

# Climate Adaptation Innovation

Accelerator Programme

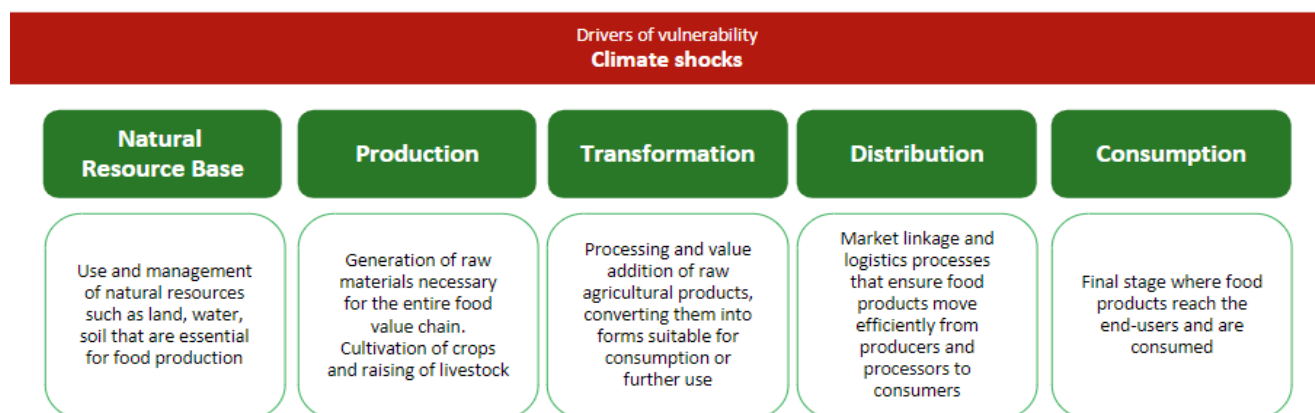
Apply by 13 August 2024 11:59 PM CEST



## Call for Applications

Every region of the world is experiencing the effects of climate change, a major driver of global hunger. In the past decade, 1.7 billion people have faced extreme weather and climate-related disasters. Communities contributing the least to the climate crisis suffer the most, with limited coping means. The WFP Innovation Accelerator, with support from the Adaptation Fund, has launched the [Climate Adaptation Innovation Accelerator Programme](#) as part of the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) partnership. This initiative aims to identify, support and scale high-impact innovations that enhance climate adaptation in vulnerable regions.

The food system value chain encompassing natural resources, production, transformation, distribution, and consumption plays a crucial role in climate adaptation. Each stage of this chain faces unique challenges due to climate change. The programme addresses every link by promoting innovative solutions that enhance resilience and adaptability.



We call on innovators, entrepreneurs, and changemakers to bring forward groundbreaking solutions to drive resilience, enhance climate adaptability, and promote sustainable development in affected communities. The programme aims to support high-potential ventures with funding, mentorship, and hands-on support, preparing them for successful scaling. The accelerator programme aims to foster local and global collaborations, increase knowledge and evidence for climate adaptation, and promote successful climate innovations. By strengthening local capacities and fostering partnerships, we strive to enhance climate resilience and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 2: 'Zero Hunger' and SDG 13: 'Climate Action'.

Join us in innovating, adapting, and building a more resilient future for communities on the front lines of climate change.

**Application Deadline: 13 August 2024, 11:59 pm (CEST)**

## **What We Offer**

This partnership between the WFP Innovation Accelerator and the Adaptation Fund through the Climate Adaptation Innovation Accelerator Programme aims to enhance climate adaptation, and gender equity, foster inclusive economic opportunities, engage youth, and increase community resilience. By supporting groundbreaking climate innovations, the programme will boost local, regional and global collaborations, expand the knowledge base for climate adaptation, and deliver sustainable solutions for vulnerable populations, contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals and building a more resilient future for communities worldwide.

What we offer to boost innovations:

- Invitation to participate in a **four-day WFP Innovation In-person Bootcamp in Munich**.
- Access to WFP's field operations and opportunity to **engage in comprehensive field testing**.
- Expert innovation management assistance from the WFP Innovation Accelerator.
- **Extensive visibility** across multiple WFP social media channels and other platforms.
- Access to a diverse pool of mentors from various sectors and top-tier organizations.
- Six-month Sprint acceleration programme combining business-oriented training, mentoring, and technical assistance from the WFP Innovation Accelerator.
- **More than US\$ 1 million in equity free funding will be available for 8-10 startups** through competitive grants based on the stage of your solution:
  - **Up to US\$ 120,000** per venture for seed stage solutions.

- **Up to US\$ 200,000** per venture for growth stage and expansion stage solutions.
- Exposure to national and international funders through an online pitch event at the end of the programme.

## What We Are Looking For

For this Innovation Challenge, the WFP Innovation Accelerator is looking for both low- and high-tech solutions specifically tailored to meet distinct climate adaptation challenges in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon along the food system value chain. We aim to identify and support exceptional innovations from around the world that hold the potential to address these challenges on a significant scale. Applicants are requested to showcase a high-impact, scalable solution that matches the below call for solutions.



### **For Egypt, we are looking for:**

- climate information systems and early warning solutions that can provide governments and smallholder farmers with critical weather information to adapt to extreme climate conditions;
- solutions to combat desertification and protect agricultural lands;
- off-grid and climate-friendly solutions that desalinate groundwater at a low cost for agricultural usage;
- non-GMO drought-tolerant crop varieties to enhance resilience and productivity in water-scarce regions, as well as crops suitable for saline soil conditions to boost agricultural productivity in salt-affected areas;
- affordable smart irrigation solutions that optimize water usage efficiency for crops, monitor soil moisture, highlight crop needs, or automate water delivery based on real-time data;
- solutions that enable smallholder farmers to convert biomass and organic waste into high-quality agricultural inputs; and
- innovative financing solutions that enable smallholder farmers and agro-processors to access financial services necessary for sustainable climate resilience.



