WORKED EXAMPLE · SCORED

An entry, marked

This is a complete entry to the Birdspiracy AI Competition, scored against the published criteria with every point accounted for. It is here so you can see where marks are actually won and lost — not as a standard you are expected to match.

The problem	9 / 10
Solution & AI impact	18 / 20
Presentation	9 / 10
Final score	**36 / 40**

Read this first

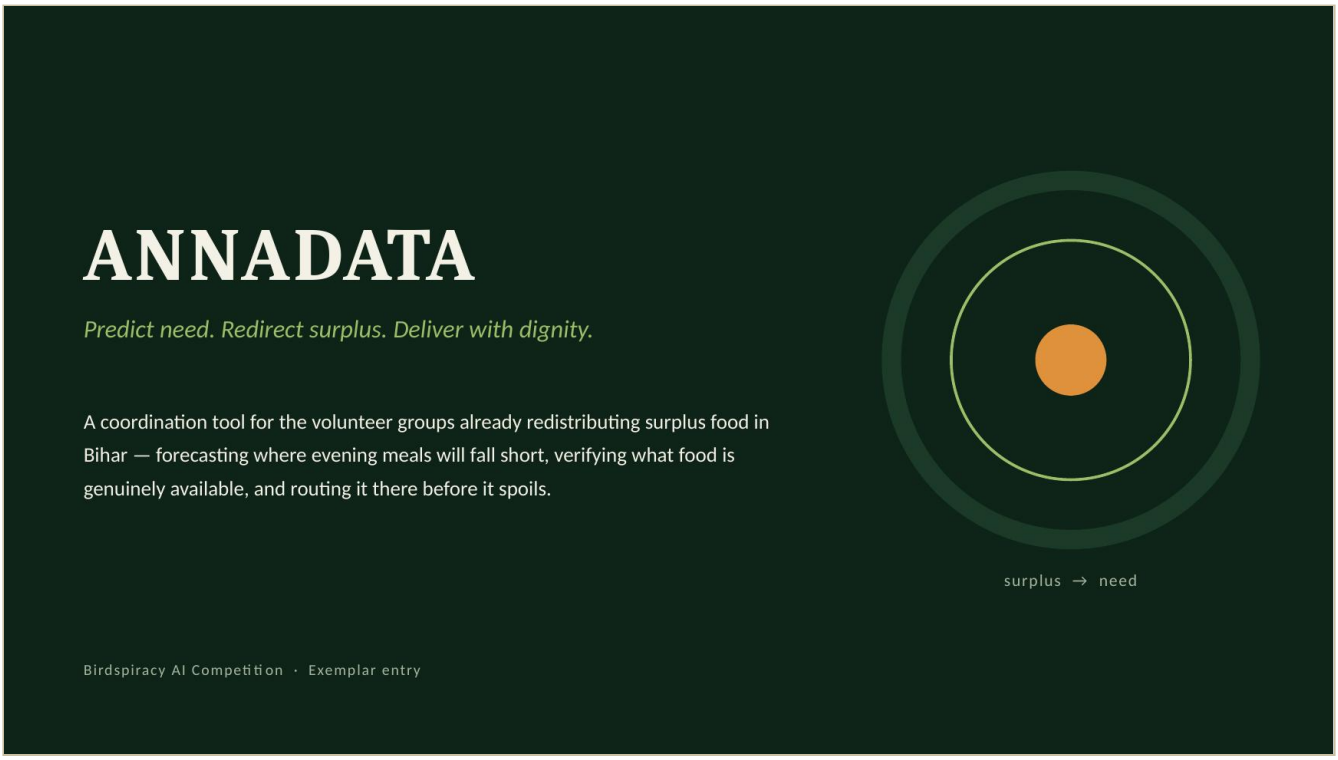
- This entry was written by an adult with time and research tools. A strong entry from a school team will not look like this, and does not need to. The structure and the honesty are what to learn from — not the polish.
- Nothing here scores full marks. Four points are lost, and three of them come from the same mistake: **stating something more confidently than the evidence supports**. That is the most common way good entries lose marks.
- The deck uses 5 content slides. Four is the minimum and six the maximum. The title slide and the sources slide are both required and neither counts toward that.

Scored against the published judging criteria. birdspiracy.com

This is a guide, not a template to copy.

It shows one way to structure your slides and how they are scored. Your topic, design, fonts, colours, content and layout are entirely your choice. **Entries are not scored on how closely they match this example.**

Title slide



EARNED MARKS	The one-line description says what the thing actually is — a coordination tool for volunteer groups — rather than a slogan. A judge knows what they are about to read.
WHY	Team name, school and class belong here. This example omits them because it is a demonstration.
LOST MARKS	Nothing lost here. A title slide is not scored; it just has to exist and orient the reader.

