Vital Voices

WomenLeaders India Fellowship | Vital Voices & Reliance Foundation

Remote · fellowship · senior level · Competitive · Closes 11 Nov 2026

Application Assist →

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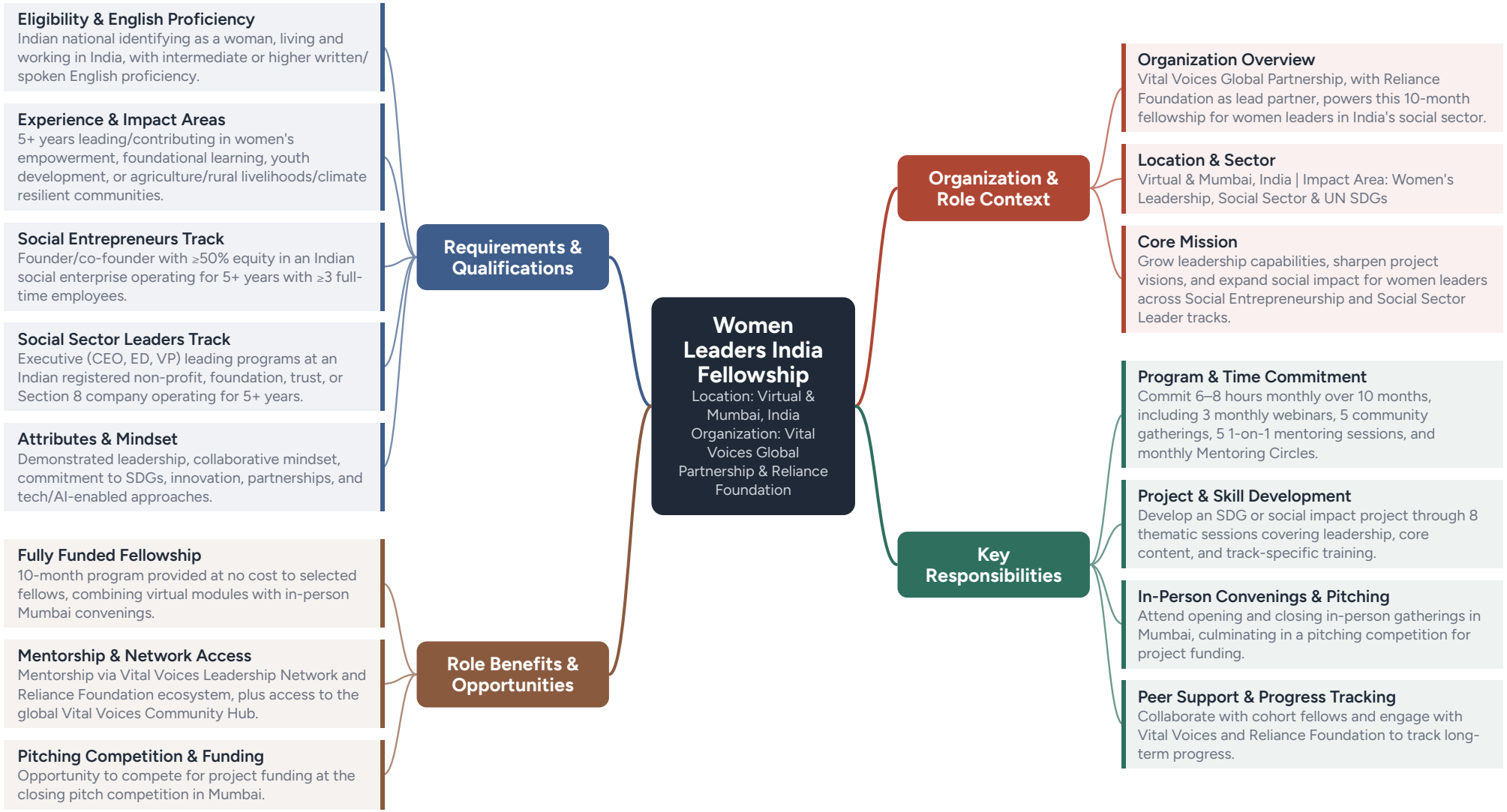

Skills this role needs

Leadership Development	Strategic Planning	Social Entrepreneurship	Stakeholder Engagement	SDG Alignment

Job description

Vital Voices and Reliance Foundation

Vital Voices Global Partnership is a nonprofit organisation that has worked since 1997 to grow the power of women leaders around the world. Reliance Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Reliance Industries and powers this fellowship as the lead partner, with Vital Voices as the technical partner. Together they have supported 100 women leaders in India's social sector since the fellowship launched in 2022, and Cohort 3 will support 50 more.

