



**Global Development Awards Competition
Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP)
2021 Edition**

CALL FOR MIDP REVIEWERS (CONSULTANTS)

The Global Development Network (GDN) is a public international organization that promotes better policies and better lives through high-quality policy-oriented social science research conducted in developing and transition countries. It provides researchers with financial resources, global networking, research management support, access to information, training, peer review and mentoring. Founded in 1999, GDN is currently headquartered in New Delhi.

The [Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project \(MIDP\)](#) is a competitive grant program under the umbrella of the [Global Development Awards Competition](#), administered by the Global Development Network and funded by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan. The award program invites non-profit Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to submit project proposals supporting (in particular) improved service delivery, and innovative approaches that may be scaled-up through a grant. The Award targets projects currently at the stage of implementation, and which have a high potential for impact targeting exceptionally marginalized and disadvantaged groups located in developing countries.

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Call for MIDP Reviewers (Consultants)

A. Background

The **Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project** is a competitive grant program under the umbrella of the [Global Development Awards Competition](#), administered by the Global Development Network and funded by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan. The award program invites non-profit Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to submit project proposals supporting (in particular) improved service delivery, and innovative approaches that may be scaled-up through a grant. The Award targets projects currently at the stage of implementation, and which have a high potential for impact targeting exceptionally marginalized and disadvantaged groups located in developing countries.

B. Scope of the call

The aim of the call is to identify 3 consultant teams (reviewers) to conduct the review of applications received under each of the three themes of the 2021 MIDP Awards, through desk-based work and site visits. GDN invites teams of individuals, represented by a lead applicant which will submit the application, capable of providing the consulting services to submit an application. Applicants will have to demonstrate professional experience in developing countries (up to lower-middle-income countries¹) and a mix of international, regional and local exposure.

C. Profile of applicants

GDN is expecting reviewers to demonstrate the following:

- Have demonstrable experience in reviewing and assessing social development projects as part of granting program (for at least 5-6 years), including project design, staffing, budgets, financial and institutional capacity;
- Have previous experience assessing World Bank Environmental and Social (E&S) compliance and familiarity with the World Bank's current Environment and Social Frameworks' (ESF) and associated [Environmental and Social Standards \(ESSs\)](#) and be willing to undergo E&S training including an online self-paced training.
- Demonstrate appropriate regional representation within the team: no more than 40% of the team for each review stage should be from the same geographic region².

¹ Press [here](#) to visit the list of countries which are recognized as low and lower-middle income countries by the World Bank

² Press [here](#) to visit the list of geographic regions as classified by the World Bank

D. Application structure

To apply, interested applicants, each team to be represented by a single application through the leader of the team, must submit their Expressions of Interest (EoI) with the following information:

1. Indicate the theme of the 2021 MIDP Awards the application relates to.
2. Detailed background of the applying team of individuals sustained by the submissions of comprehensive CVs specifying all relevant professional affiliations and demonstrating experience in conducting reviews of development projects, including details of reports produced, etc.
3. A note (not more than 5 pages) detailing the proposed review methodology for the multi-stage assessment detailed in the Terms of Reference (ToR). The applicant may use this note also to:
 - a. propose improvements to structure of the review (see details in the ToR attached);
 - b. propose changes and/or addition to the standard list of review criteria proposed by GDN;
 - c. describe which dimensions will be assessed through desk review, and which ones will require site visits;
 - d. define the quality threshold justifying site visits to projects; and
 - e. detail the grading scales to be used and justify the choice of qualitative and quantitative grading.
4. A detailed budget for the assignment.
5. A list of social development projects handled/completed during the last three years.
6. Contacts of three references that can support the applicant's qualifications for undertaking the review process.
7. Contact information of the two leading team members (full names, full postal address, telephone numbers, email addresses, professional website) who will act as contact points with GDN, if selected.
8. If applying to be reviewer for more than one theme of the 2021 MIDP Awards, a justification regarding the capacity to undertake the reviews in parallel.

E. Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed against the following weighed criteria:

1. Quality of Application (60%)
 - A. Quality of proposed process for undertaking multi-stage review

- (including criteria to be used for selecting projects)
- B. Feasibility of work plan and proposed review process based on overall task timeline
 - C. Appropriateness of proposed budget
2. Capacity of Applying Team (40%)
- D. Experience of Lead Team Member(s)
 - E. Relevant expertise of team in conducting a review of social development project in different developing countries (no. of cumulative years)
 - F. Appropriateness of the composition of the team to cover the different aspects of the review process

NOTE: Applicants who wish to be considered as a reviewer for more than one theme of the 2021 MIDP Awards are required to submit separate applications and justify their capacity to implement the contracts in parallel.

F. Application Procedure

Follow the steps given below:

1. Go to GDN's dedicated online submission platform using the following link: www.gdn.int/awards2021/apply
2. Register or Log in into the platform to have access to your profile. You will receive an email confirming the successful registration of your profile and only after verifying your profile, will you be able to submit an application.
3. On your profile page, you will have access to 'My entries' where you may either resume (selecting the entry you would like to continue from the list) or start entry. Select 'Call for MIDP Reviewers' under Category.
 - a. In case you need to exit the application and complete it at a later time, click on **Save + Close**. You may return and complete your application on the online platform before the closing date (5 May 2021) but it will be considered as submitted only if you press **Submit Entry**.
4. You will be asked to indicate to which theme (1. Universal health coverage and COVID; 2. Community-driven Climate-related Disaster Risk Reduction in Rural Areas; and 3. Quality urban infrastructure and community driven governance) you are applying and provide all documents listed in the section "Application Structure" above.
5. Once you have completed your application, click on **Submit Entry**. You will receive an email notifying you on the successful submission of your application.

Enquiries must be addressed to awards@gdn.int.

The evaluation of applications will be conducted separately for each one of the 3 themes of the 2021 MIDP Awards. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

G. Deadline

Expressions of Interest must be submitted by **6 PM (Indian Standard Time) on 5 May, 2021.**

Terms of Reference

1. Background Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project

The **Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project** is a competitive grant program under the umbrella of the [Global Development Awards Competition](#), administered by the Global Development Network and funded by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan.

2. Objective of the assignment

GDN is seeking to recruit three teams of reviewers (consultants) to assess proposals received under the three themes of the 2021 MIDP Awards, in close coordination with the Awards management team at GDN. Each team of reviewers will be expected to conduct both desk-reviews (proposal and business review) and field visits (on-site review). The task involves travel to developing countries to visit applying organizations. Based on their review, the team of reviewers will issue a reasoned recommendation regarding the top proposals (ranked), for consideration by GDN and the Awards Jury for final selection.

3. Review criteria of MIDP applications

GDN proposes the following list of criteria to be used in the review process. The applicant may also propose additional criteria.

➤ Innovative Approaches

- How is your project different from other existing approaches?
- Is it proposing to pilot alternative approaches or to reach the target groups not reached by other programs?
- Does this approach come from bottom-up partnerships engaging NGOs/CSOs, community associations, or local governments as implementing agencies?
- Does it reflect a participatory design and consultation process with the targeted beneficiaries?

➤ Clear Development Objective, Activities and Measurable Results

- Does the project have a clear and measurable results framework?
- Does it utilize participatory monitoring and evaluation to help beneficiaries address their vulnerability and to ensure ownership and sustainability?

- Does the project have a realistic plan with steps/activities that build concretely towards achieving the project's objectives, and that can do so within a year of implementation after receiving the Award?
- Has the project designed a way to use monitoring and evaluation for learning and measuring outcomes and, ultimately, impact?

➤ **Sustainable Social Impact**

- Does the project contribute to poverty alleviation and social development in the short and long term?
- Is the development impact sustainable in the long run?
- Has the project generated local ownership?
- Is there a plan to transfer ownership?
- Has the targeted population demonstrated an increase in skill development or an increased willingness to learn new skills?
- Does the project help strengthen capacity of the targeted population to continue with the work themselves in the long run?
- Does the project support Community-Driven Development by Empowering the Poor at the local community level, to participate in society and government and to affect their development and learning by doing?

