

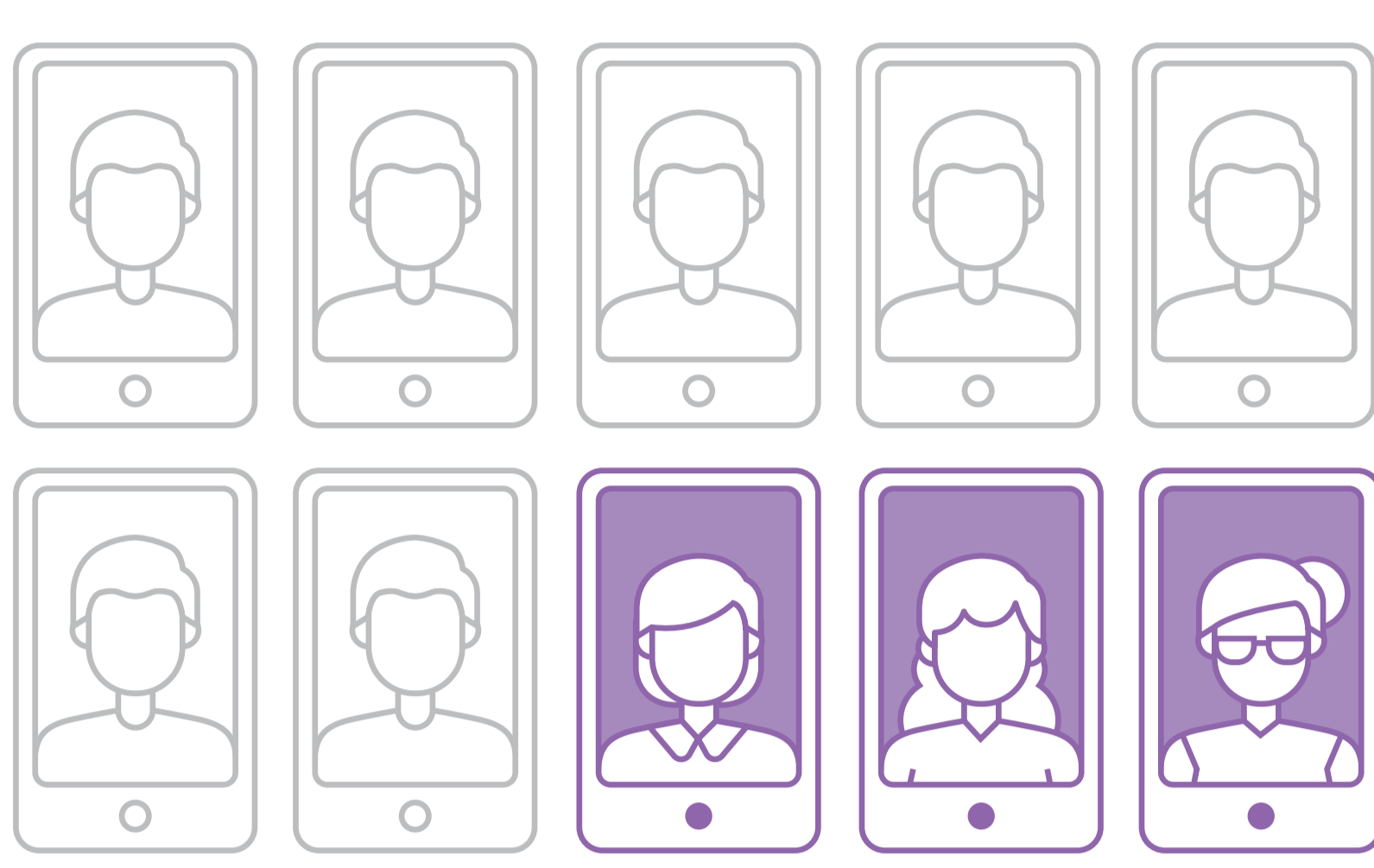
## The Digital Revolution: The world is more connected, but why are we leaving women and girls offline?



In Asia and the Pacific, there is a 6% gender gap in internet usage. In 2020, only 1 in 5 women used the internet in least developed countries.<sup>1</sup>

