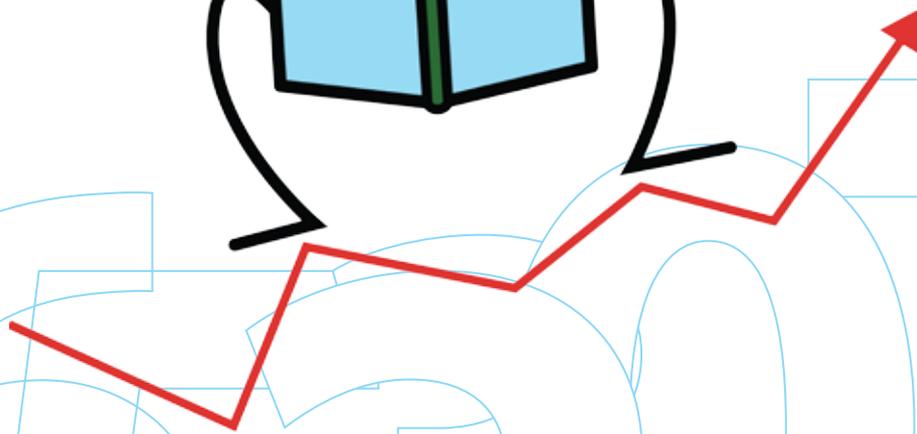


2018 ANNUAL
REPORT

Local Research for Better Lives



The Global Development Network (GDN) is a public international organization that supports social science research in developing and transition countries for better policies and better lives.

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Preface



François Bourguignon
Chair, Board of Directors



Pierre Jacquet
President

In 2019, GDN has entered its 20th year of existence. Created in the aftermath of the landmark 1999 World Bank World Development Report on ‘Knowledge for Development’, GDN’s raison d’être has been to build research capacity in developing countries, and support and link active regional research networks that contribute to policy and contextualized development debates. This 2018 annual report sheds light on how, in line with this mission, GDN has strengthened institutional research capacity, produced collaborative high-quality, policy-oriented research, and put research to better use around the developing world, creating value for every dollar it has been able to raise.

In 2018, GDN has notably:

- completed two major global research programs on industrial productivity, one focusing on industrial policies, and the other looking at the promises of the Japanese ‘Kaizen’ approach to continuous improvement within firms; and also completed another program on development aid effectiveness
- built new partnerships to address the challenges of climate change adaptation in ways that better combine research and action
- convened its global development conference in New Delhi on the challenges and promises of science, technology and innovation for development, and distributed development awards
- selected and trained talented researchers to evaluate impact investments
- partnered with research institutions from a demand-led perspective to strengthen their capacity

- started proof-of-concept ‘Doing Research’ assessments in a few countries with a view to scale up its ambitious program, designed to systematically document, in a comparative way, social science research systems in developing countries; and
- launched the GlobalDev blog as a platform for developing country researchers interested in discussing policy insights informed by good academic research

During the last two decades, GDN has been a leading force in enhancing social science research capacity for development. Yet, the knowledge-for-development agenda remains incomplete. Increasing returns in academic research have sustained an overwhelming concentration of development research in advanced economies. It is GDN's contention that the current funding model for development research focuses too much on research outputs produced in advanced research centers, to the detriment of local analytical capacities that are needed in developing countries to critically assess data, facts, existing knowledge and development challenges. This approach erects barriers that many developing country researchers will find insurmountable, and limits the use of research to inform policy, because there is insufficient academic intermediation between policymakers and foreign experts. Beyond economic development, it is democracy and local ownership that suffer.

GDN is dedicated to carrying this debate forward. Celebrating its 20th anniversary, GDN will reflect on its experience to discuss what was achieved and what remains to be done and how. A new blog series, on the blog GlobalDev, will also look at how to make research more useful for policy and society. On October 23-25, 2019, GDN's flagship global development conference returns to Bonn 20 years after GDN's launch, to discuss ‘Knowledge for Sustainable Development: The Research-Policy Nexus’. It invites participants to take stock of what has been accomplished, to discuss shortcomings and to adapt the knowledge-for-development strategy to the requirements of today's world and the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. GDN calls on all its partners to join this effort and increase their support to a cause that does make a difference for development.

Highlights 2018

Telling Our Story

The Global Development Network (GDN) refreshed its web presence on www.gdn.int in January 2018. The new website is designed for both researchers and users of research. It includes summaries of research programs and documents GDN's activities and results. It is faster, easier to navigate and brings a range of technological advancements. For instance, it includes 'responsive design' for optimal browsing across multiple web enabled devices, including mobile telephones and tablets.

New Blog Launch

GDN's new blog, GlobalDev, available on www.globaldev.blog, provides a platform for development research and developing country researchers to reflect on policy relevant insights from good academic research on a range of topics such as migration, health, globalization, agriculture, aid effectiveness and more. It points to new ideas, different perspectives, alternative options and solutions for the world's most pressing issues. Blog editors want to hear the difference research makes for development action. The blog was created with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the International Monetary Fund. It was launched in February 2018.

*"When we correlate the indicators of fragmentation with potential outcomes of aid, such as growth, bureaucratic quality and primary school enrolment rates, we find **no evidence that a larger number of donors hurts recipient countries.**"*

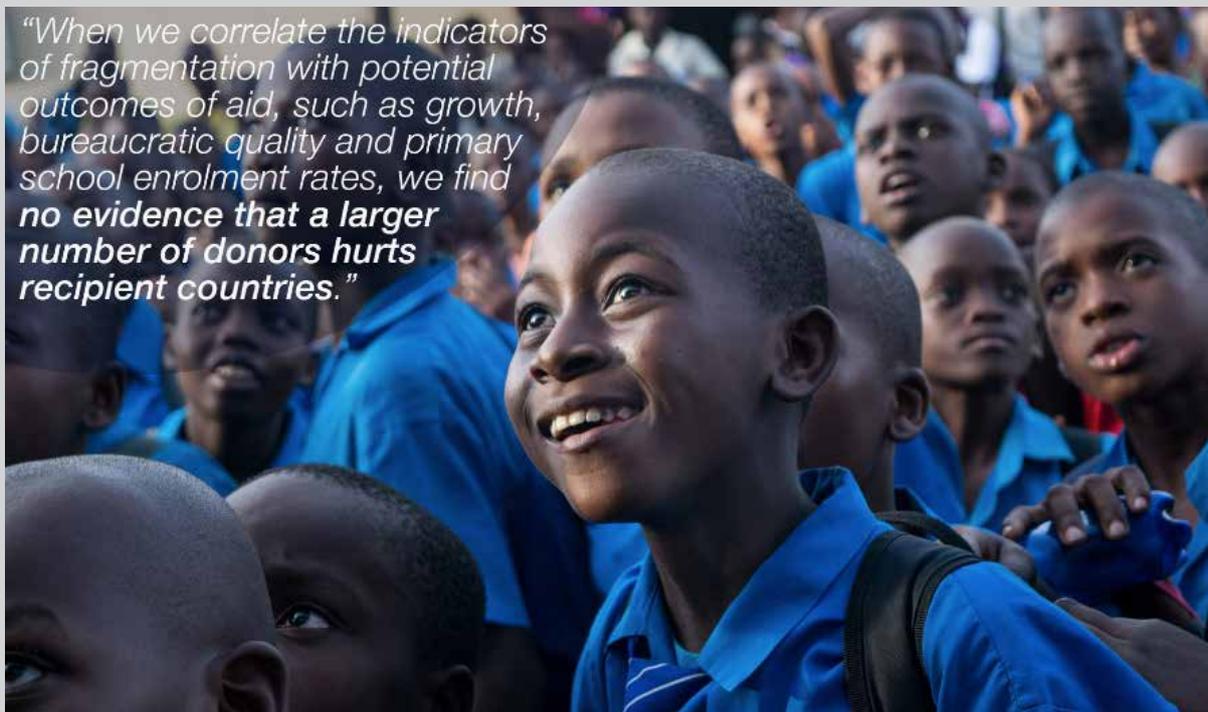


Image: GlobalDev

Blog post on GlobalDev on 'Aid fragmentation and aid effectiveness: the latest evidence' by Axel Dreher, Kai Gehring and Katharina Michaelowa, on 30 April 2018

Climate Change Research

GDN helps research institutions in developing countries to further their own brand of research, and research tools. Following a call in February 2018, GDN shortlisted two institutions – Foreign Trade University (FTU), Vietnam and Fields of View (FOV), India – to receive year-long grants. FTU is strengthening the capacity of researchers in the region to use economic modeling to study the impact of climate change on agriculture. FOV was selected to create game-based toolkits to integrate research knowledge in cities’ strategies to adapt to climate change, with particular attention to poor neighborhoods.

