

Who We Are and What We Believe

World Connect supports innovative ideas and local solutions for the challenges facing women and children in under-resourced 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 promoters, working with communities to strengthen their ideas and bring 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. 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 have launched 1,300+ projects in 35+ countries. Visit our [Discover Projects](#) page to see examples, or read on to learn more about opportunities for your community.

COVID-19 Guidelines

We encourage all of our Established Field Partners to abide by [guidance from the World Health Organization](#) and mandates from national and local governments for preventing

the spread of COVID-19. As leaders on your projects, we rely on you to share this information and model the necessary safety precautions to ensure project participants and participating communities remain safe.

World Connect's model requires deep engagement* with participating communities and stakeholders to plan and design projects. Due to COVID-19, World Connect cautions Established Field Partners who do not already reside in the participating community(ies) to travel into communities only if it aligns with national COVID-19 regulations.

Established Field Partners who are unable to travel to participating community(ies) can choose to utilize available and accessible communication technology (phone, SMS, WhatsApp, email, etc.) to communicate with community stakeholders**. To support you in these efforts, there is an [offline version of our grant application available for download at this link](#).

*This process requires input from community leaders, relevant community stakeholders, women, adolescent girls, people living with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups in prioritizing, designing, planning, and implementing the project.

**It is important for the Established Field Partner and Local Leader to consider how those without access to technology can meaningfully participate in the project design.

Glossary of Key Development Actors in World Connect Projects

Guidance: World Connect's model requires two key individuals, the Local Leader and Established Field Partner, as well as a local Community Organization. All three are expected to play an active role throughout the project's lifespan; that is the project design, implementation, and monitoring. It is important that these three key actors represent a diverse affiliation to the proposed project and community, to ensure a well-rounded and represented team who can offer varied perspectives, can work together proactively through challenges, and can ensure the community sees checks and balances in the project management. These roles are defined further below:

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.

Local Leader: The **Local 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 Local Leaders, though it is not required.

Established Field Partner: The role of the **Established Field Partner** is to support local development actors, 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.

The Accelerator Grants Competition

The average grant awarded through the Accelerator Grants Competition is \$500, the maximum grant amount is \$750, and grant applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis throughout the year 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, CorpsAfrica Volunteers, VSO, alumni of YALI Regional Leadership Centers, YALI Mandela Washington Fellows, Global Health Corps alumni, Haitian Education and Leadership Program (HELP) alumni, and LEAP Africa (Nigeria). We also invite Accelerator Grants Competition applications from unaffiliated organizations that have cleared World Connect's [screening process](#).

Our expectation is for Established Field Partners to collaborate with a Community Organization and a Local Leader as partners in designing the project and completing the grant application. The project design should be well-informed by the voices of those who it is intended to benefit, especially women and local marginalized populations. *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, of which 10% is a community cash contribution. For example: a \$500 project requires at least \$50 of community cash contribution and at least \$75 of either community in-kind or additional cash contributions. In-kind contributions can include materials or services donated by the community outside of the cost of the grant.

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.

We invite International Grants Program applications from Established Field Partners including Peace Corps Volunteers, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, CorpsAfrica Volunteers, VSO, YALI Mandela Washington Fellows, Global Health Corps alumni, Haitian Education and Leadership Program (HELP) alumni, and LEAP Africa (Nigeria).

Our expectation is for Established Field Partners to collaborate with a Community Organization and a Local Leader as partners in designing the project and completing the grant application. The project design should be well-informed by the voices of those who it is intended to benefit, especially women and local marginalized populations. *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, of which 10% is a community cash contribution. For example: a \$5,000 project requires at least \$500 of community cash contribution and at least \$750 of community in-kind or additional cash contributions. In-kind contributions can include materials or services donated by the community outside of the cost of the grant.