The problem

Surplus food and unmet need sit within a few kilometres of each other, and nobody knows it in time.

Who this is about. Volunteer redistribution groups operating in Patna district. They collect surplus from wedding halls, hostel canteens and restaurants, and take it to settlements the same evening. Most run on WhatsApp and a phone tree.

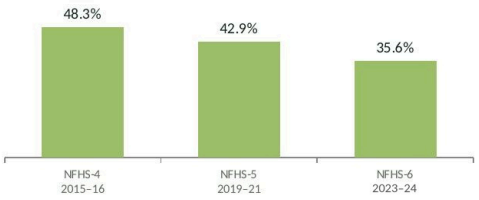
What goes wrong. Surplus is offered late and expires within hours. Volunteers guess where to take it, so the same accessible settlements are served repeatedly while others are missed. Nothing records what was delivered where, so nobody learns from last week.

Why it persists. Every group is small, unfunded, and coordinating by hand. The scheduling problem is genuinely hard, and no one group sees enough of the district to solve it.

78 million tonnes

of household food wasted in India in 2022 — second only to China. UNEP, 2024

Bihar is improving, and still highest but one



Stunting in under-fives, Bihar. NFHS-4, 5 and 6.

EARNED MARKS — The population is narrow and specific: volunteer redistribution groups in one district. Not "hunger in India". Almost every entry that scores in the middle band fails exactly here.

EARNED MARKS — Three labelled parts — who this is about, what goes wrong, why it persists. The third is the one most entries skip, and it is what separates a described problem from an examined one.

EARNED MARKS — Both figures are attributed with an organisation and a year, and both are traceable on the sources slide.

EARNED MARKS — The chart shows a decline rather than a single alarming number. Admitting the problem is improving is more credible than implying it is not, and a judge notices.

LOST MARKS — **One mark lost.** Both figures are broader than the problem. The 78 million tonnes is national *household* food waste, not the institutional surplus this system moves; the stunting chart covers all of Bihar and long-term nutrition, not missed evening meals. They prove the problem is real but do not size it.

Proposed solution

A shared dispatch layer the existing groups log into. Four steps, each with a person able to override it.

1

Signal

Donors post surplus in the app: what, how much, cooked when, collect by when. Community workers log served and unserved locations after each run.

2

Forecast

A gradient-boosted model scores each settlement for likely unmet evening demand, from past delivery logs, day of week, weather, festival calendar and ration-shop distribution dates.

3

Verify

Before dispatch, a local worker confirms the need by SMS or call. No delivery is scheduled on a model score alone.

4

Route

A solver matches surplus to confirmed need under a hard time limit for cooked food, and returns a route the driver can follow.

What the AI actually contributes. Ranking settlements by predicted unmet need, and solving the surplus-to-need match under expiry and travel constraints. Both are things a volunteer cannot do quickly by hand at district scale. Collection, confirmation and delivery stay human.

EARNED MARKS — The mechanism is specific: what goes in, what the model does, what comes out, who acts on it. A reader can restate the system after one pass.

EARNED MARKS — The model type and its inputs are named. "A gradient-boosted model scoring settlements from delivery logs, weather and ration-shop dates" is a claim that can be argued with. "An AI system that helps" is not.

EARNED MARKS — Step 3 is a human verification step placed between prediction and dispatch. Building in a limit on the AI's authority is stronger than claiming the AI is accurate.

EARNED MARKS — The band at the bottom states plainly what the AI contributes and what stays human. This is the single most useful sentence in the deck.

Existing approaches

Surplus redistribution in India is not a new idea. It is an uncoordinated one.

Robin Hood Army

Volunteers collect restaurant surplus and distribute it, coordinated over WhatsApp.

Gap. Allocation is by volunteer availability, not by where need is greatest. No record carries between runs.

Feeding India, No Food Waste

Apps that let a donor request a pickup, then dispatch a nearby volunteer or vehicle.

Gap. Demand-side only. The app answers who collects, never which settlement should receive it.

PM POSHAN, PDS, Anganwadi

State programmes delivering scheduled entitlements to enrolled recipients.

Gap. Scheduled and enrolment-based. Cannot absorb a hall of surplus biryani available for the next four hours.

