

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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

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# Preface



**François Bourguignon**  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Global Development Network



**Pierre Jacquet**  
President  
Global Development Network

This annual report presents the activity of the Global Development Network (GDN) in 2021, another year of pandemic, before the ominous developments of 2022 further darkened the global outlook with the return of war on the European continent. From the perspective of GDN's mission, the pandemic has exposed not only the crucial role of scientific knowledge, but also its limitations. Science has proven extremely powerful in understanding the pandemic as it unfolded, as well as in developing, producing, and distributing vaccines at an unprecedented speed in the history of the world – though the inequality of distribution and access has remained one of the most disturbing policy failures. And science will unquestionably help us grapple with other global crises such as climate change and loss of biodiversity, or conflict, inequality and human displacement. And yet, science-based knowledge is by nature incomplete, a deficiency that is revealed in full daylight when major crises strike. Action and policies in times of crisis thus need to be decided under uncertainty, not only because of insufficient knowledge, but also because of the nature of competing interests and demands. This can lead to misunderstandings and frustrations, as well as to conflicting interpretations and 'fake news' about what is going on and the relevance of policies.

In contrast to the more mechanical view of policymaking, which shapes technically sound solutions to respond to known problems, policies during crises go hand-in-hand with risk management: given what we know at any point in time, how do



GDN and FERDI staff at the European office premises in Clermont-Ferrand in March 2022. Photo: FERDI.

we understand and mitigate the risks ahead? Do they justify action now? And, if yes, which actions will lead us in the best direction? How will people respond and adapt? Who will benefit and who will lose, at least in the short run? This role of policymaking to manage risks implies that research, including social science research, is extremely valuable in documenting risks from the collection of data and evidence, as well as in understanding decision-making processes and providing inputs into policy debates.

We cannot, however, take the demand for science – nor the consideration of science – as granted. In fact, sound evidence competes with all sorts of beliefs and motives. Bringing evidence to policy requires much more than disseminating and communicating research; it calls for debate, critical analysis, and ownership. And this in turn requires the active participation of local country researchers. Foreign expertise is of course highly valuable, but what matters is how expertise, whether domestic or foreign, is contextualized, complemented, understood, and embodied locally, and how it finds its way into policy debates.

The same piece of scientific evidence may lead to different policies in different contexts. And there is great scope for learning and cross-sharing knowledge of what has been tried and the respective outcomes. Research is more than about producing a scientific output; it is an analytical process that allows the questioning and weighing of data, facts, and existing academic work, in order to build sound arguments and sound policies that can be implemented locally. This is what GDN stands for. We aim to promote policy thinking based on evidence. Our status as an independent international organization gives us the neutrality that makes us legitimate and credible in developing countries. Research supported by GDN is conducted by researchers from developing countries, preferably locally-based, in line with local demands and priorities.

In 2021, we pursued this mission enthusiastically, and this report documents the results. We expanded our Doing Research global initiative, which promotes a better understanding of social science

research systems and has produced Doing Research Assessments (DRAs) for countries as diverse as Bolivia, Indonesia, Nigeria, Myanmar and Venezuela. Our longest running program, the Global Development Awards competition, celebrated its 20th year of encouraging and awarding the most promising development projects and outstanding development research proposals, recognizing in 2020 researchers from Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Nigeria. The AFD-GDN Biodiversity & Development Awards program supported researchers from Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Madagascar and Vietnam. GDN also shared its *savoir-faire* in building capacity through the selection process with the Belmont Forum, a coalition of national research funders working on sustainability science. We worked with the Commitment to Equity Institute of Tulane University to develop the use of analytical tools integrating fiscal incidence analysis in fiscal policy process in Angola, Ghana, Guatemala, Namibia, Nigeria and Tunisia. GDN also contributed to the initiative launched by the French Development Agency to help Public Development Banks align development finance with the Sustainable Development Goals, and mobilized researchers from France, India, Namibia, Nigeria, Uganda and the United Kingdom. A video-competition on 'Global Transitions, Southern Voices' attracted researchers from many developing countries. Our 21st global development conference, 'Evidence for Development: What Works Global Summit 2021', jointly organized with the Campbell Collaboration, gathered online 960 researchers, policymakers, and practitioners from 105 countries, with over 100 speakers, the majority from developing countries. Meanwhile, our GlobalDev blog published 40 articles in English, French, and Spanish, reaching out to an audience of 66,000 users coming from 160 countries per month on average, and covering a large range of topics including health, economics, education, gender equality, climate change, and more. Finally, a new publication documented the main lessons from the EIB-GDN Applied Development Finance program, which provided the proof-of-concept that good academic research can be tailored to seriously address impact-related questions for private sector impact investors.

We are happy to announce that, with the generous support of the French Government, the French Development Agency, the City of Clermont-Ferrand, the department of Puy-de-Dôme, the Region of Auvergne-Rhône Alpes, and Fondation Michelin, we are opening in 2022, an European office of GDN in the French city of Clermont-Ferrand, a reputed hub for development research. From GDN Europe, and working in close coordination with research institutions such as FERDI and CERDI, we will further expand GDN's activities globally and launch a major program to support research institutions and systems in the South, notably in Francophone Africa.

We look forward to working more closely with our partners and funders across the world to promote the generation and use of evidence in developing countries so that evidence-informed politics, and evidence-based policies, will continue to produce improved and sustainable impacts for all.

