



INNOVATION  
ACCELERATOR

# Disrupting hunger in developing countries with startups and innovations

Deutsche Gesellschaft für die Vereinten Nationen

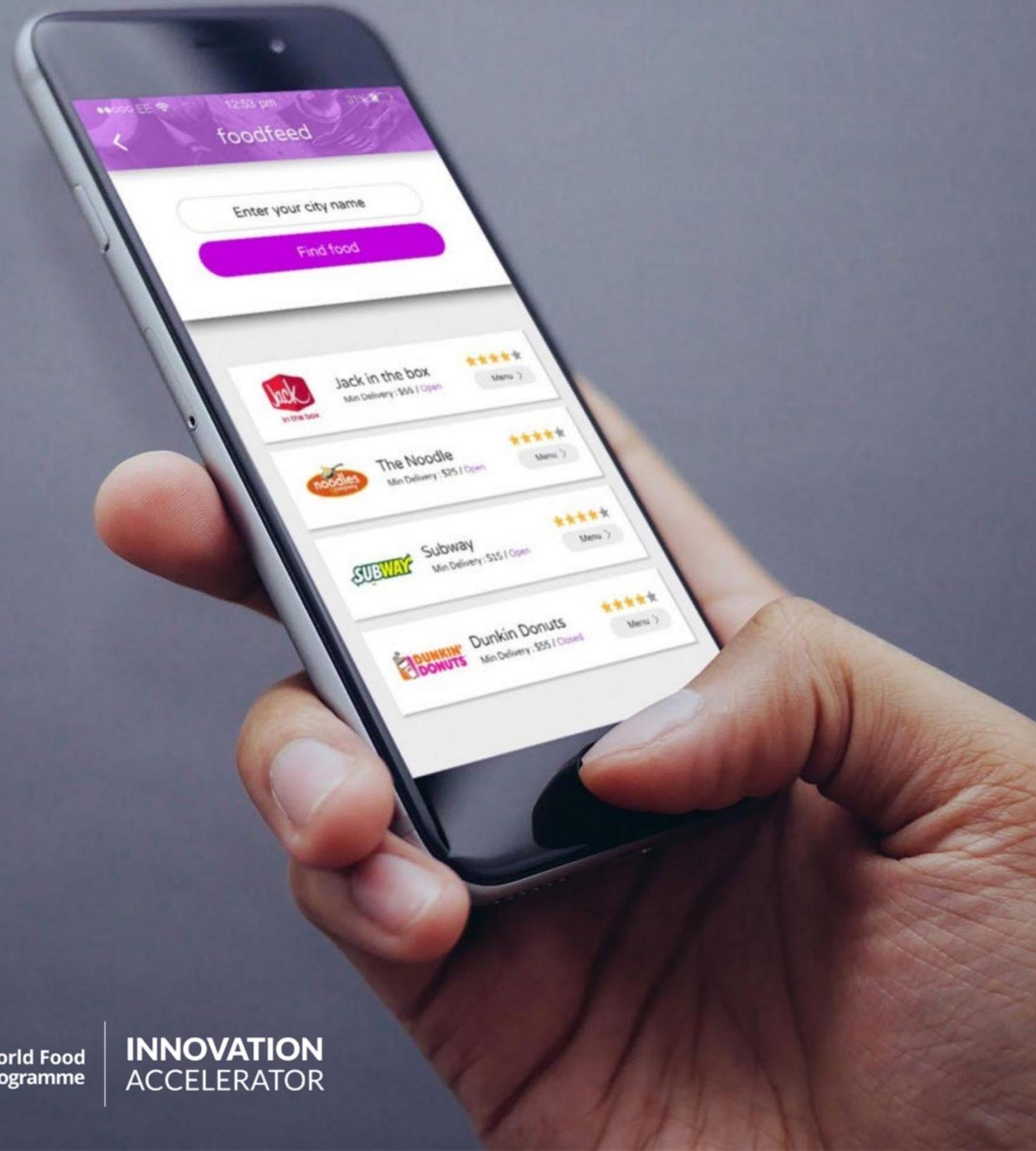
Bernhard Kowatsch  
Head of WFP Innovation Accelerator  
4 November 2021

*#disrupt* hunger



When you think of food delivery...

..think again.



