

## GDN Impact Study

An evaluation of award winners from 2015 - 2018

**Commissioned by**  
Global Development Network

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# Introduction

The Global Development Awards Competition is an innovative award scheme launched by GDN with the support from the Government of Japan. Since 2000, the Global Development Awards Competition has supported the career advancement of researchers and development practitioners in developing countries and funded outstanding research and innovative social projects benefitting marginalized groups. In total, the competition awarded and funded over 420 research and development projects<sup>1</sup>, generating social development impact within many countries. The GDN Awards Competition consists of three grant schemes:

- 1. The Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD).** This competitive program funds research proposals submitted by researchers from developing and transition economies that have a high potential for excellence in research and clear policy implications for addressing development issues. The grant was established in 2000 and is still ongoing.
- 2. The Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP).** This program provides grants to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in developing countries to recognize the innovative approach of their grassroots projects. The Award targets projects which have a high potential for positive impact on marginalized and disadvantaged groups located in developing and transition countries. The grant was established in 2000 and is still ongoing.
- 3. The Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF).** The JSDF grant is a follow up grant that previous MIDP winners can apply for. Through this facility GDN provides large grants to NGOs to support the replication and scaling-up of their development projects. This grant scheme started in 2015 and is still ongoing.

In 2016/2017, the not-for-profit research, advisory and implementing consultancy Aidenvironment ([www.aidenvironment.org](http://www.aidenvironment.org)) conducted an impact study to capture, document and analyze the impact created by the three grants up until then (2000-2015). In 2022, GDN again secured Aidenvironment's services to conduct a follow up study, following Aidenvironment application for GDN's call for applications. In both studies, generally the same methodology has been used, as to allow for comparability. The impact study was carried between March and May 2022.

This report describes the results of the follow up study which focuses on the impact of the grants in two areas: 1) impact on individual (professional) development of previous awardees and their organizations, and: 2) impact on social development by the project or research.

Section 1 of this report elaborates the methodology that was developed for the study, which includes a survey of competition winners, an analysis of research quality and case studies of selected winners. The results and emerging insights are presented in Section 2. In the last section, the report lists the main conclusions and recommendations emerging from this study.

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<sup>1</sup> This number of winners includes the previous format of the GDN Awards Competition, wherein Medals were awarded

# 1. Methodology

## 1.1 Evaluation Framework and Impact Pathways

### Overview

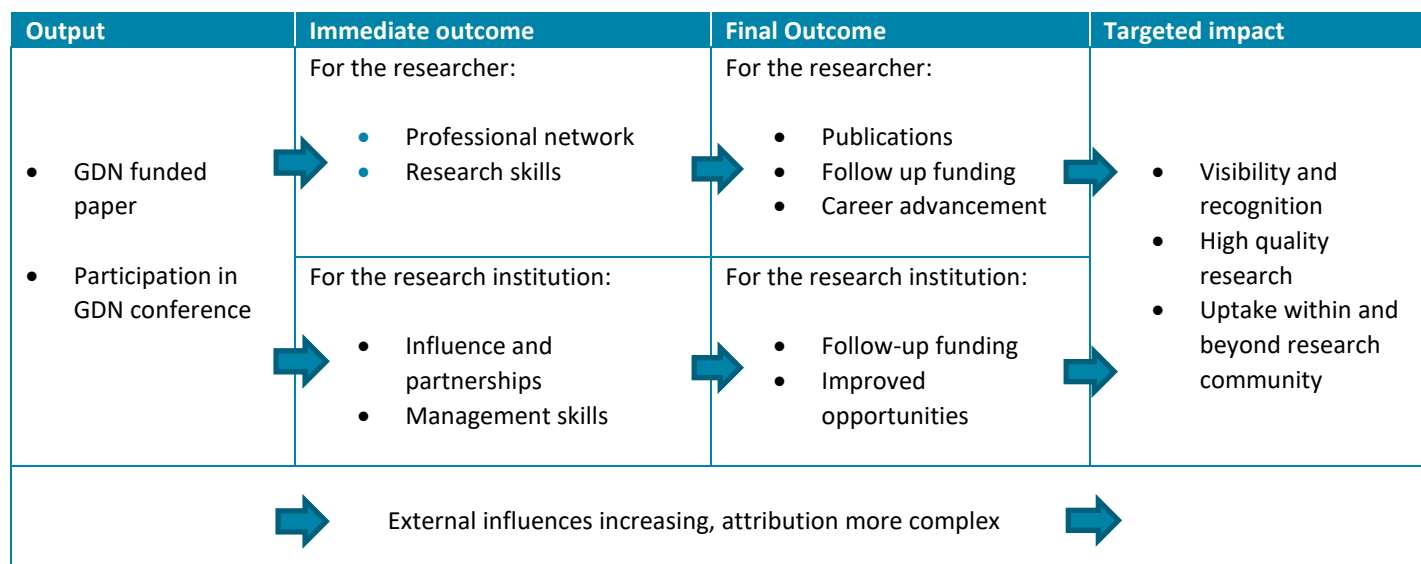
In general, the methodology developed by Aidenvironment in 2017 is applied in this impact study, as to allow for comparability between the two studies. This approach is based on the following key components:

1. An **evaluation approach based on the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria**, especially those of effectiveness, impact, and sustainability. Survey questions and interview questions were designed to provide insight in these criteria.
2. Use of an **analytical approach using impact pathways** to guide the study. In this case we identified two impact pathways for the GDN awards and included several proxy indicators to assess impact within each pathway.
3. **Understanding the contribution of GDN to the targeted impact**, by identifying the plausible contribution by the GDN Award sometimes in conjunction with other influencing factors.

### Impact Pathways

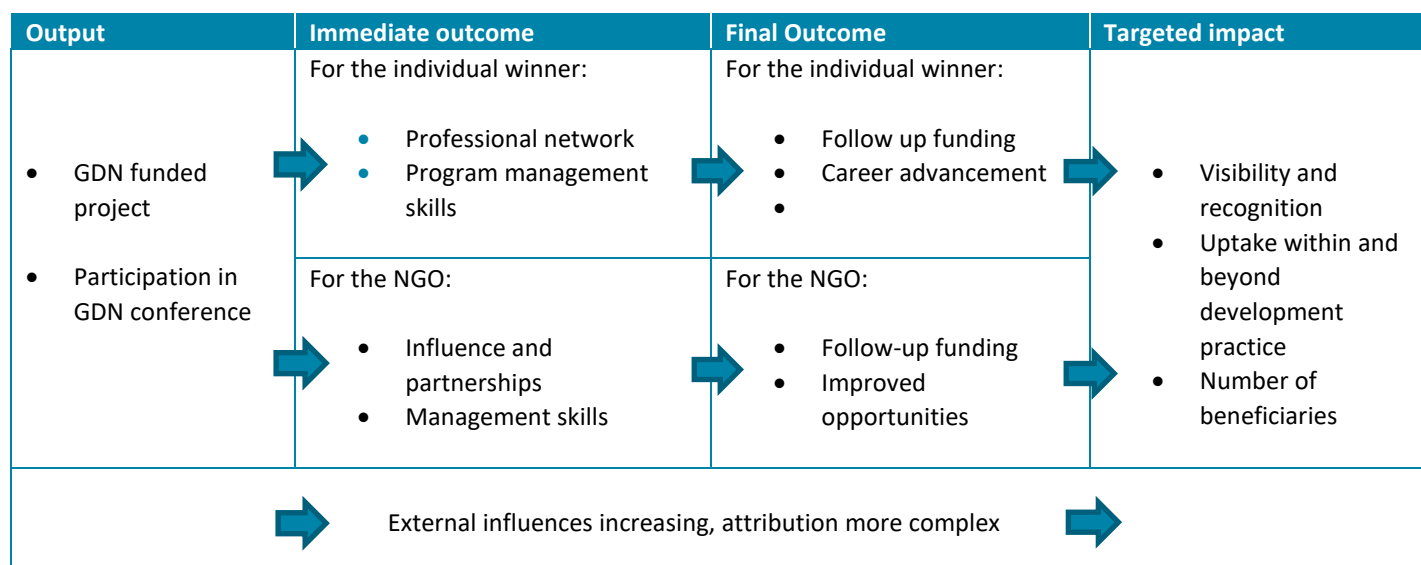
#### 1. Research Award Impact Pathway – ORD

The *Research Award Impact Pathway* shows how research can lead to new scientific insights and from there to research uptake in the research community. Uptake in the research community is considered to be a proxy for on the ground impact.



#### 2. Development Award Impact Pathway - MIDP & JSDF

The *Development Award Impact Pathway* shows how an innovative social development project can lead to new insights and from there to further uptake in policy and in practice. Uptake in policy and in practice has been used as a proxy for on the ground impact, which is a common practice as on-the-ground impact studies are expensive, and attribution is complex.



## 1.2 Methods used in this study

This impact study made use of three methods: 1) an impact survey, 2) a Research Quality Analysis and 3) impact case studies. Data for the three methods has been gathered among the two groups of winners: research project winners (ORD winners) and development project winners (MIDP & JSDF winners). The results of the three methods were combined to generate key findings as presented in this report. In the analysis, the survey results were leading, with research quality assessment data adding to insights on targeted impact and case studies providing the individual narratives and anecdotal evidence to support findings. Given the limited scope of the study, the case studies and the RQA were not used to validate survey findings. The results of the individual methods can be found in the Annexes attached to this report.

