

December 23, 2024

WiDEF India Round FAQs

This document outlines responses to questions on WiDEF's India Round which is open until January 13, 2025. The following questions were raised during the webinar or were sent as inquiries to us over email. We have compiled all the questions and responded to them below. Some questions have been edited or modified to provide additional clarity. All questions were submitted by December 15, 2024.

For more information, please refer to the following:

- Read the full [Request for Applications](#) (RFA) before applying.
- View our [informational webinar](#) to understand our offering and the eligibility for this round.
- On page 7 of this document, you will find a step-by-step Fluxx user guide on navigating the application portal.
- Register for our [Drop-in Session](#) on 7th Jan 2025 at 3pm IST
- For any further questions, please write to us at contact@widedf.global

#	Question	Answer
1	Could you expand on what makes a solution "proven"?	A proven solution is where there is evidence that the solution can increase women's adoption or increased usage of the internet and internet-enabled products and services and help close the gender digital divide. Evidence can include, for instance, results from a pilot or evaluation showing traction of a product or service by women customers in your market or other markets. Current evidence on some of the effective practices for addressing the gender digital divide is outlined in this WiDEF report on effective practices .
2	Is an organization registered in India with a US-based parent company (501(c)(3)) eligible?	Yes, the organization is eligible if it meets all the following criteria as a local entity: (a) legally organized in India, (b) principal place of business or operations in India, (c) majority-owned by Indian citizens or lawful permanent residents, and (d) managed by a governing body where the majority are Indian citizens or lawful permanent residents.
3	Can a for-profit organization with a non-profit counterpart in India but no FCRA registration apply?	Yes, for-profit entity is eligible to apply independently if it meets all the other eligibility criteria outlined in the RFA. Not-for-profits without a valid FCRA license at the time of contracting is ineligible. To note, clear operational separation must exist between the two entities.

4	Can a for-profit organization with a non-profit counterpart in India and valid FCRA registration apply?	Yes, both entities are eligible, but the organization must apply under one legal status, ensuring a clear operational distinction between them.
5	Can two organizations jointly apply, with one leading program implementation?	No, joint applications are not allowed. The applying organization must independently meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the RFA.
6	Can non-profits with valid FCRA registration and more than 250 employees apply?	Yes, they are eligible.
7	Can an organization with FCRA registration but without a UEI apply?	Yes, but the organization must be in the process of obtaining a UEI at the time of application.
8	Can joint ventures (JVs) between non-profits and for-profits apply?	JVs can apply as a single entity if they meet eligibility criteria independently and take sole responsibility for project delivery.
9	Can a joint venture (JV) proposal between a non-profit and for-profit entity be eligible?	A JV may apply as a standalone entity only if it (a) meets eligibility criteria as either a non-profit or for-profit organization, and (b) independently manages project delivery without involvement or resource sharing from the other entities.
10	Can innovative solutions addressing disability issues be accommodated?	Yes, WiDEF encourages solutions that improve the digital inclusion of women and marginalized communities, including those with disabilities.
11	Can digital devices and mobile phones be distributed to empower visually impaired higher education students?	No, WiDEF will not fund the purchase, distribution, or subsidization of mobile phones, tablets, or other communication devices for target populations or end-users. Refer to the "Types of Solutions/Projects" section of the Request for Application .
12	Would a fashion-tech AI tool for empowering regional artisans qualify for funding?	Eligibility considerations are being evaluated based on the requirements outlined in the Request for Application (see section Organizational Requirements for details). WiDEF encourages applications from entities that that scale a solution that can have a substantial impact on the digital inclusion of women, improving their livelihoods, economic security, and resilience. The proposed projects will be assessed based on the evaluation criteria outlined in the RFA.
13	Can an early-stage WhatsApp chatbot for agriculture and business incubation qualify?	Eligibility considerations are being evaluated based on the requirements outlined in the Request for Application (see section Organizational Requirements for details). WiDEF encourages applications from entities that that scale a solution that can have a substantial impact on the digital inclusion of women, improving