Global Development Conference

GDN’s 18th Global Development Conference on ‘Science, Technology & Innovation for Development’ (#STI4D) was held in New Delhi, in March 2018. It included 251 participants from 30 different countries, and saw 68 international experts contribute in four plenary and twelve parallel sessions. Conference participants called for more knowledge on the political economy of science, technology and innovation, with special attention to the bottom of the pyramid; for recognizing the role of the local context and ground-level relationships to enable technology transfer and local incubation; for innovative financing models and localized risk mitigation strategies to incubate innovation; for addressing the social dimensions of technological change; and for making technology affordable and accessible.

Global Development Awards

In March 2018, during the #STI4D conference, as part of the Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development, two joint second prizes of US\$ 22,500 each were given to Merve Sancak (University of Cambridge, UK) and Yadeta Bekele (Jimma University, Ethiopia), respectively. Sancak is working on skills in transition economies, in Mexico and Turkey, and Bekele on coffee certification and contract farming among small coffee producers in Ethiopia. Rishikesan Parthiban (Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta) received an honorary mention for his research on a virtual factory model for the effective management of artisans in rural India.



Representatives of GDN, JICA-RI and the World Bank with the winners of the Global Development Awards in March 2018, in New Delhi, India

The Japanese Award for the Most Innovative Development Project went to the South Asian Forum for Environment (first prize of US\$30,000 for hydroponic aqua-farming in India) and SERMA Africa (second prize of US\$10,000 for addressing poverty through agribusiness, trading and research in South Sudan). The Dandora Dumpsite Rehabilitation Group in Kenya won the third prize of US\$5,000 for addressing food insecurity through modern farming techniques.

Strengthening Policy Uptake

GDN strengthens the role of independent research institutions to inform policy debates in the smaller countries of South and Central America on topics related to education policy, with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank. Throughout 2018, local partners in Ecuador and El Salvador collaborated with their Ministries of Education to raise awareness of the financial and non-financial dimensions of policy design and implementation to improve the quality of education.

A Network of Excellence

Fifteen former winners from the Global Development Awards Competition met in New Delhi during the March 2018 Global Development Conference on 'Science, Technology & Innovation for Development.' They discussed how to boost GDN's alumni network from past grants and competitions. Key ideas included building greater interaction between researchers and policymakers, identifying and addressing local development challenges, supporting visibility and promotion of local research aimed at policy impact, generating local ownership of research findings, and accessing the skills and competencies of the group to work and publish together. GDN also launched a 'Friends of GDN' network on LinkedIn.

Impact Investing Research

A second batch of ten research fellows from countries in Africa were recruited in the Summer of 2018 to evaluate impact investment projects financed under the European Investment Bank's Impact Financing Envelope for sub-Saharan Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations. Candidate Fellows attended an induction workshop in October 2018 in Luxembourg, and received intensive research communications training in Metz. Five scientific and technical advisors, as well as teams from EIB and GDN, helped orient the new inductees to their yearlong assignments. The joint EIB-GDN program builds skills and capacity, in impact investment, for researchers. 'Deep Dive' evaluations from the first round of the program are now complete.

Aid Effectiveness in Africa

May 2018 marked the closing of the 'Development Aid Effectiveness in Africa' program, encompassing 23 research grants, funded by USAID and jointly implemented by GDN and the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC). The closing event was hosted by the Brookings Africa Growth Initiative in Washington, DC and was attended by representatives from the World Bank, the International Development Research Centre, the Center for Global Development, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Hewlett Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Reflections focused on the progress made in the capacity of sub-Saharan African researchers to study key development issues, the need to strengthen institutions that can support local research, as well as the opportunity presented by the data revolution to boost research on development, including aid effectiveness.



Image: Pexels

The 'Development Aid Effectiveness in Africa' program was completed in May 2018

A Research Agenda for Central Banks

GDN partnered with the Banque de France (BdF) to organize a seminar on research capacity building in Central Banks on 18-21 June 2018 in Paris, France. Senior research officials in leadership positions from the central banks of Belarus, Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, France, India, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, South Korea, Tanzania, The Philippines, Turkey, Uganda and Ukraine attended presentations from experts within and outside the BdF. The objective was to reflect on deep, systemic issues that research departments in central banks have to grapple with operationally and strategically. For instance, in order to enhance the use of research for policy, the seminar called for greater dialogue with policymakers, universities and academia, and for better connections between research and operations within central banks. Several delegates expressed an interest in seeing the interactions evolving into an institutionalized, periodic form. GDN and BdF will continue with the partnership for 2019, and possibly further.

The 'Doing Research' Program Expands

In December 2018, research teams from national research institutions in Bolivia, Indonesia and Nigeria met in New Delhi, along with their scientific advisors and GDN's program management team, to kick-off 'Doing Research Assessments' in their countries. A research team from Myanmar also joined the exercise. The 'Doing Research' program diagnoses social science research systems along 54 parameters. The teams discussed emerging research, context analysis, stakeholder mapping and data collection. Participants concluded that detailed studies were needed to better understand the constraints faced by national research systems. They also emphasized the role of the political economy at the local level and advocated a broad-based approach beyond the remit of social science.

Our Work

In line with its 2017-2022 strategy, GDN continued, in 2018, to work along three dimensions: strengthening research in low-capacity environments; promoting and delivering high-quality, global, collaborative research; and putting development research to better use.

I. Deepening GDN's Engagement with Local Research Actors

To strengthen research in low-capacity environments, GDN partners with local research institutions – the latter including universities, independent policy research groups and think tanks – as the primary sites where research capacity is built, through training, research and teaching. These institutions have the capacity to define independent and long-term research agendas. Accordingly, they are virtually the first point of reference for expertise and knowledge for actors in development policy and practice. The presence of strong research institutions on the ground is essential for well-informed debate and effective, locally-owned development policies.

In 2018, GDN made significant advances in the way it engages with institutions. It mainstreamed institutional support across programs, refined the tools it uses to support institutions, and developed both grant administration and management to ensure flexibility.

Demand-driven support

Follow-up interviews with institutional grantees who took part in a 2014-17 pilot confirmed that demand-driven support had significant impact on the research culture within public universities. In both Ethiopia (Haramaya University) and Bhutan (Royal University), there was increased demand for research funding and training, as well as higher quality research proposals at the level of departments and schools. In addition, there was a significant reduction in the duration of enrollment for research degrees.



