

Photo: WFP/Tsiory Andriantsoarana



INNOVATION
ACCELERATOR



Fostering **innovation** *across WFP*

2024 Year in Review

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Photo: EYouth



Speaker at EYouth at the "Beyond Unemployment" event in Egypt.

EYouth provides learning and training opportunities for refugees and host communities through their AI-based tech learning platform.



This **unmanned aircraft system** delivered nutritious food to malnourished children in remote Madagascar who had not received assistance in three months. Each flight can carry up to **160 kg** of essential food, medicine and supplies over a **250 km range**.



Innovation is the key to WFP's mission, especially in the most challenging contexts.

Whether it's our dedicated staff in country offices or our global partnerships and innovation teams, the **transformative solutions** we create are driven by the needs of the people we serve.

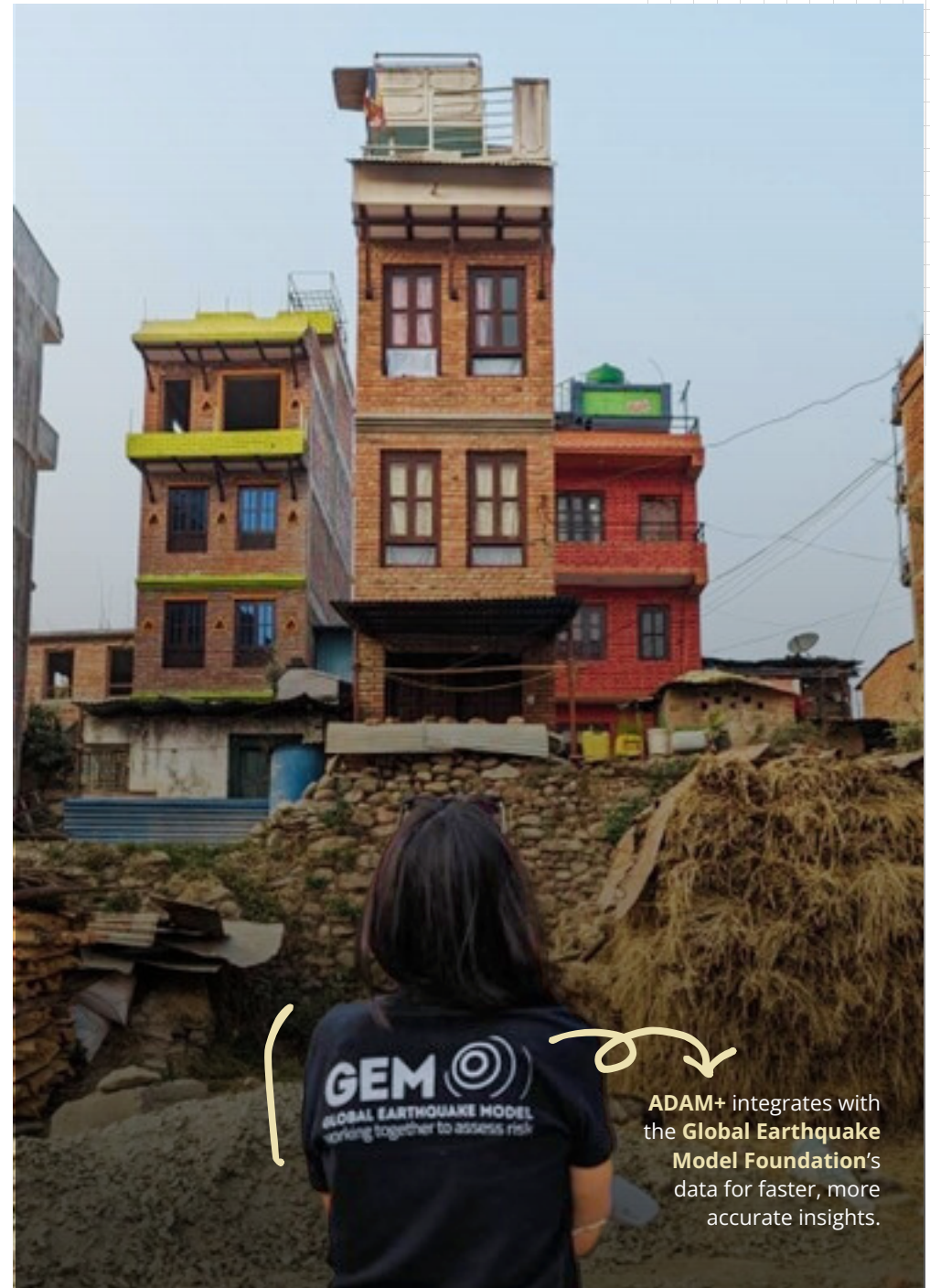
Our work is centered around people and every innovation we champion aims to bring **lasting, positive change** to their lives.



