

Palantir and the World Food Programme: The egregious partnership at the heart of the world's largest humanitarian supply chain.

16 June 2026

The following provides an overview of the Palantir-WFP partnership based on publicly available information, sourced from UN transparency portals, reports, evaluations, job notices and other documents.

Owing to the UN's immunities and privileges, that renders the intergovernmental institution outside the realm of any national jurisdiction, making Freedom of Information requests redundant, the choice to be transparent about the contract they hold with Palantir is WFP's alone – and they have so far chosen continued secrecy.

In the absence of full contractual disclosure, this overview points out what available documentation directly tells us about the partnership, as well as the urgent questions that need to be answered. While further anecdotal information about the partnership is known, only information that can be backed up with documentation is being shared here.

References can be found in full, for each section, at the end.

A: The basics.

Palantir is a US military contractor and data analytics company, founded in the aftermath of 9/11 with CIA funding for the purpose of connecting data to identify threats. Its co-founders, American billionaires Peter Thiel and Alex Karp, have positioned the company as a staunch supporter of US and allied military dominance, while embedding Palantir within public administrations and organisations across the globe.

Rather than data collection, Palantir claim to specialise in the reconciliation and harmonisation of data enabling clients to derive and predict insights at a higher “ontological” level. As more and more otherwise disconnected data sets and ecosystems are integrated into Palantir's software platform, insights become more sophisticated and clients become more reliant on it. In SEC filings (2026) Palantir acknowledge this expansion strategy noting: “*Historically, existing customers have expanded their relationships with us*”.

Concerning the dependency risks presented by Palantir's model to clients, MP's in the UK for example warn that whilst lock-in should not be viewed as inevitable, Palantir's increasing role in the public sector represents an “*unacceptable point of weakness*.”

Palantir offer four interoperable software platforms: AIP (the Artificial Intelligence Platform); Foundry (the “operating system for the modern enterprise”); Gotham (the platform for defence customers which underpins the US Government's Project Maven for example), and; Apollo (the platform for managing and deploying software autonomously across environments).

Palantir have two, known, partnerships with UN agencies. One with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), not the focus here, and the other with the World Food Programme (WFP). WFP provide food and cash-based assistance to people in more than 120 countries and

territories. It is responsible for managing the largest and arguably the most complex global humanitarian supply chain for its own operations as well providing it as a common service to a range of partners.

According to the 2019 partnership launch conference, reported by The New Humanitarian, The WFP-Palantir partnership was set in motion at the 2015 World Economic Forum in Davos. In 2017, and under the leadership of David Beasley, WFP began a pilot project with Palantir and in 2019 it cemented into a 5-year, in-kind (pro-bono) contract valued at US \$45 million. During the conference Palantir's Executive Vice President Josh Harris explained how Palantir had embedded "about 6-10" employees between WFP's Rome HQ and other WFP offices. Whilst the partnership was originally met with opposition externally, it appears to have become steadily accepted and is now infrequently challenged. This is despite Palantir's emergence from relative obscurity in 2019 to becoming one of the world's most controversial publicly traded companies. Palantir has long been central to the US military industrial complex and in 2025 this intimate partnership was further bolstered with a US \$10 billion decade-long agreement.

Partnerships between Palantir and public institutions face increasing opposition, as Palantir's anti-democratic positioning and deepening role in military and surveillance applications becomes more widely known. Unlike Palantir's contract with the UK's National Health Service (NHS) for example, that has prompted unionised, legal, political and patient oriented organising by multiple groups – WFP's partnership has so far largely escaped sustained mobilisation – despite it being the most contradictory partnership of all.

Whilst the exact terms of the WFP-Palantir partnership remain unclear, an Annual Performance Report for 2023, confirmed that "*the partnership with Palantir Technology was renewed in 2023*". And a mid-term evaluation of private sector partnerships, published in 2024, detailed how the partnership that now enjoys "*centralized partnership oversight*" is the only private sector partnership that is considered "*purely technical*" and "*does not include the transfer of cash.*" i.e. the report suggests that Palantir continue to provide their software to WFP at no cost to the agency, as per their 2019 agreement.

However, information available via the [UN Global Marketplace](#) which details "spend with suppliers through major contracts for goods and services" contradicts this information. The "Procurement by supplier" and "Major purchase orders and contracts" dashboards show that between 2019 and 2024 WFP awarded Palantir US \$2.5 million worth of contracts, for: engineering and research services; transportation, storage, mail services; management and admin services, and; IT and communications equipment.



Year Organization Country Supplier name (use all CA... Category

Major purchase orders and contracts

ungm.org/ASR

Year	Organization	Supplier country	Supplier Name	Category	Procurement value (USD)
2024	WFP	United States of America	PALANTIR TECHNOLOGIES INC	Engineering and Research Services	\$185,937.09
2024	WFP	United States of America	PALANTIR TECHNOLOGIES INC	Transportation, Storage, Mail Services	\$630,000.00
2024	WFP	United States of America	PALANTIR TECHNOLOGIES INC	Transportation, Storage, Mail Services	\$210,000.00
2023	WFP	United States of America	PALANTIR TECHNOLOGIES INC	Engineering and Research Services	\$104,920.10
2023	WFP	United States of America	PALANTIR TECHNOLOGIES INC	Engineering and Research Services	\$108,412.44
2023	WFP	United States of America	PALANTIR TECHNOLOGIES INC	Engineering and Research Services	\$120,461.48
2022	WFP	United States of America	PALANTIR TECHNOLOGIES INC	Engineering and Research Services	\$428,052.78
2022	WFP	United States of America	PALANTIR TECHNOLOGIES INC	IT and Communications Equipment	\$247,761.43
2020	WFP	United States of America	PALANTIR TECHNOLOGIES INC	Engineering and Research Services	\$199,576.00
2020	WFP	United States of America	PALANTIR TECHNOLOGIES INC	Management and Admin Services	\$108,447.00
2019	WFP	United States of America	PALANTIR TECHNOLOGIES INC	Management and Admin Services	\$169,412.00

(UN Global Marketplace Dashboards)

Palantir’s role providing the software and analytical tools used by their clients for surveillance and military targeting has been widely reported to be linked to: the Israeli-US genocide in Gaza; ICE raids; the capture of Nicolas Maduro; the bombing of Iran, and according to biographer Michael Steinberger in “The Philosopher in the Valley: Alex Karp, Palantir and the Rise of the Surveillance State”, the pager attacks in Lebanon.