Image: Pexels

GDN's institutional capacity building program explores the link between the economy and the environment in Asia and the Pacific region

As an extension of the institutional capacity building program that was successfully piloted with support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in 2014-17, **GDN is now testing a thematic and regional version of its demand-driven support to institutions**, focusing on the link between the economy and the environment in Asia and the Pacific region. The goal, over 12 months, is both to refine GDN's tools – the strategic use of monitoring and evaluation (M&E), sustainability plans, and mentoring, in particular – and to strengthen the visibility of a demand-driven model of funding for local research institutions. GDN's demand-driven support to institutions combines micro-grants and hands-on support, and offers a viable alternative to long-term core funding to institutions. Two institutions have been selected under this program. The Foreign Trade University in Hanoi, Vietnam, was selected based on a proposal to develop a training program on economic modeling to understand the impact of climate change on agriculture in the country. Fields of View, a think tank based in Bangalore, India, was chosen based on a proposal to develop a platform that gives access to local policymakers and communities to knowledge on adaptive urban planning techniques.

Local institutions have become central pillars of GDN's effort to scale up the 'Doing Research' program, which proposes a comparative study of systemic levers and barriers to social science research across developing countries. The 'Doing Research' team is **building a global community of institutions to assess social science research systems**. These institutions work closely with GDN to refine the methodology of the Doing Research assessments. They lead the analysis and the debates about the findings. National Focal Point institutions have been identified in Bolivia, Indonesia, Myanmar and Nigeria as part of the current 'proof-of concept' phase of the program. The effort highlights the role independent institutions can play in using local evidence to support national debates on research policy. (See page 24-25)

Strengthening Institutional Capacities of Institutions to Understand the Links between the Economy and the Environment

Doing Research — Assessing the Environment for Social Science Research in Developing Countries

Global Development Awards Competition

FUNDING | US\$ 552,000 annually from the Ministry of Finance and the Government of Japan through the Policy & Human Resources Development (PHRD) Fund and the Japan Social Development Fund (World Bank trust funds)

The impact of GDN's longest running program

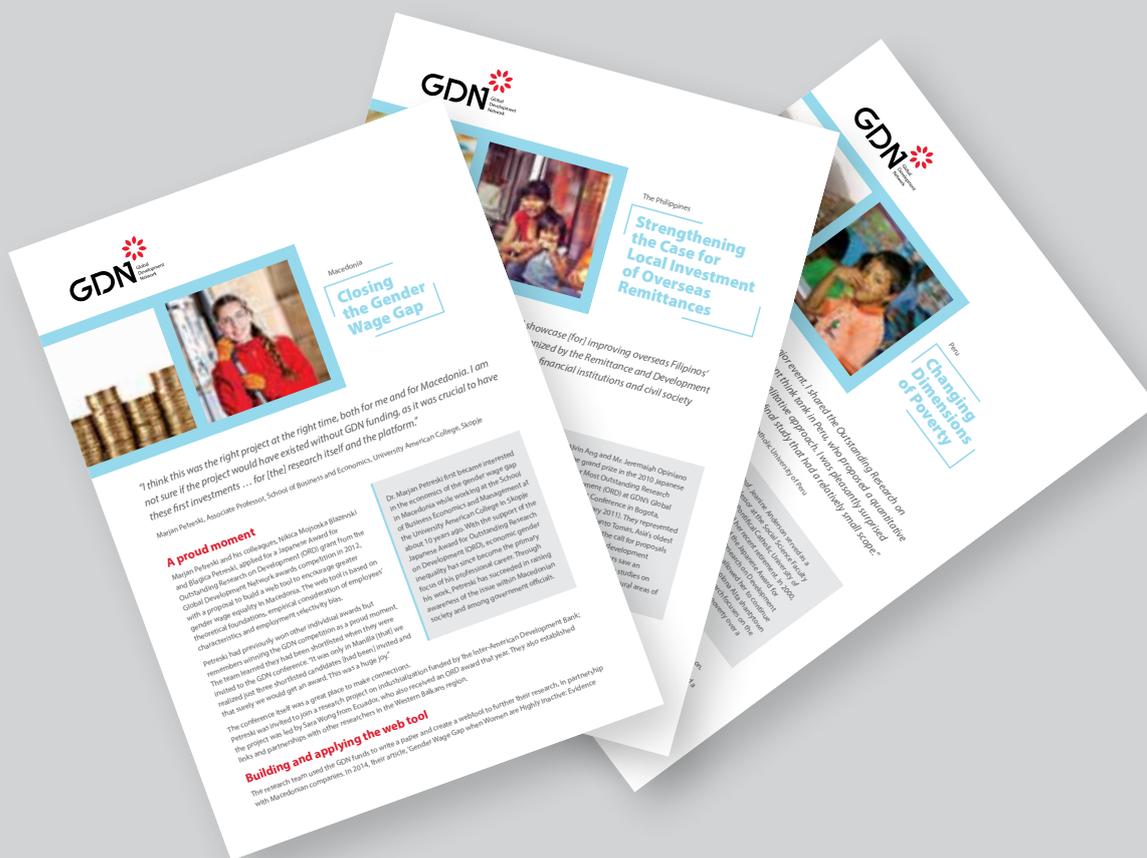
In 2018, GDN commissioned a series of impact stories documenting the outcomes of our Global Development Awards program, the longest running in GDN's history, which supports outstanding research and most innovative development projects. Since its inception, through the generous support of the Japanese government, it has supported more than 340 carefully selected individuals, research organizations and NGOs with roughly US\$ 3.8 million in award money, placing it as one of the most important global competitions targeting development and research. The awards, the training provided to the winners, and the exposure of the finalists at the Global Development Conference every year have brought **international visibility to the recipients and, in many cases, provided an important boost to their experience and careers.** Even more importantly perhaps, they had an impact on policy design and implementation, and contributed to addressing major development challenges, such as conservation efforts and employment equity.

Success stories from our awardees show how they have helped improve our shared understanding of important development challenges, or put important topics on the national agenda, and influenced decisionmakers in all corners of the world. In Kenya, for instance, Joy Kiiru, senior lecturer at the University of Nairobi,



Awardees, like Fakhira Najib from Power99 Foundation in Pakistan, have helped improve our shared understanding of important concepts in development

Image: Bariopixel for GDN



A series of nine impact stories from the Global Development Awards Competition was published in 2018, and are available on www.gdn.int

won a research medal in the Global Development Network Awards Competition in 2010 for her PhD, 'The impact of microfinance on rural households' income and vulnerability to poverty: case study of Makueni District, Kenya.' The medal gave her the confidence and motivation to go on to become one of the leading researchers of microfinance and women's empowerment in Kenya. "GDN was a turning point for me in my career," she said. "It gave me the confidence to know that what I was doing was valuable and appreciated."

Kiiru's PhD research added to the global discussion on microfinance as a tool for poverty reduction, which at the time, was a hot topic within development circles. Microfinance was increasingly being fronted as an effective tool to end poverty, but strong research on the role of microfinance and poverty reduction was lacking. Kiiru's research showed that microfinance can be a strong empowering tool that is able to lift people from poverty, but that this is not the case for everybody. Microfinance works best for people just below or just above the poverty line, but in cases of extreme poverty, loans often leave the poor trapped in an exploitative debt-cycle. Almost eight years after winning the medal, she is now renowned for her work on microfinance and women's empowerment in Kenya. She has been contacted by policymakers, who find her research informative, and makes regular appearances in the national media. On the basis of her research, Kiiru is now working with one of the county governments in Kenya to develop a policy for youth empowerment.

**Strengthening Research
Capacity of Small Countries**

*in Latin America and the Caribbean
to Promote Better Informed
Policymaking*

*FUNDING | Inter-American
Development Bank (IDB): US\$ 350,000
(July 2015 – April 2018)*

An extension and revamping of GDN's work with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Ecuador and El Salvador has provided **flexible funding and tailored support for independent research institutions** to co-design pilot interventions to improve the quality of education, through better connections between independent research institutions, government agencies and local IDB offices. Designs include M&E frameworks to evaluate the pilots. A team from the Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ), in Ecuador, works with the local IDB office, on a project with the national evaluation body for education, INEVAL. The 2018 study of Ecuador's public investment in early education, funded through the first phase of this program, shows that stakeholders perceive an improvement in access to, but not in the quality of, education: the quality of teaching, administration and school education remains poor. The Fundación Salvadoreña para El Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES) in El Salvador, works directly with the Ministry of Education on teacher training in the country's primary school system. The team is exploring the perception of teachers about the usefulness of standardized testing results for the development of pedagogy.

