

## Who We Are and What We Believe

World Connect supports innovative ideas and local solutions for the challenges facing women and children in underserved communities worldwide. We recognize that the necessary expertise, ingenuity, and sustained commitment to solving development challenges lies in the knowledge, talents, and leadership of locals, both individuals and groups. We see our role as partners and enablers, working with them to bring their ideas to life and their leadership to the forefront.

Our on-the-ground work typically begins with Established Field Partners, including Peace Corps Volunteers, CorpsAfrica Volunteers, VSOs, YALI affiliates, and others, who take the time to think and learn deeply about their host or home communities, who are uniquely positioned to identify and champion local leaders and ideas, and who share our commitment to advancing participatory, locally-led development. World Connect provides customized tools and guidance to inform collaboration and project design, seed funding to get projects off the ground, and ongoing coaching and support throughout project implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

It is our intention to build partnerships in and with communities that can evolve and grow. We study the success of each project, always looking for opportunities to engage and invest more: to embed sustainability, to take ideas to scale, and to champion the work and vision of effective local leaders and organizations. Furthermore, every year in December, World Connect awards at least one \$5,000 prize for what we consider to be the most outstanding, sustainable project focused on mothers through our [Charlotte Daniel Fund](#).

World Connect projects are community-driven and multi-sectoral, addressing the health, education, environmental, and economic issues that are articulated and prioritized by local communities themselves, and our projects emphasize outcomes for women and girls. We have launched 1,200+ projects in 30+ countries. Visit our [Discover Projects](#) page to see examples, or read on to learn more about opportunities for your community.

## The Accelerator Grants Competition

The average grant awarded through the Accelerator Grants Competition is \$500, the maximum is \$750, and grant applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis unless otherwise posted here.

We invite Accelerator Grants Competition applications for the following types of projects:

- Growing the reach and revenues of women-led businesses and cooperatives
- Providing seed capital for community-based, environmental enterprise
- Supporting livelihoods (income-generating) projects for community health workers
- Promoting sustainable schoolyards: gardening, nutrition, composting, recycling, education

We invite Accelerator Grants Competition applications from Established Field Partners including Peace Corps Volunteers, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers supporting their former host communities, CorpsAfrica Volunteers, VSOs, alumni of YALI Regional Leadership Centers, YALI Mandela Washington Fellows, Haitian Education and Leadership Program (HELP) alumni, and LEAP Africa (Nigeria). We also invite Accelerator Grants Competition applications from new users who have cleared World Connect's [screening process](#).

Our expectation is that Established Field Partners will work with a local Community Organization and Project Leader as partners and design the project and complete the grant application collaboratively. The project design should be well-informed by the voices of those who it is intended to benefit, especially women. *The Established Field Partner's role in an Accelerator Grants Competition project should be supportive but secondary to local community leaders and decision-making processes.*

A detailed budget must be submitted as part of the application and should include a minimum 25% community contribution, including 10% community cash contribution. For example: a \$500 grant request requires an additional \$125 in community contribution, at least \$50 of which must be community cash contribution.

## **The International Grants Program**

International Grants Program applications are considered for projects requesting up to \$5,000, with the average grant for a first time grantee \$3,000; any requests greater than \$5,000 should be cleared with World Connect staff *before* being submitted.

We invite International Grants Program applications in the following broad areas: Health, Education, Environment, and Economic Opportunity. All projects must focus on women and include them in leadership and decision-making. Our aim is for women to have the ability to lead healthy, productive lives and for children to enjoy childhood, embrace their creativity, and become leaders.

We invite International Grants Program applications from Established Field Partners including Peace Corps Volunteers, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers supporting their former host communities, CorpsAfrica Volunteers, VSOs, YALI Mandela Washington Fellows, Haitian Education and Leadership Program (HELP) alumni, and LEAP Africa (Nigeria). We also invite International Grants Program applications from non-traditional partners as identified by World Connect staff.

Our expectation is that Established Field Partners will work with a local Community Organization and Project Leader as partners, and design the project and complete the grant application collaboratively. The project design should be well-informed by the voices of those who it is intended to benefit, especially women. *The Established Field Partner's role in an International Grants Program project should be active and complementary to local leaders and decision-making processes.*

A detailed budget must be submitted as part of the application and should include a minimum 25% community contribution, including 10% community cash contribution. For example: a

\$5,000 grant request requires an additional \$1,250 in community contribution, at least \$500 of which must be community cash contribution.

## **Glossary of Key Development Actors in World Connect Projects**

**Community Organization:** We define **Community Organization** broadly as a local committee, association, cooperative or group, formal or informal, based in or working deeply in the primary project site. We prioritize partnerships with women-led, grassroots organizations, though we work with many types of organizations with many diverse forms of leadership.

**Project Leader:** The **Project Leader** must be a host-country national who was born in, is living in, or is otherwise deeply familiar with the primary project site; this person will be responsible for leading the project side-by-side with or even out front of the Established Field Partner. We prioritize working with women as Project Leaders, though it is not required.

**Established Field Partner:** The role of the **Established Field Partner** is to support local leaders, to facilitate inclusive decision-making and participation in the local community, to organize and deliver trainings, to share skills and experiences, and to be a bridge for communication and reporting between local leaders and World Connect.