		their livelihoods, economic security, and resilience. The proposed projects will be assessed based on the evaluation criteria outlined in the RFA.
14	Can a for-profit consulting organization working with government agencies apply?	Yes, consulting organizations are eligible if they are the implementing organization of the proposed project.
15	Are consortium applications allowed?	No, consortium applications are not allowed as they involve sub-granting, which is prohibited.
16	Are digital ecosystem solutions for marginalized communities eligible?	Yes, WiDEF encourages solutions that empower women and marginalized communities such as scheduled castes, tribes, youth, disabled, LGBTQI+, and rural women.
17	Are for-profit organizations with women-focused livelihood project experience eligible?	Yes, for-profit organizations with such experience are eligible.
18	Is the fund sector-agnostic, for example, digital access to AgriServices or renewable energy?	Yes, WiDEF India Round is sector agnostic, seeking solutions across various sectors that enhance digital inclusion for women.
19	Is it possible to accommodate innovative solutions for disability issues?	Yes, WiDEF is open to innovative disability-focused solutions that contribute to the digital inclusion of marginalized groups.
20	Can an organization distribute digital devices for use in specific educational programs?	WiDEF does not fund the distribution, purchase, or subsidization of digital devices such as mobile phones or tablets. The focus is on scalable, proven solutions that drive digital inclusion of the underserved.
21	Are infrastructure costs like training center rent and trainer expenses for women/girls' digital use case programs eligible?	Yes, these costs can be included if they align with WiDEF's project and budget guidelines. These guidelines will be provided to shortlisted applicants as they progress into Proposal Stage. However, WiDEF will not fund projects solely focused on setting up ICT centers. Refer to the "Types of Solutions/Projects" section of the Request for Application .
22	Is SAM registration equivalent to a UEI for NGOs?	If the applicant is registered on SAM.gov, its UEI is already available there.
23	Can you share more details on the scoring/evaluation criteria? Will a project that seeks to address barriers of literacy and digital skills or safety and security be evaluated similarly to a project that seeks to address availability and affordability?	Details are provided in the "How To Apply" section of the Request for Application . Projects addressing different barriers will be evaluated uniformly.. Eligible applications need to articulate the most prominent barriers facing the communities they aim to support and how they will address at least two of the four core WiDEF priority areas.

24	Must projects create new tools, or can they enhance existing ones for better accessibility for women?	<p>WiDEF does not suggest any specific initiative for the applicants. Applicants may propose solutions that improve women’s adoption and usage of the internet or internet-enabled services. WiDEF seeks proven or evidence-based solutions and does not fund projects in the prototype or pilot stage.</p> <p>Refer to the "Types of Solutions/Projects" section of the Request for Application.</p>
25	If an accelerator supports social enterprises, can it apply to implement solutions developed by its startups?	No, accelerators are ineligible to receive funding.
26	Is there a minimum operational period for an organization to qualify?	There is no minimum operational period, but applicants must provide audited financial statements, which may exclude those with minimal to no financial activity, in case of shortlisting.
27	Is there a minimum or target number of women beneficiaries for projects?	No, there is no target number of women beneficiaries/users per project.
28	Can consulting organizations provide consulting for government agencies on digital inclusion?	Yes, consulting organizations are eligible if they are the primary implementing organization.
29	Can I submit more than one pitch at the same time?	<p>The application portal will only allow one submission per registered entity.</p> <p>Multiple submissions for the same project are not permitted. In cases where this occurs, the first submission will be reviewed if it is eligible, and all duplicate submissions will be deemed ineligible and not reviewed.</p> <p>If during scoring, it is discovered a single company has submitted multiple applications for different projects (such as entities delivering projects in multiple states or areas of work), no more than one application per entity will be advanced beyond the pitch stage.</p>
30	Is a UEI mandatory for applying?	Yes, applicants must have, or be in the process of obtaining, a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) as outlined in the "Eligibility" section of the Request for Application .
31	Is there a minimum operational period for an organization to qualify?	There is no minimum operational period, but applicants must provide audited financial statements, which may exclude those with minimal to no financial activity, in case of shortlisting.

