>1,014 media mentions across 73 countries with a total reach of 241,280 with over 5.23 million social media impressions</p>

Year in Review

#disrupthunger

2023



**INNOVATION
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