### **For Jordan, we are looking for:**

- smart covers for water storage ponds to reduce evaporation and support agricultural

productivity, particularly for smallholder farmers;

- solutions that utilize soil conditioners, such as nano clay and other methods to enhance water retention and boost agricultural productivity in arid regions;
- affordable and easy-to-implement technologies for complementary irrigation to enhance water efficiency and agricultural productivity;
- non-GMO drought-tolerant crop varieties to enhance resilience and productivity in water-scarce regions, as well as crops suitable for saline soil conditions to boost agricultural productivity in salt-affected areas;
- affordable rainwater harvesting systems to ensure water availability during dry periods
- off-grid processing units such as solar dryers for dehydrating fruits, vegetables, and herbs that extend shelf-life and reduce post-harvest losses and minimize food waste; and
- solutions that convert agricultural and organic waste into affordable agricultural inputs or animal feed.



#### **For Lebanon, we are looking for:**

- precision agriculture solutions to monitor soil moisture, temperature, crop health, soil conditions or pest activity in real-time enabling smallholder farmers to use resources precisely;
- affordable off-grid irrigation technologies to reduce water usage and enhance agricultural productivity and resilience in remote areas;
- solutions for pastoralists to manage pests, diseases, and monitor livestock health and behaviour in real-time;
- innovative financing solutions for smallholder farmers and agro-processors necessary for sustainable climate resilience or climate insurance solutions that offer quick and transparent payouts based on weather indexes;
- eco-friendly solutions to eliminate pests and damaging pathogens to protect crops and enhance soils for plant health improvement while maintaining environmental sustainability;
- affordable off-grid cold mobile storage solutions to enhance food preservation and reduce post-harvest losses in areas without reliable access to electricity; and
- solutions that convert agricultural and food waste into affordable inputs such as compost, biochar, organic fertilizers or animal feed.

## Eligibility Criteria

- Your organization must be an established legal entity (for-profit, not-for-profit, social business, NGO, INGO).
- Your organization should have a presence or willingness to build a presence in one of the three countries of implementation (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon). This could take the form of a country office or other permanent presence, subsidiary, long-term operations or partnerships in the country.
- Your innovation addresses at least one of the above mentioned priority areas related to pressing challenges faced in the climate adaptation space of the country of implementation.
- Your innovation must be at least in the seed stage. Solutions that are still at the idea, research or early pre-seed stage are not eligible.
- Your innovation should have a clear pathway to scale, adequate resources and a proposed plan to implement during the six-month Sprint with the available funding.
- Applicants are expected to have strong intentions to collaborate with relevant humanitarian stakeholders, build relationships with the country offices, and connect with the innovation ecosystems.

Following the above-mentioned requirements, your application will be evaluated according to the following criteria\*:

- **Level of innovation/innovativeness:** The solution is novel, innovative and has a strong climate adaptation regarding the mentioned themes.
- **Relevance to the context:** The solution addresses at least one of the above mentioned priority areas, is suitable to at least one of the three country contexts, and provides concrete solutions to end-users or the ecosystem.
- **Sustainability and scalability of the solution:** The solution showcases a clear business model and a robust sustainable revenue model relative to its maturity stage.
- **Team expertise and capabilities:** Proven competence, technical coherence, commitment, motivation, entrepreneurial mindset and a diverse and inclusive team.
- **Climate adaptation:** The solution effectively enhances resilience to climate impacts, promotes sustainable practices, improves resource efficiency, and facilitates adaptive measures to address climate-related challenges.

- **Level of Impact:** Evidence of tangible historical and projected impact towards solving a defined challenge related to climate adaptation.

## Application Process

- a. To submit your application, please fill out the [Application Form](#) by **13 August 2024, 11:59 pm (CEST)**. Please note that only English submissions will be accepted.
- b. We will review and select 8 to 10 successful applications in September, inviting those selected to our bootcamp in November. The bootcamp teams will then have the opportunity to apply for the Sprint Programme, where they will receive funding. While we appreciate all applications, please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.
- c. For more information, please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

## About the WFP Innovation Accelerator

The WFP Innovation Accelerator was established by the United Nations (UN) World Food Programme in 2015 to source new ideas, sprint pilot projects, and scale high-impact innovations by connecting them with WFP's global network and field operations in over 120 countries and territories. From its base in Germany, the WFP Innovation Accelerator has grown to become one of the world's leading social impact startup accelerators. In 2023, the WFP Innovation Accelerator ran 14 programmes addressing a wide range of social impact and sustainability issues, including climate change, primary healthcare, gender equality, and emergency response with the support of WFP regional innovation hubs and country office innovation teams, portfolio ventures and its partners. Its portfolio, comprising over 70 active innovations and 66 alumni innovation initiatives, reached over 60 million individuals across 70 countries and territories in 2023. Since its launch, innovations supported by the WFP Innovation Accelerator have secured over USD 295 million in grant funding. The WFP Innovation Accelerator has been named as one of the 'Best Workplaces for Innovators' (2020, 2021) and an 'Innovation Team of the Year' (2020) by Fast Company, for ongoing work in sourcing, nurturing, and scaling innovative start-ups focused on reducing global hunger.

Learn more about us at [innovation.wfp.org](https://innovation.wfp.org).