

# Frequently Asked Questions

## WFP Employees

At WFP, we hold innovation at our core—whether that’s designing parachute airdrops to reach remote parts of the world, optimizing supply chain operations to purchase quality food at better prices, or identifying, reaching and serving those in need using the latest technology—from drones, artificial intelligence to blockchain. All of these promising innovations started off as simple ideas.

Our call for applications is not only an opportunity to source the most promising and daring innovations from within WFP to end hunger, but also a chance for colleagues to make a difference by helping to bring these potentially impactful projects to life.

### **What’s in it for me?**

Have a potential solution to end hunger? This is the right place. By submitting your solution, you might be selected to take part in a three to five days long **WFP Innovation Bootcamp** and a **Pitch Event**. In addition, your solution may be considered for the **Accelerator Sprint Programme**, with up to USD 100,000 in funding, and access to our support and insight.

### **What is the WFP Innovation Bootcamp?**

WFP Innovation Bootcamps help selected teams dive into challenges, ideate solutions and refine project plans over three to five days. The Bootcamps introduce participants to innovation techniques such as human-centered design and the lean start-up method in order to create viable business models and solutions for the communities WFP serves. Each Innovation Bootcamp team will be able to present during the WFP Pitch Event—an opportunity to share the solutions with an audience of investors and industry leaders who can help scale their solutions.

However, participation in the Bootcamp does not guarantee a place in the Sprint Programme. To be eligible for the Sprint Programme, teams must submit a separate application after completing the Bootcamp.

[Check out this video](#) for a glimpse into our latest Pitch Event!

### **What is the Sprint Programme?**

Our Sprint Programme is an intensive six-month acceleration programme that helps social innovations and start-ups reach proof of concept, develop prototypes ready for implementation and/or scale. Innovations in this programme will receive guidance and space from the Munich-based Accelerator, and access to WFP’s global network of partners and resources.

Teams may also receive up to USD 100,000 per Sprint, with further funding dependent upon progress and measurable achievement of key targets. In addition, teams will be assigned an experienced project manager to guide them through the pilot phase, applying design thinking principles and human-centered design along the way.

### **Am I eligible to participate?**

Yes! Any WFP colleague, stationed anywhere in the world is eligible to submit their application. We are particularly interested in applications by field staff.

**Do I need to have a team?**

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

**What do I need to apply?**

Your team must have evidence of Country Office support and management buy-in to submit your application. Please mention who your project sponsor is.

**Can I submit an application for a solution that is not related to my line of expertise?**

Yes. We believe in the power of *bold, brave* solutions that cross-pollinate between different divisions and areas of expertise. If your proposed solution works, we'll help you connect with the networks (internally and externally) that can help bring the idea to life.

**How developed does my solution need to be?**

Your innovation must at least be at the Minimum Viable Product (MVP) stage—any development stage from proof-of-concept with initial traction to fully-scaled solutions are preferred.

**How do I submit my application?**

To submit your solution, head over to our [application page](#) and fill out the WFP-only application form.

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

**Will my submission be published?**

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

**Can I apply more than once?**

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

**Can I apply if I already have another project supported by the Accelerator?**

If you are submitting a new solution, any current or previous engagement with the Accelerator will not influence the selection process.

**I am the recipient of a previous WFP Innovation Challenge Award. Can I still apply?**

Yes, you can. However, you may not submit the same winning solution again.

**I'm unsure if my innovation falls under WFP's mandate. Can I still submit my application?**

Yes. The Accelerator provides high-level strategic support to ensure submitted solutions align with WFP's mandate.

**What is the closing date?**

Applications can be submitted year-round via our [application page](#) and will be automatically considered for the WFP flagship Innovation Challenge. With specific cohorts, the deadline will be announced on the website and you will have to submit the proposal through a dedicated link.

Have more questions? Email us at [global.innovation@wfp.org](mailto:global.innovation@wfp.org).

**How will the Bootcamp participants be selected?**

Applications will be scored according to a standard set of criteria. Impact towards zero hunger is of course one of the key elements we consider, but we are also concerned with the level of innovation your solution is bringing to WFP or the humanitarian sector, and whether it can be feasibly integrated and financed. The strength of your team and alignment with WFP priorities are also important factors.

Final decisions on successful applicants are made by WFP INK management with the support of an Innovation Advisory Board consisting of WFP experts, Country Directors, and senior management.

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

Due to strong demand in the services offered by the Accelerator, the application process is competitive and we regret to say that not all applications are successful. The Accelerator aims to provide feedback to all applicants, and can be accessed by contacting [global.innovation@wfp.org](mailto:global.innovation@wfp.org).

**Go design, fail, repeat and scale. And please - be *bold*. It's time to #disrupthunger.**

For all other enquiries, please contact [global.innovation@wfp.org](mailto:global.innovation@wfp.org).