Working with institutions implies substantive engagement with the local political and organizational realities in which research develops. GDN has taken up this challenge by investing significantly in its own learning, so as to develop – in tandem – the theory and practice of research capacity building. In fact, the decision to prioritize a demand-driven approach to working with institutions is part of an attempt to rebalance the well-documented, unintended effects that international research funding – often heavily tilted toward publication outputs and donor priorities – has on local research. International research funding can, in many cases, contribute significantly to 'hollowing out' local research capacities, by setting institutions and researchers adrift from their own research agendas, geared to answering their own questions about development. GDN remains committed to contributing to this debate, and to exploring different and more effective ways of leveraging international support for local research capacity building.

II. Bringing Southern Researchers onto the Global Stage

Mobilizing developing country researchers to produce authoritative research on development policy challenges, and ensuring it reaches its intended policy audience, remains at the core of GDN's mission. A number of GDN's programs in 2018 have generated original analysis that has fed into local and global debates on important development challenges.



Image: EIB

EIB-GDN Fellow, Timothy Kinoti, makes a point at the inception workshop at EIB headquarters in Luxembourg City

The EIB-GDN Program in Applied Development Finance welcomed a second cohort of researchers in 2018, for the second annual cycle of the program (2018-19). The program is designed to **deepen understanding of the European Investment Bank's operations in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries**. GDN has committed to identify, train and deploy teams of highly qualified researchers and research professionals of ACP nationalities – who want to drive investment decisions in their home countries – to conduct 'deep dive' studies of selected impact investment projects funded in the region by EIB. This highly innovative program uses world-class, locally based academic expertise to delve into complex, real-world, private sector investment impacts. Over an annual cycle, the researchers, under the supervision of a panel of world-renowned experts, work closely with GDN and EIB teams to answer mission-critical questions for private sector clients. The expert advisors for the program, François Bourguignon, Shahrokh Fardoust, Emmanuel Jimenez, Arianna Legovini and Alexandros Sarris, belong to the Who's Who of global experts in evaluation.

The program's second cohort of researchers – drawn from Ethiopia, Cameroon, Ghana, The Gambia and Kenya – met at an inception workshop at EIB headquarters in Luxembourg City in October 2018. They were introduced to the program, their expert advisors, as well as staff from EIB and GDN. Researchers from the inaugural 2017-2018 cohort also joined in, virtually, with interactive presentations of their findings and experiences. The event showcased the strength of GDN's selection procedure, a stringent identification process that chooses promising graduates from some of the best

EIB-GDN Program in Applied Development Finance

FUNDING | European Investment Bank (EIB): € 2.1 million (December 2016 – December 2020)

academic programs around the world. An offsite, intensive, research communications training was held as a follow up to the inception workshop in Metz, France.

Feedback on the program – which mixes, perhaps for the first time, private sector with academic research for development impact – from both cohorts of researchers and their expert advisors has been positive. The process has created additional interest for evaluations from the private sector businesses involved. By the end of 2018, research reports, resulting from the first annual cycle of research were being readied for use within the Bank. Topics include the impact of internet availability on educational institutions, energy guarantees, solar home electricity, mobile money for utility payments, irrigation technology and microfinance lending to microentrepreneurs.

Three major research programs drew to a close in 2018.

Development Aid Effectiveness in Africa

FUNDING | The United States Agency for International Development (USAID): US\$ 553,000 (April 2015-May 2018)

In May 2018, GDN presented the outputs of a four-year USAID-funded program, 'Development Aid Effectiveness in Africa,' to a group of interested donors. Implemented in partnership with the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), the program **strengthened the voice of sub-Saharan researchers on regional development issues**. The original research cut across a number of themes: agriculture, health, financial inclusion, productivity and general economic analysis, and the effectiveness of development aid. Research on the role of aid and aid effectiveness in sub-Saharan Africa, from a recipient country perspective, was coordinated by GDN. Financial inclusion in Africa, seen through a multi-country lens applied to the whole region, was led by AERC. AERC also led a number of works that analyzed development challenges at the country level, built research capacity of early career African researchers, and generated a body of knowledge to support policymaking.

The program funded 23 research outputs, five national seminars on specific research, one senior policymakers seminar on the thematic priority of financial inclusion in Africa, two high-level roundtables with researchers from the program, representatives of aid agencies and African policymakers in Washington DC, and one high-level policy dialogue with African researchers and policymakers in Dakar, Senegal. The program also enabled researchers to work under the supervision of world-class experts who were mobilized as Scientific and Technical Advisors.

Mobilizing Knowledge to Improve Competitiveness Strategies

FUNDING | Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice of the World Bank financed by the Competitive Industries and Innovation Program (CIIP): US\$518,000 (Sept 2015-November 2018)

In November 2018, another major three-year program, titled 'Mobilizing Knowledge to Improve Competitiveness Strategies' funded by the World Bank (as part of a grant given by the Competitive Industries and Innovation Program Trust Fund), came to a successful end. The program mobilized researchers in Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Ghana to produce **contextualized knowledge on industrial policies**, under the scientific supervision of a world-class group including François Bourguignon, Ha-Joon Chang, Célestin Monga, Dani Rodrik and Charles Sabel.



Image: Pexels

GDN's recently closed World Bank supported program documented industrial policies in selected African countries.

The evidence produced by the teams was shared and discussed with policy actors at the country level, including the World Bank country teams. For example, the findings of a study on the cocoa sector in Cote d'Ivoire were shared with the World Bank country office for use as part of its work with the Ivorian government. The outputs of the program are receiving global visibility through the GDN Working Paper Series, and are being disseminated through the GlobalDev blog. The papers deal with a range of issues that are being discussed globally: public-private partnership, clusters, and export promotion policies.

A third, large program reaching its conclusion was conducted in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency-Research Institute (JICA-RI). The program, known as the 'Quality and Productivity Improvement in the Private and Public Sectors—Roles and Lessons from Kaizen approaches,' focused on the relationships between management methods and firm-level productivity with a focus on 'Kaizen', the Japanese management practice that supports **employee participation in continuous productivity improvements**. The program's firm-level perspective on productivity issues complemented the macro perspective of sector productivity and industrial policies. GDN coordinated studies on the experience of Brazil, Ghana, The Philippines and Vietnam, while JICA-RI conducted research in five additional countries. A book co-edited by Akio Hosono (JICA-RI), John Page (Brookings Institution) and Go Shimada (Meiji University) will be published in the Fall of 2019.

Quality and Productivity Improvement in the Private and Public Sectors—Roles and Lessons from Kaizen approaches

FUNDING | Japan International Cooperation Agency – Research Institute (JICA-RI): US\$ 558,150 (June 2016 – April 2019)

These programs confirmed that mentoring, world-class Scientific Committees, and high-visibility events, convened through GDN's institutional partners, remain extremely valuable tools to support seasoned Southern researchers, expanding their opportunities for international collaboration, and connecting them to the global academic and policy debate. Each research program offers proof-of-concept of the unique value added of 'globally connected' local research, for both local and global debates on development issues.

Climate Change Adaptation Initiative

Climate Change Adaptation: a new focus area for GDN

GDN's climate change adaptation work focuses on the specific role that social science research can play to reduce the vulnerability of people and systems. **Adaptation requires both local knowledge and local action** in order to be effective, and a constant interaction between the two to be sustainable. Building the capacity of researchers, and of research institutions, and strengthening the interaction between research, policy design and implementation are crucial components of adaptation strategies.