# Program Updates

In 2021, despite travel and other restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a difficult financial environment, GDN continued to support its core constituency – researchers in developing countries – and adapted its approach so as to be able to continue to provide high quality, tailored research and capacity building services globally. We forged new working relationships with donors, partners and other key stakeholders to deepen our three-pronged approach, at individual, institutional and research system levels, to help produce and share timely and relevant knowledge and evidence, inform public debates on sustainable development, and improve the quality of policies and ultimately lives. Examples of this follow in the report and we invite interested partners to reach out if any initiative is of particular interest, as we continue to learn and leverage meaningful partnerships across disciplines, borders and sectors.

*The scale-up of the Doing Research global initiative was kickstarted with US\$ 172,000 of GDN's core funds, in these countries – Bolivia, El Salvador, Indonesia, Nigeria. From Feb 2019 – June 2022, an additional US\$ 184,000 in support was received from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to fund two DR studies in Myanmar, a preliminary DR study in Venezuela, and the work to generate strategic evidence to support strengthening social science research in South-East Asia.*

## Doing Research

The Doing Research global initiative provides comparative evidence on the state of research systems in the global South. Over the last year, five Doing Research Assessments were completed: Bolivia, Indonesia, Nigeria, Myanmar and a preliminary study in Venezuela. A Doing Research Assessment is in progress in El Salvador, through a programmatic and funding partnership between GDN and the local research think tank, Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES), under the research leadership of Dr. Helga Cuellar Marchelli, and with the external scientific support of Thomas Bossert of Harvard University. A new grant from Agence Française de Développement (AFD), signed in 2021, will allow the study of research systems and institutions in Francophone Africa.

A regional study from Southeast Asia, on the role that social scientists have played in the COVID-19 response across 11 countries in South and South East Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam), was completed in close partnership with the Asia Research Institute at Universitas Indonesia, GDN's key partner on the Doing Research global initiative in Asia. The study shows how most countries in the



MAPPING OF NATIONAL ACTORS

DATA AND INDICATORS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

# DOING RESEARCH IN MYANMAR

## Country Update

Centre for Economic and Social Development & The Global Development Network

January 2022

ASSESSMENT OF THE CONTEXT



Doing Research has strengthened the global demand and supply for evidence on the link between research support programs and their impact and in-country sustainability.

region, including but not limited to those experiencing an openly authoritarian drift, have failed to mobilise the capacities and knowledge built during previous epidemics to address and mitigate COVID-19 impacts equitably and effectively. This observation was borne out in a second report in which, following the 2021 military coup in Myanmar, GDN worked with the Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD), who authored the Doing Research Assessment in the first phase of the grant, to pursue evidence generation on Myanmar's social science system in the context of the regional project. This resulted in a second, bilingual report, eventually published in January 2022, titled 'Doing Research Assessment in Myanmar – 2022 Update.'

Doing Research has also strengthened the global demand and supply for evidence on the link between research support programs and their impact and in-country sustainability. In March, GDN joined hands with the International Network for Advancing Science and Policy (INASP) to convene a two-day global meeting of researchers and academics committed to the agenda of strengthening research system across 35 countries. This community agreed on the long-term objective of creating a Global Observatory of Research Systems, led by Southern institutions, and committed to working together, with interested donors, to achieve this goal over the next years.

In addition, several consultations and public events featuring prominent domestic public intellectuals, policymakers and international partners were held in 2021, including

- consultations with Ministry of Education officials in Myanmar's capital, Nay Pyi Taw, led by the senior management of CESD
- two workshops with senior social scientists from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam, to define a common theoretical framework for the analysis of the role of social sciences in COVID-19 response in the South and South East Asia region
- a dedicated presentation of the 11-country study at GDN's 21st Global Development Conference, 'Evidence for Development: What Works Global Summit 2021,' opened by IDRC Senior Program Officer Edgard Rodriguez, and featuring high-level representatives from the Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences, and the Asia Development Bank, as discussants
- a number of blog posts, a podcast<sup>1</sup> and features<sup>2</sup> in magazines, some in collaboration with Asia Research News

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.asiaresearchnews.com/content/doing-research-myanmar-podcast>

<sup>2</sup> <https://teacircleoxford.com/research-report/doing-research-in-myanmar-bridging-the-research-gap-to-improve-development-policies/>

## Highlights

In 2021, the Doing Research global initiative has

- raised the importance of evidence generation in support of ongoing policymaking with a clear demand to generate and collate evidence on research governance mechanisms and its institutionalization, positioning IDRC and GDN as important stakeholders in national debates on the future of research
- looked at the survival of credible research systems in fragile contexts

*The Global Development Awards Competition is supported with US\$ 552,659 annually from the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan, through the Policy and Human Resources Development (PHRD) trust fund managed by the World Bank.*

*Competitive funding worth US\$ 180,000 was distributed as part of the Global Development Awards Competition 2021*

## The Global Development Awards Competition

The Global Development Awards Competition is an award scheme, administered by GDN, funded under the Policy and Human Resources Development Fund (PHRD) trust fund managed by the World Bank, and generously supported by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan. This is the only GDN program that combines research grants with grants to NGOs that are piloting development interventions with a high potential to address the needs of the most vulnerable populations around the world.

Due to pandemic-related delays, this year was an extraordinary edition of the program and featured four calls, three of which were under the Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) awards focusing on urban governance, health systems, and community-based adaptation to climate change. The 12 winners of 2021 (see list overleaf) have joined a 103 grantee strong 'network of excellence' from 40 countries, built over the past two decades. This network is now accessible to all through an interactive map built in 2021 available on GDN's website.<sup>3</sup>

The 2021 edition of the competition was conducted entirely online, due to the pandemic.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.gdn.int/gdac/awardsplatform>

In 2021, the theme for the Japanese Award on Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) was International trade and the promotion of biodiversity with

- **1st prize winner** | Abdul-Hanan Abdallah. Institution: University for Development Studies, Ghana. Research proposal: Implication of Large-scale Agricultural Investment on Biodiversity: Evidence from Mixed-Method Study of Farm Households in Northern Ghana
- **2nd prize winner** | Roger Merino. Institution: Universidad del Pacifico - Research Center (CIUP), Peru. Research proposal: Global Amazon: Harmonizing development visions and multi-scalar interventions in the building of a pluriversal governance
- **3rd prize winner** | Chukwuka Onyekwena. Institution: Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA), Nigeria. Research proposal: Evaluation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on Africa's Biodiversity

Nine awards were made for the Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP), across three themes.