32	What percentage of funding can cover organizational expenses?	Indirect costs or overheads should not exceed 10% of the funds requested. Project budgets must not include a profit component.
33	Will scaling a proven solution using technology to empower women to be considered innovative?	Yes, WiDEF encourages projects that scale proven solutions to improve digital inclusion and address barriers preventing women from accessing or using mobile internet. For details, refer to the "Proven Solutions" section of the Request for Application .
34	Can a 3-year program apply if only part of it is completed within 15 months?	WiDEF funding is available for 15–18 months. However, the proposed project can be part of a long-term business strategy or project.
35	Is there a specific employee count for eligibility?	The fund is open to small and medium enterprises, defined as for-profit entities with fewer than 250 employees. There is no specific employee count for not-for-profit entities with a valid FCRA license.
36	How many grant proposals will be selected?	The number of selected proposals will depend on the volume of submissions that align with WiDEF's core priority areas. Funding decisions are made by an independent Fund Panel.
37	Are organizations with gender equality in leadership eligible?	Yes, organizations promoting gender equality in their leadership structure are eligible and encouraged. Mention this in the pitch form under Question 2.5 .
38	Is the grant disbursed as a deliverable-based or reimbursement-based model?	The funding is milestone-based, with some payments potentially made as reimbursements, especially the final milestone at project closure.
39	Can you elaborate on ownership requirements for eligibility?	The majority (more than 50%) ownership must be held by Indian citizens or lawful permanent residents.
40	Is there a cost-share or match-funding requirement?	No, there is no cost-share or match-funding requirement for this round.
41	Can funding be used for upgrading digital devices?	WiDEF does not support funding for purchasing or subsidizing digital devices. The focus is on scaling proven solutions for digital inclusion.
42	How can an NGO obtain a UEI number?	NGOs can obtain a UEI by visiting SAM.gov. See this video for assistance.
43	Are sub-grants allowed?	No, sub-granting is prohibited. Awardees must directly implement and manage all project activities.
44	Is there a target segment for beneficiaries, and is it limited to users with high-end devices?	WiDEF aims at driving digital inclusion of the underserved and does not restrict solutions to specific device types. It aims to shift digital ecosystems for women and marginalized

		populations, including scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, youth, disabled, LGBTQI+, and rural women in India.
45	Is an organization previously selected in the Women Connect Challenge (USAID and Reliance Foundation), Grand Challenges (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), or Innovation Fund Challenge (GSMA Foundation) eligible to apply for the WiDEF India Round??	Yes, organizations previously funded by any donors under prior programs or rounds are eligible. Applicants must mention this under Question 2.3 in the pitch form.
46	Can an organization based in India apply through its India-based for-profit sister organization?	Yes, provided the sister organization meets the following criteria: (a) legally organized in India, (b) principal place of business in India, (c) majority-owned by Indian citizens or lawful permanent residents, and (d) managed by a governing body primarily composed of Indian citizens or lawful permanent residents.
47	We registered with GSMA but have not received the automated confirmation email	Follow these steps: (a) Check spam/junk folders, (b) Attempt to register again, (c) Try a different email address. If the issue persists, contact the Fluxx team at widdefquestions@gsma.com for assistance.
48	What is the scoring or evaluation criteria?	Details on the scoring and evaluation criteria are provided in the "How To Apply" section of the Request for Application .
49	Can you clarify the acceptable nature of partnerships and how the grant will be disbursed in partnerships?	Partnerships may involve knowledge sharing, vendor engagements, platform integration, or agreements (e.g., MoUs) with government or private sector entities. Only one entity must apply for funding, and this entity must be responsible for implementation of the WiDEF-funded project. Disbursements will be made only to this primary implementing entity.
50	How long does it take for feedback or review of the eligibility form?	Feedback and review of the eligibility form typically take two days or less from the date of submission.
51	Is there a defined age group for program participants under WiDEF?	No, the WiDEF India Round does not specify an age group for program participants/ users/ beneficiaries.
52	What are the minimum data disaggregation requirements? Our initiative primarily works with women and men are not direct participants	Awardees that receive WiDEF-funding will be required to report against WiDEF key performance indicators (KPIs) that must be gender-disaggregated. include reporting gender-disaggregated KPIs. More details to be provided to shortlisted applicants at Proposal Stage.
53	What metrics or indicators does WiDEF use to evaluate potential for scale?	Potential for scale will be evaluated on case-to-case basis depending on how the project will achieve sustainability or be replicable beyond the WiDEF project timeline.