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**1 in 10 people**  
worldwide



do not have  
enough to eat

# Afghanistan



**22.8 Million**

facing **acute** food insecurity  
(55% of the population)

**8.7 Million**

facing **emergency** levels of  
food insecurity

**\$200 Million**

funding shortfall in 2021

- 
- Hunger is at a **10 year high** in Afghanistan
  - Hunger is driven by **20+ year conflict**
  - Regime change and international withdrawal has exacerbated existing problems
  - **Economic crisis** due to instability, job losses, lack of cash, rapid inflation costs of food (□ 28%) and fuel (□ 50%)
  - **Survival migration** is likely if needs remain unmet and as winter approaches
  - **Level 3 Emergency** now (WFP's highest response) and is tracking to become world's worst humanitarian crisis

# Afghanistan

**US \$220 Million**

estimated per month  
to address new needs



**10.2 million people**

have been assisted by WFP in 2021

- **35,000 mt** of food assistance provided
- **900,000 COVID-19** assisted
- **400,000 pregnant and breast feeding women**
- **805,506 children under 5** treated for malnutrition
- **175,315 children** fed via School Meals Programme
- **600,000 Internally Displaced People** assisted



We have a one-time crisis requiring an additional \$6B+. If we don't act, this is what will happen: people WILL die of hunger; there will be destabilization of nations & mass migration, which will cost 100X more than the \$6B+ we need. Which do you think is a better investment?!



From World Food Programme

8:23 PM · Nov 2, 2021 · Twitter Media Studio

# Worldwide

WFP needs US \$6.6 Billion to save 42 million people from starvation this year.

# The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)





World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

WFP is  
saving lives,  
changing lives



World Food Programme



# WFP at a glance

**20,000+**  
employees

Serves  
**138**  
million people

Works in  
**88**  
countries

Distributes  
**15B**  
rations  
every year

Assisted  
**38.4M**  
people through cash -  
based transfers in  
2020

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Every day WFP operates :



