



CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE UCC/UCUSAF GRANT FOR COMMUNITY BASIC DIGITAL SKILLING FOR WOMEN IN UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES IN UGANDA

STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS

1.0 Introduction

The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), through the Uganda Communications Universal Service and Access Fund (UCUSAF), invites suitably qualified organizations, firms or consortia to submit proposals for the implementation of the Community Basic Digital Skilling for Women in Unserved and Underserved Communities project for FY 2026/2027.

The project is intended to equip women in selected unserved and underserved communities with practical digital, financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills that enable them to use digital devices and services confidently, safely and productively. The intervention will be implemented under a collaborative grant framework with a suitable implementing partner or consortium.

The grant is aligned with UCUSAF's mandate to promote universal access and service, Uganda's digital transformation priorities, and national development aspirations for inclusive growth, livelihood improvement and participation in the digital economy.

2.0 Background

Digital skills are increasingly essential for access to information, communication, public services, digital financial services, education, markets and livelihood opportunities. However, women in rural, unserved and underserved communities continue to face persistent barriers to meaningful digital participation, including limited access to digital devices, low digital literacy, affordability constraints, social norms, limited confidence in using technology and inadequate exposure to locally relevant digital training.

GSMA studies show that the challenge is not only about network coverage, but also about the ability of people, especially women, to use available digital services meaningfully. The GSMA Mobile Gender Gap Report 2026 indicates that women in low- and middle-income countries remain less likely than men to use mobile internet, with about 810 million women still not using mobile internet (GSMA, 2026). In

Africa, GSMA further notes that almost one billion people, representing about 63% of the population, are still not using mobile internet despite widespread coverage, mainly due to barriers such as device affordability, limited digital skills and lack of relevant content (GSMA, 2026). These findings reinforce the need for targeted digital skilling interventions that address the usage gap among women in underserved communities.

The need for practical and localized training is further supported by GSMA's Mobile Internet Skills Training Toolkit, which promotes a train-the-trainer approach using short, adaptable lessons that can be customized to local needs and languages (GSMA, 2025). This approach is relevant to the UCUSAF women skilling intervention because rural women often require hands-on, confidence-building training delivered in familiar community settings and local languages, with examples linked to their daily livelihoods.

UCC/UCUSAF has implemented women-focused digital skilling interventions in five phases from 2021 to 2026. These interventions demonstrated continued demand for practical community-based digital skilling and generated lessons on the importance of local language delivery, mentorship, community mobilization, flexible training schedules and linking digital skills to livelihoods.

The FY 2026/2027 intervention will build on these earlier phases by strengthening training quality, local mentorship, community ownership, monitoring and sustainability. The project will focus on practical digital skills that women can apply in everyday life, including smartphone use, internet search, online forms, e-government services, digital financial services, online safety, fraud awareness, communication, digital marketing and entrepreneurship.

3.0 Objectives of the Grant

3.1 General Objective

To enhance the digital capacity of women in unserved and underserved communities by equipping them with practical ICT, financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills that support personal empowerment, social participation, livelihood improvement and effective use of digital services.

3.2 Specific Objectives

1. Train at least 1,250 women from selected unserved and underserved communities in basic ICT and digital literacy skills.
2. Provide practical financial literacy and entrepreneurship training to enable women to apply digital tools in income-generating activities.

3. Strengthen the Trainer of Trainers model to support local language delivery and post-training mentorship.
4. Identify and support selected high-performing participants to act as community digital literacy mentors.
5. Promote safe, responsible and productive use of digital platforms, including online safety, fraud awareness and basic data privacy.
6. Generate evidence on training outcomes, beneficiary uptake, lessons and sustainability to inform future UCUSAF interventions.

4.0 Project Scope and Key Actions

The project scope covers planning, mobilization, training, mentorship, monitoring and reporting activities required to skill at least 1,250 women in 12 selected unserved and underserved districts during FY 2026/2027 contained in Annex 1.

The implementation period for the project shall be Six months from the date of agreement signing, within the financial year 2026/2027.

