CALL FOR PROJECTS

Competition Theme

The Global Development Network (GDN) invites non-profit Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from low and middle-income countries to submit applications for the Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) within the theme '**Nexus of Education, Development and Human Security**'.

More information about the theme of the competition is available at the end of this document.

The Award

The Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project is a competitive grant program under the umbrella of the Global Development Awards Competition, 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. The award program invites non-profit NGOs and 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 - per the World Bank's recognition as low and middle income countries.

The winning projects will receive grants worth **US$ 120,000.** The awards will be given to organizations whose projects embody an innovative approach to an important development need and hold the greatest promise for:

I.   responding directly to the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable, underserved groups to improve their lives aiming at rapid results for improved livelihood;

II.   supporting initiatives that lead to developing sustainable outcomes through the scaling-up of the project.

The two first prize winners will receive a grant of **US$ 50,000 each.** The second prize will receive a grant of **US$ 20,000**. Additionally, awardees will be paired with a Technical Advisor throughout the entire implementation of the grant.

The deadline for submission of applications is on the **3 November 2023 (Indian Standard Time 6:00 PM)**

Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) Award

The JSDF award focuses on piloting socially innovative development projects that have been identified as having the potential for development impact and replicability through the MIDP Award. The objective of JSDF Award is to support community-driven development and poverty reduction programs that serve to enhance productivity, increase access to social and community services and infrastructure, and improve the living conditions of poor and vulnerable groups in eligible countries.

The two first prize winners will compete for the JSDF award after a minimum of 12 months implementation of their MIDP grant. GDN will review the suitability of the proposals for a much larger grant of **up to US$ 200,000** within the framework of the World Bank-administered Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF).

Connector Grant

The 2022 edition introduced the Connector Grant which aims to stimulate international cooperation through the development of collaborative projects to support scale-up efforts with research-based evidence. The Connector grant will be awarded to ORD grantees, based on a project developed in collaboration with the MIDP grantees who received the JSDF grant. This grant will support the award recipients' collaborative efforts towards measuring and analyzing scale-up impact, as well as to enhance the robustness of their M&E activities.

Important Dates

- Deadline for submissions: 3 November 2023
- Announcement of Eligibility screening results: 10 November 2023
- Announcement of Desk review results (1st shortlisted applications): 6 December 2023
- Announcement of Business review results (2nd shortlisted applications): 9 January 2024
- Site visits/Virtual in-depth interviews to 2nd shortlisted applications: 9 January until 31 January 2024
- Announcement of finalists: 16 February 2024
- Announcement of winners: April 2024

Finalists are expected to be available for the Communications Training and the physical event for the presentation of their projects to the jury in April 2024. The date will be announced in February 2024.

Competition Rules and Guidelines

Please review carefully. **Any application that does not follow the guidelines below will NOT be considered.**

A. General Rules

- Please note that the submission of all documents is mandatory for your application to be treated as complete and eligible.

- The application and the required documents must be submitted as electronic files at GDN's online submission platform (www.gdn.int/gdac/2023/apply). Please note that GDN accepts applications through the online submission platform EXCLUSIVELY.

- An organization can only submit one application.

- All applications must be accompanied by CVs of all the team members.

- Proposals must be submitted in English only.

- Please note that all personal information details provided in the application (along with the CV) should be correct, else the application will be liable for disqualification at any stage of the competition, including after the grant has been conferred.

- All project proposals must include an analysis of risks for the proposed work linked to existing restrictions to movement and other restrictions linked to pandemic response in the relevant geographical areas.
- GDN will take into consideration the geography, gender, issue area among other factors aiming to increase the diversity and representativeness of applicants and projects awarded.

B. Eligibility Criteria

- The MIDP Award is open to development projects being implemented in **low- and middle-income countries**[1].

- Comply with the WB Environmental and Social Framework's (ESF) and the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs). Please check Annex 1 at the end of this call to see the exclusion list of ineligible activities.

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

- The project must be managed by a non-profit, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) or Civil Society Organization (CSO) with its headquarters in one of the eligible countries.[2]

- Projects must have started its implementation on 1st June 2022 or before to be considered eligible. Submissions concerning a recently started project or only a project idea or a feasibility or baseline study will not be considered. Submissions for funding conferences (either in part or in full) will not be considered.

- Applicants from previous years (except winners) may re-apply, but they must update the application to include new aspects of the project.

- Previous MIDP winners are not eligible to apply.