**100**  
aircraft

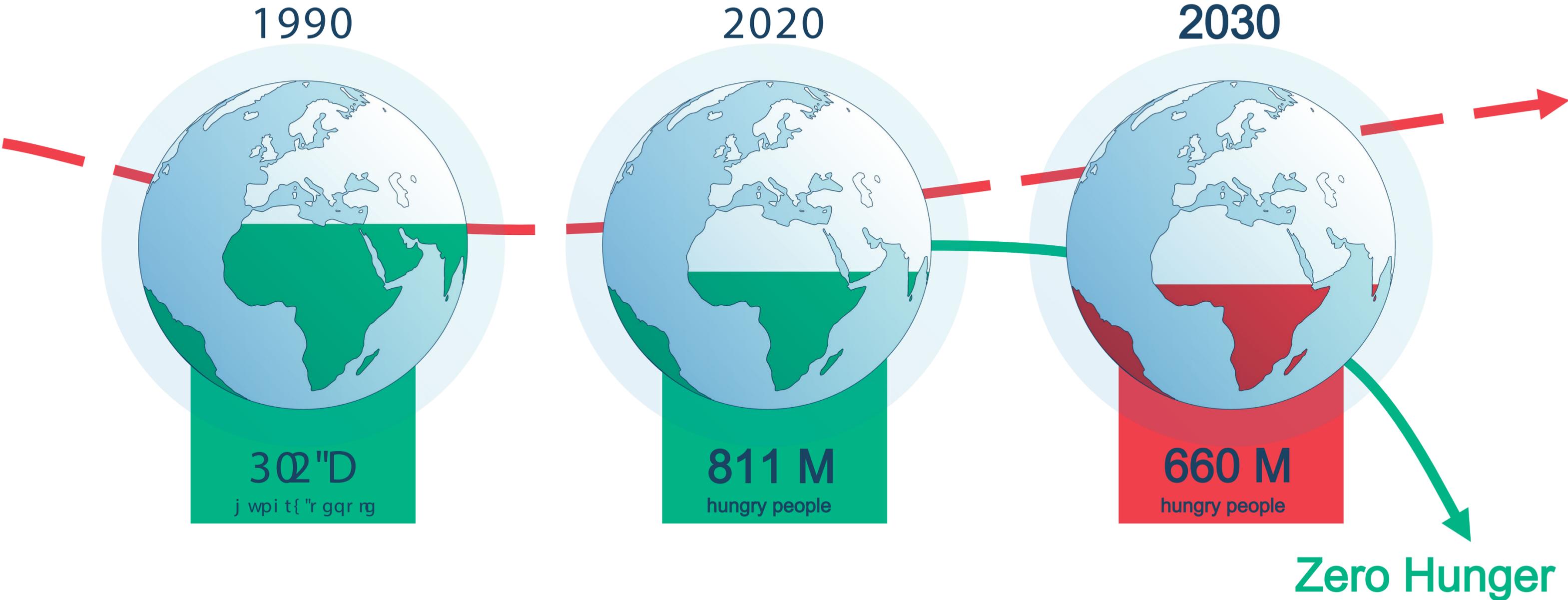


**30**  
ships



**5,600**  
trucks

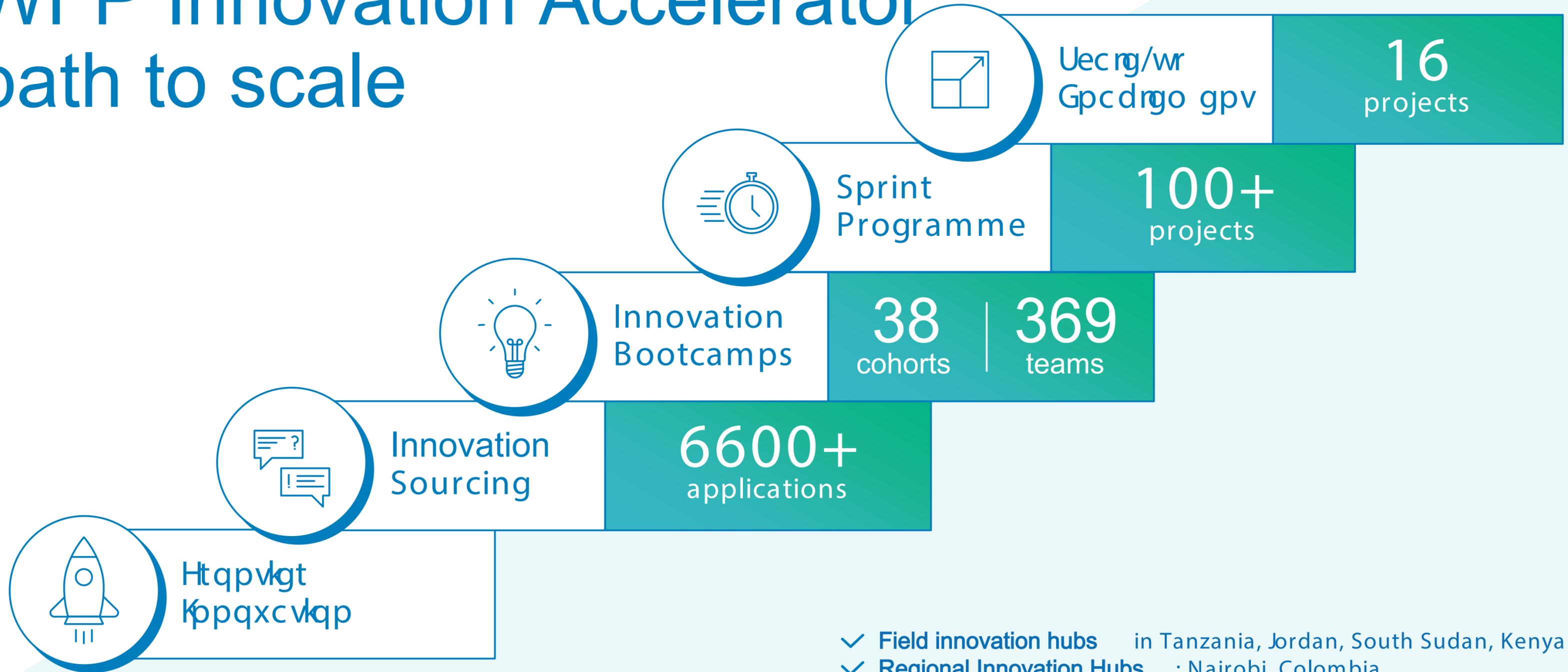
# We need to reverse the recent hunger trend



The WFP Innovation Accelerator sources, supports and scales high-impact innovations to disrupt hunger.



# WFP Innovation Accelerator path to scale



- ✓ Field innovation hubs in Tanzania, Jordan, South Sudan, Kenya
- ✓ Regional Innovation Hubs : Nairobi, Colombia
- ✓ Full programme virtual

# We run teams through intense innovation bootcamps.

Our WFP Innovation Bootcamps are intense, five -day workshops with expert mentors and facilitators to help teams dive deep into challenges, ideate solutions, and refine project plans.