Rania Dagash-Kamara
WFP Assistant Executive Director
for Partnerships and Innovation

Innovation is at the heart of WFP

In a year of escalating humanitarian crises and strained resources, WFP embraced innovation, technology and partnership to enhance emergency responses and drive progress toward ending hunger. Innovation remained central to WFP's mission, **improving the lives of those it serves.**



ADAM+ integrates with the **Global Earthquake Model Foundation's** data for faster, more accurate insights.

Cutting edge innovation and technology played a key role in making operations more efficient. AI-powered tools such as GeoTar improved aid delivery by mapping vulnerability with precision, even in data-scarce regions.

Financial inclusion and community empowerment remained priorities. WFP Innovation BRIDGE, in partnership with UNCDF, offered new financing models for impact-driven businesses. Nilus, its first recipient, delivers nutritious food 40 percent below market prices, **benefiting 650,000 low-income people** and enabling women-led community networks to strengthen local food systems.

HesabPay uses blockchain to securely deliver digital Afghani to mobile numbers or debit cards. In 2024, in partnership with WFP, it provided **over 17,000 people** with digital financial services, offering an easier alternative to cash distribution. This is especially impactful for women in Afghanistan, who face significant barriers to financial access. By replacing long distribution lines with digital wallets, HesabPay enhances financial inclusion and improves the efficiency and transparency of WFP's aid delivery.

Strategic partnerships remained central to the WFP Innovation Accelerator's success in 2024.

Foundational support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and the Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism (StMELF) continued, with StMELF also expanding its support to WFP's innovative post-harvest loss work in Ethiopia. Other highlights include new collaborations with Luxembourg, alongside CERN and the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology on advancing initiatives in **AI and on Catastrophe Bonds for Food Security**.

In 2024, the WFP Innovation Accelerator also continued to deepen and expand its private sector partnerships. Our ongoing partnership with John Deere enables us to reach more smallholder farmers and to develop WFP's Innovation Strategy. In collaboration with Google, we ran the WFP Humanitarian Ventures Accelerator, leveraging tech solutions to support **emergency response innovations**.

Amid relentless humanitarian challenges, WFP remains committed to responding to emergencies, combating hunger and developing scalable, sustainable solutions for vulnerable communities. Innovation is at the core of this mission, enabling WFP to adapt to evolving global needs with greater efficiency and impact.