Palantir’s longstanding collaboration with the Israeli military pre and post October 2023 has been explicitly referenced in UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese’s 2025 report “From Economy of Occupation to Economy of Genocide.” The report notes Palantir expanded its support to the Israeli military after October 2023.

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Palantir's leadership openly promote the ideological values underpinning the company's mission - American supremacy, technological dominance and controlling violence.

Speaking at the McCain Institute Sedona Forum in 2023 Palantir CEO Alex Karp credited the success of their software to the company's normative position: *"It worked because, we didn't have a purely capitalistic interest in what we built. Actually, we had a—to be philosophical—we had a normative interest."* Later in a 2025 interview, Karp defined the company as "value driven" – specifying:

"Have a strong military, make that military the strongest in the world. Give an unfair advantage to America. Do not treat all cultures as equal...Be sceptical of immigration. Technology will be the determinant variable in who runs the world" (Alex Karp, Sourcery with Molly O'Shea, 2025)

Around the same time, whilst collecting the Herman Kahn Award from the conservative American think tank Hudson Institute, Karp professed: *"We at Palantir have maximal empathy for Americans, for the right of Americans to be free."* He continued: *"Of course there are dangers in AI and AI is also, and will never be anything other than, a dual use technology"* and, quoting American political scientist Samuel Huntington, best known for his controversial thesis the "clash of civilizations" concluded: *"If we are not the ones controlling the violence we will not be the ones dictating the rule of law."* (Alex Karp, Hudson Institute, 2025)

WFP on the other hand, is bound to the UN Charter which, *"based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples"* seeks *"to maintain international peace."* WFP is furthermore mandated to uphold the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, that specifies: *"Humanitarian action must be separated from the political, economic, military, or other objectives of any involved party."*

WFP partnerships are further expected to be consistent with the principles laid out in the "UN Global compact" (launched in 2000), including Principle 1: *"Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights"*; and Principle 2: *"make sure they are not complicit in human rights abuses."* Partnerships should in principle uphold the UN "Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights" (2011), which outlines Human Rights due diligence processes including identifying, mitigating and preventing adverse human rights impacts.

Moreover, UN partnerships should be aligned to the UN "Guidelines on a principle-based approach to the Cooperation between the United Nations and the business sector" (2015) which instructs that UN partnerships uphold the integrity of the UN, are established through robust due diligence processes and declares that *"The United Nations will not engage with business sector entities...Which contribute to or are otherwise complicit in human rights abuses"* nor should it engage with *"business sector entities that systematically fail to demonstrate commitment to meeting the principles of the United Nations Global Compact or the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights."*

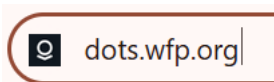
WFP's partnership with Palantir thus constitutes a clear conflict of interest and a grave abdication of ethical responsibility, foremostly to the people WFP are mandated to serve.

B: Use, oversight and strategic relevance.

WFP uses Palantir Foundry for data management, integration, collation, visualisation, centralisation, operational planning, tracking and optimization – primarily, but not exclusively, for its supply chain.

After the initial creation of Optimus, a tool developed within WFP’s supply chain division to optimise food basket design and delivery, Palantir and WFP worked together to create the DOTS (Digital Operations and Tracking System) platform - powered by Palantir’s Foundry software. DOTS is described in various documents, as WFP’s “*enterprise platform*” or “*data engine*” or “*operational decision-making platform*” that collates, integrates and centralises an undisclosed number of data sets for supply chain, resource management and financial uses. Data sets, or “objects” are integrated into the enterprise platform, after which tools are developed that utilise the data sets for specific operational objectives.

“*Building on the successful collaboration of Optimus, WFP and Palantir worked together to launch DOTS (Dots.wfp.org), a new enterprise data platform powered by Foundry. DOTS relies on technology and software from Palantir to enable data management and integration. It gives WFP staff almost real-time visibility of supply chain data and a growing number of corporate data sets providing richer, more integrated views of WFP operations globally.*” (emphasis added) (WFP Quarterly report on Private Partnerships, 2021)



WFP’s internal audit report on the enhanced functionality of WFP’s beneficiary data management platform (SCOPE) titled: “Review of SCOPE In-Kind Rollout” (2025) defines DOTS as: “*WFP’s central data engine, designed to pull information from multiple, siloed systems across the organization into one unified platform.*”

The WFP-Palantir partnership is connected to a myriad of technology strategies and initiatives within WFP’s “Digital Transformation” approach, including the Artificial Intelligence Strategy, the Innovation Strategy, the Global Data Strategy and the Information and Technology Strategy.



(WFP, Digital Transformation Presentation to the Executive Board, January 2022.)

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A WFP Digital Transformation Presentation to the Executive Board, 2022, defines digital transformation as *“the integration of digital technology into all areas of business, fundamentally changing how we operate and deliver value to customers and stakeholders.”* The presentation credits only two partners concerning the data and analytics pillar of the approach: Palantir and Tableau. Where Palantir provides *“advanced software”* for data management, analysis, operational applications and data harmonisation, Tableau visualises the data with the provision of *“interactive data visualization products.”*

A WFP job notice, for an Operational Data Analyst (January 2026), describes the leading role of WFP’s Technology Division (TEC) concerning the deployment of DOTS:

