



WFP Cooperating Partners' Innovation Fund: Guidelines and Call for Proposals

I. Objective

WFP seeks to discover, seed, and foster innovative programming to achieve food assistance outcomes at scale. To this end, the Cooperating Partners' Innovation Fund (CPIF) provides early stage funding for Partners developing promising tools or approaches for the design and delivery of efficient, effective, scalable food assistance.

II. Focus 2013: Cash and Voucher programming as a key opportunity for collaboration

Capitalizing on emerging technology and market opportunities to address food security and nutrition challenges, the international community is expanding and enhancing food assistance design and delivery with cash and voucher based programmes. There remains significant potential to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and scale of market-based cash and voucher interventions.

The NGO community has pioneered market-based programming approaches that amplify the impact of food assistance programmes. NGOs have also been first movers in adapting private sector technology and business models to social programming and food assistance generally, and specifically to cash and voucher programming.

To promote collaboration and shared learning, the CPIF seeks Partner proposals to develop and test replicable innovations around the choice, design, and implementation of cash and voucher interventions with the potential to efficiently and effectively achieve food assistance outcomes at scale. Successful innovations will enrich cooperation between Partners and WFP to enhance and expand collaborative cash and voucher programme platforms.

III. Principles of Support

The CPIF is designed such that funds awarded shall be:

Flexible: Awards may be provided 100% cash up front with no geographic, demographic, programme, or budget restrictions other than adherence to international humanitarian and ethical programming principles and within available resources.

Risk tolerant: The CPIF encourages successful innovation. However, should a new tool or approach not generate the expected results, that outcome will be accepted as part of the nature of innovation and learning and will have no bearing on the continued partnership of WFP with the collaborating NGO.

Independent: Preference will be given to develop innovations that can be eventually incorporated into WFP and partners' food assistance operations for implementation at scale. However the initial activities to develop tools or approaches with CPIF awards may be undertaken independently of any currently active operational relationship.

IV. Procedures

- a) There are up to \$1 million in total funds available for autumn 2013 awards. Within the available resources, there is no pre-determined maximum or minimum award. WFP reserves the right to carry over resources to a subsequent solicitation of proposals.
- b) Eligible applicants include national and international NGOs with valid registration in the country from where the application is initiated and, if different, with documented authorization to work in the country or countries where the proposed innovation will be developed. If selected applicants are not already WFP Cooperating Partners, WFP will undertake standard due diligence to ensure suitability of a partnership relationship prior to issuing an award.
- c) Preference will be given to proposals which demonstrate collaboration between partners and WFP country offices in proposal preparation and/or concept design.
- d) There is no application format or template. Applicants should prepare a proposal in English of not more than 2250 words including a maximum 250 word summary. Each proposal should clearly indicate:
 - a. an emerging challenge or opportunity for cash or voucher based food assistance;
 - b. an innovative tool or approach to engage the opportunity;
 - c. specific activities proposed to develop the innovation;
 - d. clear milestones to be achieved by the proposed activities;
 - e. indicators by which to assess the success of funded activities;
 - f. means by which any risks, while tolerated, will be managed;
 - g. justification of the proposed budget, the main categories of expenditure, and expected project time frame.
- e) A report will be required for presentation to the 2014 Annual Partners' Consultation indicating progress against the proposed milestones.
- f) Each proposal should contain an annex, not counted against the proposal length limit, briefly summarizing the applicant's track record as relevant to the proposed activities

and summarizing known existing tests or implementation of any similar tools or approaches.

- g) WFP will post the titles, executive summaries, and applicants of all submissions on a public website.
- h) WFP will initially screen submissions to ensure eligibility and proposal guidelines are satisfied and to ensure that the ideas proposed can be supported by WFP given its mission, mandate, reputation, and legal standing. As relevant, WFP will solicit comment from the WFP country office(s) in the country or countries where the proposed activities will be implemented.
- i) Qualifying proposals will then be assessed and ranked by an independent technical review panel convened by an external entity internationally recognized for competence in the area of cash and voucher based food assistance programming. The independent panel will also be provided with the comments received from WFP country offices.
- j) Applications must be submitted by email as a single pdf document without additional attachments, no later than 15 November 2013, 23:59 GMT. Applications submitted beyond this deadline cannot be included in the appraisal process. Applications shall be submitted to the following email address: innovationfund.rome@wfp.org

V. Selection Criteria of the Proposals

Proposals will be reviewed against five criteria:

- i. **Innovation:** the proposed idea is not already established as practise within the food assistance community;
- ii. **Opportunity:** the proposal addresses a significant current or emerging need or opportunity to enhance food assistance programming;
- iii. **Impact:** the proposed innovation, once developed, has significant potential to improve outcomes at scale;
- iv. **Value:** the proposed innovation, once developed, is likely to achieve results efficiently and effectively;
- v. **Risk:** the potential opportunity, impact, and value of the proposed innovation merits accepting the identified and manageable risks.