4.1 Key Project Actions

1. Carry out baseline needs assessment to confirm beneficiary profiles, digital skills gaps, training locations and local implementation requirements.
2. Mobilize communities and select eligible women beneficiaries in consultation with local structures, women's groups and relevant stakeholders.
3. Review, customize, translate and produce practical training content suited to local needs, literacy levels and livelihood realities.
4. Recruit and train trainers, facilitators and community mentors using a Trainer of Trainers approach.
5. Identify or prepare accessible, safe and inclusive community training venues with appropriate power, connectivity and security arrangements.
6. Deliver a 5- day hands-on training in basic digital skills, digital financial literacy, online safety, responsible internet use and entrepreneurship.
7. Provide required training materials, digital content, ICT equipment and accessories necessary for training delivery and sustainability.
8. Identify high-performing participants to serve as local digital literacy champions or mentors for post-training peer support.

9. Monitor training delivery, collect feedback, document lessons, submit accountabilities and prepare progress and completion reports.

5.0 Target Group

The primary target group is women in unserved and underserved communities with limited or no access to ICT skills, digital devices and technology-enabled socio-economic opportunities.

- Women engaged in informal and micro-enterprises such as market vending, farming, tailoring, crafts and small-scale trading.
- Women's groups, savings groups, cooperatives and self-help groups that can support peer learning and multiplier effects.
- Out-of-school young women aged 18-35 who are not in formal education or employment but are interested in starting or growing small businesses.
- Women with limited digital exposure who are willing to learn and apply digital skills.
- Women with disabilities and other vulnerable women, where accessibility and local arrangements permit inclusive participation.

6.0 Eligibility of Applicants

6.1 General Criteria

The applicant, whether an individual organization, firm or consortium, must meet the following minimum eligibility requirements:

1. The lead applicant must be a not-for-profit organization.
2. The applicant (Individual Organization or consortium of organizations) must be each legally established entity in Uganda.
3. The applicant organization (in case of consortium - all partners) will assume responsibility and sign a memorandum of understanding with UCC to enforce joint accountability of action.
4. The applicant (in case of consortium - all partners) must be in satisfactory financial health and have adequate financial systems to report to the commission as shall be required.
5. In case of consortium, partners must demonstrate a working relationship through a legally binding agreement.

6. The applicant must demonstrate experience of at least 3 years in digital literacy training, ICT for development, women's empowerment, entrepreneurship training, community mobilization or related assignments.
7. The applicant has documented experience in mobilizing, coordinating and delivering similar initiatives at national level, especially working in rural areas.
8. The applicant has demonstrated capacity to network and mobilize complimentary resources to sustain the initiative.

N.B: A due diligence may be conducted on the applicant organization(s) at any point of the process to ascertain demonstrated capability to execute the assignment.

6.2 Preference

The Fund will give preference to applicants whose Business Plan proposals highlight the following: -

1. Well presented, clear, logical, well-conceived and reflect a good understanding of the relevant issues in the subject matter.
2. Make linkages UCUSAF & UCC Strategic Objectives, to National and International Development agenda.
3. Show evidence of being innovative, possessing the capacity for effective implementation to achieve program objectives, and present a practical approach to attaining the stated goals.
4. Demonstrates ability to establish baselines, indicators, and methodologies for measuring progress.
5. Recognizes potential project risks and presents corresponding strong mitigation strategies
6. Clear Financial and/or material contribution towards the implementation of the project.
7. Proposals that demonstrate higher value for money.

7.0 Assessment Criteria

The grant applications will be assessed based on a 3-stage process (Administrative, Technical and Financial) but also incorporating the four equally-weighted, all-encompassing criteria:-

1. Administrative- will focus on assessment of the eligibility
2. Technical – will focus on clarity of the motivation, smartness of goals, appropriateness of methodology and project management, feasibility of work plans, impact of the project, Ability to meet project priorities, addressing of crosscutting issues and project sustainability capacity to deliver.

3. Financial – will focus on Value for money, sustainability and ability to mobilize more resources to scale the initiative.

8.0 Risk Assessment

The Assessment Team will carry out a risk assessment of the indicated and non-indicated risks. The assessment based on the risks assessed will consider the totality of an applicant's submission in evaluating whether a potential engagement would involve low, medium, high, or extreme risk to UCC/UCUSAF.