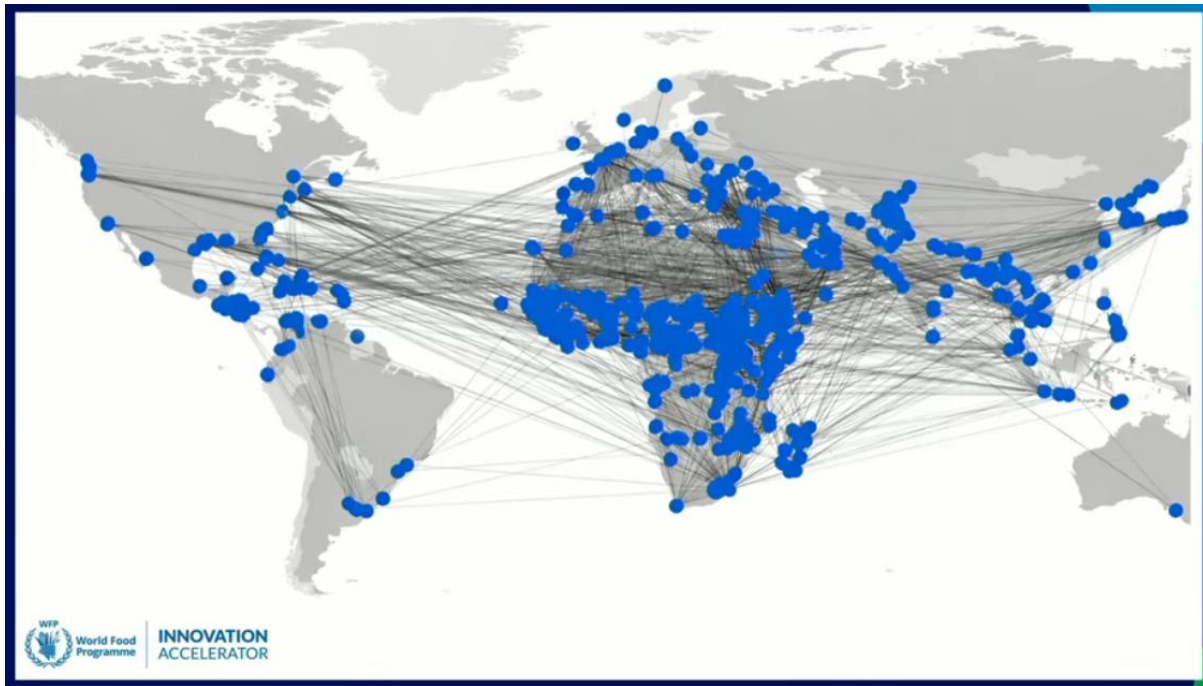
“The Technology Division (TEC) of the World Food Programme (WFP) is leading the enterprise-wide deployment of an operational decision-making platform called DOTS which is powered by the Palantir Foundry solution. DOTS is at the center of TEC’s data ecosystem integrating data from multiple data sources, transforming data to create a dynamic ontology representing WFP’s operational model and surfacing business insights to support decision-making.”

The overall body responsible for digital governance and oversight, is WFP’s Digital Business Technology Committee (DBTC), described in the Digital Transformation presentation as WFP’s *“Senior decision-making body focusing on strategy alignment and prioritization of digital business initiatives”*. A 2024 Compendium of Policies, also notes how *“WFP’s artificial intelligence strategy is being developed under the oversight of the digital business and technology committee.”*

According to a [June 2024 reference](#) the Chair of the WFP’s DBTC is Meghan Latcovich who is also WFP’s Chief of Staff, one of the highest ranking positions in the agency. Latcovich, who *“began her career flying combat missions as a U.S. Navy helicopter pilot”* worked for ten years as strategic advisor with the McCain Institute prior to joining WFP under her former boss Cindy McCain (Meghan Latcovich Biography, 2026). Palantir is an official corporate donor to the McCain Institute and is a founding member of the McCain Institute’s Ukraine Business Alliance.

C: Data on DOTS and developed tools.

According to available resources, data on DOTS relates to: programmes, partnerships, funding, finance and accounting. It includes supply chain data (concerning routes, transport mode, suppliers and retailers, transporters, storage locations, distributions and operational constraints), fleet management data (e.g. assets, movements and real time tracking), data for Global Commodity Management (GCMF) and Cash Based Transfers (CBTs).



(Screenshot illustrating the scope of WFP's global supply chain from WFP Presentation, WFP Innovation Forum: Innovating for Impact, February 2026)

As early as 2021, DOTS was already being promoted as *“the cornerstone of the WFP data ecosystem.”* During Covid the Control Tower tool was built on DOTS that integrated airplane data, warehouse data, shipment data, border or airport closures, price fluctuations and other information to assist WFP and a network of more than 70 organisations provide health supplies to more than 173 countries (Palantir, Delivering Life-Saving Assistance with Data, 2021).

WFP continue to provide coordination services to partners in their role as the [lead agency](#) of the logistics cluster and through the [WFP service marketplace](#), *“a digital platform that provides humanitarian organizations, UN Agencies and Governments with access to on-demand logistics and payment services WFP offers worldwide.”* (WFP, Service Marketplace FAQs, 2024). Set for *“Global roll-out”* where it will *“constitute the unique entry point for service requests as of 2025”* the WFP service marketplace (SMP) factsheet explains its origins: *“Initially piloted in Ethiopia in 2019, the SMP became instrumental in responding to global emergencies, notably becoming the exclusive service request portal during the COVID-19 pandemic.”*

With regards to *“partner performance monitoring”*, WFP's audited annual accounts, 2025 (Published April 2026), states that *“Monitoring and reporting will be further strengthened through the digitalization and automation of assurance data via DOTS in 2026, enabling centralized oversight of country office self-reported assurance information.”* The same report further highlights how DOTS is being used to integrate partner data, in this case Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) through WFP's role overseeing the United Nations Partner Portal:

“WFP is advancing efforts to strengthen oversight of United Nations Partner Portal use. The Supply Chain and Delivery Division in collaboration with the Technology Division, is working to enhance data integration and reporting capabilities including vendor input, partner updates and data integration into DOTS. These steps will enhance WFP's ability to monitor the Portal's use, detect noncompliance, and support regular data cleansing, reinforcing transparency and accountability in non-governmental organizations partnerships.” (emphasis added)

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The [UN Partner portal](#) is a collaboration between “IOM, UN Secretariat, UN Women, FAO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP, and WHO with operational support from UNICC...for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to engage with the UN on partnership opportunities.”

It is impossible to determine the full extent to which data pertaining to partners, from Governments to CSO´s, supply requests to monitoring data to updates, via various platforms and portals, is being channelled by WFP onto DOTS on Palantir Foundry, nor what exactly this data consists of, nor the extent to which partners have provided informed and explicit consent.

