



Project Information Document/ Identification/Concept Stage (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 08-May-2019 | Report No: PIDC176859



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)	Environmental and Social Risk Classification	Project Name
P169833		Low	Global Development Network Awards
Region	Country	Date PID Prepared	Estimated Date of Approval
OTHER	World	08-May-2019	
Financing Instrument	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency	
Investment Project Financing	GDN	GDN	

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PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	1.66
Total Financing	1.66
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

Non-World Bank Group Financing

Trust Funds	1.66
Japan Policy and Human Resources Development Fund	1.66

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

GDN’s mission is to improve development outcomes and livelihoods through high-quality, policy-oriented research in the social sciences, produced in developing countries and connected globally.² With its new strategy just recently released, GDN proposes an agenda where research is seen not only as a producer of knowledge, but also to equip development actors with critical analysis and evidence for high impact activities.



GDN empowers researchers and development organizations in developing countries to become active participants in the local, regional and global development environment. The aim is that grantees use their experience, acquired by being involved with GDN's capacity building and network approach. With this experience, Awards winners are given the chance to become leaders in their fields, promoting excellence, innovation, and political awareness.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

2 GDN's Strategy 2017-2022 "The Road Ahead", [http://www.gdn.int/admin/uploads/editor/files/GDN Strategy Brochure Jan 2017.pdf](http://www.gdn.int/admin/uploads/editor/files/GDN%20Strategy%20Brochure%20Jan%202017.pdf)

Through this competition, GDN makes concerted efforts to reach social science researchers and development projects across countries and aims to:

- Provide financial support to promising local research on development issues and to promising innovative social projects in the developing world;
- Provide visibility and recognition to the early-career researchers and development projects through showcasing their practice to the global audience at a GDN Conference;
- Help in building capacity of the researchers and development organizations through technical mentoring and supervision.

The Awards Competition is a proven successful and useful initiative conducted annually to promote developing country experiences in implementing high quality research and highly innovative development projects. As GDN's longest-running project with 17 years of continuous implementation thanks to a strong GDN-Japan partnership, the Competition has provided more than 3.8 million dollars' worth of awards to more than 340 winners. Competition winners have commented that the award had helped them in their personal and professional advancement, and some of them came to occupy prominent positions in their respective governments (i.e. Deputy Governor of the Central Bank, Minister of Education, Minister of Environment). The competition is an integral part of GDN's new strategy which aims to foster the use of research for development and the achievement of concrete development outcomes based on the promotion of developing country knowledge and innovative initiatives.

The Awards Competition covers several essential features of the global development agenda. First and foremost, it showcases research and development projects from low and middle-income countries with high impact potential, by reaching out directly to Southern researchers and marginalized groups in developing countries who would otherwise not benefit of such global support. Secondly, it offers high visibility to these actors thanks to the program's reputation and its integration with other GDN activities, such as the GDN Annual Global Development Conference, and promotes their career advancement. Thirdly, it supports high quality research and high impact innovative development projects, and therefore promotes a type of result-oriented activities that is directly relevant to the 5



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework, by way of knowledge products and concrete grassroots action.

Drawing on its 17 years of existence, the Global Development Awards Competition has accumulated a strong network of researchers and development practitioners, as well as important experience in organizing the competition. **The present proposal builds on the previous years to strengthen the achievement of the program's objectives and its outcomes, and to consolidate its position as one of the most important global annual competitions on research for development.** Its impact over 17 years is documented under a 'Development Impact Report' currently under preparation by a team of independent consultants, to be released early 2018. This report will build on two previous achievement reports which have shown how the program has benefited researchers and development practitioners over the years.

We briefly describe the proposed Awards categories, their objectives and functions in the Competition. There are three categories of Awards that can be seen either as a research, or a development project award. The Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) is the competition's research category, while the Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) and the Japan Social Development Fund Award (JSDF) are the two development projects categories.

Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (yearly USD 45,000, total USD 135,000)

Open to individual researchers from low- and middle-income countries; 1st prize of USD 30,000, 2nd prize of USD 15,000, 3rd prize of USD 10,000.

The ORD category rewards research proposals from Southern researchers with a high potential for excellence in research and clear policy implications for addressing development issues. Grants are provided to the awardees to carry their promising research proposal to completion, and the research capacity of the awardees is built through provision of technical mentoring by an expert for the duration of the grant. The program has a multidisciplinary reach and the grants are given each year in specific thematic areas selected every year in coordination between the World Bank and GDN in line with GDN's research agenda. In the 2018-2020 editions of the Awards, three prizes are given each year to reward outstanding research proposals on development issues.

Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (yearly USD 45,000, total USD 135,000)

Open to NGOs from low- and lower-middle-income countries; Two 1st prizes of USD 20,000; one 2nd prize of USD 5,000.