### Method 1. Impact survey

In March 2022, separate but close to identical digital surveys were sent to the two groups of winners. Respondents were asked to score the perceived impact of the GDN Award on several individual and organizational impact categories as well as development impact categories. Respondents were asked to answer with a simple yes or no whether certain developments took place within 5 years after they had won grant. If applicable, survey respondents were asked to indicate to what extent these developments met their expectations. The answer model followed a Likert scale from 1-5 indicating different degrees of positive impact (from 'not at all' to 'a lot more than expected'). Open questions were added to gather additional impact evidence as well as individual stories of the winners. The full survey report can be found in [Annex 1](#).

### Method 2. Research Quality Analysis (RQA)

In April 2022, the quality of research outputs of the ORD winners was determined using an approach that was designed by Aidenvironment for the evaluation of a global research program. It follows the accepted international research quality standards according to the five categories ranging from 1 (quality below national standards) to 5 (world-leading quality in terms of originality, significance, and rigor). The full RQA report can be found in [Annex 2](#).

### Method 3. Case studies: Stories of impact

In March, April and May 2022, six winners were selected for further in-depth interviews. The winners with relatively high overall impact scores were selected as their stories best indicate how targeted impact can be achieved. This selection was based on survey results, in combination with project document analysis and key insights from interviews with GDN staff. The stories of impact are aimed at obtaining in-depth insights into how winning the award impacted the winner, the project, the beneficiaries, and the broader landscape of stakeholders. The stories of impact are used for anecdotal evidence of the study findings and will be used by GDN to strengthen visibility of the awards competition and its winners. The full case study report can be found in [Annex 3](#).

### **1.3 Main changes and adaptations to methodology**

As stated in the introduction, this study is a follow up on the previous study and therefore strongly builds on the developed methodology as to allow for comparability of results. However, in consultation with GDN some additions to the methodology have been made, two examples:

- In the current study there is more focus on how the development projects (MIDP & JSDF) have impacted their direct and indirect beneficiaries, in addition to the number of beneficiaries. More open-ended questions have been asked to capture how the project led to development of relevant knowledge, skills, livelihoods of its beneficiaries. The case studies have focused more in-depth on the broader impact of projects, beyond the impact on the winner. Also, the beneficiaries have been disaggregated based on characteristics such as gender, age group etc.
- Questions have been included on how the participants experienced GDN's support for and communication about their project. Specific questions were asked about the collaboration with and contribution of their mentor to their project. Both ORD winners and JSDF winners get appointed a mentor. Aim of the mentorship is to provide expert insights, advice on the specific topic and improve the project and its impact. These questions were added to obtain more insights into how GDN can improve the award program, and thus increase its impact further.

## 2. Results

The Global Development Network envisions a world in which evidence and scholarly knowledge inform and inspire development and policy decisions. The Awards Competition contributes to this objective by supporting researchers and development practitioners who show potential to create outstanding research and innovative social projects benefitting marginalized groups. This section describes the impact of the grants in two areas: 1) impact on individual (professional) development of previous awardees and their organizations, and: 2) impact on social development by the project or research. Results for 1) research grant winners and 2) development grant winners are presented separately.

When considering the results listed below, it is important to keep in mind that all winners assessed in this study have won their award 5-7 years ago. Impact questions particularly focused on the five-year period following the award winning. The results discussed are specifically referring to the level of impact after 5-7 years and not after a longer period. A follow up study could look at the longer-term impacts of the GDN Award Competition.

### 2.1 Sample size & winner representation

#### Survey response

In the researched period, 17 organizations have been awarded with a GDN award. In total, 13 valid responses were received out of the total of 17 winners, amounting to a response rate of 74%. For the ORD survey, 6 respondents from 6 different countries responded. This corresponds to 75% of ORD winners. For the MIDP & JSDF survey, 7 respondents from 6 different countries responded. This corresponds to 78% of the MIDP and 100% of the JSDF winners. This response rate is higher than response rate of previously conducted impact survey.

#### Case studies

In total 6 interviews were held with 4 MIDP winners, 2 ORD and 2 JSDF winners, ranging in year of winning, location, and gender. These numbers add up to a higher total than the number of total interviewees mentioned because 2 of the MIDP winners also won a JSDF grant as follow up.

#### RQA

In total 4 papers have been analysed. These papers have been selected based on representation in terms of geography, year of winning and gender. Due to a majority female ORD winners in the assessed years, and lack of availability of final articles for male participants, we were not able to have both male and female researchers represented in the sample.

The table below shows the total sample size of this impact study per method, disaggregated by region, award type, year of winning and gender.

| Region of citizenship |        |     |      | Award type |        |     |      | Year of winning |        |     |      | Gender |        |      |      |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|------|------------|--------|-----|------|-----------------|--------|-----|------|--------|--------|------|------|
|                       | Survey | RQA | Case |            | Survey | RQA | Case |                 | Survey | RQA | Case |        | Survey | RQA  | Case |
| Africa                | 31%    | 25% | 33%  | ORD        | 46%    | 25% | 33%  | 2015            | 23%    | 25% | 33%  | Male   | 54%    | 0%   | 67%  |
| Asia                  | 54%    | 0%  | 50%  | MIDP       | 54%    | 0%  | 67%  | 2016            | 38%    | 50% | 33%  | Female | 46%    | 100% | 33%  |
| Europe                | 6%     | 25% | 0%   | JSDF*      | 23%    | 25% | 33%  | 2017            | 23%    | 25% | 33%  |        |        |      |      |
| Latin America         | 6%     | 50% | 17%  |            |        | 50% |      | 2018            | 15%    |     |      |        |        |      |      |

\*Note: JSDF winners overlap with MIDP winners, therefore total adds up to over 100%

## 2.2 Key insights

### 2.2.1 Results for research award winners (ORD winners)

Results for individual researchers and their respective organizations are presented in the same sections as they show strong correlation. However, significant differences are highlighted.

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#### *Research Quality*

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**Published papers were mostly focused on a national audience, some through journals and some through policy organisations.**

Out of 8 ORD winners in total, for 7 ORD winners (87.5%) there was a paper finalised and available. At least three winners (37.5%) had already published two papers per person, building on the results acquired with the GDN grant. Five out of eight (62.5%) researchers have published their research paper online. Of these five, two articles have been published in an academic journal, one research is published as chapter of a book (PhD) and two papers have been published by policy organisations that are involved in the research and its implications.

**Most of the published papers have a strong local focus and provide relevant insights and recommendations to policy.**

Zooming in into the selected four research papers, we see that the average score is 2.63. This score is in-between the two scores; 'quality that is recognised nationally' and 'quality that is recognized internationally'. Two out of the four articles were published in a journal, of which 1 international and 1 regional journal. The other two articles were published online in collaboration with policy organisations. This suggests that the focus of the ORD winners is not solely focused on publishing in a scientific journal but also focuses on making significant national-level (policy) impact. This is in line with survey results that detail that a majority (60%) of the winners discussed their research with national policy makers. Over half of the ORD winners has presented their research at a national conference at least 1 or 2 times. These findings underline the policy focus that the GDN funded research has.

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#### *Impact on individuals and organisations*

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**Winning an ORD award leads to an increased network in academia, but less so outside of academics.**

A large majority of the ORD winners (87%) experiences an increase in collaborations with international researchers, national researchers, and research institutes as well as collaborations within research groups. In general, ORD winners experience less networking and collaborations with relevant stakeholders than they had expected. Especially collaboration with actors outside of academia such as private sector parties and NGOs is lower than they had expected.



*“At an individual level, the nuances of field-based survey research and associated challenges were identified, and the management of projects was enhanced.”*

– Survey respondent ORD1

**Winning the award brings ORD winners on-the-ground experience and develops their research-specific skills.** As confirmed by the quote of ORD1 above, researchers can use the GDN grant as a steppingstone to set up and develop their own on-the-ground research. Winning an ORD award strongly facilitates the development of research-specific skills. Especially the ability to find new research themes scored highest and was experienced more than expected or as expected by most of the participants. Also, all participants experienced an increase in the ability to manage research projects and half of the participants experienced this more than they had expected. This is also confirmed by dr. Chadare (ORD winner), who now works as a professor at the university. She particularly encourages her students and beginning researchers to apply for this type of research grants, because she sees it as a big learning process for young researchers.

*“What I know is that this grant helps to build capacity and career of a researcher.”*

- Dr. Flora Chadare, ORD winner

However, development of the skills to communicate and promote the project, collaborate with others within the project and to acquire new funding all scored below average. The ability to communicate about the project was experienced less than expected by two thirds of the respondents. These results implicate that the outreach and communication skills did not develop as much as expected.

**Winning the award leads to more attention, invitations, and publications, but does not necessarily materialize in additional funding.** At organisational level, we see that all winning organisations experience an increase in requests for collaborations. A large majority of 83% of the winners has received requests for information about their project, and two thirds has received invitations to present her/his project or has had peer-reviewed publications. However, follow up funding was only experienced by one third of the individual winners. At organisation level, a large majority has won other grants and awards (83%) and saw an increase in funding for the organisation. Especially the latter is interesting, since this contrasts with the individual level result. A potential explanation for this could be that increased funding is not experienced by the individual researcher for the specific research topic, but organisation-wide more funding is attracted (outside of the research topic). This could be linked to the organisation’s exposure through the GDN grant. An increase in sustainability developments seems to be experienced stronger at organisational level than at individual level.