**Theme: Universal health coverage and COVID-19**

- **1st prize winners** | Kids Home Development Network Foundation. Country: Thailand. Project: Access to Healthcare for Migrant Families in Thai Construction Site Camps **AND** Uninhibited. Country: India. Project: Hello Saathi
- **2nd prize winner** | United Way of Mumbai. Country: India. Project: Establishing Infection Prevention & Control Mechanism in Public Hospitals



Project AFLOAT (Adaptive Floats as Flood Resilient Organic Aquafarming Contrivances for Marginal Farmers of South Asia Living in Climate Trap) won the Japan Social Development Fund award to run a program in Assam, Bihar and West Bengal, India in 2017, and the project is about to be concluded.

## The Global Development Awards Competition Turns 20

For twenty years, the Global Development Awards Competition has celebrated excellence in policy-oriented research and innovation in social development. Since its inception in 2000, GDN has awarded over US\$ 4 million in research and project grants to finalists and winners. Nearly 8,800 researchers and development practitioners from low-income or middle-income countries have participated in the competition.

To mark and celebrate the 20th Anniversary, a high-level session, with distinguished winners from past editions and representatives from the World Bank and the Government of Japan, took place to debate the impact and relevance of this initiative at the 'Evidence for Development: What Works Global Summit 2021.'



"We realised that we couldn't protect the gorillas without improving the health of the communities of people with whom they share their habitat.

Through this award we were able to help these communities organize themselves better. They kept going, they're continuing to have a positive impact. People have better health and hygiene and this has become more important during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Without GDN, we would not have been able to create a robust and broadly applicable model that can be used in other areas of Uganda."

**Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka**

*CEO, Conservation Through Public Health, Uganda  
Winner of the Japanese Award for the Most Innovative Project 2012*

**Theme: Community-driven, climate-related, disaster risk reduction in rural areas**

- **1st prize winners** | International Aid Services Kenya (IAS K). Country: Kenya. Project: Capacity building of local community against climate change and improved livelihood, Tharaka North County Kenya **AND** CII Foundation/Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Country: India. Project: Cleaner Air Better Life - Crop Residue Management Project
- **2nd prize winner** | Dufatanye Organization. Country: Rwanda. Project: Expansion of villages of hope in two villages in Nyanza district, Rwanda and United Way of Mumbai, India

**Theme: Quality urban infrastructure and community-driven governance**

- **1st prize winners** | Bal Raksha Bharat (Save the Children India). Country: India. Project: Dream Accelerator Project **AND** International Transformation Foundation (ITF). Country: Kenya. Project: A water kiosk at school - Karugia Secondary School
- **2nd prize winner** | Clean up Nepal. Country: Nepal. Project: Expansion Nepal Waste Map, a digital waste management system: A community empowered governance

**Highlights**

This year, the Global Development Awards Competition has

- awarded 12 new grants
- celebrated 20 years of awarding excellence in research and development
- supported a wide variety of capacity building activities involving both researchers and development practitioners, with a great opportunity for cross-learning
- connected researchers and development practitioners with an online platform from all previous years
- provided participating researchers and development practitioners with global recognition and visibility

# BIODIVERSITY & DEVELOPMENT



How can we support development that also protects the environment?



We made competitive and multidisciplinary awards to researchers in Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Madagascar and Vietnam. Follow their work on

[gdn.int/biodiversity](https://gdn.int/biodiversity)

*The three-year AFD-GDN Biodiversity and Development Research Award program is supported by Agence Française de Développement with EUR 500,000.*

## **AFD-GDN Biodiversity and Development Research Award**

The interaction between biodiversity and development is complex and under-researched, especially in developing countries. The AFD-GDN Biodiversity & Development Award focused on projects that go beyond pure trade-offs between biodiversity and development and the need to create incentives to embrace systemic perspectives, to address, through a social science angle, the issue of mainstreaming biodiversity into public policies, corporate practices, and society at large.

The launch of a the call saw 74 research teams, from across 26 countries, participate in the formulation of research questions, and leverage social sciences in the global South to explore methods on mainstreaming and scaling-up biodiversity conservation across urban planning to community welfare and policy design. Their work was based on the analysis of concrete cases and well-identified scenarios in developing countries, with the objective to understand what mainstreaming biodiversity entails, how it can be implemented and scaled-up, and what should be understood as a success.

Shortlisted applicants joined a networking platform that promoted conversations to foster collaborative multidisciplinary engagements. Key collaborations – including with the Convention on Bio-Diversity (CBD), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, and two dozen global experts – emerged as a result. The experts played an active role by delivering trainings, participating in panels, and giving one-on-one feedback to researchers.

Five winning teams were selected and awarded. Five individual proposals were awarded to Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Madagascar, and Vietnam, with two additional multi-disciplinary research projects in Fiji/Ghana and Madagascar/Vietnam. Topics under study included community-based conservation, biodiversity mainstreaming in environmental vetting, soil biodiversity, and agricultural practices and environmental impact assessment.

