



ENERGY FOR FOOD SECURITY

Call for Applications

Energy acts as a catalyst for socio-economic transformations, influencing all dimensions of sustainable development. Access to energy is a cornerstone in achieving food security and eliminating hunger. Not only is energy essential for food consumption—much of the food distributed by the World Food Programme (WFP) requires cooking—but it also plays a vital role throughout food systems in production, processing and preservation.

In Niger, communities face significant challenges of food insecurity and vulnerability due to climatic risks like droughts, floods and rising temperatures, coupled with environmental degradation and water scarcity. Heightened insecurity and the spillage of conflicts from neighboring countries into Niger exacerbate these issues, leading to forced displacements. A total of 3.3 million people are acutely food insecure.

To address these challenges, WFP Niger in collaboration with the WFP Innovation Accelerator is launching a call for applications for innovative solutions supporting the **Energy for Food Security programme**. This initiative aims to identify and scale **cost-effective and sustainable energy solutions** for cooking and agricultural practices across crisis-affected and stable regions of Niger.

We invite global and regional innovators, entrepreneurs and organizations to contribute **impactful and fit-for-purpose** solutions that can enhance energy access in vulnerable areas, fostering improved livelihoods and resilience. The WFP Innovation Accelerator and WFP Niger will provide comprehensive support to selected teams, facilitating the development and scaling of promising solutions. Our focus is on nurturing innovations that are not only novel but also sustainable and scalable, capable of bringing long-term change within challenging environments.

Application Deadline (EXTENDED): 23 June 2024, 11:59 pm (CEST)

What We Offer

Each selected team:

- will have the opportunity to take part in the **WFP sprint programme**, a six-month acceleration programme combined with piloting, business training and mentoring;
- will receive up to US\$250,000 conditional funding* towards project implementation. The specific amount will be determined based on the maturity stage of the solution and the three thematic areas listed below.
- will receive ongoing operational support from WFP Niger during piloting;
- may qualify for further support and fundraising opportunities in the future.

**Please note that the final shortlisted teams would be required to go through the WFP vendor registration and procurement process before funding disbursement.*

What We Are Looking For

For this innovation challenge, WFP Niger is looking for both low- and high-tech solutions specifically tailored to strengthen local food systems through the provision of clean cooking and productive uses of energy. We aim to identify and support innovations **from around the world that can effectively address these challenges and are operational or able to be implemented in Niger**. The three innovation thematic areas are listed below:

1. Energizing homes in displacement settings

WFP is assisting 250 households in the Dan Dadji Makaou site, Maradi region, by providing access to solar induction cooking and lighting for both internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities in protracted displacement settings. Households need to charge their lights and lamps during the daytime on a daily basis and use the battery as an alternative power supply option. We are looking for:

- Clean cooking solutions for households in rural areas capable of powering electricity for cooking three meals a day for an average household size of seven members; and
- Household lighting systems that provide light inside the house and in surrounding areas during dark hours. These systems should operate autonomously for approximately 12 hours and sustain for 2-3 days.

2. Energizing school meals

WFP collaborates with 30 primary schools in Kantché, Yaouri, Dogo and Gaffati municipalities, Zinder region, and five schools in Tabalak and Abalak municipalities, Tahoua region. To facilitate clean cooking in schools, we are looking for:

- modern and efficient institutional cookstoves that significantly reduce cooking time and improve air pollution within schools; and
- energy systems capable of powering electricity for schools to prepare two meals daily, including breakfast and lunch.

3. Energizing farmer organizations

WFP's programme works with six producer organizations in the municipalities of Kantché, Yaouri, Dogo and Gaffati, region of Zinder. To enhance the grain processing capacity and efficiency for these farmer organizations, we are looking for:

- solar-powered grain processing and preservation solutions that increase the production of primary processed products, including **millet flour, millet couscous, cowpea flour and peanut oil**; and
- agro-processing solutions with highly scalable delivery models that provide affordable services to farmers and incentivize the shift from diesel to solar-powered equipment.

For detailed requirements under each thematic area, please refer to the [solution specifications](#).

Eligibility Criteria

Applications will be scored according to a standard set of criteria set by the WFP Innovation Accelerator. Criteria include:

- Your organization must be an established legal entity (for-profit, not-for-profit, social business, NGO, INGO).
- Your organization should have an **existing operational presence** or **willingness to establish a presence in Niger**, through a subsidiary, in-country office, distributors or partnerships in the country.
- Your innovation must address one or more of the priority innovation areas listed.
- Your innovation must be at least at the **Minimum Viable Product (MVP)** stage. Proof-of-concept and initial traction are preferred.
- Your innovation should have a plan to implement in Niger within a six-month timeframe with the available funding and a clear pathway to scale.

Evaluation Criteria

In addition to the above-mentioned eligibility requirements, your application will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- **Impact:** The solution has the potential to impact the people WFP Niger serves therefore contributing to WFP's mission of achieving zero hunger.
- **Level of innovation:** The idea is a new technology or approach to applying existing technology, process, or business model to address the problem statements.
- **Feasibility/Traction:** The applying team has evidence of its ability to make and implement the proposed solution and has an indication of demand from the targeted users/customers of its solution.
- **Financial sustainability:** The solution has a robust plan to ensure sustainable revenue generation beyond WFP funding.
- **Team quality:** Team members have relevant experience and are committed to the project.
- **Context relevance:** The solution addresses at least one of the priority areas, and is suitable to implement in the Niger context.

Application Process

- To submit your application, please fill in the [Application Form](#) by **23 June 2024, 11:59 pm (CEST)**.
- We will review and select successful applications in June and July 2024. While we value all applications, please note that we are only able to contact shortlisted applicants.
- For more information, please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

About the WFP Innovation Accelerator

The [WFP Innovation Accelerator](#) was established in 2015 by the United Nations (UN) World Food Programme with the support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and the Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism (StMELF). Its goal is to source new ideas, sprint pilot projects, and scale high-impact innovations by connecting them with WFP's global network and field operations in over 120 countries and territories. From its base in Munich, Germany, the WFP Innovation Accelerator runs programmes addressing a wide range of social impact and sustainability issues, including climate change, primary healthcare, gender equality, and emergency response. Together with the network of WFP regional innovation hubs and country office innovation teams, portfolio ventures and with the support of our partners, in 2023 the WFP Innovation Accelerator ran 14 programmes and its portfolio, comprising over 70 active innovations and 66 alumni innovation initiatives, reached 60.7 million individuals across 70 countries and territories. Since its launch, innovations supported by the WFP Innovation Accelerator have secured over USD 295 million in grant funding.