Where Annadata is different

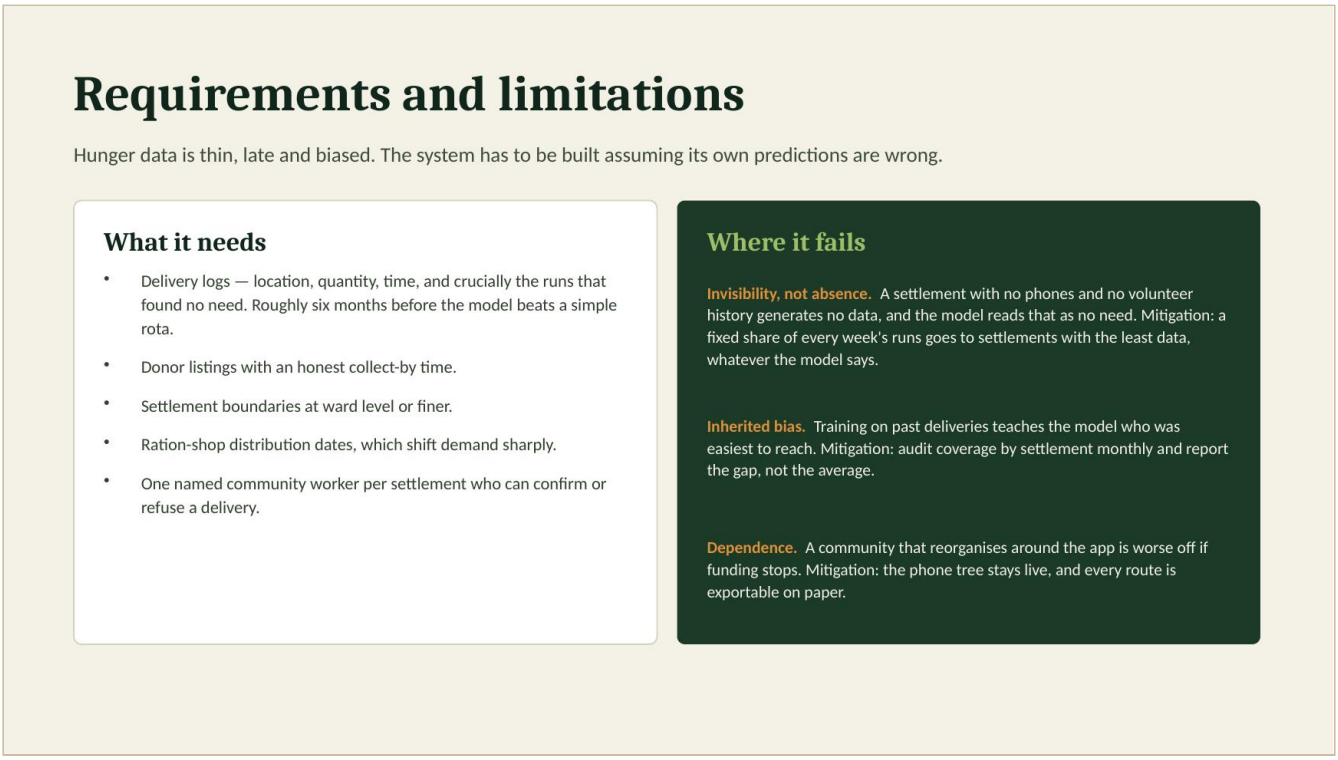
Every existing service optimises the supply side — getting surplus collected. None of them forecast the demand side, so the choice of destination is left to whoever is driving. Annadata adds the missing half and hands it to the groups already doing the work, rather than competing with them for donors.

EARNED MARKS — Six real organisations and schemes named, each with what it does and precisely what it does not do. This is how originality gets *evidenced* rather than asserted.

EARNED MARKS — The gap is stated in the same terms across all three columns — supply side covered, demand side not — so the argument accumulates instead of repeating.

EARNED MARKS — The closing band says the idea works *with* existing groups rather than replacing them. Judges are wary of proposals that assume everyone currently doing the work is doing it wrong.

WHY — Leaving this section out is the most common reason a genuinely good idea lands in the middle band. Judges cannot tell an idea is new unless you show what it is being compared against.

