



Ministry for Foreign  
Affairs of Finland

unicef   
for every child



Impact Capital  
for Development

# Digital Literacy Equity Outcomes Fund for Girls and Young Women



## BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

The Digital Literacy Equity Outcomes Fund seeks to address gender gaps in digital skills and experiences by supporting the strengthening and expansion of locally-tailored interventions that intentionally reach adolescent girls and young women in low-middle income countries. This initiative started with UNICEF commissioning a market analysis of fit-for-purpose blended finance mechanisms that can address the digital literacy gap for girls and young women. The result of this initial phase was consolidated in the report, [Investing in the Pathways to Employment](#).

Building a consortium of additional partners, the Government of Finland, UNICEF, and UNCDF announced a joint commitment at the Generation Equality Forum in June 2021 to meet clear market interest by advancing design of an outcomes fund instrument.

A feasibility assessment was conducted to narrow down some of the Fund's characteristics, including key outcome goals and metrics, geographic area(s) of intervention, and initial selection criteria for interventions. A unique feature of the Fund's design is a strong human-centered approach to shape the Fund's characteristics, putting adolescent girls at the design table to voice their interests.



## KEY POPULATIONS & OUTCOMES



**ADOLESCENT GIRLS**  
10-16 years old



**YOUNG WOMEN**  
17-24 years old

FOCUS

Learning adapted to different "baselines":

- Digital literacy foundations
- Accessing digital information
- Digital information interpretation
- Digital and design skills

Productive use, including:

- Employment
- Improved livelihood/income generating activity
- Higher education
- Health services
- Financial services



## GEOGRAPHY

Pan-Africa, starting with West Africa

Ghana, Senegal, and Sierra Leone have been identified as potential focus countries



## INTERVENTION MODELS

Some key selection criteria for the interventions that will be supported through the Fund:

- Spanning the digital literacy spectrum, from basic digital literacy to more advanced skilling interventions
- Demonstrated impact to close the gender gap
- Human-centered design approach
- Engagement with government and national/local infrastructure
- Public and for-profit interventions
- Strong component of social change
- Return-sharing with delivery partners

To find out more about the Digital Literacy Equity Outcomes Fund,  
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