54	What are WiDEF's expectations for demonstrating economic impact within the 15–18-month grant period?	Applicants should demonstrate if and how digital inclusion of women will improve their livelihood, economic security and resilience through their proposed project.
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Please note: The above table answers all questions received by the WiDEF team until 15th December 2024. If you have further questions regarding the application process please attend the drop-in session on 7th January, 2025 using this [link](#).

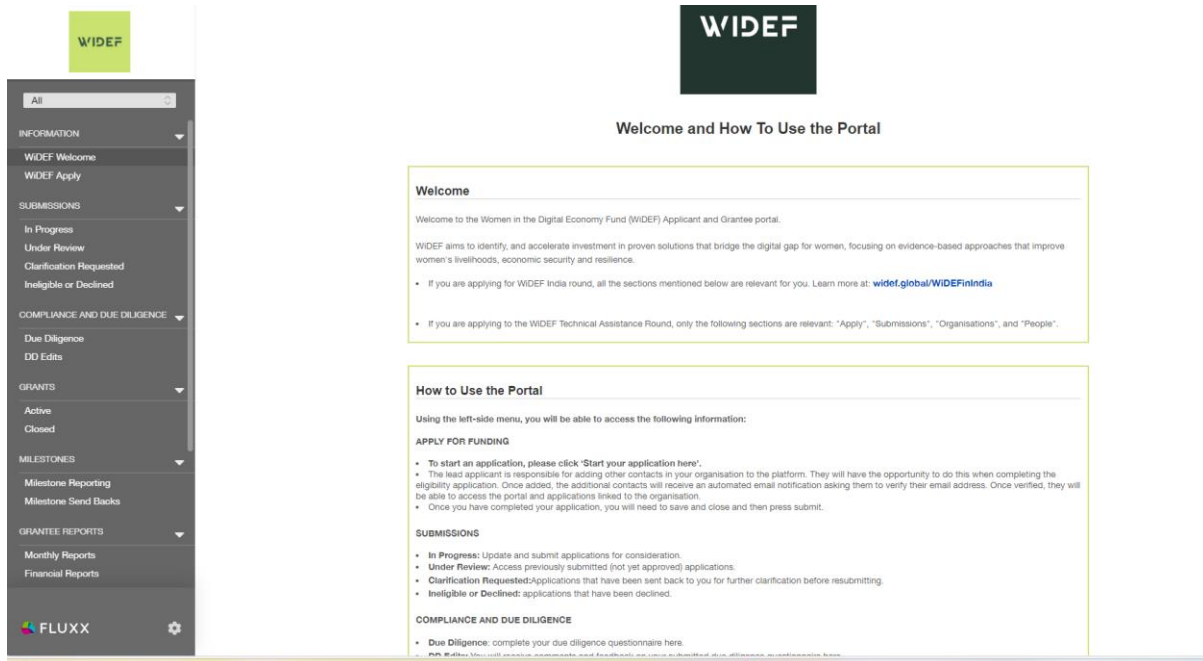
Fluxx User Guide

Step 1: Access the application form from the GSMA WiDEF Fluxx system. You will need to create an account by clicking the register button. Once you complete the process, you will receive an email from GSMA WiDEF to confirm your email address.

