The Learning Hub

The Resilience Fund for Women in Global Value Chains (the “Fund”) is an innovative approach to corporate philanthropy to invest in locally led solutions that can build the economic resilience of women in global value chains. The Fund will invest in women-led organizations that are doing essential and innovative work on reproductive health and safeguards against gender-based violence, fundamental requirements for women’s long-term participation in the global economy. The Fund is grounded in the belief that systemic change requires real-time feedback loops and learning and sharing among all stakeholders as well as new network connections among Fund stakeholders. To that end, the Fund is developing a robust Learning Hub in which all stakeholders will actively participate.

LEARNING HUB

The Learning Hub is central to the Fund’s comprehensive governance structure and a primary vehicle for building community and networks among Fund stakeholders. The Learning Hub:

- Provides a technology-rich learning environment that provides formal and informal opportunities for members to come together with peers, funders, grantees, and other experts.
- Creates an innovative interactive shift from “monitoring and evaluation” to real-time learning.
- Offers funders, grantees, and other stakeholders multiple opportunities throughout the grant cycle to talk about what is happening locally—successes, challenges, emerging issues, etc.

Depending on pandemic restrictions and available resources, after the first year the Fund intends to integrate in-person convenings at the country, regional or global levels as part of the Learning Hub’s overall engagement. These convening will be intended to strengthen connections among grantees, women’s funds and investors, as well as build networks to other community-based efforts addressing economic resilience and gender equality in global value chains.

The core members of the Learning Hub comprise:

- Grantees and subgrantees (women-led/community-based organizations)
- Women’s funds operating in the Fund-designated regions or countries
- Advisory Board members
- Corporate investors in the Fund
- Select organizations the Advisory Board invites into the Learning Hub network

These stakeholders have access to the Hub information, metrics, and real-time feedback reporting and exchanges and can participate in quarterly convenings and any other related activities that emerge.

HUB ANALYTICS AND ENGAGEMENT

Using a customized Salesforce Community Cloud—a platform that is designed for collaboration and information sharing—the Learning Hub will provide a wealth of information about grantees and work being
funded that will be shared throughout the grant cycle so that funders and grantees get real-time information as to what is happening locally. In real time, Hub members will be able to know what is working well or what adjustments are needed.

The Learning Hub analytics fall into three areas:

1. Application process
2. Real-time implementation feedback
3. Rich learning

**Application process.** Fund stakeholders will benefit from an online grant application process that is secure and transparent and allows for (a) leveraging the rich information related to the applications themselves (e.g., geographies, topics, types of organization, requests for funding) and (b) efficient and effective decision-making based on real-time analytics as to the nature and location of grants requested and the actual grantees. A key innovation is the shift to using the application process as a source of rich information, beyond identifying of qualified grantees, to better understand community needs, priorities, and work.

**Real-time implementation feedback.** After grantees are awarded funding, the technology-rich Salesforce community creates real-time feedback loops, enabling Hub members to share current information, connect with each other, learn from diverse stakeholders, and adapt funding for maximum impact. These feedback loops will help grantees to adapt their programs as needed to the changing economic, political, and social realities in their communities. This rapid feedback also enables solutions to be shared and replicated among partners and scaled more quickly. This is another key innovation of the Learning Hub—the shift to a supportive community that works collectively on each other’s success, rather than on a more static monitoring and evaluation approach.

**Rich Learning.** The extent and type of reporting with respect to each grant will be determined by the Fund’s Advisory Board, in consultation with the relevant grantee, based on the type of intervention or activity proposed. The goal is to collect information that is valuable to the grantee itself, and relevant to the Learning Hub community as a whole, to expand and deepen the work of the Fund. Learning Hub members will have access to these reports and any related analytics through the Hub. This is an important innovation on reporting and metrics—to shift from often arbitrary, funder-driven data collection and results reporting geared to funder targets to richer, more relevant qualitative and quantitative information that supports learning and adaptation to address realities on the ground.
LEARNING HUB COMMUNITY

The goal of the Fund is first to make high-impact investments into women-led organizations and women leaders, but also to create a new lasting community among investors, grantees and other stakeholders founded upon the connections developed through the Learning Hub. The Learning Hub will be the Fund’s platform for bringing stakeholders together through:

- **Stakeholder Engagement.** The Learning Hub will:
  - Host quarterly zoom meetings among all stakeholders to develop relevant learning questions, review the analytics, discuss what is happening on the ground, and share learnings. Focused on key topics, these quarterly meeting will provide an opportunity for the cross-pollination of ideas around challenges, opportunities, innovations, and solutions. It will also be a place to deepen relationships among diverse stakeholders, as well as to develop a better understanding of the most critical needs in targeted countries and regions.
  - Build an interactive online community in which members will be able to connect with each other throughout the year to share information and resources.

- **Resources and Reports.** The Learning Hub will:
  - Host an online library with guides, curricula, relevant articles, and reports, etc.
  - Following each quarterly meeting, produce quarterly reports for all stakeholders, summarizing key analytics and findings from the field, including a dashboard of progress.
  - Each year, aggregate and analyze the data in a comprehensive annual report with findings and recommendations for all stakeholders.