

USAID and Reliance Foundation Women ConnectChallenge India Round 2
Request for Applications (RFA) 2022-19

<i>RFA Number</i>	RFA 2022-19 Issued by Digital Frontiers for USAID and Reliance Foundation
<i>Title & Application Website</i>	USAID and Reliance Foundation WomenConnect Challenge India Round 2 https://womenconnectindia.com/
Important Dates and Deadlines	
<i>Issue Date of RFA</i>	11 October 2022
<i>Deadline for Submission of RFA Stage One: Concept Note</i>	14 November 2022
<i>Anticipated Date of 1-Day Semi-Finalist Pitch Event</i>	Open to selected semi-finalists on/around 16 December 2022
<i>Anticipated Date of RFA Stage Two: Full Application Opening</i>	Open to selected semi-finalists On/around 16 December 2022
<i>Anticipated Deadline for Submission of RFA Stage Two: Full Application</i>	15 January 2023

USAID and Reliance Foundation WomenConnect Challenge India Round 2 Request for Applications (RFA) Cover Letter

Dear Prospective Applicants:

Digital Frontiers, on behalf of Reliance Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), invites eligible applicants to respond to the USAID and Reliance Foundation WomenConnect Challenge India Round 2.

This Request for Applications (RFA) builds upon the momentum the Challenge's first round, and seeks additional solutions to improve women's participation in everyday life in India by meaningfully changing the ways women access and use technology. This RFA describes the purpose of the program and the types of activities that it will fund; it indicates the process for preparing and submitting proposals; and outlines criteria that will be used to evaluate the proposals.

Digital Frontiers is a USAID project implemented by DAI to identify the most successful digital solutions and scale up their impact globally, fostering a more inclusive and robust global digital ecosystem. Digital Frontiers is issuing the RFA and managing the selection criteria with Reliance Foundation and USAID. Reliance Foundation will be responsible for issuing the grant award and will manage and monitor it jointly with the USAID India mission.

DUE DATE for RFA Stage One Applications: Completed RFA Stage One Applications, including Concept Notes, are due on 14 November 2022 at midnight IST via the Online Application at <https://womenconnectindia.com/>. Applicants should retain a copy of their proposals and accompanying documents for their records.

For other important dates, please refer to the Important Dates & Deadlines table and Request for Applications (RFA), or the website.

Issuance of this RFA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of Digital Frontiers, nor does it commit Digital Frontiers, DAI, USAID, and/or Reliance Foundation to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, Digital Frontiers and Reliance Foundation reserve the right to reject any or all proposals received. Applications are submitted at the risk of the Applicant. All preparation and submission costs are at the Applicant's expense.

Thank you for your interest in the Reliance Foundation and WomenConnect Challenge India Round 2.

Sincerely,
Digital Frontiers Team

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Section A – Program Description

The Gender Digital Divide

Gender equality and women’s empowerment is fundamental to the realisation of human rights and key to effective and sustainable development.

We have seen how providing a woman with opportunities to better her education and well-being have effects far beyond a single individual. A woman multiplies the impact of an investment made in her future by extending benefits to the world around her, creating a better life for her family and building a stronger community. As Mrs. Nita M. Ambani, Founder and Chairperson of Reliance Foundation, has noted, “When women rise, families flourish, communities grow, and countries prosper. A truly developed world has to be an equal world.”

Over the last few years, India has made significant strides in its digital revolution. By 2026, India will have 1 billion smartphone users, with a major push in demand originating from rural areas driven by the country’s efforts towards bringing connectivity to its villages¹. Women have played a key role in this upsurge in the demand for information and communication technologies (ICTs) – over the past four years, the percentage of women in India who have a mobile phone that they use themselves, unsupervised by family, has increased from 45.9% to 54%. There is a clear correlation emerging between women’s adoption of ICTs and their access to better education and livelihood opportunities, and health and financial services. For example, over 22.5% of women in India using their mobile phones for financial transactions². At the same time there remains room for improvement:

- 71% of Indian women own a mobile phone compared to 83 % of men, a 12% difference. Of this number, less than 30% of women’s phones are smartphones. While men’s mobile internet use in India has continued to grow from 45% to 50%, women’s mobile internet use has stalled at 30%³. The main barriers to access and use of mobile phones can be divided into physical barriers and socio-cultural barriers. Physical barriers include the cost of the phone (and credit), access to funds to buy the handset and top up credit, ability to recharge the handset and access a facility to top up credit, ability to operate the handset, and lastly both literacy and digital literacy. Social barriers include the belief that women do not need a phone (especially if women are confined to the home), concerns over women’s safety and security owning a mobile and going online, patriarchal notions of women with a phone being led astray and bringing shame to the family, and patriarchal control of women. Women often self-censor their presence online due to risk of online harassment as well as reputational harm from online visibility or activity.
- A 2021 National Institutes of Health report -- Freedom within a cage: how patriarchal gender norms limit women’s use of mobile phones in rural central India -- states “The gender gap in mobile phone use denies women equal access to the wide range of economic, social and health benefits of mobile phones. Mobile phone use can improve individual economic outcomes by promoting banking and increasing money transfers and by improving market performance. Mobile phones facilitate relationship maintenance, enable the growth of larger social networks, and increase social capital. Mobile phones can accelerate access to information and facilitate non-formal ongoing education and bring health benefits through facilitating access to outreach services, clinical care, appointment reminders, health information and