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The Final Terms of Reference for the Evaluation of WFP’s Supply Chain Strategic Roadmap (2022-2025), published in August 2024, stated that “*The supply chain category on DOTS comprises 74 objects (structured data models) of varying size and complexity.*” A table published in the TOR provides an incomplete overview (albeit the most comprehensive list identified) of data sets (objects) in DOTS for Supply chain (16 examples, or 21% of the reported 2024 total), fleet management (2 examples), GCMF (1 example) and CBT (4 examples).

Under supply chain, distributions accounted for the biggest data set listed, with 3.6 million entries. Data sets listed also pertained to: handovers to partners; food losses; purchase orders; food safety and quality incidents; suppliers; supplier reviews; deliveries; transport details; shipping instructions; storage locations; transporters and transporter reviews. Data sets under fleet management include vehicles and vehicle trips and Cash Based Transfer data includes lists of businesses, retailer performance, contractual information between WFP and retailer and invoices.

Dataset	Description	Size of data set (number of entries)
Supply chain		
Distributions Food (previously "Received by CP")	Food distribution and WFP cooperating partner commodity movements	3.6m
Handovers to cooperating partners	The quantity of food handed over to cooperating partners, by commodity type and activity	7.5m
Food losses	Losses by originating process i.e. transport, transformation, and warehouse as well as the type, reason and value of the loss. It can be aggregated to Country or broken down by Storage Location.	244k
Food purchase orders	Purchase order details captured when procuring food from a specific supplier	64.3k
Goods and services purchase order items	Purchase order details captured when procuring goods and services from a specific supplier	1.4m
Food reconciliations	Handovers to cooperating partners, returns, distributions, opening and closing stock, by commodity type and activity.	105.6k
Food safety and quality incidents	Reported incidents related to food safety and quality, including quantitative data on quantities and values of affected commodities, and qualitative data on incident.	865
Food suppliers; Goods and services suppliers	List of companies, manufacturers and traders that have been pre-qualified to sell or supply food/goods and services.	6.4k; 50.9k
Food supplier reviews; Goods and Services supplier evaluations	Data on the evaluation of food supplier performance captured within the process of food purchase order/data on evaluation of goods and services supplier against a contract/purchase order	2k; 2k
Inbound deliveries	Data relevant to the cargo being transported towards a destination	5.2m
Landside transport instruction items	Transportation details about a specific commodity from one origin to one destination and/or consignees, within a specific time period	2.3m
Shipping instructions	Data on the lifecycle of shipping instructions reflecting their status, history and lead-times.	53.4k
Storage locations	Data on storage locations where WFP stock is kept	7k
Transport purchase orders	Data captured in the process of creating purchase orders for commercial transporters to secure funds to move food from one location to another	498k
Transporters	List of commercial transport service providers and/or WFP own fleet with details	12.5k
Transporter reviews	Performance evaluation scores of transporters	7.4k
Fleet management		
Vehicles	Motorized asset owned, managed or operated by WFP, Vehicle trips	9.4k
Vehicle trips	Official log book entries for WFP truck movements	406.9k
GCMF		
GCMF quotations	Data captured in the process of GCMF team approving/allocating stock from the GCMF inventory to a country office that has expressed interest in buying it	15.3k
CBT		
Retailers; Retailer branches	List of persons or businesses that sell goods and/or services to the public for use or consumption	25.7k;30.4k
Retailer branch	Aggregation of retailer performance monitoring and evaluation data	6.8k

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Dataset	Description	Size of data set (number of entries)
evaluation		
Retailer contracts	Detailed data on the contractual relationship between WFP and a retailer	22.8k
Retailer logistics invoice verifications	Invoices to CBT retailers	152.1k

(“Table 11: Supply Chain WFP data hub “DOTS” and supply chain raw data”, in: WFP, Evaluation of WFP’s Supply Chain Strategic Roadmap (2022-2025) Final Terms of Reference, August 2024)

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Specific tools built on DOTS referenced over the years include Optimus, for optimising food basket design, Control Tower to coordinate partner supply chains and in 2020 a suite of tools connected to DOTS was reported to include “*a new application for smallholder farmers and a digitized school feeding platform.*” (WFP Quarterly report on Private Partnerships, 2021)

In November 2025 WFP launched an online exhibition “[Innovation: Rooted in Humanity](#)”, listing a number of tools that serve the supply chain division. Of Prisma, Scout, Route the Meals and Optimus, it is clear that that Optimus and Prisma (a name used alongside “Control Tower”), are built on Palantir Foundry.

The UN’s “AI for Good” [AI Resource Hub](#) confirms that “*enterprise data platform integration (Palantir Foundry)*” underpins Prisma’s Technology Platform. Prisma is described as an AI enabled supply chain control tower that “*consolidates data from multiple systems into a single platform, providing descriptive, predictive, and prescriptive analytics to support upstream and downstream supply planning.*” Prisma, that was rolled out in 2024 (according to the Supply Chain Strategic Roadmap Evaluation, 2025), is currently operational in 46 countries.

All four tools, Prisma, Scout, Route the Meals and Optimus, are described to “*work together to create an integrated ecosystem for end-to-end supply chain visibility.*”