*“By now I am the Vice President in my university, I do not have that much time to focus on my own research anymore. But my main aim is now to help others find opportunities to develop their own research. I learned that through the GDN award process.”*

– Dr. Marcos Agurto, ORD winner

**Winning an ORD award boosts career development and opens new opportunities for young researchers.** When looking at career advancement and recognition, we see that a large majority of ORD

winners has made promotion in her/his organisation within five years after winning the grant. The quote of Dr. Marcos Agurto above, illustrates how winning the award and conducting the research can lead to interesting career developments within the university. Also, 83% of the winners has been asked to perform consultancy assignments based on their gained expertise. When looking at career opportunities, we see that around two thirds of the winners experienced a new international career opportunity within the first five years after winning the grant. Half of the participants experienced a career opportunity in their own country. Also, 83% of the winners has been asked to perform consultancy assignments based on their gained expertise. We see that most of the organisations won another award or grant (83%) after the ORD award.

*“After winning the grant, I got some interesting opportunities on my path. I was for example invited to start mentoring researchers in Sub Saharan Africa.”*

– Survey respondent ORD2

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#### *Development impact*

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*“The biggest achievement was my engagement in the policy-making groups that develop the new education policies in Macedonia, where I had the opportunity to incorporate some of the research recommendations into the developing policy documents.”*

- Survey respondent ORD5

#### **The research impacts practice internationally through publications and nationally through dialogues with policy makers.**

The impact of the research is strongest through outreach to and uptake by other researchers. Over half of the ORD winners presented its research at a national conference at least once, where they got in touch with other researchers. Interestingly, multiple ORD winners highlighted the importance of the GDN award ceremony as platform to reach out to other researchers. For example, dr. Flora Chadare describes how she was able to make valuable connections with other GDN finalists and food security researchers that presented during the award ceremony conference in Morocco.

More than half of the researchers published their research in an international journal at least one time, only 20% reports published in a national journal. After publication, a large majority of 80% was cited at least once by others in the scientific community. Over half of the research was used by other researchers outside of the research group.

Besides other researchers, a majority of 60% of the winners discussed their research with national policy makers. An example of this is the quote of ORD4 above, who describes how the recommendations have been directly incorporated into policy documents. However, the survey results imply that even though the majority of the researchers was able to discuss their research with policy makers, this did often not directly lead to policy change. A potential explanation for this could be that there was no window of opportunity at government level at that moment. In other words, there could have been limited interest in the topic at government side or the timing of the research could have been inconvenient. Another

explanation could be that lobbying required more time and engagement. One survey respondent explains the lack of policy change as follows:

*“Influencing policy is highly relevant for me, but in my country, it is difficult to communicate with policy makers. I had a couple of meetings about my research with staff of the relevant Ministry to discuss. But in politics, things come and go, elections happened, people left the ministry and there is no concrete follow up.”*

– Survey respondent ORD5

However, none of the researchers discussed the research with private sector parties. Consequently, none of the researchers reported their research findings were used by private sector actors or by politicians to legitimize or criticize policies. None of the researchers received any international media coverage for their research. However, less than half of the winners did receive national media coverage on their research.

Interestingly, winning the ORD award has also changed policies and practice within the research institute itself, impacting the lives and futures of students or researchers. For example, through the research results of dr. Marco Agurto on the effects of mixing students with a scholarship with more wealthy students at a private university in Peru, the university was convinced to create mixed groups during their courses. This positively impacts future scholarship fellows studying at the university.

Another example of how research indirectly impacted beneficiaries on the ground is that of dr. Flora Chadare in Benin. She was able to build further on the GDN research she conducted on the nutritional value of native forest foods to boost food security in Benin. She followed up on the research with a project wherein the developed knowledge was promoted in rural Benin. Meaning, that together with her research team they went into the field to promote native foods that could improve nutrition status. During this process, she saw how the research directly impacted local community’s food security and the uptake of the promoted foods.

## 2.2.2 Results for development project award winners (MIDP & JSDF winners)

Results for individual winners and their respective organizations are presented in the same sections as they show strong correlation. However, significant differences are highlighted.

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### *Impact on individuals and organisations*

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#### **Winning the GDN grant has a positive effect on networking at national level and within the development and public sector.**

Winning the award leads to increased local collaborations within the development sector. All candidates experienced an increase in both collaborations with development organisations in their own country and in collaborations in multi-stakeholder initiatives. For over half of the participants, this was more than they had expected. Besides the development organisations, we see that the majority has experienced networking with national government agencies. For most of the participants this was as

expected or less than expected. An example of a government collaboration is how Mrs. Fakhira Najib from Power99 Foundation is collaborating with the ministry of education to scale up their radio-based education program to other districts within Pakistan. Also, the large majority of winners experienced collaboration with private sector parties, and over half of the participants indicates this is as expected or less than expected.

Many winners indicate that winning the GDN grant has given them the first opportunity to provide proof for their idea and showcase their idea in practice. Because of the innovative nature of the supported projects, development award winners oftentimes encountered difficulties to obtain funding for their concept before securing the GDN grant:

*“Usually, innovation is not looked at with a very good eye because of the fear of failure that always comes with innovation, but GDN is that organization, that is ready to support innovations.”*

– Dr. Dipayan Dey, MIDP & JSDF winner

The showcase for their project attracts other stakeholders and new collaborations. An example of this is George Onyango, from DADREG in Kenya, who stated:

*“They now look at us as professionals. They see that we can really make things happen on the ground.”*

- Mr. George Onyango, MIDP winner

However, the majority of the candidates does not experience any collaboration at all with development practitioners in foreign countries and with policy groups. Out of the winners that do experience this, for less than one third of the candidates this is less than they had expected. This finding implies that projects obtain more interest from local and national level organisations, than from organisations at international level. In general, the effects of winning the grant on networking are comparable at individual and organizational level.

#### **Winning an award has a strong positive effect on development of relevant skills and human capital at individual and organizational level.**

Findings show an overall positive impact of winning a development grant on the development of relevant personal abilities. Notably, all winners experience an increase in skills and human capital indicators, at both individual and organizational level. On all these abilities respondents assess their developments to be higher than they had expected. During the case study interviews, multiple winners mentioned in a positive way the trainings they received during their GDN award winning conference on for example presenting themselves and their project. The survey shows that winning the GDN award, gave winners the opportunity to develop relevant skills for project development, management, and promotion: All winners were able to develop their skills to communicate about their program more than expected. Also, their capacity to design and manage development programs increased more than expected for over two thirds of the participants. Winning the grant did lead to the recruitment of new competent staffs for all winning organisations, but for the majority this was as expected or less than expected.

*“After winning the MIDP award, our program received both national and international acknowledgment and visibility.”*

- Survey respondent JSDF3

### **Winning the grant leads to increased interest from other parties**

The large majority of the grant winners received an increased number of requests for information, requests to present about the project and for collaboration from other actors. Notably, in over three quarters of the cases this increased interest led to long term follow up funding for the project. These strong follow up effects ensure the sustainability of the award and its effects on the longer-term project impact. These effects are even stronger at organizational level than at individual level.

*“Winning the GDN award provided us with a platform. After this award, we received the UNDP award under the Aegis of Adaptation Fund window for scaling up of the project.”*

– Survey respondent JSDF2

### **Winning a development grant leads to winning follow up awards and grants for scaling up of the projects, but not to external career opportunities for the winners.**

Interestingly, the large majority of winners has won a follow up grant or award. Specific examples of other development awards that organisations have won are the Prince Talal International Prize and a UNDP award. These grants were used to scale up the project and build further on the MIDP project. Winners indicate how they were able to use the MIDP grant as a steppingstone, to bring their project into practice and ‘have something to show for’ for future funders. An example of this is survey respondent MIDP3, who stated: “[Winning the grant allowed us to] demonstrate and make visible our work on the ground and create Women farmer Groups to further scale our platform of Farmer Producer Companies.” However, winning the grant did not lead to new external career developments at individual level but did lead to more career opportunities within the organisation.

*“Winning the grant opened doors for us to collaborations and to winning other grants. Without the GDN award we would not have won the other award.”*

– Mr. George Onyango, MIDP winner

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### *Development impact*

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### **Winning projects strongly impacted knowledge development and capacity building of their beneficiaries.**

Out of the six development winners that filled in part two of the survey, we see that the total number of direct beneficiaries targeted is 13,502, consisting of 60% women and 40% men, and of adults (61%), youth (24%) and children (15%) children. Grant winners indicated that their project has ‘somewhat’ up to ‘a lot’ of impact on direct target beneficiaries. This impact is strongest for knowledge development and capacity building and is slightly lower for achieving behavioral change. In this case, direct beneficiaries are beneficiaries that participate directly in the project. Indirect beneficiaries are considered beneficiaries that are not direct target of activities but are indirectly affected by the activities with direct beneficiaries. It is interesting to note, that out of the 8 development grant winners that took part in this analysis, six grant winners focus on improving agricultural production, income and food security, while two projects focus on improving education and the lives of children and young people.