GDN's program development work on climate change adaptation falls under all three pillars of its 2017-2022 strategy, namely, strengthening research capacity in low-capacity environments, supporting high-quality, policy-oriented research and putting development research to better use.

Local universities and think tanks play a critical role in climate change action as adaptation becomes the priority. Local universities train the future generations of policy actors and practitioners, and they are also important producers of knowledge. In 2018, through discussions with key actors, GDN advocated a more systematic involvement of universities in the National Adaptation Planning process and in-country applications to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). A micro-grant approach to institutional capacity building can effectively enable developing country universities and think tanks to strengthen their contribution to climate change adaptation debates. In 2018, GDN and the GCF Evaluation Unit signed a **strategic knowledge partnership agreement on climate change adaptation and mitigation** to promote academically sound monitoring and evaluation of projects and programs in developing countries. The effort links knowledge with outcomes and understand the determinants of local behaviors and decision-making processes, in the face of climate change.

The voice of Southern researchers also becomes increasingly important as the renewed focus on adaptation undermines the traditional boundary between climate change research and development research – beyond climate science and modeling alone. Under conditions of climate change, development that is not



Stills from the film 'The Urgency of Co-creation', capturing proceedings and implications of the 'Knowledge to Action' Lab in New Delhi.



Image: Pexels

Under conditions of climate change, development that is not adaptive threatens people's livelihoods

adaptive poses great risks to people and institutions, and the scope to strengthen local capacities to work on the social, economic and political impacts of climate change is unprecedented.

In June 2018, GDN joined over 1,000 global scientists, practitioners, business leaders and policymakers at the Cape Town Adaptation Futures Conference, held for the first time in Africa, to engineer **innovative partnerships to close knowledge gaps** that hinder adaptation to Climate Change.

GDN, in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) India, the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Oxfam, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UN Environment organized a Knowledge2Action Lab, which aimed to **define a strategy and develop the tools to close the knowledge gaps** in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) subregion, and downstream countries, in South and Southeast Asia. The Lab was part of the UNFCCC's Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative.

The production and use of knowledge on adaptation will require new ways for researchers, policy actors and practitioners to work together, and for donors and climate finance actors to support them. GDN's Labs and high-level convening efforts are practical examples of the types of programs and tools needed to support more diverse and more effective collaborations.

III. Enhancing the Demand for Research

In 2018, GDN continued its efforts to facilitate the interaction of developing countries' researchers with policy actors and practitioners. GDN launched a new ambitious blog; it designed and implemented 'Labs' where researchers, practitioners and policy actors can build projects together; and it convened high-level conversations on how development research and implementation can be brought closer together, including through different funding mechanisms.

GlobalDev blog

FUNDING | Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, International Monetary Fund and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID): US\$ 205,447 from 2017 to 2019

*Founding editors:
Rabah Arezki
Pierre Jacquet
Francesco Obino*

On 7 February 2018, GDN launched GlobalDev, **a multi-lingual blog platform to highlight the contribution of academic research** to global development policy debates and action.

GlobalDev was developed during 2017 and 2018 with financial support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

GlobalDev offers something new: it asks researchers to move beyond reporting findings and data from single publications, to reflect on the broader insights that research generates for policy and practice. It asks authors to reflect on how research can, and does, shape the definition of development challenges, and how it inspires and guides development action.

Between February 2018 and December 2018, GlobalDev published over 70 original blog posts in three languages (English, French and



Image: Vaideyanath Nishant

Spanish), a third of which were authored by researchers based in developing countries (an upward trend). In ten months, the blog reached 31,827 pageviews and 6,412 users on the website. It also attracted an average of 1,200 new social media followers every month, via Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Not least, GDN continued to develop innovative workshop formats to enable relationship-building and cross-fertilization between researchers, practitioners and policy actors. GDN's 'Labs', in particular, are unique for their focus on the very early stage of project development. The Labs create a safe space where researchers, practitioners and policy actors can have **meaningful conversations to shape research questions and projects** before they are fully formulated (and funded). Conversations at the Labs are designed to support external review, an appreciation of intellectual positions and challenges, as well as a spirit of collaboration across silos. Together, this serves to connect the point of view of researchers, policymakers and other practitioners.

GlobalDev | Mobilizing development research to address global challenges

[...] Today's development research mixes scientific endeavor with policy-advocacy. [...] For researchers, however, career incentives for making sense of their work for non-academic audiences remain minimal. Specialization drives research – and it trains researchers to work with a shrinking number of people. [...] There are two polar approaches to addressing that gap. The first is to try to close it by bridging these two worlds: inviting researchers to work on 'solutions' and effective research communication, and asking policymakers to be more academically inclined. Recommendations, however, are rarely taken up, even when they are technically flawless and politically savvy. The second approach, which we support and explore through this new blog, is to recognize the fundamental differences between these two worlds and focus on what individuals and organizations on both sides have in common: an innate interest in knowledge. [...] GlobalDev invites researchers to write about development challenges starting from their research and that of others. We invite researchers to illuminate policy challenges in global development through a balanced discussion on existing scholarship, for the benefit of development donors, policymakers and practitioners.

From a blog posted by Pierre Jacquet and Francesco Obino, 8 October 2018

Policy Labs

FUNDING | In-kind support from GIZ, Oxfam GB, UNESCO and UNFCCC

In May 2018, GDN partnered with UNESCO to run a Policy Lab at the World Press Freedom Day 2018, in Accra, Ghana. The Lab brought six teams of **researchers, working on different aspects of journalists' safety and press freedom**, together with lawyers and legal practitioners, national policy bodies and civil society. The impact of these conversations was significant for the teams: some changed their methodology or data collection strategy, and others changed their research questions, their approach to research ethics or their outreach to civil society initiatives on their topic. Dr. Mariateresa Garrido, Professor of International Law and Doctoral Committee Coordinator at the UN University for Peace in Costa Rica, works on the challenges of protecting citizen journalism in her native country, Venezuela. After the Lab, Garrido decided to build an online portal to give citizen journalists access to basic information about the protection of freedom of expression, alongside her own research findings.

In November 2018, GDN led a group of six high-level partners to hold a 'Knowledge2Action Lab' on climate change adaptation, in the context of the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In this Lab, researchers, practitioners and policy actors from South Asia and South-East Asia **discussed how existing and new knowledge can fill gaps to advance adaptation in the region**. In the final sessions of the Lab, mixed groups formed around key topics, ranging from water governance to value chains in agriculture, to design future projects. The process of the Lab was discussed at the COP24 in Katowice in December 2018, as a possible tool for the UN to support stronger links between knowledge and action on adaptation in the next phase of the LAKI. Feedback from Lab participants pointed out the unique ability of the Labs to convene actors working on similar topics – across sectors, institutions and geographies – to discuss their interests much before either funding proposals or advocacy are on the table.

In March 2018, on the sidelines of its Delhi Global Development Conference, GDN joined hands with the UNFCCC Secretariat and UN Environment and convened a roundtable of 18 high-level representatives that ranged from development banks, multilateral and bilateral aid agencies, commercial banks and research centers. The roundtable explored the **possibilities of institutionalizing transdisciplinary efforts to address the challenges of climate change adaptation**. Participants called for the creation of a regional consortium to attract and challenge funding for projects that integrate implementation and research. Information on the event was included on the document FCCC/SBSTA/2018/INF.1 (paragraph 37- 40). GDN also became an official 'Observer' to the UNFCCC in 2018.

