

GDN Impact Report

Global Development Awards Competition

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Introduction

The Global Development Awards Competition is an innovative award scheme launched by GDN with the support from the Government of Japan. Since 2000, the Global Development Awards Competition has supported the career advancement of researchers and development practitioners in developing countries and funded outstanding research and innovative social projects benefitting marginalized groups. In total, the competition funded close to 400 researches and projects, hereby generating social development impact within several countries. The GDN Awards Competition consists of three grant schemes:

1. **The Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD).** This competitive program funds research proposals submitted by researchers from developing and transition economies that have a high potential for excellence in research and clear policy implications for addressing development issues. The grant was established in 2000 and is still ongoing.
2. **The Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP).** This program provides grants to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in developing countries to recognize the innovative approach of their grassroots projects. The Award targets projects which have a high potential for positive impact on marginalized and disadvantaged groups located in developing and transition countries. The grant was established in 2000 and is still ongoing.
3. **The Medals for Research on Development (MRD).** The Medals confer awards to authors (developing country researchers) of completed research papers in topic areas selected every year. This grant scheme started in 2000 and ended in 2013. Its funding was different and originated from various sources every year.

In order to capture, document and analyze the impact created by the three grants until now, GDN asked Aidenvironment to partner with them in performing an impact study, consisting of an impact survey, a research quality analysis and case-studies. This report describes the results of the study which focuses on the impact of the grants in two areas: 1) impact on individual (professional) development of previous awardees and their organizations, and: 2) impact on social development by the project or research.

This impact study was carried out by Aidenvironment, a not-for-profit consultancy specialised in evaluation assignments and research on development and value chain dynamics. The study was conducted by Dr. JJ Kessler (senior consultant) and Ms. N Raap (junior consultant), both employed by Aidenvironment. Neither of the two consultants, nor Aidenvironment in its prior activities, has had any earlier engagement or connection with GDN. The study was carried out during the period of November 2017 to February 2018.

Section 1 of this report elaborates the methodology that was developed for the study, which includes a survey of competition winners, an analysis of research quality and case studies of selected winners. The results and emerging insights are presented in Section 2. In the last section, the report lists the main conclusions and recommendations emerging from this study.

1. Methodology

1.1 Evaluation Framework and impact pathways

Overview

The methodology developed and applied for this evaluation was based on the following key components.

1. *An evaluation approach based on the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria, especially those of effectiveness, impact and sustainability.* Survey questions and interview questions were designed to provide insight in these criteria.
2. *Use of an analytical approach using impact pathways to guide the study.* In this case we identified two impact pathways for the GDN awards and included several proxy indicators to assess impact within each pathway.
3. *Understanding the contribution of GDN to the targeted impact,* by identifying the plausible contribution by the GDN Award sometimes in conjunction with other influencing factors;

Impact Pathways

1. ORD and MRD

For the research component of the evaluation, the following impact pathway on 'Research award impact pathway' shows how research can lead to new scientific insights and from there to research uptake in the research community. Uptake in the research community is considered to be a proxy for on the ground impact.

Output →	Immediate outcome →	Final outcome →	Targeted impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GDN funded paper• Participation to GDN conference	For the researcher: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professional network• Research skills	For the researcher: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publications• Follow-up funding• Career advancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visibility and recognition• High quality research• Uptake within and beyond research community
	For the research institution: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Influence and partnerships• Management skills	For the research institution: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow-up funding• Improved opportunities	
External influences increasing, attribution more complex ➡			

2. MIDP

The following impact pathway of MIDP shows how an innovative social development project can lead to new insights and from there to further uptake in policy and in practice. Uptake in policy and in practice has been used as a proxy for on the ground impact, which is a common practice as on-the-ground impact studies are expensive, and attribution is complex.

Output →	Immediate outcome →	Final outcome →	Targeted impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GDN funded project• Participation to GDN conference	For the individual: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professional network• Program management skills	For the individual: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow-up funding• Career advancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visibility and recognition• Uptake in and beyond development practice• Number of beneficiaries
	For the NGO: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Influence and partnerships• Management skills	For the NGO: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow-up funding• Improved opportunities	
External influences increasing. attribution more complex →			

1.2 Steps of the Methodology

Step 1. Impact pathways

The first step was to design impact pathway approach (see above), as a basis for the survey and the detailed questions to be asked. Uptake by the research community, or uptake by development policy and practice, can be considered as proxies for on the ground impact.

Step 2. Survey design

In October 2017, separate but close to identical digital surveys were sent to two groups of winners, being winners in the research sector (ORD and MRD) and winners in the NGO sector (MIDP). Respondents were asked to score the perceived impact by the GDN Award on a number of individual and organizational impact categories as well as social development impact categories (see table below for some examples and see the full survey report in Appendix 1). Respondents were asked if certain developments took place within 5 years after the grant was won with a simple yes or no. If applicable, survey takers were asked to indicate if these developments met their expectations. The answer model followed a Likert scale from 1-5 indicating no impact (1) to different degrees of positive impact (from 'less than -' to 'a lot more than expected'). Open questions were added to gather further impact evidence as well as individual stories of the winners.

Indicator framework used including proxy indicator examples for both types of grants

Impact Area	Impact categories	ORD and MRD	MIDP
Individual & Organization	Networking	<i>Increase in collaborations with other researchers</i>	<i>Increase in collaborations with international development agencies</i>
	Skills and Human Capital	<i>Improved ability to acquire funding</i>	<i>Improved ability to present project results</i>
	Sustainability	<i>Follow-up funding for research</i>	<i>Number of projects implemented annually increased</i>
	Career advancement and recognition	<i>New career opportunity abroad</i>	<i>Performance of consultancy assignments</i>
Development	Visibility and Recognition	<i>Project presentation at national research conference</i>	<i>Project covered by international media</i>
	Uptake in policy and in practice	<i>Research outcomes used for lobby and advocacy purposes</i>	<i>project model replicated within country</i>
	Impact data		<i>Number of project beneficiaries</i>

Step 3. Research Quality Analysis (RQA)

The quality of research output was determined using an approach that was designed by Aidenvironment for the evaluation of a global research program. It follows the accepted international research quality standards according to the five categories ranging from 1 (quality below national standards) to 5 (world-leading quality in terms of originality,

significance and rigour). See the full RQA report in Appendix 2 and explanation of this approach.

Step 4. Case-studies: stories of Impact

From the survey respondents, a number of winners were selected for further in-depth interviews, aimed at capturing a personal insight in impact and the underlying causal chains. Winners were selected on the basis of their responses provided in the survey. Those who indicated relatively high overall impact were selected as their stories will best indicate how targeted impact can be achieved. These impact stories were created on the basis of the interview results, aimed at establishing a narrative with a logical flow and including positioning in the context in order to understand other influencing factors. The stories of impact aim GDN to strengthen visibility of the awards competition and its winners as well as to serve as anecdotal evidence for the survey findings.

Step 4: Analysis of combined findings

The results of the surveys, the RQA and the case studies were combined to generate key findings as presented in this final report. To do so, the survey results were leading, with research quality adding to insights on targeted impact and case studies providing the individual narratives and anecdotal evidence to support findings. Given the limited scope of the study, case studies and RQA were not used to validate survey findings.

2. Results

The Global Development Network envisions a world in which evidence and scholarly knowledge inform and inspire development and policy decisions. The Awards Competition contributes to this objective by supporting researchers and development practitioners who show potential to create outstanding research and innovative social projects benefitting marginalized groups. This section describes the impact of the grants in two areas: 1) impact on individual (professional) development of previous awardees and their organizations, and: 2) impact on social development by the project or research. Results for ORD and MRD research grants are presented jointly, and results for MIDP project grants are presented separately.

2.1 Sample size and winner representation

Survey response

In total, 58 valid responses were received to the ORD and MRD survey, from 27 different countries, corresponding to 24% of ORD winners and 17% of MRD winners. The MIDP winners provided 9 valid responses covering 9 different countries, corresponding to 20% of MIDP winners.

Research Quality Analysis

In total 18 papers were analyzed, of which 12 ORD winners and 6 MRD winners. The sample is representative of winners over the years, by taking into consideration the following criteria: year of participation, geographical location and gender.

Case studies

A total of 9 interviews were held with 4 MIDP winners, 3 ORD and 2 MRD winners, ranging in year of participation, location and gender.

The table below summarizes the representation of members per region, year of participation and gender for the survey sample, the research quality analysis and the case studies.

Region of citizenship				Year of participation				Gender			
	Survey	RQA	Cases		Survey	RQA	Cases		Survey	RQA	Cases
Asia	42%	33%	44%	2000 - 2005	24%	39%	22%	M	67%	56%	67%
Latin America	28%	44%	11%	2006 - 2010	39%	22%	33%	F	33%	44%	33%
Africa	22%	17%	33%	2011 - 2016	37%	39%	44%				
Europe	6%	6%	11%								
Australia	2%	0%	0%								

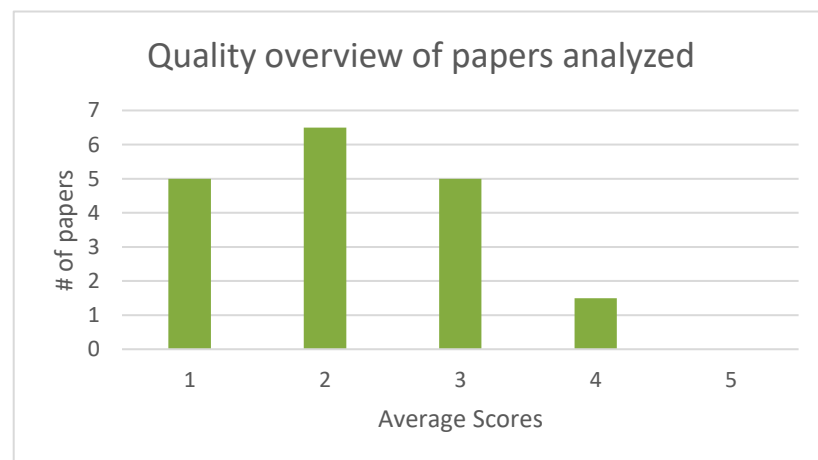
2.2 Key Insights

Results for individual researchers and their respective organizations are presented in the same sections as they show strong correlation. Significant differences are highlighted as well as areas where survey respondents indicated the effects of the grant were different from their expectations.

2.2.1 ORD and MRD Results

RESEARCH QUALITY

In terms of research quality there was much variation, with MRD papers scoring higher than ORD on average. Most papers in the ORD category specifically scored 2 or 3 (2 = quality that is recognised nationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour; 3 = quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour) as these were written as a project or case study report rather than full research reports or scientific articles. Very few had higher scores (national or international leading excellence).



The papers served the purpose of reaching out to a national audience, but few were published in journals. From the 12 ORD papers, one was published in a scientific journal, and from the 6 MRD papers 4 were published in journals. This suggests that MRD papers are more suitable for publications. This could be explained by the difference in objectives between the two awards, with the ORD being awarded at the start of the research and the MRD intended for already finalized research, enabling the final step towards publication. Although academic standards might not be as high for all papers, it can be argued that this was not the main aim and focus audience of the awards. Over half of the papers seemed to be written for a national policy audience instead of an international scientific audience. This is in line with one of GDN's main objectives on clarity and significance of the policy implications of papers selected for its research awards. Placing the survey results into further context, anecdotal evidence from the case-studies also suggest that for both ORD and MRD winners, the paper written with GDN funds, even if not being of the highest academic quality, did lead to more funds for more and better-quality work in further research areas. This underlines the GDN objective of supporting young research talent.

IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

"I won this award soon after accidentally losing my job as a university researcher, and it gave me the confidence to start up my own think tank, which is now the most highly ranked think tank in Bolivia."

Winning the ORD and MRD award leads to an increase in professional network and collaborations with both national and international researchers for most grantees.

Both individual and organizational networking reported high targeted impact in the area of collaboration with national or international researchers or research institutes (with 15 to 30% scoring more than expected), as well as networking within the research organization and with other research groups. Collaboration with government, NGOs or private sector clearly gave less positive scores and especially in the area of collaborations that with editors and media groups respondents had expected more. Interviewed winners selected for the case studies often directly related their growth in network to their participation in the GDN conference and GDN's global network, and mentioned several instances in which new contacts through this network led to new partnerships being formed.

The research grants enable skill development of individuals and organization, often beyond expectation.

Survey results showed that impact on individual skills and human capital scored very positive, with 40% of respondents indicating more than expected positive results on ability to define new research themes, to communicate and promote research findings, to manage research programmes, to collaborate with others and to acquire new funding. Scores on skills and human capital are also predominantly positive at organizational level, with highest positive scores on the ability to acquire grant and funding opportunities, where one out of four indicated this was more than they expected. All interviewed winners for the case-studies indicated the training at the GDN conference helped to raise their presentation and communication skills and more generally that the funds enable professional growth by allowing for further investment. A winner from Macedonia (Marjan Petreski, 2nd place ORD

2013) indicated for example that the GDN grant was key in starting a new division in their research institute on women and gender inequalities. Skills development is therefore directly linked to the following key insight.

ORD and MRD support the professional growth of researchers and research institutes and leads to increased publications and follow-up funding.

The majority of respondents experienced an increase in information requests on their research (83%), invitations to present the research (74%) and the number of (joint) peer-reviewed publications (59%). Most organizations experienced an increase in the number of research publications (69%) and an increase in requests for collaboration (66%). Follow-up funding acquired after the award scored slightly lower, but still covered around half of individual researchers and organizations. 60% of organizations acquired other grants or awards. Evidence from the case-studies suggests that the prestige of winning the GDN award leads to more interest for their individual and their institutions work. Leveraging the success accomplished with help of the GDN to acquire follow-up funding was frequently mentioned in the interviews. This happened in the case of Jeremiah Opiniano (1st place Ord 2011), whose research tool named Remittance Investment Climate Analysis in Rural Hometowns (RICART) used in the Phillipines became funded by several other donors after the GDN funded project.

“After the award, my research grew organically. At some point I realized that it had become the only research area for my career.”

“Winning the award provided several opportunities for me, especially at the international level. It is also part of the reason I got my present position and some consultancy opportunities as well as having opportunities to work on some research projects with some international organisations.”

Winning an ORD or MRD award often helps individuals to advance their careers by opening up new job opportunities as well as consultancy assignments

More than half of the individuals responding to the survey experienced career advancement as a result of the award in the form of a promotion and/or a new career opportunity, with highest scores on consultancy assignments (72%) and winning another award (69%), and lowest on international career development (40%). These scores are lower at organizational level, for consultancy assignments (62%), winning another award (59%), and developing new career opportunities (48%).

DEVELOPMENT IMPACT

Winning the GDN research award leads to increased visibility and recognition in national and international research circles, as well as among policy makers

A majority of respondents experienced an increase to spread their research findings after winning by presenting at national and international and research conferences. More than half were able to gain attention beyond the academic world and discussed the research with national policy makers, NGOs and private sector. Joy Kiiru, who won an MRD in 2010 mentioned that one of the main results of her research is that the Kenyan government has begun to realize the difference between social protection and microfinancing. On the basis of

her research, Joy is now working with one of the County governments in Kenya to develop a policy for youth empowerment. In a different example, a winner's presentation of findings to local government officials directly influenced the development of a financial inclusion strategy (Opiniano ORD 1st place 2011)

Publication in international journals took place more regularly than publication in national journals, whereas media coverage was much higher nationally than internationally. Here again, the prestige of the GDN award and access to a global research network were important contributing factors mentioned in the survey as well as in the interviews. Visibility and recognition were most mentioned as the most valuable thing the award had brought.

"I would like to credit GDN for welcoming me as a member of their group. I was already known in Peru as a researcher, but it was certainly a top-up for my reputation. My work got a lot of recognition because of my name was now linked to the World Bank and the Global Development Network."

"The award drew attention to the new perspectives and methodology that were used in the work."

Uptake of research produced by ORD and MRD winners is high within academia but low in the public and private sector

85% of winners saw their research cited by the scientific community, with a majority indicating this happened more than 10 times, and 76% reported their research findings being used by other researchers. Uptake of research beyond academia was limited, with less than half of respondents indicating that research findings were used for lobby and advocacy purposes, 33% by politicians, 23% by private actors and 35% of findings was used to create practical methods and guidelines. Uptake within private sector scored lowest. More winners were involved in international projects than in national projects on the basis of their research findings. When their research findings led to new policies or programmes, impact has been noteworthy, as illustrated by the following quotes :

"The idea of a poverty trap became common in Mexico"

"The World Bank and IDB decided to support the informal recycling sector"

"That Indian cities have to be much more open to building height restrictions, in order to make housing more affordable for the urban poor."

These results suggest a gap between the research community and government, development and private sector, that in some cases might be hard to bridge even though all papers written had specific policy implications within their contexts, as was found in the RQA. It is important to note here that not all national policy environments are conducive to take up advice from research and implement it. Marjan Petreski, a winner from Macedonia (2nd place ORD 2013) explained that during the time the results of his research were published the Macedonia government was in turmoil. Also, a 5- year strategy related to the topic of his research had just been released. Although interest in his research was expressed during this time, nothing came out of the conversations due to other challenges that received priority during this time. Now

that a new government is in place and a new strategy is due Petreski sees high potential for his findings to be taken into account.

2.2.2 MIDP Results

IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

“The most valuable thing that happened as a result of winning the award was recognition of our organization as an NGO with a sustainable social delivery approach to sustainable development. The funding enabled us to scale our impact by testing our model in different ecosystems and countries”

The MIDP award leads to a significant increase in collaboration with other development practitioners, but less beyond the development community

Impact in networking was largest for individual respondents and their organizations in areas of collaboration with development practitioners in their home country and participation in multi-stakeholder initiatives (90% as expected or more than expected). Respondents had expected more collaborations with government agencies and universities to take place, the latter especially at organizational level. Collaboration with the private sector shows much variation (both low and high scores). This indicates an area of improvement or expectation management by GDN. But there are also successes: in an example from a case study, project results in Uganda by organization Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH) (1st price MIDP 2013, JDSF 2014) led to a collaboration with a renowned research institute in the United Kingdom with the aim to further develop and spread their development approach.

Winning an MIDP award supports skill development for development organizations and project members, but leaves room for improvement

On an individual level, more than expected positive impact was mainly found on abilities to communicate and promote their project, acquire new funding and collaborate with others. In some cases, respondents had expected more. This is especially visible where it concerned the ability to design (33%) and manage (44%) development programmes. On an organizational level, respondents were most positive about the effect of the GDN award on their ability to promote and communicate their vision and development efforts (44% reported more than expected impact). One third had expected more positive impact with regard to their ability to attract new and competent staff members.

Anecdotal evidence from the case studies shows that exposure and training at the GDN conference is of great impact, especially for those NGOs that are not used to participating in international development event or trainings. In a telling example from one of the case-studies, a development organization in Nepal (ANSAB, 2nd place MIDP 2008) now uses the one

paper project pitch format they learned to use during the GDN conference in their day to day operations as an organization. Another example shows that the participation of the Mountain Societies Development Support Program (MSDSP) a Kyrgyz development organization, (3rd place MIDP 2016) in seminar on education and innovation during the GDN conference led to a new project idea which became funded.

“As an organization who is always focused on the field, we never had much opportunity to reach out to our peers, so to be recognized like this was very special. At the conference, we were able to connect to World Bank economists and high-level researchers, working on similar in agriculture across the globe.”

The MIDP award often leads to funding increase for development organizations

Almost all MIDP winners and their organizations experienced request for information about their projects, while nearly all saw an increase in funding after winning the award and a rising interest in their projects or in their organizations. Evidence on the causal relationship from the survey and interviews suggests that the GDN award funded successful pilots that, proving their value on a small scale, were then picked up by larger donors. Similar to the research grant, the significance of leveraging the GDN funds for new funds is clearly present among MIDP winners.

Excellence of MIDP winners recognized by other grants and awards but less through career advancement

Whereas two thirds of individual respondents experienced promotion within their own organization, only two respondents experienced a new career opportunity at home and only one abroad. Indications of organizations growth are shown by the fact that all organizations experienced development of new career opportunities. Almost all individual respondents, and all organizations, experienced winning of another grant or award. Only for about half of the winners did the winning of the grant lead to the performance of consultancy assignments.

“We were able to broaden our team, develop in-house team capacity and new avenues in similar project areas as well as expand grant opportunities with government agencies and increase sphere of intervention with communities in need in rural India”

DEVELOPMENT IMPACT

A diverse range of actors show interest in MIDP winners project results

Survey outcomes showed that all MIDP winners projects discussed their projects with both NGOs, private sector representatives and national policymakers. In some cases, this happened more than 5 times. Two thirds of respondents presented their project finding at least once at national and/or international conferences (up to more than ten times). Most winners received media coverage in either national or international media. The majority of survey respondents indicated that at least 500 individuals directly benefited from the project and more than 5000 benefited indirectly.

MIDP funded projects have a high rate of replication and follow-up

All MIDP survey respondents reported that their project led to the creation of a new project or technology. Most projects were replicated and several even more than ten times. Replication takes place both nationally as well as internationally. Three of the winners interviewed in the case-studies stated to be working or to have worked with international development partners, among which European government funds and UN agencies to develop their approach further in other countries.

Results were used more often for lobby and advocacy purposes than directly by policy-makers. Although 70% of respondents indicated policy-makers used their results this did not happen more than one time, whereas The same proportion saw their results used by private actors but with more frequency Most winners (69%) were involved in a national follow-up.

“You could say that GDN has helped us to grow the approach locally and that a new funder is now helping us to make it into an international approach to carry to different countries.”

The differences in uptake of project results by policy and private actors might be explained by the extent of involvement of local government agencies and private sector actors in the winning project. In one of the case-studies in India Chinmaya Organization for Rural Development (CORD) (1st price MIDP, 2015, JSDF 2016), included building knowledge and governance capacity among state agencies in sustainable agriculture as one of the project aims. Survey results of this winner scored high in the area of policy influence and zero in the area of uptake by the private sector. On the contrary, a project in Nepal by the Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB), (2nd price MIDP 2008) that was aimed at Biodiversity Conservation through the establishment Community-based Enterprises, reported high impact in the area of uptake by private sector and low regarding policy implications.

“Our main impact achieved was to demonstrate a viable model for marginal and small farmers in rural India with help of sustainable agriculture practices as well as establish strong presence and recognition of women farmers as a critical mass in policy and advocacy”

3. Conclusions and recommendations

3.1 Conclusions

Overall, the combined results show predominantly positive targeted impact but also room for improvement. The targeted impact is broadly summarized in the below impact pathways of both award categories (scores in three classes give an indication of the level of positive impact, varying from ++ (very positive), + (positive), +/- (neutral or slightly positive)) .