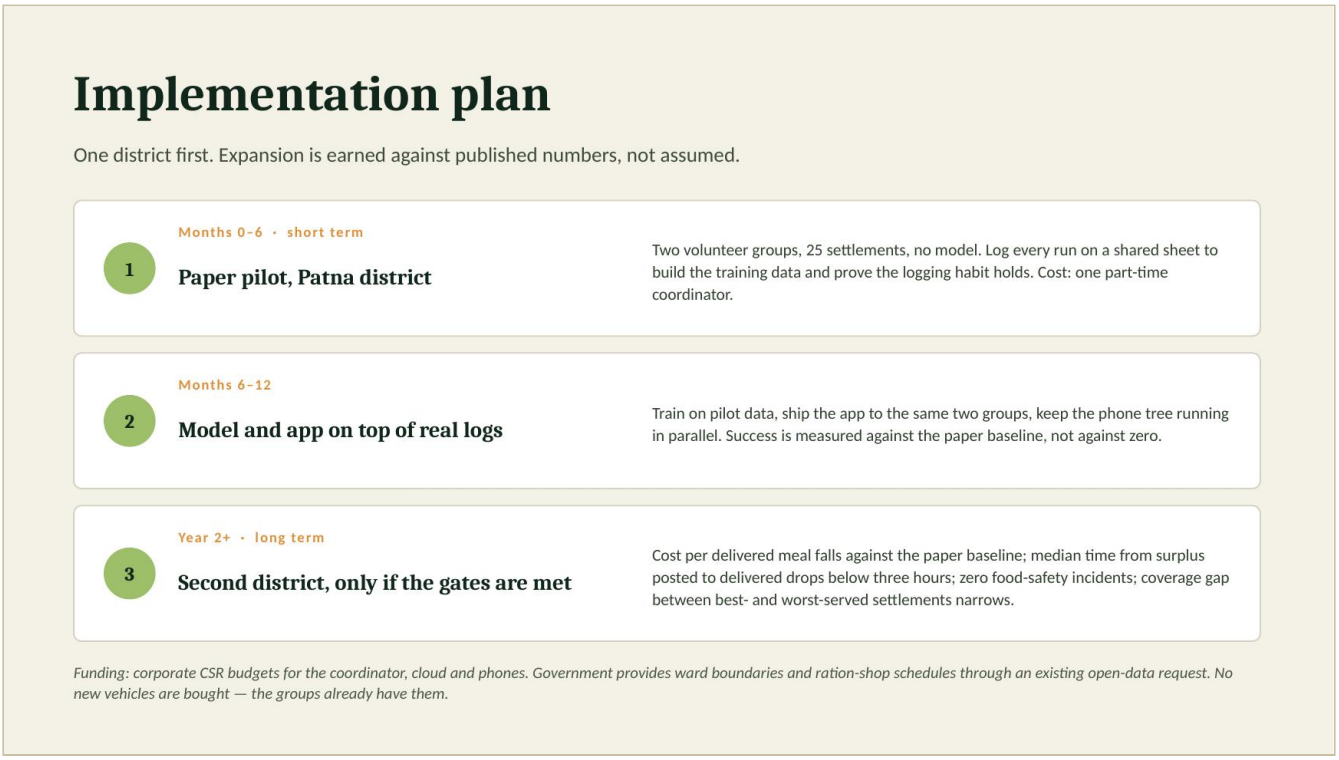


EARNED MARKS — Every failure mode is paired with a mitigation that costs something. "A fixed share of every week's runs goes to settlements with the least data, whatever the model says" is a real trade-off, not a reassurance.

EARNED MARKS — The first failure — a settlement with no digital footprint reading as no need — is the sharpest observation in the deck. It identifies a way the system would quietly harm the people it is meant to help.

EARNED MARKS — The left column names what does not exist yet and would have to be collected first. Honest about the gap between the idea and the conditions it needs.

LOST MARKS — **One mark lost.** "Roughly six months before the model beats a simple rota" is a guess presented with the confidence of an estimate. Naming it as an assumption to be tested would have cost nothing and read as more rigorous.



EARNED MARKS

Phase 1 contains no AI at all. Six months of paper logging, because the data to train on does not exist yet. This is the strongest single choice in the deck — it shows someone who thought about the plan rather than assuming it.

EARNED MARKS

Expansion is gated on four named, measurable conditions. "Only expand if cost per delivered meal falls" is a commitment; "we will scale nationally" is a wish.

