



PREP

INNOVATION CHALLENGE



Call for Applications

Globally, the Philippines has been ranked as the country at the greatest risk of disaster and exposure to multiple high-intensity hazards, including typhoons, floods, earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, droughts and sea-level rises. It is also among the countries most vulnerable to climate change which is projected to cause intensified extreme weather events. Multifaceted shocks and stressors have led to loss of livelihoods and hampered access to basic social services, thus aggravating food insecurity and malnutrition. As one of the fastest-growing economies in Southeast Asia with a population of more than 116 million, it is critical that the Philippines applies innovative approaches to build resilience and emergency preparedness.

To address these challenges, the World Food Programme (WFP) Philippines country office and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in collaboration with the WFP Innovation Accelerator are launching the first-ever call for applications leading up to the 2024 Preparedness and Response Excellence in the Philippines (PREP) Forum. The [PREP Innovation Challenge](#) aims to identify and scale **low- and high-tech cost-effective solutions** for the food-insecure population in some of the most disaster-prone areas of the Philippines.

We invite innovators, entrepreneurs and organizations from the Philippines to contribute **impactful and fit-for-purpose** solutions to **enhance the Philippines' emergency preparedness and response**. WFP Philippines 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 the Philippines but also sustainable, scalable and capable of bringing long-term change within challenging environments.

Application deadline: 31 July 2024, 11:59 pm (PHT)

What we offer

The selected innovation teams:

- will have the opportunity to showcase their innovation during the 2024 PREP Forum event taking place in Manila, Philippines, from 18-19 September;
- will receive visibility from their participation at the 2024 PREP Forum event which partners, including government agencies and donors such as USAID, will attend;
- will be eligible to receive **up to US\$45,000 (or PHP 2.6 million) in funding** from WFP;
- will receive one year of mentorship and operational support from WFP Philippines; and
- may qualify for further support and fundraising opportunities.

**Please note that the shortlisted teams may be required to go through the WFP partnership arrangement, vendor registration or procurement process before funding disbursement.*

What we are looking for

For this innovation challenge, we are looking for both low- and high-tech solutions specifically tailored to strengthen food security in disaster-prone areas. We aim to identify and support **homegrown innovations based in the Philippines** that can effectively address these challenges and **are operational or able to be implemented in at least one of the [eight target provinces](#) in the country within one year**. WFP Philippines' current innovation priorities are listed below:

1. Enhance emergency preparedness to build resilience

Before the onset of an emergency, pre-emptive measures taken by communities and authorities are critical to lower the number of casualties, protect livelihoods and help the affected populations recover faster when an emergency occurs. Cost-effective and scalable initiatives, such as nature-based solutions, help address the growing challenges of climate change, including biodiversity loss and increased frequency of extreme weather and natural hazards. Preparedness also supports humanitarian interventions' effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness when crises erupt. Technologies powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) can mitigate the damage of natural hazards by reliably processing large volumes of data in real-time, which provides valuable insights to help predict natural hazards and enhance mitigation responses by allocating relief resources better. *Thus, the PREP Innovation Challenge is looking for:*

- *AI-assisted early warning systems (EWS) that deliver real-time information to local communities and decision-makers before the onset of a disaster;*
- *tools enabling predictive analysis and hazard risk mapping that aid the formulation of preparedness actions;*

- *nature-based solutions to reduce disaster risk;*
- *green infrastructure that limits people's exposure to hazards (e.g., natural storm barriers that offer protection, solutions that mitigate flooding, solutions that decrease the risk of landslides following earthquakes or extended rainy seasons);*
- *new tools and guidelines on nature-based solutions.*

2. Increase efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian response

In the Philippines, frequent hazards such as typhoons and earthquakes intersect with the challenging operational reality spanning 7,000 islands. As a result, the humanitarian supply chain in the country is dynamic and complex. Delivering timely and effective support is critical, particularly in the most disaster-prone, underdeveloped and hard-to-reach areas. Supply chain optimization challenges include minimizing costs, ensuring assistance transparency and increasing efficiency while reducing environmental impact. Strengthening subnational capacities for supply chain management and logistics would better ensure we can meet the immediate needs of vulnerable people in disaster contexts. Innovations can do this by focusing on stockpiling and prepositioning relief resources down to the local level. Emerging technologies such as AI can help accelerate aid delivery to affected people and places and improve the decisions and actions of front-line responders. *Thus, the PREP Innovation Challenge is looking for:*