ORD and MRD pathway with outcome and impact values

Output →	Immediate outcome →	Final outcome →	Targeted impact
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GDN funded paper• Participation to GDN conference	For the researcher <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professional network +• Research skills ++	For the researcher <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publications +• Follow-up funding +• Career advancement ++	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visibility and recognition ++• High quality research +/-• Uptake within and beyond research community +/-
	For the research institution <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Influence and partnerships +• Management skills +	For the research institution <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publications +• Follow-up funding +• Improved opportunities +/-	
External influences increasing, attribution more complex ➡			

MIDP impact pathway with outcome and impact values

Output →	Immediate outcome →	Final outcome →	Targeted impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GDN funded project• Participation to GDN conference	For the individual <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professional network +• Program management skills +/-	For the individual <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow-up funding ++• Career advancement +/-	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visibility and recognition ++• Uptake of within and beyond development community +• Number of beneficiaries +
	For the NGO <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Influence and partnerships +• Management skills +/-	For the NGO <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow-up funding ++• Improved opportunities +/-	
External influences increasing, attribution more complex ➡			

As is reflected in the table, positive effects on individuals within the research category are stronger than the effect on their institutions. For the MIDP category, effects are similar for both individuals as well as organizations. This might be explained by the fact that MIDP projects tend to be implemented by a larger team and therefore positive effects of the grant are more easily spread in the organization. Looking into the categories with + and +/-, the scores are generally more positive within the research or development community, as compared to beyond this sphere of influence. For both groups of winners, the GDN award seemed to have the highest effect in terms of recognition, collaboration and uptake within their own work area and less beyond. Policy uptake, one of GDN's main objectives, shows mixed results for both categories.

Combining insights from these findings, the following conclusions stand out:

- Participation in the GDN global research and development network gives grantees access to new knowledge and collaborations.
- Participating in the GDN conference has added value, especially for those grantees who have had limited opportunity to present their findings for an international audience or to get exposure to peers working on similar or related issues.
- The prestige of winning the GDN award is an important determining factor leading to more interest in work of grantees and helps in acquiring new funding.
- Winners in both the research as development sector are able to leverage the success accomplished with help of the GDN to acquire follow-up funding.
- Research papers do not rank amongst the highest in terms of academic quality standards, but all focus on policy innovations with potential social development impact, hereby answering to the grants main objective.
- Research and development winners find that their targeted impact is most visible within their respective (research or development) sphere of influence, rather than beyond.

- Whereas national media coverage for research is high, uptake by national policy-actors as well as by the private sector is low.
- Private sector uptake of development results from MIDP winners is higher as compared to uptake by policymakers, but might still be further improved.

3.2 Recommendations for GDN

Following from the conclusions above, the following is recommended to GDN:

- Explore ways to strengthen the link between research institutes and development institutes within the GDN network to enhance collaboration and thus impact beyond the sphere of the individual institutions.
- Improve skill development of MIDP award winners where it concerns project design and management.
- Improve publication rate of winning research in scientific journals to increase spread of research results and visibility of winners and impact of GDN.
- Invest in ways to strengthen policy influence of papers and projects, e.g. provide a training on this subject during GDN conference, possibly based on good examples.
- Focus winner election on those researchers or development practitioners that show promise but have not had a chance to prove themselves yet on the international stage.
- Given the increasing attention for multi-stakeholder platforms and the role of private sector in social development worldwide, this might be an additional point of attention for selecting grant winners.
- Continue investing in GDN as the prestigious, world-leading research and development institute as to maintain or strengthen its reputation, proving recognition and visibility to award-winners.

Annex 1. Development Impact Survey Report

Annex 2. Research Quality Analysis Report

Annex 3. Case Studies Report

Development Impact Survey Report

GDN Awards Competition 2000-2017

Introduction

The Global Development Awards Competition is an innovative award scheme launched by GDN with the support from the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan. Since its inception in 2000, the Global Development Awards Competition has supported the career advancement of researchers and development practitioners in developing countries and funded outstanding research and innovative social projects benefitting marginalized groups. In total, the competition funded close to 400 researches and projects, hereby generating social development impact within several countries.

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2. The Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD). This competitive research grant program funds research proposals submitted by researchers from developing and transition economies that have a high potential for excellence in research and clear policy implications for addressing development issues. This granted was established in 2000 and is still ongoing.
3. The Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP). This competitive grant program provides grants to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in developing countries to recognize the innovative approach of their grassroots projects. The Award targets projects which have a high potential for positive impact on marginalized and disadvantaged groups located in developing and transition countries. This granted was established in 2000 and is still ongoing.

In order to capture, document and analyze the impact created by the three grants since 2000 until now, GDN asked Aidenvironment to partner with them in performing an impact evaluation study. As part of this study, a survey was held among award winners with the aim to capture the impact of grants in two different areas: 1) impact on individual (professional) development of previous awardees and their organizations, and: 2) impact on social development by the project or research.

In October 2017, separate but close to identical surveys were sent to two groups of winners by GDN, being winners in the research sector (ORD and MRD) and winners in the NGO sector (MIDP). Respondents were asked to score the perceived impact by the GDN award on a number of individual and organizational impact categories as well as social development impact categories. Scores were simply yes/no or followed a Likert scale from no impact to different degrees of positive impact (from 'less than -' to 'a lot more than expected'). From all respondents, a number of winners was selected for further in-depth analysis and interviews, capturing a more personal insight in impact. These impact stories will be used by GDN to strengthen visibility of the awards competition and its winners.

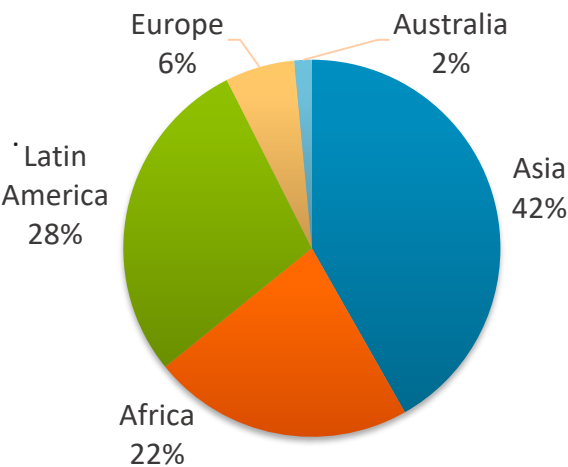
In total, 58 valid responses were received to the MRD and ORD survey, from 27 different countries, corresponding to 17% of MRD winners, 24% of ORD winners. The MIDP winners provided 9 valid responses covering 9 different countries, corresponding to 20% of MIDP winners. The majority of the respondents to the ORD and MRD survey represented the principal investigator (81%) of the award-winning research, while the majority of respondents were male (67%). The majority (42%) of respondents were located in an Asian country, followed by Latin America (28%), Africa (22%), Europe (6%) and Australia (2%).

Respondent Characteristics

Amount of responses per award

Out of a total of 342, **67 past award winners responded to the Impact survey**. The overview below shows the division of respondents between the award type and the amount of responses per survey part (1 and 2). The percentage shows the representation of the total amount of winners over the years.

Award	Total responses	1. Individual impact	2. Development impact
MRD	34 (17%)	34	31
ORD	24 (24%)	23	22
MIDP	9 (20%)	9	7
Total:	67 (20%)	67	61



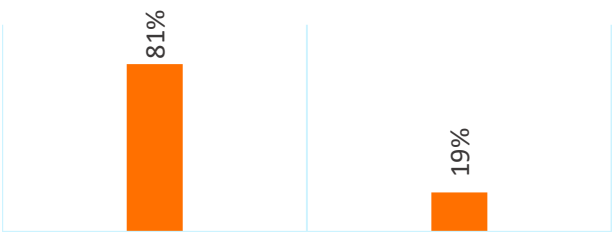
Team Role

The majority of the respondents to the ORD and MRD survey represented the principal investigator (81%) of the award-winning research. 19% of respondents were team members. Among the MIDP winners, two-third (67%) was director of the award-winning project and one-third (33%) was a team member.

Country of Citizenship

The regional distribution of respondents gave a proportional representation of origins of winners over the years. 28 (42%) of respondents were located in an Asian country, 19 (28%) from Latin America, 15 (22%) from Africa, 4 (6%) from Europe and one (2%) respondent from Australia.

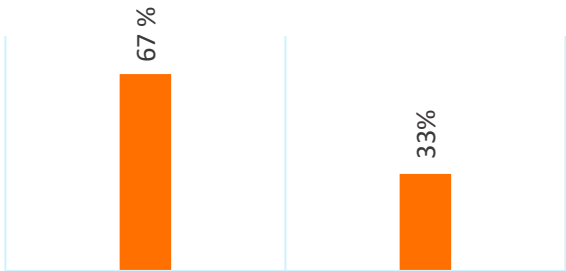
ORD & MRD



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

TEAM MEMBER

MIDP

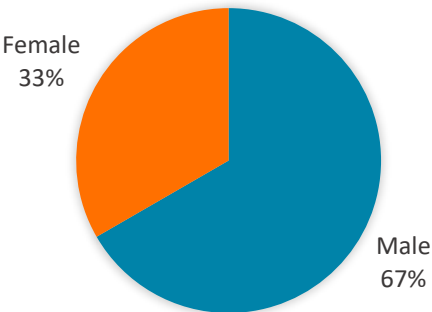


PROJECT DIRECTOR

TEAM MEMBER

Gender

23 out of 67 respondents were female and 44 were male.



1. Key Findings

Main conclusions

We see predominantly positive impact, and often more than expected by the winners. The latter is especially the case within the direct surroundings (research arena), in terms of skills development and collaboration. Also, there is frequent follow-up both in terms of recognition and follow-up awards and funding. Career development shows mixed results. Linkages beyond the research arena, such as with policy makers, private sector and NGOs are found less frequently, especially for the research winners. Given the increasing attention for multi-stakeholder platforms and the role of private sector in social development worldwide, this might be an additional point of attention for selecting grant winners.

Key Findings ORD and MRD

Individual and organizational impact

Networking

Positive impact predominates for all networking categories (>55%). Both individual and organizational networking score highest (15 to 30% scoring more than expected positive impact) for more collaboration with national or international researchers or research institutes, as well as networking within the research organization and with other research groups. Collaboration with government, NGOs, private sector or editors/media groups clearly gave less positive scores.

Skills and Human Capital

Impact on individual skills and human capital scores very positive for all categories (>90%), and have scores of at least 40% for more than expected positive results on all categories: ability to define new research themes, to communicate and promote research findings, to manage research programmes, to collaborate with others and to acquire new funding. Scores on skills and human capital are also predominantly positive at organizational level (>65%), with highest positive scores on the ability to acquire grant and funding opportunities (24% score more than expected), followed by the ability to promote and communicate research efforts (20%) and ability to attract new and competent staff (18%).

Sustainability

The majority of winners experienced an increase in information requests on their research (83%), invitations to present the research (74%) and the number of (joint) peer-reviewed publications (59%). At organizational level most organizations experienced an increase in the number of research publications (69%) and an increase in requests for collaboration (66%). Follow-up funding acquired after the award scored lowest: only 47% for individual researchers and 57% for organizations. However, 60% of organizations acquired other grants or awards.

Career Advancement and Recognition

Generally more than 50% of the individuals experienced career advancement as a result of the award in the form of a promotion and/or a new career opportunity, with highest scores on consultancy assignments (72%) and winning another award (69%), and lowest on international career development (40%). These scores are lower at organizational level, for consultancy assignments (62%), winning another award (59%), and developing new career opportunities (48%).

1. Key Findings

Development impact

Visibility and recognition

On most development impact categories, ORD and MRD winners reported positive impact in the area of visibility and recognition within national and international research circles. Highest scores were on research presented at national and international and research conferences (78-83%), followed by discussing the research with national policy makers, and international publications (60-65%). Research findings were also discussed with NGOs and private sector (around 50%).

Uptake and change of behavior

Uptake of research produced by winners was highest within academia: 85% of winners saw their research cited by the scientific community, with a majority indicating this happened more than 10 times, and 76% reported their research findings being used by other researchers. Uptake of research beyond academia took place less often: 42% of respondents indicated that research findings were used for lobby and advocacy purposes, 33% by politicians, 23% by private actors and 35% of findings was used to create practical methods and guidelines. Uptake within private sector scored lowest. More winners were involved in international projects than in national projects on the basis of their research findings.

Key Findings MIDP

Individual and organizational impact

Networking

Positive impact predominates for all networking categories (at least 65%). Impact in networking was largest (more than expected) for individual MIDP winners and their organizations in areas of collaboration with development practitioners in their home country and participation in multi-stakeholder initiatives. Winners had expected more collaborations with government agencies and universities to take place, the latter especially at organizational level. Collaboration with the private sector shows much variation (both low and high scores).

Skills and Human Capital

Impact on individual skills and human capital only has positive scores. On an individual level, scores with the highest level of more than expected positive impact were found on abilities to communicate and promote their project (33%), acquire new funding and collaborate with others (both 22%). On an organizational level winners were most positive about their ability to promote and communicate their vision and development efforts (44% scores more than expected). One third had expected more positive impact with regard to their ability to attract new and competent staff members.

Sustainability

Winners responses in the sustainability categories were significantly positive. Almost all winners and organizations experienced request for information about their projects, while 78-89% saw an increase in funding after winning the award and a rising interest in their projects or in their organizations as a whole.

1. Key Findings

Career Advancement and Recognition

Whereas two thirds of individual winners experienced promotion within their own organization, only two winners experienced a new career opportunity at home and only one abroad. All organizations experienced development of new career opportunities. Almost all individual respondents, and all organizations, experienced winning of another grant or award. Only for about half of the winners did the winning of the grant lead to the performance of consultancy assignments.

Development impact

Visibility and recognition

All respondent winners projects discussed their projects with NGOs, private sector representatives and national policy makers. In some cases this happened more than 5 times. Two thirds of respondents presented their project finding at least once at national and/or international conferences (up to more than ten times). Most winners received media coverage in either national or international media. The majority believes that at least 500 individuals directly benefited from the project, while the majority believes more than 5000 benefited indirectly.

Uptake and change of behavior

All respondents reported that their project led to the creation of a new project or technology. Most projects (86%) were replicated and several even more than ten times (29%). Results were used more often for lobby and advocacy purposes than in general by policy actors. Most winners (69%) were involved in a national follow up of their project and the same proportion saw their results used by private actors, for some even more than 5 times.

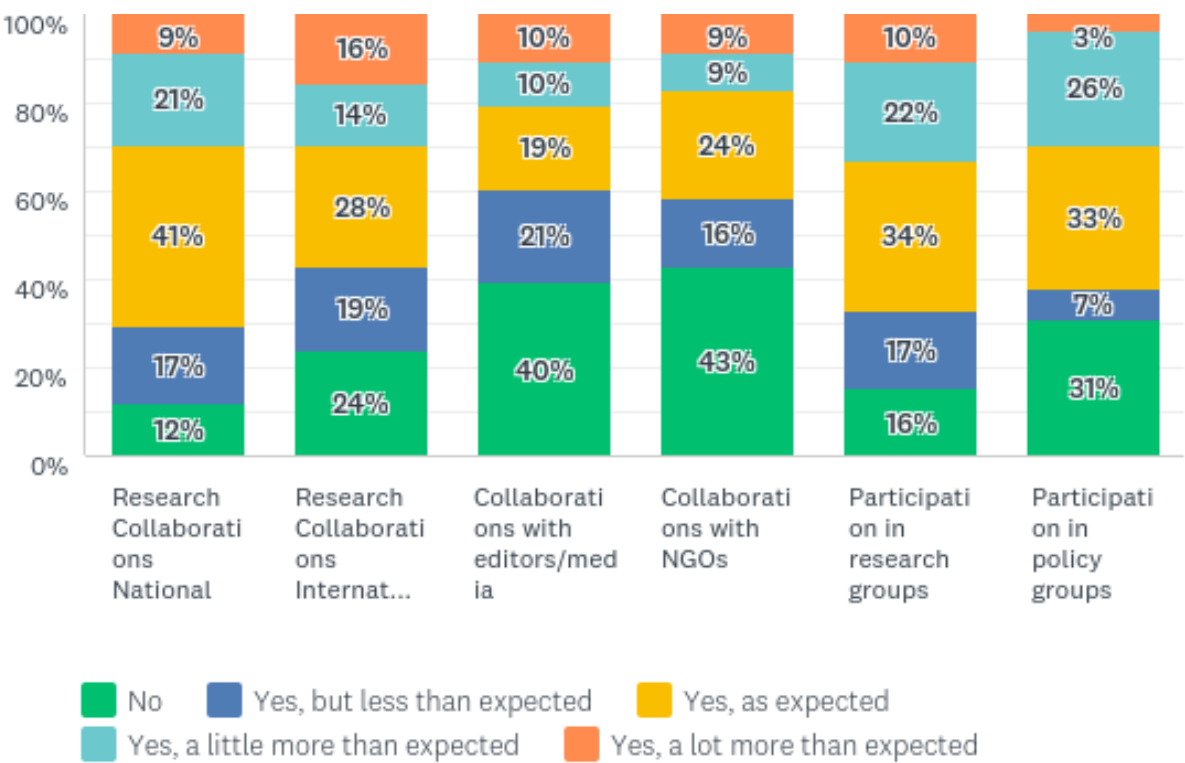
2. Individual and Organizational Impact: ORD and MRD

2.1 Networking

Did you experience the following personal developments, during or within five years after the grant period?

Findings:

- All six categories show a majority of responses indicating positive impact as a result of the award.
- The most positive impacts were found within the categories relating to research. 88 % of respondents experienced **collaborations with national researchers**, with 30% of the total indicating this was ‘more then expected’. Similar high scores were found regarding **participation in research groups** (84%) and, to a slightly lesser extent, **international research collaborations** (76%).
- Less impact was shown in developments outside of academia, where 69% **participated in policy groups**, 60% **experienced collaborations with book editors or media** and 57% **had collaborations with NGOs**. In both categories, expectations diverged among survey takers, as a similar amount of respondents answered, ‘as expected’, ‘less than expected’ and ‘more than expected’.



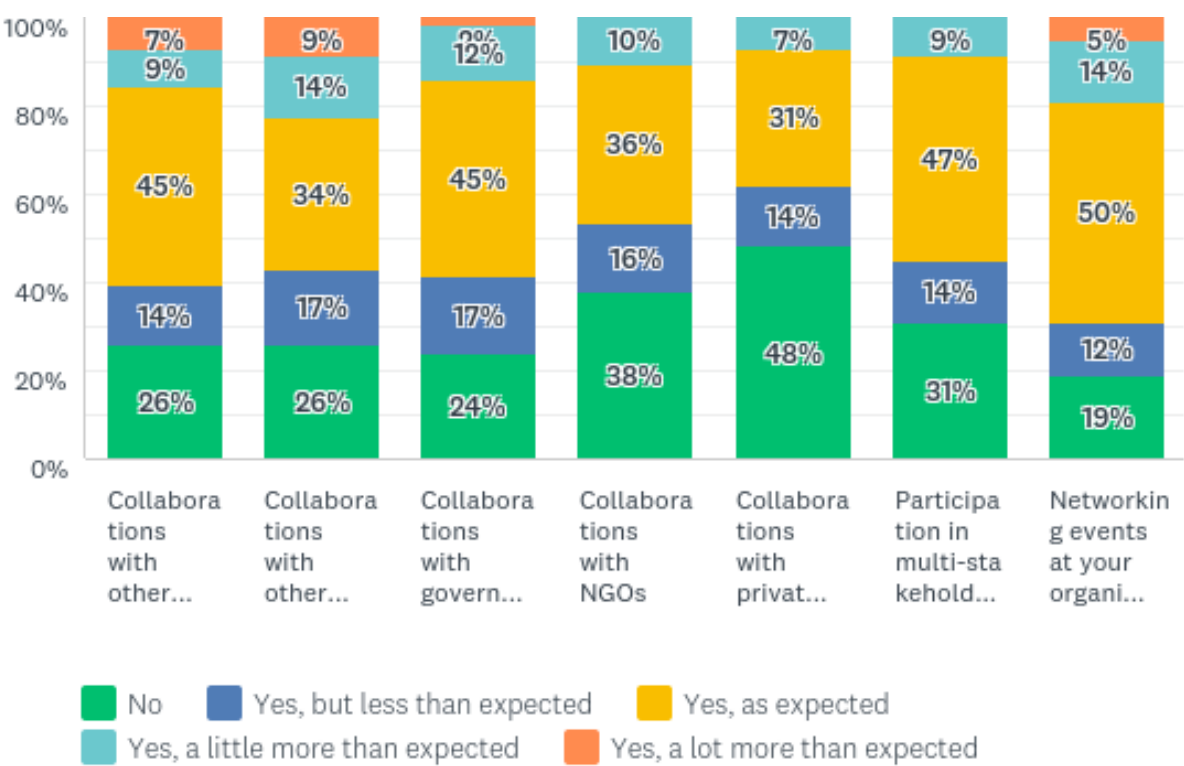
2. Individual and Organizational Impact: ORD and MRD

2.2 Networking

Did your organization experience the following developments, during or within five years after the grant period?

Findings:

- The majority of responses was positive in all categories.
- Highest positive impacts were experienced in **networking events hosted at the organization** (81% answered yes) and in **collaborations with other national and foreign research institutes** (both 74%) **and government agencies** (76%). Of these categories, experiences with foreign research institutes were most surprising for winners, with 23% answering ‘more than expected’.
- Lower impact was achieved in **collaborations with NGOs**, which was experienced by 62% of organizations and in **collaborations with the private sector**, experienced by 52%. 69% indicated their organization **participated in Multi-stakeholder initiatives**.



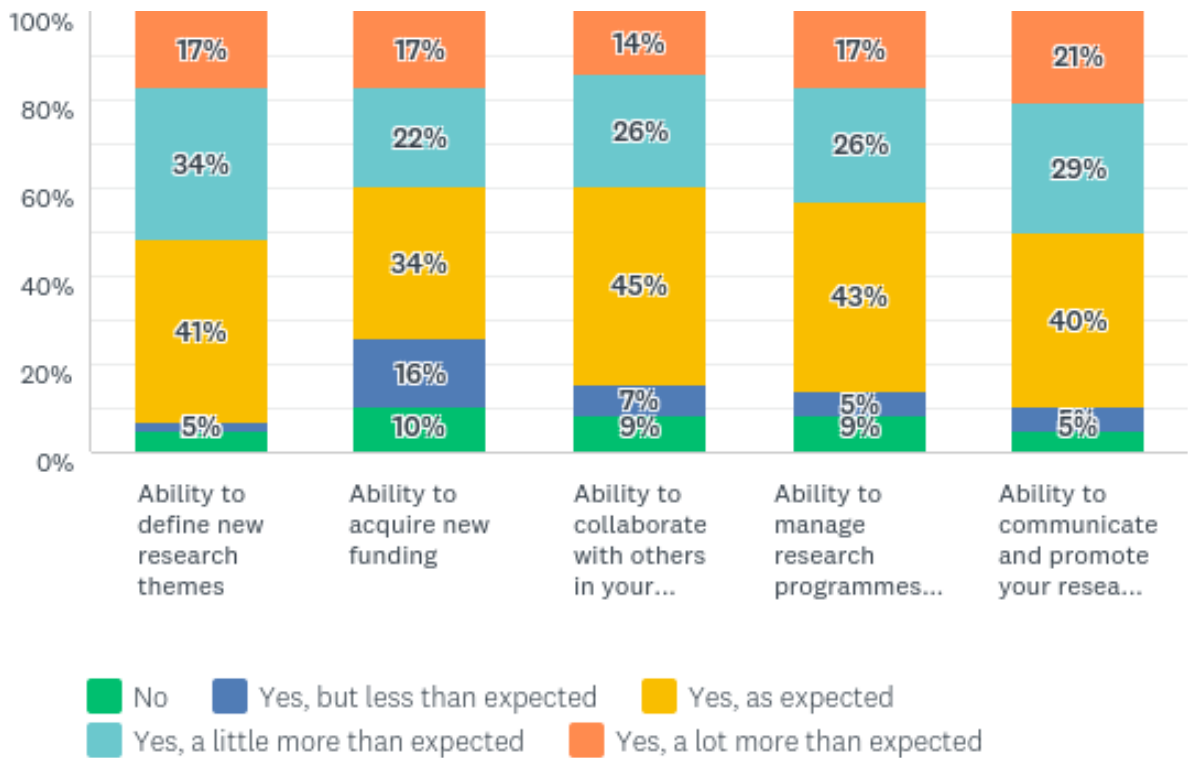
2. Individual and Organizational Impact: ORD and MRD

2.3 Skills and Human Capital

Did you experience developments in the following personal abilities, during or within five years after the grant period?