When asked what he sees as one of the main impacts of this project on climate resilience farming through float farming, Dr. Dipayan Dey from SAFE responded:

*“During the pandemic lockdown, we have also seen two super cyclones in this area. But even in the middle of all that, people had food to eat, people had livelihood means to sustain their lives. That is, I think, the most important impact that we have seen within this project.”*

- Dr. Dipayan Dey, MIDP & JSDF winner

**All winners had a platform to discuss their project and its results with development and private sector parties.** In terms of visibility and recognition, it is interesting to note that all winners presented their project at least once for private sector representatives and have discussed their work with NGOs. Meaning, all winners had a platform to discuss their project approach and its results in the private and development sector. In terms of media coverage, we see that less than half (40%) of the winners received national or international media coverage. The same proportion of winners presented their project at a national conference. When looking at development impact on policy development, results show that less than half of the winners discussed their project with national policy makers. However, of the winners that were able to present the project, some were able to influence policy. One example of this is DADREG. This organisation was invited to become part of the Nairobi City County food systems strategy. In this strategy they advised the Nairobi government on their strategy to use the small available spaces to grow food like fruits, vegetables and rear pigs and chicken.

**Impact of the winning projects went beyond direct project implementation, as most winning projects have been replicated or upscaled.**

In terms of uptake and change of behavior, there is an overall positive effect. Within the development sector, we see that over three quarter of the winners sees that their model has been replicated and has led to the creation of new projects or technologies. Oftentimes, projects are upscaled and replicated in another area by another development party. This is the case for survey respondent JSDF2: *“In 2020, UNDP replicated our approach in a neighboring region.”* The two quotes below illustrate how projects can be upscaled. These findings indicate that the MIDP project often functioned as a showcase to demonstrate an innovative approach. The MIDP grant allows winners to implement and pilot this innovative approach.

*“Winning the award totally changed our way of thinking. We realised that now we could do something that could be scaled up. Something we can sustain not only in Pakistan, but in the rest of the region as well.”*

- Mrs. Fakhira Najib, MIDP & JSDF winner

*“JAAGO Foundation successfully piloted a model for solarized online schools, that is being adopted by many other organisations.”*

- Mr. Korvi Rakshand, MIDP

The majority of the MIDP and JSDF winners experienced an increase in visibility and recognition within the development and private sector. Interestingly, outside of the development sector, we see that the majority of the winners have seen their research being used for lobby and advocacy purposes. There is also anecdotal evidence suggesting that government actors are replicating or adopting the project approaches.

*“Some practices and institutional models are adopted by government departments and agencies”.*

- Survey respondent MIDP

All winners were able to discuss their project at least once with private sector representatives. A large majority of 80% has seen her/his research used by private sector parties. More than half of the winners received national media coverage. These channels were used by the grant winners to upscale the impact of their project. Looking at the actual uptake and change in behavior that was achieved, there is a positive effect.

### 2.2.3 Reflections on the award-winning process and the follow up support

During the survey as well as the case study interviews, some attention was given to how the former winners reflected upon the trajectory of winning the award and the collaboration and support received afterwards. A selection of key findings is briefly summarised below:

#### The award ceremony

Most of the award winners have been invited by GDN to participate in an international conference, where the awards were handed out. All case study interviewees report this as a valuable experience for themselves and their projects. During this conference, the winners were able to build a strong network of both finalists and other interesting conference participants. As part of this event, the award winners received specific trainings on presenting their project and themselves. Especially the development project winners evaluated this positively.

*“The GDN award conference was a get together of change makers, which was really great.”*

- Mr. Korvi Rakshand, MIDP winner

#### Engagement and involvement

All award winners look back on a very positive collaboration with GDN. Development grant winners in general, but in particular the JSDF winners, appreciate the long-term involvement and engagement of GDN with their project. The exposure that GDN provides, together with the proactive involvement and level of flexibility and adaptation regarding project implementation, are particularly valued. When asked about potential improvements to the process, multiple development grant winners indicate they would have appreciated for GDN to visit their project and see with their own eyes what they have contributed to. Also, most winners indicate that they would like to remain more involved in the GDN network now that their project has ended.

#### Mentorship trajectory

Both the JSDF development grant winners and the ORD research grant winners have been appointed a mentor by GDN. When asked about the mentorship process, mixed results are reported. In general, all winners are positive about the general concept of having a mentor appointed to support them during their project implementation journey. However, the specific mentor they got appointed strongly

influenced their assessment. Research grant winners appeared to be more positive about their mentors than development grant winners. One of the key findings seems to be that the level of knowledge on local culture, local context and the project topic in the specific location, are key factors determining the success and contribution of a coach to the (development) project. If this was in place, mentors were evaluated very positively. Whilst at the same time, this was also one of the main points for improvement that was mentioned.



### 3. Conclusions and recommendations

#### 3.1 Conclusions

Looking at the results from this study, we see that there is a predominantly positive impact for both award types. However, we also see there is room for improvement in some respects. Reflecting back on the impact pathways presented in the methodology section, the figure below visualizes the impact per impact pathway step. Scores can range from ++ (very positive), + (positive), +/- (neutral or slightly positive).

**Research Award Impact Pathway – with outcome and impact score**

| Output   | Immediate outcome   | Final Outcome  | Targeted impact   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GDN funded paper</li><li>• Participation in GDN conference</li></ul> | <p>For the researcher:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Professional network +/-</li><li>• Research skills +</li></ul>                 | <p>For the researcher:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publications +</li><li>• Follow up funding +/-</li><li>• Career advancement ++</li></ul>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visibility and recognition ++</li><li>• High quality research +</li><li>• Uptake within and beyond research community +/-</li></ul> |
|  | <p>For the research institution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Influence and Partnerships +</li><li>• Management skills +</li></ul> | <p>For the research institution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publications +</li><li>• Follow-up funding +</li><li>• Improved opportunities +</li></ul> |   |
| <p>External influences increasing, attribution more complex</p>  |   |  |   |

**Development Award Impact Pathway – with outcome and impact score**

| Development World Impact Pathway - with outcomes and impact score  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| Output   | Immediate outcome  | Final Outcome  | Targeted impact   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GDN funded project</li><li>• Participation in GDN conference</li></ul> | For the individual winner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Professional network +</li><li>• Program management skills ++</li></ul> | For the individual winner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow up funding ++</li><li>• Career advancement +/-</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visibility and recognition +</li><li>• Uptake within and beyond development practice ++</li><li>• Number of beneficiaries +</li></ul> |
|  | For the NGO: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Influence and Partnerships +</li><li>• Management skills ++</li></ul>                 | For the NGO: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow-up funding ++</li><li>• Improved opportunities +</li></ul>             |   |
| <div>➡ External influences increasing, attribution more complex ➡</div>  |  |  |   |

As is reflected in the table, positive effects on research organisations are stronger than the effect on individual winners. For the development grant winners, effects at organization level and individual level are similar in overall strength but vary per indicator. Combining the presented data and results, the following conclusions emerge:

**Overall:**

- Participating in the GDN awards, provides winners with new experiences, knowledge and project-related skill development.
- Winners in both categories are able to use winning of the prestigious award to boost their career paths, either through winning follow up grants or through making individual career moves.
- Effects and impacts are stronger within the winner's own field of work – meaning in academia or in development - than with other actors.

**Specific for research grant winners:**

- The GDN award and the conference provide the ORD candidates with a platform and relevant exposure that boosts their personal career paths.
- Research grant winners experience challenges in building a strong network outside of academia. This network and the outreach is crucial to extend the uptake and impact of the research beyond academics.
- Research grant winners face challenges to effectively communicate about their project and acquire follow up funding from other actors.
- Quality of the published research paper varies, but all papers have a strong context-specific relevance and policy links. The papers are used and cited by other researchers. Even though the papers are policymaker focused, the uptake by government actors and shaping of policies is below expectations.
- The GDN mentorship program improves both the researcher's skills and the quality of the research article. The expertise and local embeddedness of the mentor determines the level of impact.

**Specific for development grant winners:**

- The development impact of the GDN awards, stretches far beyond the direct beneficiaries of the winning projects. The awarded programs demonstrate innovative methods that are often replicated and upscaled by other actors and in new geographies.
- Development grant winners often manage to secure follow up grants and prizes, following the GDN award.
- The GDN award allows the development grant winners to have exposure to and build a network with international development and private sector parties. However, linkages with government and their programs could be developed further as to facilitate upscaling and policy change.

## 3.2 Recommendations to GDN

Following the conclusions presented above, the following recommendations:

- Leverage the top-notch network of 400+ previous GDN award winners to strengthen current award winners' impact. Bring more senior previous grant winners in contact with more recent winners within the same expertise or geography to foster an exchange, network or a community of practice.
- Improve skill development of ORD winners regarding communication, networking and acquisition of funding through trainings and work sessions.
- Facilitate networking and exchange between winners and key actors outside of their work field. Set up national or regional meetings focused on specific project topics. For development projects, this could even include a real-life exchange between close-by relevant or related projects. If desired, GDN staff could also participate in these field visits.
- Explore ways to strengthen linkages of winners with policy actors and increase impact through policy implications. This could be through trainings on policy briefs and government engagement or through the engagement of government actors earlier in the process so that research or projects can provide relevant inputs.
- Ensure that appointed mentors have both the content as well as local context background, as to maximize their positive impact. A combination of needs assessment among winners, expectation management on both sides and an early review of the mentorship might be helpful to avoid potential mismatches.
- Continue investing in the GDN awards to remain the prestigious development institute with strong global reputation, that winners profit from as to maximize their and your impact worldwide.

