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 areas of intervention, and initial selection criteria for interventions. A unique feature of the Fund’s design in a strong human-centered approach to shape the Fund’s characteristics, putting adolescent girls at the design table to voice their interests.

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 skillling 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, contact:
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