In May 2018, in partnership with the Africa Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institution in Washington DC, GDN convened a group of bilateral, multilateral and philanthropic donors, seated alongside African researchers and research organizations, to discuss the overall direction of funding for development research. This was the final event of the GDN-AERC Development Aid Effectiveness in Africa program. Participants concluded that using international funding for local development research remains a challenge. Studies on aid effectiveness showed that expectations regarding the impact of international aid on local development are often disproportionate, and they do not focus enough on strengthening local capacities and institutions for the long term. Now closed, the program served to **draw donors' attention towards the advantages of demand-driven research funding.**

Development Aid Effectiveness in Africa

FUNDING | United States Agency for International Development (USAID): US\$ 553,000 (April 2015 – May 2018)



Image: GDN

Researchers participating in GDN's 'Doing Research' program discuss a strategy to map research systems in their own countries

Doing Research — *Assessing the Environment for Social Science Research in Developing Countries*

Doing Research: studying social science research systems in three countries

GDN has launched an ambitious program to map, for the first time ever, social science research systems in developing countries. The exercise, known as a 'Doing Research Assessment,' can be replicated across the developing world. This unique 'research on social science research' program will **document the state of play of research systems within countries** – not only benchmarking the health of the research system within the country but also providing policymakers with an informed analysis, based on which to take action. Country assessments are carried out by national teams to support a local debate on how best to generate and use scientific knowledge and evidence to advance sustainable development goals. The Center for the Studies of Social and Economic Realities in Bolivia, the Centre for Innovation, Policy & Governance in Indonesia, and the National Center for Technology Management in Nigeria, won the grants and will lead the national studies.

The program uses an original methodology, developed through a pilot in 11 countries. It assesses the context of doing research along economic, political, historical and international dimensions. It also maps all national research actors, to identify the producers and consumers of research.



The Doing Research team, visiting GDN offices in New Delhi on 20-21 December 2018.

Image: GDN



Image: GDN

GDN seeks partners to scale up the 'Doing Research' program in more than 50 countries worldwide

The Doing Research pilot, started in 2014, was funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Agence Française de Développement, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

In this current, proof-of-concept phase launched in 2018, GDN demonstrates the strength and potential of the program by conducting Doing Research assessments in three countries. GDN and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) also conducted a joint fact-finding mission to Myanmar in November 2018, to include it as a fourth country in this phase of the Doing Research program.

GDN seeks partners to scale up this effort to more than 40 countries.



Image: Vincent Fournier for UNIDO

The world needs to harness the power of STI to speed up development

Global Development Conference on Science, Technology & Innovation for Development [#STI4D]

GDN's Global Development Conferences **create a platform for learning about the latest trends and thinking on the most pressing development challenges.** GDN held its 18th international conference in New Delhi, on 22-23 March 2018, on 'Science, Technology & Innovation for Development.' The basic premise of the conference was that the world needs to harness the power of STI to provide for better global health, to skill youth for jobs, to transform industries, as well as to sustainably support farming livelihoods to feed a growing population. The conference brought together top researchers to interact with policymakers, practitioners from around the world and students, to discuss these topics. An overwhelming majority of participants were from developing countries, a trademark of GDN's global development conferences.

Key takeaways from the conference were as follows:

- The potential of STI needs to be harnessed to implement the **sustainable development** agenda. More knowledge on the political economy of STI adoption, with particular attention to those at the bottom of the pyramid, is needed. The poor are often the primary agents of innovation. STI can and should be inclusive and sustainable.
- Sustainable development can be supported through **innovation in the global south**, rather than just technology transfers and replicating innovations from the developed countries. An important question remains as to who should internalize the risk in testing and adopting local innovations?
- **Knowledge on localized risk** strategies for climate change is particularly important for farmers. Poor countries in Africa need to address the basic constraints to manufacturing and to invest in digitalizing manufacturing. Digital technologies also have the potential to greatly expand access to affordable healthcare for the poor.

- **Livelihoods for the poor in a digital age** can be secured with appropriate policies, regulation and taxation, to encourage larger numbers from the informal sector to access markets, services and to compete. Digital technologies may not only disrupt economies, but also income distribution. Digital platforms can only benefit society if they are open, public and safe.
- **Digital transformation** has several applications for development, including on jobs, healthcare provision, finance and industry. Skill development must keep pace with technology.
- **Policy frameworks** can better integrate the knowledge and development agenda. Multiple stakeholders and strong institutions help government, industry and academia to enable innovation systems. Capacity development, including target setting within the SDGs and building national roadmaps for STI, is needed.

The conference was organized in partnership with the Campbell Collaboration, the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID) India, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). A short summary of the key takeaways, as well as nuanced presentations, films and full-length recordings of sessions are available on the conference website www.gdn.int/conference2018.

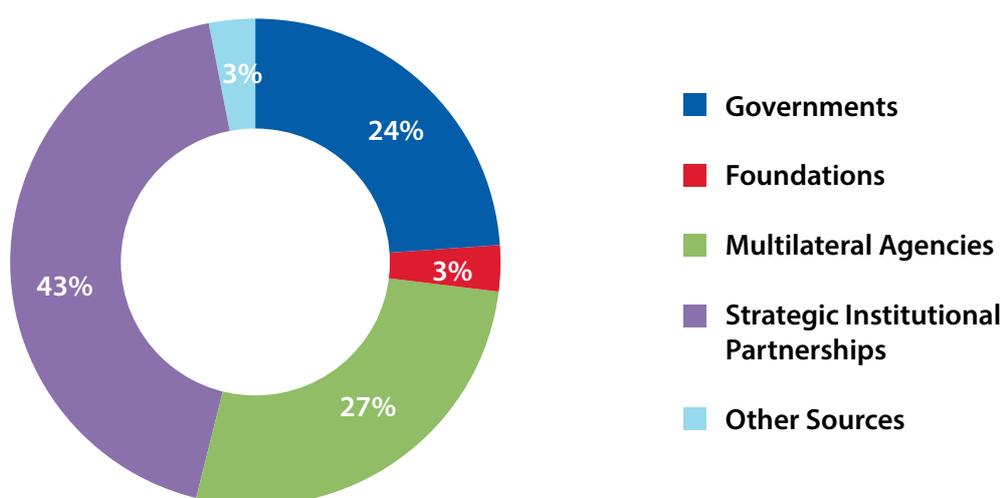


Image: GDN

The conference attracted a combined media outreach of over 1 million.

Finances

GDN Revenue Sources (FY 2017-18)



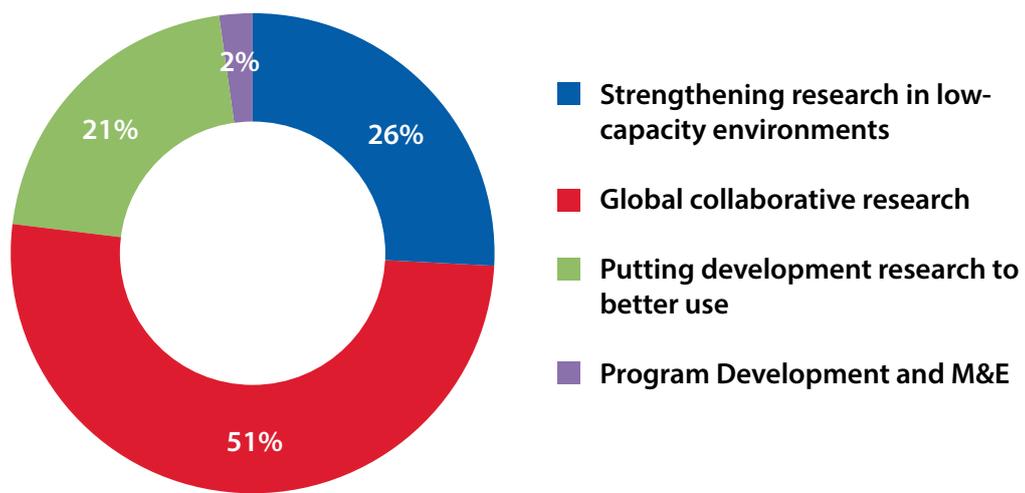
Governments	US\$	917,301
Foundations	US\$	121,364
Multilateral Agencies	US\$	1,069,720
Strategic Institutional Partnerships	US\$	1,690,036
Other Sources	US\$	101,163

Sources of Income, FY 2017-18

(US\$ in thousands)

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	91.36
Campbell Collaboration	750.34
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia	149.57
European Investment Bank	629.99
Inter-American Development Bank	67.70
International Monetary Fund	30.00
Japan International Cooperation Agency	296.28
Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan	377.28
Ministry of Finance, France	68.98
Tulane University	939.69
United States Agency for International Development	25.19
World Bank (including trust funds)	372.04
Other Sources	101.16

Program Expenditure (FY 2017-18)



Note: Expenses incurred on behalf of third-party organizations such as Tulane University and Campbell Collaboration are not included.