¹ Jayashree B, Anirban Sarma, Vanita Sharma and Shoba Suri, *Aspirations, Access & Agency: Women transforming lives with technology*, September 2022, Reliance Foundation and Observer Research Foundation; <https://www.reliancefoundation.org/women-technology>

² Jayashree B, Anirban Sarma, Vanita Sharma and Shoba Suri, *Aspirations, Access & Agency: Women transforming lives with technology*, September 2022, Reliance Foundation and Observer Research Foundation; <https://www.reliancefoundation.org/women-technology>

³ GSMA, The Mobile Gender Gap Report 2022: https://www.gsma.com/r/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/The-Mobile-Gender-Gap-Report-2022.pdf?utm_source=website&utm_medium=download-button&utm_campaign=gender-gap-2022

follow-up services.”⁴

- The National Family Health Survey-5 data [from 2019-2021] assessed men's and women's internet use for the first time and found that only one in three women in India (33%) have ever used the internet. However, India is the fastest growing market for women's first-time mobile internet use, which many attribute to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to use/own a smartphone for children's education and family livelihoods.
- 43% of STEM graduates in India are women⁵, which is the highest in the world, but their share in STEM jobs in India is a mere 14% per cent⁶. Deeply ingrained social norms create many challenges for women in technology positions. “Societal expectations of a woman's role in India are deeply entrenched. Gender diversity at work is not upheld as a value. Women are expected to be the sole homemakers, and the tasks – both practical and emotional – of raising children and taking care of parents and in-laws falls squarely on their shoulders. If something happens at home, the woman's career is the first to be sacrificed.”⁷
- Technology-facilitated gender-based violence is a growing problem globally, especially in South Asia. It is urgent to create safe opportunities for new internet and technology users, especially women. (https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00Z7GS.pdf)

During and after COVID-19, many Indian women came online for the first time due to specific and targeted interventions. Several stories from a recently released publication, “Aspirations, Access & Agency – Women Transforming Lives with Technology” by Reliance Foundation and Observer Research Foundation show how, with access to technology, women transform into digital enablers – banking the unbanked, connecting people to essential e-services, facilitating access to welfare schemes and benefits at the last mile, promoting entrepreneurship by helping build digital marketplaces, using tech to strengthen livelihoods, advocating for e-health. Thus, it is vital that women continue to be actively included in digital inclusion strategies, as access to digital technologies provide an essential pathway to women to use technology to transform lives not just for themselves, but also their families and their communities.

As the W20 policy brief titled “Recommendations for action: bridging the digital gender gap” states, “This digital gender gap is unlikely to close on its own. Its root causes are driven by a complex set of social, economic and cultural barriers which can only be overcome with targeted intervention by all stakeholders.” According to the UN Human Rights Office, there is a negative feedback loop: “**gender inequality informs unequal access to and use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and the subsequent growth in ICT deepens gender inequality.**” We must all work towards achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 5.b: “Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.”



⁴ Scott K, Shinde A, Ummer O, et al. 2021. “Freedom within a cage: how patriarchal gender norms limit women's use of mobile phones in rural central India.” BMJ Glob Health. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8461288/>

⁵ World Bank (2018): <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/indicators/se-ter-grad-fe-zs/?fieldOfStudy=Science%2C%20Technology%2C%20Engineering%20and%20Mathematics%20%28STEM%29&view=bar>

⁶ <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/others/few-women-on-top-time-to-stem-the-gender-gap-101626634461832.html>

⁷ Amdocs. 2021. “How being a woman in tech in India is uniquely challenging and what we can do about it.” <https://www.amdocs.com/insights/blog/how-being-woman-tech-india-uniquely-challenging-and-what-we-can-do-about-it>

USAID's Response

In March 2021, President Biden signed an Executive Order, establishing the White House Gender Policy Council and recognising that the “full participation of all people — including women and girls — across all aspects of our society is essential to the economic well-being, health, and security of our Nation and of the world.” USAID is committed to supporting the Biden-Harris Administration’s agenda in uplifting the rights of women and girls around the world through global leadership, technical expertise, and strategic partnerships to achieve the overarching goal of ensuring equitable access, opportunity, and benefits for all.