The MIDP award rewards already existing, socially innovative projects that have a high potential for development impact on marginalized and disadvantaged groups in the poorest developing countries. The MIDP category rewards ongoing grassroots projects managed by local NGOs for their innovative approach to solving a particular development issue. This category is not based on a specific theme and is open to all



innovative projects from developing countries NGOs. In the 2018-2020 editions of the Awards, three prizes are given every year to reward the most innovative development projects.

Japan Social Development Fund Award (yearly USD 200,000, total USD 600,000)

Open to NGOs winners of the MIDP award; prize of USD 200,000.

The JSDF award is focused on piloting socially innovative development projects that have potential for development impact and replicability identified through the MIDP award. In that sense, the logical progression between MIDP and JSDF is now enhanced with the MIDP award focusing on identifying innovative projects, and the JSDF award piloting the most promising of them. In line with the World 6

Bank's JSDF Policy Guidelines, the objective of JSDF programs is to support community-driven development and poverty reduction programs that serve to enhance productivity, increase access to social and community services and infrastructure, and improve the living conditions of poor and vulnerable groups in eligible countries.³ In the 2018-2020 editions of the Awards, one prize will be given every year to pilot innovative development projects through the JSDF.

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The competition would be featured every year in a high-level GDN Conference. The ORD and MIDP category finalists would be invited to the event, in which they receive training on communicating with high impact to a wide audience. They present their proposals in front of a Jury (comprising of a chair and five high-level members) who selects the winners; followed by a formal prize award ceremony to announce the winners as part of the GDN event.

Selection of the Jury to assess the final proposals in ORD and MIDP category

Every year, two juries (selection committees) award the first, second and third prizes at the final stage of the ORD and MIDP categories of the competition respectively. This takes place in public at a GDN conference. These two separate juries are constituted from high-level participants in the conference and actors of the program. The juries always have a chair and five members. Traditionally, the representative from JICA-RI chairs the MIDP jury, and the representative from the World Bank acts as committee member in the MIDP jury.

Relationship to CPF

Alignment with World Bank strategy

The grant activities are aligned with the activities of the World Bank to develop human resources in developing member countries of the World Bank. By supporting researchers and development practitioners that are nationals of World Bank member countries, the Grant helps to increase and strengthen the domestic capacity to undertake relevant research and development projects (such as analytical work underpinning



countries' PRSPs and contribution to improving the lives of the marginalized communities in the South) that are essential for poverty reduction.

The grant activities are linked to both the provision of technical assistance (TA) to assist eligible countries of the World Bank Group in enhancing their technical and institutional capacities and they complement Bank financed operations, and programs aligned with development objectives of the relevant CAS, PRSP or poverty reduction elements of Sector Strategies.

Alignment with GDN's strategy

GDN's new strategy is framed around three pillars to address development challenges: (1) strengthening research in low-capacity environments, (2) promote global collaborative research across countries and disciplines, and (3) putting development research into better use. The Awards competition fits well into these three pillars. The competition attempts to fund researchers and development practitioners where other funds do not reach as well to develop research capacity and development impact, especially in low-income countries. In addition, the combination of research and project grants in the same program opens for new possibilities of collaborations between the world of research and the NGO community, helping to foster research culture and evidence-based practices for the civil society.

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C. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The objective of the Global Development Awards Competition (hereafter 'the Awards Competition', or 'the Awards') is to support the research capacity development of economics and social science researchers, and fund innovative social development projects benefiting marginalized groups in the developing world. The aim is to ensure sustainability by fostering the replication and scaling-up of these innovative development projects through other funding sources.

Key Results

Number of new paid positions created for the project scale-up

Number of new collaborations started by the project

Number of workshops organized in the project

Number of Beneficiaries reached through implementation of the JSDF award

Percent increase of beneficiaries as compared to before the scale-up

Number of dissemination events organized by the project.

A detailed results framework is provided in Annex.



D. Preliminary Description

Activities/Components

This proposal continues the partnership between the Government of Japan, the World Bank and GDN to implement the Awards in its next three editions, for a total implementation period of five years. Aware of the fact that 2020 will be the 20th anniversary of the Competition, GDN wishes to thank the Government of Japan, and the World Bank, for their continuous support to this program. The present proposal builds on the successful experience of the past three years fully integrate its JSDF component in the competition, to maximize the impact of the awarded projects and research, to fine-tune its organization and widely disseminate the program's results.

The Awards Competition 2018-2020 will finance seven awards per year, for a total of 21 awards over three years, namely: three prizes for **outstanding proposals for development research**, **three prizes for innovative social development projects by NGOs**, and **one prize for piloting the scaleup and/or replication of a development project targeting the most vulnerable people**. Every year, the finalists identified through a global call for submissions will travel to a GDN Conference to pitch their work to a high level, scientific jury. These finalists will receive a training in communications before the conference, to strengthen their presentation skills. Every year in the MIDP category, two NGOs awarded with first prizes will compete to access the JSDF Award competition in the following year, a much larger grant that will allow one of them to pilot its project on a larger scale through extension and replication of the MIDP approach.