Strengthening research in low-capacity environments	\$ 416,277
Global collaborative research	\$ 826,825
Putting development research to better use	\$ 348,054
Program Development and M&E	\$ 26,182

Global Development Network

Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

June 30, 2018 and 2017

	2018	2017
	Amount (US\$)	Amount (US\$)
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,272,126	5,516,108
Contributions receivable	2,473,684	385,101
Prepaid expenses	6,481	93,388
Other current assets	52,241	25,933
Total Current Assets	5,804,532	6,020,530
Property and Equipment, Net	5,844	4,605
Other Assets		
Long term deposit and advances	311	16,576
Security deposits & investment	71,785	86,396
Intangible assets	10,082	16,131
Total assets	5,892,554	6,144,238
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Grants payable	233,630	636,096
Accounts payable	1,245,076	139,147
Accrued expenses	990,804	811,580
Obligation in the operating cycle	–	–
Total Liabilities	2,469,510	1,586,822
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	2,331,707	3,420,912
Temporarily restricted	1,091,337	1,136,503
Total Net Assets	3,423,044	4,557,415
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	5,892,554	6,144,237

Global Development Network

Consolidated Statements of Activities

Years Ended June 30, 2018 and 2017

	2018			2017		
	Temporarily		Total	Temporarily		Total
	Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted	Restricted	
	Amount (US\$)	Amount (US\$)	Amount (US\$)	Amount (US\$)	Amount (US\$)	Amount (US\$)
Support and revenue						
Grants, contracts and contributions	(1,750,920)	4,459,399	2,708,479	(59,574)	1,500,158	1,440,585
Interest income	31,151		31,151	31,778	–	31,778
Foreign currency exchange gain/(loss)	(11,673)		(11,673)	5,689	–	5,689
Other income	35,123		35,123	22,107	196,832	218,939
Net assets released from restrictions	4,504,565	(4,504,565)	–	2,286,604	(2,286,604)	–
Total support and revenue	2,808,246	(45,166)	2,763,080	2,286,604	(589,613)	1,696,990
Expenses						
Program Services						
Annual Conference	27,671	–	27,671	–	–	–
Regional Research Competitions/IRP		–	–	51816	–	51816
Global Development Awards	303,639	–	303,639	559,000	–	559,000
Research Capacity Building Program	1,095,136	–	1,095,136	608,073	–	608,073
Project Development	26,182	–	26,182	10,298	–	10,298
Global Collaborative Research	1,504,608		1,504,608	943,384		943,384
Other programs	164,710	–	164,710	19,348	–	19,348
Total program	3,121,946	–	3,121,946	2,191,920	–	2,191,920
Supporting services						
Donor coordination and fundraising	28,365	–	28,365	72,551	–	72,551
Secretariat (indirect costs)	747,140	–	747,140	1,126,132	–	1,126,132
Total expenses	3,897,451	–	3,897,451	3,390,603	–	3,390,603
Change in net assets	(1,089,205)	(45,166)	(1,134,371)	(1,103,999)	(589,613)	(1,693,613)
Net assets (deficit)						
Beginning of period	3,420,912	1,136,503	4,557,415	4,524,911	1,726,117	6,251,028
End of period	2,331,707	1,091,337	3,423,044	3,420,912	1,136,503	4,557,415

Awards & Grants

PROGRAM	STUDY OR PROJECT	COUNTRIES/ REGIONS COVERED	GRANT (USD)	GRANT (EUR)	NAME	AFFILIATION
EIB-GDN Program in Applied Development Finance				€ 25,000	Abdi Yuya Ahmad	Adama Science and Technology University, Ethiopia
				€ 25,000	Edgar Francis Appianti Cooke	Ashesi University College, Ghana
				€ 25,000	Franklin Amuakwa- Mensah	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Uppsala, Sweden
				€ 25,000	Hamidou Jawara	University of The Gambia
				€ 25,000	Kane Gilles Quentin	University of Yaounde, Cameroon
				€ 25,000	Laura Nelima Barasa	University of Nairobi, Kenya
				€ 25,000	Muhammed Abdella Usman	Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany
				€ 25,000	Sied Hassen Mohamed	Environment and Climate Research Center (ECRC) at the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI) Ethiopia
				€ 25,000	Soazic Elise Wang Sonne	United Nations University (UNU-MERIT), Maastricht, The Netherlands
				€ 25,000	Timothy Kinoti Mwongera	World University Service, Canada

PROGRAM	STUDY OR PROJECT	COUNTRIES/ REGIONS COVERED	GRANT (USD)	GRANT (EUR)	NAME	AFFILIATION
Global Development Awards Competition	Addressing Food Insecurity Through Modern Farming Techniques	Kenya	\$ 5,000		George Onyango	Dandora Dumpsite Rehabilitation Group (DADREG)
	Addressing Poverty through Agribusiness, Trading and Research (APATAR)	South Sudan	\$ 10,000		Abraham Bungkuac	SERMA Africa Organization
	Broad Class - Listen to Learn" - Interactive Radio Instruction Program, Pakistan	Pakistan	\$ 199,994		Fakhira Najib	POWER99 Foundation
	Finding skills in the middle-income countries: the case of auto-parts suppliers in Mexico and Turkey	Mexico and Turkey	\$ 22,500		Merve Sancak	University of Cambridge
	Hydroponic Aqua-Farming for Building Capacities towards Climate Resilient Agriculture in Indigenous Smallholders of Indian Ecoregion	Bangladesh and India	\$ 30,000		Dipayan Dey	South Asian Forum For Environment (SAFE)
	Promotion of Coffee certification and contract farming participation: The case of smallholder coffee	Ethiopia	\$ 22,500		Yadeta Bekele	Jimma University
Strengthening Institutional Capacities of Institutions Working on the Economy and the Environment	A Regional Capacity Building Project: Analyzing Impacts of Climate Change on Agricultural Production using the Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Model	Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam	\$ 39,984		Vu Hoang, Nam, Nguyen Thi Tuong Anh, Vu Huyen Phuong, Pham Thi My Hanh, Hoang Bao Tram	Foreign Trade University (FTU)