Photo: WFP



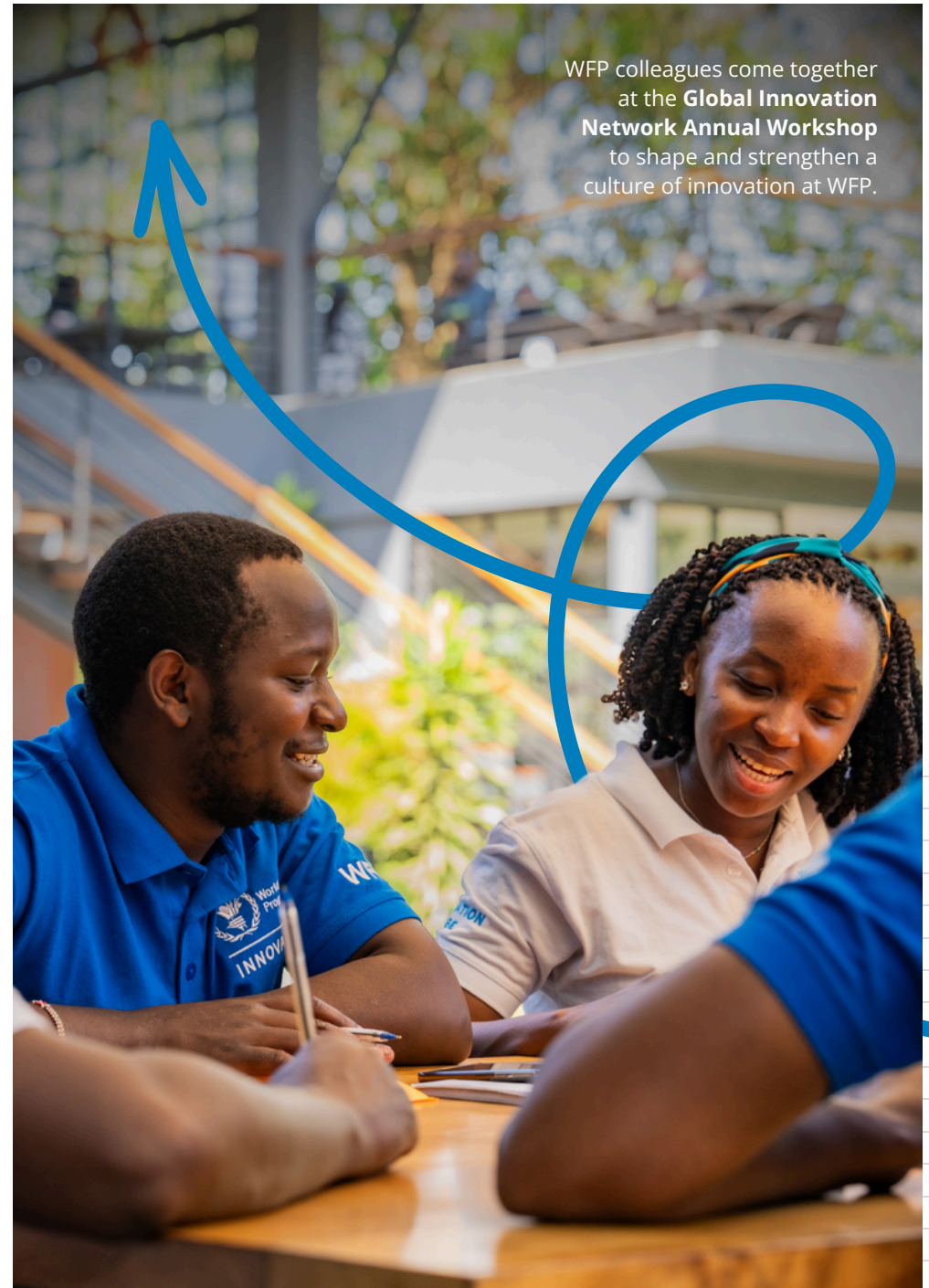
Photo: WFP/Hasib Hazinyar



Innovation across WFP

WFP's innovation ecosystem expanded significantly in 2024, with 17 country innovation units, two regional hubs and the global Innovation Accelerator fostering local solutions. **Across 165 duty stations, 490 Innovation Champions worked to address pressing challenges**, with initiatives like the IGNITE Innovation Challenge in Eastern Africa strengthening community-driven progress.