Whatever the outcome, this was a wonderful experience. I met really great people in the process and got new ideas for future projects and for research in general. As a matter of fact, we are adopting the format of the research-lab for a research colloquium we are organizing at my university in June.

**Paúl Cisneros PhD,**  
*Escuela de Gobierno y  
 Administración Pública,  
 Instituto de Altos Estudios  
 Nacionales*  
[www.gdn.int/biodiversity](http://www.gdn.int/biodiversity)

### Highlights

This year, the AFD-GDN Biodiversity and Development Research Award program has

- made possible quick, high-quality interactions between candidates and a diverse group of global experts and stakeholders
- empowered Southern researchers and boosted their voice in national, regional, and global discussions on the future of the planet
- introduced a two-layer system of interlocking grants to incentivise disciplinary and multidisciplinary collaborations

### Fiscal Policy & Development

Through a strategic implementation partnership with the Commitment to Equity (CEQ) Institute at Tulane University, a global excellence center for research of fiscal incidence in New Orleans, GDN has launched a new area of work titled, 'Fiscal Policy and Development.' Funding and programmatic partnerships with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) are allowing the development of analytical tools for integrating fiscal incidence analysis in fiscal policy processes. This includes the implementation of the CEQ Assessment methodology in new countries and a new focus on building capacity and in-country communities of practice on fiscal policy analysis, with an initial target of six countries (Angola, Ghana, Guatemala, Namibia, Nigeria, Tunisia), in three languages.



*The program on Fiscal Incidence Analysis and Policy is supported by AFD, with €72,800 from Dec 2021 – June 2023, and by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) with €150,886 from Aug 2021 – Oct 2022.*

GDN has partnered with the AFD and GIZ sector programs, 'Reducing Poverty and Inequality as part of the 2030 Agenda,' and 'Good Financial Governance.' With an aim to promote the application and use of fiscal incidence analysis (FIA), as well as the integration of FIA and other analytical tools, the program helps shed light on the equity impacts of fiscal policies and policy formulation into social policy planning procedures in select Southern, Western, and Northern African countries. GDN will be working closely with local researchers to refine GIZ's 'Equity Budgeting Tool' and to carry out CEQ Assessments and related FIA toolkits. Through a scientific collaboration with the CEQ Institute at Tulane University (USA), these projects encourage the uptake and use of FIA tools, through the creation and strengthening of communities of practice at the national level.

### Highlights

This year, the Fiscal Policy & Development program has

- allowed GDN to enter a new programming space on financial governance
- embraced new experts and expertise as part of the team
- extended GDN's reach with more countries

The AFD-GDN program on Public Development Banks was supported by L'Agence Française de Développement (AFD), with €154,200 from May 2021 – May 2022.

## Public Development Banks for Sustainable Development

GDN's program on Public Development Banks (PDBs) and the Sustainable Development Goals builds upon the Finance in Common initiative launched in 2020, to discuss how public development banks can best step in to align global development finance with the Sustainable Development Goals. The program aims at producing research articles that develop lessons for a more representative, coordinated, targeted, and enlightened system of PDBs and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) around the implementation of the SDGs.

In partnership with Agence Française de Développement (AFD), GDN is building a network of subject matter experts, from both the global North and the global South, to look critically at the contribution of these institutions towards addressing the gender-climate nexus, the challenges of agroecology, and better coordination across the local and global development finance space, among other issues. Five research papers are being coordinated.

- The counter-cyclical role of Public Development Banks | Title: How Development Banks helped the COVID-19 Recovery, and Lessons for the Future. Authors: Stephany Griffith-Jones (professor, Columbia U.), Diana Barrowclough (senior economist UNCTAD), and Vaibhav Mishra (researcher, UNDESA).



Producing research articles that develop lessons for a more representative, coordinated, targeted, and enlightened system of PDBs and DFIs around the implementation of the SDGs.

- What vision for an architecture of Public Development Banks to best catalyze impetuses for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals | Title: Public Development Banks and the SDGs: A global architecture for global good. Author(s): C. P. Chandrasekhar (Economic Columnist and Consultant, former professor Jawaharlal Nehru University).
- Limits and improvement possibilities in Public Development Banks' projects on Gender and Climate | Title: Walking the Talk: Insight into the Public Development Banks' Operational Framework for Gender-responsive Climate Change Action. Author(s): Agnes Babugura (Dean of Research, CPD Points), Camila Villard Duran (professor, University of Sao Paulo), and Mariola Acosta (consultant, FAO).
- Public Development Banks' potential in Agricultural and Food systems to tackle food and nutrition insecurity from an agroecological perspective | Title: Financing the Agroecological Transformation of Agri-food Systems. Author(s): Rajeswari S. Raina (professor, Shiv Nadar University), and Tara Nair (professor, Gujarat Institute of Development Research).
- Public Development Banks' involvement in Agricultural Finance in Sub-Saharan Africa | Title: Successes, Failures and Challenges of bringing PDBs to the forefront of a sustainable agricultural adaptation and transition. Author(s): Tancredè Voituriez (researcher, IDDRI), Victor Okoruwa (professor and director of academic planning, University of Ibadan), Ogheneruemu Obi-Egbedi (lecturer, University of Ibadan), Gracious M. Diiro (lecturer, Makerere University), Elina Amadhila (senior lecturer, University of Namibia).

### Highlights

This year, the Public Development Banks for Sustainable Development program has

- demonstrated how finance can be used as a strategic lever of development
- added to GDN's re-entry into research on financial governance
- embraced new researchers and experts into the network

The EIB-GDN program in Applied Development Finance was supported by the European Investment Bank, with €2.1 million from Dec 2016 to Apr 2021.