C. How to Apply

Follow the steps given below:

- **Prepare your application**

  ➢ **Non-profit status** - Obtain an official document certifying the registration of your non-profit NGO/CSO. If the document is not available in English, please provide a translation (noncertified is acceptable).

  ➢ **Ability to receive funds from abroad** - Obtain an official document certifying your organization is legally able to receive funds from abroad according to your national legal framework (For example, if in India, the organization must be FCRA registered and compliant)

- **Submit your application on the Online Application Form**

  ➢ Follow to GDN's dedicated online submission platform using the following link: www.gdn.int/gdac/2023/apply

  ➢ 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 define your password. Only after verifying your profile, will you be able to submit an application.

  ➢ On your profile page, follow the displayed instructions and go to [Applications] "Funding Opportunities" to select the Call you wish to apply to or resume one from the [Applications] "In Progress" section.

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[2] The NGO/CSO must be eligible to receive funds from abroad according to the national legal framework (e. g. in India, the NGO/CSO must be FCRA compliant)

a. You must pass the automated *Eligibility Screening* before having access to the *Full Proposal.* If you fail it, you will not be able to submit an application but reach out to GDN if you are facing issues.

b. A collaborator must accept and fill their Collaborator Form which is found at [Collaboration Forms and Applications] "Action Required" before being filled. Afterwards, he/she will have access to the proposal they are associated with and can make edits and even submit it. This application will not be at [Collaboration Forms and Applications] "Applications"

c. Take note that you will be able to resume your entry at any time up to the deadline. If there are duplicate entries, the most recent one will be considered as only one proposal per applicant is allowed.

➤ You will be asked to provide the details of the proposal and you must invite your team members by placing their name and email address on the "Collaborators" tab. Don't forget to press "Invite" and check if people have accepted by checking their status on this tab.

➤ You will be asked to upload the budget of the project of the project for the calendar year of 2022 so that we can validate it has been ongoing

➤ Upload all necessary documents and fill all sections otherwise your application will not be submitted.

➤ Once you have completed your application, click on "Submit". You will receive an email notifying you on the successful submission of your application with a copy of the entire submission.

Check our website for additional information on how to interact with the platform or reach out to us if you need any assistance.

- **Review Criteria**

The project proposal will be evaluated based on the following 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). 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 list[3] of ineligible activities?

Priority will be given to projects to be implemented in low-income countries followed by low-middle-income countries as per the classification given by the World Bank.

D. Selection Process

Once the submission of proposals is closed, a multi-stage review process will be used to select the winners.

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[3] See Annex 1 for the Exclusion list

- After a preliminary assessment by GDN, the submissions will be reviewed by an independent external evaluator. The selection process will include on-site visits to the shortlisted projects.
- The final selection of proposals will be undertaken by the MIDP High-Level Jury, after a public presentation of the projects by the finalists. The decision of the Jury will be final.
- The Jury for the Award will consider the substantive and operational merits of the submissions but will also take into account the potential for expansion into other settings and countries.

E. Terms and Conditions

- GDN reserves the right not to award any prizes under this Award category.

- GDN reserves the right to modify, cancel or not award prizes at any stage of the competition and grant-making.

- Cancellation of the Award: The Award is liable to cancellation in case of unsatisfactory progress of project-related implementation and if the organization or project is found ineligible later.

- Shortlisted candidates will undergo a site visit. All applicant organizations will agree to undergoing a site visit and cooperating with the review process.

- GDN will award the funds to winners through a written grant agreement.

Jury

The composition of the Jury for this year's competition has not yet been determined. Previous Jury' members, among others, included representatives from:

- Association of African Universities, Ghana

- AusAID, Australia

- Australian National University, Australia

- African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Kenya

- Center for Global Development, USA

- EADI, UK

- IDRC, Canada

- International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, India

- JICA Research Institute, Japan

- OECD Development Centre, France

- Peking University, China

- The Brookings Institution, USA

- The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies, Egypt

- The Partnership for African Social & Governance Research (PASGR), Kenya

- The School of Social and Economic Development at the University of the South Pacific (USP), Fiji

- The World Bank, USA

- VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- Zagazig University, Egypt.