9.0 Required Applicant's Legal Documents

1. Applicant's (in case of consortium - all partners) certificate of incorporation or registration providing a legal name – the name that identifies the applicant for legal, administrative, and other official purposes
2. Applicant's (in case of consortium - all partners) memorandum and articles of association
3. Applicant's address (physical, postal, email, and web site where applicable)
4. Applicant's contact details –name, position, phone, and email contact for an authorized representative
5. Applicant's affiliated entities
6. Applicant's (in case of consortium - all partners) audited financial account statements for the last 2 years
7. Applicants' (in case of consortium - all partners) signed Code of Ethical Conduct in Business for Grant applicants and Providers (Appendix 3)

10.0 Business Plan Requirements

1. Project understanding
2. Project linkage to UCC/UCUSAF strategy, national & International development agenda
3. Experience managing similar projects (Organization & Staff)
4. Project implementation methodology
5. Project management framework
6. Project Sustainability approach
7. Risk management framework
8. Integration of cross-cutting issues
9. Monitoring and evaluation approach

10. Project implementation budget

11.0 Application Timeline

The grant application is open effective 28th September – 12th October 2026.

An online Pre – grant Application meeting on Teams will be held on 6th October 2026 at 11.00am. Meeting log in link is here below:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/365924033781416?p=l9Er9gI2TfjQyDNPv0>

For any required clarification or guidance on the grant application process, please contact telephone +256414339000 or email ucusaf@ucc.co.ug.

Final applications should be submitted online through the link below: <https://eservices.ucc.co.ug/web/> by 5.00 pm on 12th October 2026 to:

**The Executive Director
Uganda Communications Commission
Plot 42-44, Spring Road Bugolobi
P.O. Box 7376, Kampala
Uganda**

Please note that any form of solicitation for favors in the application process will lead to automatic Applicant disqualification.

Disclaimer

Personal information supplied in an application will be used by UCC in accordance with the Laws of Uganda.

Annex 1: Selected Training Districts

Lot 2 – Northern, North-Eastern & West Nile Corridor

No.	District	Subregion
1	Kalaki	Teso
2	Kaberamaido	Teso
3	Amolatar	Lango
4	Alebtong	Lango
5	Gulu	Acholi
6	Lamwo	Acholi
7	Karenga	Karamoja
8	Kotido	Karamoja
9	Moroto	Karamoja
10	Moyo	West Nile
11	Madi-Okollo	West Nile
12	Nebbi	West Nile

ANNEX 2

CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT IN BUSINESS FOR GRANT APPLICANTS

1. Ethical Principles

Applicants shall at all times-

- (a) maintain integrity and independence in their professional judgement and conduct;
- (b) comply with both the letter and the spirit of-
 - i. the laws of Uganda; and
 - ii. any contract awarded.
- (c) avoid associations with businesses and organisations which are in conflict with this code.

2. Standards

Applicants shall-

- (a) strive to provide works, services and supplies of high quality and accept full responsibility for all works, services or supplies provided;
- (b) comply with the professional standards of their industry or of any professional body of which they are members.

3. Conflict of Interest

Applicants shall not accept contracts which would constitute a conflict of interest with, any prior or current contract with Uganda Communications Commission. Applicants shall disclose to all concerned parties those conflicts of interest that cannot reasonably be avoided or escaped.

4. Confidentiality and Accuracy of Information

- (1) Information given by Applicants in the course of THE grant processes or the performance of contracts shall be true, fair and not designed to mislead.
- (2) Providers shall respect the confidentiality of information received in the course of performance of a contract and shall not use such information for personal gain.

5. Gifts and Hospitality

Applicants shall not offer gifts or hospitality directly or indirectly, to staff of Uganda Communications Commission that might be viewed by others as having an influence on a grant decision.

6. Inducements

- (1) Applicants shall not offer or give anything of value to influence the action of a public official in the grant process or in contract execution.
- (2) Applicants shall not ask a public official to do anything which is inconsistent with the Code of Ethical Conduct in Business.

7. Fraudulent Practices

Applicants shall not-

- (a) collude with other businesses and organisations with the intention of depriving Uganda Communications Commission of the benefits of free and open competition;
- (b) enter into business arrangements that might prevent the effective operation of fair competition;
- (c) engage in deceptive financial practices, such as bribery, double billing or other improper financial practices;

- (d) misrepresent facts in order to influence a grant process or the execution of a contract to the detriment of the Uganda Communications Commission; or utter false documents;
- (e) unlawfully obtain information relating to a grant process in order to influence the process or execution of a contract to the detriment of the Uganda Communications Commission;
- (f) Withholding information from the Uganda Communications Commission during contract execution to the detriment of the Uganda Communications Commission.

I ----- agree to comply with the above code of ethical conduct in business.

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

NAME OF APPLICANT