## EIB-GDN Program in Applied Development Finance

The EIB-GDN joint program on Applied Development Finance was successfully concluded in the first half of 2021. Innovative features included the

- use of local researchers and the capacity-building angle.
- involvement of well-known expert advisors and the quality assurance they provided.
- independence of the exercise and credibility of results reported.
- production of deep dives, filling a gap in the impact measurement field between very loose impact studies and full-fledged scientific impact evaluations.

In terms of publications and outreach, the final phase of the program was a busy period.

- Studies from Cycle 2 and 3 of the program were published in two online publications, edited by the EIB and available on our website<sup>4</sup>.
- The final book, 'Measuring Impacts: The Experience of the EIB-GDN Programme' (EIB 2021, co-edited by Pierre Jacquet, Emmanuel Jimenez, Shahrokh Fardoust and Alexandros Sarris) was also published as a joint GDN-EIB product.
- Two concluding webinars were co-hosted in March. The first one presented and discussed the main features and key learning of the joint program, on the basis of the Measuring Impacts book. The second one focused on Measuring Impacts and Assessing Programs during COVID-19 and how researchers, funders, investment fund managers and market research companies have all adapted by using digital technologies and innovative sources of data. Notably, 155 participants from around the world attended.
- An op-ed written by Francois Bourguignon, Pierre Jacquet (both GDN), and Debora Revoltella (EIB) titled, 'Investing in 'deep dives' to measure development impact<sup>5</sup>' was published on Devex in April, with an impressive outreach of 24,407 clicks, and 1,525,833 impressions (including via our newsletter and social media). The article itself had 7,215 pageviews.
- A special edition of the Journal for Development Effectiveness is being finalized with six shortlisted papers, produced by the Fellows in the program.
- Several of the program Fellows also published blogs related to their studies on the GlobalDev blog.

"The experience I gained from the fellowship has opened new doors for me. I am now a consultant for the World Bank on some of its projects based on impact financing. I am also happy to let you know that our research manuscript is under review by the Journal of African Business and we hope to have a good outcome as this was the second round of reviews. In this manuscript, we show the effect of mobile customer relationship management on firm performance in Kenya, and mention our case study Ajua (with their permission) to a limited extent."

**Laura Nelima Barasa Lalampaa**

Lecturer, School of Economics, University of Nairobi

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.gdn.int/research/development-finance>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.devex.com/news/sponsored/opinion-investing-in-deep-dives-to-measure-development-impact-99615>

WEBINAR SERIES | ASSESSING IMPACT INVESTMENTS  
<http://www.gdn.int/webinar-assessing-impact-investments>



24 & 26 MARCH 2021




Key speakers at the webinar series. Graphic: GDN

### Highlights

This year, the EIB-GDN Program in Applied Development Finance has

- united program stakeholders in their endorsement of the program's innovative and impactful features
- agreed with stakeholders that it merits continuation and expansion, if funding can be secured; the EIB will continue to seek funding internally to expand the program into a second phase
- demonstrated how local research capacity can (and why it should) advance impact investing programs through independent research and evaluation as a service
- led to the creation of a Southern network of 29 Fellows, trained in impact evaluation by top global evaluation experts



 **AFD**  
 AGENCE FRANÇAISE  
 DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

 **GDN**  
 Global  
 Development  
 Network

## Concours Vidéo

Parlez-nous d'une transition qui, selon  
 vous, façonnera le développement au  
 cours de la prochaine décennie !

*RDV sur [www.gdn.int/GlobalTransitionsSouthernVoices](http://www.gdn.int/GlobalTransitionsSouthernVoices)*

*The AFD-GDN Southern Voices on Global Transitions Video Contest was supported by AFD, with €27,825 from Dec 2020 – Dec 2021.*

### Global Transitions, Southern Voices

In July 2021, GDN, in partnership with the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), conducted an online video contest, 'Southern Voices on Global Transitions.' The videos told the story of key development transitions taking place across the globe, through the eyes of young researchers working in the Global South. This enabled global audiences to learn about their challenges and successes on variety of subjects such as climate, energy, gender, governance, and more.

This video contest was a first for GDN, which primarily funds primary research in the global South. A call was published, targeting researchers under 40 years who were invited to submit self-produced videos, drawing from their own scientific endeavors and that of others in their field of work. A shortlist of 15 researchers, from as many countries around the globe and covering a wide range of topics including: energy transitions, climate change, gender equality, and digitalization, was selected for the next stage, where they were then coached on how to communicate clearly and concisely before they were invited to resubmit their videos. Coaching feedback included how to

"It has been a wonderful experience to present the results of our research on issues related to the development challenges of our nations. My participation in this competition is in line with my commitment to make science mediation a key factor in the contribution of science to improving people's lives."

**Eric Agbodjento**

*Researcher in Physiology and Pharmacology of natural substances  
Benin  
(Translated from French)*

present up-to-date knowledge, as well as improve their video technique.

Shortlisted videos were featured as part of GDN's conference, 'Evidence for Development: What Works Global Summit 2021.' The winning videos<sup>6</sup> were selected by a high-level jury consisting of Thomas Mélonio, Executive Director, Innovations, Research and Knowledge Directorate, Agence Française de Développement (AFD); Pierre Jacquet, President, Global Development Network; Hebe Vessuri, Centro de Investigaciones en Geografía Ambiental (CIGA-UNAM, Mexico) and 2017 Houssay Prize to the Trajectory in the field of Human Sciences; and Frannie Léautier, Finance and Development Expert, CEO of SouthBridge Investments.

