



World Food
Programme

**INNOVATION
ACCELERATOR**

Innovation at scale

The **World Food Programme** (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian organization. Its mission is to end hunger by saving lives in emergencies and changing lives through sustainable development; building a pathway to peace, stability, and prosperity for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.

In 2015, with the support of 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), WFP launched the **Innovation Accelerator** to help achieve its mandate of zero hunger. The WFP Innovation Accelerator **sources new and innovative solutions, pilots projects and scales high-impact innovations** by working with WFP's global staff across 120 countries and territories.

86

innovations
supported*

61M

people
reached*

*In 2024

The WFP Innovation Accelerator

The WFP Innovation Accelerator brings to life promising solutions by leveraging advances in innovation and providing services to WFP and other organizations working towards achieving zero hunger and addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Food security requires a multi-dimensional approach, therefore the WFP Innovation Accelerator also serves innovation broadly and systematically across the SDGs.

In 2024, the WFP Innovation Accelerator ran 18 acceleration programmes with co-creation partners.

Our Frontier Innovation team explores game-changing innovations and technologies like artificial intelligence, blockchain and autonomous vehicles.

Our Innovative Finance and Venture Launchpad team enhances the scope of funding for innovations disrupting hunger through catalytic mechanisms that attract and blend different sources of capital, growing the lifetime of each dollar received by WFP. **WFP Innovation BRIDGE** was launched in partnership with the *UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)*, leveraging loans and guarantees to help scale businesses.

Partners like the **the Government of Luxembourg and France, the Austrian Development Agency, Innovation Norway and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)** help strengthen solutions from AI-empowered humanitarian emergency response, to digital health and agricultural innovation.

Other strategic partners include Google, The Adaptation Fund, BASF Stiftung, The Gates Foundation and John Deere Foundation. Netlight offer mentor support, guidance and funding, while The German Aerospace Center (DLR) works on remote amphibious all-terrain vehicles.

The WFP Innovation Accelerator is grateful for the dedicated support of its current partners and collaborators and continues to seek new ones to further amplify its innovation impact.



**Best Workplace
for Innovators**
2020, 2021 and 2024



**Finalist: Innovative
Leader of the Year**
2021 and 2023



**Most Innovative
Companies**
2021 and 2017



**Innovation Team
of the Year**
2020



4x winner
2022 & 2023



**ShareTheMeal:
Best Apps of 2020**
Google and Apple

Where we are

The WFP Innovation Accelerator works to integrate innovation within WFP so that it is central to country strategies and programme planning.

To advance innovation within the organization and maximize impact, the WFP Innovation Accelerator works with expert units from Programme and Policy, Gender, Cash-Based Transfers, Supply Chain and Emergency, Technology and Finance teams. To further cultivate innovation, the WFP Innovation Accelerator is in the process of launching a new WFP-wide innovation strategy.

20 country offices with **innovation focal points** or teams, two regional innovation hubs in [East Africa](#) and [Latin America and the Caribbean](#) and a diverse community of 490 WFP Innovation Champions from across 165 duty stations further enables WFP to implement innovations at scale. These hubs and units support community-driven solutions and the amplification of local and regional voices.

Innovation learnings and practices are **shared across the UN system** and impact organizations including Rome-Based Food Agencies of the United Nations. UNICEF and WFP founded, and together with UNDP co-lead, the [UN Innovation Network](#) (UNIN), which includes over 70 UN entities in 120 countries.



[ShareTheMeal](#) is WFP's fundraising app, engaging smartphone users to donate over 200 million meals at a cost of just US\$ 0.80 per meal.



WFP is the first and only United Nations entity to be part of the **Google for Startups network**. We collaborate by harnessing the technological expertise of Google, to complement WFP's local knowledge and enable start-ups' path to scale.



The [Humanitarian Innovation Accelerator Programme](#), powered by the WFP Innovation Accelerator, the Government of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, and the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) supports tech solutions addressing pressing global challenges.



We address **social and livelihood challenges**, prioritizing the empowerment of women through resilience building and financial inclusion. Key projects include [Nilus](#), [SheCan](#) and [Takachar](#).

From design to impact



Solutions are identified through regular, themed **Innovation Challenges**, such as Livelihoods or Food Systems.



Innovation teams attend week-long **Innovation Bootcamps** with expert mentors who guide them in tackling challenges and refining their business models.



Top teams start a **6-month sprint** with funding, support, and access to WFP operations to implement their solutions.



Scale-Up Enablement provides tailored support to proven innovations to maximize their impact within and beyond WFP. Established in 2019, this approach to scaling was the first of its kind in the United Nations system.

Thank you



Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism



Let's connect!



innovation.wfp.org



global.innovation@wfp.org



WFP Innovation Accelerator