Photo: WFP/Carita Marsili

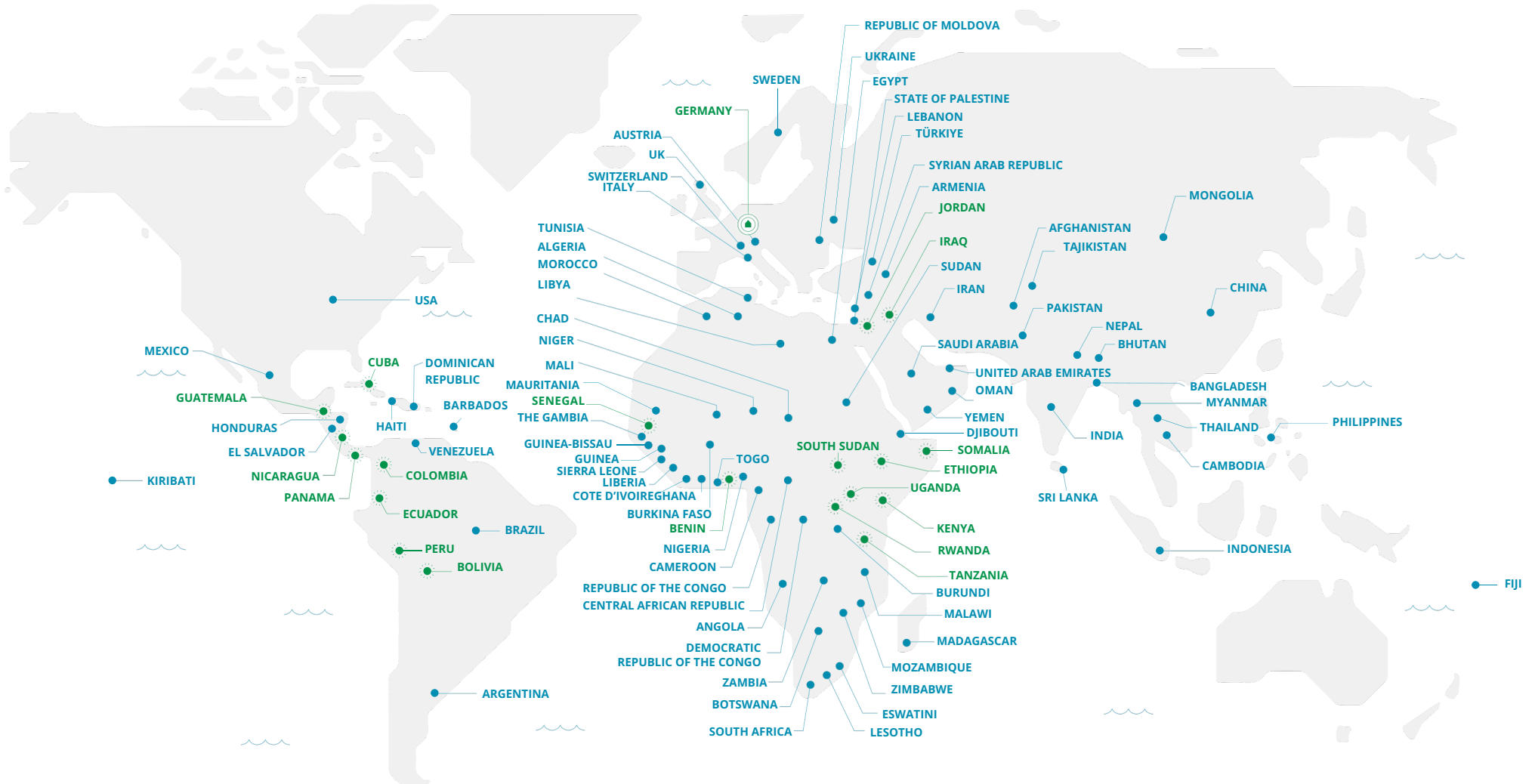


WFP colleagues come together at the **Global Innovation Network Annual Workshop** to shape and strengthen a culture of innovation at WFP.

Where we work

Innovation at WFP

-  WFP INNOVATION ACCELERATOR
-  WFP INNOVATION TEAMS
-  WFP INNOVATION PORTFOLIO



WFP Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa



Photo: WFP/Mahmud Ataam

East Africa is one of WFP’s most dynamic regions, playing a key role in its innovation efforts. Six country offices in the region are investing in their innovation power supported by a robust regional innovation hub with specialized expertise. **In East Africa, WFP Innovation has reached 150,651 people** and works across three pillars:

1. Drive impact through innovative methodologies and solutions and by supporting the local ecosystem.
2. Foster monitoring, evaluation and learning on innovation, ensuring that programme design adapts to the results and continues to achieve the intended impact.
3. Embed innovation across WFP by equipping colleagues and partners with resources and training.

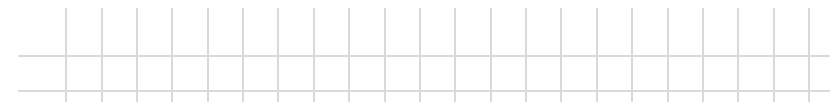
WFP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean



Photo: WFP/Nelson Pacheco

In Latin America and the Caribbean, **seven country offices in the region are driving innovation** and investing in an innovation portfolio together with the host governments. Focused on digital and community led innovation and supported with innovation services and mobilized catalytic funding by the regional bureau, the innovations in the region **reached more than 230,000 people**.

