



Terms of Reference – GDN Fellow (Knowledge Systems in Francophone Africa)

The Global Development Network (GDN) is looking for an outstanding individual with strong commitment and potential to manage the expansion of GDN's *Doing Research* global initiative in Francophone Africa, as well as support global outreach for the program.

About the Global Development Network

The Global Development Network (GDN) is a public international organization that supports high quality, policy-oriented, social-science research in developing and transition countries to promote better lives. It supports researchers and research institutions in these countries with financial resources, opportunities for global networking, as well as access to information, training, peer review and world-class scientific and technical support. GDN acts on the premise that better research leads to more informed policies and better, more inclusive development. Through its global platform, GDN connects social science researchers with policymakers and development stakeholders across the world. Founded in 1999, GDN is currently headquartered in New Delhi, India, and operates globally.

About the *Doing Research* global initiative

GDN's *Doing Research* global initiative aims to mobilize and bring together researchers in the global South and global North to understand, map and assess social science research systems, with the goal to analyze structural barriers to doing research in developing countries. Drawing on a systematic and comparative analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of research systems, this global initiative produces original evidence, supports networking, and advances debates with national and international research donors on how to support and fund research in ways that contribute to overall societal resilience. The methodology at the core of the *Doing Research* Assessment uses a mixed method approach to study the determinants of *production*, *diffusion* and *uptake* of social science research from the perspective of the national research system. It is the first effort to benchmark systematically social science research systems in developing countries. By establishing a network of institutions in developing countries working on the issue (the *DR National Focal Points*), and by collecting and curating an original global dataset on research systems across developing countries, the program aims to create new incentives for research on knowledge systems, but also support with novel system-level evidence national and international efforts on research capacity building and/or evidence-informed policy making.

About the position

GDN is looking for an individual to be appointed as GDN Fellow (Research Systems in Francophone Africa) to run the expansion of the initiative in Francophone Africa, with 5 new countries and regional networking and outreach planned for the period 2022-24. The Fellow will also contribute to leveraging the results of the regional initiative vis-à-vis the program's main donor, French Development Agency (AFD), and the international community of donors, in view of further scale-up in Africa.

The Fellow will work closely with the global Doing Research team at GDN, institutions at the country level who will implement the Doing Research Assessment (Doing Research National Focal Points), GDN's Head of Programs, and the Advisory Board of the Doing Research program. This role reports to the Head of Program, with whom s/he shapes the program strategy.

Responsibilities

The Fellow will:

- Manage the selection of 5 DR National Focal Points in Francophone Africa, and support the implementation of 5 country-level DR Assessments in direct coordination the chosen institutions and their GDN-appointed mentors.
- Lead the adaptation of the DR Assessment methodology to the regional context, in close collaboration with the GDN team and DR National Focal Points.
- Manage quality control and provide quality support and oversight to DR National Focal Points implementing the assessments, including but not limited through the identification of advisors for each National Focal Point.
- Identify strategic outreach opportunities, innovating whenever possible, to foster a local domestic demand for the assessments early on, and to disseminate the output of the testing phase with national and international stakeholders.
- Coordinate with the rest of the Doing Research team on the curation of datasets coming from DR National Focal Points, for open access and visualization.
- Manage events in the region (virtually and in person, when possible), with support from the DR team.
- Support the visibility of the program with substantive inputs for GDN's comms team.
- Scope and lead discussion with external partners and donors interested in implementing DR Assessments in further countries in the region (Francophone/Anglophone/Lusophone/Arabic speaking Africa).

Requirement

- A PhD, or equivalent research experience, in any of the social sciences. (essential)
- Relevant professional experience conducting research in developing countries, and/or collaborating with developing country research teams or institutions. (essential)
- At least 4 years of relevant professional experience in managing projects with an international vocation. (essential)
- Strong intellectual and professional interest in the topic of research systems, knowledge systems, research communication, research-policy interface and research for development. (strongly desirable)
- Openness to adapt to, and learn from, the process of program implementation. (strongly desirable)
- Willingness to travel internationally (tentatively up to 10 days per year, when possible) (strongly desirable)
- Knowledge of and experience working with international donors, including AFD. (strongly desirable)
- Fluency in both French and in English, in writing and verbally. (essential)

Conditions of employment.

GDN offers a competitive remuneration. The position is based in the offices of GDN in Clermont Ferrand, France, but the candidate should be available to start working from home if conditions do not allow office-based work. Based on candidates' experience and qualifications, GDN may consider flexible working arrangements, particularly if based in the region (francophone Africa). The capacity and willingness to relocate to Clermont Ferrand, France, is essential.

Duration of Contract

GDN seeks to appoint a Fellow till June 30th 2024. The contract is subject to Six month probation. The contract is extendable/renewable subject to availability of funds and satisfactory performance.

Starting date

Dec 2021/Jan 2022.

Application Procedure

- Interested candidates should send the following paperwork via email to jobs@gdn.int:
- an updated CV highlighting relevant experiences;
- a list of relevant publications (including links), including signed blogposts and op-eds if applicable;
- a brief cover letter (max 2 pages) expressing their interest for this position.
- Please mention "Fellow (Knowledge Systems in Francophone Africa) – Application – [YOUR NAME]" in the email header. **Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis, and until October 10th 2021.**
- Shortlisted candidates might be asked to sit for a written test in English and French during the selection process.