The Innovation, Technology, and Research Hub and Office of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment at USAID are committed to closing the gender digital divide and address the disproportionate harm women and girls face online. Gender is a core focus in the USAID Digital Strategy, and USAID commits to closing the gender digital divide and requiring that all programming that involves digital technology will address the digital inequities and digital harms women and girls face. The WomenConnect Challenge is one of USAID’s flagship programs that seek to address the gender digital divide. There have been three global rounds of the WomenConnect Challenge, all focused on addressing social norms, creating new ways for women to engage with technology, and leveraging technologies such as artificial intelligence to address barriers to access and use. USAID has partnered with both Microsoft and Reliance Foundation to create custom challenges around technologies and geographies.

In 2020, USAID and Reliance Foundation created an India-specific WomenConnect Challenge, funding ten Indian organisations committed to women’s and girls’ empowerment through technology and addressing the gender gap within the context of Indian states and communities.

For this round of the Challenge, the USAID-funded South Asia Regional Digital Initiative (SARDI) will help run the application and competition process, organize and sponsor the Semi-finalist Pitch Event to connect applicants to expertise and potential partners, and will help sponsor the sustained Women Connect Community of Practice. SARDI propels digital connectivity and economic development in South Asia by strengthening the digital capacity of MSMEs, raising awareness around critical cybersecurity issues, and fostering opportunities for MSMEs and governments to engage on digital and ICT policy issues.

Reliance Foundation’s Response

In August 2020, Reliance Foundation announced that together with USAID it will launch the W-GDP WomenConnect Challenge India in the fall of 2020. At the heart of this partnership is their shared goal to help bridge both the gender divide and the digital divide in India.

Set up in 2010, Reliance Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Reliance Industries Limited, aims to play a catalytic role in addressing the nation’s development challenges through innovative and sustainable solutions. Led by Founder and Chairperson Mrs. Nita M. Ambani, Reliance Foundation is relentlessly working towards facilitating transformative changes to ensure overall well-being and higher quality of life for all. Among India’s largest social initiatives, Reliance Foundation is focused on addressing the nation’s development challenges in areas of Rural Transformation, Health, Education, Sports for Development, Disaster Response, Urban Renewal, and Arts, Culture and Heritage. Reliance Foundation has touched the lives of more than 64 million people across India, in more than 53,000 villages and several urban locations.

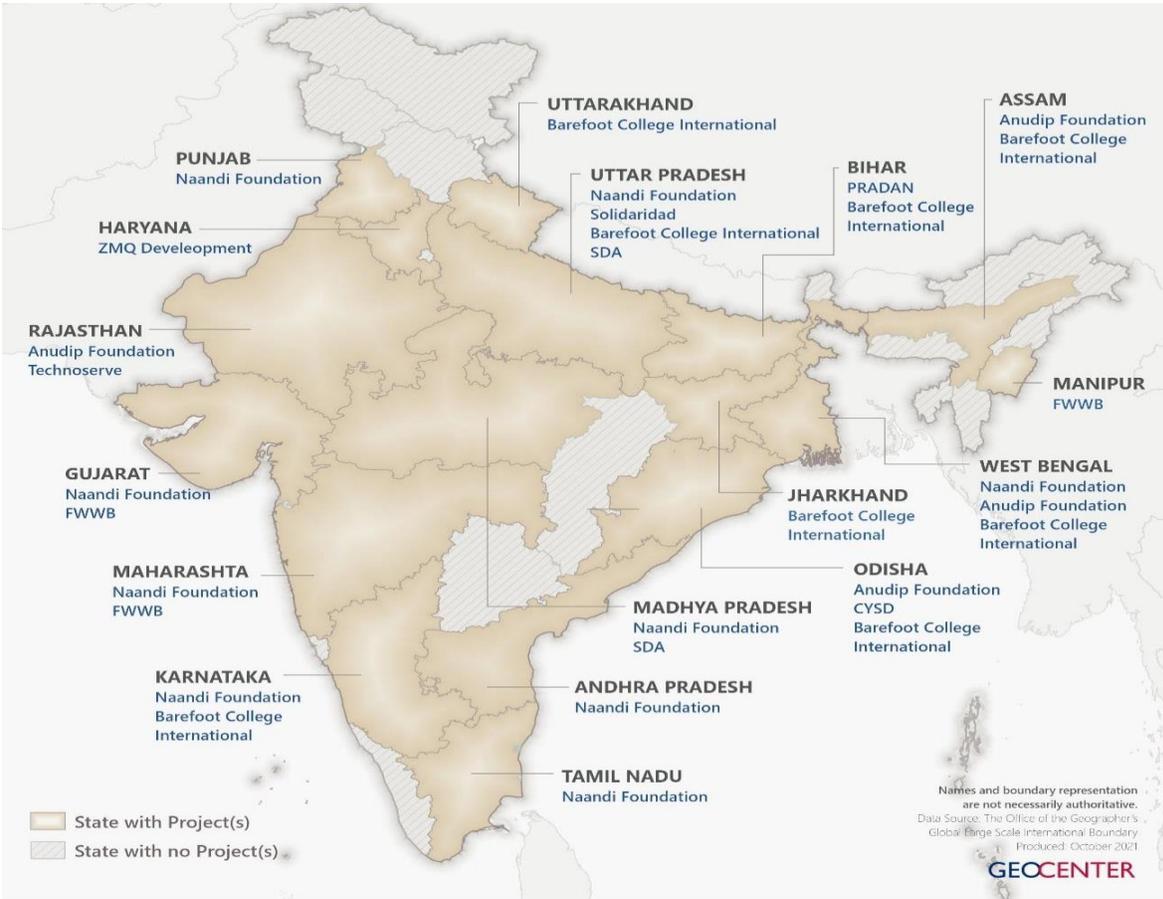
In a decade, India will have the largest number of women in any country in the world. Reliance Foundation believes in a world with possibilities, a world with equal opportunities, a world which is better not just for women but for everyone. Empowered Indian women means a stronger and a better India. Reliance Foundation is committed to empowering women to play a catalytic role towards achievement of transformational economic, environmental, and social changes required for sustainable development.