Findings

- Overall findings regarding Skills and Human Capital show a very positive impact with 90% or more respondents answering ‘yes’ in each category.
- All categories show high percentages of respondents answering ‘more than expected’: 51% with regard to **the ability to define new research themes**, 50% with regard to **the ability to communicate and promote their research findings**, 43% with regard to the **ability to manage research programmes**, 40% with regard to **the ability to collaborate with others** and 39% with regard to **the ability to acquire new funding**.
- Although 90% answered yes to having experienced a development in their ability to acquire new funding, 16% indicated this was less than expected.



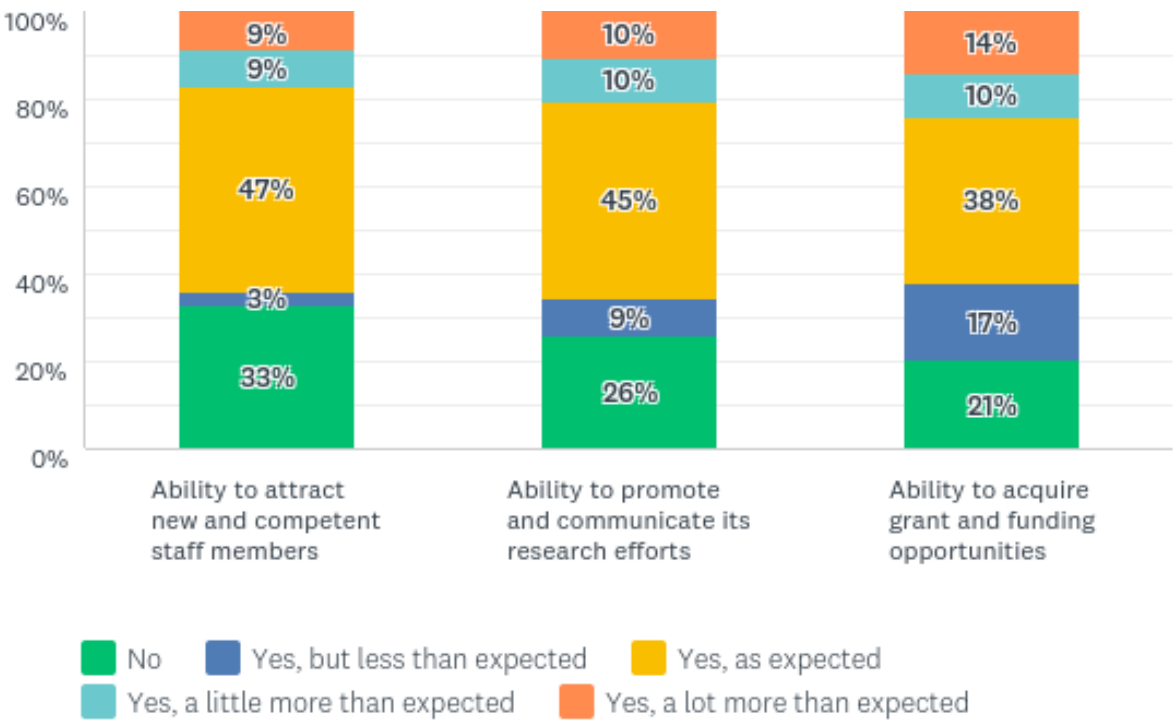
2. Individual and Organizational Impact: ORD and MRD

2.4 Skills and Human Capital

Did your organization experience developments in the following abilities, during or within five years after the grant period?

Findings

- Answers show an overall positive impact on the development of skills and human capital within winners’ organizations. Notably, this impact is lower than on the individual.
- Two third (67%) of respondents experienced a positive development in **the ability to attract new and competent staff members in their organization**, whereas one third did not.
- The **ability to promote and communicate research efforts** was experienced by 74% of respondents and 79 % experienced a positive impact on **the ability to acquire grant and funding opportunities**, 24% indicating this was ‘more than expected’ .



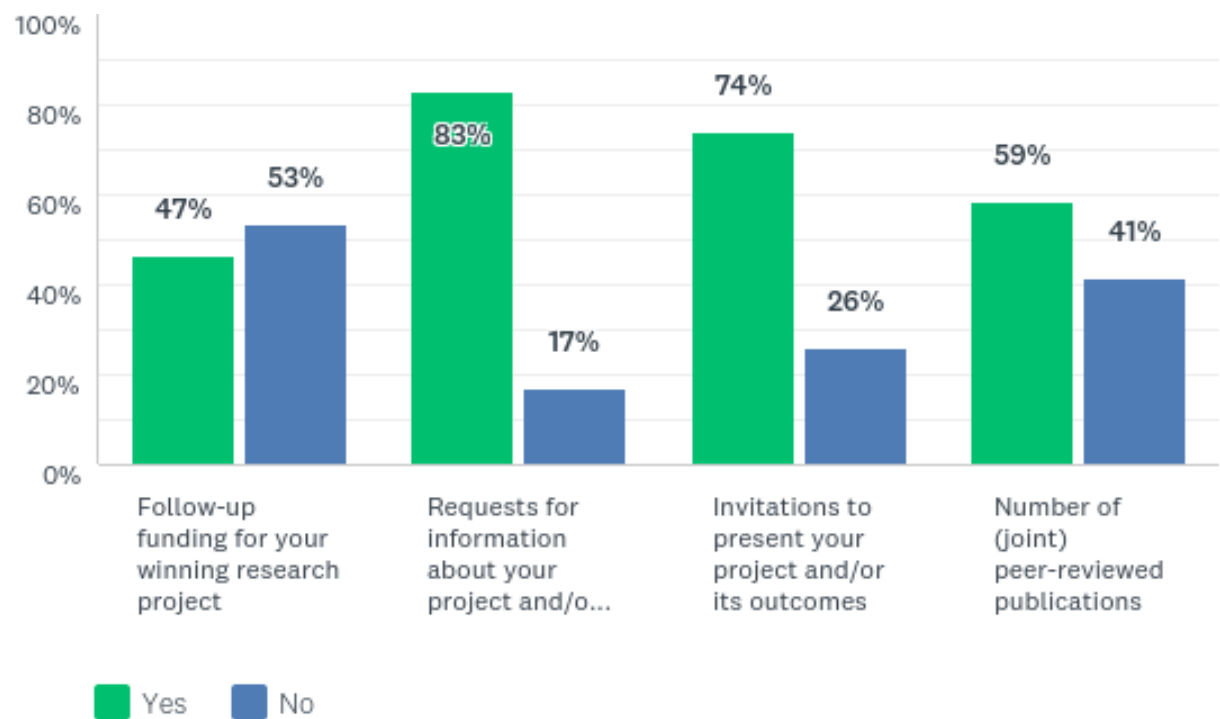
2. Individual and Organizational Impact: ORD and MRD

2.5 Sustainability

Did you experience an increase in the following, within five years after winning the grant?

Findings

- More than half of the survey respondents experienced increases in three out of four categories.
- The highest impact was achieved with regard to an increase **in requests of information about winners’ projects or its outcomes** (83% answered yes) and **in invitations to present the project and project outcomes** (74%). 59% experienced an increase in **the number of (joint) peer-reviewed publications** after winning the grant.
- An increase in **follow-up funding** was experienced by 47% of respondents, making this the least scoring category.



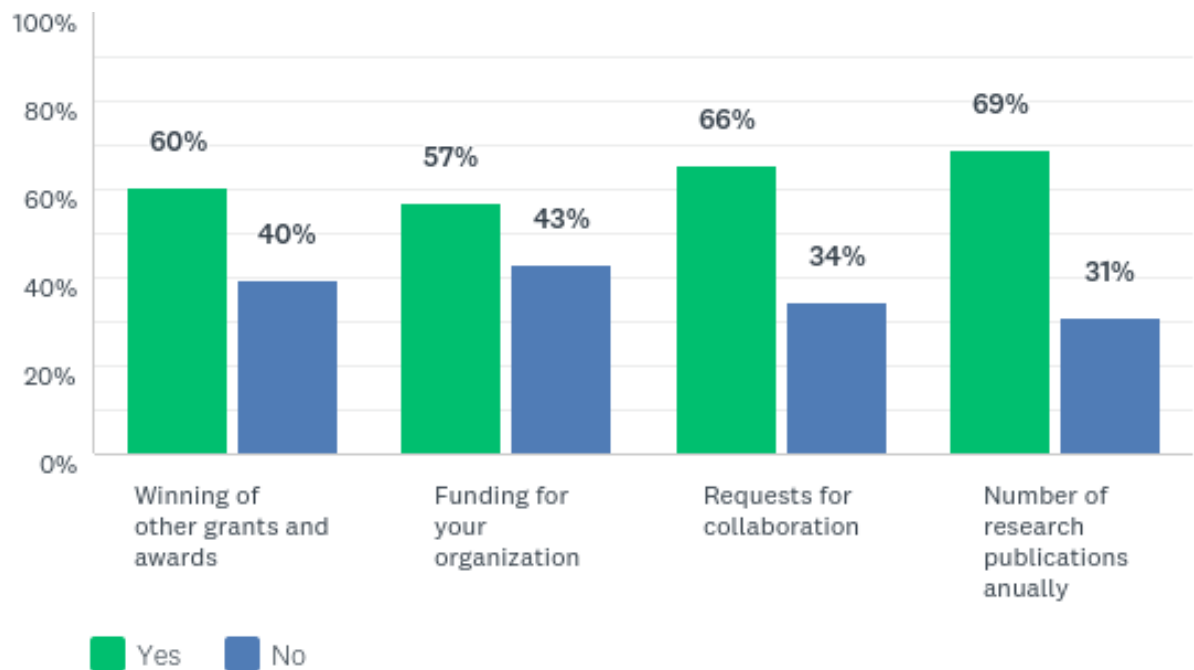
2. Individual and Organizational Impact: ORD and MRD

2.6 Sustainability

Did your organization experience an increase in the following within five years after winning the grant?

Findings

- In all sustainability categories more than half of respondents answered ‘yes’ .
- In the highest scoring categories, 69% of survey respondents indicated to have experienced an increase in **the number of research publications annually** within their organizations and 66% an increase **in requests for collaboration**.
- In the slightly lower scoring categories, 60% indicated to have experienced an increase in the **winning of other grants and awards** and 57% in **funding for their organization**.



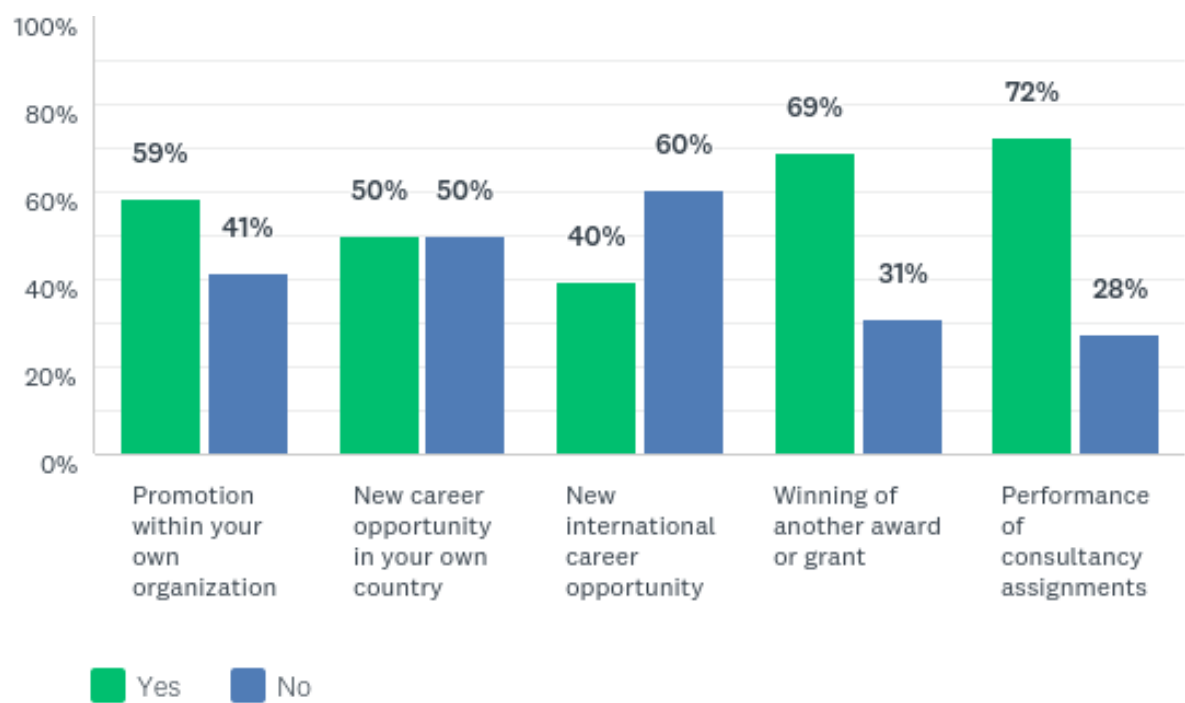
2. Individual and Organizational Impact: ORD and MRD

2.7 Career Advancement and Recognition

Did you experience the following developments in your career, during or within 5 years after the grant period?

Findings

- In all categories except one, more than half of respondents experienced positive developments in career advancement and recognition.
- An overall positive impact on career advancement was experienced by 59% of respondents who received a **promotion in their own organization**. 50% of respondents found a **new career opportunity in their home country** and 40% found a **new position abroad**.
- Impact was even larger on **winning of another award or grant** (69% answered yes) and on **the performance of consultancy assignment** (72% answered yes).



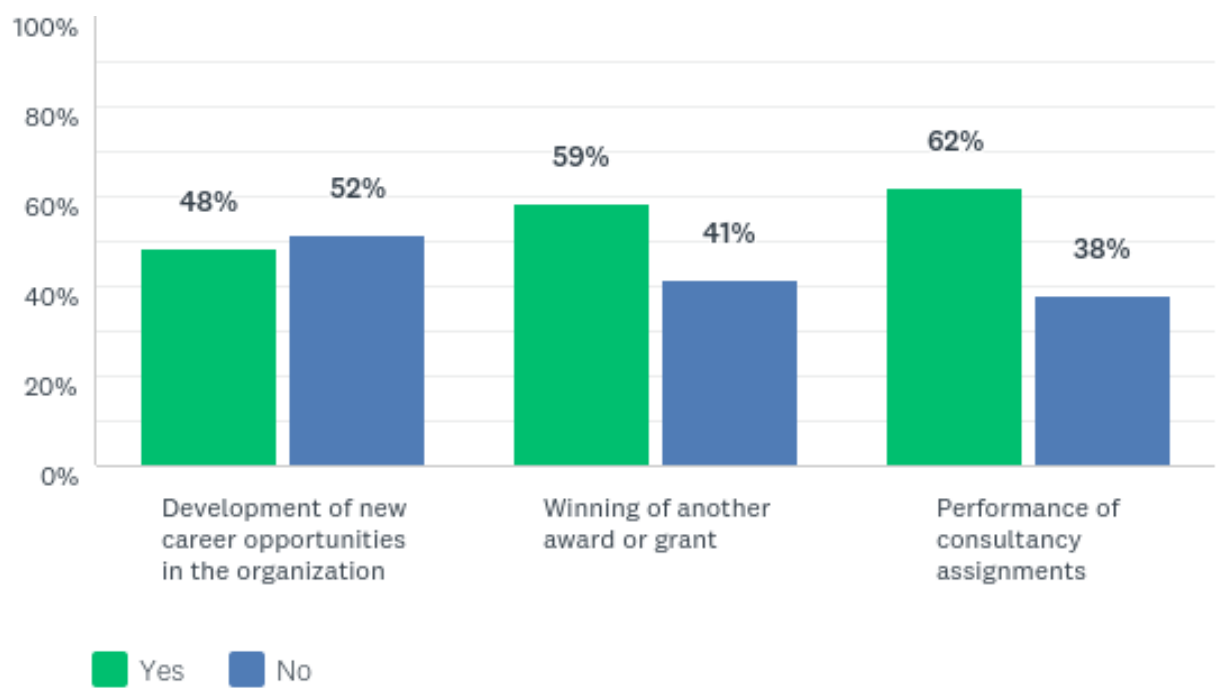
2. Individual and Organizational Impact: ORD and MRD

2.8 Career Advancement and Recognition

Did your organization experience the following developments during or within five years after the grant period?

Findings

- In all categories, around half of the respondents experienced positive effects on career advancement and recognition of their organization.
- 62% experienced the **performance of consultancy assignments** within their organization, and 59% indicated their organization **won another award or grant** after winning the GDN award.
- The lowest score was found in relation to the **development of new career opportunities in the organization**, with 52% answering they had not experienced this.



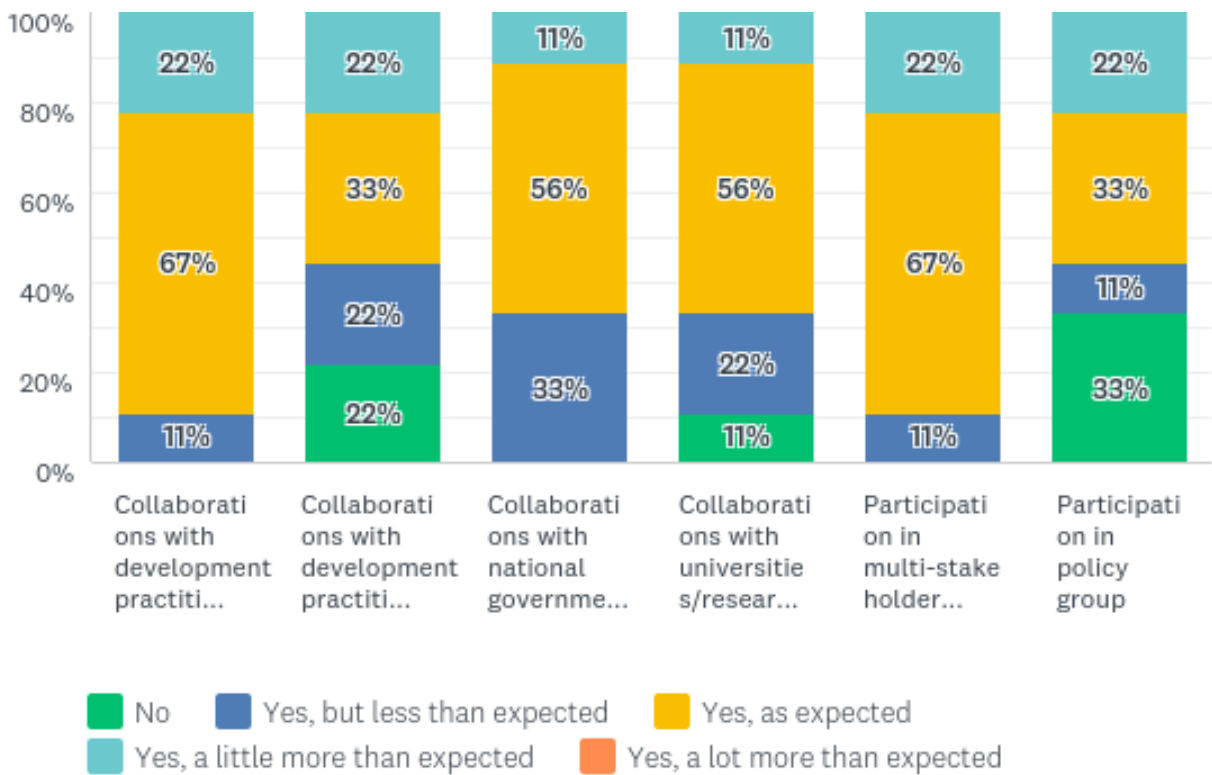
2. Individual and Organizational Impact: MIDP

2.1 Networking

Did you experience the following personal developments, during or within five years after the grant period?

Findings

- Findings show an overall positive impact in the area of networking, although for none of the winners this was ‘a lot more than expected’.
- Positive responses were provided in relation to **collaborations with practitioners in their home country** and **participation in multi-stakeholder initiatives** with 67% of respondents answering ‘as expected’ and 22% ‘more than expected’ in both categories.
- Although all winners experienced **collaborations with government agencies** after winning the award, one third indicates this was ‘less than expected’.
- Collaboration with **development practitioners** and **universities** were not experienced by all (78% and 89% answered yes) and only 67% of respondents experienced **participation in a policy group**.



