

Global Development Awards Competition  
Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) 2024  
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.*

## CALL FOR MIDP REVIEWERS (CONSULTANTS)

### 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 (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 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.

### Scope of the call

The aim of the call is to identify a team of reviewers (consultants) to conduct the review of applications received under the MIDP category of the 2024 edition of the Global Development Awards Competition, through desk-based work and site visits.

Applicants will have to demonstrate professional experience in developing countries (up to middle-income countries<sup>1</sup>) and a mix of international, regional and local exposure.

### 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.

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

- 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 region<sup>2</sup>.

### Application structure

Each team through their representative (Team Leader) must submit the following information:

1. Detailed background of the applying team
  - a) Submission of comprehensive CVs specifying all relevant professional affiliations
  - b) Specify past experience in conducting reviews of development projects, including details of reports produced, etc.
2. 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.
3. A detailed budget for the assignment.
4. A list of social development projects handled/completed during the last three years.

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

5. Contacts of three references that can support the applicant's qualifications for undertaking the review process.
6. 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.

## Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed against the following weighed criteria:

### Quality of Application (60%)

- Quality of proposed process for undertaking multi-stage review (including criteria to be used for selecting projects).
- Feasibility of work plan and proposed review process based on overall task timeline.
- Appropriateness of proposed budget.

### Capacity of Applying Team (40%)

- Experience of Lead Team Member(s).
- Relevant expertise of team in conducting a review of social development projects in different developing countries (no. of cumulative years).
- Appropriateness of the composition of the team to cover the different aspects of the review process.

## Application Procedure

- Follow to GDN's dedicated online submission platform using the following link: [www.gdn.int/gdac/2024/apply](http://www.gdn.int/gdac/2024/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 defining your password. Only after verifying your profile, will you be able to apply.
- 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 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”.
- 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 in 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 of 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.*

Enquiries must be addressed to [awards@gn.int](mailto:awards@gn.int).

### **Deadline**

The deadline for submission of applications is on **Friday, 11 May 2024 (Indian Standard Time 6:00 PM)**.



## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Objective of the assignment

GDN is seeking to recruit a team of reviewers (consultants) to assess proposals received under the MIDP category of the 2024 edition of the Global Development Awards Competition, in close coordination with 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 is expected to involve traveling 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.

The selected MIDP Reviewer will conduct the assessment in 3 Phases:

- **Phase 1** - Review focused on: Innovative approaches, Clear development objectives, Sustainable social impact, Expansion, and Cost efficiency. 10 applications are shortlisted for Phase 2.
- **Phase 2** - Review considering all criteria with interviews and request for additional information. 6 applications are shortlisted for Phase 3.
- **Phase 3** – Review considering all criteria with in-depth interviews, written references, and site visits if needed and applicable. 3 applications are selected as finalists.
- A feedback paragraph will be provided to each applicant by the MIDP Reviewer.

### Review Criteria

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

- Phase 1 - Special focus will be given to the criteria: Innovative approaches, Clear development objectives, Sustainable social impact, Expansion, and Cost efficiency.
- Phase 2 and 3 – All criteria will be considered.

The applicant(s) 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). 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 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.



## Structure of the review and timeframe

GDN proposes the following review process:

### **Phase 0: Longlist:** May 28, 2024

GDN will provide the team of reviewers with a longlist of up to 30 eligible submissions.

### **Phase 1: Desk-based shortlisting:** June 3 – June 28, 2024

Through the analysis of application packages against the agreed criteria, based on desk research, a shortlist of 10 applications will be produced by the team of reviewers.

Deliverable: Report justifying the shortlisting and supporting material (graded ranking, etc.).

### **Phase 2: Business review:** July 3 – August 14, 2024

Comprehensive business review of the projects shortlisted, through interviews and request for additional documentation from the applicants. Based on this further assessment, 6 will be identified for site visits.

Deliverable: Report justifying the shortlisting and supporting material (graded ranking, etc.).

### **Phase 3: Site visits<sup>3</sup>:** August 19 – September 18, 2024

Site visits to each of the 6 projects identified in Phase 2. The site visits are meant to allow due diligence checks on the financial and organizational processes of the applying organizations.

Deliverable: Report summing up the review of each of the 6 projects, along with structured supporting material (graded ranking, etc.).

## Feedback to applicants

Each report must include notes to be provided to the applicant on how to improve their application or shortcomings for not advancing.

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<sup>3</sup> The site visits can take place on a virtual setting if justifiable within a methodological approach proposed by the selected MIDP Reviewer that does not jeopardize the assessment of applications.

Every step of the assessment will be done in close collaboration with GDN. GDN will have the possibility to request more information from the team of reviewers, if needed.

### **Finance and Budget**

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

### **Reporting**

All reporting will be done to João Costa, Senior Program Manager, at [jcosta@gdn.int](mailto:jcosta@gdn.int).



## Theme | 2024 Global Development Awards Competition

### Sustainable Climate Action for Human-Centered Development

In the complex and interconnected tapestry of global challenges, climate change stands as a pivotal force, affecting ecosystems, societies, and individuals worldwide. Amidst these challenges, the imperative for sustainable climate action has never been more urgent, especially in regions grappling with unique vulnerabilities. In navigating the intricate challenges of climate change within the Global South, the theme "**Sustainable Climate Action for Human-Centered Development**" underscores the critical need to align environmental preservation with the well-being of communities in these regions. Within this nexus, initiatives that not only protect the planet but also prioritize human-centric development take center stage, acknowledging the unique contexts and vulnerabilities of the Global South.

The **2024 edition of the Global Development Awards Competition** aims to highlight innovative ideas and ongoing projects to celebrate and amplify the voices of those who actively contribute to building a resilient future—one where the human experience is not merely considered but is at the forefront of climate action strategies. The theme underscores the profound need to align our commitment to safeguarding the planet with an unwavering dedication to human-centric development, recognizing the unique contexts, cultures, and vulnerabilities present in the Global South, to realize a society where no one is left behind.

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

Under the **Japanese Awards for Most Innovative Development Awards (MIDP) category**, GDN wants to highlight the transformative power of on-the-ground initiatives by NGOs that have moved beyond conceptualization, actively engaging with communities to implement projects that enhance climate resilience. By showcasing participatory project design, adaptation and mitigation strategies, and sustainable livelihood initiatives, we aim to award their impactful work. This category stands as a platform to recognize and amplify the voices of those directly supporting the most marginalized communities, embodying the spirit of community-led climate

resilience exemplifying the spirit of human-centered development in the face of climate change challenges.

The MIDP category precedes the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) Award where the most impactful of the winners of that category will have a chance to scale up or replicate their project.

*Applications must demonstrate how the project addresses fit into the type of projects displayed below and demonstrate how these are intertwined on the overall topic of the Competition. Applicants who submit a project that does not showcase this relation will not be considered.*

### **Sub-Theme: "Community-Centered Climate Action and Sustainable Development"**

#### Type of projects

- Community-Driven Assessment Initiatives
  - Projects that actively involve communities in the assessment of climate change impacts, ensuring that local knowledge and experiences are integral to the evaluation process.
- Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies
  - Projects that highlight and focus on the direct benefits of these strategies to the most marginalized members of the community based on mitigation approaches to the impact of climate change.
- Sustainable Livelihood Initiatives
  - Projects that integrate climate resilience with sustainable livelihood opportunities for marginalized communities while emphasizing the economic empowerment and improved well-being of community members.
- Temporal Adaptation in Practice
  - Projects that have adaptive strategies that acknowledge the temporal dynamics of climate change impact, demonstrating how community-led initiatives have aligned with different time frames identified through assessments.

## 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