The growth of mobile and internet technologies in India over the past decade has been rapid and remarkable. It offers an incredible opportunity to empower women and transform lives with increased access to information and education, aiding financial inclusion and providing life-enhancing services and employment opportunities.

Together, Reliance Foundation and USAID will make a tremendous contribution to the WomenConnect Challenge in India to help bridge the gender digital divide. Reliance Foundation will fund up to 10 projects that will be selected through this Challenge.

USAID and Reliance Foundation WomenConnect Challenge India Round 2

USAID and Reliance Foundation launched the initial WomenConnect India challenge to help bridge the gender digital divide in India, funding the ten programs whose outreach covers the following states:



Round 1 focused on supporting new approaches to close the gender and technology gap, expanding business opportunities for women, and empowering women to uplift themselves and their communities. Announced in 2021, these programs build on WomenConnect proven strategies to close the gender digital divide and increase women’s economic empowerment in India through one of many ways: challenge social and cultural perceptions, develop skills and opportunities, build confidence, grow community advocates, and design creative women-centric technology. The interest in the challenge and the outcomes from the first round demonstrate the range of Indian organisations who recognize the importance of closing this divide.

Building on the momentum of the first round, USAID and Reliance Foundation are sponsoring a second WomenConnect Challenge to engage additional partners, discover innovative ways to bring women online with

the support of their families and communities, and create sustainable long-term programming that indeed helps close the gender digital divide.

The Solutions We Seek

USAID and Reliance Foundation will identify and support solutions that empower women via access to and the use of digital technology in order to drive positive development and livelihood outcomes for themselves and their families. Enabling women to be technologically empowered is imperative, especially during the ongoing pandemic. USAID and Reliance Foundation understand that women’s access to technology is not an end, but a means to help address development objectives, and that the complexity of the digital gender divide requires local solutions that consider complex cultural and socioeconomic factors.

Proposals will need to create compelling cases for women’s digital access and use, using the Proven Strategies to guide project design and deployment:



Change Social Norms and Cultural Perceptions

In many poor or rural communities, access to technology and the internet by women is often seen as immoral, inappropriate, or unnecessary. It is important to work on perceptions with those frequently in power, such as men, community and religious leaders, and elders. Tackling these existing social and cultural norms will help women gain access to information and opportunities, build confidence, and feel empowered.



Create economic opportunities

When trained on using technology, women can access increased economic opportunities, from serving as community technology leaders to entrepreneurs. Once men are educated about online workforce opportunities for women, they often become supportive of technology access due to the increased family income. In turn, a woman’s financial gains allow her to have more liberty and be able to afford additional internet access, educating and empowering her further.



Cultivate women’s confidence

In many developing countries, ingrained traditional gender roles lead women and men to believe that women are unable or not smart enough to use technology, enforcing a gender digital divide and lack of confidence. Targeted programs have helped women increase self-efficacy and have demonstrated that women are able to effectively utilize technology, understand risks and opportunities, and position themselves as role models in their communities.



Design Creative Women-Centric Technology

To close the gender digital divide, programs must use technology options tailored to women in developing countries, many of whom are illiterate or have low literacy levels. Innovative video and audio platforms allow women to readily communicate and learn. Offline content on a range of development topics can reach women who do not otherwise have access to the internet. Custom devices and services can meet women’s needs much better than a “universal” technology.



Develop Community Support

As poor or rural women gain access to technology, many become advocates for change in their communities. When given a platform to communicate with local leaders, they have championed issues disproportionately affecting women such as gender-based violence and access to finance or government programs, which benefits the whole community and leads to greater acceptance of women’s technology use.