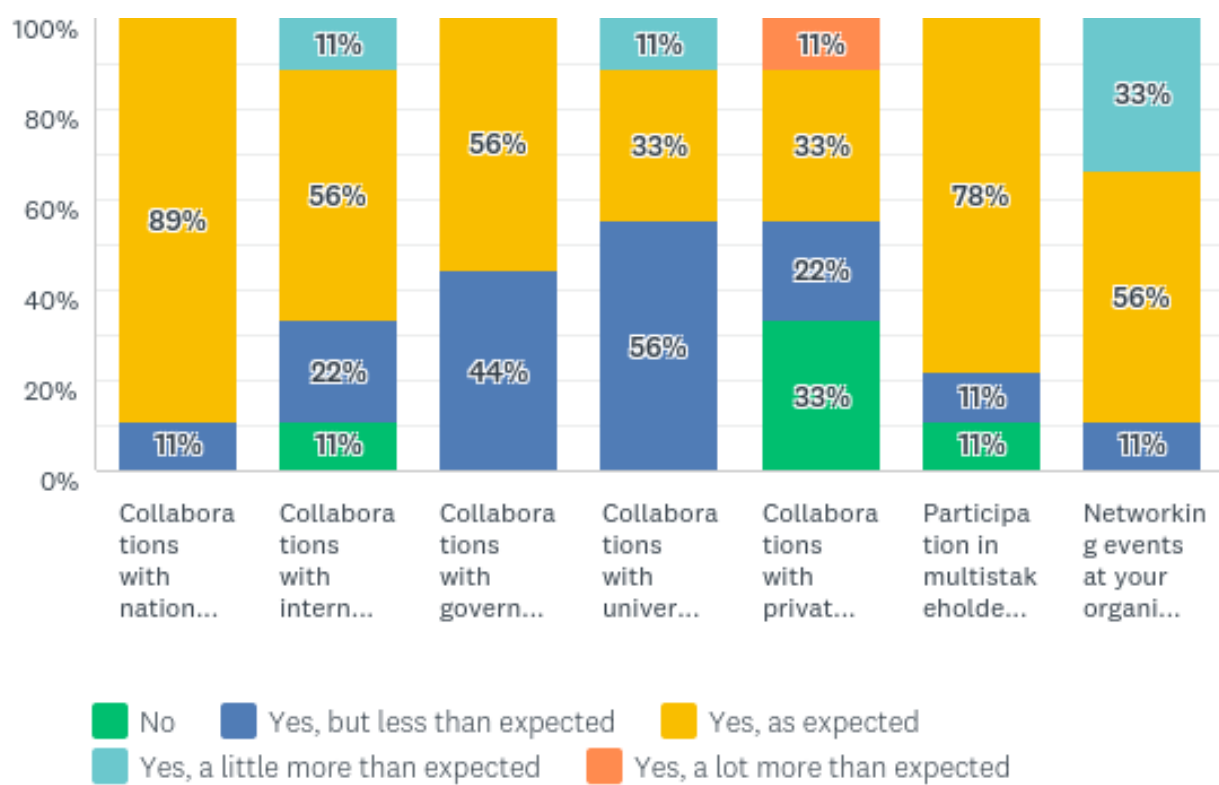
2. Individual and Organizational Impact: MIDP

2.2 Networking

Did your organization experience the following developments, during or within five years after the grant period?

Findings

- In four out of seven categories all responses were positive, but only in a limited number of cases was the impact more than expected.
- Highest positive impacts were experienced in **Collaborations with national NGO's, collaborations with government agencies, collaborations with universities and networking events at the organization where 100% answered 'yes'**
- A relatively large group of winners indicated to have expected more collaborations with government agencies (44%) and universities (56%) to take place.
- Lower impact was achieved in **collaborations with private sector**, with 67% of organizations experiencing this is as result of the award won and in **collaborations with the international development organizations and participation in Multi-stakeholder initiatives with 89%** experiencing these developments.



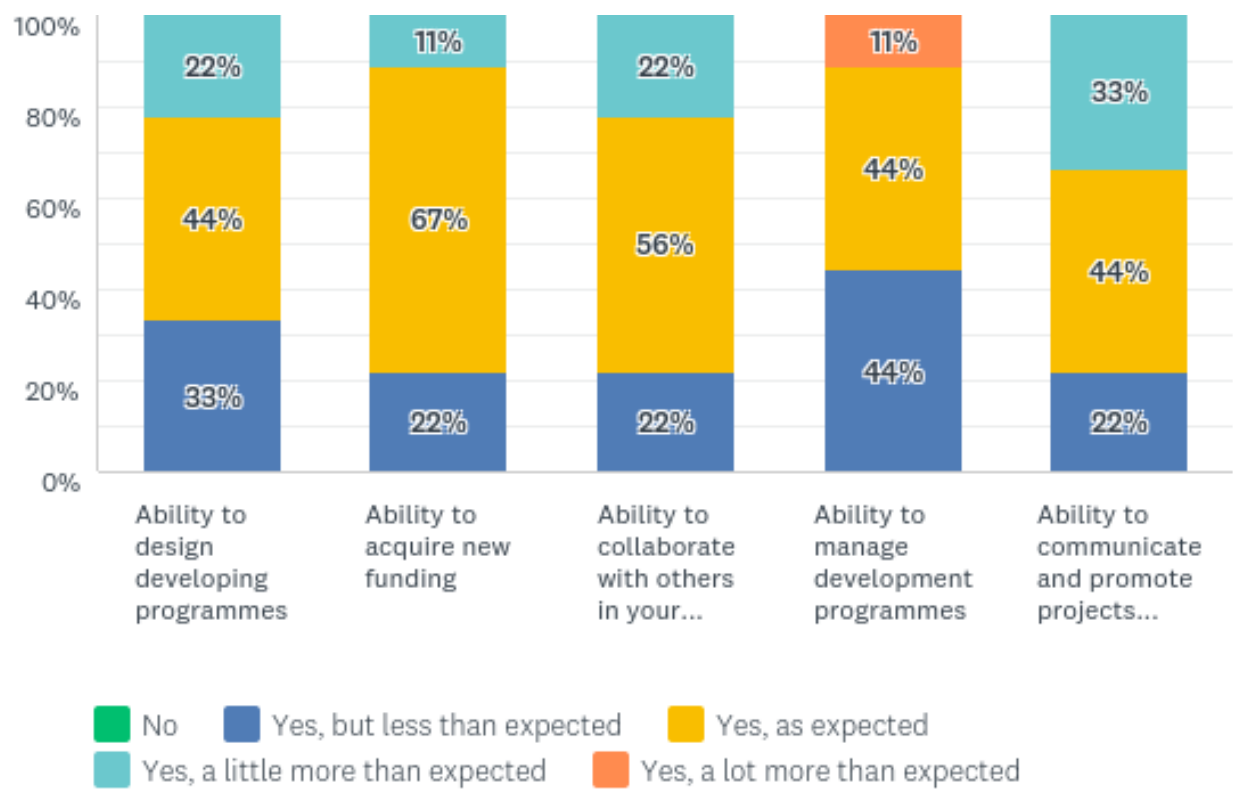
2. Individual and Organizational Impact: MIDP

2.3 Skill and Human Capital

Did you experience developments in the following personal abilities, during or within five years after the grant period?

Findings

- A positive impact was experienced by all respondents in all categories.
- 78% of respondents indicated their expectations were met or exceeded in relation to their **abilities to acquire new funding, collaborate with others and to communicate and promote their project.**
- In some cases, respondents had expected more. This is especially visible where it concerned the **ability to design (33%) and manage (44%) development programmes.**



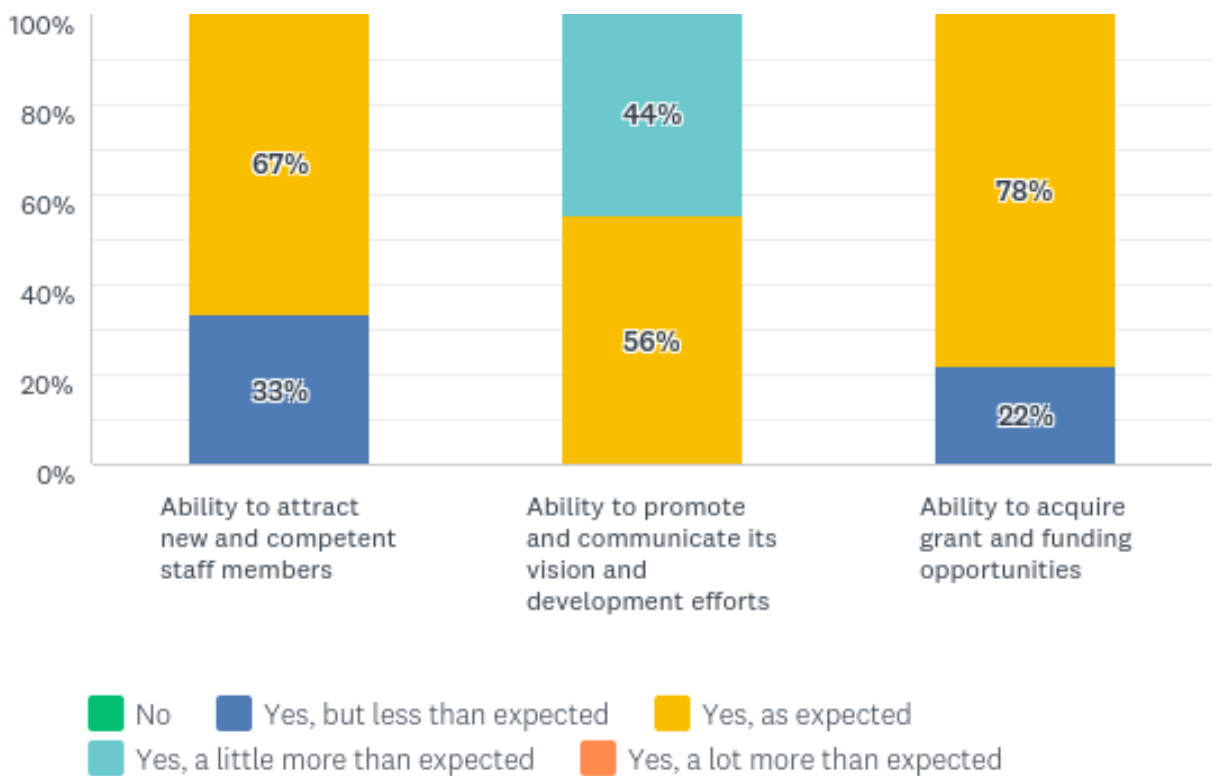
2. Individual and Organizational Impact: MIDP

2.4 Skills and Human Capital

Did your organization experience developments in the following abilities, during or within five years after the grant period?

Findings

- All respondents experienced developments in their organizations **ability to attract new and competent staff members and acquire grant and funding opportunities**, with some indicating this was ‘less than expected’.
- All experienced a positive change in their organizations **ability to promote and communicate their vision and development efforts**, while 44% indicated this was more than expected.



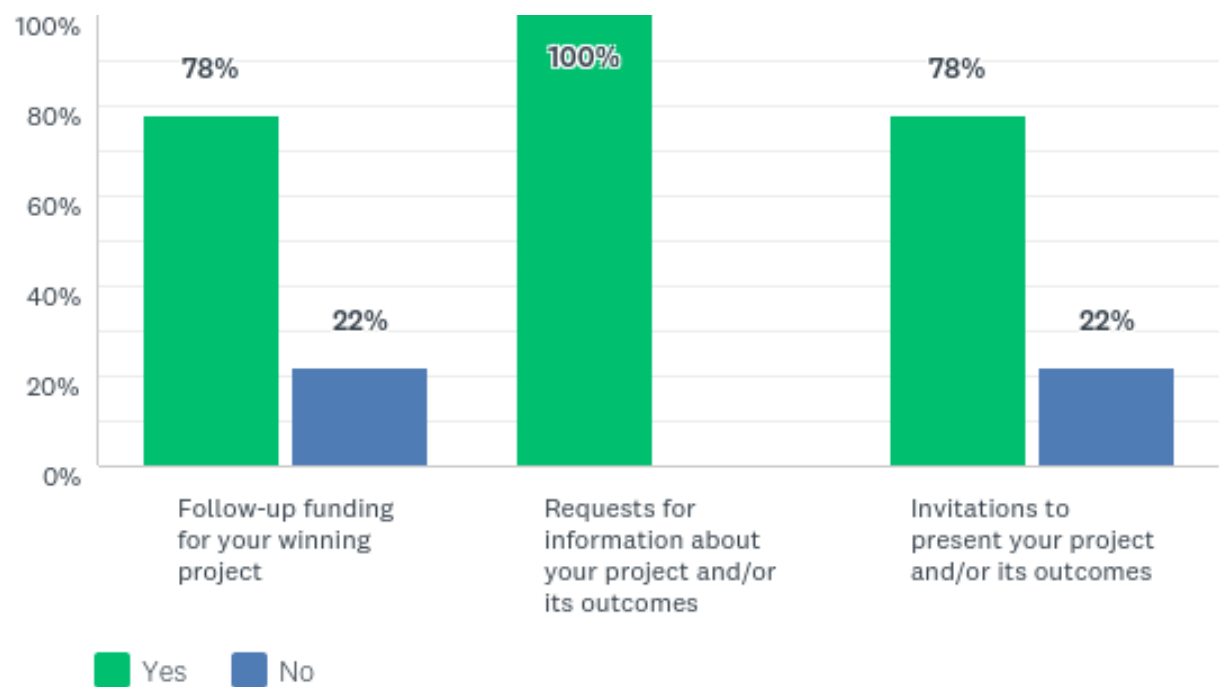
2. Individual and Organizational Impact: MIDP

2.5 Sustainability

Did you experience an increase in the following follow-up effects, within five years after winning the grant?

Findings

- Overall, MIDP winners experienced positive impacts in the area of sustainability.
- The highest impact (100%) was achieved with regard to an increase **in requests of information about winners’ projects or its outcomes**.
- Increases in **follow-up funding for their project** as well as **invitations to present the project and its outcomes** were experienced by 78% of respondents.



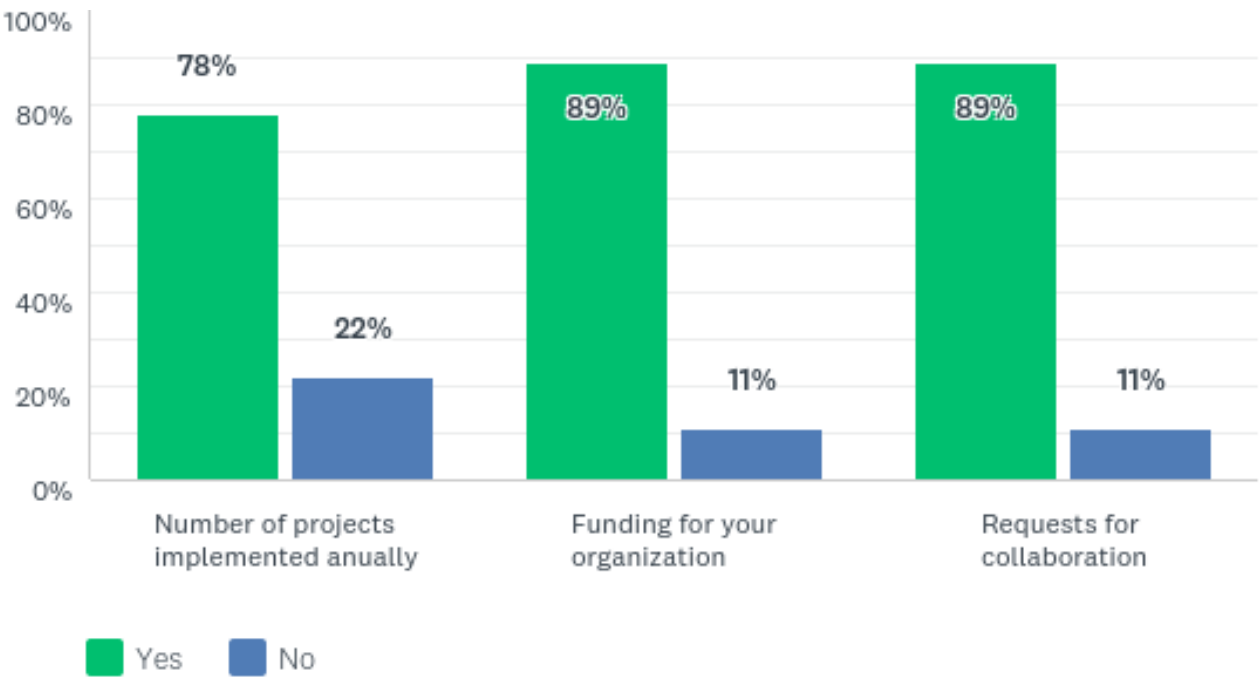
2. Individual and Organizational Impact: MIDP

2.6 Sustainability

Did your organization experience an increase in the following, within five years after winning the grant?

Findings

- Overall, winners organizations experienced positive impacts in the area of sustainability.
- 89% of survey respondents experienced **increases in funding for their organizations** as well as in **requests for collaboration**.
- An increase in **projects implemented annually** was experienced by 78% of respondents.



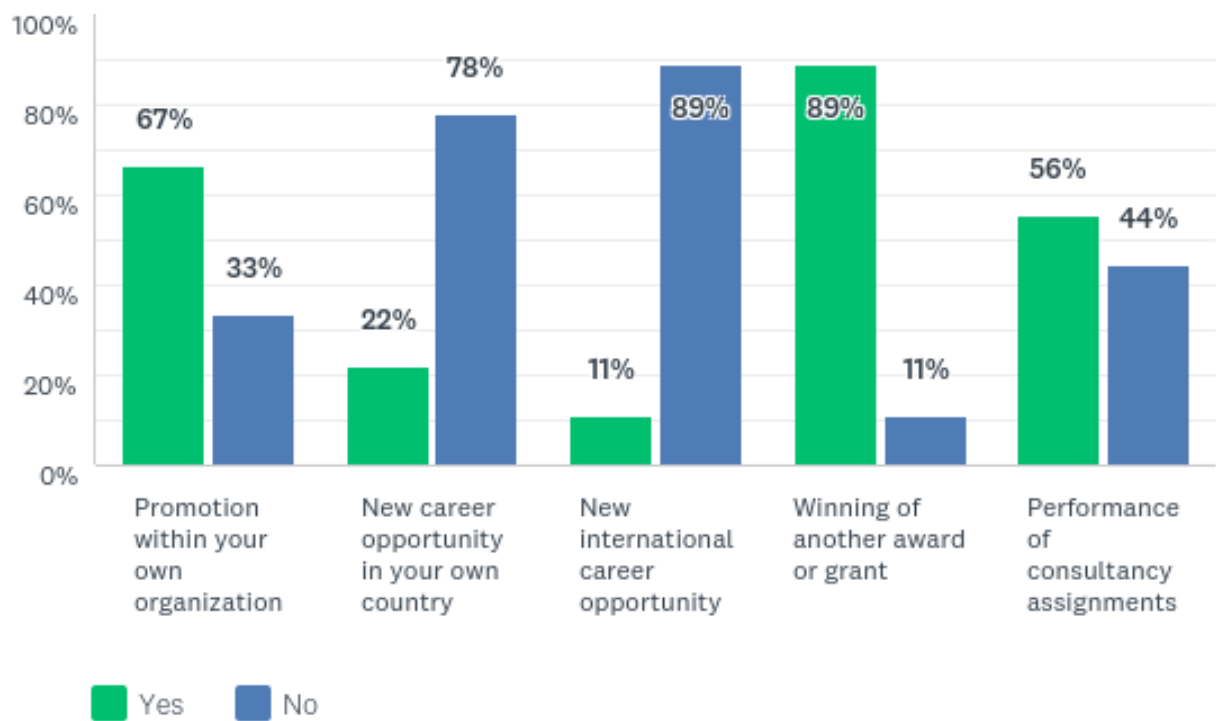
2. Individual and Organizational Impact: MIDP

2.7 Career Advancement and Recognition

Did you experience the following developments in your career, during or within 5 years after the grant period?

Findings

- Experiences in the area of career advancement and recognition diverged within the different categories.
- Although 67% of respondents experienced a **promotion within their own organization**, only 22% experienced a **new career opportunity in their own country** and only 11% **an international career**.
- 89% experienced the **winning of another award or grant** and a smaller percentage (56%) **performed consultancy assignments** after the GDN grant period.



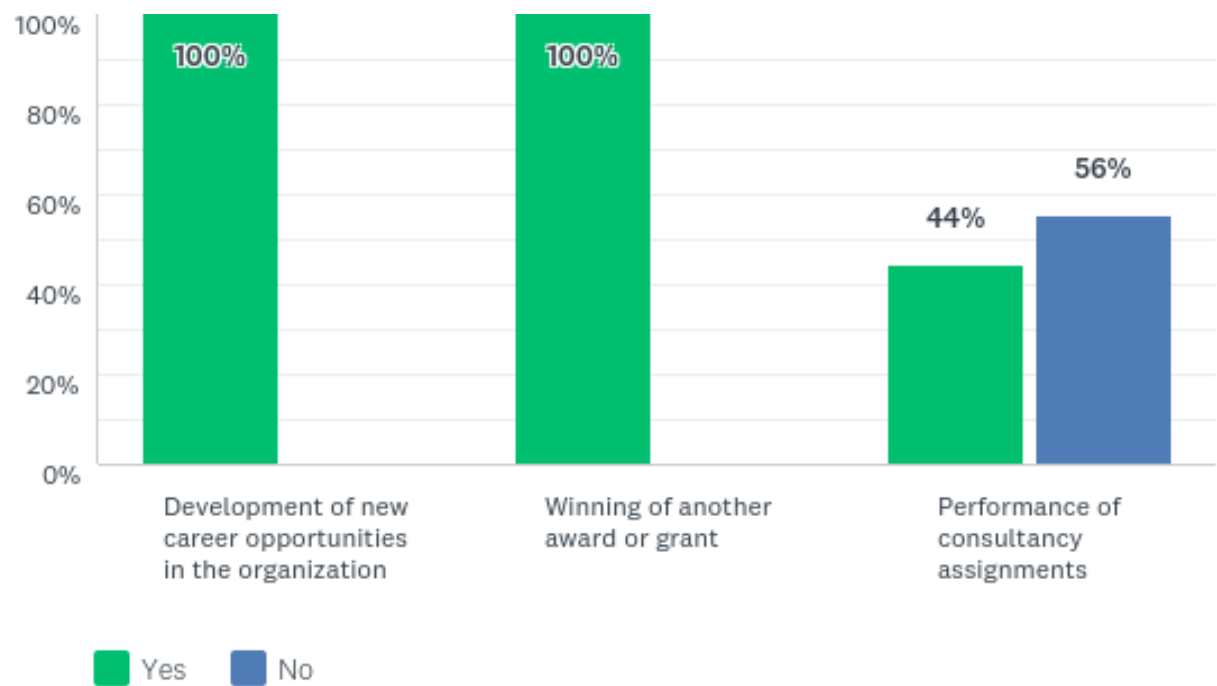
2. Individual and Organizational Impact: MIDP

2.8 Career Advancement and Recognition

Did your organization experience the following developments during or within five years after the grant period?

Findings

- Organizations of MIDP winners experienced several positive impacts in the area of career advancement and recognition.
- All respondents indicated their organization had experienced **the development of new career opportunities** and had **won another award or grant**.
- In 44% of the cases **consultancy assignments were performed** within the organization.



2. Individual and Organizational Impact: Comments

Winners' comments on the most valuable thing that happened to them or their organization as a result of winning the award

ORD and Medal Winners

“ Recognition and confidence.”

“Winning the award provides several opportunity for me, especially at the international level. It is also part of the reason I got my present position and some consultancies opportunities as well as having opportunities to work on some research projects with some international organisations.”

“I won this award soon after accidentally losing my job as a university researcher, and it gave me the confidence to start up my own think tank, which is now the most highly ranked think tank in Bolivia.”

“A raising of the profile of my department and faculty within the University, and an acknowledgement that academic faculty of the Arts Faculty was of international standards.”