PROGRAM	STUDY OR PROJECT	COUNTRIES/ REGIONS COVERED	GRANT (USD)	GRANT (EUR)	NAME	AFFILIATION
Doing Research - Assessing the Environment for Social Science Research in Developing Countries	Doing Research in Bolivia: Assessing the National Social Science Research System in a Global Perspective	Bolivia	\$ 44,840		Luis Pablo Cuba	Center for the Studies of Social and Economic Realities (CERES)
					Roberto Laserna, Monica Olmos, Sharim Ribera	Center for the Studies of Social and Economic Realities (CERES)
	Doing Research in Indonesia: Assessing Social Science Research Systems in a Global Perspective	Indonesia	\$ 44,940		Inaya Rakhmani	Universitas Indonesia
					Leonardus K. Nugraha, Mona Luthfina, Rika Rosvianti	Centre for Innovation Policy and Governance (CIPG)
	Doing Research in Nigeria: Assessing Social Science Research Systems in a Global Perspective	Nigeria	\$ 44,650		Abiodun Adeyemi Egbetokun, Muhammed Maruf Sanni, Adedayo Olufunso, Olofinyehun, Omolayo Bukola Oluwatope, Ayo-Lawal Rachael Aderonke, Yusuff Utieyineshola Adeleke	National Centre for Technology Management (NACETEM)

Board & Assembly

GDN Board of Directors, 2018

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The World Bank

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The World Bank

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Barcelona Graduate School of
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Managing Director, Egypt Network for
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Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School, US

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School of Government and Research
Fellow at St Antony's College, University
of Oxford, UK and
Board Chairman, African Economic
Research Consortium (AERC)

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Shlomo Weber

President, New Economic School,
Moscow
Leading Scientist, Center for Study
of Diversity and Social Interactions,
Moscow and Professor Emeritus,
Southern Methodist University, Dallas

Tham Siew Yean

Senior Fellow, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute,
Singapore; and Adjunct Professor,
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

*Professor Mthuli Ncube stepped down from the Board in September 2018, following his appointment as the Finance Minister of Zimbabwe.

**Professor Sarris was appointed to the Board in December 2018.

GDN International Assembly Representatives (as of 1 January 2019)

Colombia

Ambassador of Colombia to India

Hungary (Chair till 16 November 2018)

Ambassador of Hungary to India

India (Chair as of 16 November 2018)

Additional Secretary (FB & ADB)

Department of Economic Affairs

Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Spain

Ambassador of Spain to India

Sri Lanka

High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India

Impact Testimonies

"There isn't a single Sustainable Development Goal that is not affected by this process (of digital transformation). It cuts across everything."

Alan Gelb, Director of Studies, Center for Global Development, at GDN's conference on Science, Technology & Innovation for Development, March 2018.

"In teaming up with GDN and partners to organize this event, UNIDO aims to leverage its convening function and thereby provide a channel for informing the global discussion on best approaches to harnessing STI for SDGs."

Cecilia Ugaz Estrada, Director of the Department of Policy Research and Statistics at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), partnered with GDN to host the Science, Technology and Innovation for Development Conference in New Delhi, March 2018.

"GDN's effort to support academic voices in the South culminates with the Global Development Awards. These awards get to the heart of our efforts to grow local research and inform better policies. At this awards ceremony, we recognize the best, young talented minds showcasing excellence in development research, thinking and deserving innovation in development."

François Bourguignon, Chair of the GDN Board & Emeritus Professor, Paris School of Economics, France and Former Chief Economist, The World Bank, March 2018.

"I feel the [GDN] project made an important difference in the research culture at the school, at many levels. Department staff typically did not do much research. This year, however, the University's research office received 12 research proposals from staff of our school, of which seven have been competitively selected and funded. This is very good for the school."

Mengistu Ketema, Associate Professor, School of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management and Director, Research Extension and Publication Office at Haramaya University in Ethiopia. Interviewed in July 2018.

"I think this was the right project at the right time, both for me and for Macedonia. I am not sure if the project would have existed without GDN funding, as it was crucial to have these first investments ... for [the] research itself and the platform."

Marjan Petreski, Associate Professor, School of Business and Economics, University American College, Skopje, from an interview published in November 2018.

"GDN was a turning point for me in my career. It gave me the confidence to know that what I was doing was valuable and appreciated."

Joy Kiiru, senior lecturer at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, won a research medal in the Global Development Network Awards Competition in 2010. From an interview published in November 2018.

Impact Testimonies

"Nowadays, policymakers talk about Peru as a middle-income country. I believe this is a big exaggeration that ignores the daily struggles and psychological wear and tear of the lives that people are still leading in the shantytowns. Although their poverty might be less lethal and stressful than in 1977, their relative unequal position in Peruvian society and their understanding of their citizens' rights [has not changed]."

Jeanine Anderson served as a professor at the Social Science Faculty of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru until her recent retirement. In 2000, she received the Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD), which allowed her to continue her work in the Pamplona Alta shantytown in Lima, Peru. Her research focuses on the changing dimensions of poverty over a period of several decades. From an interview published in November 2018.

"Our RICART project has been a [small] showcase [for] improving overseas Filipinos' financial capabilities. Findings were recognized by the Remittance and Development Council and presented to [the] government, financial institutions and civil society [organizations] on several occasions."

Jeremiah M. Opiniano, University of Santo Tomas, The Philippines, from an interview published in November 2018.

"I am pushing hard, internally and externally, for a fact-based approach to everything that we do... Use data, dig deep into them, base your conclusions on facts, do not jump to conclusions, understand the political economy dimensions of the work that you're doing... What could new forms of participation look like? How could new institutions look? How could we "enfranchise" the "disenfranchised"? These answers require more than intuition – they require premium research."

Corina Murafa, Managing Director of Ashoka in Romania, and former GDN grantee, who was involved with a GDN global research project on governance in 2011, interviewed in December 2018.

"I think that the sustainability research community, and by extension the climate change adaptation research community, really has to form new alliances if we want to have impact, if we want to move toward climate action. We quite simply have to change the way that we go about our business; the way that we pose questions, the kinds of partners that we think matter, and so on."

Georgina Cundill Kemp, Senior Program Officer, IDRC at GDN's Knowledge to Action Lab in New Delhi, December 2018.

"The Doing Research program offers a real opportunity to be a step-change initiative to broaden thinking beyond that of research systems. Commitments to the SDGs have added urgency for science and innovation to address socially desirable and environmental sustainable outcomes, as well as for contributing to productivity improvement and economic growth. This requires a highly interdisciplinary approach that needs the participation of a wide range of knowledge producers, and, crucially, knowledge users. It also requires a conceptual framework to include insight from regulatory analysis and from social science and behavioral science."

Andy Frost, Head of Food and Markets Department, Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, December 2018.

"For the first time in 18 years of my career, I have seen a workshop planned with a focus on potential ideas with the intent to convert them into bankable projects, simultaneously promoting collaboration."

Suruchi Bhadwal, Senior Fellow, Earth Science and Climate Change Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) India at the GDN Knowledge to Action Lab in New Delhi, December 2018.



Introducing Research Wowman

Research Wowman has been selected to become the Global Development Network’s mascot in its 20th year. Research Wowman fights for a world that is better informed through scientific evidence, and to inspire sustainable development and policy. Research Wowman will also be the mascot for GDN’s Global Development Conference in Bonn, focused on ‘Knowledge for Sustainable Development: The Research-Policy Nexus.’

Research Wowman fights any form of discrimination, and can be personified as any gender. She wants to see more Southern researchers on the global stage, more women in research, more collaborative projects, as well as more policymakers using research to carve out a secure future for the world’s citizens. Her eyes are magnifying glasses, and she is reading the Book of Knowledge. As you can see, she is not afraid to take action either – she is climbing steadily up the slope of progress.

GDN is happy for Research Wowman to be used by others in the research-policy space, who seek justice for humanity and the planet through their work, often in difficult circumstances, to unite social science researchers across disciplines, and around the developing world. If you credit and backlink to GDN, you can download complete artwork for Research Wowman for free, from GDN’s website, www.gdn.int/researchwowman



Global Office | 2nd Floor, West Wing ISID Complex, 4, Vasant Kunj Institutional Area, New Delhi-110070 | INDIA
T+91 11 4323 9478/4323 9494 | F +91 11 2613 6893 | www.gdn.int