EARNED MARKS

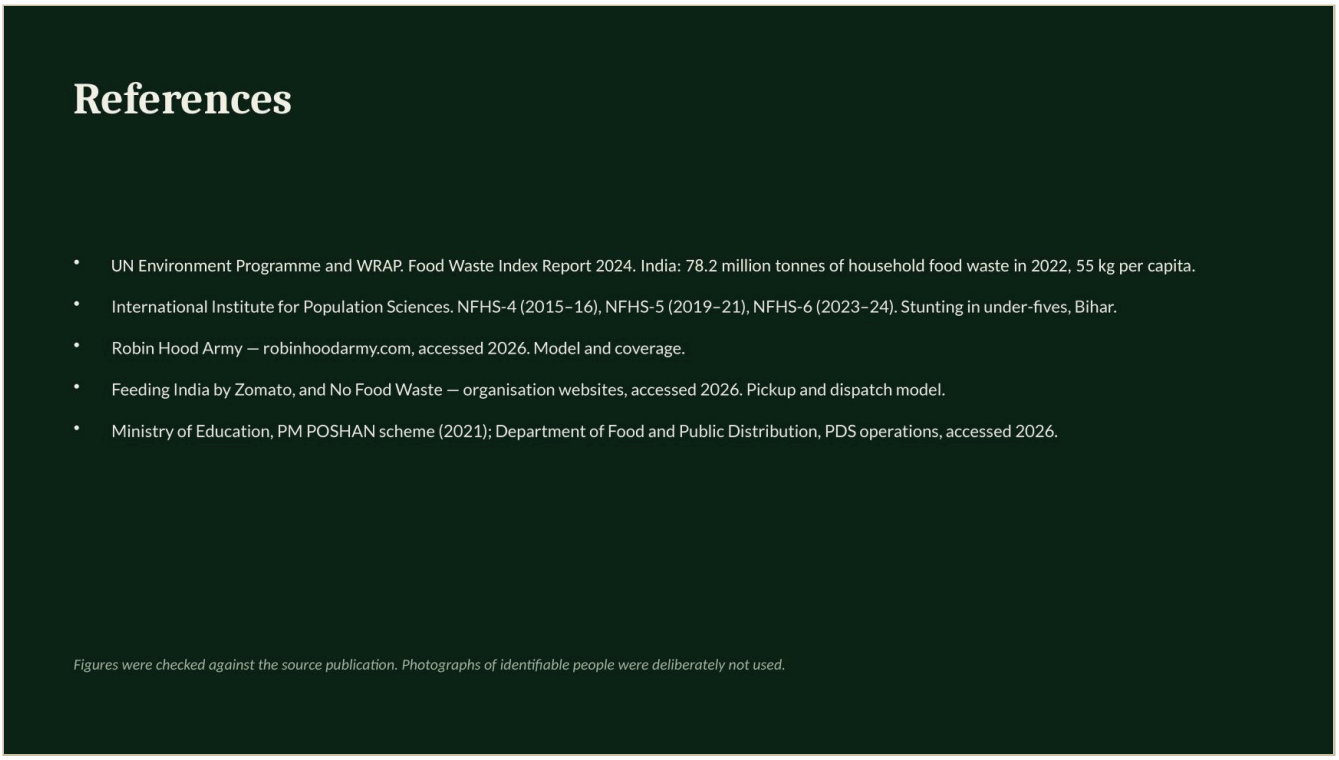
Funding is specific — CSR budgets for the coordinator, government data through an existing request, and no new vehicles because the groups already have them.

LOST MARKS

One mark lost. The four-hour expiry window for cooked food is asserted without a source. Food-safety guidance on this exists; citing it would have settled the question instead of inviting the judge to wonder.

Sources slide

SOURCES SLIDE · REQUIRED · DOES NOT COUNT



EARNED MARKS	Organisation, publication and year for every source. Not a bare link.
EARNED MARKS	The closing line states that no photographs of identifiable people were used. If you use images of people, you need their permission — say where each image came from.
LOST MARKS	**One mark lost, on Presentation.** Across the deck the body text is small and densely packed, so a judge has to zoom in to read it. The criteria call this a crowded slide.
WHY	Without this slide the entry could not have scored above 5 for Presentation, and both statistics on the problem slide would have counted as unsupported. It costs nothing — it is outside the 4 to 6 limit.

Recommendations

1. **Be as specific as possible about the problem.** Define one group of people, one place and one failure. A broad problem reads as a vague one.

2. **Explain why the problem persists.** Show who is affected and how severely, then explain why existing efforts have not solved it.

3. **Describe what the AI does in working detail.** State what goes in, what comes out and who acts on the result. A reader should be able to restate the system after one reading.

4. **Identify existing solutions.** Describe what is already being done in this area and what it misses. Originality can only be shown against what exists.

5. **Address the limitations of your solution.** Identify at least one serious weakness and explain how you would mitigate it. An honest assessment of limitations is more persuasive than a list of benefits.

6. **Make the first step achievable.** Specify who does the work, what it costs and how success will be measured.

7. **Source every figure.** List the organisation and year for each figure on your sources slide. Where no source exists, state that the figure is an estimate.

8. **Keep each slide focused and readable.** Make one point per slide, in text that can be read without zooming. A plain, carefully made deck is more effective than a busy one.

Full judging criteria, the presentation template, and the competition packet are all at birdspiracy.com. Questions: birdspiracy.competition@gmail.com