MIDP Winners

“The most valuable thing that happened as a result of winning the award was recognition of Conservation Trough Public Health (TTPH) as an NGO with a sustainable social delivery approach to sustainable development. The funding enabled us to scale our impact by testing our model in different ecosystems and countries”

“Received 5 other awards after the MIDP”

“We were able to broaden our team, develop in-house team capacity and new avenues in similar project areas as well as expand grant opportunities with government agencies and increase sphere of intervention with communities in need in rural India”

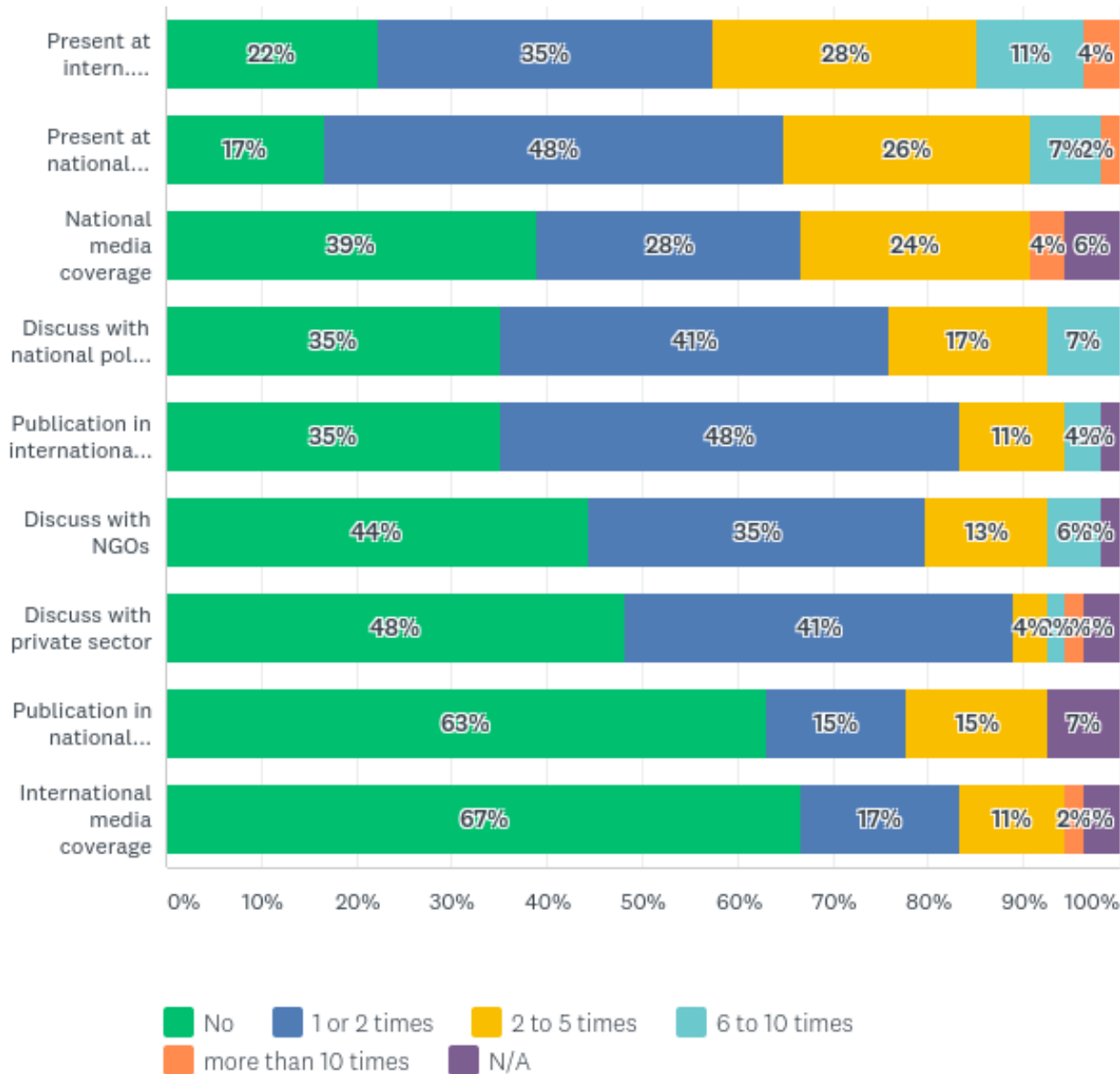
3. Development Impact: ORD and MRD

3.1 Visibility and Recognition

Did any of the following take place within five years after the grant period?

Findings

- Overall, ORD and MRD winners reported positive impact in the area of visibility and recognition.
- **Highest scoring categories:** 83% of winners presented their research findings at least once at national research conferences and 78% at international research conferences.
- **Middle scoring categories:** 65% discussed their research with national policy makers at least once and their research was published once or more in an international journal. Over 60% received national media coverage and over 50% discussed their research with NGOs and private sector representatives.
- **Lowest scoring categories:** of all respondents, 37% saw their research published at least once in national journals and 33% received international media coverage.



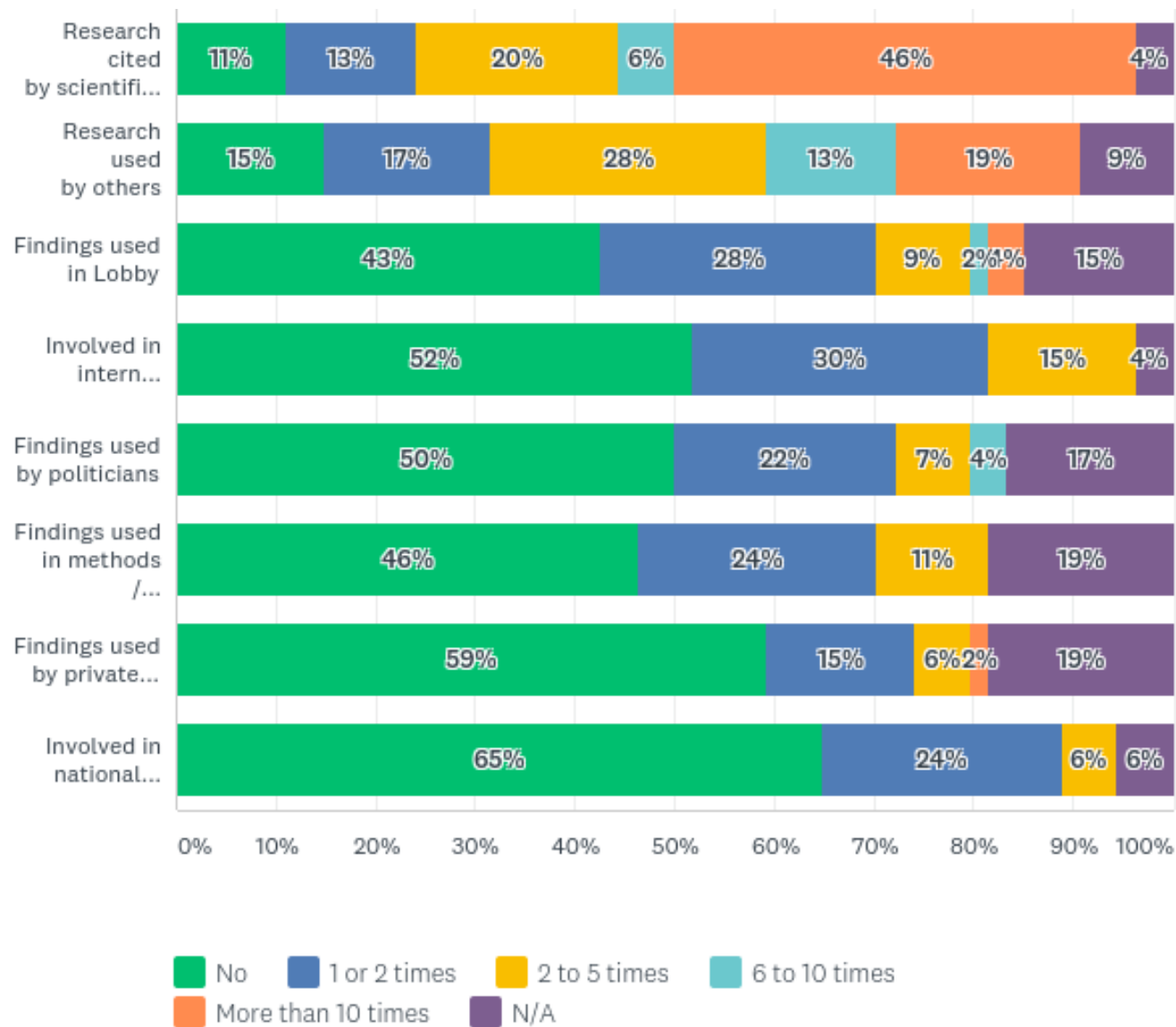
3. Development Impact: ORD and MRD

3.2 Uptake and Change of Behavior

Did any of the following take place within five years after the grant period?

Findings

- Overall, ORD and MRD winners reported positive impact in the area of uptake and change of behavior.
- **Uptake of research within academia was found in high frequencies.** 85% of winners saw their research cited by the scientific community, with a majority indicating this happened more than 10 times. 76% reported their research findings were used by other researchers.
- **Uptake of research beyond academia took place less often.** 42% of respondents Research findings were used for Lobby and Advocacy purposes, 33% by politicians, 23% by private actors and 35% of findings was used to create practical methods and guidelines.
- More winners were involved in international projects (45%) than in national projects (30%) on the basis of their research findings.



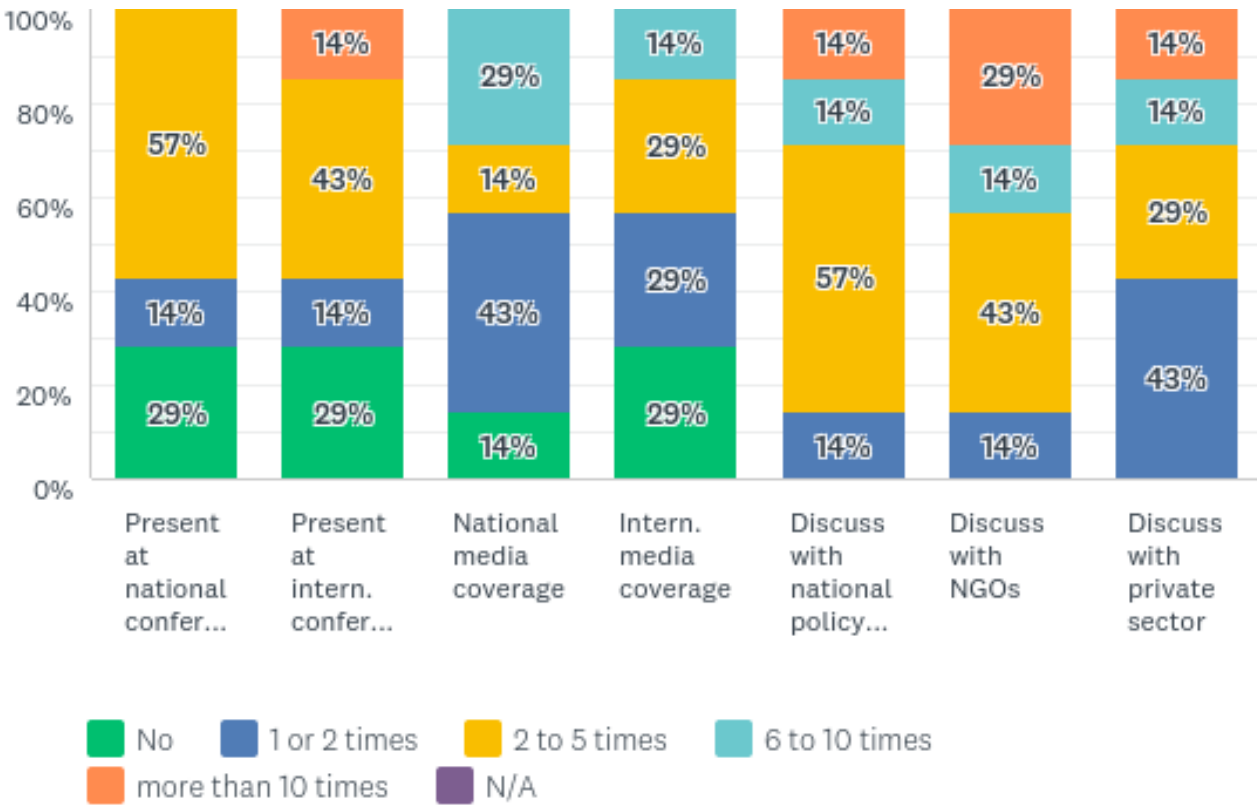
3. Development Impact: MIDP

3.1 Visibility and Recognition

Did any of the following take place within five years after the grant period?

Findings

- Overall, MIDP winners reported positive impact in the area of visibility and recognition.
- All respondents **discussed their project or project outcomes with national policy makers**, other **NGOs and private sector representatives**. In most cases, this happened more than 2 times.
- 71% of winners indicated to have **presented their project at national (up to 5 times) and international conferences** (up to more than ten times).
- The majority of winners received **attention in both national and international media** (up to ten times).



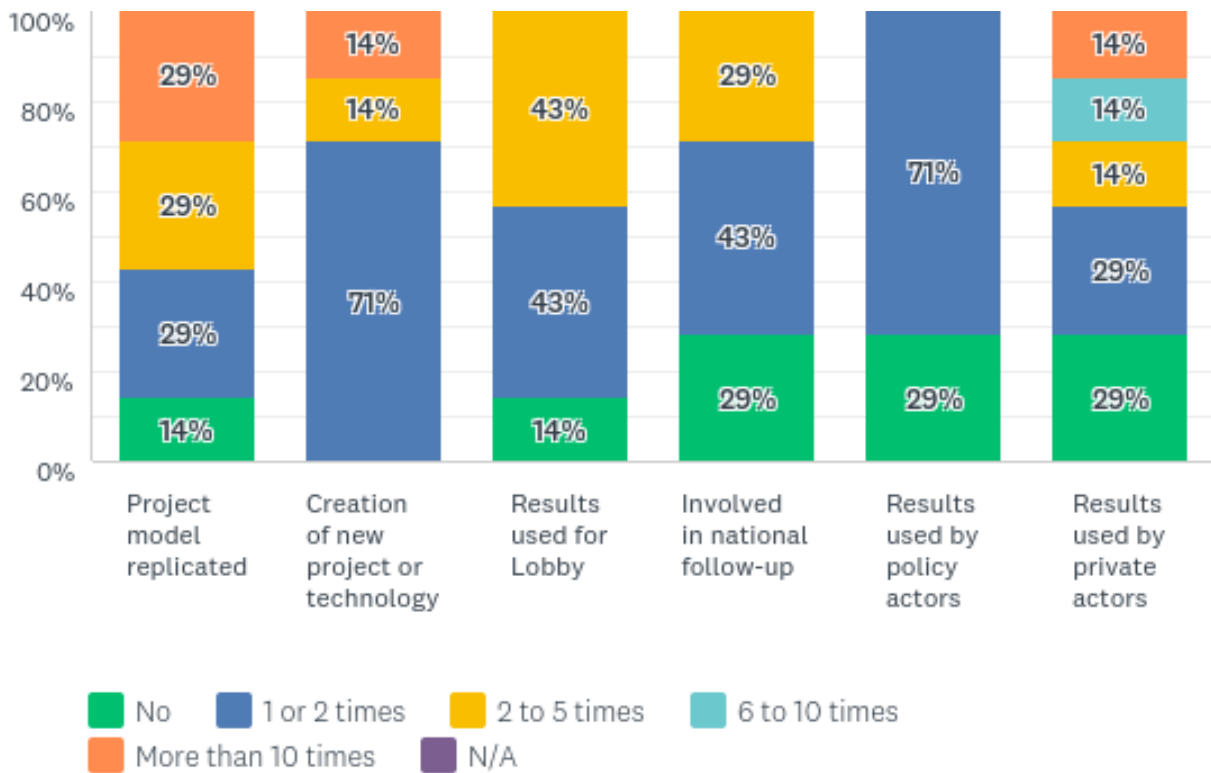
3. Development Impact: MIDP

3.2 Uptake and Change of Behavior

Did any of the following take place within five years after the grant period?

Findings

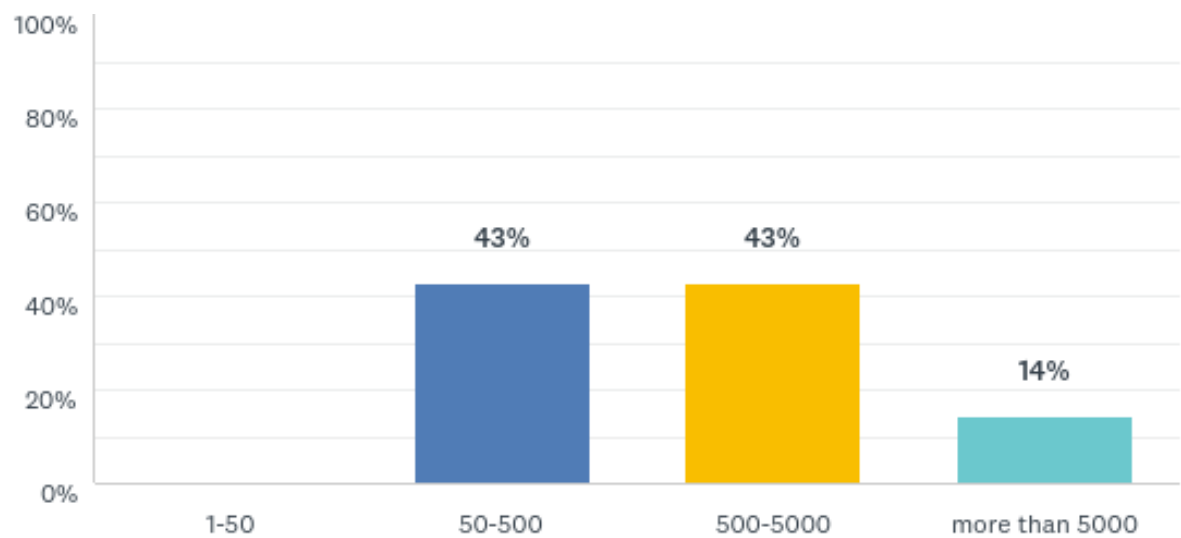
- Responses to the survey indicate an overall positive impact of winning projects in terms of uptake and change of behavior.
- All respondents reported that their project led to the creation of a new project or technology.
- 86% of the projects were replicated and used for lobby and advocacy purposes at least once.
- 71% of the projects led to a follow-up on a national scale and saw their results used by private actors and policy actors.



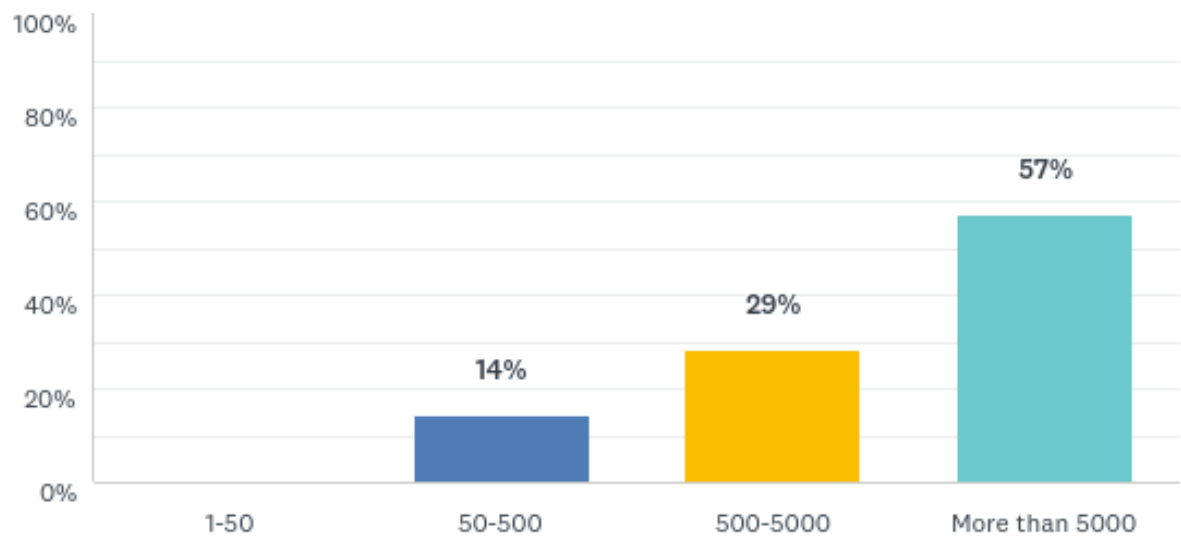
3. Development Impact: MIDP

3.3 Impact data

How many individuals benefitted directly (short term) from your project?



How many individuals in addition benefitted indirectly (long term) from your project?



3. Development Impact: Comments

Winners comments on the biggest achievement of their research findings in terms of development impact:

ORD and Medal Winners

“My research contributed towards the regulation and operations of microfinance programmes in Kenya”

“The idea of a poverty trap became common in Mexico”

“The World Bank and IDB decided to support the informal recycling sector”

“That Indian cities have to be much more open to building height restrictions, in order to make housing more affordable for the urban poor.”

“Reduction of the gender wage gap in Macedonia”

MIDP Winners

“Scaling sustainable social service delivery in remote marginalised communities around pristine protected areas in Africa starting with Uganda. The model was adapted for scaling to a similar habitat (...) resulting in improved attitudes to conservation and increased acceptance and uptake of family planning reducing long term impact of poverty in local community homes and unsustainable human population growth around these protected areas.”

“Conservation forest, biodiversity and other natural resource; and sustainable livelihood options for the poor, who are dependent on natural resources.”

“Demonstrated and viable model for 80% marginal and small farmers in rural India with sustainable agriculture practices. Strong presence and recognition of women as farmers as a critical mass in the sphere of policy and advocacy

“Professional Development of teachers resulted in replication of program activities in all classrooms of schools. Community involvement has created awareness and demand for quality education, specially for Girls”

Research Quality Analysis Report

ORD and MRD 2000-2017

Sample

This list below presents a sample of the MRD and ORD winners. The sample is meant to be representative, by taking into consideration the following criteria: varying in year of participation, geographical location and gender. In total 18 paper have been analyzed, of which 6 MRD winners and 12 ORD winners.