Most Innovative Development Project Laureates

- Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP), Pakistan

- BARKA Foundation for Mutual Help, Poland

- Biodiversity Conservation in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, Mexico

- Butterflies, India

- Byrraju Foundation, India

- Camara Rwanda, Rwanda

- Chinmaya Organisation for Rural Development, India

- Citizen's Proposal Group, Peru

- Colegio Virtual Iberoamericano, Ecuador

- Conservation through Public Health, Uganda

- Development Reality Institute, Zimbabwe

- Dnet, Bangladesh

- Dream A Dream, India

- Fundacion Paraguaya, Paraguay

- Impulse NGO Network, India

- IRRAD, India

- JAAGO Foundation, Bangladesh

- ONG Bethesda, Benin

- Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society

- The Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bio-Resources (ANSAB), Nepal

- Transparency International, India

List of Eligible countries

Afghanistan; Albania; Algeria; American Samoa; Angola; Argentina; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Belarus; Belize; Benin; Bhutan; Bolivia; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Brazil; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cabo Verde; Cambodia; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; China; Comoros; Colombia; Costa Rica; Congo, Dem. Rep; Congo, Rep.; Côte d'Ivoire; Cuba; Djibouti; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Eritrea; Eswatini; Equatorial Guinea; Ethiopia; Fiji; Gabon; Gambia; Georgia; Ghana; Grenada; Guatemala; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Guyana; Haiti; Honduras; India; Indonesia; Iran; Iraq; Kenya; Kiribati; Korea, Dem. People's Rep; Jamaica; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kosovo; Kyrgyz Republic; Lao; Lebanon; Lesotho; Liberia; Libya; Madagascar; Malaysia; Malawi; Maldives; Mali; Marshall Islands; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mexico; Micronesia; Moldova; Mongolia; Montenegro; Morocco; Mozambique; Myanmar; Nepal; Namibia; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; North Macedonia; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Romania; Russian Federation; Rwanda; Samoa; São Tomé and Principe; Senegal; Serbia; Sierra Leone; Solomon Islands; Somalia; South Africa; South Sudan; Sri Lanka; St. Lucia; St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Sudan; Suriname; Syrian Arab Republic; Tajikistan; Tanzania; Timor-Leste; Thailand; Togo; Tonga; Tunisia; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Tuvalu; Uganda; Ukraine; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu; Vietnam; West Bank and Gaza; Yemen; Zambia; Zimbabwe

Note that preference will be given to countries classified as low-income by the World Bank.

Nexus of Education, Development and Human Security

Human security is a comprehensive concept that encompasses the protection and fulfillment of the basic needs and rights of individuals and communities. Along with access to food, shelter, health care, and basic services, education plays a critical role in ensuring freedom from fear, violence, and exploitation. Therefore, access to education can help equip individuals and communities to adapt and build resilience to future challenges by providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary to secure a better future for themselves and their communities.

GDN encourages the submission of projects that are either gender-specific or gender-transformative but requires that all projects must be designed to respond to gender concerns.

Under the **Japanese Awards for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD)** category, GDN invites early-career researchers to submit projects that examine the links between these interconnected challenges, with a focus on innovative approaches and methodologies. The competition aims to award research projects that aim to contribute to a deeper understanding of the challenges faced and offer innovative solutions to this nexus with an output that will support policy recommendations. Some possible areas of focus <u>could</u> include:

- How to improve access to basic services and social protection considering the impact of lack of access to education?
- Which is the role of education in building community resilience?
- What is the role of gender in shaping community responses in this context?
- How can the communities develop income-generating activities in this context? What was done and can be improved?
- What kind of policies or initiatives exist to address this nexus and how effective are they?
- What sort of financing mechanisms can be developed in this context to improve access to education in the most vulnerable communities?

Under the **Japanese Awards for Most Innovative Development Awards (MIDP)** category, GDN invites NGOs to submit projects that tackle these interconnected challenges, with a focus on innovative approaches that can be scaled and replicated in other communities. The projects should demonstrate a strong commitment to community engagement, participation, and empowerment, and should promote access to education to their target communities from all age groups and considering gender-specific shortcomings. The competition aims to support projects that demonstrate an understanding of the interrelated nature of these challenges and offer solutions that are sustainable, community-led (or aimed to be) and focused on improving the lives of the most vulnerable populations in LMICs. Some possible areas of focus <u>could</u> include:

- Provision of, better climate-resilient, infrastructure and/or services for vulnerable communities to reach schools or other training/self-development initiatives
- Community-based approaches to improve access to energy, water, or food based on processes that promote self-development of the community and intertwined with the provision of educational initiatives
- Building community resilience to the impacts of climate change or other factors within the concept of Human Security education-based and awareness-raising
- Promoting gender-sensitive approaches to sustainable development and poverty reduction based on access to educational opportunities

Annex 1 – 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