## **Appendices**

Annex 1 – Impact survey report

Annex 2 – Research Quality Analysis report

Annex 3 – Case study report

# Annex I

# Impact survey results

GDN Impact study – update 2022

aidenvironment

# Introduction

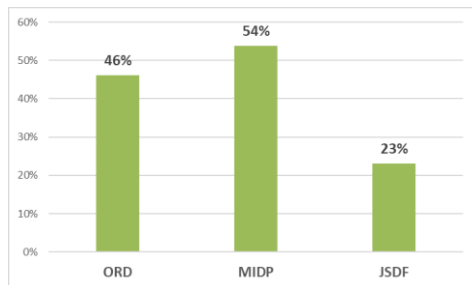
In 2016, Aidenvironment conducted a study to assess the impact of winning a GDN grant on the winners, their organization and their work field for winners from 2000-2015. As per February 2022, GDN requested Aidenvironment to conduct a follow up of this study, covering the years 2015-2018. For this reason, this update study is based on a slightly adapted research methodology of 2016. The assessment consists of three methods: 1) impact survey, 2) Research Quality Analysis and 3) impact case studies.

This survey report covers the results of two surveys that have been administered: 1) ORD survey focused on research projects and 2) MIDP & JSDF survey focused on development projects. The surveys consist of two components:

| 1. Individual and organisational impact | 2. Development impact                                 |
|---|---|
| Networking                              | Visibility and recognition                            |
| Skill and human capital                 | Uptake and change of behavior                         |
| Sustainability                          | Impact data (beneficiaries & impact on beneficiaries) |
| Career advancement and recognition      |   |

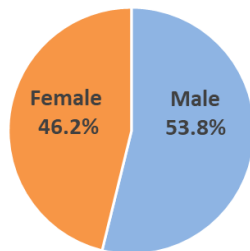
This is an attachment to the impact study report developed for GDN by Aidenvironment. This document details respondent characteristics, summarizes key findings per (sub)topic and shows the raw data collected per question.

# Respondent characteristics



## Participation of grant winners

Out of the total of 17 GDN award winners in the years 2015 up to 2018, 13 participated in this survey. This amounts to a response rate of 76.5%. This sample consists of 6 ORD winners (46%) and 7 MIDP winners (54%). Out of these 7 MIDP winners, 3 respondents also won a JSDF grant (23%).

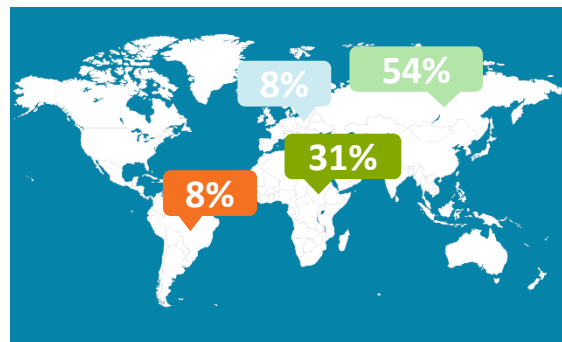


## Gender

More than half of the participants, 53.8% was male, while 46.2% of the participants was female. This is comparable with the gender division among all GDN award winners.

## Project role

Of the MIDP winners 86% indicates to be project director and 14% is project member. Of the ORD research grant winners, 100% of the respondents is the principal investigator of the research project.



## Country of citizenship

The regional distribution of respondents gave a proportional representation of origins of winners over the years. 54% of the respondents were located in an Asian country, 31% in Africa, 8% in Latin America and 8% in Europe.

# Summary

## 1. Overall

- Positive impact of winning GDN award: Overall there is a positive impact of winning one of the GDN grants on both dimensions
- Difference between development and research awards: In general, impact scores of MIDP/JSDF winners are higher than those of ORD winners.

## 2.1 Individual and organisational impact

### Networking

In general, the effects of winning the grant on networking are positive and comparable at individual and organizational level. MIDP and JSDF winners experience more than expected collaborations with development organisations in their own country and within multi-stakeholder initiatives. However, candidates experience less than expected or no collaboration with organisations in foreign countries, policy groups and private sector. ORD winners experience less networking and collaborations with relevant stakeholders than they had expected. Especially collaborations with actors outside of academia such as private sector, government and NGOs are lower than expected.

### Skill and human capital

There is a strong positive effect of winning award on skills and human capital development. All MIDP and JSDF winners experience an increase in all skills and human capital indicators, at both individual and organizational level. Winners were especially able to develop their skills to communicate about their program and generate new funding. Their capacity to design and manage development programs also increased more than expected. Only, winning the grant did not increase the ability to attract new competent staff members for the organisations. **For ORD winners** the research-specific skills of developed, especially the ability to find new research themes scored highest. However, development of the skills to communicate and promote the project, collaborate with others in the project and to acquire new funding all scored below average.



# Summary

## 2.2 Individual and organisational impact

### **Sustainability**

Winning the grant led to increased interest from other parties for MIDP and JSDF winners. The large majority of the grant winners received requests for information, requests to present about the project and for collaboration from other actors. This increased interest often led to long term follow up funding for the project. For ORD winners, winning the award leads to more attention, invitations and publications, but does not necessarily materialize in additional funding at individual. For the organisation however, a large majority has won other grants or awards and saw an increase in funding. Increase in sustainable developments seem to be experienced more stronger at organisational level than at individual level.

### **Career advancement and recognition**

Interestingly, the large majority of winners has won a follow up grant or awards. Specific examples of other development awards that organisations have won are the Prince Talal International Prize and a UNDP award. Winning the grant did not lead to new external career developments at individual level, but not to more career opportunities within the organisation.

For ORD winners this is different: a large majority has made promotion within her/his organisation or experienced international career opportunities. Only half of the participants experienced a career opportunity in own country or won another grant.

# Summary

## 3. Development impact

Majority of the MIDP and JSDF winners experienced an increase in visibility and recognition within the development and private sector. All winners were able to discuss their project at least once with private sector representatives and NGOs. More than half of the winners received national media coverage. These channels were used by the grant winners to upscale the impact of their project.

Looking at the actual uptake and change in behavior that was achieved, there is a positive effect. The majority of the winners has seen their model being replicated within the development sector, this has led to the creation of new projects or technologies. Interestingly, outside of the development sector, we see that the majority of the winners have seen their research being used for lobby and advocacy purposes. A large majority of 80% has seen her/his research used by private sector parties. Less than half of the winners (40%) has indicated to have been involved in national follow up projects or that the research has been used to legitimize or criticize policies.

Out of the six development projects that filled in part two of the survey, we see that the total number of direct beneficiaries is 13,502, consisting of 60% women and 40% men, and of adults (61%), youth (24%) and children (15%) children.

Grant winners indicated that their project has somewhat – a lot of impact on direct target beneficiaries. This impact is strongest for knowledge development and capacity building, and is slightly lower on behavioral change.

# Individual and organizational impact among development award winners (MIDP & JSDF)

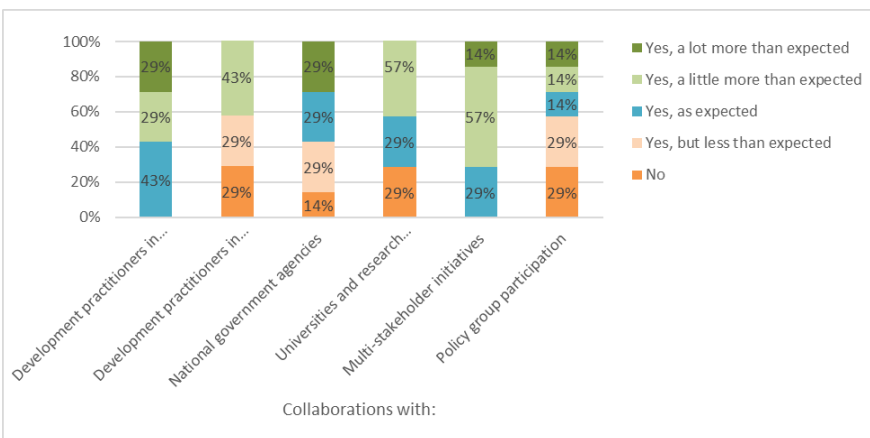
# Individual and organizational impact – development projects

## 2.1 Networking at individual level

Did you experience the following personal developments, during or within five years after the grant period?