# Meet the team

We are 54 innovators



19 languages



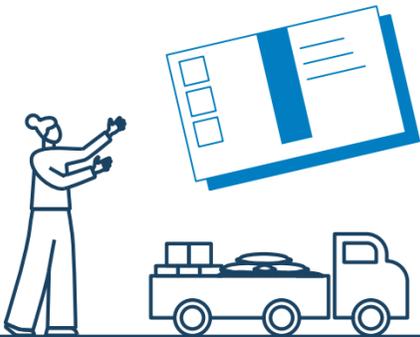
70% female



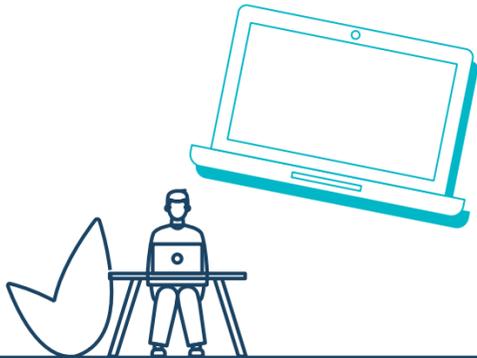
34 nationalities

# 5.5 million people reached in 2021

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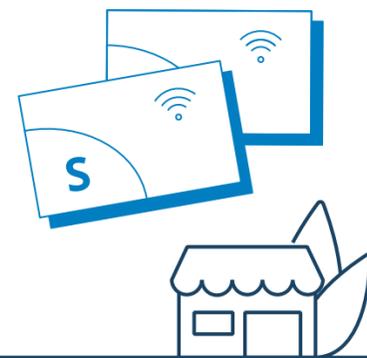
55,000 people  
benefiting from  
digital skills training  
through EMPACT



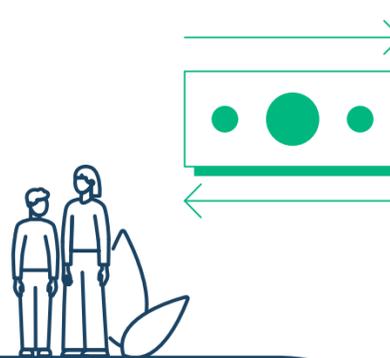
52,700 people  
accessing up-to-date  
food prices through  
the Dalili app



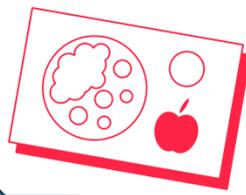
32,118 people  
registered into a malnutrition  
programme through the  
CODA mobile app



1.100,000 people  
received blockchain  
enabled cash-based  
transfers



16,000 people  
receiving cash vouchers in  
flood affected areas as a  
result of C2S mapping



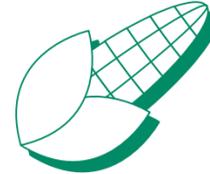
1.300,000  
fed nutritious meals  
under the PLUS  
programme.