- The first prize went to Halidou Alassane for 'Flooding due to the rise in the water table in the city of Niamey' (7 min). This French language video won for engaging audiences on the issue of rising groundwater levels in the Sahel region – a new and illuminating topic that shows the diversity of challenges in this region, usually associated with water shortages in the public imagery.
- The second prize went to Corina Murafa for 'The Challenge of a Just Energy Transition in Romania' (4 min). The video discussed the important policy issue of just energy transition in Romania, a country in which five million people live in energy poverty.
- Tied for third place were Lina Martinez for her video on 'Mental Health in Colombia' (4 min 50), and Binaya Chalise for his presentation on 'Disease Transition in the Global South' (5 min 19).

### Highlights

This year, the 'Global Transitions, Southern Voices' video contest

- promoted winning videos, from Niger, Romania, Nepal, and Colombia that tackle counterintuitive impacts of climate change, mental health, energy transitions, and non-communicable diseases in effective and compelling ways
- combined competitive selection and capacity building to run a first-ever video competition for GDN
- found an innovative way to give Southern researchers a voice

<sup>6</sup> Winners on <http://www.gdn.int/winners-afd-gdn-video-contest-southern-voices-global-transitions>

The GlobalDev Blog is supported by L'Agence Française de Développement (AFD), with €625,000 from Aug 2021 – Aug 2026.

## GlobalDev Blog

GlobalDev is a blog developed by GDN that aims to better connect academic development research and successful development policies. In 800 words, researchers are asked to tell the audience what they have learned from their research, and the research of others, on specific development challenges, in a clear and accessible way. Since 2018, GlobalDev has published more than 200 articles in English, French, and Spanish, reaching a worldwide audience coming from an average of 160 countries per month. The articles cover a large range of topics including: health, economics, education, gender equality, development finance and climate change, to cite a few.

Through the GlobalDev platform, and its dedicated team, GDN provides professional, hands-on editorial support to Southern and Northern researchers committed to turning existing research into accessible and updated knowledge that can inform public debates and discussions. The drafts received go through a review process led by the blog's senior editor. The goal is to give non-academic readers a better understanding of development issues, in order to encourage and contribute the adoption of well-informed, evidence-based policies.

This year, GlobalDev partnered with the Future of Work in the Global South (FoWiGS), an initiative funded by International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and managed by the 'Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento' or CIPPEC, an independent nonprofit organization

### Highlights

This year the blog has

- incentivized Southern researchers to share their perspectives on global development debates
- continued to have global readership in three languages
- partnered with several organizations to jointly run specific calls for contributions
- received sustained funding: In 2021, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) committed to fully funding the blog for an additional five-year period

"Our experience working with GlobalDev was stimulating and fruitful. We were pleased to be invited to submit and our thinking sharpened as we drafted a concise version of our findings accessible to a general audience. Edits from (the Senior Editor) helped tighten the story up. We went back to our academic paper and improved the clarity of our findings."

**GlobalDev Author  
Hope Michelson**

*Assistant Professor  
University of Illinois  
USA*

that works on better building public policies, to develop a series in which researchers have been discussing the challenges and opportunities for the world of work in the Global South.

To give a voice to researchers from the Global South, GlobalDev has also published articles in partnership with the European Investment Bank, as part of the EIB-GDN program in Applied Development Finance as well as with INGSA Africa and Latin America.



GlobalDev incentivizes Southern researchers to share their perspectives on global development debates.

# Flagship event: 21st Global Development Conference

We have invested in research during many years, but I don't think enough. Development is not linear, and we constantly have new questions and challenges. There is progress and sometimes there are setbacks. And unfortunately, today, the use of evidence, the use of science to illuminate a policy debate is sometimes despised by policymakers and is a trend that we need to reverse. Hence the work of GDN is each time more important – it is more (important) than ever.

**Jaime Saavedra**

*Senior Director and Head of Global Practice, Education, The World Bank  
Former Minister of Education, Peru  
Former GDN Award Winner*

The 'Evidence for Development: What Works Global Summit 2021' was jointly organized in a virtual format by the Global Development Network and the Campbell Collaboration. It attracted more than 200 panelists from among 980 total participants (out of the 1400 who registered), from 105 countries. The eight-day-long development conference held in October 2021 consisted of 57 parallel and plenary sessions as well as an Expo area with poster presentations, short videos as part of a competition on 'Southern Voices on Global Transitions', and partner booths. Over half – 53% – of the speakers were female.

The event critically examined both advances and barriers in evidence generation and curation, methodological innovations in evidence synthesis, and practical examples of evidence-based policy design and solutions across countries and sectors, including lessons learned on knowledge brokering and development research agenda-setting. Furthermore, the different plenaries and parallel sessions delved into what works, how, why, for whom, and at what cost. The lively debates and discussions also highlighted the paramount importance of having solid evidence creatively, consistently, and credibly communicated to a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, especially in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It included plenary sessions by well-known leaders in the field of evidence for development including:

- the future of impact evaluations
- the political economy of evidence based policymaking
- the future of evidence synthesis
- Southern development research agenda

Parallel sessions consisted of papers carefully selected via open calls for papers and for sessions. Topics ranged from youth and social protection to biodiversity and climate change, but also non-sector specific discussions of knowledge brokering, impact measurement, and the role of funders in supporting evidence generation and development research agenda setting. Both GDN and the Campbell Collaboration were keen in providing an opportunity for young researchers (especially those from the Global South) to showcase their research findings and insights to a

global audience. This was built into the conference program and poster exhibition. All session recordings are available on GDN's YouTube channel and on the event page of the website.