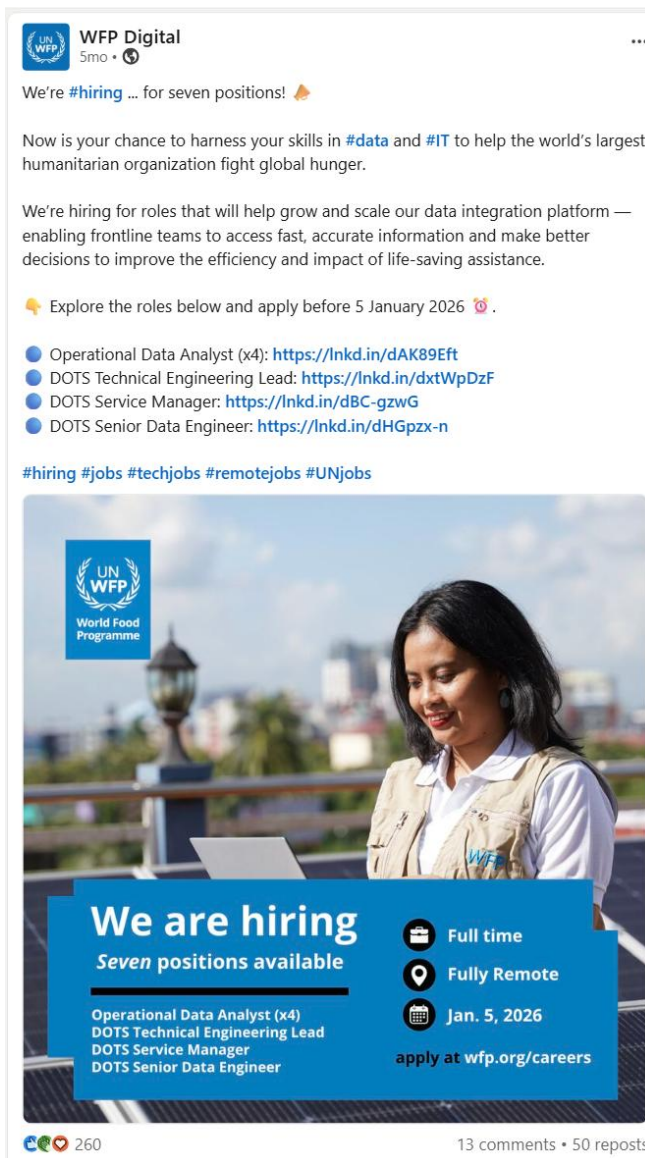
Further, WFP’s 2025 Global Assurance Project report, details how in Ethiopia a tool called Fleet Tracker, built in DOTS, is providing real time tracking of WFP fleet (over 500 vehicles) and commercial trucks and commodities “*from dispatches to deliveries.*”

To summarise: data sets (or objects) from different parts of WFP’s data ecosystem feed into WFP’s enterprise data platform DOTS (powered by Palantir Foundry software) within which tools are built utilising the data sets, such as (but not limited to): Optimus, Prisma, an “application for smallholder farmers”, a “digitized school feeding platform”, and Fleet Tracker.

This research has not identified a publicly available overview that comprehensively details data objects and their description, nor the tools that have been developed using them, residing on the integration enterprise data platform provided by Palantir.

D: WFP are “investing heavily” in Palantir Foundry deployment.

“*WFP has launched its digital transformation program with a strong focus on utilizing data for better informed decision-making. We are investing heavily in our deployment of Palantir Foundry, a leading data integration platform which enables solving optimization problems with data at scale, alongside platforms for deep field data collection, visual analytics, and corporate reporting.*” (WFP Job notice, DOTS (Foundry) Technical Engineering Lead, 2026)



(WFP Digital, LinkedIn post, December 2025)

In December 2025 WFP published seven new roles servicing DOTS “that will help grow and scale our data integration platform.” In two of these job notices, plus at least one other from a year earlier describe how, as part of their Digital Transformation Programme, WFP are “investing heavily” in the deployment of Palantir Foundry.

The WFP Management Plan (2025) further emphasise investment in Palantir based tools, detailing how “WFP will continue to invest in the planning and optimization of supply chains through its advanced digital tools such as SCOUT, PRISMA, Route The Meal and Optimus.”

In a January 2026 interview, WFP’s Chief Technology Officer, Magan Naidoo explained that WFP’s data integration strategy, would “naturally converge into a unified environment.” Whilst not explicitly mentioning Palantir or DOTS, Naidoo refers instead to WFP’s “enterprise platform” – the name that elsewhere refers to the platform provided by Palantir:

“We’ve built a new enterprise platform that acts as an integration layer across all other data platforms, whether proprietary or developed in-house. Instead of moving all the legacy data immediately, we’re stitching everything together through this central layer.” (Magan Naidoo, 2026)

E: WFP staff collaborate with Palantir Focal Point and engineering team.

“Enable partnership collaboration with the Palantir focal point to develop a plan for activities with the Palantir Engineering team which will strengthen the DOTS product roadmap and provide technical advisory support for projects.” (WFP Job notice, DOTS Service Manager, CST II 2026)

Job notices also describe how WFP staff are required to collaborate directly with Palantir Engineers and the Palantir Focal Point, indicating that the partnership is not a simple receipt of technology, but a close and collaborative engagement. A Palantir technical lead still serves the WFP partnership as does at least one “Fourth Age” Forward Deployed Engineer (FDE). [Fourth Age](#) is an official Palantir Partner that provide clients with FDE ´s for data engineering and application development on Palantir platforms: Foundry and AIP.

F: There is evidence of a revolving door and indications of knowledge transfer between WFP and Palantir.

Public information on LinkedIn shows that at least two WFP staff from the supply chain division are now directly employed by Palantir as Deployment Strategists.

The work of Palantir Deployment Strategists is routinely described as including the task of incorporating field learnings into cross Palantir offerings. A typical Palantir Deployment Strategist job description reads:

“Your mission is to synthesise disconnected streams of thought into a cohesive understanding of what the most important problem is, what the data means, what the product needs, what users are motivated by, and where the impact could be. Deployment Strategists are do-ers who immerse themselves in our customers' most intricate workflows, partner with customer teams and explore the data, and dive into the product landscape to enable us to scale.” (Palantir Job Notice, 2026)

According to the same job notice, Deployment Strategists operate through “*deep engagement with customer problems and workflows*” after which they are required to:

- *“Embed with our Software Engineering and Product Design teams to incorporate what you saw in the field into cross-Palantir product offerings.*
- *Build and deliver demos to new and existing customers.*
- *Scope out potential engagements in new industries and in increasingly expanding locations around the world.”* (Palantir Job notices 2026)

Palantir have pioneered the Forward Deployed Engineer model for more than a decade and in 2020, Palantir published a blog titled “A Day in the Life of a Palantir Forward Deployed Software Engineer” (FDSE) which states:

“FDSEs also have the key responsibility of sharing technical expertise from the field back to our business development and product development teams. While FDSEs typically configure software for a particular customer, we often find that our configuration solutions could prove beneficial for many other customers. In fact, some of our most valuable product additions originated in the field through this process!”

A key specification of both deployment strategists and forward deployed engineers is to share expertise gained from deploying Palantir software for one client with Palantir’s product design and development teams to inform products developed for other clients. The exact number of Palantir staff embedded within WFP, whether it has increased, decreased, or stayed the same from the original 6-10 is unknown.