➤ **Expansion**

- How easily can the project be replicated and adapted to other countries, regions, sectors and cultures?
- What are the prospects for the project's expansion using the resources obtained from the award?
- Does the project have potential to have a large-scale development impact?

➤ **Cost Efficiency**

- Is the cost of the project justified in terms of measurable impacts/outcomes?
- What are the measurable impacts/outcomes (performance) of the project in comparison to the cost of the program?

➤ **Thorough Risk Assessment**

- Are there any significant risks associated with the project?

- How well prepared is the project team in mitigating these risks?
- **Efficient Management of Financial and Human Resources**
 - Are policies in place within the organization to ensure effective utilization of financial and human resources for implementation of the project?
- **Transparency and Accountability in Operations**
 - Does the project work in a way that allows gathering information on an ongoing basis and disclosing all appropriate information on the implementation, in particular to the project's direct stakeholders?
- **WB Environmental and Social Framework's Environmental Social Standards**
 - Does the project comply with the WB [Environmental and Social Framework's \(ESF\)](#) including the Environment Social Standards (ESS).³ Are there any E&S risks and impacts associated with the project and how is the project team planning to mitigate these risks and impacts?
 - Does the project comply with the exclusion list⁴ of ineligible activities?

4. Structure of the review and timeframe

GDN proposes the following review process:

Phase 0: Longlist (June 14)

GDN will provide each of the three thematic teams of reviewers a longlist of up to 30 eligible submissions under a given theme.

Phase 1: Desk-based shortlisting (June 14 – June 25)

Through the analysis of application packages against the agreed criteria, based on desk research, each of the three thematic reviewers will produce a shortlist of 10 applications for a given theme. A report justifying the shortlisting and supporting material (graded ranking, etc.) will be submitted to GDN along with the shortlist.

Phase 2: Business review (June 30 – July 14)

The reviewers will undertake comprehensive business reviews of the projects they shortlisted, through interviews and request for additional documentation from the applicants. Based on this further assessment, each of the three thematic reviewers will identify 6 applications (per theme assigned) for site visits. A report justifying

³ [List available on the Call for MIDP Projects.](#)

⁴ See Annex 2 for the Exclusion list

the further shortlist and supporting material (graded ranking, etc.) will be submitted to GDN.

Phase 3: Site visits (July 19 – August 13)

The reviewers will conduct site visits to each of the 6 projects they identified in Phase 2. The site visits are meant to allow due diligence checks on the financial and organizational processes of the applying organizations. A report summing up the review of each of the 6 projects, along with structured supporting material (graded ranking, etc.), will be submitted to GDN.

Every step of the assessment will be done in close collaboration between the selected Consultants and GDN. GDN will have the possibility to request more information from the Consultant, if needed.

5. Finance and Budget

A budget of **USD 18,000** is available for this assignment inclusive of all expenses, for each theme of the 2021 MIDP Awards. The payment schedule will be agreed with the consultant.

NOTE: Applicants who wish to be considered as a reviewer for more than one theme of the 2021 MIDP Awards are required to submit separate applications and justify their capacity to implement the contracts in parallel.

6. Reporting

All reporting will be done to João Costa, Program Associate, at jcosta@gdn.int.

Annex 1 – 2021 MIDP Competition

The **Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project** is a competitive grant program under the umbrella of the [Global Development Awards Competition](#), administered by the Global Development Network and funded by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan. The award program invites non-profit Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to submit project proposals supporting (in particular) improved service delivery, and innovative approaches that may be scaled-up through a grant. The Award targets projects currently at the stage of implementation, and which have a high potential for impact targeting exceptionally marginalized and disadvantaged groups located in developing countries.⁵

The **MIDP category acts as a pre-selection for the [Japan Social Development Fund \(JSDF\)](#) award, which aims at scaling up the innovative approaches identified by the MIDP category.** Therefore, the World Bank-administered JSDF team will review the suitability of the proposals winning the First Prize for the much larger grant of **up to US\$ 200,000** under the auspices of the JSDF.