In the past year, WFP Guatemala launched the *¡Atrévete a Innovar!* innovation programme which is the country’s first internal acceleration programme, aimed at fostering creativity and innovation in projects implemented in the areas of Quiché and Huehuetenango.



The WFP Innovation Accelerator

Launched in 2015 in Munich, Germany, with support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and the Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism (StMELF), the WFP Innovation Accelerator sources, pilots and scales groundbreaking solutions to fight food insecurity and bring us closer to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: Zero Hunger. Working alongside WFP's global network in 120 countries, including local innovation teams and regional innovation hubs, it **develops innovations rooted in local needs with real-world impact.**

Photo: WFP/Versative/Diego Santamaria



Kitchen in a Box builds sustainable school kitchens, ensuring nutritious meals in safe environments. With support from the WFP Innovation Accelerator, it has launched pilot kitchens in El Salvador, impacting over 3,100 students and community members.

What we do

Innovation to impact

Our **Sprint Programme** fast-tracks early-stage solutions for SDG 2: Zero Hunger, offering six months of acceleration, US\$100,000 in funding, expert mentorship and access to WFP’s global operations. Proven solutions move to our **Scale-Up Enablement Programme**, which provides strategic support, mentorship and fundraising to expand their impact across regions.

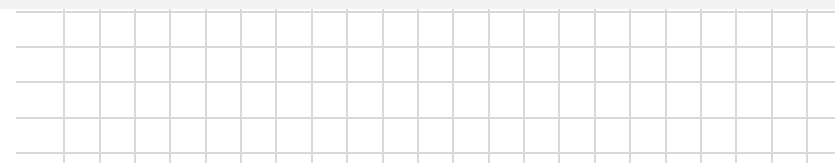
Driving systemic change

Through our **SDGx team**, we bridge gaps in humanitarian and development ecosystems, fostering high-impact solutions across all 17 SDGs. Our **Frontier Innovations Programme** explores emerging technologies, such as AI, blockchain and mobile tech to improve humanitarian responses. Meanwhile, the **Innovative Finance and Venture Launchpad** unlocks new funding models, blending capital from public donors, impact investors and philanthropies to scale social impact.

Photo: WFP/ Paola Campos



One standout initiative within the **Frontier Innovations Programme** is the **AI Sandbox**, a collaborative platform that provides a secure environment for testing and scaling AI-driven solutions, ensuring their responsible and effective deployment in areas like anticipatory action and strategic planning.



Powering change through collaboration

Together with WFP country office **innovation teams** and **regional innovation hubs**, the WFP Innovation Accelerator supports solutions shaped by local realities and embedded in communities. By working closely with **local governments**, we ensure solutions align with national priorities, gain essential buy-in and have a clear path to long-term scaling.

Whether you're an entrepreneur with a bold solution, a partner ready to collaborate or a supporter of innovation, **the path to scale starts here.**