Key points:

- Findings show an overall positive effect of winning the grant on networking with other actors and stakeholders in the landscape.
- Participants experienced most positive impact on collaborations with development practitioners in their country (average 3.86) and within multi-stakeholder initiatives (average 3.86). These positive effects are experienced by all participants and are on average a little more than they expected.
- At the same time, participants experience less than expected collaboration with development practitioners in foreign countries (average 2.57) and participation in policy groups (average 2.57). The majority of 58% of respondents either does not experience these collaborations at all (29%) or less than expected (29%).



| Average                                      |              |
|--|--------------|
| Networking actor                             | impact score |
| Development practitioners in your country    | 3.86         |
| Multi-stakeholder initiatives                | 3.86         |
| National government agencies                 | 3            |
| Universities and research institutes         | 2.86         |
| Policy group                                 | 2.57         |
| Development practitioners in foreign country | 2.57         |

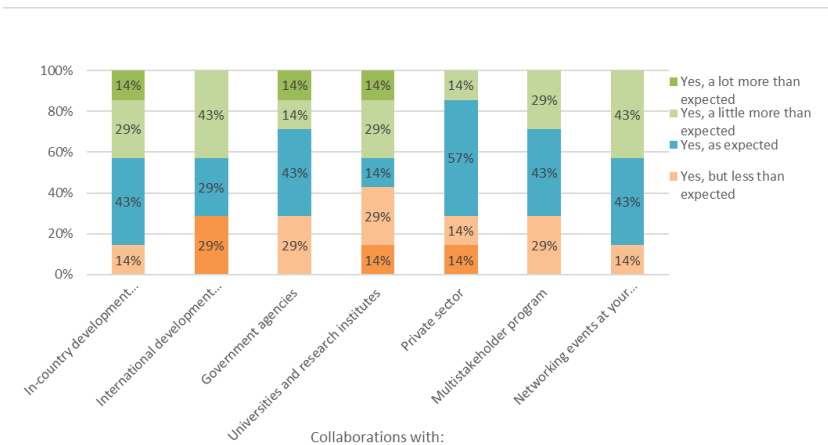
# Individual and organizational impact – development projects

## 2.2 Networking at organisational level

Did your organisation experience the following developments, during or within five years after the grant period?

### Key points:

- Findings show an overall positive effect on collaborations and participation in initiatives with other stakeholders in the landscape.
- Networking at individual level is experienced more than at organisational level. The type of networking actors are comparable; collaboration with development organisations in your country also scores highest (average 3.43) and with development organisations in other countries scores relatively lower (average 2.86).
- The organisation where the MIDD or JSDF winner works, has more networking events at the organisation (average 3.29) than expected.
- Collaboration with private sector is less than expected at an average of 2.71.



| Networking actor                             | Average score |
|--|---------------|
| Development organisations in your country    | 3.43          |
| Networking events at your organisation       | 3.29          |
| Government agencies                          | 3.14          |
| Multistakeholder programs                    | 3.00          |
| University of research institute             | 3.00          |
| Development organisations in other countries | 2.86          |
| Private sector                               | 2.71          |

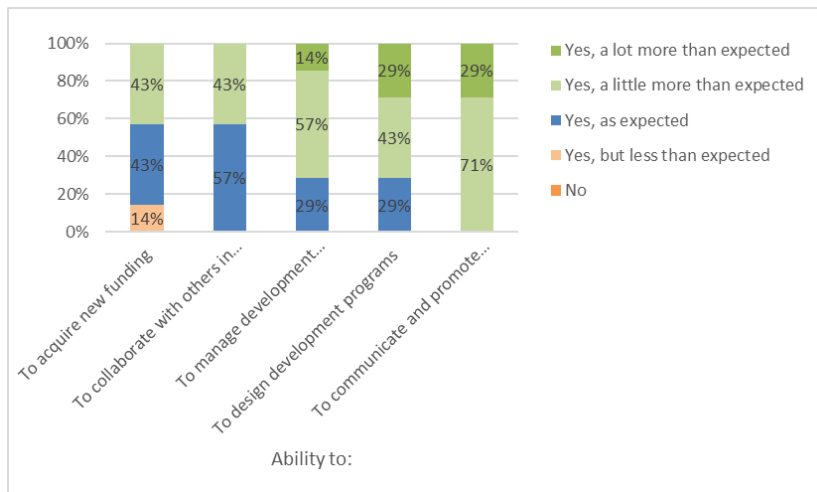
# Individual and organizational impact – development projects

## 2.3 Skill and human capital at individual level

Did you experience developments in the following personal abilities, during or within five years after the grant period?

### Key points:

- Findings show a strong positive effect of winning a MIDP or JSDF grant on the development of relevant personal abilities. Interestingly, on all abilities respondents assess their developments to be higher than expected (score > 3).
- All participants experience an increase in all five personal abilities.
- MIDP & JSDF participants experienced most positive impact on their ability to communicate and promote their projects and / or organisation (average 4.29) and their ability to design (average 4.00) development programs.



| Type of ability  | Average score |
|--|---------------|
| Ability to acquire new funding                                       | 3.29          |
| Ability to collaborate with others in your projects                  | 3.43          |
| Ability to manage development programmes or projects                 | 3.86          |
| Ability to design development programs                               | 4.00          |
| Ability to communicate and promote your projects and/or organization | 4.29          |

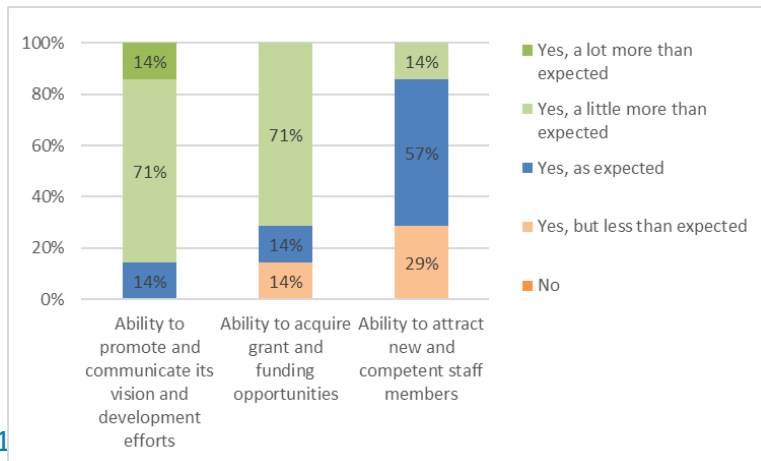
# Individual and organizational impact – development projects

## 2.4 Skill and human capital at organisational level

Did your organization experience developments in the following abilities, during or within five years after the grant period?

### Key points:

- Winning the grant did increase the organisation's ability to acquire new grant opportunities (71%) and to promote and communicate on its work (81%) more than expected.
- However, winning the award did not increase the organisation's ability to attract new and competent staff members as much as expected (average 2.86). Only 14% assessed this as more than expected.
- Interestingly, the effects of skill and human capital development are higher at individual level than at organisational level.



| Type of ability   | Average score |
|---|---------------|
| Ability to promote and communicate its vision and development efforts | 4.00          |
| Ability to acquire grant and funding opportunities                    | 3.57          |
| Attract new and competent staff members                               | 2.86          |

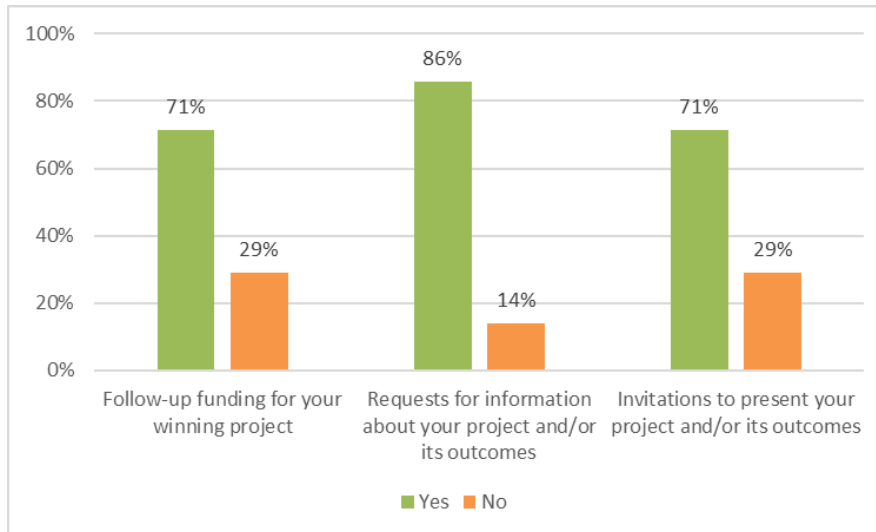
# Individual and organizational impact – development projects

## 2.5 Sustainability at individual level

Did you experience the following follow-up effects, within five years after winning the grant?

Key points:

- The majority of the participants experiences all three follow up effects after winning the GDN award.
- Winning the grant particularly led to increased interest from other actors and therefore higher amount of request of information about the project (86%). Accordingly, 71% of the grant winners was asked to present about the project. This increased interest led to 71% of the grant winners receiving follow up funding for their project.
- These results indicate strong follow up effects, guaranteeing the sustainability the effects of winning the award and its effects on the longer term.





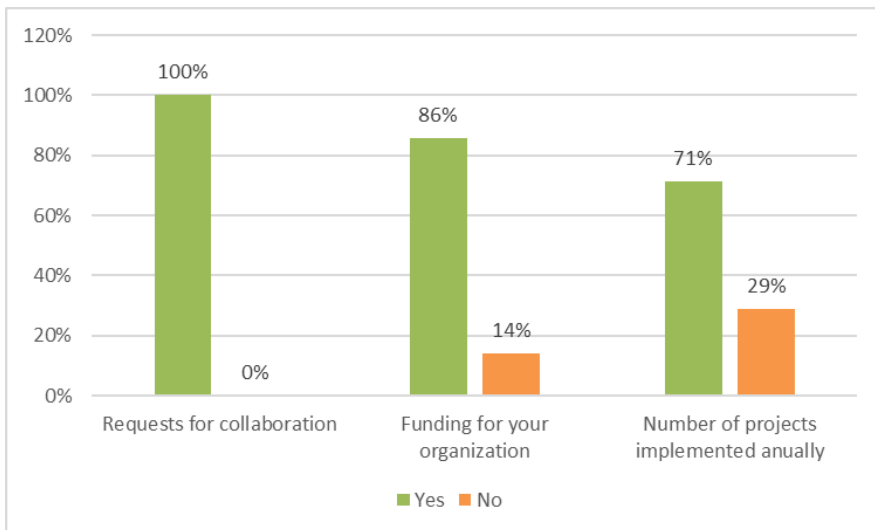
# Individual and organizational impact – development projects

## 2.6 Sustainability at organisational level

Did your organization experience an increase in the following within five years after winning the grant?