GDN wishes to put forward several innovations to further improve the program, both at the level of the competition (notably the JSDF element) and at the level of project implementation.

These innovations are listed below:

1. Selecting the JSDF grant award after a competition between the two MIDP 1st prize winners
2. Clearly presenting the MIDP competition as a pre-selection for the JSDF grant award
3. Formalizing the introduction of support activities developed in the last years, i.e.

communications training, financial reviews of JSDF candidates' business accounts, mentoring.

The proposed innovations were inspired by the conversations held between GDN and the World

Bank, and by the feedback received through the World Bank from the Government of Japan. From GDN's perspective and experience implementing the Awards over the years, the proposed changes will lead to significant gains, especially related to:

1. Improved effectiveness of the JSDF, through healthy competition between the two top MIDP awardees;
2. Smoother management of some activities, such as the communication training, the onsite financial reviews (for JSDF grantees), or the recruitment of Technical Advisors (for ORD grantees);
3. Increased visibility and knowledge dissemination capacity of the program.



The most substantial of these proposed new features is to strengthen the competition for the JSDF Award, as well as the revision of selection process and criteria. The past arrangement made that the MIDP 1st Prize Winner automatically access the JSDF award grant. This limited incentives for the winner to pitch their scale-up/replication blueprint and limited the program capacity to address a situation in which the 1st MIDP Prize Winner proved not ready to implement and manage a project of JSDF magnitude, i.e., USD 200,000.

As a mitigating measure, we are proposing to revise the award process to guarantee a better connection between the MIDP and the JSDF grants. This will create an increased competition through the JSDF award, by having two MIDP 1st Prize Winners instead of one. This changes entirely the incentive structure by placing the incentive at two levels: performing well in the MIDP competition (in order to qualify for the JSDF), and putting together a good proposal at the JSDF entry level. It will also help to ensure that the two candidates for JSDF have a comparable experience in their MIDP project.

Finally, GDN is also suggesting that a framework could be provided to engage with past Award Winners and creating a community of practice comprising of Awards Winners, to showcase results during the 20th anniversary celebration in 2020.[1]

The components of the Award Competition proposed for three years (FY18, FY19, and FY20) are outlined below and include three components. A. the Awards (sub-grants and travel grants); B. Project Implementation and Administration; and C. Monitoring, Evaluation and Knowledge Dissemination.

Component A: Awards (USD 305,000 per year; USD 915,000 over three years)

- A.1 Project and research grants (USD 290,000 per year; USD 870,000 over three years) o Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) for individual researchers in low- and middle-income countries; 1st prize of USD 30,000, 2nd prize of USD 15,000, 3rd prize of USD 10,000.
o Japanese Award for the Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) for NGOs in low- and lower-middle-income countries; Two 1st prizes of USD 20,000, one 2nd prize of USD 5,000. o Japan Social Development Fund award for one of the two MIDP first prize winners; Prize of USD 200,000.
- A.2 Travel grants (USD 15,000 per year; USD 45,000 over three years) o To allow finalists to travel to a GDN Conference and present their ideas in front of a high-level scientific jury.

Component B: Program Management and Administration

- B.1 Program Implementation (USD 42,500 per year; USD 127,500 over three years) o To support the full implementation and management of the sub-grants.
- B.2 Program Administration (USD 158,159 per year; USD 474,477 over three years) o Staff time of GDN and costs of the administration



Component C: Knowledge Dissemination, Monitoring and Evaluation

- C.1 Knowledge dissemination (USD 9,000 per year; USD 27,000 over three years) o In-house production of knowledge products for dissemination
- C.2 Audits (USD 8,000 per year; USD 24,000 over three years) o To conduct the pre-selection financial due diligence of JSDF applicants

C.3 Monitoring and Evaluation (USD 30,000 per year; USD 90,000 over three years) o To ensure the mentoring and monitoring of the sub-grants.

[1] The Awards Community of Practice remains at the idea stage for now, and could be discussed later if there is an interest from program partners. GDN implemented a consultation with former winners of the competition on March 21st 2018, which showed a strong demand for a formal Community of Practice.

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Environmental and Social Standards Relevance

E. Relevant Standards

ESS Standards		Relevance
ESS 1	Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	Relevant
ESS 10	Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	Relevant
ESS 2	Labor and Working Conditions	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 3	Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 4	Community Health and Safety	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 5	Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 6	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 7	Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 8	Cultural Heritage	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 9	Financial Intermediaries	Not Currently Relevant

Legal Operational Policies

Safeguard Policies	Triggered	Explanation (Optional)
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No	



Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60 No

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts
Risks are minimal due to the nature of the project

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