Section B – Application Instructions

Eligibility Requirements

Proposals are invited from all organisations satisfying the following criteria:

- The applicant has to be an entity with a registered office in India;
- The applicant has to be a foundation, trust, non-profit organisation, or a Section 8 company (or erstwhile Section 25 company) registered under the provisions of the Companies Act 2013 with a track record of at least three years in carrying out activities in related areas;
- The applicant may be a partnership or consortium;

Proposals are encouraged from:

- Diverse groups that have clear, strategic, collaborative models to tackle the complexity of the gender digital divide;
- Applicants that promote more gender equitable access to and safe usage of existing digital infrastructure (as opposed to solutions that necessitate new infrastructure);
- Projects that focus on gender and digital safety, fraud, and online gender-based violence;
- Programs that focus on the most socially and geographically marginalized;
- Organisations with women in leadership positions.

All Applicants must adhere to **USAID Section 899 Partner Information.**

Technical Exclusions

The Challenge will not fund:

- Solutions with a strictly research focus;
- Solutions in the idea phase with no demonstration of application;
- Solutions that center around the provision of free equipment or focus on building new infrastructure;
- Solutions that replicate Round 1 activities;
- Solutions that focus on a single component of an issue (for example, standalone digital literacy programs or SIM-card giveaways);
- Solutions that do not address societal perceptions and/or women's trust and safety while online;
- Solutions that are a continuation of an existing project without a new component;
- Solutions that are affiliated with a political party or engaged in any political activity;
- Solutions that are focused on religious activities;
- Solutions that promote commercial interests or business;
- Proposals that do not incorporate rigorous monitoring, evaluation, and learning to assess impact, and provide a pathway for sustainable use and adoption after the funding cycle;
- Proposals that do not agree to make publicly available and accessible all products, services, data or other innovations funded by this initiative.
- Proposed projects longer than 12-15 months and those lacking the ability to demonstrate clear outcomes within the program timeframe.

Application Submission Requirements

RFA Stage One: Concept Note Application

RFA important dates:

RFA issued	11 October 2022
Proposals due	14 November 2022
Semi-finalists announced	On/around 12 December 2022
One-day Virtual Pitch Event for semi-finalists	On/around 16 December 2022
Full Proposals due	15 January 2023
Awardees announced	1 March 2023
Projects underway (including Symposium for Awardees)	March 2023 - April 2024

The deadline to submit RFA Stage One Applications is 14 November 2022 at midnight IST on the application website at <https://womenconnectindia.com/>. A complete RFA Stage One application consists of the following sections:

1. **Basic Applicant Information:** applicants are asked to input basic information.
2. Upload a concise **Concept Note** (3-5 pages) detailing a comprehensive description of the solution given the four proposal requirements above. The concept note will be judged on how well it meets the evaluation criteria described on page 12 of this RFA.
3. **High-level M&E plan** covering intended outcomes, outputs and what indicators will be used to measure change (see template provided in Annexure 1), and **M&E Capability** Along with high-level M&E plan, please also provide a descriptive paragraph of the organisation monitoring and evaluation functions, systems, and processes, including whether there is a separate M&E team, any performance measurement systems used, whether there is a central MIS, and any other relevant details.
4. **Brief sustainability plan** outlining how the solution or its benefits will continue after grant funding.
5. **Details of any potential partnerships (technical or financial).** The applicant should provide a brief organisational profile of the potential partners, what the partner brings to the solution and what their specific role will be in the consortium
6. **Illustrative budget**, including staff cost, travel, materials, and other program related costs. Please refer to the budget template set out in Annexure 1
7. **Funding plan for project- The award amounts may vary for various selected projects and will be decided by the judging panel** (Please see the Award Information in Section D). The applicants will be expected to demonstrate the other sources of funding available for the entire project.

Eligibility Screen

All Concept Note applications will be screened by Digital Frontiers to ensure they meet the challenge's Eligibility Requirements.

Selection Criteria

All full Concept Note Applications will be evaluated according to the following evaluation criteria. Note that applications that violate any of the Technical Exclusions on page 9 of the RFA will not be considered for award.

Evaluation Criteria	Details	Maximum Points
Understanding the Problem and Context	Solutions demonstrate a clear understanding of the local context and barriers that prevent women, especially from marginalized communities, from having full access to digital tools and demonstrate an understanding of how a lack of access creates challenges for women to realise their full potential	10 points
Comprehensive Solution	Solutions must acknowledge and discuss cultural and socioeconomic complexities and provide holistic solutions to addressing them, using the proven strategies as a starting point.	10 points
Potential for Impact	Solutions will be judged on how many women will be positively impacted and the degree of potential positive change. The proposed solution should include well-defined and specific outcomes. The proposed solution must also demonstrate the potential to reach additional women through replication, its ability for sustained results, and scalability activities.	10 points
Total Points Possible		30

Online Application Platform

Proposal submissions must be uploaded to the Online Application at <https://womenconnectindia.com/>. The deadline for the RFA Stage One Application is 14 November 2022 at midnight IST. The deadline for the RFA Stage Two Application (Full Application, open only to Semi-Finalists) is 15 January 2023. Any changes to the RFA Stage Two Application deadline will be announced at the One-day virtual Pitch Event.