Key points:

- Interestingly, the effects on sustainability of the work at organisational level are even stronger than the effects at individual level.
- Winning a grant leads to increased requests for collaboration. Notably, all winning organisations (100%) indicate they have received more requests for collaboration after winning the GDN grant.
- In addition, a large majority (86%) indicates they have experienced an increase in funding for the organisation. A majority of 71% of the winners experiences an increase in number of projects that are implemented on annual basis.



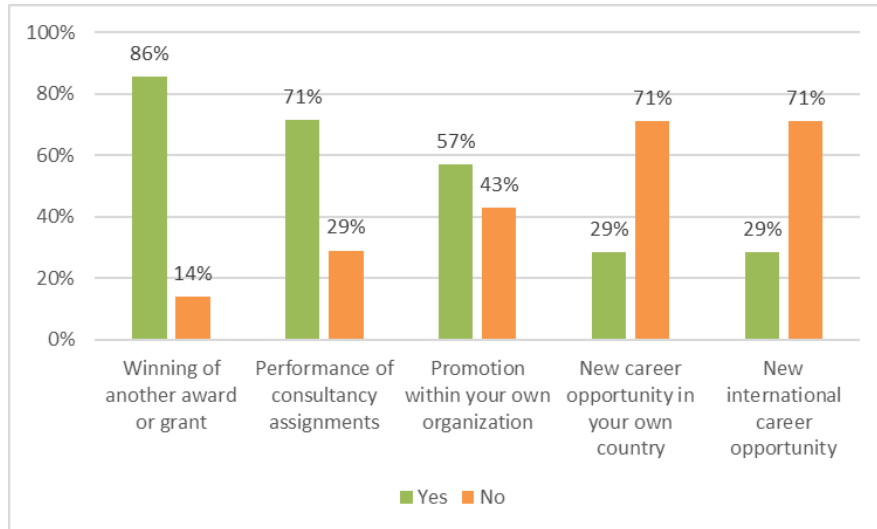
# Individual and organizational impact – development projects

## 2.7 Career advancement and recognition at individual level

**Did your organisation experience the following developments, during or within five years after the grant period?**

Key points:

- When looking at career advancement opportunities and recognition, it is noteworthy that the large majority of the participants has won another grant or award (86%) or was asked to perform consultancy assignments (71%).
- However, in the majority of the cases winning the grant did not directly lead to new career opportunities (71%), at both national and international level.



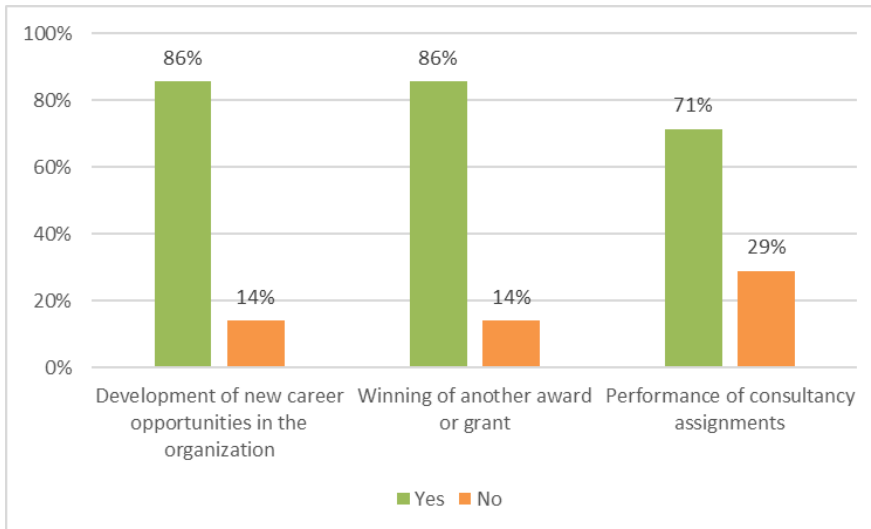
# Individual and organizational impact – development projects

## 2.8 Career advancement and recognition at organisational level

Did your organisation experience the following developments, during or within five years after the grant period?

Key points:

- Overall, the effects of winning the grant on career advancement and recognition are more positive on organisational level than on individual level.
- Especially winning another grant (86%, same as individual level) and development of new career opportunities within the organisation (86%, higher than 29% at individual level) score high. A potential explanation for the latter difference could be that new career opportunities are mainly created within the winning organisation and/or that winning the grant has enabled organisations to hire new staff.
- Performance of consultancy assignments is at the same level as at individual level and experienced by 71% of the winners.



# Individual and organizational impact – development projects

## 2.9 Comments – MIDP & JSDF

**Describe the most valuable thing that happened to you or your organization as a result of winning the award:**

### Quotes:

As most valuable thing that happened, a substantial part of the winners mentioned winning a follow up grant to upscale their program, for example:

*“Our organisation was able to win Prince Talal International Prize, after we won the GDN award.” – MIDP 2*

*“Winning the GDN award provided us with the platform. After this award, we received the UNDP award under the Aegis of Adaptation Fund window for scaling up of the project.” – JSDF 2*

Others named the outreach and platform they got as a result of winning the award:

*“After winning the MIDP award, our program received both national and international acknowledgment and visibility.” – JSDF 3*

*“GDN Awards has opened many doors of learning, funding partnership and benefits to beneficiaries of the projects.” – MIDP1*

Or regarded their specific project impact as the most valuable thing that happened:

*“This award made us realize the impact that we can make with little changes.” – MIDP 3*

*“[Winning the grant allowed us to] demonstrate visible work on the ground and create Women farmer Groups and further scale our platform of Farmer Producer Company.” – JSDF 1*

# Individual and organisational impact among research award winners (ORD)

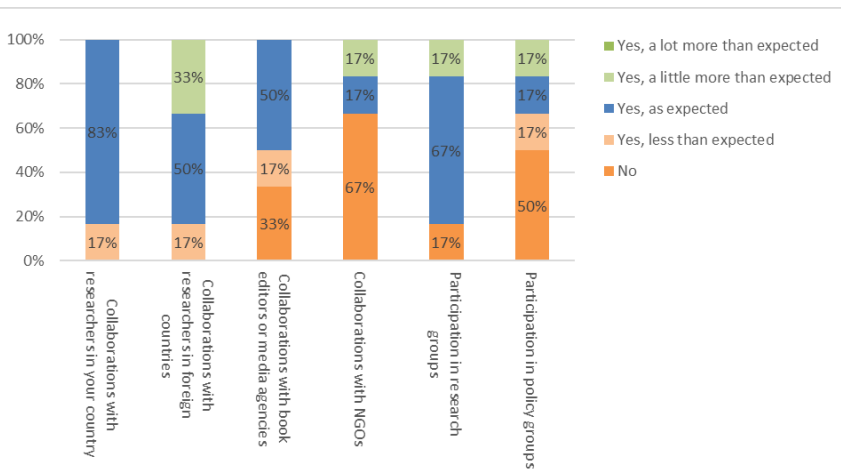
# Individual and organisational impact – research projects

## 2.1 Networking at individual level

Did you experience the following personal developments, during or within five years after the grant period?

### Key points:

- Findings show that overall the networking with actors in the landscape after winning an ORD award is experienced less than expected at individual level.
- Collaborations with researchers in foreign countries (average 3.17) was experienced a little more than expected. One third of the winners indicates they experienced this more than expected.
- Especially collaboration with actors outside of academia, such as with NGOs (average 1.83, not experienced by 67% of the winners), government policy groups (2.00, not experienced by 50%) and with book editors and media agencies (2.17, not experienced by 33%) scored low.



| Networking actor                                     | Average score |
|--|---------------|
| Collaborations with researchers in foreign countries | 3.17          |
| Collaborations with researchers in your country      | 2.83          |
| Participation in research groups                     | 2.50          |
| Collaborations with book editors or media agencies   | 2.17          |
| Participation in policy groups                       | 2.00          |
| Collaborations with NGOs                             | 1.83          |

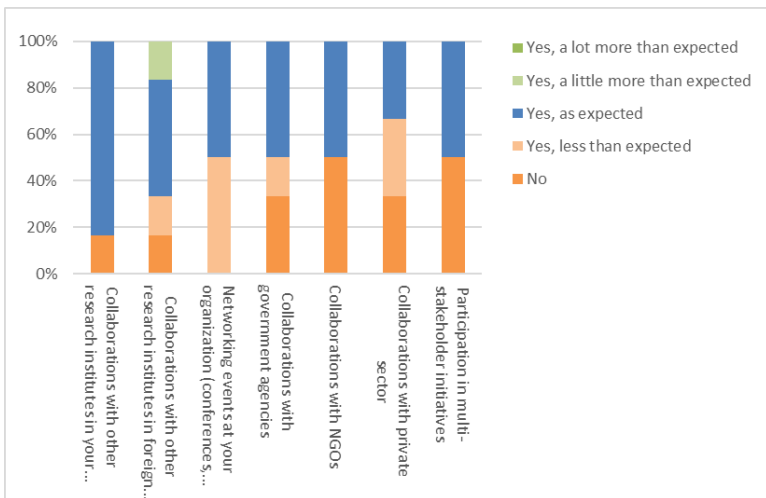
# Individual and organisational impact – research projects

## 2.2 Networking at organisational level

Did your organisation experience the following developments, during or within five years after the grant period?

