

Blockchain to Change & Save Lives

Blockchain to Save and Change Lives WFP Innovation Accelerator Initiative

Apply to receive up to US \$100,000 in equity-free funding, mentorship and access to the world's largest humanitarian organization

Innovative technologies enable the development of new products and services that can be used to address some of the most critical challenges of our society: for example, saving people affected by natural disasters and conflict and changing their lives to be more resilient and dignified. We believe that decentralized technologies and token-based economics (namely, blockchain, distributed ledger technology, Web 3.0) may deliver a large impact within the context of humanitarian response and food security.

Do you have an idea to help humanity? We are looking for your bold idea in any of the areas described below. Please consider that poor connectivity and limited smartphone penetration are common in many contexts in which WFP works. Furthermore, digital literacy, financial literacy, and inclusive and ethical technology developments need to be appraised as part of your proposed application.

Areas of Interest

Area 1: Financial Inclusion

Financial inclusion continues to be a distant dream for many of the vulnerable communities across the globe as traditional financial products still are inaccessible to them. We believe that decentralized technologies can provide alternate ways of bridging the gap for vulnerable communities, by giving them access to financial products and to activities in new business models.

We are looking for solutions with a sustainable business model for financial inclusion not limited to the following services:

- Payment, saving, lending, insurance or other financial services
- Local or social currencies

- Solutions that give access to financial products by using new mechanisms like tokens, decentralized autonomous organizations (DAO), Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) and others.
- Public digital goods (e.g., credit score)
- Microwork and micro-entrepreneurship
- Offramp solutions not based on formal KYC (Know Your Customer).

Area 2: Financial Aid and Emergencies

Decentralized technologies provide new ways to raise, track and manage resources donated to vulnerable communities, either in poverty or facing an emergency situation. We are seeking solutions that address any of the following:

- Universal Basic Income
- Fundraising and compliance
- Track and trace, follow the money
- Solutions using new mechanisms like tokens, decentralized autonomous organizations (DAO), NFTs and others to deliver aid and support emergency relief
- Insurance and oracles
- Enable better support for emergencies
- Move resources in emergencies in a faster and cost-efficient manner

Area 3: Credentials

According to W3C, "Credentials are a part of our daily lives; drivers' licenses are used to assert that we are capable of operating a motor vehicle, university degrees can be used to assert our level of education, and government-issued passports enable us to travel between countries". In the digital world, [W3C](#) is proposing a specification to express credentials on the Web in a way that is cryptographically secure, privacy respecting, and machine-verifiable.

We believe that credentials can be used in the humanitarian sector for example to allow someone to prove that he/she is facing a vulnerable situation. This credential can later be presented by the user in different contexts, e.g., to receive food aid, to receive Universal Basic Income (UBI) or to participate in a specific activity (related microwork, training etc.).

Potential use cases that will fall under the credentials umbrella include:

- Create, transfer, store, remove and access credentials
- Link to biometric data

- Solutions using new mechanisms like tokens, Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs), NFTs and others based on credentials.

Area 4: Supply chain

As supply chains become increasingly complex in this new interconnected world, issues of traceability and provenance challenges become more relevant. Decentralized technologies have the potential to provide tangible solutions to these challenges, and make the value chains more transparent, auditable and sustainable.

Tangible supply chain solutions that we are interested in exploring further could include the below non-exhaustive list:

- Track and trace
- Provenance
- Supply chain finance
- Procurement

What you can expect from the initiative:

This is an intensive hands-on innovation acceleration initiative with a focus to design-build/customize-test-iterate your solution in collaboration with WFP staff in country offices or business units. Your solution will have an impact on WFP's day-to-day operations and the lives of millions of beneficiaries.

Application Process

1. To submit your application, please fill in [the Application Form](#) before **April 18th, 2022 11:59 pm (ET)**.
2. We will review and pre-select successful applications by **April 24th, 2022**.
3. Pre-selected applicants will then be matched with one of our WFP country offices/Business units for solution feasibility assessment by **May 1st, 2022**.
4. A mini workshop will be conducted during the week of **May 2nd, 2022**, with WFP business teams, to help applicants understand the context and unique challenges of WFP on the ground.
5. Final applicants will be selected after submitting their sprint execution plan and undergoing a due diligence review by **May 15th, 2022**.

6. Non-refundable and non-dilutive grant of \$100k will be disbursed to 5 final winning startups by **June 20th, 2022**. Please note that a mandatory sprint application form, outlining the execution specifications, will need to be submitted by each finalist prior to funding being disbursed.