50,000 people  
growing food with  
hydroponics  
through H<sub>2</sub>Grow



557,096 people  
receiving meals through  
the ShareTheMeal  
mobile app

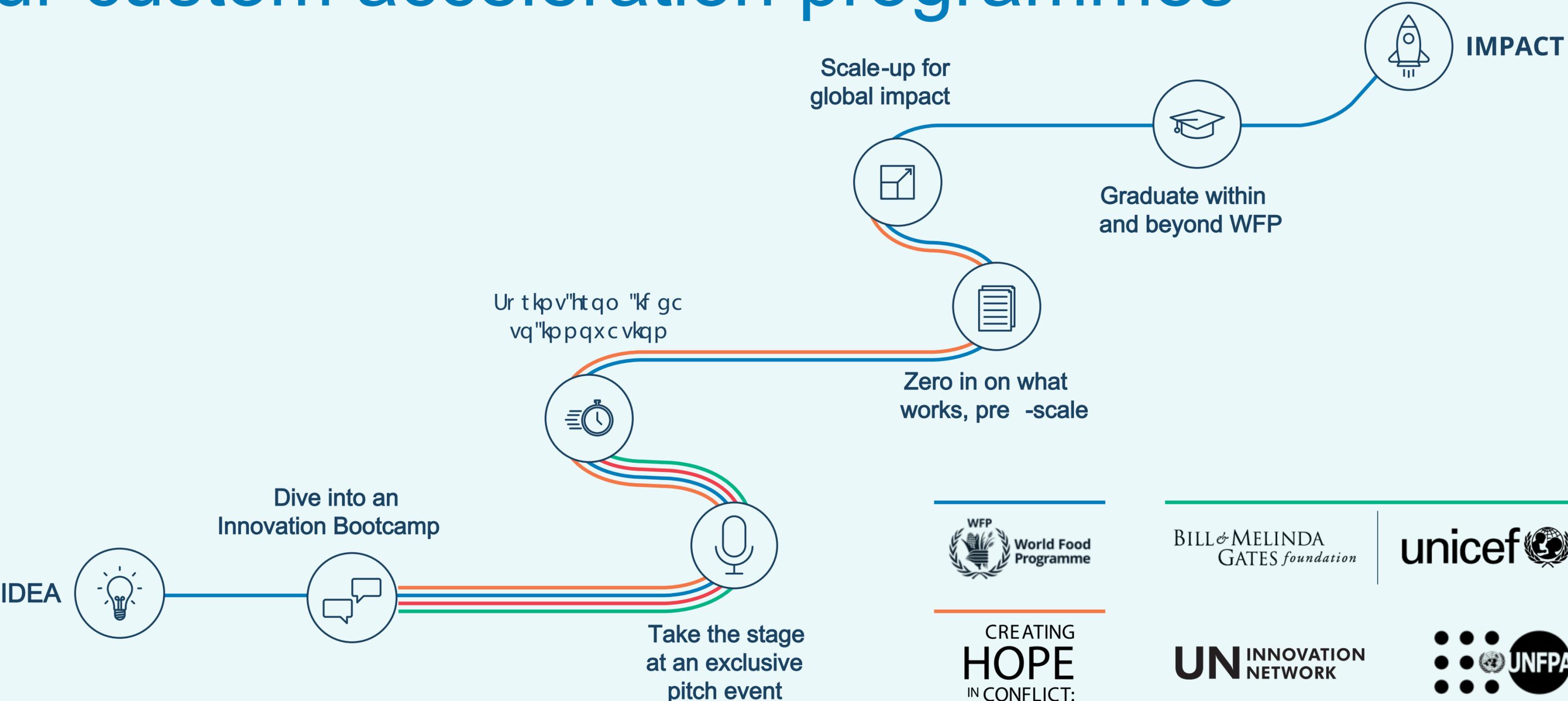


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782,500 people  
reached through the  
public-private Farm to  
Market Alliance

# Our custom acceleration programmes



**INNOVATION ACCELERATOR**



BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation



CREATING HOPE IN CONFLICT: A HUMANITARIAN GRAND CHALLENGE

UN INNOVATION NETWORK



BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation



# In the spotlight

In 2020, our contributions to thought leadership in the domains of humanitarian innovation and the future of food systems have been **featured in major publications** such as Forbes, Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Fast Company Magazine, and World Economic Forum. **Together, we can accelerate our efforts to reach Zero Hunger and all SDGs.**



Ranked 2020's Best Workplace for Innovators and Innovation Team of the Year and 2021's Most Innovative Company by **FAST@MPANY**



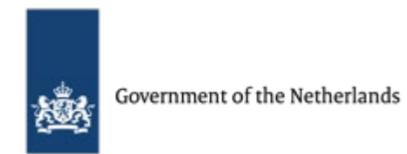
**Der Spiegel**  
Cowboys und Champions

**World Economic Forum**  
How Food Innovation Hubs will scale technology to transform our food system

**Forbes**  
Iris Scans, Hydroponics And Blockchain: How Innovation Is Helping Fight Global Hunger

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# Thank you to our key partners



# Building Blocks

Bangladesh | Jordan

WFP’s Building Blocks project is the humanitarian sector’s largest **blockchain -based cash distribution system** , leveraging blockchain to coordinate with other humanitarian agencies and transfer cash assistance to refugees securely and efficiently.

The project provides recipients with a blockchain-based e-wallet to make cash transfers faster, cheaper and more secure, allowing WFP to transact directly without the need for banks or other financial institutions.

In 2020, WFP’s Building Blocks has used blockchain technology to distribute cash-based assistance transactions to **Rohingya refugees** in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, and **Syrian refugees** in Jordan.

 **over 1,100,000** refugees reached, to date

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# Cloud to Street

Ghana | The Gambia | Republic of the Congo | Sri Lanka

Cloud to Street is a remote sensing platform to predict, map and analyze floods in real time.

By using global satellite imagery and cloud computing, it analyses flooding on the ground and continuously estimates flood probabilities. As the platform is remote and automated, the maps and analytics are affordable, fast, and accessible for governments and aid agencies left off of traditional maps.

In 2020, Cloud to Street identified over **23,500 km<sup>2</sup>** of flood-prone land, helping protect **1.2 million people** at risk or impacted by a major flood event.