Role

A 10 month, fully funded fellowship for women leaders in India's social sector, built to grow women's leadership and advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Through workshops, mentorship and industry exposure, selected fellows sharpen their vision, build their skills and grow the impact of their work, across two tracks: Social Entrepreneurs and Social Sector Leaders.

Responsibilities

- Commit 6 to 8 hours a month across the 10 month fellowship, from February 2027
- Hold authority to make key decisions for your initiative, organisation or business
- Bring an SDG or social impact project to develop during the fellowship
- Take part in three webinars a month over 8 months, covering leadership development, core content and track specific training
- Attend five community gatherings for peer learning, and five one on one mentoring sessions over 8 months
- Join one Mentoring Circle meeting a month with fellows working on similar SDGs or themes
- Take part in eight domain specific or thematic sessions
- Attend two in-person gatherings in India, at the start and end of the fellowship, including a pitching competition at the closing event
- Collaborate with and support other fellows in the cohort
- Stay in touch with Reliance Foundation and Vital Voices to track progress after the programme ends

Requirements

- Identify as a woman, be an Indian national, and currently live and work in India
- At least 5 years of experience leading or contributing to initiatives in one or more thematic area: women's empowerment and economic agency, children's wellbeing and foundational learning, youth development and skills, or agriculture, rural livelihoods and climate resilient communities
- Committed to advancing the SDGs through innovation, partnerships and, where relevant, technology and AI enabled approaches
- Strong leadership potential, a collaborative mindset, and ready to apply what you learn to your organisation or initiative
- At least intermediate proficiency in written and spoken English
- Social Entrepreneurship track: founder, co-founder or key decision maker with at least 50% equity in a social enterprise based in India, employing at least 3 full-time staff (or the part-time equivalent), operating for at least 5 years, with demonstrated leadership and impact
- Social Sector Leaders track: executive, such as CEO, President, Executive Director or Vice President, leading programmes at a non-profit, for-profit or civil society organisation registered in India as a foundation, trust, non-profit, for-profit or Section 8 Company, with at least 5 years of relevant activities and a track record of leadership and impact

Benefits

- Fully funded fellowship, no cost to selected fellows

- Virtual, with in-person convenings in Mumbai, India (at the start and end of the fellowship)
- Visibility and mentorship through the Vital Voices Leadership Network and the Reliance Foundation ecosystem
- Access to the Vital Voices Community Hub, a global online leadership and networking platform
- Chance to win funding for your project through a pitching competition at the closing event