Timeline

| Steps | Deadline |
|---|----------------|
| Call for Applications | April 18, 2022 |
| Inform selected teams | April 29, 2022 |
| Mini workshop to align with Business teams | May 06, 2022 |
| Sprint proposal for execution | May 13, 2022 |
| Funds Transferred (1st advanced) to the Start-up | Jun 20, 2022 |
| Pilot Conclusion | Dec 31, 2022 |
| Sprint Review | Jan 31, 2023 |

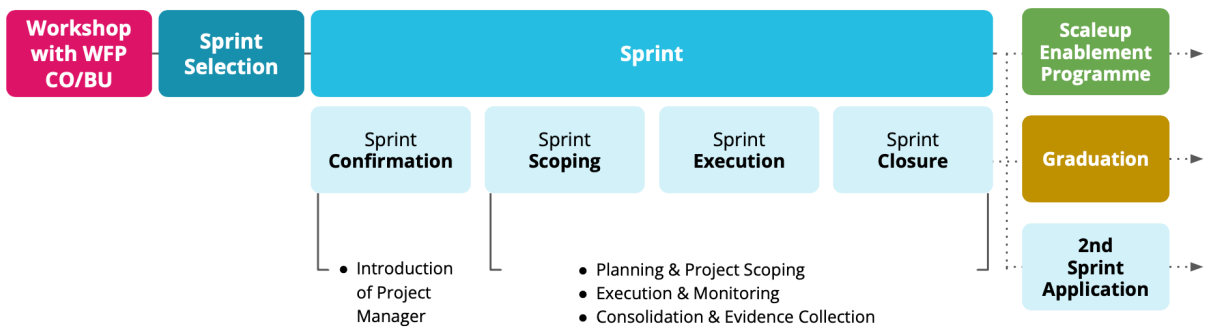
Sprint Programme

Our Sprint Programme is an intensive 6-month acceleration programme that helps projects and start-ups with a working solution test their products in real-world environments with the support and network of the WFP.

Participating startups in the program gain access to:

- Guidance to test and scale their products from the WFP Munich-based Innovation Accelerator, visibility and access to WFP's global network of partners and resources.

- Winning startups receive up to USD 100,000 per Sprint project, with potential to tap into more funding depending upon progress and successful achievement of measurable key targets.
- Teams are assigned an experienced project manager for guidance through the pilot phase, in the fastest and most cost-effective way, with build methods that apply design thinking principles and a human-centered approach.



What We Offer



Funding

Apply to receive up to \$100,000 in equity-free work with WFP units on the ground to further develop and refine their solutions.



Access to WFP Operations

You'll have the chance to work with technical and industry mentors who will provide guidance and accelerate your progress.



Hands-On Support

Teams will be able to tap into and leverage our strong network of public, private, and government partners to accelerate implementation.



Networking

Minimum application criteria:

1. Your innovation must use decentralized technologies to uniquely solve a problem falling under the 4 aforementioned focus areas.
2. Your innovation must at least be at the Minimum Viable Product (MVP) stage. Proof-of-concept is preferred.
3. Ideally, your solution will uniquely help WFP meet its SDG target of Zero Hunger by 2030, by saving and changing lives.

Selection criteria:

After we receive your application, a panel of judges will evaluate your application based on the following criteria:

1. Solution-problem fit

- Does your solution solve the stated challenges?
- Does the solution work in the environments where WFP operates?
- Is your solution optimized for low-resource environments (e.g. low connectivity, mobile access)?
- Is your solution easy to use for the target population?

2. Level of innovation

- Is your solution truly innovative?
- What is the competitive advantage of using decentralized technologies in your solution?

3. Market size and financial prospects

- Does your solution have the potential to address commercial markets' needs (B2G and B2B)?
- Is your forecasted addressable market large enough to sustain your business idea?
- Do you already have strong customer engagement (relevant contracts, proven interest in your product services, customer-base supporting your development, etc.)?
- Do you have a credible business growth plan?

4. Team

- Does your team have the required technical expertise?
- Does the team have the required managerial and business ability?
- Has the team contributed to public Blockchain development?

5. Traction

- How many users does the solution have?

- What is the growth rate of your user-base?
- How geographically diverse are your users?
- Is your solution adaptable to users in developing or high-risk countries?

About the WFP Innovation Accelerator

The WFP Innovation Accelerator sources, supports and scales high-impact innovations to disrupt hunger. Based in Munich, Germany, we supply WFP employees, entrepreneurs and startups with funding, hands-on support and access to WFP's global operations. Through the Innovation Accelerator, WFP is using unprecedented advances in digital innovation — such as mobile technology, artificial intelligence, big data, robotics and blockchain — and new business models to transform the way we serve vulnerable communities across the world. In the span of five years, the WFP Innovation Accelerator has supported more than 100 projects in 46 countries, with 16 innovations scaling up to achieve significant impact. These projects have changed 8.6 million lives in 2021 alone and will continue to do so, in support of WFP's humanitarian field operations.

Find out more about us: wfp.org/enablers and innovation.wfp.org. Subscribe to our [e-newsletter](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#), and watch our videos on [YouTube](#).