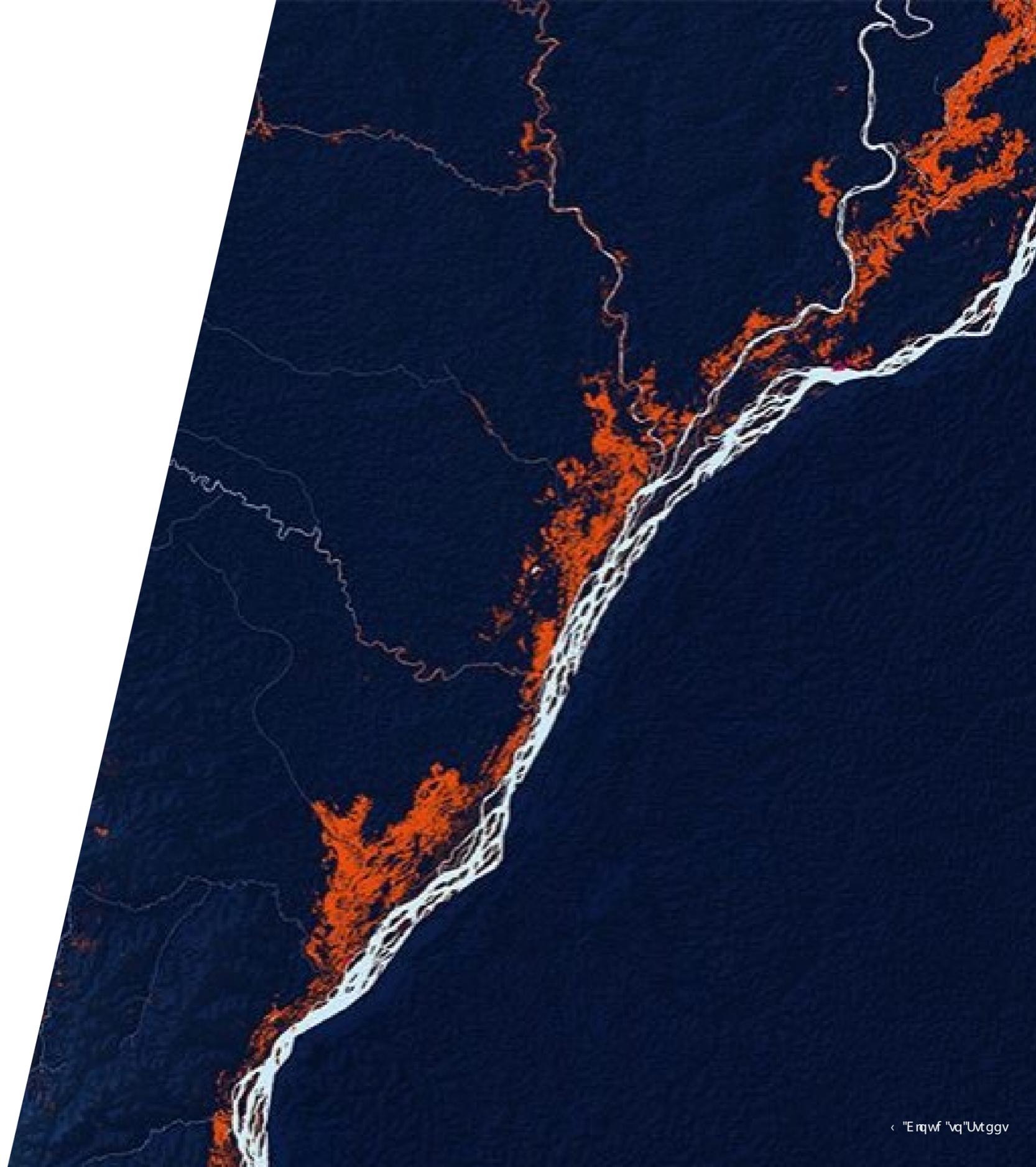
**122 million people**  
monitored through services



Enabled  
**US\$ 13.5 million**  
in multilateral aid for flood-affected communities



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# H2Grow

Jordan | Palestine | Algeria | Chad | Kenya | Namibia | Peru | Zambia | Libya

WFP's H2Grow project brings locally adaptable and affordable hydroponic solutions to vulnerable communities around the world. It employs the soilless, water-efficient agricultural technique that enables plant growth in harsh environments. By developing low-tech systems from local materials, growing fresh vegetables or animal feed in deserts, refugee camps or urban informal settlements, H2Grow supports food-insecure families to increase their access to fresh food and raise their income.

In 2020, H2Grow directly impacted more than **26,500 people in nine countries**, many of them women and children. **Three new countries** are already funded and in the preparation phase.