Photo: WFP/Michael Tewelde

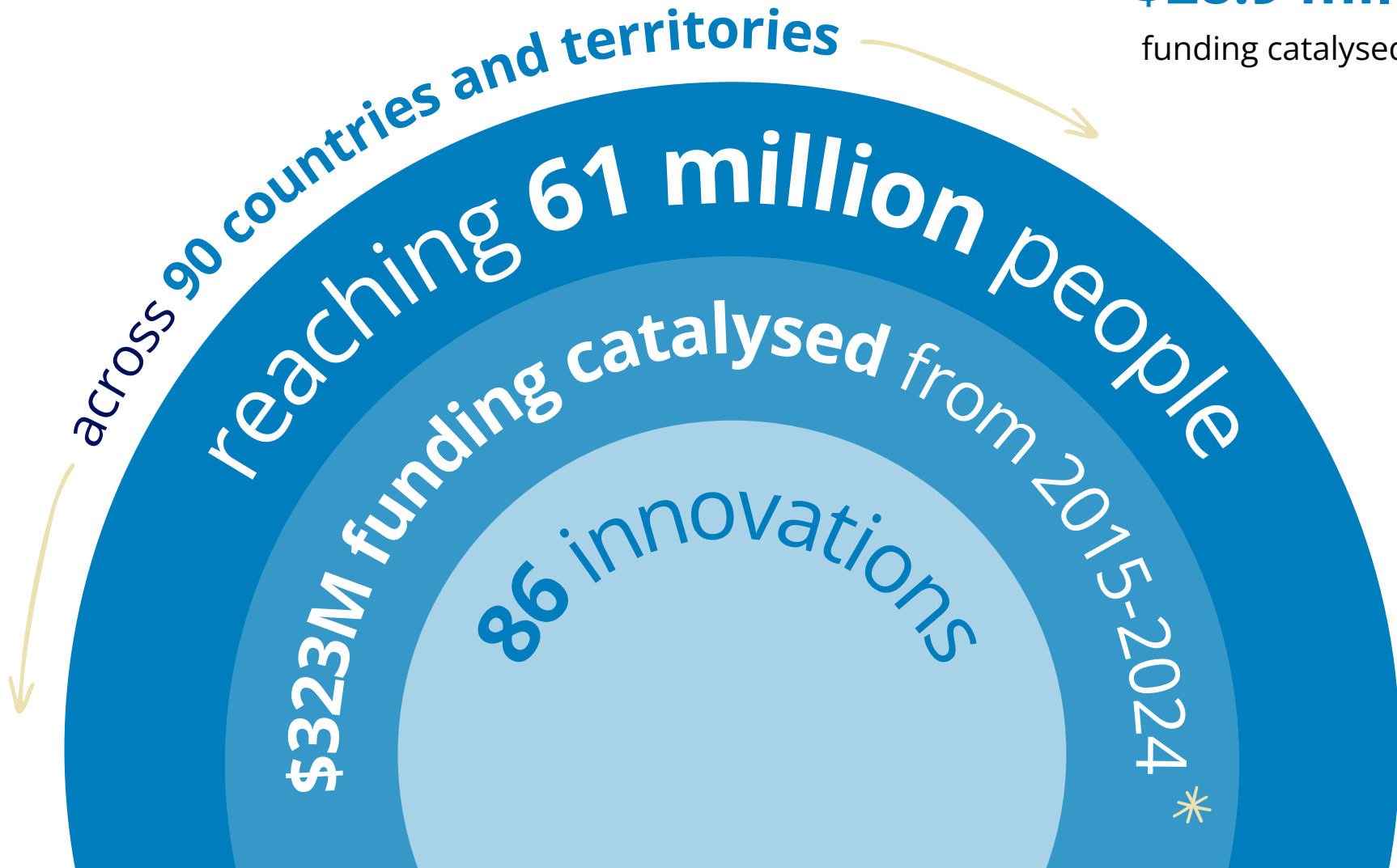


Sanku partnered with 1,414 mills in Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia to provide fortified flour for 9.4 million people in 2024 and advance its mission to end malnutrition.

Key results

These results for 2024 were achieved together with the WFP Innovation Network, portfolio ventures and the support of our partners.

*
\$28.9 million+
funding catalysed in 2024



Efficiencies through innovation

By integrating AI, automation and digital platforms, WFP optimized resource allocation, streamlined supply chains and improved emergency readiness, achieving **US\$4.1 million in cost savings and US\$1.5 million in time efficiencies.**

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Photo: WFP/Sylvie Njobati

SCOUT

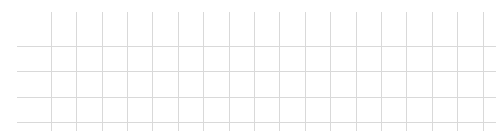
SCOUT is transforming WFP's supply chain by using operational AI to optimize global food sourcing and delivery planning. This innovative system reduces response times, prevents critical disruptions and ensures financial resources are maximized to deliver food to those in need. In 2024, SCOUT was deployed in West Africa. It helped WFP save **US\$2 million in just one year** and is projected to generate **over US\$50 million in cost savings** in the coming years.



Photo: WFP/Lena von Zabern

Building Blocks

Building Blocks, WFP's corporate innovation, is the largest blockchain-based system in the humanitarian sector. In 2024, Building Blocks was used by **65 organizations in Ukraine** to coordinate aid, **saving US\$67 million** through deduplication across cash, food, livelihoods and shelter assistance. From 2022-2024, more than **4.8 million** unique households were uploaded into Building Blocks in Ukraine, preventing 855,000 duplicate cases and saving over **US\$200 million** - funds that were redirected to assist even more people.



