

## India Higher Education Data for Social Impact Landscape Request for Proposal (RFP)

**Publish date: August 18, 2022 | Response due date: September 7, 2022**

**Objective:** Support data.org in landscaping the Data Science & Analytics higher education space in India to identify a university partner for the Data Capacity Accelerator that will serve as the academic hub for developing and deploying inter-disciplinary and experiential learning curricula for training fresh graduates and early to mid-career professionals in data science with a specialism in climate & health data.

**Overview:** Part of data.org's commitment to building the field of Data for Social Impact is the creation of [Data Capacity Accelerators](#), where academic institutions and training providers work in concert with social impact organizations to build curricula and experiential learning approaches that can be scaled for global reach and impact through data.org's central platform. Our newest Data Capacity Accelerator hub will be launching in India in early 2023. For the upcoming India hub, we intend to identify a higher education partner that can anchor the Data for Social Impact academic offerings by developing and deploying a specialized and experiential curriculum and pedagogy with a focus on accelerating the application of data science for Climate & Health data to drive greater social impact. This accelerator will be part of a network of other accelerators being set up by data.org with partners in sub-Saharan Africa and the US.

### **Scope:**

- Discovery:
  - Landscape current and upcoming data science programs in India at the bachelors, masters, integrated masters, micro-masters, post graduate diploma or certification level including at vocational and technical colleges as well as online or offline executive programs with details on curriculum, student intake, student demographics, fee structure and initiatives to support underserved groups, placement process, funding available, etc.
  - Review and synthesize current materials on Data for Social Impact in India including existing reports, university portals, data for good landscape, and information on upcoming relevant programs.
  - Scan educational institutes of repute with an existing or upcoming interdisciplinarity focus around Climate, Health and Data Science (DS), especially those with a legacy of catering to diverse set of students and supporting under-represented groups as well as demonstrated success in digital learning delivery experience.
  - Gather inputs from experts and partners, including members of the expert selection panel through stakeholder interviews and shortlist top target universities for engagement.
  - Simultaneously, landscape existing funders, ecosystem builders and other relevant stakeholders in the Indian DS education space for future collaborations.
- Facilitate a Robust Selection Process:
  - Create a robust selection rubric with focus on interdisciplinarity, Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility (IDEA) / intersectional lens in student recruitment (such as gender, caste, socio-economic status, etc.) and highest standards of academic delivery.
  - Support data.org to create a diverse selection panel comprised of 6-8 experts (with 3 of them nominated by data.org & partners) in higher education, health, climate and data science amongst others from academia, private sector, government or social impact space and engage with them at regular touch-points (likely 3-4 meetings) during the selection process including creating the terms of reference for member engagement, as needed.
  - Draft Request for Proposal to invite applications from universities to serve as the academic hub. Facilitate outreach to relevant institutes.

- Collaborate with data.org to solicit applications, manage the review process end-to-end including any interviews with selection panel and communications with applicants on outcomes.
  - Closely work with data.org to draft and help finalize MoU for the chosen university partner aligning on milestones, timelines, deliverables, budget, etc.
- Dissemination:
  - Create a whitepaper / report based on landscape conducted and identified high-caliber partners in Data for Social Impact space, including recommendations for stakeholders interested in advancing the sector.
  - Work with the data.org Marketing and Product team to publish the whitepaper / report through a suitable medium.
  - Help socialize key findings with investors interested in higher education space.
  - Collaborate with data.org on dissemination of findings through an in-person or virtual event to mobilize other like-minded stakeholders in the ecosystem as well as help with the India Accelerator hub launch event (tentatively Q1 2023).

**Timing:** Engagement expected to be for 6 months (October 2022 – March 2023)

**RFP Responses:** Send an intent to apply via email by Thursday, September 1, 2022 and full proposal (as a single PDF under 10 pages with proposed activities, high-level timelines, team profiles, budget, relevant experience) by **Wednesday, September 7, 2022** to Gigi Ghanim, Chief of Staff at [gigi@data.org](mailto:gigi@data.org) and Priyank Hirani, Associate Director, Capacity Accelerator Network at [priyank@data.org](mailto:priyank@data.org)

We intend to review the proposals and invite shortlisted applicants for an interview between September 15-23, 2022.