

## Technical Proposal Guidelines

### Women's Economic Empowerment and Digital Connectivity (WEE-Connect)

To submit a technical proposal, applicants should submit a narrative, **not to exceed twelve pages, written in Calibri font, Size 11, and may be single-spaced**. The technical proposal must include but is not limited to, all of the items outlined below in the following template provided. *You are encouraged to follow the outline, but please remove the instructions when preparing your technical narrative.*

1. Project Title
2. Project Summary
  - a) **Description of the project:** A short description of the project, not to exceed 500 words. This is similar to an abstract of the proposal and should include, among other things, the research questions, intervention, and study design.
  - b) **Country focus**
  - c) **Start and end date:** Field work for all funded projects will be contractually required to launch within 6 months of contract signature. Projects, including data collection and reporting, should be completed by July 31, 2027.
  - d) **Total budget requested:** Please indicate if you have obtained funding from different source(s). It is mandatory that you include the marginal contribution the WEE-Connect grant will make towards the study. Please only include funds committed.
3. Section One: Applicant Information
  - a) **Researchers (for each PI, starting with the lead-PI. Please indicate the corresponding-PI if the lead-PI is not the corresponding-PI)**
    - i. Name
    - ii. Designation
    - iii. Institutional affiliation
    - iv. Does the research team include a PI from the study's country of focus? Please describe how this individual will be guaranteed an equitable, meaningful, and robust leadership role on the research team.<sup>1</sup>
  - b) **Management body**
    - i. Partner organizations

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<sup>1</sup> As per WEE-Connect's working definition, a PI will be considered "from" the country of research if he or she meets the following parameters:

- Completed high school or an advanced degree in the country; and
- Is presently affiliated with an institution in the country
- Other - if a PI considers him/herself to be from the country of study, but has a unique situation that does not meet our criteria, he or she is welcome to provide an explanation.

- ii. Partner organization capacity (experience in similar research, field implementation capacity, human resource)

#### 4. Section 2: The Research

##### a) Research context:

- i. Research theme

##### b) Research problem statement:

- i. Please clearly and directly state the research question, **not to exceed 100 words**, that motivates the research.

##### c) Relevance to WEE-Connect objective:

- i. Proposals must explain the project's scientific contribution to advancing knowledge on women's digital connectivity.
- ii. If applying to add an additional treatment arm, applicants should describe why it makes sense to add this to the study.
- iii. References to any key relevant literature that supports the study's hypotheses or demonstrates the need for WEE-Connect related work in this area are encouraged.

##### d) Academic innovation and contribution to literature:

- i. Identify what knowledge gap you are addressing and how it will advance the field.
- ii. Provide information about any ongoing or completed data collection(s) in the existing study, including the timeline, any results, and outcomes measured.
- iii. Directly map the potential contribution to WEE-Connect's thematic framework laid out in the WEE-Connect White paper.
- iv. Explain how this project will push the frontier of existing knowledge to find a meaningful solution to the problem you are addressing.

##### e) Stakeholder Engagement & Community Impact:

- i. Who will work with you and how will you work together?
- ii. Applicants should identify government, civil society, and/or commercial partners, and implementing partners (those involved in the evaluation itself). This may be the same or separate sets of organizations.
- iii. Is there indication that partners or involved stakeholders would be interested in interim outputs or final results? How will this range of stakeholders become aware of the results and benefit from the data and interim outputs (e.g. baseline descriptive statistics) generated from this evaluation? Outline a specific plan for how you will share interim outputs and final results.
- iv. WEE-Connect encourages capacity-building both among partners in the intervention and/or research implementing partners. Please mention any specific components of the project that will build the capacity of partners.
- v. How can stakeholders benefit from the evidence?
- vi. Please explain the potential of the intervention to be scaled-up, if any (by governments, firms, non-government organizations, etc.)

## 5. Section 3: Research design

### a) Intervention and theory of change

- i. Please clearly and directly state and describe in detail the intervention that you plan to test. Please directly address any potential ethical concerns that may arise with the intervention.
- ii. For qualitative proposals, explain how your project will strengthen an existing study or contribute to the broader WEE-Connect research agenda.
- iii. Please clearly and directly describe the hypothesis that underpins your proposed intervention/solution.
- iv. **If appropriate**, does your study have descriptive data or existing results to motivate this request for funding? If so, please summarize.
- v. **If appropriate**, are you able to collect cost data for the intervention, and to generate a cost-effectiveness analysis as part of your evaluation? If so, how and at what stage of the evaluation will you obtain this data? How will this cost data be used (e.g., efficiency, cost-benefit analysis)?

### b) Methodology (Evaluation Design and Data Collection):

- a. **Please clearly and directly describe the study design that includes the following key information:**
  - i. Please describe the unit of analysis and if appropriate, the unit of randomization (e.g. individual, household, village, etc.)?
  - ii. **If appropriate**, please describe the study arms. Please address any potential ethical concerns that may arise with designing the study arms.
  - iii. What is the method of randomization (e.g. lottery, phase-in, encouragement, etc.)? Please skip if not appropriate for the qualitative design.
  - iv. What are the intermediate and final outcome indicators? How will these be measured? When will you take measurements and how frequently?
  - v. **For qualitative studies**, please state clearly the plan for sampling, data collection, and analysis. This should include a description of the methods used for data collection, processing, and management. If appropriate, state any predetermined codes that will be utilized or describe the grounded approach to analysis that will be utilized. What theories and/or existing research have informed your analysis plan? How will you synthesize your findings? What is your plan for the publication of results?
  - vi. **For secondary data analysis**, please describe the dataset(s) you plan to use, plans for obtaining the dataset(s), and plans for data analysis.
  - vii. What are the foreseeable threats to the internal validity of this study? (e.g. compliance, attrition, spillovers, etc.)?

viii. Is this part of a larger or ongoing evaluation? If it is, please mention what the WEE-Connect fund will be used for.

**c) Power Calculations, Sample Selection, and Sample Size:**

- i. Please clearly describe your sample selection process, sample size, etc. For qualitative projects, explain how you know this is appropriate (e.g., saturation). We strongly encourage teams to address any potential ethical concern that may come up with the sample selection procedure.
- ii. For quantitative studies, please describe your power calculations (effect size, take up/compliance, variance, clusters, observations per cluster, intracluster correlation). Please be detailed in the presentation of power calculations.
  - a. What is the minimum detectable effect size? Why do you believe this is an appropriate size?
  - b. What data and assumptions did you use for these estimates?

**d) Mitigating risks:**

- i. What risks, if any, are anticipated during the course of the research, and what steps will be taken to mitigate them?

**e) Target population:**

- i. What population does the intervention attempt to impact?
- ii. Does this approach target a specific region, demographic group, or people involved in a specific sector?
- iii. Do other populations face the same conditions as your target group, and could they potentially benefit from the innovation(s) evaluated here?
- iv. How, if at all, will the intervention—or broader implications of the research—improve the lives of marginalized persons (low-income women and socially excluded groups)?

**f) Expected outcomes:**

- i. Intermediate
- ii. Final

**g) Timeline of Deliverables:**

Please include a timeline for the project and the outputs you expect to produce.