## **Key Takeaways**

### **I. Evidence Generation**

The concept of 'evidence' itself encompasses not only 'results' and 'what works,' but also why and how actions work or not, as well as what works best. As a result, the emphasis is on a dynamic, contextualized explanation and pursuit of outcomes, rather than on the outcomes themselves. There has been a drastic increase in the amount of evidence available, across sectors and countries, with rigorous research, evaluations, and synthesis being generated and placed in the public domain. This is being further expanded by AI and Big Data at relatively low costs and with much deeper penetration and coverage, including satellite data, telephone ownership, mobile banking etc.

### **II. Use of Evidence**

On the other hand, the 'use of evidence' has been noted as receiving less attention than the 'creation of evidence', though this may be changing slowly. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated, once again, that we cannot take the use of scientific evidence for granted, anywhere. This 'use of evidence' requires a number of conditions, formulated in various ways, that center around salience, credibility, and legitimacy, coupled with clear mandates on both sides (producers and users) and constant, regular interaction and communication.

### **III. Empowering Southern Voices**

The current persistent N-S asymmetries and inequities of generating evidence were recurring themes.

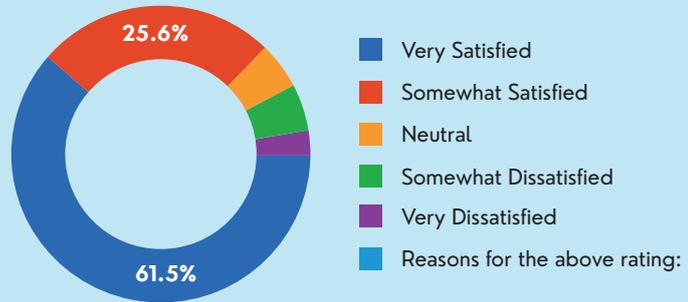
Most of the development research takes place in developed country research centers and universities and by researchers thereof. From the selection of topics on the development research agenda to accessing funding or opportunities to shape global policy debates, inclusion is paramount for ensuring that Southern researchers and institutions can proactively shape development research, local policymaking, and international development. Southern researchers represent just 9% of presenters at international development conferences, and fewer than one in six articles published in the top 20 development journals were by Southern researchers (1990-2019), with no evidence of improvement over time<sup>7</sup>.

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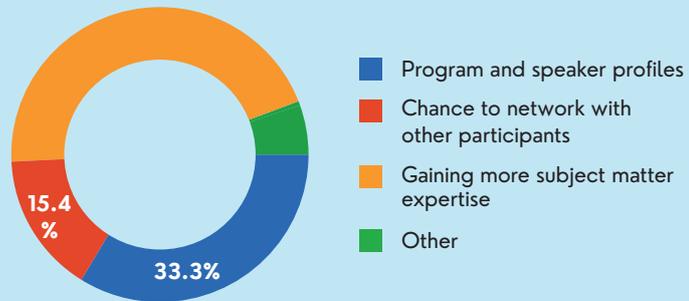
<sup>7</sup> <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13504851.2021.1965528>

## Figs 1 & 2: Participant Feedback

Please indicate your overall satisfaction with the conference:  
39 responses



What was your primary reason for attending this conference?  
39 responses



18-27 OCTOBER 2021

# Evidence for Development RECORDINGS OUT NOW

[www.gdn.int/evidence4dev](http://www.gdn.int/evidence4dev)  
[#evidence4dev](https://twitter.com/evidence4dev)







# Finances

## Year ended June 30, 2021 & Year ended June 30, 2020 Consolidated Statements of Activities

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	Amount (US\$)	Amount (US\$)
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	832,401	1,833,591
Contributions receivable	798,075	145,539
Prepaid expenses	3,772	12,447
Other current assets	1,238	6,434
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,635,487</b>	<b>1,998,011</b>
<b>Property and Equipment, Net</b>	0	839
<b>Other Assets</b>		
Long term deposit and advances	–	274
Security deposits & investment	4,238	25,191
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,639,725</b>	<b>2,024,315</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Grants payable	60,843	41,412
Accounts payable	426,049	176,026
Accrued expenses	589,658	526,957
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,076,549</b>	<b>744,395</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	148,133	669,015
Temporarily restricted	415,043	610,905
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>563,176</b>	<b>1,279,920</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>1,639,725</b>	<b>2,024,315</b>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

## Year ended June 30, 2021 & Year ended June 30, 2020

### Consolidated Statements of Activities

	2021			2020		
	Temporarily		Total	Temporarily		Total
	Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted	Restricted	
	Amount (US\$)	Amount (US\$)	Amount (US\$)	Amount (US\$)	Amount (US\$)	Amount (US\$)
<b>Support and revenue</b>						
Grants, contracts, and contributions	(541,007)	3,223,770	2,682,763	186,771	3,231,593	3,418,364
Interest income	1,864	–	1,864	13,797	–	13,797
Foreign currency exchange gain/(loss)	2,970	–	2,970	9,922	–	9,922
Other income	15,292	–	15,292	63,795	–	63,795
Net assets released from restrictions	3,419,632	(3,419,632)	–	3,380,213	(3,380,213)	–
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>2,898,751</b>	<b>(195,862)</b>	<b>2,702,890</b>	<b>3,654,498</b>	<b>(148,620)</b>	<b>3,505,878</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Program services						
Annual Conference	1,745	–	1,745	713,303	–	713,303
Global Development Awards	–	–	1,163,751	122,988	–	122,988
Research Capacity Building Program	1,163,751	–	1,163,751	687,074	–	687,074
GlobalDev Blog	81,049	–	81,049	–	–	–
Global Collaborative Research	1,470,128	–	1,470,128	1,424,918	–	1,424,918
Other programs	10,735	–	10,735	72,539	–	72,539
<b>Total program</b>	<b>2,727,407</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,727,407</b>	<b>3,020,822</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,020,822</b>
Supporting services						
Donor coordination and fundraising	–	–	–	1,290	–	1,290
Secretariat (indirect costs)	692,226	–	692,226	1,240,319	–	1,240,319
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>3,419,633</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,419,633</b>	<b>4,262,431</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>4,262,431</b>
Change in net assets	(520,879)	(195,863)	(716,743)	(607,933)	(148,620)	(756,553)
Net assets (deficit)	–	–	–	–	–	–
Beginning of period	669,012	610,906	1,279,918	1,276,945	759,526	2,036,471
<b>End of period</b>	<b>148,133</b>	<b>415,043</b>	<b>563,174</b>	<b>669,012</b>	<b>610,906</b>	<b>1,279,918</b>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

# Grants & Awards

These were grants and awards made during the calendar year 2021.