The themes for the 2021 edition of the MIDP Competition are:

Theme 1: Universal health coverage and COVID

The World Health Organization defines universal health coverage as the capacity of “all people [to] have access to the health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship.” A wide number of factors play a critical role in making this a reality: the quality and breadth of health services available, their physical and financial accessibility, the reduction of stigma or exclusion, the role of family members and communities, the skills of health workers, the systems and policies in place. The ongoing pandemic has impacted virtually all these dimensions, but also pre-existing strategies to lower barriers to healthcare access. Under this theme, the MIDP Awards seek projects that are currently working to innovatively overcome some of these barriers in the face of the additional challenges posed by the COVID pandemic to healthcare access, with specific regard to the inclusion of the poorest and most vulnerable groups in society, including the elderly. Projects should not seek to use awarded funds to set up or directly resource health financing facilities.

Theme 2: Community-driven Climate-related Disaster Risk Reduction in Rural Areas

Climate change is responsible for changes in the intensity, frequency and location of climate-related hazards, making it more difficult to reduce disaster-related risks.

⁵ Press [here](#) to visit the list of countries which are recognized as low and lower-middle income countries by the World Bank

Furthermore, the poorest and most vulnerable communities in developing countries are disproportionately affected by these changes: they face the highest losses for people and property, but also increased vulnerability to non-climate-related hazards. Under this theme, the MIDP awards seek projects that focus on building capacities at the grassroots level including the poorest and most vulnerable communities in rural areas in disaster preparedness, and specifically risk identification and communication - taking into consideration the nature, frequency and intensity of risks faced by groups living in rural areas, over the short-, medium- and long-term.

Theme 3: Quality urban infrastructure and community driven governance

Rapid urban growth across developing countries poses considerable infrastructural challenges, both in terms of scale and of quality, with inequitable implications for traditionally excluded groups such as the poor and most vulnerable, gender considerations, and accessibility (particularly for the elderly and the disabled). Under this theme, the MIDP Awards seek projects that work on advancing inclusive planning, design, implementation and evaluation of urban infrastructure, through community driven/inclusive approaches to citizen engagement, with specific attention to the poorest and most vulnerable groups in cities/municipalities. Projects can focus on awareness raising and promoting enhanced attention to the needs and perspectives of vulnerable groups around issues such as building efficient and inclusive transport systems locally; constructing electric power grids to serve lower income segments; establishing water-supply or waste treatment systems, among others.

For each theme, the winning projects will receive grants worth **US\$ 45,000** with two first prize winners under each theme receiving a grant of **US\$ 20,000 each** and the second prize receiving a grant of **US\$ 5,000**.

Annex 2 – Environment and Social Safeguards Activity Exclusions List

This exclusion list defines activities which will render a project proposal ineligible, vis-à-vis environmental and social standards.

The [World Bank Environmental and Social Framework \(ESF\)](#):

- Activities that cause involuntary resettlement or cause adverse negative impact on income generating activities/livelihood resources.
- Activities which will involve any kind of forceful evictions of people.
- Activities/processes which will involve use of highly toxic and/or banned chemicals, including pesticides
- Activities that involve child workers and/or forced labor, including activities that cause or lead to child abuse, child labor exploitation or human trafficking; No child under the age of 14 should work on the construction, rehabilitation or maintenance of a subproject. Children between ages 14-18 will not be employed or engaged in connection with the project in a manner that is likely to be hazardous or interfere with the child's education or be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.
- Involve development of new settlements or expansion of existing settlements in critical habitats, protected areas or areas proposed for certain levels of national protection (e.g., reserved forests), including cutting of trees for commercial activities.
- Entail the purchase or use of illegal/illicit drugs, military equipment or other potentially dangerous materials and equipment, including chainsaws, pesticides; insecticides; herbicides; asbestos (including asbestos-containing materials); or other investments detrimental to livelihoods including cultural resources.
- Processes/technologies that will discharge highly polluted processed water, emit toxic fumes and noxious odor exceeding the national emission standards or the World Bank Group Environment, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSg).
- Activities that will produce wastewater that will not be possible and viable for on-site treatment.
- Activities which involve works related to religious and political infrastructure;
- Activities which involve the purchase of equipment for government agencies