MRD Winners

	Full Name	Year	Country	Grant	Title of the Project / Project Identifying Information	Gender
1	Ashima Goyal	2000	India	10000	Developing women: how technology can help	Female
2	Bibhu Prasad Nayak	2013	India	7000	MRD 2013-14 - Trust and cooperation among urban poor for transition to cleaner and modern cooking fuel	Male
3	Nestor Gandelman	2011	Uruguay	7500	Inter-Generational Effects of Titling Programs: Physical vs. Human Capital	Male
4	Florence Wambugu	2000	Kenya	10000	BIOTECHNOLOGY TO BENEFIT SMALL-SCALE BANANA PRODUCERS IN KENYA	female
5	Catalina Trujillo	2008	Colombia	10000	The effects of markets on the use of forest for the livelihood of indigenous households in the Colombian Amazon	Female
6	Santiago Cueto	2002	Peru	10000	Opportunities to Learn and Achievement in Mathematics in a Sample of Sixth Grade Students in Lima, Peru	Male

ORD Winners

	Full Name	Year	Country	Grant	Title of the Project / Project Identifying Information	Gender
1	Lykke Eg Andersen De Nina	2004	Bolivia	10000	The impact of aid on recipient behavior: a micro-level, dynamic analysis of remittances, schooling, work, consumption, investment and social mobility in Nicaragua	Female
2	Marjan Petreski	2012	Macedonia, FYR	10000	EdPlaCo-MK: A tool for greater gender wage equality in Macedonia, with reference to workers' characteristics and selectivity bias into employment	Male
3	Martin Medina-Martinez	2002	Mexico	10000	Protecting health and the environment in third world cities: lessons learned from best practices in community-based municipal solid waste management	Male
4	Suresh Kumar Devarajulu	2005	India	28750	Role of watershed institutions in mitigating poverty: an economic analysis of determinants and impact of self-help groups (SHGs) institutions across activities in micro watersheds	Male

	Full Name	Year	Country	Grant	Title of the Project / Project Identifying Information	Gender
5	Flora Josiane CHADARE	2015	Benin	10000	Using novel techniques to map biodiversity and identify priority wild edible plants for food security and nutrition in Benin, West Africa	female
6	Marcos Agurto	2016	Peru	30000	The effect of social interactions between economically disadvantaged college students and wealthy ones on social networks composition, soft skills accumulation and social preferences and discriminatory behavior: Experimental evidence from the Peruvian social program Beca18.	male
7	Jeanine Anderson	2000	Peru	62500	Genders and generations in urban shantytown development	female
8	Nephil Matangi Maskay	2007	Nepal	2500	Crafting a socially inclusive service policy to address vulnerability of marginalized communities: lessons from Nepal's education policy	male
9	Martin Oteng Ababio	2011	Ghana	7500	Exploring E-waste Recycling, Health and Food Security at Agbogbloshie Scrap Yard Accra	male
10	Yang Juhua	2006	China	50000	Demographic change and poverty of the elderly in China	female
11	Kanchana Wickramasinghe	2013	Sri Lanka	30000	Risk Management Strategies and Demand for Climate Insurance among Dry Zone Farmers in Sri Lanka	female
12	Jorge Maldonado	2008	Colombia	17500	Governance And Adaptability Of Fishing Communities In A Marine Protected Area In The Colombian Caribbean	male

Approach and Methodology

For the quality analysis of research outputs we made use of a method designed by Aidenvironment for the evaluation of a global research program. This instrument follows the accepted international research quality standards. In the absence of a universal mechanism of assessment it draws on interpretation of international research quality standards according to the following categories:

- 1 = unclassified: quality that falls below the standard of nationally recognised work or does not present original evidence (e.g. text book contributions for student learning);
- 2 = quality that is recognised nationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour;
- 3 = quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour;
- 4 = quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour but which falls short of the highest standard of excellence;
- 5 = quality that is world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour. (Note: this is a standard of excellence relating to original, cutting edge research by world leading academics that is extremely hard to achieve, it is not expected that project publications fall into this category).*

Designation of outputs based on 'originality, significance and rigour' takes into account the following quality criteria:

- Scientific rigour and excellence with regard to design, method, execution and analysis;
- Potential and actual significance of the research;
- Logical coherence of contribution;
- Contribution to theory building
- Significance of work to advance knowledge, skills, understanding and scholarship in theory, practice and policy.

For journal articles, classification of scientific quality also takes into account the 'impact factor' of the journal.**

* 'World leading', 'internationally' and 'nationally' are quality standards, not the geographical scope, locus of research or its dissemination.

** In this evaluation, we will use the Thomson Reuters (ISI) Journal Citation Reports (JCR) are used because they are a recognized authority for evaluating journals based on quantifiable, statistical information that constitutes the 'journal impact factor'. Journal impact Factor is a measure of the frequency with which the 'average article' in a journal has been cited in a given period of time. The impact factor is used as standard dimension and the relative importance of a scientific journal within its field. The Impact Factor is calculated by several scientific methods including citation analysis.

Results

Overall assessment

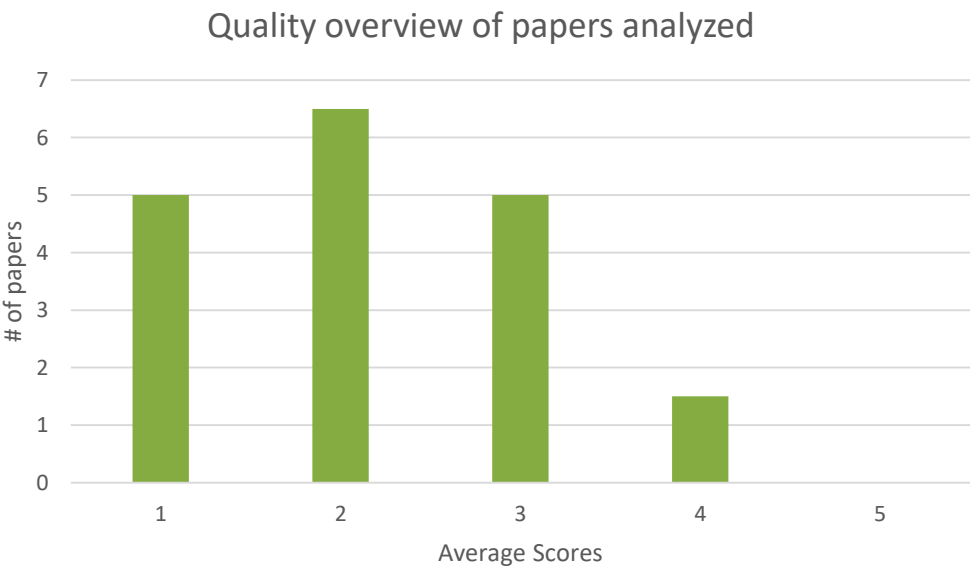
The sample of 18 papers, representing 6 MRD and 12 ORD papers, showed a wide range of thematic subjects, regional focus, approaches, methodologies, theoretical perspectives, and findings.

In terms of research subjects, these were all relevant to global development, and relevant at the time of writing. Overall, papers were well-written and shed light on a selection of important global development problems and issues, ranging from access to and quality of education, gender issues, to waste management. Many subjects had a relation to technology, rather than a purely social, economic, cultural and/or political focus.

In terms of research methods, the assessment is largely positive. Most methodology sections were well elaborated and critically reflected upon. There was a good mix of quantitative and qualitative analysis, with only few papers having chosen only one approach. However, in both MRD and ORD papers there appeared to be a consistent overreliance on statistics to approach multifaceted and complex developmental issues.

Research Quality

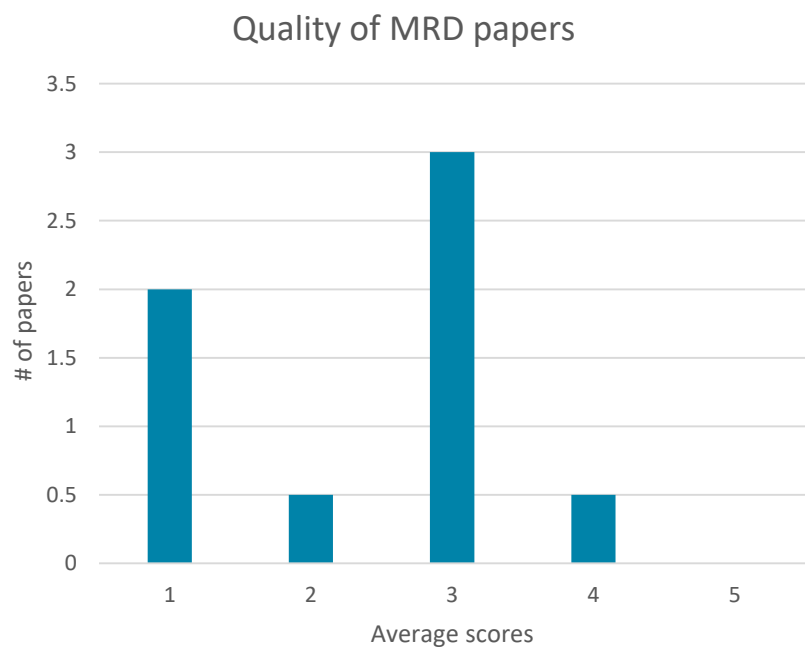
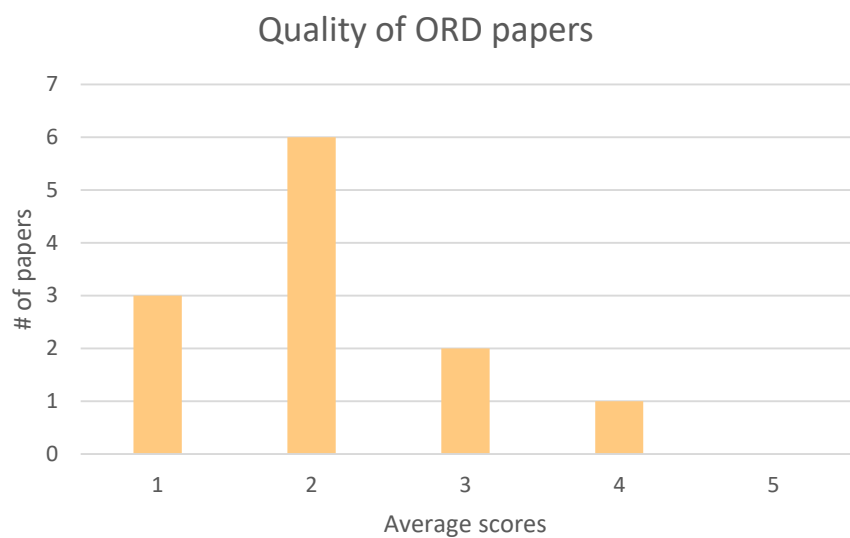
In terms of research quality there was quite some variation, yet MRD papers tend to show higher quality as compared to ORD papers. None of the papers received the highest scoring in terms of scientific quality (score 5), which would denote world-leading scientific excellence. Many papers in the ORD category read like a project or case study report rather than full research reports or scientific articles. But this often also depended on the chosen audience for the paper. One paper in the MRD category seemed a project evaluation report, unlike the other MRD papers that appeared more scientifically focused.



Results

More than half of the papers seemed written for a national policy audience instead of an international scientific audience. But this is in line with one of GDN’s main objectives on clarity and significance of the policy implications of papers selected for its research awards. This has influenced the classification/scoring of the papers, since the criteria on which the scoring is based is more scientific in nature. As can be seen from the scoring cards, there is also a limited number of papers that have been published in journals. From the 12 ORD papers, only 1 was published in a scientific journal, and from the 6 MRD papers 4 were published in journals. This shows a substantial difference in the fact that MRD papers tend to be better elaborated to be selected for publications. This could be explained by the difference in objectives between the two awards, with the ORD being awarded at the start of the research and the MRD intended for already finalized papers, enabling the final step towards publication.

For the overall quality assessment, the lack of publications in scientific journals means that the impact factor can only be assessed in a small number of the sampled papers.



Results: Scorecards MRD

Author(s)	Ashima Goyal
Article	Developing women: why technology can help (MRD1)
Year	2011
Journal	Information, Technology and Development, Vol. 17, No. 2: 112-132
Classification	3-4
Impact factor Journal	1.333 (in 2016)
Overall Assessment	The article uses a wide range of literature and models to pose its central question and elaborate on its findings. The topic seems relevant, especially considering the low participation of South Asian women in the labor force, likely to be exacerbated by a lack of access to information technology and the internet. The title does not seem to capture the essence of the article, which is more about distribution of productive roles and tasks in the household, participation in labor, and wage/income discrepancies. It is a bit surprising that many interesting contextual and background information on access to internet from other contexts, is only introduced and explained in the conclusions, instead of reiterating the findings from the methodological analysis.

Author(s)	B.P. Nayak, C. Werthmann, V. Aggarwal
Article	Trust and cooperation among urban poor for transition to cleaner and modern cooking fuel (MRD2)
Year	2015
Journal	Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions
Classification	2-3
Impact factor Journal	1.261 (SJR scoring in 2016)
Overall Assessment	The article asks why the urban poor population of Hyderabad continue to make use of traditional cooking fuels such as firewood and kerosene, even if the adverse health impacts of these fuels are better understood, and LPG as more healthy and affordable alternative is available. The research consisted of a three-leveled approach: 1. Large scale household survey, 2 interviews and FGDs and 3. A trust game to assess (willingness) to collective action in urban areas. The trust game seemed to have limitation in terms of the ability to discount socially desirable answers/practices, which were not controlled for. It also commenced a pilot project in which self-help groups were formed to collectively invest in the LPG connections. The findings were somewhat disappointing and predictable, namely that the majority was not interested in changing to LPG due to the high upfront cost of getting a connection. Not included in the findings, but interesting to note is that the presumed stronger social cohesion amongst homogenous tribal communities in urban slums did not hold up, but seemed to be the contrary. The research did not lead to new theoretical insights.

Results: Scorecards MRD

Author(s)	N. Gandelman
Article	Inter-Generational Effects of Titling Programs: Physical vs Human Capital (MRD3)
Year	2011
Journal	NA
Classification	1
Impact factor Journal	NA
Overall Assessment	The paper touches on the subject of titling programs in Uruguay and their effects on physical (home improvements) and human (childrens education and health) capital. The underlying research is mostly quantitative, centering on natural experiment. The paper seems largely unfinished ad it does not start from a central and clear research questions/problem statement. It also does not build o n a conceptual framework to elaborate on its used concepts of physical and human capital (which transcends bathroom/bedroom improvements and childrens school enrollment and dentist check ups. The research and findings do not appear very rigorous and innovative, sufficiently so to be considered for publication.

Author(s)	F. Wambugu, M. Karembu, M. Njuguna and S. Wakhusama Wanyangu
Article	Biotechnology to Benefit Small-Scale Banana Producers in Kenya (MRD4)
Year	?
Journal	NA
Classification	1
Impact factor Journal	NA
Overall Assessment	This paper discusses a project that has been implemented in Kenya, which had the objective of introducing Tissue Culture (TC) technology to small-scale banana farmers, in order to circumvent the detrimental effects of diseases and pests that have caused a severe decline in banana production. It shows the way a consortium of project partners were involved, how technology was transferred and focuses on some of the impacts of the project. The paper does not start with research questions, conceptual framework, literature, a methodology, and analysis of research data. The findings seem somewhat anecdotal, and are not based on clear methodological steps. The paper reads more like a project evaluation report, highlighting the successes mostly.

Results: Scorecards MRD

Author(s)	P. Avila Garcia
Article	Water Society and environment in the history of one Mexican City (MRD5)
Year	2006
Journal	Environment and Urbanization
Classification	3
Impact factor Journal	0.52 in 2006
Overall Assessment	This paper contains a historical overview of water access and use in a town in Mexico called Morelia. It shows how over 400 years water access and use have changed, but some factors have remained the same throughout this period, most markedly the unequal access to water due to socio-spatial segregation, which leaves poor neighbourhoods today still struggling to access enough water, and the control that local elites have over access and distribution of water. The paper relies heavily on historical archival sources, which seem to be the main methodological approach. It looks at water access and use from a socio-political perspective, and as such provides an interesting historical case study to show the evolution of urban water management over a prolonged period of time.

Author(s)	S. Cueto, C. Ramirez and J. Leon
Article	Opportunities to learn and achievement in mathematics in a sample of sixth grade students in Lima, Peru (MRD6)
Year	2006
Journal	Educational Studies in Mathematics
Classification	3
Impact factor Journal	0.959 in 2016
Overall Assessment	The paper focuses on educational quality and achievement in Peru, analysing the opportunities to learn (OLT) mathematics. A sample of sixth grade students amongst 20 schools in Lima, Peru were chosen, differentiating between multi-grade and fullgrade classes. It showed that weaker opportunities to learn were correlated with poorer environments, and that teachers lack of feedback and using old curriculum materials was negatively influencing the opportunities to learn. The paper makes good use of similar studies, highlighting some of their shortcomings and how the current study would need a refocus. It also critically reflects on its own shortcomings under the heading of limitations, pointing out the relative small sample size. The paper leads to some policy recommendations, which appear rather general on teacher training and assistance.

Results: Scorecards

Author(s)	Andersen, L. E., B. J. Christensen, O. Molina
Article	The Impact of Aid on Recipient Behaviour: A micro-level dynamic analysis of remittances, schooling, work, consumption, investment and social mobility in Nicaragua (ORD1)
Year	2005
Journal	Development Research Working Paper, No. 02/2005
Classification	2-3
Impact factor Journal	N.A.
Overall Assessment	This paper analyses the impact of remittances on household investments in Nicaragua, based on extensive household surveys conducted in 1998 and 2001. It concludes that, although remittances reduce vulnerability of households, it does create dependence and reduces economic growth in the longterm as remittances are not used to increase savings or investments. The paper is well-written and uses some international scientific literature and debates to a certain extent. It acknowledges having received funding from GDN, but unsure as to what part was funded, as surveys date from 1998 and 2001, and paper was written in 2005. Some of the conclusions seems to be stretched somewhat on the basis of presented data, such as the dependence created and reduction in economic growth. This could have used more elaboration.

Author(s)	Petreski, M., N. M. Blazevski, B. Petreski
Article	Gender Wage Gap when Women are Highly Inactive: Evidence from Repeated Imputations with Macedonian Data (ORD2)
Year	2014
Journal	Journal of Labor Research (2014) 35:393-411
Classification	3-4
Impact factor Journal	0.55
Overall Assessment	Well written article with a good elaborated methodology section. It makes good use of other literature and models to explain the research approach on explaining the gender-wage gap in the Macedonian context. Using different models and variables it concludes that gender-wage gap in the Macedonian context is not purely explained by gender wage discrimination as has been often assumed, but should be also seen through a lens of non-participation by (medium-educated women due to remittances from their migrant husbands, long-term unemployment, caring for their dependents, etc. The article contributes to critically discussing dominant models of explaining the gender-wage gap and sheds light on the Macedonian case and explanations for this gap. The article acknowledged the financial support of GDN for allowing the research to be conducted.

Results: Scorecards ORD

Author(s)	M. Medina
Article	Globalization, Development, and Municipal Solid Waste Management in Third World Cities (ORD3)
Year	?
Journal	N.A.
Classification	1-2
Impact factor Journal	N.A
Overall Assessment	The paper deals with an interesting subject of Municipal Solid Waste Management, and uses many international examples to stress the importance of supporting local solutions to waste management in developing countries, instead of focusing on high-tech, technology transfer and labour-saving solutions to waste management. In doing so, it tends to neglect the environmental, health and social (child labour) issues commonly associated waste scavenger work. Although the report includes a literature list, nowhere in the text does it refer to literature sources while making bold statements or citing data from other contexts. It does not include a section on methodology or central research question, making it unclear what the main focus or approach of the research was. The paper reads more like a working paper or policy paper than a research/scientific publication.

Author(s)	D. Suresh Kumar
Article	The role of watershed institutions in mitigating poverty: a study of self-help groups (SHGs) across micro watersheds in Tamil Nadu, India (ORD4)
Year	2008
Journal	N.A.
Classification	1-2
Impact factor Journal	N.A.
Overall Assessment	The paper deals with Self-Help Groups in watersheds inTamil Nadu. It explores the factors that contribute to good performance of these female-led groups, dynamics of participation, and their potential contribution to poverty reduction within households. Although the conceptual framework and methodology sections seem well elaborated, overall the paper seems to make some flawed assumptions about these groups being homogenous (in caste they are) and measurements of the poverty gap of its members (this was not measured by a start and end measurement, meaning that potentially the better-off are allowed to participate). Furthermore, in the discussion and conclusions, the conceptual framework and used theory is not reflected upon and recommendations are geared towards the policy domain alone.

Results: Scorecards ORD

Author(s)	F.J. Chadare, R. Idohou, J.E. Dekpemadoha, J.O. Agossadou, M. Affonfere, and A.E. Assogbadjo
Article	Indigenous Knowledge, diversity and use of wild edible plants for food security: a case study from Benin (West Africa) (ORD5)
Year	Unknown
Journal	N.A.
Classification	1
Impact factor Journal	N.A.
Overall Assessment	The subject of the paper, use of wild edible plants in Benin and its potential for food security, is interesting and highly relevant in current debates on global food security, as stated in the introduction. However, the research and conclusions were disappointing in its scope, findings and presentation. A survey was conducted that did not have a focus, or underlying research question. It therefore led to all sorts of statistical data that did not have a clear purpose or connection. The conclusions were messy, unclear, full of repetition and not leading to any groundbreaking new insights, theories, or relevant findings, other than a list with all the species of wild edible plants that were mentioned by a wide range of respondents throughout the country.

Author(s)	M. Agurto, H. Fiestas, W. Nunez, V. Quevedo, S. Vegas.
Article	Study-group Diversity and College Academic Performance: Experimental Evidence from the Beca18 Social Inclusion Program in Peru (ORD6)
Year	2017
Journal	NA
Classification	2-3
Impact factor Journal	NA
Overall Assessment	This paper investigated the impact of study-group diversity and academic performance, by focusing on a social inclusion program in higher education in Peru, called Beca18. The research found that mixed study groups consisting of both Beca18 fellows, as well as regular students, generally perform better academically, albeit on the short-term/duration of the study group. This is related to peer's academic quality, but also personality traits on effort and cooperation. The paper starts with a good elaboration on the positioning of this research vis-a-vis prior and similar studies. It acknowledges the limitations of its approach, due to the lack of baseline data on academic qualifications of fellows and regular students, prior to the enrollment in higher education. This makes academic performance, and the effects of mixed-study groups, more difficult to compare and measure. This leads to the short-term predictions on benefits, on which the paper does build fundamental recommendations for the expansion of these types of fellowship programs and mixed-study groups. Further research on long-term benefits could also have been recommended.

Results: Scorecards ORD

Author(s)	Jeanine Anderson
Article	Genders and generations in shanty community development (ORD7)
Year	2000
Journal	NA
Classification	3-4
Impact factor Journal	NA
Overall Assessment	The paper sheds light on evaluating the effects of development projects on gender relations and gender systems, by highlighting different cycles of change: on household, community, and development level. Making use of ethnographic and longitudinal research in a shanty-village on the outskirts of Lima, Peru, it offers interesting insights on how gender relations and identities change over time and under the influence of processes of (external) change. Although the paper starts from a rather theoretical perspective, it ends with empirical findings and conclusions, that do not re-connect again with international theoretical perspectives, even if the findings as such would be considered very relevant as a case study on development impact on perceptions of gender. As additional observation: the acknowledgement highlights a number of research funders, but GDN is missing in this list. This makes it unclear what the relation of this research and paper is to the award given by GDN.

Author(s)	N. Matangi Maskay and R. Bajracharya
Article	Crafting a socially inclusive service policy to address vulnerability of marginalized communities: lessons from Nepals Education Policy (ORD8)
Year	2010
Journal	NA
Classification	1-2
Impact factor Journal	NA
Overall Assessment	This paper analyzes the formation of School Management Committees in Nepal, as a decentralization effort for its education policy, and to increase community members participation in the educational system. The paper shows that social exclusion in Nepali society exists, especially with regards to the caste system and the position of Dalits herein, as well as women and indigenous populations. It concludes that Dalit' and female participation in these SMC is still too low to ensure meaningful social inclusion. However, the paper concludes this mainly on the basis of quantitative data on school attendance and SMC representation figures. This does not allow in-depth analysis of social exclusion practices, and institutional constraints for participation. The author seems to be partly aware of this, as shown through a section on the limitations of the study, although this mainly pertains to the limitations of the quantitative data and methodology.