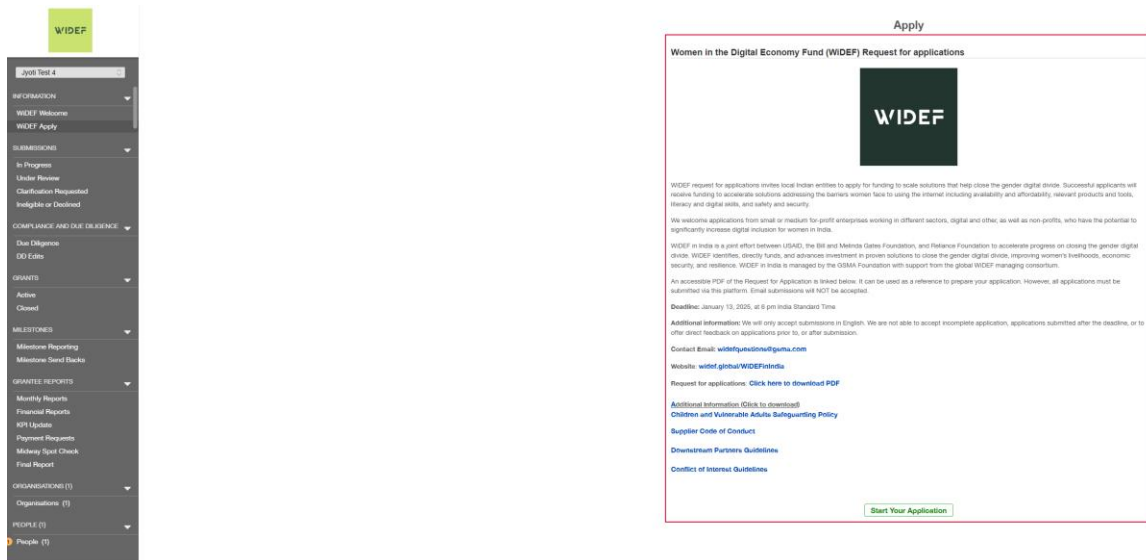
The screenshot shows the GSMA WIDEF Fluxx system interface. At the top, the logos for GSMA™ and WIDEF are displayed. Below the logos, there are two main sections:

- Login (all fields required):** This section contains a "Username" input field, a password input field (masked with dots), a "Sign in" button, and a "[Forgot Password?](#)" link.
- GSMA & WIDEF:** This section contains the following text:
 - "To be considered for funding, the first step is to complete our registration form. Please click the 'Register' button below to start."
 - "You will receive an automated email notification asking you to verify your email address. Once verified, you can access the portal and our application forms. Should your funding application be successful, the portal will give you access to our reporting templates."
 - "To register your interest in the GSMA Innovation Fund and/or WiDEF, please also click the button below."At the bottom of this section is a "Register" button.

Step 2: Once you have confirmed your email, log in again. You will be directed to the landing portal shown below. On the left side, you will see the **APPLY**. Click this button to be redirected to the application page.



Step 3: On this page, you can begin your application by clicking begin the application.



Step 4: Next, begin populating your application form by first completing the basic company information in one go. Then, submit it for the eligibility check. Please note that this section cannot be changed later.

The screenshot displays a progress bar at the top with five stages: 'Eligibility/Pitch in Progress' (highlighted in purple), 'Pitch Review' (light blue), 'Proposal Rev...' (teal), 'Granted' (green), and 'Ineligible For ...' (pink). Below the progress bar is a teal box titled 'Tips for Completing the Application'. This box contains a red warning banner: 'Please note: The portal does not autosave; therefore, you must click the 'Save' button to ensure your data will not be lost.' Below the banner, it states 'Required fields are in bold' and provides instructions on document uploads and table editing. At the bottom of the teal box, it says 'For more information or questions, please email widefquestions@gsma.com'. Below the teal box is a white box titled 'Organisation Information'. This box contains a red banner with the heading 'MANDATORY INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS SECTION' and a paragraph: 'If you have already registered your organisation in Fluxx on another application, it will appear in the organisation field when you start typing the name. Skip to #3 below.' Below this banner is a list of five numbered instructions: 1. Click Add New beside the Organisation field (do not start typing unless you know that your organisation has already registered in Fluxx); 2. Complete all the required organisation fields and Save; 3. Select the organisation name from the Location dropdown; 4. Select your name in the Primary Contact dropdown. If you are also the signatory, select your name in the Primary Signatory field (this is required to submit your application, but you may add another person using the Add New link to the right of the field); 5. Move on to the Eligibility Section. Below the list is another red banner with the heading 'OPTIONAL' and a paragraph: 'You may add additional contacts who will require access to the pitch if your eligibility is approved. Click the Add New link beside each field to do this. You may also do this when you complete the pitch.'