- *solutions that improve access to humanitarian assistance for disaster-affected populations;*
- *solutions that estimate the immediate needs of the most at-risk communities as priority targets of relief or enable crowd logistics of relief items;*
- *solutions to track inventories of relief goods that facilitate decision-making to augment, replenish or conclude assistance;*
- *cutting-edge tools for authorities to acquire and collate damage information, report assessments and immediate needs within a few hours following a disaster;*
- *solutions strengthening institutional capacity and collaboration in last-mile delivery in hard-to-reach locations;*
- *solutions that optimize emergency supply chain management;*
- *AI-assisted communication that delivers timely and critical information for public action or that guides evacuating populations to take the safest and quickest routes to safety.*

Eligibility Criteria

Applications will be scored according to standard criteria set by the WFP Innovation Accelerator. Criteria include:

- Your organization must be an established **legal entity registered in the Philippines**. Both for-profit or not-for-profit entities are eligible, including private sector, regional, provincial or local government unit authorities, academic institutions, foundations or NGOs;
- Your organization should have an **existing operational presence** in the Philippines through a subsidiary, in-country office, distributors or partnerships in the country;
- 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;
- Proof-of-concept and initial traction are preferred;
- Your team should be able **to implement your solution in at least one of the following provinces of the Philippines** within one year of receiving possible funding from WFP*, and have a clear pathway to scale: Maguindanao del Sur, Maguindanao del Norte, Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Islands, Albay, Catanduanes, Cagayan and Isabela. It is not necessary that your innovation is already implementing in any of these provinces at the time of application.

**Please note that the final shortlisted teams may be required to go through the WFP partnership arrangement, vendor registration or procurement process before funding disbursement.*

Evaluation Criteria

In addition to the eligibility requirements mentioned above, applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- **Impact:** The solution has the potential to impact the people WFP Philippines serves, therefore contributing to WFP's mission of achieving zero hunger;
- **Level of innovation:** The project is a new technology or approach to applying existing technology in the context of the Philippines or a process or business model that addresses at least one of the above problem statements;
- **Feasibility or traction:** The applying team has evidence of its ability to make and implement the proposed solution and indicates demand from the targeted users or customers of its solution;
- **Financial sustainability:** The solution has a robust plan to ensure sustainable revenue

generation beyond WFP funding;

- **Replicability and scalability:** The solution is suitable to be implemented across the Philippines and beyond, and has significant potential to be scaled swiftly;
- **Team quality:** Team members have relevant experience and are committed to the project; and
- **Context relevance:** The solution addresses at least one of the priority areas and is suitable for implementation in at least one of the [eight provinces of interest](#).

Application Process

- Please complete the [application form](#) by **31 July 2024, 11:59 pm (PHT)** to submit your application.
 - We will review and select successful applications in July and August 2024. While we value all applications, please note that we can only contact shortlisted applicants.
 - For more information, please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).
-

About the 2024 PREP Forum and the PREP Innovation Challenge

The 2024 PREP Forum will serve as a platform for disaster risk reduction and management practitioners to further exchange experiences, explore possibilities for continued and new partnerships and enable continued learning. The event builds on the success of the 2023 PREP Forum with nearly 100 participants ranging from governments in nine provinces, the international community, non-profits and academia. Thanks to the support of USAID, the 2024 PREP Forum will focus on innovation and the winning teams of the PREP Innovation Challenge will be showcased as part of the event.

About PREP

WFP is leading the implementation of the multi-year and multi-partner flagship programme, Preparedness and Response Excellence in the Philippines (PREP), with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). PREP seeks to strengthen the Government of the Philippines' emergency response and management capacities through digitalization, policy development and climate-proofing operation centers. Through PREP, WFP is fostering a community of learning and good practices on disaster risk reduction and management and climate change adaptation.

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, gender equality, 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.