Applicants must ensure that their applications are received in their entirety. Digital Frontiers, USAID, and Reliance Foundation bear no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes associated with electronic submissions. Proposals submitted via mail, fax, or e-mail will not be accepted. If the Applicant experiences difficulty with submitting a proposal through the Online Application Platform, the Applicant should contact the Application Platform technical support at support@reviewr.com.

Past Awardees

There will be no direct funding for continuity plans for organisations supported in previous rounds. However, if there are new elements added to project, or significant expansion plans through new channels/modes, then proposals may be considered for this round. Past awardees should indicate previous WomenConnect Challenge rounds that they have participated in, in either India or outside India.

Late Applications

Applications for either Stage One or Stage Two which are submitted late or are incomplete will not be accepted. No additions and/or modifications to applications will be accepted after the submission deadline.

RFA Stage Two: Semi-Finalist Event and Full Application Submissions (Only required of Semi-Finalists)

Semi-finalists identified at RFA Stage One will be invited to attend a one-day virtual Pitch Event, which will be held on/around 16 December 2022. At this event, semi-finalists will be expected to deliver short pitches of their solutions to a panel of judges. Following the Pitch Event, semi-finalists will have an opportunity to strengthen their proposals before re-submitting a Full Proposal for final consideration.

*The one-day Pitch Event will be held virtually unless otherwise specified.

Section C – Full Proposal Process

RFA Stage Two - Full Proposal

Semi-Finalists will be invited to submit a Full Proposal. The Full Proposal is meant to provide evaluators with in-depth information about proposed solutions. In some cases, applicants may be asked to elaborate on technical proposal submissions. More details can be found in Annexure 2.

Required Components:

- **Updated Concept Note:** The Applicant may change the initial concept note based on feedback received during the one-day virtual Pitch Event
- **Digital Safety:** Describe (a) how beneficiary data is protected, and (b) how beneficiaries are made aware of how to use digital solutions safely
- **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Capability and Plan:** Describe how the proposed solution will incorporate monitoring, evaluation, and learning. The Applicant should define results and benchmarks for monitoring the performance towards attainment of program objectives. This will include well-defined and specific outcome indicators defined by the Applicant based on the project objectives, as well as necessary and required USAID and Reliance Foundation indicators, which will be discussed at the Pitch Event.
- **Sustainability:** Describe how the solution or its benefits will continue after grant funding
- **Project Staffing:** Provide a staffing plan which outlines principal personnel and describes their ability to perform the duties outlined. Include a 1 page summary of relevant expertise for principal named personnel and an organisational/management chart.
- **Organisational Capability:** Provide three (3) references from partners or clients speaking to your organisation's performance, ability to comply with project requirements, and business integrity. DF, USAID and Reliance Foundation reserve the right to conduct independent reference and due diligence checks.
- **Past Performance:** Describe the Applicants' past experience, if applicable, in implementing similar programs. Include details of such past projects of similar scope and duration.
- Compliance Checklists; see Annexure 2
- Updated Budget: All proposals must include a completed budget and budget narrative; see Annexure 2.
- Detailed funding plan for the entire project

Awardees will be selected by a Judging Panel made up of representatives from USAID, Reliance Foundation, and Digital Frontiers, according to the following evaluation criteria and scoring system.

Evaluation Criteria	Details	Maximum Score
Technical Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Solution is viable for geographic, educational, economic, and infrastructure context ● Solution is based on, but not limited to, the Proven Strategies ● Solution acknowledges and addresses regional/local complexities of technology access ● Long-term viability: Must have plans for system updates; involves other partners and outlines sustainability plans 	30
Socio-cultural Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Solution demonstrates deep understanding of social norms and cultural barriers to women’s technology use while addressing potential backlash ● Solution has realistic goals for social impact; must build upon known effective practices and be appropriate for the local and regional cultural and economic context 	30
Personnel and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 page summaries of principle personnel show required technical, social science, and management capacity ● Staffing Plan, Organisational Chart, M&E Plan and Budget are adequate to meet project requirements 	20
Past Performance and Organisational Capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Applicant has a record of positive past performance implementing similar projects; Applicant can comply with project requirements as shown by references of past clients/donors ● Work plan is achievable within designated time frame 	20
Total Points Possible		100

Section D – Award Information

Reliance Foundation will fund up to 10 projects that will be selected through this challenge. Each project will be eligible for a milestone-based funding of up to INR 1 Crore (approx. \$126,000)

*The award amounts may vary for each selected project and will be decided by the judging panel.