Step 5: When completing the eligibility information, fill out all the required fields and submit everything at once, as you won't be able to go back and make changes. You can only continue your application if you meet the eligibility criteria. Please note that this initial "submit" button is only for the eligibility check, not for your actual application.

The screenshot shows the WIDEF application portal interface. On the left is a dark sidebar menu with the following categories and items:

- INFORMATION**
 - WIDEF Welcome
 - WIDEF Apply
- SUBMISSIONS**
 - In Progress
 - Under Review
 - Clarification Requested
 - Ineligible or Declined
- COMPLIANCE AND DUE DILIGENCE**
 - Due Diligence
 - DD Edits
- GRANTS**
 - Active
 - Closed
- MILESTONES**
 - Milestone Reporting
 - Milestone Send Backs
- GRANTEE REPORTS**
 - Monthly Reports
 - Financial Reports
 - KPI Update
 - Payment Requests
 - Midway Spot Check
 - Final Report
- ORGANISATIONS (1)**
 - Organisations (1)
- PEOPLE (1)**

At the bottom of the sidebar is the FLUXX logo and a settings gear icon.


The main content area contains the following questions and form fields:

1.2 Is your organization incorporated/registered in India :

Company	Subsidiaries	Country
1.2.2 When did your organization begin operating in India:		
1.2.3 Please upload your registration certificate for India below Click the green plus (+) to start a document upload WIDEF Registration Certificate		
1.3 Is your organization a For-profit OR a Not-for-profit:		
1.4 Does your organization have active users or beneficiaries from a solution offered in India:		
1.5 Does your organization have a bank account in India that can receive funding in USD:		
1.6 If you are selected to proceed, will you be able to provide unqualified audited financial statements / accounts before July 2025:		
1.7 Is your organization fully compliant with all relevant business licensing, taxation, employee, and other regulations in India:		
1.8 Are you willing to share data and insights with respect to the proposed project with WIDEF for up to two years after the funding ends? All data should be disaggregated by gender:		
1.9 Which of the following WIDEF core results areas will be addressed by the solution that funding is requested for? Select at least two:		
1.10 Please provide a short summary of your project (50 Words):		

At the bottom right of the form area, there is a "Submit" button and a "Top" link with an upward arrow.

Step 6: If your organization's eligibility is approved, the Project section will open for your application. First, read the Request for Application to prepare your answers with a rough word count. When you are ready, click the EDIT button. This will open the text boxes in the second screenshot, where you can type your responses. Remember to save your progress as you go along. You can save, close, and finalize the application later.



Jyoti Test 4

INFORMATION

- WiDEF Welcome
- WiDEF Apply

SUBMISSIONS (1)

- In Progress**
- Under Review
- Clarification Requested
- Ineligible or Declined

COMPLIANCE AND DUE DILIGENCE

- Due Diligence
- DD Edits

GRANTS

- Active
- Closed

MILESTONES

- Milestone Reporting
- Milestone Send Backs

GRANTEE REPORTS


- Monthly Reports
- Financial Reports
- KPI Update
- Payment Requests
- Midway Spot Check
- Final Report

ORGANISATIONS (1)

- Organisations (1)**

PEOPLE (1)

FLUXX

[Edit](#) 

▼ Pitch Stage

▼ Section 2: Company information

2.1 What is the name of your organization: Jyoti Test 4

2.1.1 Link to website :

2.1.2 Links to social media handles (LinkedIn, Instagram or YouTube) (optional) :

2.2.1 Primary contact name: Jyoti Test 4

2.2.2 Primary contact job title: [object Object]

2.2.3 Primary email address: jyotidsw@hotmail.com

2.2.4 Primary contact LinkedIn: NA

2.3 Has your organization received a grant directly from the GSMA, USAID, Gates Foundation, Reliance Foundation or from a program that is funded by USAID or Gates Foundation or Reliance Foundation before:

If yes, please ensure you provide details of the grant(s) in section 3 of this application.