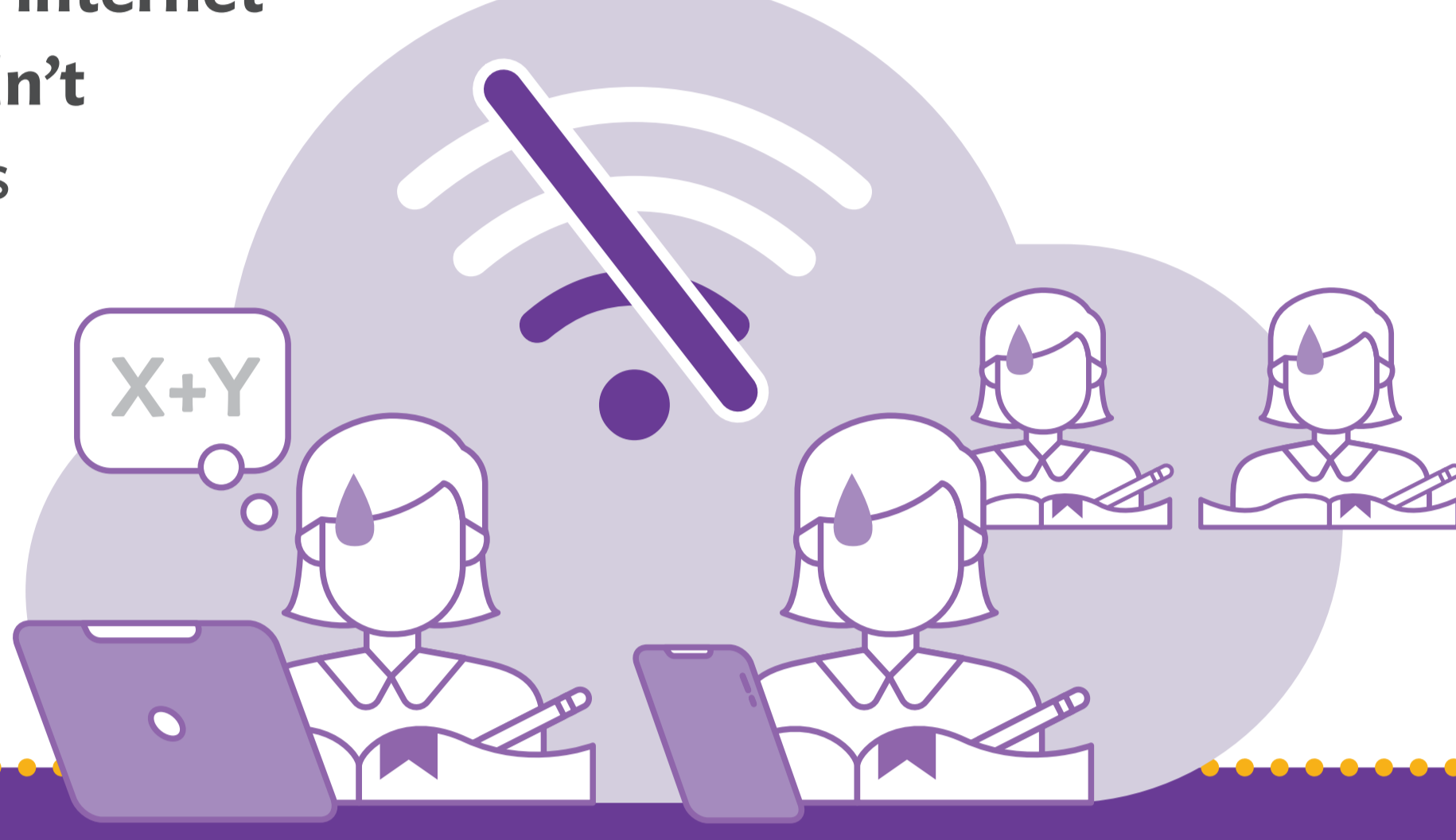


Across low- and middle-income countries, around **264 million fewer women than men are using mobile internet.**<sup>2</sup>



In South Asia, women are **70% less likely than men to own a smartphone.**<sup>3</sup>

In Southeast Asia and the Pacific, **59% of girls surveyed reported that online learning was nearly impossible during the COVID-19 pandemic—60% had unreliable internet and 20% of girls couldn't access devices such as tablets or computers.**<sup>4</sup>



## Disconnected: Not Enough Women, Not Enough For Women

Sociocultural and gender norms that drive inequality extend to the digital world. Women and girls without digital access are cut off from the knowledge, employment opportunities, networks, products, services, and benefits that the internet provides.



Women are **1/3 of the workforce at the 20 largest tech companies in the world but hold only 1 in 4 leadership positions.**<sup>5</sup>



**In fintech firms, women represent less than 13% of leadership—both as founders or board members—even less than their representation in traditional banking and tech companies. These numbers have hardly moved in the past 20 years.**

**Women's digital and technology-related literacy—measured by the share of women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—remain low at 15% globally.**<sup>6</sup>



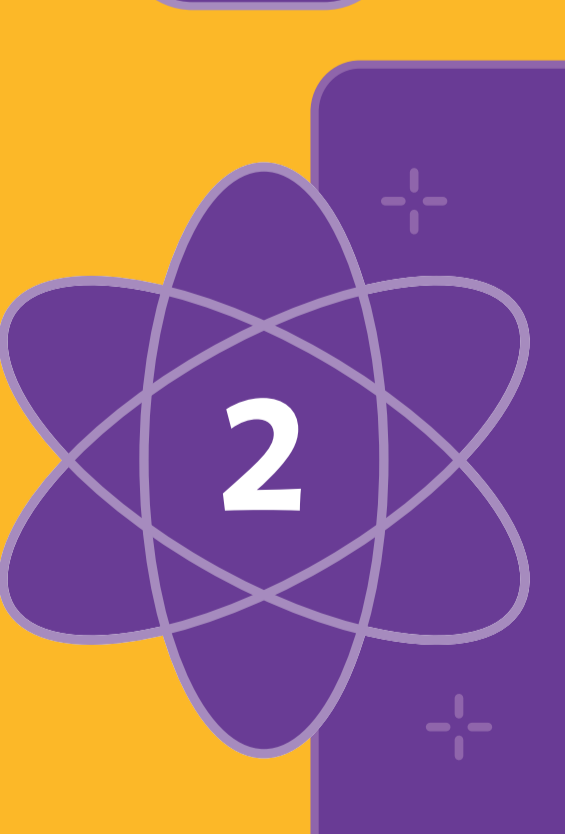
## #ConnectingWomen: Bridging the Digital Gender Gap

Closing the digital gender gap and investing in women's digital and financial inclusion are critical to gender equality in Asia and the Pacific and could also boost economies. Closing the digital gender gap in 72 countries could increase economic activity by an estimated \$524 billion by 2025.<sup>7</sup>

**Here are three things we can do to invest in women and girls:**



**Address gender and social norms that perpetuate inequality in the physical world—in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities—while connecting women and girls to digital technologies and financial services.**



**Empower girls through education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and strengthen their digital skills to create a gender-equal workforce.**



**Invest in women leaders in the digital and fintech sectors and beyond, and in women-led and women-focused fintech startups.**

**It's time to close the digital gender gap.  
Together, let's connect women.**