Use of Funds

Funds provided under any grant awarded shall be used exclusively to implement proposed solutions as outlined in the Award Agreement. Diversion of grant funds to other uses will result in cancellation of award and retrieval of funds disbursed to the grant recipient.

Reporting Requirements and Project Monitoring

Awardees will be required to report on their Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan, including baseline and endline evaluations. Reporting will be required quarterly and will consist of project-specific outcome indicators as defined by each awardee, as well as USAID and Reliance Foundation indicators that will be discussed at the Pitch Event.

Branding & Marking Requirements

Awardees are required to follow specific branding guidelines as provided by USAID and Reliance Foundation. This includes visibly displaying the approved branding on all programs, projects, activities, publications, public communications, and commodities provided or supported through the Reliance Foundation and Women Connect Challenge India awards.

Annex 2: RFA Stage Two Application Details

Financial templates for RFA Stage Two:

Complete and upload the following (these will be given at the semi-finalist Pitch Event, examples are below)

- Detailed Budget Template
- Summary Budget Template
- Milestone base budget spend
- Funding Plan for the total project

1								
2	Applicant:	Reminders to Applicants:						
3		Please provide a detailed budget for the total project						
4		Award amount will not exceed Rs 1 Crore (\$130,000)						
5		Maximum period of performance is 15 months						
6		BUDGET TEMPLATE						
7	Line Item	Year One			Year Two			\$1.00
8								← Enter USD Rate
9		Units	Rate	Total	Units	Rate	Total	TOTAL in INR
10								TOTAL in USD
11	I. Salaries and Wages							
12	A. Full Name, Position Title			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
13	B. Full Name, Position Title			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
14	C. Full Name, Position Title			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
15	D. Full Name, Position Title			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
16	E.			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
17								
18	Total Salaries and Wages			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
19								
20	II. Perquisites for Personnel							
21	A. Health insurance			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
22	B. Accomodation			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
23	C.			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
24								
25	Total Perquisites			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
26	Total Human Resources Cost			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
27	III. Travel and Transportation							
28	A. Meals and Incidentals			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
29	B. Lodging			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
30	C. Travel to and from x			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
31	D.			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
32	E.			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
33								
34	<i>Total Travel and Transportation</i>			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
35								
36	IV. Other Programme Related Costs							
37	A. Communications (telephone, fax, internet, etc.)			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
38	B. Rental Charges			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
39	C. Training Expenses			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
40	D. Program Outreach Costs			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
41	E.			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
42	F.			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
43	G.			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
44	H.			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
45								
46	<i>Total Other Program related Costs</i>			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
47								
48	Total Non Labor Costs			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
49								
50	V. Indirect Costs							
51	A. Bank Charges			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
52	B.							
53								
54	Total Indirect Costs			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
55								
56	Grand Total			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
57								
58								
59								
60	VI. Capital Expenditure							
61	A. Software/ Application Development Cost			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
62	B. Hardware purchases			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
63	C.			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
64	D.			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
65								
66	<i>Total Capital Expenditure</i>			₹ 0.00			₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
67								

Fixed Amount Award Budget Summary					
	One Item	Year One Budget	Year Two Budget	INR Total	USD Total
I.	Salaries and Wages	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	\$0.00
II.	Perquisites	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	\$0.00
III.	Travel and Transportation	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	\$0.00
IV.	Other Direct Costs	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	\$0.00
V.	Indirect Costs	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	\$0.00
VI.	Capital Expenditure	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL		₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	\$0.00

Fixed Amount Award Budget Summary by Milestone

Year One Milestones	Amount (INR)	Amount (USD)
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
Total Y1 Expenditure	₹ 0.00	\$0.00

Year Two Milestones	Amount (INR)	Amount (USD)
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
Total Y2 Expenditure	₹ 0.00	\$0.00

Total Budget Amount	₹ 0.00	\$0.00
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Summary of Funding Sources

Funding Source	Amount (INR)	Amount (USD)
Reliance Foundation		\$0.00
Donor 1		\$0.00
Bank 1		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
Total Funding	₹ 0.00	\$0.00

Financial and Administrative Documentation

Completed Budget: All budget lines must be clearly linked to specific project activities. The budget should detail all direct costs associated with the implementation and completion of activities, as well as any indirect costs and program costs such as those related to any sub-agreements and/or contracts.

Include a breakdown of all costs and supporting justification (justification such as policy, payroll documents, vendor quotes, or specific historical program costs and award number). The funds requested must be reasonable and used in a cost-effective manner. The overall costs will be analysed whether they are realistic for the work to be performed, the costs reflect that the Applicant understands the requirements of project implementation, and whether the costs are consistent with the technical application. Applications that minimise administrative costs in order to maximise program, outreach, and capacity building activities will generally be considered a better value.