Results: Scorecards ORD

Author(s)	M. Oteng-Ababio and M. Anti Chama
Article	Nature's Impartiality, Human's Ingenuity: Reflections on E-Waste Recycling, Environmental health and Food Security Nexus at Agbogbloshie, Ghana (ORD9)
Year	?
Journal	N.A.
Classification	2
Impact factor Journal	N.A.
Overall Assessment	The paper sheds light on e-waste recycling in Accra, and its effects on livelihoods, environmental health and food security. While assessing the negative effects that e-waste exports and recycling has in this West-African context especially on health and food security, it also tries to highlight some of the surrounding positive effects such as alternative livelihoods that spring up due to the e-waste resources that are available. It does this by introducing some interesting case studies based on both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The paper is well-written and makes use of relevant international literature. However, the overall tone and conclusions are more geared to influencing (local) urban policies than advancing a more internationally recognized scientific research agenda.

Author(s)	Juhua Yang
Article	Demographic Change and Poverty of the Elderly in China (ORD10)
Year	2009
Journal	NA
Classification	2
Impact factor Journal	NA
Overall Assessment	This elaborate policy paper reflects research done on demographic change in China and its effects on poverty of the elderly. It shows how fast population change has led to a high proportion of elderly in China, for which public support has not been well adapted too. It then analyses how economic and social poverty amongst the elderly is distributed and explained. It uses a good mix of qualitative and quantitative approaches to the research, using census data a.o. to explore economic poverty. It uses rather meagre measurements to assess social poverty, using only health and feelings of loneliness as indicators. The methodology section is well elaborated, exploring all the different datasets and critically reflecting on its limitations. The paper is generally well written, with some repetitive sections. The conclusions and recommendations cater well for its intended audience of national policymakers.

Results: Scorecards ORD

Author(s)	K. Wickramasinghe
Article	Risk Management Strategies and Demand for Climate Insurance among Dry Zone Farmers in Sri Lanka (ORD 11)
Year	2017
Journal	NA
Classification	1-2
Impact factor Journal	NA
Overall Assessment	<p>The paper deals with crop insurance schemes in Sri Lanka as a way to deal with climatic risks faced by small scale farmers. It investigates the different risks farmers face, the availability of different insurance schemes, and the farmers knowledge and use of these schemes. Although there are compulsory insurance schemes, often linked to farmer loans or fertilization packages, farmers are often not aware of their use, nor try and get refunded. The paper concludes that a rainfall index insurance would be the answer to the problems identified in the paper, without clarifying how this truly undercuts some of the issues mentioned in the paper itself as impediments. Furthermore, the paper tends to be unspecific about the concepts at hand, being disaster, climate risks, climate variability and water availability. Although it highlights flooding as one of the main mentioned disaster risks, this does appear in other lines of questioning amongst farmers, where lack of water seems to be the greatest risks. The paper is interesting, highlighting a relevant issue, but is scientifically rigorous in its set up and elaboration, and has not really taken note of recent research and literature on similar themes.</p>

Results: Scorecards ORD

Author(s)	J.H. Maldonado and R. Moreno-Sanchez
Article	Governance and Adaptability of Fishing Communities in a Marine Protected Area in the Colombian Caribbean (ORD12)
Year	2014
Journal	NA
Classification	2
Impact factor Journal	NA
Overall Assessment	<p>This elaborate research report analyses the adaptive capacity of a few selected communities in Colombia to adopt new institutional arrangements, such as co-management, to manage marine natural resources. It does this by researching livelihood strategies and their dependence on natural resources, local ecological knowledge, existing natural management frameworks, etc. The research has been embedded in a good conceptual framework that uses different concepts that appear interlinked and complementary, such as livelihood approach, vulnerability and adaptive capacity. It presents an interesting and elaborate mix of (often participatory) research methods, such as social cartography to map local ecological knowledge. The case study material is interesting, yet the high expectation raised with the conceptual framework and extensive use of methods are not met when reading the results/discussion. They remain a bit general, which might be explained by the high number of research themes, variables and methods, making it difficult to reach a deeper analytical level on some of the key findings.</p>

Case Studies

GDN Awards Competition development Impact

Date: 6 June 2018

Improving Nature Conservation through Public Health in Uganda

Interviewee: Dr Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka

Author: Nienke Raap

Key words: Conservation, Ecosystem, Health, Family Planning, Uganda, Wildlife

Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka is Founder and Chief Executive Officer at the organization [Conservation Through Public Health](#) (CTPH) in Uganda. CTPH improves human, animal and ecosystem health by using an integrated approach. CTPH was a first prize finalist for the Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) in 2013 and received a grant of \$30.000. In the following year (2014) CTPH won the Japanese Social Development Fund (JSDF) award worth \$200.000 meant for further upscaling of the project

Background of organization

CTPH came into being to address a problem that is part of the daily reality of many impoverished families in Uganda and in other parts of Africa living around protected areas. In these situations, issues of land encroachment, competition for food, and the spread of disease between people, wildlife and livestock impose a threat to the survival of wildlife and habitats and as such, people themselves.

Around 15 years ago, Gladys was working as the first veterinarian for the Uganda Wildlife Authority in Bwindi, a UNESCO world Heritage site where half of the world's population of mountain gorillas' lives. One day, Gladys was called to check on a group of gorillas who had a fatal skin disease and found out that the disease came from the local community who had little health care and social services. This became the main reason to start CTPH in 2003 and implement projects addressing issues of family planning, health care, income and education within communities living around protected nature areas, hereby simultaneously improving their interaction with local ecosystems and wildlife.

GDN application

In 2013, CTPH decided to apply for a GDN award because they had started thinking about scaling up their project in Bwindi. "We had seen great success here by increasing social services locally through an approach which combined the creation of Village Health and Conservation Teams (VHCTs) with a Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA)."



Photo: Bulambuli VHCTs

Using the funds of the MIDP grant, the approach was expanded locally in Bwindi by scaling to another side of the forest in a new district, where similar issues with gorillas and communities existed. “We used the opportunity provided by GDN to re-engage communities we had previously worked with to start income generating activities. We had noticed that VSLAs formed an essential part to make these projects sustainable. GDN gave us the opportunity to include this in our projects.” The JDSF grant that followed allowed “scaling at the biggest scale.” Gladys: “In Bwindi relations were greatly improved between community and park. Family planning has worked and women were more liberated. We saw we could do more and that our model could work in other areas. We chose Mount Elgon in Uganda and Virungas in Democratic Republic Congo (DRC) as new project sites.”

“Without GDN funding we would not have been able to create a more robust, but also more broadly applicable model that could be used in other areas in Uganda to reduce issues between communities and national parks.”

Balancing family budget and protecting the ecosystem

The project outcomes have been very positive, Gladys notes. People in these areas have limited access to social services and education and often do not see the benefits of changing their practices. Using local volunteers to engage and educate communities has proven to be a very successful and sustainable way to change social norms.

“We thought that if we could make communities see the connection between protecting their own health and the health of their surroundings they would understand, and it worked! Nutrition has improved greatly in project areas and people have started planting trees now.” Great leaps were especially taken in the area of family planning. “We really found a way to reach the men in the villages and tell them to balance the family budget. One of our best testimonies came from a lady with three girls who decided not to have any more children after engagement of our project. She has a shop now and serves as a role model within her community. “

Participating in the GDN grant has also led to new ideas and directions within CTPH. “Our GDN advisor under the JSDF grant suggested we strengthen our approach with social enterprises in the area of ecotourism, which has already led to tourists visiting the community homes in Bwindi.”

At the GDN conference: “I was very nervous, but I got a lot of great feedback”

For Gladys, being involved in the GDN activities and network as a finalist was a unique professional experience: “I learned a lot from both GDN as well as my fellow finalists, who came from completely different backgrounds. I learned to present myself and my project to a wider audience and started to recognize that what we are doing has an essential link to economic development. I realized that our approach is not only important in the health and conservation sector, but that we were also addressing, inequality, inclusive growth and social protection. This gave me a lot of confidence in our work.”

Family planning: Getting the word out in Uganda

The JSDF grant has enabled Gladys and her organization to become actively involved in advocacy groups targeting the Ugandan government. As a result, they have been invited to discuss specifically the family planning approach with them on several occasions: “I was invited by Ministry of Health to talk about family planning from a conservation perspective, during a meeting where religious leaders were present as well. The government acknowledges the need for family planning and has started to look for ways to get it accepted as a social norm. Currently only 30% of women in Uganda are taking measures in this area. Within our project only 20% of the women was doing so, but this became 60% after our involvement, which has sparked great interest.” The project site is still being regularly visited by government officials from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and Ministry of the East African Community from Uganda, but also other neighboring countries.

Changing the way International Development looks at Conservation and Health

Although the GDN funding for CTPH has ended this year, the three projects are still running and their success has attracted a new stream of funding from the Darwin Initiative. “The first time we applied for a fund there, they thought it was unrealistic to integrate health and conservation into one development approach. But the GDN award enabled us to prove that this combination has great potential in generating sustainable results and moreover, a model that can be scaled up easily to other regions and countries.” Darwin Initiative is now providing the funds that continue the Mount Elgon project and a new scaling up of the same model to Budongo Forest in Uganda. This research aims to further prove that there is great value in addressing health care and conservation together. “Whatever comes out of the research will go beyond the traditional view of conservation. When the results are ready, we have planned to present them at international development fora and Universities, such as Oxford. Darwin sees it as something that could greatly influence development approaches within both conservation and health.”

“ You could say that GDN has helped us to grow the approach locally and that a new funder is now helping us to make it into an international approach to carry to different countries.”

By supporting CTPH, GND funded an approach that has provided evidence for the interconnectedness between ecosystem, wildlife and human health. With help of local volunteers, CTPH projects resulted in a change of social norms both on a community as well as on a government level benefitting animals, communities and environment alike. Looking beyond the barriers of classical development disciplines, the potential of this approach has been picked up by international researchers and recognized as an innovative way to address human development challenges within a wildlife context.

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Changing dimensions of poverty in a Peruvian shantytown

Interviewee: Prof. Jeanine Anderson

Author: Nienke Raap

Key words: shantytown, slum, Peru, anti-poverty, poverty, qualitative, longitudinal, gender

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 a Japanese award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) to continue her work in the shantytown of Pamplona Alta in Lima, Peru focused on changing dimensions of poverty over a period of several decades.

“Winning the award was a major event”

Mrs. Anderson’s research application for the award had a long history. It proposed a third round of evaluation of the effects of government development policies on gender relations and community organization in a shantytown called Pamplona Alta on the outskirts of Lima. Anderson had studied the same community in 1977 focusing on family life and child development and in 1992, when she explored the positions of men and women within family and community further. In the last study, she had noted big differences in male and female positions and their perspectives as well as generational differences compared to the 1977 study. She hoped to use the GDN award to see if things had changed again after a decade.

“Winning the GDN award was a major event. I shared the ORD with a prominent think tank in Peru who proposed a quantitative case study, whereas mine took a very qualitative approach. I was pleasantly surprised that the jury saw the potential in a longitudinal study that had a relatively small scope.”

A reversal of fortunes for men and women

Study findings showed that there had been a lot of changes in the Pamplona after the last research took place. Anderson notes that in the first two studies, women were overwhelmed with household and care-taking tasks and subordinate to men, who were opening their horizons in an urban setting. Anderson: “By 2000 the picture changed quite a lot and it seemed like a reversal of fortunes of men and women had taken place. This was mostly an effect of economic crisis during the 80’s and 90’s in which formal unskilled employment has practically disappeared and men suddenly lost their social status within family as the main source of income. At the same time an era of development of women had begun and initiatives stimulating women entrepreneurship were increasing in the town. This made a lot of men feel left behind.”

According to Anderson the value of her study laid in the insights in generated in poverty and social programmes, that only a longitudinal study can provide: “What does poverty mean, what does it look like and how does it evolve over time for a man or a woman. And what does it mean to have anti-poverty development within policies or programs.” Analyzing a broad

range of anti-poverty policies and programs over the years let Anderson to find that many of them had an opposite effect of what was needed. “Most projects were focused on providing infrastructure and services within the town itself. But what community members really wanted was to get structural access better social services, in areas like health and education, outside of their own community in more privileged sectors of their society. These programs only fed the idea of their segregation from those that were better-off further.”

Dissiminating results locally and globally

With the GDN funds, Anderson was able to produce a popular book which portrayed the expressions of the community members on their lives in the shantytown. She gave to members of the community and felt it was very much appreciated. “The book served as a kind of legitimation for community. They used in when they went to local government to demand social services, such as garbage cleaning. I felt however that they could have employed it more. These people invested so much over the years and built the whole the town themselves, including all water systems, houses, health posts, community centers and schools. “

Anderson was able to disseminate the study results through several publications and participated in policy dialogues, including with local governments and the Economic commission of Latin America. The local and global gender research community have been following her study over the years. Anderson remarks modestly: “I must have made changes in peoples thinking about particular issues in this mix of themes.”

Future ambitions: a book covering findings from 1977 until now

Andersons biggest regret is not writing a single volume book on the study findings, which she feels has left her out of some debates. Although she is officially retired, she hopes to achieve this in the coming years, but wants to go in the shantytown again for a fourth round of interviews before she does.

“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 shanty towns. Although their poverty might be less lethal and stressful than in in 1977, their relative unequal position in Peruvian society and their understanding of their citizens’ rights did not change.”

One of the things Anderson would like to follow-up on is something she discovered in the study financed by the GDN award. In 2000, several young adults had gotten an education and were moving into better employment. Surprisingly, they did not leave the community but stayed to take care of their family who remained largely very poor in the absence of pensions, disability and health insurance. Anderson: “It would be interesting to investigate if young people are still giving up on opportunities in order to take care of their families, even in a context where social services have improved or if they have become more individualistic and focus on themselves first?”

Credits to GDN

For Anderson personally, the award meant her work received more attention and she was able to take her research a step further. “Although I was already known in Peru as a researcher, it was a top-up for my reputation. The Award was also very generous compared to the regular funding standards in Peru and allowed me to do things I would have not been able to do otherwise such as take on board a group of young psychologists to work with me and a photographer capturing the shantytown during the research.”

With help of GDN, Professor Anderson was able to perform a type of study that is unique in its time-span and approach. In a region where longitudinal studies of poverty, families and communities are rare, her work has served as an example of the possibilities for adding dimensions, concepts and theoretical propositions not found in simpler, synchronic approaches.

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Strengthening the case for local investment of overseas remittances

Interviewee: Mr. Jeremaiah Opiniano

Author: *Nienke Raap*

Keywords: *philippines, overseas remittances, investment, development finance, RICART*

Dr. Ang and Mr. Opiniano were selected as finalists for the 2010 Japanese Award for Most Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) at GDN's Global Development Conference in Bogota. They represented the University of Santo Tomas (UST), Asia's oldest university. This year, the call was specifically focused on development finance and Alvin and Jeremaiah saw an opportunity to expand their studies on migration and remittances in the rural Philippines.

“When we landed as finalists in Bogota, I remember we performed a little gimmick and used an actual dollar bill to the audience during our presentation. This became the first time a research team from the Philippines won the first prize in the GDN Awards Competition.”

Improving financial literacy of overseas migrants and their families

The GDN funds made it possible to create a mixed methods research tool, which became known as the Remittance Investment Climate Analysis in Rural Hometowns (RICART). The methodology enabled the integration of qualitative findings and quantitative results to assess the conduciveness of rural birthplaces for overseas remittances' investment and entrepreneurial potentials.

The GDN award turned out to be the catalyst of a total of four projects applying the RICART approach within 6 municipalities. Following the GDN funds, they attracted an anonymous Catholic donor from Europe that offered to support a similar project in 2012-2013, followed by funding from the Institute for Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion (IMTFI) of the University of California-Irvine in 2014-2015, and the JICA Research Institute (ongoing) that began in August 2016. Three research monographs on RICART findings have been published.

Combined results of the RICART research rounds, covering four municipalities, show that less than 50% of overseas migrants and their families invest remittances money in their hometowns, even if the municipality is economically developed and more conducive for investors. One of the main causes for this fact relates to residents' limited levels of financial literacy, distancing remittance senders and recipients from the opportunities that are available locally.

Leveraging RICART results for local and international impact

Opiniano and Ang have made sure to spread the insights of their research locally, by sharing the findings with municipalities concerned in every RICART round and providing free financial literacy lectures. This way, they pressed the issue of the importance of teaching residents to handle their money better.

Opiniano also leads a local NGO in Manila, the Institute for Migration and Development Issues (IMDI), and is working on a strategy that aims ensure local governments draft ordinances to

include overseas migrants in their development planning efforts. “Communicating major findings [of RICART] in a language that local officials and families can understand is an important next step. We plan to write small RICART booklets of less than 20 pages laying out main findings and recommendations for both councilors and for ordinary migrant families in those localities.”

With their research, Opiniano and Ang have been able to contribute to a wider debate and national policy reform in the area of remittances: “Our RICART project has been a showcase in improving overseas Filipinos' financial capabilities. Findings were recognized by the Remittance and Development Council (ReDC) and presented to government, banks and civil society on several occasions.”

These last 6 years of implementing RICART, as well as the years of efforts by civil society groups and financial institutions related to remittances, the Philippine government has realized it needs to start educating its citizens on money and has taken important steps to simplifying business registration and creating incentives for entrepreneurs to invest. “The fact that the Philippines now has a National Strategy on Financial Inclusion is a big first step for a country that is so reliant on remittances: that money may be handled better by Filipinos in general, and overseas remittances maximized for productive uses, in particular.”



Photos: Spreading the word on investing remittances locally

To spread the word internationally, Opiniano and his colleague Dr. Ang presented their



findings in conferences, for example in 2016 for an Asian Development Bank conference in Manila. They have also written several newspaper articles and commentaries on RICART findings. In the coming years, the scholars hope to publish an article for an international journal showing an integrated set of RICART findings. They hope to reach a bigger academic audience, especially in origin countries of migrants.

On winning the GDN award: “one of those important live moments”

The GDN award gave an enormous boost to the careers of both researchers. Dr. Ang was offered a position at a different university, the Ateneo de Manila University, and is now a much sought-after economist by media and private companies in Manila. Opiniano, for his part, describes winning the award as “one of those important life moments.” Winning the award gave him a lot of confidence to continue this line of research. Although he is not an economist from origin, the exposure that the GDN award and GDN conference provided, put him on the radar in the economic research community at home as well as overseas. Eventually, working on RICART helped Opiniano to come to Australia for his PhD studies in Geography.

Both scholars credit GDN for giving them the opportunity to learn from being in RICART. “Since Ang was a quantitative scholar and I a qualitative researcher, we had lots to figure out. We both experienced an important learning curve combining these two research approaches. “

Future of GDN: interdisciplinary and cross-fertilization

Opiniano hopes GDN will continue to press the action in terms of supporting developing country researchers. He notes: “GDN continues to have that niche compared to other international organizations. I think it would be valuable if GDN would open to other disciplines, such as geography, anthropology and social studies. This could lead to more interdisciplinary studies so as ours in which cross-fertilization might take place and findings will be broader”.

By proving its success locally as well as within international academia, the interdisciplinary RICART approach is a good example of the research-driven on the ground impact GDN aims to support. Overseas earnings are the leading income sources in many municipalities not only in the Philippines. The RICART study provides direction in creating hometown programs, policies and incentives that help overseas migrant entrepreneurs and investors to generate local economic development and address poverty.

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Kickstarting a research career in microfinance and women empowerment

Interviewee: Joy Kiiru

Author: Nienke Raap

Key words: Microfinance, women empowerment, medal, poverty, social protection

Joy Kiiru is senior lecturer at the University of Nairobi, Kenya and won a Research Medal in the GDN Awards Competition in 2010 for her PHD on [The impact of microfinance on rural poor households' income and vulnerability to poverty: case study of Makueni District, Kenya](#). The Medal gave her the confidence and motivation to become one of the leading researchers on microfinance and women empowerment in Kenya.

“Winning the GDN was a great moment for my career”

Joy had just finished her PHD when she was notified of the GDN call. Since her research was received well both at the University of Bonn where she completed her PhD and in other dissemination forums, she hoped the award could help to disseminate the results more widely to reach an international audience. She describes winning the Medal as “a great moment for my career”. Joy: “At the time I won the award I was very young and inexperienced. Winning a prize like that gave me a lot of confidence and motivation to continue on the research path. It even made the local news in Kenya!”

Being given the opportunity to Participate in the GDN network directly led to more research collaborations. “It is key in our profession to connect with other researchers, do research and disseminate the findings. Being part of the GDN network extended my networks, making it possible to connect and work with other researchers. Since the win I have participated in a lot of international conferences. Another great thing about being in the GDN network is that it opens doors to meet different researchers working in different areas. “I was able to network with other researchers and be part of multidisciplinary research projects”.

Almost 8 years after winning the medal, Joy is very well known for her work on microfinance and women empowerment in Kenya. She has heard from several policy makers who find her research informative and makes regular appearances in national media. Despite the success, Joy remains conscious not take it for granted. “It’s very humbling and rewarding to be able to share the knowledge that I think needs to be out there.”

Protecting the very poor within Microfinance lending Institutions

Joy's PHD research added to the global discussion on microfinance as a tool for poverty reduction which was at its height at the time. Microfinance was increasingly being contested as an effective measure, but strong research to support his statement was lacking.

Joy'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.



Photo: Joy during a training on Microcredit

People just below or just above the poverty line are the best to target for microfinance, but in case of extreme poverty, loans often leave the poor trapped in an exploitative debt-cycle. As a direct impact of Joy's research and through wider dissemination to a wider body of policy makers in Kenya we have witnessed policies and regulations geared towards protecting poor borrowers. Microfinance institutions have had to streamline their operations in terms of targeting while there has been a wider sensitization on the role of microfinance to potential borrowers.

"One of the other main results of my research is that the Kenyan government has begun to realize the difference between social protection and microfinancing, Joy states. "Some vulnerable groups need basic support first before they can become entrepreneurs." On the basis of her research, Joy is now working with one of the County governments in Kenya to develop a policy for youth empowerment.

Helping youth to reach their full potential

Enabling people to reach their full potential is something Joy hopes to pursue further within her career. Since the award her work has been published in several international peer-reviewed journals and in a few years, she hopes to become a university professor. "From there I want to look further for ways to turn research results into practical tools for youth and women empowerment. I realize that in my country most of women and youth empowerment issues could be resolved through a mindset change. I would like the youths to be aware that they are responsible for their own development and that they can and need to exploit opportunities to leverage their potential. The most important and most necessary empowerment begins with the mindset, attitude, and the rest follows." Joy sees an overlap in her work and her winning with the GDN Research Medal. "GDN was a breaking point for me in my career. It gave me the confidence to know that what I was doing was valuable and appreciated."

