



ENERGY FOR FOOD SECURITY

Frequently Asked Questions

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NGOs, start-ups and companies

WFP Niger, in collaboration with the WFP Innovation Accelerator, is launching a call for applications for 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 enhance energy access in vulnerable areas and foster 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, scalable and capable of bringing long-term change within challenging environments.

What's in it for me?

Selected teams:

- will have the opportunity to participate in the **WFP Sprint programme**, a six-month acceleration programme combining 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 in the Call for Applications.
- will receive ongoing operational support from WFP Niger during piloting; and
- may qualify for further support and fundraising opportunities.

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

What is the sprint acceleration programme?

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

Am I eligible to participate?

Any legally registered organization (both for-profit and not-for-profit) that has an existing presence or is willing to operate in Niger is eligible to submit the application.

Do I need to have a team?

Yes, your project should have a dedicated team that will manage its overall execution. If your application is successful, you will also be assigned a dedicated innovation advisor from the WFP Innovation Accelerator to advise on pilot implementation. The project will also receive operational support from WFP Niger.

What do I need to apply?

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

What are the types of innovations that you support?

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

What are the selection criteria?

- **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, approach to applying existing technology, process or business model addressing 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.

How will the winners be selected?

Applications will be scored according to the list of criteria above. Final decisions on successful applicants are made by an innovation panel from both the WFP Innovation Accelerator and WFP Niger.

What will we not fund?

We will not fund the following applications:

- Proposals not presenting a clear innovation;
- Proposals for which proof of concept cannot be demonstrated;
- Proposals for which impact is not quantified and proved;
- Proposals that do not consider the operational contexts, do not meet the specific needs mentioned in the [Call for Applications](#) and [Solution Specifications](#); and

- Solutions that are not currently present and demonstrate no willingness to build a presence in Niger.

How do I submit my application?

To submit your solution, visit our [Application Page](#) and fill out the [Application Form](#).

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

Will my idea be published?

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

Can I apply more than once?

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

What is the closing date?

The Energy for Food Security programme challenge is accepting applications until **23 June 2024 at 11:59 pm (CEST)**.

Can I apply after 23 June 2024?

No, the application portal will be closed.

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

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

It's time. #DisruptHunger with us!

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

About 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.