



Cooperating Partners Innovation Fund (CPIF)

Context

The 2012 WFP Annual Partners' Consultation (APC) acknowledged significant opportunity to achieve food assistance objectives with tools that complement or replace direct food transfers. Enhancing the toolkit requires innovation and creative programming.

Shared objectives and complementary strengths of Cooperating Partners and WFP naturally invite collaboration to innovate in food assistance. Cooperating Partners typically offer context sensitive knowledge and relationships; deep connections to households and communities; holistic or multi-sector programming; cutting edge knowledge, research, advocacy, and creativity; and operational agility to experiment at the vanguard of technological and business model innovation. WFP offers an operational platform to develop and deliver outcomes for scale; convening power at the intersection of public, civil, and private engagement in food security and nutrition; relationships with decision makers, thought leaders, and trend setters; and UN reputational, financial, and diplomatic resources.

Recognizing mutual need and opportunity for WFP food assistance platforms to learn from and collaborate with Cooperating Partners' expertise, guidance, and innovation, the 2012 APC concluded with a proposal that WFP establish a partners' innovation fund to promote broad based innovation of food assistance tools and approaches.

Purpose

The food assistance community seeks to discover, seed, and foster innovation in addressing hunger and nutrition challenges with interventions that are effective, efficient, scalable, and replicable. Toward this end, the WFP Cooperating Partners' Innovation Fund (CPIF) seeks to create operational space and accept reasonable risk to innovate programme tools and approaches.

Focus

Subject to availability of funds, a programme focus for CPIF awards will be determined each year in consultation with WFP and Partners. The programme focus for proposals solicited in 2013 derives from the paper prepared by Partners for the 2012 APC discussions.

The principle of cash and voucher based programming in food assistance is now widely accepted both for effective emergency response and for promoting early recovery and



transition to longer term programmes. The NGO community has pioneered many market based approaches as a means to amplify the impact of food assistance, and several NGOs have been influential early advocates for the increasing use of cash based transfers. WFP has rapidly established operational platforms to implement market-based food assistance interventions at scale. However there remains considerable opportunity to expand and enhance efficient and effective cash and voucher based food assistance programming.

For 2013, the CPIF seeks proposals to develop and test innovations around the choice, design, or implementation of cash and voucher interventions to efficiently and effectively achieve food assistance outcomes at scale.

Approach

Concept of Innovation: Innovation is commonly construed as using novel tools or techniques to achieve familiar objectives. Innovation likewise adapts existing tools to solve new problems or accomplish new objectives. And innovation recasts challenges in new light to open opportunity for new approaches. The CPIF will seek proposals either to develop new tools and approaches or to re-deploy existing tools to achieve food security and nutrition outcomes with cash or voucher based programming.

Stages of Innovation: The CPIF will focus on idea development, proof of concept, early stage start-up, and testing of innovations to help discover or promote ideas that merit scaling and replication. WFP and Partners must look externally for alternative resources to take innovations to scale.

Risk: The early stages of innovation assume that some ideas will falter in adaptation to operational context. Willing to learn from experiments that might not generate expected results, the CPIF will encourage reasonable risk in search of programme breakthroughs.

Mechanism

WFP will administer flexible grant funding to openly competed proposals. There are approximately \$1 million available in total for all awards combined. Proposals will be passed through external, independent review.