Budget Narrative: The budget must have an accompanying detailed budget narrative and justification that provides in detail the total costs for implementation of the program the Applicant is proposing. The combination of the cost data and breakdowns specified above and the budget narrative must be sufficient to allow a determination of whether the costs estimated are reasonable. The following is provided as guidance involving specific types of costs:

- *Salary and Wages:* Direct salaries and wages should be proposed in accordance with the Applicant's personnel policies.
- *Travel and Transportation:* The application should indicate the number of trips, domestic and international, and the estimated costs per trip. Specify the origin and destination for each proposed trip, duration of travel, and number of individuals traveling.
- *Communications:* Specific information regarding the type of communication cost (e.g., mail, telephone, cellular phones, internet, etc.) must be included in order to allow an assessment of the realism and reasonableness of these costs.
- *Subcontracts/Consultants:* Information sufficient to determine the reasonableness of the cost of each specific subcontract and consultant expected to be hired must be included. Similar information should be provided for all consultants who are provided under the category for personnel.
- *Other Program Related Costs:* This may include rentals for facilities, report preparation costs, passports and visas fees, training, medical exams and inoculations, insurance (other than insurance included in the Applicant's fringe benefits), as well as any other miscellaneous costs that directly benefit the program proposed by the Applicant. The narrative should provide a breakdown and support for all other direct costs.
 - If seminars and conferences are included, the Applicant should indicate the subject, venue, and duration of proposed conferences and seminars, and their relationship to the objectives of the program, along with estimates of costs.
 - Specific information regarding the cost of any facilities needed to perform program activities. The information provided should include the unit cost (rent), the time period the facilities are needed and the number of facilities. Only facilities that directly benefit the program activities should be included in this category; all other facility costs should be included in the indirect cost category.
- *Indirect costs:* Any indirect costs related to funding of the specific project should be indicated.
- *Capital Expenditure:* Specify all equipment to be purchased, including the type of equipment, the manufacturer, the unit cost, the number of units to be purchased and the expected geographic source. Please provide the details of any software development/acquisition cost.

Completed Checklist, which includes:

- Audited Financial Reports: Copy of the Applicant's most recent financial report, which has been audited by a certified public accountant or other auditor. If no recent audit, a "Balance Sheet" and "Income Statement" for the most current and previous fiscal year.
- Documents like tax exemption certificates, PAN Card, FCRA, and the last filed IT copy.
- Completion of the Organisation Details table and Compliance Checklist below and provision of all the requested documents.
- The applicant may provide any additional documentation that may help in better evaluation of its eligibility, such as details of the previous projects undertaken by the Applicant.

1. Organisation Details

Name of the Organisation	
Name and Designation of Chief Functionary	
Communication Address	
Email	
Phone	
Website	
Date of incorporation	
Name/s of Directors/Trustees/Members	

2. Compliance Checklist

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>	<i>Remarks/Attachments</i>
1. Organisation		
a) Are any of your activities of political or religious nature?		
2. Registration		
a) Details of statutory registration		If yes please enclose scan copy
3. Tax		
a) PAN Number		If yes please enclose scan copy
b) Approval under section 80G/12A		If yes please enclose scan copy
c) Is the project approved under any other section such as Section 35 etc.		If yes please enclose scan copy
d) Date of filing of last return		Please enclose scan copy of latest ITR
e) Is there any default in IT filing?		
4. Goods and Service Tax (GST)		
a) Are you registered under GST?		If yes please enclose scan copy
5. FCRA		
a) Does the organisation have an FCRA Number		If yes please enclose scan copy
b) Date of filing of last return		
c) Has there been any default in filing FCRA return or the organisation blacklisted by Min. of Home Affairs at any time		
6. Approval by MCA for undertaking CSR Activities		
a) CSR Registration Number		If yes please enclose scan copy
7. Audit and Financials		
a) Has the organisation been subjected to any audit in the last three years?		If yes please attach latest audit report
b) Name and Address of the of the External Auditor		
c) Financial Summary of last three years		Please include a table that shows for the last three years, the total grant amount received, grant amount utilized

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>	<i>Remarks/Attachments</i>
		and project area for the grant (e.g. education, health etc.).
8. Documentation – Scan copies to be sent		
a) Cancelled Cheque		
b) Bank Mandate for e-mapping		
c) Address proof		
d) PAN Card copy		
e) 12A/80G Registration Certificate (new)		
f) CSR Registration Certificate by MCA		
g) MOU, if applicable		
h) Certificate of Incorporation		
i) Memorandum and Articles of Association, By Laws, Trust Deed		
j) Latest ITR		
k) GST certificate		
l) FCRA certificate, if registered		
m) Audit reports (latest)		

*Please provide 2 self-attested scanned copies of each document