G: WFP avoids disclosing partnership details.

WFP quietly renewed its contract with Palantir in 2023. But since 2019, its only press communication regarding Palantir was issued in 2021 relating to Covid operations that utilised the DOTS platform. WFP has not issued a public update on the renewed contract, nor did they respond to “multiple requests” by the news platform Geneva Solutions in 2025.

Furthermore, there is evidence that even evaluators have not been privy to information relating to “due process” concerning the partnership with Palantir:

“while several reliable sources within WFP affirmed that the organization’s rigorous due diligence process has been followed and repeated every three years, the vetting and risk assessment process lacked transparency and inclusivity, fuelling concerns among internal and external stakeholders. No documents relating to the due process were made available to the evaluation team.” (emphasis added) (WFP Strategic Evaluation, in reference to Palantir partnership, 2022)

Even though a large number of documents relevant to this research were publicly accessible via the WFP Executive Board Documents portal, there are more that would likely provide further key information on the partnership that are not public. For example the search “Palantir” presents 29 results, of which 17 are classified. This includes a Palantir Factsheet referenced in the annex of a WFP Mid-Term Evaluation (2024) as well as transcripts from the risk management division and talking points from WFP’s Director and Chief Risk Officer.

The screenshot shows the WFP Executive Board Documents portal search results for the term "Palantir". The page displays 29 results, including various document types such as Factsheets, Speeches, Transcripts, EB Documents, Biographies, Information Notes, and Talking Points. The results are sorted by relevance and include details like document titles, dates, and language options.

Document Type	Title	Date	Language
Factsheets	Palantir	16/02/2024	
Speeches	Palabras de la Señora Fiorella Molinelli, Ministra de Desarrollo e Inclusión Social, en la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA	08/01/2018	en
Transcripts	Restricted document	28/11/2025	
Transcripts	Restricted document	28/11/2025	
Transcripts	Round table on evaluation reports and management responses - 29 October 2025 - Transcript	19/11/2025	
Transcripts	Informal consultation on the Accountability and Oversight Framework - 8 September 2025 - Transcript	18/09/2025	
Transcripts	Regular meeting with the Risk Management Division - 3 February 2026 - Transcript	09/02/2026	
EB Documents	Report by the Executive Director on recent senior staff movements	19/11/2025	
Biographies	Bio List E Convenor Czechia	17/06/2025	en
Information Notes	Quick Reference Directory	13/02/2026	
Transcripts	Regular briefing with the Risk Management Division - 26 September 2025 - Transcript	03/10/2025	
Transcripts	Oral update on progress in implementing the recommendations from the strategic evaluation on WFP's work on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse - 26 September 2025 - Transcript	03/10/2025	en fr es ar zh
EB Documents	WFP management response to the recommendations in the report of the External Auditor on findings from field audits	10/10/2025	en fr es ar zh
Talking Points	Talking Points - Item 6 a) Salvador Dahhan	11/11/2025	
EB Documents	Management response to the recommendations from the summary report on the evaluation of WFP's 2018 enterprise risk management policy	19/10/2025	en fr es ar
Talking Points	Talking Points - Item 6 b) 2) 1) Salvador Dahhan	19/11/2025	
EB Documents	Management response to the annual evaluation report for 2025	18/05/2026	en fr es ar
Talking Points	Talking Points - Item 5 b) 1) Salvador Dahhan	11/11/2025	
EB Documents	Reports by the Joint Inspection Unit relevant to the work of WFP - Revision mode	24/02/2026	en fr es ar
EB Documents	Summary report on the evaluation of the country strategic plan for Uganda (2018-2025)	11/09/2025	en fr es ar

(WFP, [Executive Board](#), Documents, showing results for search term “Palantir”)

WFP's online (and twice in-person) exhibition "[Innovation: rooted in Humanity](#)", dedicated to featuring the agencies public-private partnerships, has failed to credit their partnership with Palantir amidst a comprehensive list of government and private sector partners despite key tools including Optimus and Prisma's known roots in Palantir.

Despite WFP emphasis on "transparency" throughout its Accountability and Oversight framework, adopted by the executive board on 17 November 2025, its Summary Report on Enterprise Risk Management, also issued in 2025, contradicts these commitments, reiterating numerous times throughout that risk considerations and inputs with regards to private sector partners "*are not always formally documented.*"

H: What's in it for Palantir?

At the time of the 2019 partnership press conference, Palantir's Josh Harris, claimed that their interest in the partnership was due to WFP's global scope and diverse, complex data landscape which presented Palantir with "*a very exciting engineering challenge.*"

Enrica Pocari (then WFP's CIO) deflected journalist probes on Palantir's motivations with musings about the positive impact on staff moral and a reminder that "*there are an incredible amount of people that we meet in our life, in our work, that have an honest commitment to wanting to do good.*"

In more recent years, Alex Karp, Palantir's CEO has voiced increasingly negative opinions of multilateralism and the United Nations, while aligning Palantir with the political goals of the United States:

"It's almost not worth bashing the United Nations. It's just - what is this? These institutions that should have worked, universities, the United Nations, basic concepts of how a society should work - they've all failed. And the best and last hope we have is to make America work really really well." (Alex Karp, The Economic Club of Chicago, 2025)

Karp soon after reiterated:

"I am much more concerned that we fail in America, and that we don't dominate, and therefore there's a lame UN driven discussion about human rights that obviously only serves people who somehow wanna live in a world that doesn't work." (Alex Karp, The Axios Show, 2025)

Thereby excluding the possibility that the partnership is underpinned by human rights or humanitarian motivations and reinforcing how it, instead, explicitly contradicts the principles WFP are mandated to uphold.

In their 2020 report "All Roads Lead to Palantir" Privacy International have described the "improvement clauses" that feature in some Palantir contracts (not relating to WFP) that have been made public. Clauses on "Usage Data" specify that Palantir can use client data to improve products and solutions offered by the company.