Spotlight innovations

The WFP Innovation Accelerator portfolio comprises diverse innovations tackling the greatest **humanitarian and development challenges**. These spotlight innovations have scaled to greater impact in 2024, driving efficient and effective response to those in need.

Photo: WFP/Lisa Murrayi



Toothpick's scientist, Loise Kioko, examines *Fusarium oxysporum*, the key ingredient in Kichawi Kill, an eco-friendly bioherbicide targeting striga. With WFP's support, **Toothpick** aims to reach 110,000 farmers across Western Kenya by 2025.

Nilus



Photo: WFP/Irshad Khan

Nilus improves food access by connecting producers directly with schools and other buyers, cutting costs by up to 70 percent while strengthening supply chains. Nilus now supports WFP's school meals programme in Ecuador, benefiting over **25,000 children**. As the first loan recipient of the WFP Innovation BRIDGE, Nilus continues to scale its impact, **helping 650,000 low-income people** save an average of 22 percent on food purchases.

Ignitia



Photo: Ignitia

Ignitia addresses the challenge of changing weather patterns that disrupt traditional farming practices and delivers real-time, localized weather forecasts and farming advice leveraging artificial intelligence. Ignitia has collaborated with WFP since 2022 and is active in 11 countries. It has reached **2.7 million farmers**, including 700,000 regular users. **Ignitia expanded to Mali** with WFP, providing more than 5,000 farmers with SMS-based forecasts and advisories.

Lessons learned

This year's innovations reinforced the value of **adaptability, strategic partnerships and user engagement** in driving impactful innovation.

Photo: WFP/Gonzalo Rodino

The **INITIATE programme**, co-managed with the UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) and World Health Organization (WHO), enhances global emergency health responses through an exemplary collaborative approach. Over 150 partners gathered in Accra, Ghana, for a simulation testing the final prototype of an infectious disease treatment module, aligning strategies and resources to manage complex crises.



Rapid deployment and scalability were enhanced through user-friendly testing, standardized processes and streamlined operations, ensuring efficiency across diverse contexts.

Balancing global standards with local specificity in ground data collection, risk assessment and targeting enabled fair and effective humanitarian response.

Technology and AI optimized workflows, improved cost efficiency and enhanced forecasting and emergency preparedness through machine learning and automation, while iterative user feedback ensured practical and widely adopted solutions.

Strategic partnerships with governments, academia and the private sector brought critical expertise and resources that fueled innovation and sustainability.

Successful initiatives emphasized the importance of **financial and market-based approaches to drive economic empowerment,** particularly for women entrepreneurs and small enterprises. Additionally, proactive stakeholder engagement, including with field offices and local authorities, strengthened coordination and implementation. These insights will shape future projects, fostering resilience, efficiency and long-term impact.

By working closely with local communities, governments and partners, we ensure solutions are locally owned and sustainable. Partnering with local governments secures buy-in and lays the foundation for long-term impact and future scaling.



Future of innovation

In 2024, we collaborated with WFP country offices, regional bureaux and headquarters division to develop the new **WFP Innovation Strategy**. Centred on **positioning country offices as innovation hubs**, it focuses on four key goals: empowering in-country teams, scaling high-impact solutions, fostering collaboration and embedding a culture of innovation. By leveraging technology, digital solutions and innovative finance, the strategy enhances WFP's ability to co-create agile, effective solutions. Set to launch in 2025, it will drive innovation across WFP's operations, with thanks to the support of John Deere and the Boston Consulting Group.

The **Amini** platform provides critical data on crops, soil, and weather, strengthening agricultural supply chains and global food security, particularly in Africa.

Having successfully reached over **250,000 smallholder farmers across six countries**, Amini has received support from the Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa to expand into the Ivory Coast, **aiming to reach an additional 300,000 farmers by the end of 2025**.



Thank you to our key partners and collaborators



WFP Innovation Accelerator Awards & Recognition



Together, we can innovate to *#disrupt* hunger.

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global.innovation@wfp.org

Get involved

innovation.wfp.org/apply



Photo: WFP/Ana Mato Hombre