CALL FOR RESEARCH (ORD) PROPOSALS

Competition Theme

The Global Development Network (GDN) invites researchers from low-income or middle-income countries to submit research proposals within the theme '**Nexus of Education, Development and Human Security**' for the Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD).

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

The Award

The Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development is a competitive research grant program under the umbrella of the Global Development Awards Competition (GDAC), 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 award program identifies and funds outstanding research proposals in low- or middle-income countries with high potential for excellence in research and clear policy implications for addressing development issues.

The **three winning projects will receive grants worth US$ 60,000**. Finalists will be invited to join a communications training in preparation of a pitch of their project in front of a high-level Jury, which will decide which research proposal to award. The awards will be given to the researcher(s) whose proposals hold the greatest promise for improving our understanding of development issues and puts forth clear, articulate and well researched policy implications to address relevant developmental problems.

The **first prize winner will receive a grant of US$ 30,000**. The **second prize and third prize winners will receive a grant of US$ 20,000 and US$ 10,000 respectively.** The funds will be used to support the research work proposed by the winners towards the

completion of their research. Additionally, awardees will be paired with world-class academic in their area of work who will play the role of a Scientific and Technical Advisor.

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

Gender Bias

GDN recognizes the imbalance in the opportunities provided to women in professional research, as well as the consequences of unconscious gender bias in review processes in environments across the world. GDN also recognizes the impact these factors can have on the prospects of women researchers in securing awards and funding.

Since the 2022 edition, GDN embed more equitable grant-making processes to guarantee that more women can compete and win while still maintaining a high-quality standard on the evaluation. Therefore, GDN instituted a selection process for GDAC where we will make all efforts to guarantee gender representation amongst the 3 finalists of the ORD category.

GDN strongly encourages female researchers to engage and apply.

Connector Grant

The Connector Grant 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. The application to this grant will only take place after the full implementation of the funded ORD project and will not be part of the selection of the ORD winners.

Important Dates

- Deadline for submissions: 3 November 2023
- Announcement of Eligibility screening results: 13 November 2023
- Announcement of First Level review results (shortlisted applications) and comments from reviewers: 15 December 2023
- Resubmission of the updated application by the shortlisted applicants: Between 15 and 29 December 2023
- Announcement of Second Level review results (finalists) and comments from reviewers: 31 January 2024

➢ Resubmission of updated applications by the finalists: Between 1 and 16 January 2024
➢ Announcement of finalists: 16 January 2024
➢ Announcement of winners: April 2023

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 below mentioned guidelines 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.

- For a joint research proposal with more than one researcher, only the principal investigator should submit an application. However, the institutional affiliation, position/designation, e-mail address, citizenship and current residence of each co-researcher MUST also be included in the application. In cases with more than one researcher, all researchers must meet the eligibility criteria.

- Researchers must have an affiliated institution for the project. Winners of the Competition will be engaged with GDN through a Grant Agreement signed with the institution which shall provide administrative and financial oversight throughout the implementation of the project (including certifying the use of the budget using the forms provided).

- 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.

- CVs for all team members must be included in the application. The CVs should clearly state the age of all team members, the citizenships for all team members and the country of residence for the past five years for all team members and the current institutional affiliations for all team members. These details are mandatory, and an application will be deemed incomplete if these details are not submitted.

- 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 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

- Eligible countries for the ORD competition are those classified by the World Bank as low-income or middle-income countries[1]. The competition is open only to researchers who are citizens or permanent residents of these countries. The applicants (including team members) can be asked to submit proof of their citizenship and residency through documents with legal standing, at any point during the competition. Please note that all personal information details as provided in the application (and CV) should be factually correct, else the application will be liable for disqualification. The information on the Identity Card will remain strictly confidential with GDN.

  ➢ Citizens of eligible countries currently residing in a non-eligible country are allowed to apply only if they have been living in the non-eligible country for no more than five years as of 1 January 2024. This should be clearly shown as in the CV and personal information should be provided. **In case any information is found to be incorrect, the proposal is liable for disqualification during any stage of the competition, including after the grant has been conferred.**

- The upper age limit for all applicants is 45 years by the end of 2023. Individuals above 45 years of age as of 1 January 2024 are not eligible to apply.