Palantir themselves have defined their federated learning approach between customers in their Q3 2025, letter to shareholders:

"In the end, the route for us to something universal—a generalizable artificial intelligence platform—was made possible by an obsessive focus on the specific: the particularized and quite

idiosyncratic challenges and technical problems of our disparate set of customers.” (Palantir 2025)

And describing the relationship between Palantir’s standard architecture and every deployment, Palantir further disclose *“we see the ambition of every deployment of the standard architecture as becoming the enterprise’s unique, one-of-one, ever-evolving operating system.”* (Palantir Architecture Centre, 2026)

Companies routinely use their experience to improve their offer for the benefit other clients. It is on the basis of which contracts are awarded. During the same 2019 partnership press conference, Pocari explained how WFP were looking forward to benefitting from Palantir’s experience.

On what partners gain from working with them, WFP states on its website: *“WFP offers its partners cutting edge expertise in a range of areas, from nutrition and food security, to logistics, telecommunications and long-term capacity building; the scale of its operations and presence in 80 countries...”*

Where a 2022 Strategic Evaluation asserts that *“Palantir is not allowed to use any of the WFP data for any purpose other than those allowed by WFP”*, WFP has never clearly disclosed what permissions they have granted Palantir with regards to the data.

What Palantir gain from their partnership with the UN’s WFP - remains a central question. Palantir makes clear the importance and risks in realising value from its pro bono work in corporate filings.

“Our ability to sell or transfer, convert to cash, or realize value from, any noncash consideration we have received, or may receive in the future, in a timely manner or at all, may be limited by, among other things, applicable securities law and regulations, and global market and macroeconomic conditions, which could adversely impact our business, financial condition, cash flows, and results of operations.” (Palantir SEC form 10-Q, March 31, 2026)

Considering the partnership is only marginally profitable to Palantir, if at all, it would further appear Palantir are not even benefitting from the brand association of a humanitarian partner now increasingly reluctant to acknowledge them. Nor is Palantir’s leadership eager to be associated with a UN entity. Palantir’s original excitement for the learning opportunity the partnership brought them remains perhaps the most instructive.

To date, there are no publicly available assessments on how the experience gained from working with WFP have benefitted or could be used to benefit Palantir’s other clients and the risks that would pose to the people WFP are mandated to serve.

I: Concerningly, WFP is leading the UN80 initiative workstreams on UN-wide supply chain integration efforts.

The UN80 initiative is an ambitious package of reforms that the UN has committed to undergoing, partly as a result of the US-instigated funding crisis it is facing. Proposals relating to the integration of support functions include supply chains, scheduled to commence in 2026.

It has been stated multiple times that WFP is co-leading the UN80 UN-wide supply chain integration workstreams, *“Taking the New Humanitarian Compact as the concrete starting point.”* (UN80 Initiative, 2025). The New Humanitarian Compact is led by Under Secretary

General/Emergency Relief Coordinator Tom Fletcher, whose “new” pooled fund instruments are backed and funded by the US. Notably, the US credits WFP for the initiative (see: USUN Rome Mission, February 2026), and WFP has so far been the biggest grant recipient. The UN80 interactive dashboard currently (May 2025) states under Work Package 2 (The New Humanitarian Compact), Action 17 that *“Pilot rollouts for integrated supply chains are under way in Afghanistan, Haiti, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Somalia and Sudan.”*

“Drawing on its proven experience and core operational competencies, WFP is playing a leading role in delivering the UN80 transformative agenda. In practical terms, WFP is co-leading system-wide efforts on supply chain integration, common services consolidation, and the unified services roadmap for harmonising humanitarian and development efforts – helping to shape coherent, fit-for-purpose approaches across the United Nations system under UN80.” (emphasis added) (WFP Strategic Dialogue of the Executive Board, Topic 2, 2026)

The evaluation of WFP’s Supply Chain Strategic Roadmap (2026) which considers the UN80 initiative *“an important reference point for WFP’s supply chain function as it moves into the future.”* recommends that WFP enhance interoperability internally and develop a road map by December 2026 and *“Enhance external coherence for the operationalization of a United Nations-wide integrated supply chain vision”* by February 2027. WFP’s management response to the recommendations (February 2026) confirms that the *“development of an interoperability road map”* has been initiated, and notes that *“existing tools for reconciling data from various systems, such as Prisma, will continue to be leveraged.”* As it has been established, Prisma is powered by Palantir Foundry.

An “update on WFP’s role in the collective humanitarian response (2025)” details how in relation to the UN80 initiative and in addition to supply chain integration, work package 15 and 16 have been prioritised for WFP. These work packages concern technology, reducing fragmentation, and *“building a United Nations-wide data commons and more coherent data and analytics backbone.”*

“WFP is pioneering the use of artificial intelligence and technology in frontline operations. They will revolutionize our work, helping us work faster, smarter and more efficiently ... As we implement our Digital Business Transformation Plan, we are going to keep innovating to ensure we reap the huge benefits of these cutting-edge technologies. They will also underpin the United Nations-wide integrated supply chain platform, which WFP is co-leading as a key pillar of the UN80 agenda.” (emphasis added) (Cindy McCain, first regular session of the Executive Board opening remarks, 2026)

Currently, no publicly available material, clarifies if WFP’s leadership of UN-wide supply chains and involvement in technology workstreams could imply a UN-wide roll out of Palantir as the enterprise data platform serving WFP’s own supply chain and analytics.

J: Finally, on beneficiary data.

The integration of beneficiary data onto the enterprise data platform provided by Palantir raises urgent questions.

In 2019, the open letter addressed to WFP concerning their partnership with Palantir pushed back on WFP’s insistence that data that provides beneficiary information will not be shared with Palantir. The signatories pointed out that:

“There are a number of compounding risks that arise when huge datasets are merged and analyzed, which is the premise behind Palantir’s business model. Even when data points are stored separately, the “mosaic effect” presents a particular risk. [Harvard researchers](#) have noted that traditional privacy and anonymization frameworks that focus on identifying and removing personally identifiable information (PII) are “unsustainable and ineffective.” Even without full data being shared, [significant risks arise from sharing metadata](#). WFP’s insistence that no personally identifiable information will be shared is largely invalid because of this point.” (Open letter, 2019)

As this research reinforces, knowledge transfer for Palantir is an operational norm which can occur in multiple ways. With staff movements both explicit and tacit knowledge are at risk of transfer and deployment strategists and forward deployed engineers are compelled to facilitate the generalisation of developments made for one client to benefit another. Moreover, Palantir have stated that their focus on the needs of different customers has enabled *“something universal.”* Therefore it is important to consider that it is not only beneficiary data that can, in theory, be transferred but generalised learning and learning derived from meta and aggregated data.

