

Frequently Asked Questions

The World Food Programme (WFP) is launching its first-ever call for applications in Iraq. The [**PALM \(Promoting Adaptation through Localized Methods\) Iraq Innovation Challenge**](#) aims to identify and support local cost-effective solutions, both low-tech and high-tech, to build resilience and enhance climate adaptation of affected communities.

We invite innovators, entrepreneurs and organizations from Iraq to contribute impactful and fit-for-purpose solutions to strengthen the capacities of local communities to adapt to climate change and improve livelihood opportunities. WFP in Iraq will provide comprehensive support to selected teams, facilitating the development and scaling of the most promising solutions. Our focus is on nurturing innovations that are not only novel to the context of Iraq but also sustainable, scalable, and capable of bringing long-term change within the local ecosystem.

What's in it for me?

The selected innovation teams:

- will be eligible to receive up to **US\$25,000 equity free grant** from WFP;
- will have the opportunity to take part in an **innovation coaching workshop** held in Iraq in Jan 2025, combining business mentoring, ecosystem mobilization and roadmap planning facilitated by the WFP Innovation Accelerator;
- will participate in a **three-month WFP Sprint Programme** (Feb - April 2025) to pilot the solutions and receive operational support, with the potential to be integrated into WFP Iraq's programmatic activities in the long term; and
- may qualify for further support and fundraising opportunities.

Am I eligible to participate?

Any legally registered organization (both for-profit and not-for-profit) in Iraq is eligible to submit an application.

In addition, the submitted solution should be at least in the Minimum Viable Product

(MVP) stage.

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 in Iraq.

What are the types of innovations that you support?

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

What are the selection criteria?

- Your organization must be a **legal established entity registered in Iraq**. Both for-profit and not-for-profit entities are eligible;
- Your organization should have an **operational presence in Iraq**, whether through a subsidiary, in-country office, distributors, or partnerships
- Your innovation must address one or more of the priority innovation areas listed above;
- Your innovation must be at least at the **Minimum Viable Product (MVP)** stage, with proof-of-concept and initial traction being preferred; and
- Your application should include a pilot plan and budget proposal within the three months of receiving funding from WFP.

How will the winners be selected?

Applications will be scored according to the criteria above. An innovation selection committee composed of executives from the WFP Innovation Accelerator and WFP Iraq will make the final decisions on successful applicants.

What will we not fund or support?

We will not support 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 or do not meet the specific needs mentioned in the [Call for Applications](#); and
- Organizations that are not legally registered in Iraq.

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 ensure 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.

What is the closing date?

The Innovation Challenge accepts applications until **20 October 2024, 11:59 pm (AST)**.

Can I apply after 20 October 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.

WFP in Iraq

In 2022, WFP launched a broader vision for its operations in Iraq focusing on resilience, recovery and development. This vision is underpinned by a comprehensive understanding of Iraq's political, security, socio-economic, environmental, economic, and human capital development landscape. By 2025, WFP aims to solidify its role as a relevant partner to the Government of Iraq in sustainable development, enabling Iraq's vision 2030 through innovative solutions that mitigate vulnerability and improve lives. To achieve its vision, WFP designed and implemented interventions that align with Iraq's developmental priorities, introducing innovative solutions to address the adverse impacts of climate change, tackling high youth unemployment, fostering a conducive ground for entrepreneurship and supporting livelihoods recovery for displaced people in conflict and climate-impacted areas. Through this holistic strategy, WFP ensured that its response extends beyond addressing immediate needs to actively contributing to Iraq's sustainable development and resilience.

Aligned with this vision, WFP in Iraq partners with the WFP Innovation Accelerator to further promote youth economic empowerment by supporting innovative Iraqi ventures and contribute to strengthening the local youth-led innovation ecosystem. At the same time, identified initiatives complement WFP's Livelihoods & Resilience programmes, creating a strong programmatic synergy.

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, justice between the sexes, 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 US\$295 million in grant funding.