

# Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator

Apply by **30 September 2025**



## Call for Applications

Shocks and stresses such as droughts, heatwaves, storms and floods are increasingly putting lives and livelihoods at risk, affecting the functioning of global food systems at all levels - from production to consumption and eroding development.

To address these growing crises, the World Food Programme, in partnership with the Adaptation Fund, launched the [Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator \(AFCIA\)](#) programme. 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.

### Drivers of intersectional vulnerabilities Climate shocks and stressors

#### Anticipate

**Taking preventive actions ahead of extreme climate events** such as early warning systems (EWS) linked to advisories

#### Address

**Adjusting practices to reduce risk** such as agricultural adaptation practices, improved irrigation and soil management practices, climate smart agriculture

#### Transform

**Enabling systemic change for long-term resilience** such as supply chain and market value chain innovations

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: 30 September 2025, 11:59 pm (CEST)***

## What We Offer

This partnership between the WFP Innovation Accelerator and the Adaptation Fund through Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator aims to enhance climate adaptation with 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.
- Nine-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 10-12 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 Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines 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 Nepal, we are looking for:

- localized climate information systems delivering precise, timely and actionable weather and agronomic advisories to smallholder farmers and hazard-prone communities, such as mobile alerts in local languages, drones with announcement systems, and other AI-enabled digital tools integrated with local knowledge;
- inclusive adaptation finance solutions, including machine-learning-based credit risk scoring, collateral-free and group-based lending systems, pay-as-you-grow models tied to harvest income, Payment for Ecosystem Services tied to watershed and soil conservation management, and village-based revolving funds linked to early-warning systems;
- climate-resilient seed and input solutions that revive indigenous varieties, such as platforms enabling community seed banks, tools mapping the availability of climate-resilient seeds, low-cost organic inputs and technologies that convert biomass into soil-enriching agricultural products;
- affordable climate-smart water management solutions, such as automated systems that automate efficient water delivery, tools for real-time monitoring of soil, crops and pests, and platforms recommending climate-resilient crop choices based on forecasted shocks and stressors;
- risk protection solutions such as blockchain-enabled microinsurance and affordable index-based multi-hazard insurance with automated payouts, triggered by weather or satellite data for floods, extreme temperatures, and other climate risks.

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

- water management solutions that address water scarcity and groundwater depletion, such as community-based rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge techniques and smart irrigation systems that maximise water utilization;
- post-harvest management solutions that reduce losses and treat contaminations (including aflatoxin) and pest infestation, such as solar-powered cold storage, refrigerated transports, processing technologies with innovative business models and contamination monitoring or treatment techniques;
- scalable land restoration solutions that rehabilitate land and increase soil fertility affected by landslides, floods, torrential rains and salinity, along with climate information systems that deliver timely and hyper-local weather advisories and adaptive agronomic practices to local communities;
- risk protection solutions that offer affordable index-based insurance with automated payouts triggered by weather data (with rainfall, flood or drought thresholds), satellite imagery or other sources;
- digital market solutions that provide real-time route information and connect farmers with buyers when access to the physical marketplace has been disrupted or supply chain innovations that improve product traceability, ensure quality monitoring and reduce spoilage.

## **For the Philippines, we are looking for:**

- localized early warning solutions with inclusive dialect-based audio alerts tailored that include protective actions such as Interactive Voice Response (IVR), drones with announcement systems, or other inclusive technologies designed to reach people with intersectional vulnerabilities;
- nature-based solutions to diversify livelihood strategies for smallholder farmers and fisherfolk, such as innovative and low-resource backyard food production units, agricultural waste upcycling, value-added processing of local produce, tailored to local ecosystems, hazards and cultural practices;
- community-based post-harvest management solutions such as modular pre-cooling, dehydrators, and cold storage, designed to be accessible, affordable, and adaptable for different scales of production;
- risk protection solutions such as parametric microinsurance platforms with automatic payouts based on rainfall/flood/typhoon/drought thresholds or satellite data, and community-level cooperative insurance schemes that enable risk-pooling;

- farmer-centric digital AI-powered platforms that integrate seasonal climate forecasts, real-time market intelligence, and tailored agroecological and regenerative farming guidance, with potential features such as e-commerce hubs, traceability, digital payments and logistics coordination.

## 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 in one of the three countries of implementation (Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines). 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 nine-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 for at least one of the three country contexts, and provides concrete solutions to end-users or the ecosystem.
- **Financial sustainability and scalability:** 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, demonstrating long-term, sustainable change beyond the grant period.
- **Environmental and social sustainability:** The solution adheres to the environmental and social principles of the Adaptation Fund.
- **Gender and Inclusion:** Solutions must address diverse user needs, enable inclusive participation and decision-making, and use disaggregated data and feedback to inform design and impact.

## Application Process

- To submit your application, please fill out the [Application Form](#) by **30 September 2025, 11:59 pm (CEST)**. Please note that only English submissions will be accepted.
- We will review and select 10 to 12 successful applications in November 2025, inviting those selected to our Innovation Bootcamp in January 2026. 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.
- 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 2024, the WFP Innovation Accelerator ran 18 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 86 innovations, reached 61 million individuals across 90 countries and territories in 2024. Since its launch, innovations supported by the WFP Innovation Accelerator have secured over US\$323 million in grant funding. The WFP Innovation Accelerator has been named as one of the 'Best Workplaces for Innovators' (2020, 2030, 2024), Most Innovative Companies (2030 and 2017) and '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.

WFP is a four-time winner of the Anthem Awards in 2022 and 2023. The award recognizes social impact work worldwide. The WFP Innovation Accelerator was named in Fast Company's lists of Innovation Team of the Year 2020, Best Workplaces for Innovators (2020, 2030, 2024) and Most Innovative Companies (Not-For-Profit) (2017 and 2030) and Innovation Leader of the Year finalist 2023. WFP's Share the Meal App won Best Apps of 2020 by Google and Apple.

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