Joy's experience shows that GDN is of utmost importance in helping researchers in parts of the world where funding is limited to kickstart their career. Through the kind of network and platform GDN offers, young researchers are enabled to reach their full potential which otherwise might not have been the case. With her research, Joy contributed towards the regulation and operations of microfinance programs in Kenya and to date her work is still quoted by researchers in the field of microfinance.

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Leveraging trade liberalization as a means of poverty reduction

Interviewee: Mr. Mohammed Chemingui

Author: Nienke Raap

Key words: trade liberalization, Tunisia, EU, poverty reduction, economic reform, trade agreement, agricultural products, FTA



Mr. Mohamed Chemingui is a senior economist and chief of the regional integration section at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA). He received a Medal for his research on trade reforms in Tunisia and their link to rural poverty in 2001. At the time, he was working at the Faculty of Economics, University of Montpellier, France as a Post-Doctoral Fellow and GDN had just emerged as a new global research network.

Improving the number of winners within Trade Agreements

The research, co-authored by Chemingui and Chokri Thabet focused on the potential impact of reforms in agricultural policy in Tunisia on poverty in rural areas which were taking place in the context of the free trade negotiations between the EU and Tunisia. In 2000 the Tunisian government was exploring the option to include food products as part of the Free trade agreement with the EU and seemed ready to open their market without any evaluation on the impact this would have on rural households. Initiating a new approach that integrated social dimensions with economic reform, the research aimed to bridge this information gap and focused on the impact that food related trade reforms would have on poverty related indicators, including income, price of food, food security and migration.

With their research Mr. Chemingui and his team were able to impact the negotiation process between Tunisia and the EU by preventing an agreement to be implemented without a proper common framework governing it. Combining the study results with other connected analysis, it became clear that without implementing appropriate policies in both sides (EU and Tunisia), the welfare losses for rural households would be grave on the Tunisian side in terms of unemployment and poverty rates.

Chemingui notes: "Our research has been able to prove that a trade agreement is only good if correctly designed and fair. Any trade reform will produce winners and losers. The core issue is really to design an agreement as such that it will improve the number of winners and reduce the potential adjustment costs. We were able to influence the agreement, which has impacted the whole economy in a positive way and it has fed into the new agreement." After the first research, Chemingui and his team have been asked to re-evaluate the inclusion of agricultural products in the free trade agreement (FTA) almost every four to five years and results are used by the government to facilitate the negotiations with the EU. Now, almost 18 years later, the process is still ongoing and Chemingui sees a lot of progress. "I am confident that in one or two years we will have a mutually beneficial agreement, covering all sectors, including agricultural and food products."

Scaling up the evaluation approach

Chemingui notes his research has been “a starting point to integrate social implications of economic policy reforms and design of mitigation policies and instruments to overcome costs in Tunisia and many other Arab and African countries.” Mr. Chemingui now works as Senior Economist Chief of the regional integration section at the UNESCWA. In this capacity he is employing the same approach in assisting governments of Lebanon, Morocco, Jordan and Egypt in the context of the new trade agreements launched by the EU and known by Deep and Complete FTA (DCFTA). This entails further developing and applying the appropriate ex-ante evaluation tools that are able to estimate the potential economic and social impacts of this new generation of trade agreements on the Arab countries involved in the Euro-Med Partnership.

Entering a Global Research Network

Chemingui credits GDN for giving him access to a global research community and supporting his growth as a researcher. “The funds and network allowed me to diversify my skills and contacts, which directly resulted in new research, projects and consultancy assignments.” The yearly GDN conference was beneficial to this process and gave him a boost of confidence. He stresses the process of reviewing and appealing of research is among the best in the world and was honored to receive “the best possible reactions from top ranked economist.” After the award, Chemingui embarked on an international career path, leading him to work for the Kuwaiti Scientific Research Institute and the United National Economic Commission of Africa, before ending up within UNESWA.

GDN aims to create social impact benefitting marginalized communities, by supporting policy-oriented research. In Chemingui’s case, the award program was able to support a young talent in his growth to an established expert advising several national governments on policies leveraging free trade agreements for poverty reduction. Today, Chemingui is a well-known researcher in his field and has published more than 50 papers in refereed journals and books. He serves as resource person for many international and regional organizations.

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Greenhouse entrepreneurs improve income and nutrition in mountainous Kyrgyzstan

Interviewees: Arslanbek Miiyashev (MSDSP Executive Director), Marc-Antoine Adam (Regional Partnership and Donor Relations Officer - Aga Khan Foundation) and Jyldyz Suleimanova (MSDSP field manager)

Author: Nienke Raap

Key words: greenhouse, Kyrgyzstan, nutrition, poverty, mountain climate, entrepreneurship, income, small-scale farming

In 2016, the Mountain Societies Development Support Program (MSDSP) won third place in the GDN Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) Award Competition. MSDSP was founded in 2006 by the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) and aims to improve the quality of life of Kyrgyzstan's remote and mountainous communities. The GDN funds were used to support a greenhouse project in the Naryn region and formed part of a larger program on nutrition and entrepreneurship among women and youth. The project was implemented by a team consisting of Jyldyz Suleimanova (MSDSP Naryn Branch Director), Arslanbek Miiyashev (MSDSP Executive Director), Toktobek Soodaev (MSDSP Engineer), Chyngyz Kalykov (MSDSP Monitoring & Evaluation Associate).

Greenhouses fostering local entrepreneurship and improving nutrition

The Naryn region is a mountainous area, where poverty rates are high, and the local population is heavily reliant on agriculture for their income. Farmers here have limited options for their vegetable production due to climatic conditions, and in the winter months many families find themselves in a vulnerable situation where they live on a diet of meat and potatoes. Seeking to overcome these limitations and improve diet and income, MSDSP's project proposed the construction of a greenhouse in collaboration with local farmers in Naryn city.

With the aim to foster local ownership and entrepreneurship from the start of the project, several farmers were invited to apply for participation. Selection was based on set of criteria including viability of the proposed site, access to irrigation water, ability to contribute financially, and willingness to work with women's farmers groups. The chosen lead entrepreneur, Joldoshbek Satybaev contributed 62% of the costs of materials and construction for the greenhouse that was built in 2017.

Success has already been harvested in a short amount of time. The greenhouse is in full production and a second round of cucumber produce has been sold on the local market. Joldoshbek is providing regular practical consultations to women's farmer groups interested in vegetable production. The entrepreneur has also managed to create some market linkages locally. Just a few months ago, Joldoshbek entered into an agreement with the local University of Central Asia, to supply with them to supply fresh vegetables. This is quite an achievement, since this University has 140 students to feed. In the future, the aim is to diversify its products in order to meet nutrition needs of the students.



Photos: Greenhouse entrepreneur Joldoshbek Satybaev and the greenhouse during winter

Spreading the greenhouse approach and creating impact at scale

The greenhouse approach has been used in other projects under MSDSP, which have resulted in several independently functioning greenhouses in and around the city of Naryn. “Several of the greenhouses we helped to construct have expanded their production and work in a sustainable way. There is a constant stream of income and consultation provided to local farmers. As a result, local residents can buy their vegetables locally in Naryn city instead of importing them at a much higher price,” Arslanbek Miiashvili (MSDSP Executive Director).

The success of their project has also been recognized by other NGO’s operating in the area, such as the UNDP and USAID who have adopted and scaled out the solar greenhouse approach within their own projects. Marc-Antoine Adam, the designer of the project, sees this as part of the role the MSDSP plays locally: “Our role is to pilot and develop a project locally, and then others can replicate its success.”

MSDSP hopes to develop the greenhouse project further by strengthening greenhouse management through training in pest management, humidity control, etc., and also to start engagement in livestock and fruit production: “One of our missions now is to improve

greenhouse management and further demonstrate to local resident that vegetable cultivation is possible in this type of climate conditions. New projects we would like to work on address malpractices in livestock keeping practices and promotion of mother stock nurseries for apples and apricots to improve productivity and quality standards” highlighted Mr. Miiashev.

Supporting innovations in development

GDN believes that development ideas such as the greenhouse approach need to be supported and their knowledge spread internationally so that development players within different sectors can learn from them. Arslan Miiashev, MSDSP’s Executive Director, puts it perfectly: “We applied to demonstrate our approach to others and were very proud that experts recognized our work as an example of good practices internationally. Although the amount of our grant was small, our project shows that entrepreneurs can do a lot with a small investment and achieve a lot of impact.”

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Self-governance as the inclusive backbone of sustainable development

Interviewee: Mr. Narender Paul

Author: Nienke Raap

Key words: CORD, India, self-help, self-governance, institution, women, empowerment, sustainable agriculture, microcredit

Mr. Narender Paul, Chief Operating Officer of Chinmaya Organization for Rural Development (CORD) represented CORD at the GDN conference in Morocco in 2015 where they won the first prize in the Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) award competition. CORD has been working for over 32 years in the area of integrated rural development in India. CORD started with a focus on health but grew to include governance and economic activities, driven by a growing recognition for the need to empower especially women within households.

Before engaging with the Global Development Network (GDN), CORD had already established itself as a resource center in India in the area of self-help groups, microcredit and women empowerment. With GDN funds they were able to raise their global profile and increase their local impact even further.

Participating in the GDN network: great exposure for CORD

Ending first for the MIDP prize at the GDN conference was a special experience for Mr. Paul. He explains: "We were selected as a winner among 253 entries competing in this process. As an organization who is always focused on the field, we never had much opportunity to reach out to our peers, so to be recognized like this was very gratifying. At the conference, we were able to connect to World Bank economists and high-level researchers, working on similar in agriculture across the globe. For me this was great in terms of interaction and exposure." The GDN Training brought CORD several presentation and acquisition tools they still use in their program management today. One of these is a one-pager indicating quantitative and qualitative outputs, replicability and scalability of projects. This has now become a standard practice in CORD.

A livelihood model for institutionalizing and empowering women farmers

With the funds of the MIDP which later led to a grant of the Japanese Social Development Fund (JDSF), CORD was able to expand a program they had started with the Indian government in 2014. This rural development program was aimed at institutionalizing and empowering small and marginal women farmers in hill agriculture in the district of Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, India. In the project area, inputs such as seeds come with very high costs in terms of time and money for local farmers who more than often live below poverty line. CORD started a seed program with women farmers to create ownership over the input, while improving yields and nutritional value of crops. Through systematic investment and establishing backward and forward market linkages women were empowered economically, for example by creating direct contact with seed vendors. All farmers selected were either already part of self-help groups or became members of groups to access micro-credit.

Implementation and impact

The MIDP funding for the project ended in 2017 and the JDSF funds will end this year. Including the 1000 women farmers under both these projects and that of the government earlier, a total of more than 3500 women farmers have been covered and over 10,000 are being impacted indirectly. The impact of the project was bigger than even CORD had expected, due to the enthusiasm and interest locally. According to MR. Paul, the most important outcome of the project was the establishment of a strong presence and recognition of women as farmers as a critical mass in the sphere of policy and advocacy, while demonstrating a viable model for marginal and small farmers in rural India with sustainable agriculture practices. Improving agricultural practices has led to increased water productivity and crop intensification which increased household income by 25 to 30 percent in the project areas.



Photos: left: 187 women farmers grow wheat in 21.5 acres of land through the SWI method which is the one of the new techniques of wheat cultivation. right: During the project period, around 235 women farmer households started backyard poultry as an additional livelihood activity for their family. (CORD)

Besides the viability of the sustainable agricultural practices, the success of the approach was based on a number of distinct factors. The institutional design and inclusivity of the project ensured that even the poorest of the poor were included. The practice of local-self-governance enabled women to collectivize their demand and negotiate improved access to government services. According to Paul, one of the essential elements of the project was working in close collaboration with the Indian government and the creation of permanent institutional linkages. Paul explains: "One of the strengths of CORD is that we do not duplicate government programs but always complement their efforts by adding our bottom-up approach to their top-down approach. Since local self-governance in decision-making is part of decentralized efforts of India, there is room in Indian law to create policies and programs in this area."



Photos: 186 Women farmers from MIDP area participated in a Farmer's get-together organized under JDSF and shared their achievements with the other farmers and also put up an exhibition to share some of their best practices (CORD)

CORD is now working on a follow-up where they will diffuse the livelihood approach to already constructed groups. In this new program, peer-learning will take a central role through the institutional mechanism created at the ward and panchayat level of women farmers with certain amount of facilitation by CORD wherever required.

Policy influence and creating a backbone for sustainable impact

CORD's influence in policy making through this project was established in several areas. As a direct result of their networking activities, parts of their model, including adoption of crops and methods in animal husbandry were adopted in the official education program of the ministry of agriculture. Indirectly, the impact established within policy was much bigger by empowering women to lobby and advocate for themselves locally.

The sustainability of the institutional mechanism is recognized by others and several NGOs have taken over their approach. Paul:" Quite often, I see development projects struggle with establishing a sustainable impact and project achievements slowly disappear when funding ends. By creating women groups, the CORD model creates an institutional backbone for sustainable impact and leads people to self-help and self-governance."

Achieving critical mass with help of GDN

Through the MIDP and subsequent JDSF funds, the CORD approach has been implemented at large scale and proven its viability for both the Indian context as well as in other countries. Mr. Paul especially thanks GDN for several major reasons: "We were given a chance to share our model on a global forum and get the endorsement from distinguished researchers and from our international peers. This boosted our confidence and drove us to achieving a big critical mass to demonstrate our approach. GDN also led us to win a grant under the JDSF program, which allowed us to take our project to an advanced stage. In the end, we have been able to

improve to lives of over 3500 women farmers and their families and prove our integrated agricultural approach as a successful model.”

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Closing the gender wage gap in Macedonia

Interviewee: Dr. Marjan Petreski

Author: Nienke Raap

Key words: gender, wage, Macedonia, webtool,

Marjan Petreski first became interested in the economics of the gender-wage gap in Macedonia while working at the School of Business Economics and Management at the University American College in Skopje about 10 years ago. With support of the Japanese award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) economic inequality between genders has since then become a central focus in his professional career and Petreski has managed to raise awareness of the issue within the Macedonian society and government.

Participating in the GDN conference

Dr. Petreski and colleagues Dr. Nikica Mojsoska Blazeovski and Dr. Blagica Petreski applied for an ORD grant in the GDN awards competition in 2012, with a proposal to build a tool for greater gender wage equality in Macedonia, based on theoretical foundations and empirical consideration of workers' characteristics and selectivity bias into employment. Petreski had won other individual awards before but remembers the winning of the GDN award as a great moment. The team was under the impression that they were shortlisted when they were invited to the GDN conference. "It was only in Manila, we realized just 3 short-listed candidates were invited and that surely we would get an award. This was a huge joy."

The conference itself was a great place to make connections. Petreski got invited to join a [research project on industrialization](#) funded by the Inter-American Development Bank by Sara Wong from Ecuador, who also received an ORD award that year. Interestingly enough, they also established links and cooperation with other researchers in the Western Balkan region.

Building and applying the web tool

The research team used the GDN funds to write a paper on the topic and create webtool to further their research in partnership with Macedonian companies. In 2014, the article titled "[Gender Wage Gap when Women are Highly Inactive: Evidence from Repeated Imputations with Macedonian Data](#)" was published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Labor Research. By using a novel method, the paper concluded that the gender-wage gap in the Macedonian context is not purely explained by gender wage discrimination as has been often assumed. Instead, the gap should be also seen through a lens of non-participation by women on the labor market due to various reasons like remittances' receipt from migrant husbands, stereotypes and prejudices, and caring for their dependents.

The investigation led to the establishment of the web-tool [EdPlaCo-MK](#) in autumn 2015, serving as a standard helping public and private employers to develop best practice for fair employment and remuneration. Through a calculation based on wage and demographical data

from their employees, companies would either be awarded a label indicating they were an “Gender equal payer” or were advised to bridge the gender gap in wages and obtain the logo.

Today, the website is still online and the process of retrieving data from companies is ongoing. It is a long cycle with hurdles. “Since we come from a culture where this is not a priority issue and the awareness is still quite low, we find ourselves explaining a lot at first. When companies show willingness to participate it often takes a while before they are able to compile the required data. ”

Of the 300 companies approached, so far 5 companies have successfully filled in the form and 9 companies are in the process. Another 10 companies have shown interest to participate. Petreski expects that in about 3 years, 30 companies will carry the gender equality label.

Specializing in gender and income inequality

Looking back at the start of the project and where it is today, Petreski remarks: “I think this was the right project at the right time both for me as for Macedonia. I am not sure if the project would have existed without GDN funding, as it was crucial to have these first investments made for research itself and the platform.” The project served as a basis for further funding and attracted several other grants that allowed them to expand and promote the platform further within the Macedonian society. New components added include infographics on current status of the gender wage gap in and a tool for individuals allowing them to check what their gender-neutral wage should be, taking into account their age, sector and level of education. The GDN grant was also key in starting a new division completely dedicated to gender and income inequalities within the Institute Petreski founded in 2012: the Economic Research & Policy institute [Finance Think](#).

Getting wage equality on the Political agenda in Macedonia

During the project, the team discussed the tool with various institutional stakeholders including the Ministry of Labor and Social policy, the Organization of Employers, the Trade Union, the Chamber of Commerce and the ILO and UNDP offices in Skopje. But although interest in the topic was there getting a say in national policy-making proved difficult. When the research started, the government had just created a Gender Equality strategy for 2013-2020 which allowed little room for new ideas. In addition, the political crisis of 2015-2017 made it hard to get the topic on the agenda. Today, a new government has shown enthusiasm to include their ideas in the next strategy in 2021. One of the aims is to make equal wages between genders compulsory for public institutions.

Supporting research excellence and professional growth

“I am a scientist not an activist,” Petreski says. Looking ahead in his career, he hopes to advance his expertise further and get more work published in peer-reviewed journals. Still, closing the gender gap in Macedonian society is the grand objective. Here, the researcher

highlights the two most important aims of the GDN awards competition: supporting excellence in policy-oriented research as well as the capacity development of researchers. Both have been accomplished in this case. Petreski has grown professionally since the award was won and the gender gap in Macedonia has reduced in the last years. Although the latter not be solely due the funded research, the project has made a big contribution by raising awareness in society on this issue. Wage equality has become a “Hot Topic” in Macedonia.

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The business case of biodiversity conservation

Interviewee: Bhishma P. Subedi

Author: Nienke Raap

Keywords: biodiversity, conservation, Nepal, ANSAB, forest management

Dr. Bhishma P. Subedi is Executive Director of the Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB) in Nepal. In 2008, ANSAB won the second prize in the MIDP competition for their approach on Biodiversity Conservation through Community-based Enterprises. As a breeding ground for innovative social development approaches, GDN recognized the potential of their approach to forest management which introduced a new perspective within development work while at the same time proposing a practical solution to forest degradation in Nepal. Aligning conservation objectives with economic incentives, ANSAB has managed to safeguard the sustainable use of forests by method of local ownership and income generation.

A new approach to community forest management and resilient livelihoods

With a combination of funds from GDN and other development partners ANSAB set up a pilot project in the districts of Dolakha and Sindhupalchok, which turned out to be the first of many projects to come. Implementation followed a step-by-step approach. Firstly, ANSAB supported the selected communities in obtaining forest tenure and use rights from the government and organize themselves in Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs). Once established, a co-designed forest management plan gave life to social enterprises producing non-timber forest products, such as medicinal and aromatic liquids and solid biofuels. Eventually, locals became full owners and managed the businesses with ANSAB providing technical advice and financial support.



Photos: A community-enterprise distillation unit in Sindhupalchok district and Women harvesting wintergreen leaves from FSC certified forest for selling to the distillation unit (ANSAB)

Since the award, the approach has proven its success within a number of projects covering other districts and different types of forest products. Most notably, this included a [four-year 2 million Euros project](#) funded by the European Union. Within this project, an important new dimension was created by setting-up “lead firms” on a national level to trade with and provide technological support to the local enterprises, while further selling their products on domestic and international markets. Aiming to explore additional incentives for sustainable forest management a collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), certification standard Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and ANSAB led to the development of a forest certification standard with verification of impact on ecosystem services.

Setting up an international trading system of certified non-timber products

The impact the ASANAB approach has been able to create is impressive and evidence that conservation can be profitable is clear from project data. In total, the projects strengthened 1,298 economic entities that engaged 84,553 economic participants at national level generating over US \$8.31 million of annual financial benefits in 2016. Locally, project evaluations showed that communities’ incomes have grown. In less than 10 years, the projects managed to set up an independently functioning production and trade system benefitting rural communities, urban entrepreneurs and local ecosystems. A lively trade in Brio briquettes and charred pallets now exists between several CFUG’s and Katmandu and the communities see their essential oils from aromatic plants and other natural products procured by international enterprises for use in high end industrial products, such as personal care products, aroma therapy and perfumes.

Forests have greatly benefitted as well. The heightened awareness of the forest value caused a decline in forest degradation and deforestation in project areas. The organization’s impact tracking system shows that its enterprise-oriented programs have brought 127,000 ha of forest and meadow areas under improved management of 663 forest user groups.

Dr. Subedi expects positive impacts to continue in the coming years as all lead firms have developed a long-term vision to continue their business with action plans for next 5 years.



Photo: briquette production in Sindhupalchok. The briquette business provides employment to about 200 locals

Organizational growth: Advice and Mediation on forest conservation, sustainable use and trade of natural products

Today, ANSAB is an organization that is well known and recognized for their expertise on the topic of community based sustainable forest management and non-timber forest products both at a national as international level. The organization is consulted from around the globe and has several demonstration sites where regularly, international experts come to visit. ANSAB has assisted in designing several projects in other countries, such as Bhutan, Laos and India. After GDN they won several other awards from organizations and one of their CFUG's was selected as the finalist for the Equator Prize in 2017. Dr. Subedi himself became the first one to be called "Champion of the Asia Pacific Forests", an award by FAO recognizing individuals who have made outstanding contributions to forest management in the region. "This was a surprise and a great honor for me," shares Subedi.

ANSAB can claim several policy successes within Nepal, having worked together with the ministries of Agriculture and Forests and Soil Conservation on several occasions to include incentives for grassroot action into their development plans. For example, their approach to community sub-groups has been adopted by the government, which has now made it easier for communities to unite themselves in a forest management body and benefit from forests in a sustainable way. In addition, ANSAB takes on a facilitating role in connecting government, communities, scientists and private parties. Subedi explains: "A lot of stakeholders come to us since we are neutral third party. We bring them all together and present the issues and evidence-based facts to generate an effective policy forming process."

GDN provided confidence to scale up the approach

Dr. Subedi says that above all, the GDN funding provided an invaluable recognition of ANSAB's work and gave them the confidence to continue further down the path of enabling people to take ownership of their own challenges. Subedi: "We focus on those people that show the ability to change and help them to solve their own problems so that they can help others in their turn. It is hard to realize that you yourself are part of the problem, but once a person takes on this responsibility, we have seen it helps them to grow and not only become their own driver out of poverty, but contribute to sustainable development balancing overall environmental, social and economic concerns."

By supporting ANSAB, GND has supported the promotion of community self-governance and sustainable use of natural resources as a solution to environmental degradation and marginalization of communities. Seeing how the project has evolved, ANSAB has lived up to their potential recognized by GDN of developing an approach to benefitting the poor in developing and transition countries

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