Notwithstanding, the onus to protect the personal data of WFP’s 94 million beneficiaries, held on the agency’s “beneficiary information and transfer management platform” – SCOPE, is serious.

Worryingly, WFP’s 2022 Digital Transformation presentation, within which only Tableau and Palantir partnerships are presented, listed “SCOPE 2.0” as an “ongoing focus” under the “Application Ecosystem” pillar. Whilst there is next to nothing available publicly that describes exactly what SCOPE 2.0 is, a 2026 job notice (Programme Policy Officer (Cash Based Transfers), 2026) describe how in the context of South Sudan the country office has *“begun the roll-out of SCOPE 2.0 for in-kind modality.”*

The Review of SCOPE In-Kind Rollout (2025) describes “SCOPE In-Kind”, as an *“enhanced functionality of SCOPE”* that *“is designed to prevent food aid diversion by efficiently tracking food commodities from warehouses to beneficiaries”* (Review of SCOPE In-Kind Rollout, 2025). The review states:

“The SCOPE In-Kind enhanced functionality (the functionality) builds on the SCOPE platform’s existing features, utilizing components such as the registration application for beneficiary enrolment, the identity management database for biometric verification, and mPOS devices for distribution. The functionality introduced integrations with WFP’s master data systems, including LESS for logistics, COMET for programmatic planning, and DOTS for data reconciliation.” (emphasis added)

Footnote 3, describes how:

“mPOS (Mobile Point of Sale), LESS (Logistics Execution Support System), COMET (Country Office Monitoring and Evaluation Tool), DOTS (Digital Operations and Tracking System), and PowerSync are key digital applications used within WFP’s SCOPE ecosystem.” (emphasis added)

Finally, the review clarifies: *“DOTS is designed to ingest only non-personally identifiable information data and as a result, reconciliations in DOTS can only be performed at an aggregate level. While this approach enhances data privacy, it limits the granularity of analysis and prevents the identification of household-level discrepancies.”*

In sum, the review confirms that aggregated but non-personally identifiable, beneficiary information is being integrated into DOTS via SCOPE In-Kind enhanced functionality.

Annex III of WFP's Management Plan (2026-2028), furthermore indicates plans to integrate beneficiary data with data known to be held on DOTS:

“WFP is advancing its supply chain operations through a digital tracking initiative that provides end-to-end visibility on commodities and non-food items from their origin to their delivery to the recipient. By automating data flows, introducing scanning-based workflows and linking distribution records to beneficiary identities, the initiative will improve transparency, reduce manual effort and support faster, evidence-based decision-making. It will also strengthen the coordination of, and reporting and accountability to, partners and stakeholders.” (emphasis added) (Management Plan Annex, 2025)

Palantir touts its ability to comply with robust data protection standards as a major selling point to potential clients. However, and even more so now in light of May's massive WFP data breach exposing the personal data of 600,000 households in Gaza, the question is not merely whose software claims to provide the best data protection, but from whom does data need protecting? Military contractors whose software enables atrocities to be carried out against the people receiving WFP's humanitarian assistance is an obvious answer.

There is, to date, no publicly available information clarifying the implications of WFP's partnership with Palantir, on the agency's enhanced SCOPE functionality, through SCOPE 2.0, SCOPE In-Kind, or by any other name. Tracking initiatives that connect supply chain operations and distribution records to beneficiary identities and aggregated beneficiary information integrated into DOTS clearly warrant immediate attention.

Conclusion.

Evidently, a significant amount of global data is being ingested into the data integration and analytics software Palantir provides to WFP. What began as a partnership that enabled the optimisation of food baskets has morphed into a scenario where Palantir's reach is increasing across the WFP data ecosystem. Data integration now applies to civil society organisation (CSO) data that resides on multi-agency portals due to WFP's oversight role. It applies to commercial service providers, it absorbs partner performance monitoring data and integrates aggregate beneficiary data via SCOPE's enhanced functionality.

WFP's partnership with Palantir overtly contradicts the UN charter and humanitarian principles the agency is mandated to uphold. Yet despite the clear conflict of interest, WFP are instead growing, scaling and *“investing heavily”* in platform deployment, whilst positioning themselves to co-lead UN-wide supply chain integration plans. Any further rollout within or beyond the agency raises the real risk of intractability at the highest levels of global governance.

Palantir keenly express their values of US supremacy and military and technological dominance at the same time that the US is upping their military interventions worldwide. When hunger is *“being increasingly exploited as a weapon of war”* WFP must reassess whether embedding the software of a complicit US and allied-military contractor within their data ecosystem—pertaining to the supply of food—compromises them.

The partnership furthermore, shines a light on the lack of accountability inherent within the UN-led aid system. Given the vast amounts of data collected across the potentially 120 countries

WFP operates in, including data pertaining to partners, suppliers, transporters, and beneficiaries in aggregate form, questions on informed consent, data rights obligations and governmental sovereignty are pressing.

Despite global backlash against Palantir, that has led to rejections and blocked deals within even allied states (see articles relating to [Switzerland](#), [Germany](#), and the [UK](#)) the contract with WFP, who steward the data of the majority world for humanitarian purposes, has so far flown almost entirely under the radar.

Ultimately, the research findings presented here raise many questions for WFP's leadership. Concerning:

- transparency and the current terms of the agreement;
- how the partnership passed due diligence processes, supposedly conducted every three years, leading to the renewal of the agreement;
- what Palantir, its software and its overall product has gained from the partnership;
- the full scope and description of the data sets and derivatives hosted on WFP's, Palantir provided, enterprise data platform, and;
- the implications of the partnership for WFP's leadership of the UN80 and humanitarian reset supply chain integration workstreams.

The need for an independent and transparent investigation into the potential harm this partnership has caused or could cause the people and communities WFP are mandated to serve, is of utmost priority.

Certainly, the onus is on WFP to seek an immediate replacement to the data integration solution offer by Palantir, and to sever the partnership, rather than rolling it out further - and embedding it deeper - as they appear to be doing.

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