Innovation at the World Food Programme

Why Innovation Matters

The world has made hard-earned progress over recent decades, lifting millions out of hunger. Yet to achieve our ambitious goal of Zero Hunger by 2030, we must fully maximise the potential that technology and innovation offer.

Disasters, protracted conflicts and ever-growing funding challenges have placed great pressure on the aid community. At the same time, unprecedented advances in technology and digital innovation such as mobile phones, social networks and big data can make a significant difference to the way we serve vulnerable populations across the world. Ultimately, innovation lies at the heart of every successful organization.

> **"The current unprecedented level of crises requires us all to do more with less...Innovation must be our new norm."**
>
> Ertharin Cousin, WFP Executive Director

WFP Innovation Accelerator

To identify, nurture and scale up bold solutions to challenges in humanitarian and development aid, WFP has launched a dedicated Innovation Accelerator. Based in Munich, the Accelerator brings together internal WFP staff with experts from across the private sector and civil society to develop high-impact, human centered innovations for a world with Zero Hunger.

Accelerator Core Functions

1. **Innovation Challenge:** identifying ideas, internal and external in origin
2. **Innovation Boot Camps:** developing strong human-centred design/lean start-up projects
3. **Sprint Programme:** supporting teams from prototype or early proof-of-concept to scale over 3-6 months
4. **Thought leadership:** exploring longer-term technologies and business model innovations
5. **Innovation Fund:** identifying funds and networks to support project scale-up

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Innovations supported by the Innovation Accelerator

Zero Post Harvest Losses

WFP is scaling up a Zero Post Harvest Losses programme that sells low cost, locally produced silos and provides training to smallholder farmers in developing countries. This project can virtually eliminate food loss that destroys up to 40 percent of a family's harvest. Taken together, the amount of food saved could be worth more than US$4 billion, more than the total amount of food aid sub- Saharan Africa receives each year. WFP applies innovative farmer training and distribution models. The project is currently supporting some 93,000 small-holder farmers in Uganda alone.

ShareTheMeal

ShareTheMeal is a smartphone app that enables users to "share their meal" with hungry children – with just a tap. A donation of US$0.50 will help provide a child with vital nutrition for the day so he or she can stay healthy. It currently supports emergency food relief in Malawi, following one of the strongest El Niño weather events on record. The goal is to provide school meals for an entire year to 58,000 school children in Zomba, a district in southern Malawi severely affected by drought and experiencing high levels of food insecurity.

AgriUp

The lives of small-holder farmers could be revolutionised by AgriUp, a low bandwidth smartphone application currently under development. In Guatemala for example, smallholder farmers represent approximately a third of the country's population, with many vulnerable to hunger and constrained by limited farming knowledge and low levels of literacy. The app will provide tailored and location-specific information to farmers in isolated communities on market prices, weather updates and farming tips.

Transformers

Transformers is a WFP innovation project based in Nairobi, Kenya, that seeks to turn cosmetically rejected food into cost effective and nutritious meals for thousands of school children. With the support of the WFP Innovation Accelerator and the local private sector, Transformers is radically improving supply chain logistics to make sure that nutritious food, previously destined for landfill, goes to schools across rural, food insecure regions of Kenya. The project highlights WFP commitment to ending hunger by improving the entire food supply chain, from farm to fork.