- The proposal should not be receiving or scheduled to receive funds from other sources to be eligible for consideration for the ORD unless it is clearly explained how the additional funds provided by the ORD would reinforce the existing funds for successful completion of the research.

- Staff members of multilateral and bilateral organizations (The World Bank, IMF, IADB, UN agencies, UKAid, etc.) are not eligible to apply.

- Previous and current employees of GDN or its Regional Network Partners[2] are not eligible to apply up till 5 years from the completion of their tenure. Previous GDN

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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
[2] Press here to visit the list of GDN's Regional Network Partners

Board Members, project mentors and members of evaluation teams are not eligible to apply.

- Similar proposals or papers resulting as products from full or partial GDN funded activities (Global Research Projects and other competitions not limited to Regional Research Competitions, Global Research Competitions etc.), cannot be submitted for this competition.

- Past ORD winners and finalists are not eligible to apply with the same or similar research proposal. Additionally, winners are not eligible to apply for a period of 3 years subsequent to the end of their agreement with GDN.

- Please note that all forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable to GDN, plagiarism being one of them including self-plagiarism. Plagiarism is unauthorized use of other people's work, ideas and/or writings (in part or in full) and presenting or giving notion of these work(s), ideas and/or writings being one's own work, idea(s) and/or writing(s). GDN takes plagiarism very seriously and will take immediate and appropriate action including and not limited to withdrawal of funding for any such grantees found guilty of plagiarism.

C. How to Apply

Follow the steps given below:

- **Submit your application**

  ➤ 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.

    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.

➢ 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**

Throughout the review process, the proposals will be judged on the following criteria:

➢ **Academic quality**

- Quality of the research question formulated
- Quality of methodology and methods chosen to answer the research question
- Quality of literature review
- Originality and Innovativeness
- Ethics

➢ **Clarity of the links to policy**

- Link to specific development outcomes
- Specific relevance to policy process

➢ **Feasibility**

- Timeline
- Budget
- Research team
- Impact of social distancing policies

D. Selection Process

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

identities of the authors and reviewers will be concealed to eliminate any selection bias. The proposals will be reviewed at all stages on the basis of the review criteria given in the next section.

- In the first stage, a preliminary assessment will be undertaken by GDN staff to check for eligibility, originality and coherence.

- The eligible applications are then reviewed by external scholars in two steps. At a first step, *Lot 1: First level review*, reviewers will be selected to conduct a first assessment of proposals on the basis of the ORD selection criteria and shortlist the best proposals taking into consideration the process GDN installed to counter gender bias. The shortlisted applicants receive comments from reviewers and are allowed to update their proposals and respond to the reviewers' comments. At the second step, *Lot 2: Expert level review*, experienced researchers review the shortlisted proposals, and select the three finalists of the ORD category. The final ranking is validated by the *Panel Organizer*, selected based on her/his professional experience from the Lot 2 reviewers. Reviews at all stages are triple and blind.

- The final selection of proposals will be undertaken by the ORD High-Level Jury, after a public presentation of the projects by the finalists. The decision of the Jury will be final.

E. Terms and Conditions

- GDN reserves the right not to grant one or more than one Award.

- GDN reserves the right to modify, cancel or not award grants 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 research work and if any of the researchers in the award team are found ineligible later.

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

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee for this year's competition has not yet been determined. Past Selection Committees have included distinguished scholars and representatives from the following organizations:

- ANU - Australia's National University, Australia
- Ateneo de Manila University, The Philippines
- CEDLAS - Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina
- Czech National Bank, Czech Republic
- James Cook University, Australia
- KOICA - Korean International Cooperation Agency, Republic of Korea
- National Agricultural Research Institute of Tunisia, Tunisia

- EADI - European Association of Development, Research and Training Institutes, Germany
- FERDI - Foundation for studies and Research on International Development, France
- Harvard University, USA
- IIDS - Institute for Integrated Development Studies, Nepal
- INASP-International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications, United Kingdom
- Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands Inter-American Dialogue, USA
- James Cook University, Australia
- South Eastern European University, Republic of Macedonia
- Tallinn University, Estonia
- The Netherlands Institute of Social Research, The Hague, The Netherlands
- The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies, Austria
- The World Bank
- Tulane University, USA
- Veolia Environment Institute, France
- West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (WECARD), Senegal

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

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 could 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?