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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

# GDN Fellow {Knowledge Systems in Middle East and North Africa (MENA)}

**LOCATION:** Tunisia, home-based

**POSITION TYPE:** Part-time

## About the Global Development Network

The Global Development Network (GDN) is a public international organization that supports high quality, policy-oriented, social science research in Low- and Middle- Income Countries, to promote better lives. We help connect researchers and research institutions to 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, with a presence in Clermont-Ferrand, France and the United States. For more information, visit the [GDN website](#).

## About the Doing Research Global Initiative

GDN's Doing Research global initiative aims to mobilize and bring together researchers in the global South and global North to understand, map and assess social science research systems, with the goal to analyze structural barriers to doing research in developing countries. Drawing on a systematic and comparative analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of research systems, this global initiative produces original evidence, supports networking, and advances debates with national and international research donors on how to support and fund research in ways that contribute to overall societal resilience. The methodology at the core of the Doing Research Assessment uses a mixed method approach to study the determinants of production, diffusion and uptake of social science research from the perspective of the national research system. It is the first effort to benchmark systematically social science research systems in developing countries.

By establishing a network of institutions in developing countries working on the issue (the DR National Focal Points), and by collecting and curating an original global dataset on research systems across developing countries, the program aims to create new incentives for research on knowledge systems, but also support with novel system-level evidence national and international efforts on research capacity building and/or evidence-informed policy making.



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## About the Position

GDN is looking for an outstanding individual to be appointed as GDN Fellow (Research Systems in MENA) to run the expansion of the initiative in MENA region, starting with the implementation of the Doing Research Assessment in Tunisia, and regional networking and outreach planned for the period 2024-2026. The Fellow will be instrumental to leveraging the results of the DR Assessment in Tunisia with the community of national and international donors in the region, in view of further implementations in MENA.

The Fellow will work closely with the global Doing Research team at GDN, institutions at the country level who will implement the Doing Research Assessment (Doing Research National Focal Points), GDN's Director of Research and Programs, and donors/partners in Tunisia. This role reports to GDN's Director of Research and Programs, with whom s/he will shape the program strategy.

**The Fellow will be offered a part-time position (up to 40% of time) for a 15-month period. This is a home-based position in Tunisia.** The role is compatible with part-time employment in a local research or policy institution.

## Key Responsibilities

The Fellow will:

- Manage the selection of the DR National Focal Point in Tunisia, and support the implementation of the DR Assessment in this country in direct coordination with the chosen institution and its GDN-appointed Mentor (Independent Advisor).
- Lead the adaptation of the DR Assessment methodology to the national context, in close collaboration with the GDN team and the selected DR National Focal Point.
- Manage quality control and provide quality support and oversight to the DR National Focal Point implementing the assessments, including but not limited through the identification of an advisor for the selected National Focal Point.
- Identify strategic outreach opportunities, innovating whenever possible, to foster a local domestic demand for the assessments early on, and to disseminate the output of the testing phase with national and international stakeholders.
- Coordinate with the rest of the Doing Research team on the curation of datasets coming from the Tunisian DR National Focal Point, for open access and visualization.
- Produce high-quality research communications products to guide and leverage the implementation of the project.
- Manage events in Tunisia (virtually and in person, when possible), with support from the DR team.



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- Support the visibility of the program in MENA with substantive inputs for GDN's communications team.

### Qualifications

- A PhD, or proven equivalent research experience, in any of the social sciences. (essential)
- Relevant professional experience conducting research in developing countries, and/or collaborating with developing country research teams or institutions. (essential) In-depth professional experience of Tunisia and another country in the region is an asset.
- At least five years of relevant professional experience in managing projects with an international vocation. (essential)
- Strong intellectual and professional interest in the topic of research systems, knowledge systems, research communication, research-policy interface and research for development. (strongly desirable)
- Openness to adapt to, and learn from, the process of program implementation. (strongly desirable)
- Willingness to travel internationally (tentatively up to 10 days per year, when possible) (strongly desirable)
- Knowledge of and experience working with international donors, including the European Commission. (strongly desirable)
- Fluency in both French and in English, in writing and verbally (essential). Fluency in Arabic is an asset.

### Duration of Contract

**GDN seeks to appoint a Fellow as soon as possible, and no later than January 1, 2024.** The contract is subject to a **three-month probation period**, and is extendable/renewable subject to availability of funds for the implementation of new DR projects in MENA and satisfactory performance.

### Application Procedure

Interested candidates are invited to send:

- An updated CV highlighting relevant experience
- A cover letter expressing interest in this position (maximum two pages)
- A list of relevant publications (including links), including signed blogposts and op-eds if applicable



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to [jobs@gdn.int](mailto:jobs@gdn.int) with the subject line 'Fellow (Knowledge Systems in MENA) Application – [Your Name].'

**Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis, until October 30, 2023.**

Shortlisted candidates might be asked to sit for a written test in English and French during the selection process.