PROGRAM	STUDY OR PROJECT	COUNTRIES/ REGIONS COVERED	AMOUNT	NAME	AFFILIATION
AFD-GDN Biodiversity and Development Awards Program	Evaluation And Review of The Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines For Fiji	Fiji	USD \$40,000	Lavenie Tawake	Institute of Applied Science - University of the South Pacific
	Using ecosystem provided by indigenous earthworms through vermiculture and vermicompost to innovative rice-fish farming enhancing food security for Malagasy smallholder farmers	Madagascar	USD \$40,000	Malaladiana Razafindrakoto	FADES c/o Laboratoire des Radioisotopes
	Assessment of Ecosystem-based Livelihoods on Biodiversity of the Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site (KLCRS) in Ghana	Ghana	USD \$40,000	Margaret Fafa Awushie Akwetey	Centre for Coastal Management – University of Cape Coast
	Conservation of Large Carnivores in the Omo Valley, Southwest Ethiopia	Ethiopia	USD \$40,000	Tsyon Asfaw	Universiteit Antwerpen
Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) – Global Development Awards Competition	Development of a Multi-Objective Life Cycle Eco-Efficiency Optimization Model for Formulating a Sustainable Municipal Solid Waste Management Policy Framework	Malaysia	USD \$30,000	Woon Kok Sin	Xiamen University
	Balancing a triple threat: divers' health, collapse of fishery, and the vulnerability of livelihoods, in the artisanal sea cucumber fishery in Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	USD \$10,000	D. V. Pahan Prasada	Faculty of Agriculture – Agribusiness Center
Doing Research	Impact of Climate Change Adaptation Strategies on Livelihood and Multidimensional Poverty among Women Farmers in Nigeria	Nigeria	USD \$5,000	Chukwuemeka Onyebuchi Onyimadu	National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies
	Doing Research: Assessing Social Science Research Systems in El Salvador	El Salvador	USD \$49,894	Helga Elisa Cuéllar Marchelli	Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES)
	The role of Social Sciences in COVID-19 responses in the ASEAN region	ASEAN region (Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, The Philippines and Timor Leste) +	USD \$33,000	Inaya Rakhmani	Asia Research Centre, Universitas Indonesia (ARC UI)

PROGRAM	STUDY OR PROJECT	COUNTRIES/ REGIONS COVERED	AMOUNT	NAME	AFFILIATION
	The role of Social Sciences in COVID-19 responses in the ASEAN region	Bangladesh	USD \$4,500	Sabina Faiz Rashid	Brac University
	The role of Social Sciences in COVID-19 responses in the ASEAN region	Cambodia	USD \$4,500	Sokphea Young	Center for Khmer Studies/ Cambodian Scholars Network
	The role of Social Sciences in COVID-19 responses in the ASEAN region	Myanmar	USD \$4,500	Zaw Oo	Centre for Economic and Social Development
	The role of Social Sciences in COVID-19 responses in the ASEAN region	Vietnam	USD \$4,500	Nguyen Ngoc Anh	Development and Policies Research Center
	The role of Social Sciences in COVID-19 responses in the ASEAN region	Thailand	USD \$4,500	Rosalia Sciortino	Mahidol University
	Regional synthesis and outreach for 11-country project on the role of social sciences in COVID-19 response in SE Asia	Indonesia	USD \$8,745	Inaya Rakhmani	Asia Research Centre, Universitas Indonesia (ARC UI)
Public Development Banks (PDBs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Successes, Failures and Challenges of bringing PDBs to the forefront of a sustainable agricultural adaptation and transition. Determinants, guidelines and lessons for shared policy practices on agricultural finance	France, Namibia, Uganda, Nigeria,	EUR €25,000	Research Team led by Tancrede Voituriez (Elina Amadhila, Gracious Diiro, Victor Okoruwa)	Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (University of Namibia, Makerere University, University of Ibadan)
	PDBs' counter-cyclical role in times of COVID-19: What lessons to learn? And how to use them for the way ahead?	United Kingdom	EUR €20,000	Stepanka Griffith Jones	Columbia University
	Public Development Banks and the SDGs: A global architecture for global goods	India	EUR €20,000	C.P. Chandrasekhar	Jawaharlal Nehru University
AFD-GDN Video Contest: Southern Voices on Global Transitions	Inondation due à la hausse de la nappe phréatique dans la ville de Niamey.	Niger	Eur € 3,000	Halidou Alassane Hado	Faculty of Agronomy – Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey
	Just energy transition in Romania: How to avoid hitting the target, but missing the point?	Romania	Eur € 2,000	Corina Murafa	Ashoka
	Mental health and subjective wellbeing in Colombia	Colombia	Eur € 500	Lina Maria Martinez Quintero	Universidad ICESI
	Disease transition in the global South	Low-income countries	Eur € 500	Binaya Chalise	Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation, Hiroshima University

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