2.4 Please select the option that best describes your current operating model :

2.5 Is your organization female-founded or female – led? Please answer YES/NO and add an explanation (50 words) :

2.6 How many salaried employees are there in your organization:

Please select one from the options above. This should not include your distribution agents

2.7 Describe your project team's skills based on the following criteria:

- Area of expertise
- Knowledge of the local context
- Experiences that uniquely position you and your team to deliver the solution and solve the problem

Name	Area of Expertise	Knowledge of Local Context and Experience

Section 3: Your Core Business

[Submit](#)

[Top](#)

WIDEF

Jyoti Test 4

INFORMATION

- WIDEF Welcome
- WIDEF Apply

SUBMISSIONS (1)

- In Progress
- Under Review
- Clarification Requested
- Ineligible or Declined

COMPLIANCE AND DUE DILIGENCE

- Due Diligence
- DD Edits

GRANTS

- Active
- Closed

MILESTONES

- Milestones Reporting
- Milestones Send Backs

GRANTEE REPORTS

- Monthly Reports
- Financial Reports
- KPI Updates
- Payment Requests
- Midway Spot Check
- Final Report

ORGANISATIONS (1)

- Organisations (1)

PEOPLE (1)

FLUXX

Jyoti Test 4

ID: R-2024-155473
USD 0.0
Pitch in Progress

Eligibility/Pitch in Progress | Pitch Review | Proposal Rev... | Granted | Ineligible For ...

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- Section 1: Eligibility
- Pitch Stage
- Section 2: Company information
- Section 3: Your Core Business
- Section 4: Proposed Project
- Section 5: Impact
- Section 6: Other Information

Tips for Completing the Application

Section 1: Eligibility

1.1 Are you a local Indian organization

1.2 Is your organization incorporated/registered in India

Company	Subsidiaries	Country
+		
1.2.2 When did your organization begin operating in India	<input type="text" value="10/12/2024"/>	

1.2.3 Please upload your registration certificate for India below
Click the green plus (+) to start a document upload

1.3 Is your organization a For-profit organization

1.3.1 Does your organization have less than 250 employees

Cancel Save Save and Close

Step 7: When your application is completed and checked you can proceed to submit.

The screenshot displays the WIDEF application portal interface. On the left is a dark sidebar menu with the WIDEF logo at the top. The menu includes sections for 'Jyoti Test 4', 'INFORMATION', 'SUBMISSIONS (1)', 'COMPLIANCE AND DUE DILIGENCE', 'GRANTS', 'MILESTONES', 'GRANTEE REPORTS', 'ORGANISATIONS (1)', and 'PEOPLE (1)'. The 'SUBMISSIONS (1)' section is highlighted with a red '1' icon. At the bottom of the sidebar is the 'FLUXX' logo and a settings gear icon.

The main content area on the right contains the following sections:

- 2.2.1 Primary contact name:** Jyoti Test 4
- 2.2.2 Primary contact Job title:** [object Object]
- 2.2.3 Primary email address:** jyotidsw@hotmail.com
- 2.2.4 Primary contact LinkedIn:** NA
- 2.3 Has your organization received a grant directly from the GSMA, USAID, Gates Foundation, Reliance Foundation or from a program that is funded by USAID or Gates Foundation or Reliance Foundation before:** Yes
- 2.4 Please select the option that best describes your current operating model :**
- 2.5 Is your organization female-founded or female – led? Please answer YES/NO and add an explanation (50 words) :**
- 2.6 How many salaried employees are there in your organization:**
- 2.7 Describe your project team's skills based on the following criteria:**
 - Area of expertise
 - Knowledge of the local context
 - Experiences that uniquely position you and your team to deliver the solution and solve the problem

Name	Area of Expertise	Knowledge of Local Context and Experience
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Section 3: Your Core Business

In this section we are interested to learn about your organization and its core business. In Section 4 (Proposed Project), you will have the opportunity to tell us about the specific project or solution that will receive WIDEF funding if selected.

- 3.1 Briefly describe the main purpose and vision of your organization (200 words):**
- 3.2 Please describe the sector in which your organization operates, its overall operating model. Please include a description of who your users/ beneficiaries are and your impact and/or revenue model. (200 words) :**

At the top right of the main content area are 'Edit' and 'Print' icons. At the bottom right is a 'Submit' button and a 'Top' button.