**An Asset-Backed Loan model is being piloted in Kenya now!**

 **50,000**  
people reached

 Launch of digital H2Grow learning & community platform



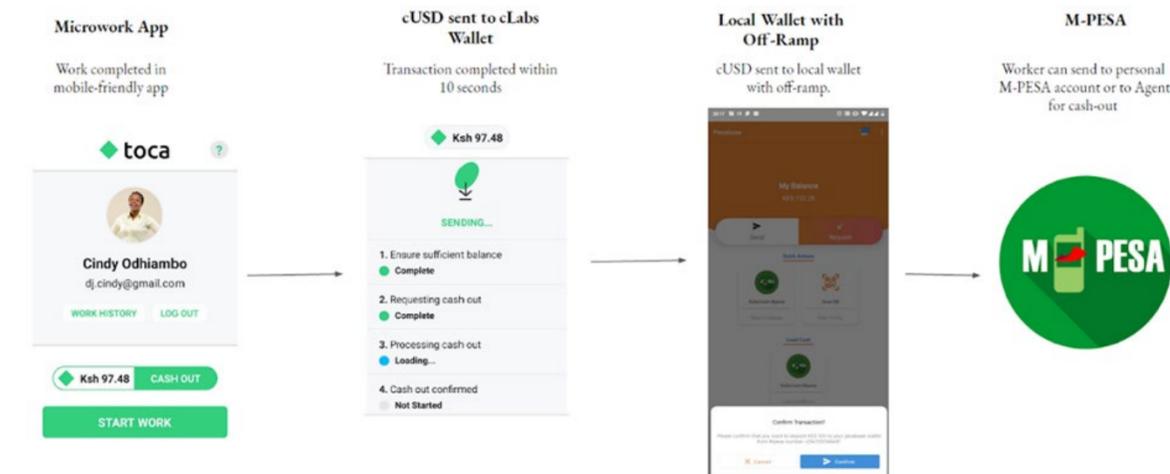
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# Digital & remote work -EMPACT cLabs, Appen, Corsali

A mobile microwork platform that gives anyone in the world with a low-end smartphone the ability to safely earn money from home, leveraging crypto-payments with Celo

EMPACT has already impacted 55,000 people in Iraq, Lebanon, Kenya, Colombia and Turkey through micro work online



# Post-Harvest Loss Reduction

Mozambique|South Sudan|Sudan|Malawi|Burundi|Cote d'Ivoire|Uganda|Ghana|Madagascar|Nigeria

Post-Harvest Loss Reduction (PHL) is a joint venture between WFP Programme and the WFP Innovation Accelerator that supports country offices to scale PHL sustainable business models with the aim to improve household food security and income for smallholder farmers, done in partnership with different players including governments, private sector, and other relevant institutions.

Participating farmers have been able to reduce drastically their post-harvest losses, leading to a threefold increase in their income. This has greatly impacted food security in local communities and improved nutrition for many families.

qxgt  
**675,000**  
people impacted

Approximately  
**US\$ 7 million**  
in funds raised in 2020



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# e-Shop

Somalia

WFP Somalia's e-shop app enables retailers to sell in a virtual store, and for customers to redeem their WFP cash-based assistance by shopping online and having their food delivered directly to them, while maintaining physical distance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WFP eShop is available Somalia-wide reaching 124,137 e-Shop customers who have carried out US\$ 16.2 million transactions since its launch.



WFP e-shop

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Tirada	Waxa	Qiimaha
1	Camel Meat(Camelia Halal Camel) - 1kg	5.0
1	Camel Milk(Camel Milk) - 5 litres	12.5
2	Pasta(Gabrey) - 1/2 Carton	8.0
1	Vegetable Oil(Hilwa) - 3 litres	4.5
1	Wheat Flour(Axsan) - 25kg	12.0
<b>Isugeynta Guud</b>		
	Qiime dhimidda	42.00
	geynta go'an	0
		42.00

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# WFP Innovation Impact Fund

A \$100M social impact venture debt fund for startups, NGOs and WFP innovations in developing countries, pooling donor funds and private investors' money towards scalable innovations as an innovative mechanism to create massive social impact.

Blended finance fund powered by WFP Innovation Accelerator, selectively open to strategic partners.



## Sourcing of Investable, Scalable Innovations

Building on its successful track record, the WFP Innovation Accelerator identifies an innovation that is already scaling and showing traction and scalability potential

## Innovation Impact Funding

WFP provides a partially repayable grant (advance working capital financing or debt) to startups, NGOs, and own WFP innovations through the Fund - at higher ticket sizes than current grants

## Enabling impact at scale

Startups and innovative projects invest to implement, build further traction and prove impact at scale, while open sourcing their innovations, as appropriate

## Regenerative Fund

Innovators repay the Fund with interest from operational earnings or after raising capital as they accelerate growth, allowing the Fund to plow back investments and/or repay original investors

## The Big Idea

- Focus on disruptive, investable and scalable startups, NGOs and/or WFP Innovations
- Leverage WFP's field operations in 88 developing countries, and the Accelerator's organisation and ecosystem to boost their growth and impact
- Provide access to catalytic funds to accelerate their scalability, boosting their impact and growth
- Deliver lasting social impact, open sourcing innovations, multiplying investments and reinvesting returns

# ShareTheMeal

Global

ShareTheMeal (STM) is WFP's fundraising app, allowing smartphone users to provide children with vital nutrition through a simple tap on their phones.

