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WFP: Topic #2 - Utilizing Technological Innovation in the Fight Against Hunger

YUNMUN XXXIV

With the recent advancements in AI technology, perhaps for the first time since the first smartphone, the world was awestruck by the remarkable capabilities of modern day technology. And rightfully so. At the same time, the advancements and accessibility of AI technology have served as a reminder of not only the immense opportunity present, but that we must act wisely and responsibly in utilizing this technology for good.

This becomes especially prudent for the WFP. With nearly a billion people suffering from hunger, and more than 40 million in an emergency state, figuring out how technology can be used in the here and now becomes an essential goal.[1] Some ways the WFP has utilized technology in the past include speeding up emergency responses, better forecasting of humanitarian needs, and improved data analytics.[2] Specifically, the WFP has partnered with specific companies and organizations that specialize in digitalization and data analysis, while also investing in technologies like drones that can quickly assess damage after a natural disaster.[3]

The WFP also released its own application, and while its primary goal was fundraising, it has since demonstrated a creative and productive use of technology that indirectly serves a key role in combating hunger. The app itself was a byproduct of the Innovation Accelerator, which was itself created in 2015 to serve as a venue for real time innovation in addition to engaging with entrepreneurs, investors, and NGO's.[4]

All of these efforts should certainly help to some extent.

Still, with further advances in AI and the like, there is still more to be done. Not only that, but we will have to consider how these processes and additional technological advancements can be

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[1] https://www.wfp.org/ending-hunger
[2] https://www.wfp.org/innovation
[3] https://www.wfp.org/publications/digital-foundations-digital-transformation-and-our-fight-against-hunger
[4] https://www.wfp.org/innovation

revamped to serve the needs of the hungry in the poorest of countries. While some technologies may be easy to use and implement in more developed countries, we must consider how those countries hit the hardest by hunger will be able to utilize these technological advances.

In order to help your research on the topic, here are some questions worth considering:

- How can new technologies like advancements in artificial intelligence be used to combat world hunger?
- What other technologies are worth investing our resources in?
- Which specific issues that are relevant to world hunger are best addressed using technology?
- What are other indirect ways in which technology can be useful for the WFP?
- How can we create a more digitally inclusive reality for less developed countries? How can we implement technology so that it's both accessible and useful for these people?

I hope these questions are helpful to you in your research, but do not feel limited to these specific points. Please remember that you are representing your country's perspective, not your own, so consider which questions might be most relevant to your country, which issues would they prioritize and care most about. Lastly, try to use and cite reliable sources, and remember that plagiarism is unacceptable (and only for dweebs). If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to me at ecooper1@mail.yu.edu. Best of luck and looking forward to reading and hearing from each and every one of you.

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