Apply

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About the organisation

Vital Voices

Women's Leadership and Gender Equality

vitalvoices.org ↗
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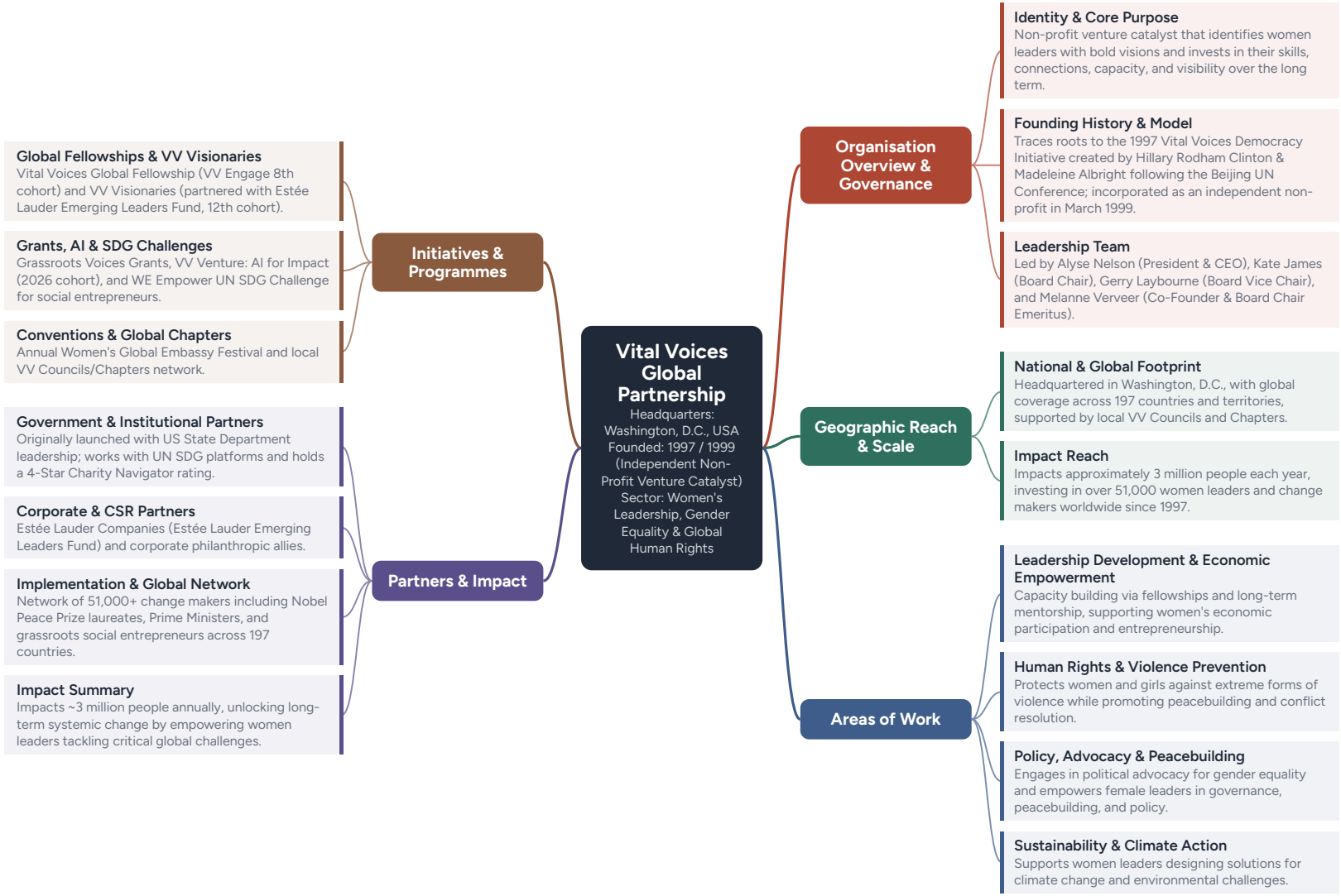

About Vital Voices

Vital Voices Global Partnership is a non-profit that invests in women leaders working on the world's greatest challenges. It traces its roots to the Vital Voices Democracy Initiative, launched in 1997 by then First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and then Secretary of State Madeleine Albright following the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, with Melanne Verveer, Theresa Loar, Donna McLarty, Alyse Nelson and Mary Daley Yerrick among its founders. The initiative became the independent non-profit Vital Voices Global Partnership in March 1999. It describes itself as a "venture catalyst" that identifies women leaders with bold visions and invests in their skills, connections, capacity and visibility over the long term.

> *Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States*

Areas of Work

- Leadership Development: invests in and builds the capacity of women leaders through fellowships and long term mentorship.
- Economic Empowerment: supports women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.
- Human Rights and Violence Prevention: works against extreme forms of violence against women and girls.
- Women, Peace and Security: supports women leaders working on peace building and conflict resolution.
- Policy and Advocacy: engages in political and policy advocacy on gender equality issues, including climate policy.
- Sustainability: supports women leaders working on climate and environmental challenges.

Initiatives & Programmes

- Vital Voices Global Fellowship, including VV Engage: a fellowship programme for women leaders, now in its eighth Engage cohort.
- VV Visionaries: run in partnership with the Estée Lauder Emerging Leaders Fund, with its 12th cohort having recently graduated.
- VV Venture: AI for Impact: a 2026 programme supporting women leaders using artificial intelligence for social impact.
- Grassroots Voices Grants: direct grants supporting grassroots women leaders.
- WE Empower UN SDG Challenge: recognises women entrepreneurs advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Women's Global Embassy Festival: an annual festival, now in its fourth year, convening women leaders globally.
- VV Councils and Chapters: a network of councils and local chapters supporting Vital Voices' global community.

Impact

Vital Voices says it impacts about 3 million people each year and has invested in women leaders across 197 countries and territories, building a network of more than 51,000 change makers since 1997. Leaders it has supported have gone on to become Nobel Peace Prize laureates, prime ministers and social entrepreneurs. The organisation holds a Four Star rating from Charity Navigator.

Leadership

- President and Chief Executive Officer – Alyse Nelson
- Board Chair – Kate James
- Board Vice Chair – Gerry Laybourne
- Co-Founder and Board Chair Emeritus – Melanne Verveer

Vital Voices Global Partnership is an excellent fit for professionals passionate about women's leadership, gender equality and global human rights work.

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