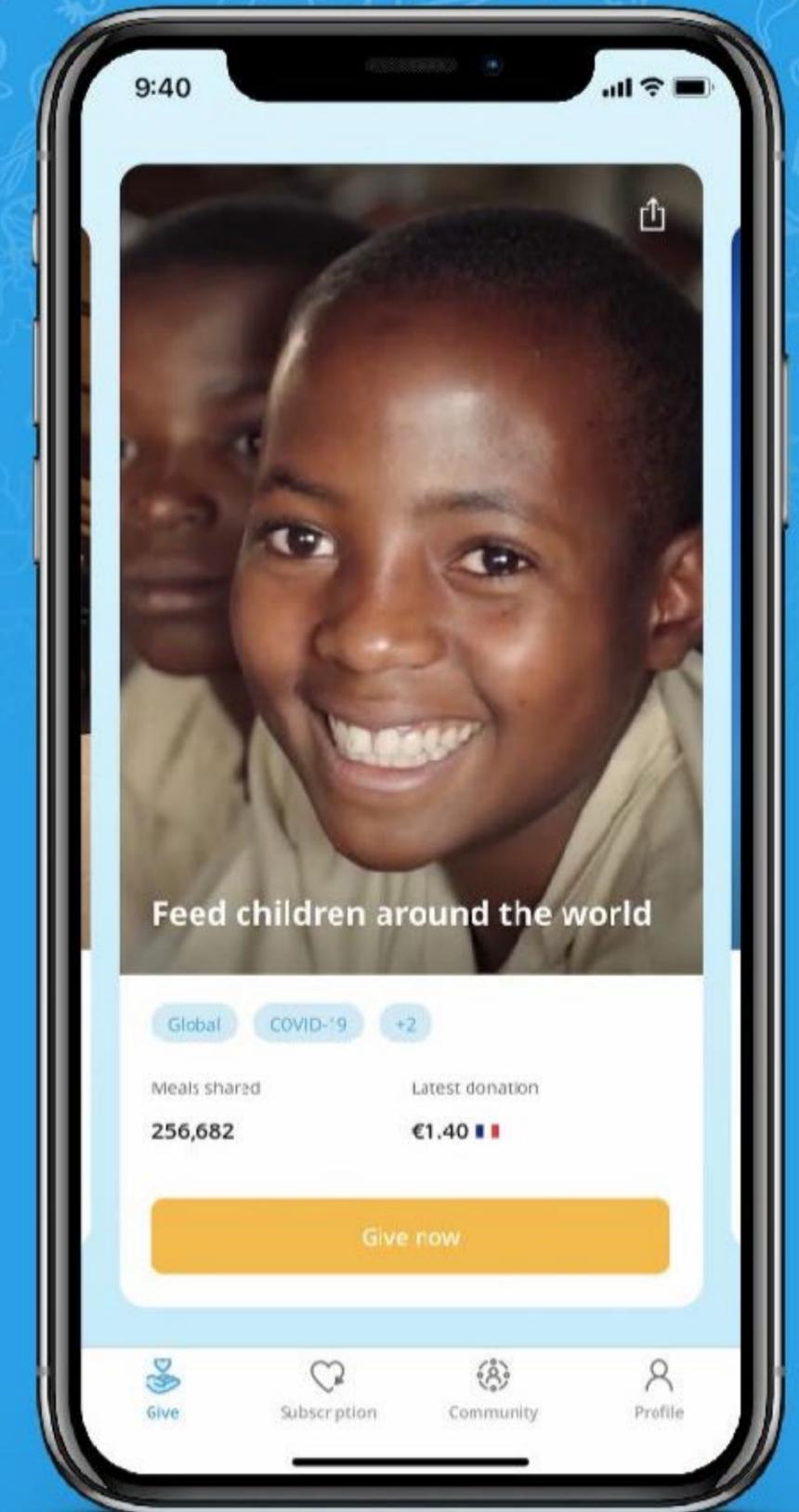
It costs just **EUR 0.70** to feed one child for a day. Free to download, the award-winning app is a pioneering way for people to join WFP's efforts in creating a world without hunger.

The ShareTheMeal community has shared over **125 million meals** with those most in need in over **30 different countries**.

It was named by both **Google** and **Apple** as one of the Best Apps of 2020, and got a special shout out from Apple CEO Tim Cook.

 **125 million meals shared**

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c r r "wugt u**



It's time to  
*#disrupt* hunger .

 [innovation.wfp.org](https://innovation.wfp.org)

 [global.innovation@wfp.org](mailto:global.innovation@wfp.org)

 [@WFPInnovation](https://twitter.com/WFPInnovation)

 [WFP Innovation Accelerator](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wfp-innovation-accelerator)