### Key points:

- Findings show that overall organisations experienced less networking than expected with relevant actors than expected in the five years following their ORD award.
- Indicators are relatively comparable with those at individual level: Collaboration with NGOs (average 2.00), private sector (average 2.00), multi-stakeholder initiatives (average 2.00) and government agencies (average 2.17) score on average lowest, lower than expected.
- Interestingly, collaborations within academia, such as with other research institutes in the country (average 2.67) or in foreign countries (average 2.67) and networking events at your organisation (average 2.50), are experienced by the large majority, but mostly score as expected or below expected.



| Networking actor   | Average score |
|--|---------------|
| Collaborations with other research institutes in your country      | 2.67          |
| Collaborations with other research institutes in foreign countries | 2.67          |
| Networking events at your organization                             | 2.50          |
| Collaborations with government agencies                            | 2.17          |
| Collaborations with NGOs   | 2.00          |
| Collaborations with private sector                                 | 2.00          |
| Participation in multi-stakeholder initiatives                     | 2.00          |

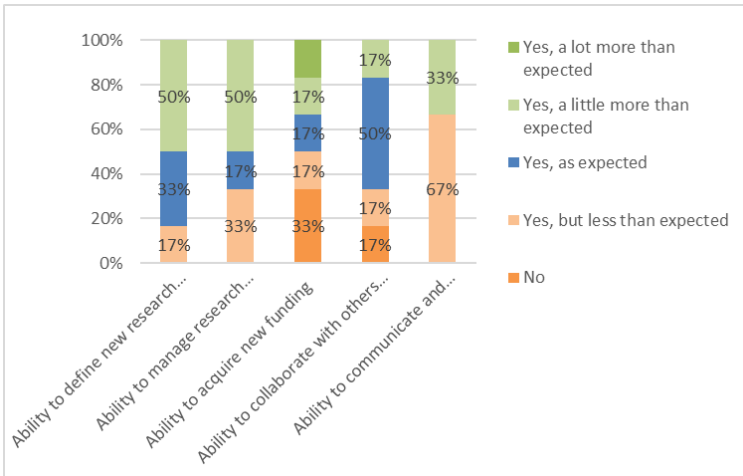
# Individual and organizational impact – research projects

## 2.3 Skill and human capital at individual level

Did you experience developments in the following personal abilities, during or within five years after the grant period?

### Key points:

- The research-specific skills of ORD winners developed: Especially the ability to find new research themes scored highest and was experienced more than expected (50%) or as expected (34%) by the participants. Also, all participants experienced an increase in the ability to manage research projects and 50% of the participants experienced this more than they had expected.
- However, development of the skills to communicate and promote the project, collaborate with others in the project an to acquire new funding all scored below average (2.67). The ability to communicate about the project was experienced less than expected by two thirds (67%) of the respondents.



| Type of ability  | Average score |
|--|---------------|
| Ability to define new research themes                                  | 3.33          |
| Ability to manage research programmes or projects                      | 3.17          |
| Ability to acquire new funding   | 2.67          |
| Ability to collaborate with others in your projects                    | 2.67          |
| Ability to communicate and promote your research and research findings | 2.67          |



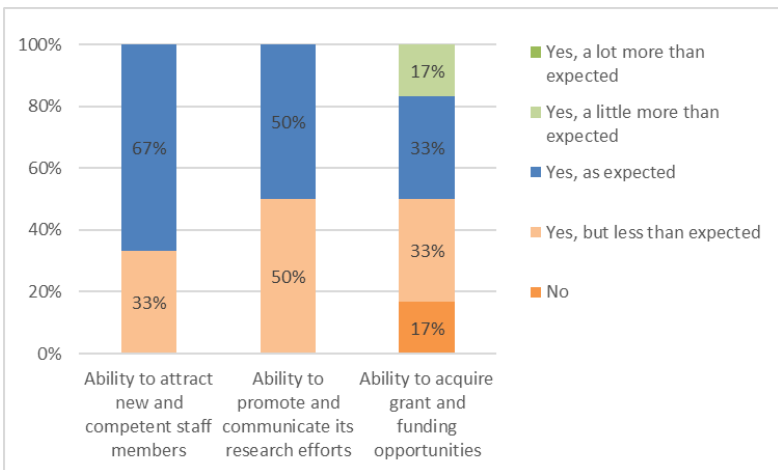
# Individual and organizational impact – research projects

## 2.4 Skill and human capital at organisational level

Did your organization experience developments in the following abilities, during or within five years after the grant period?

### Key points:

- All organisations experienced a development in the ability to attract new competent staff members and to promote and communicate its research findings. Regarding the attraction of new staff, 67% of the winners indicate this was as expected and 33% indicates this was less than expected. For the ability to promote and communicate on the research, this division is 50%-50%.
- Winning the award did not lead to new grant opportunities for 17% of the winners, 33% experienced less development than expected, 33% as expected and 17% higher than expected.



| Type of ability   | Average score |
|---|---------------|
| Ability to attract new and competent staff members      | 2.67          |
| Ability to promote and communicate its research efforts | 2.50          |
| Ability to acquire grant and funding opportunities      | 2.50          |

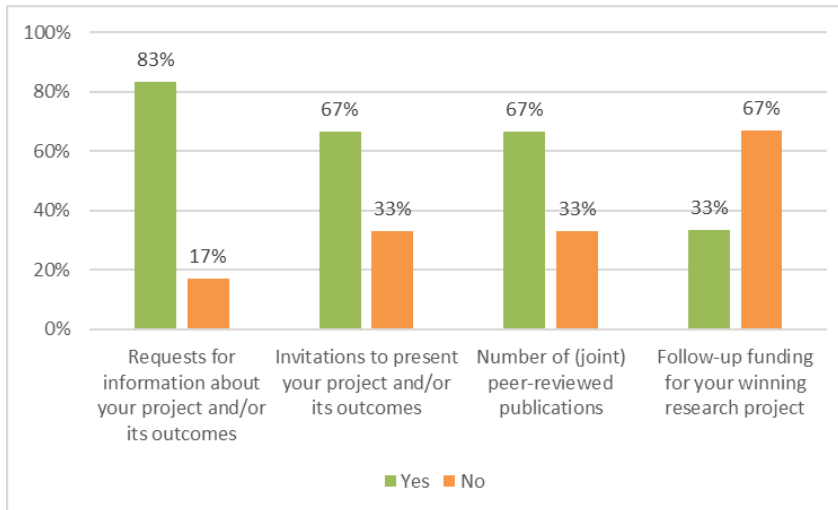
# Individual and organizational impact – research projects

## 2.5 Sustainability at individual level

Did you experience the following follow-up effects, within five years after winning the grant?

Key points:

- A large majority of 83% of the winners has received requests for information on the project, a majority of 67% has received invitations to present his or her project and has had peer-reviewed publications.
- However, follow up funding was only experienced by 33% of the winners.
- These findings indicate that even though winning the ORD award leads to more attention, invitations and publications, this does not necessarily materialize in additional funding.



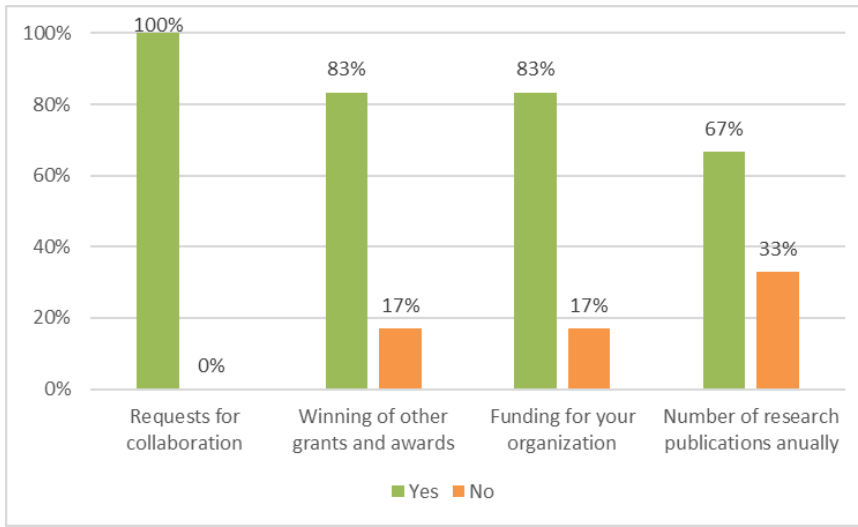
# Individual and organizational impact – research projects

## 2.6 Sustainability at organisational level

Did your organization experience an increase in the following within five years after winning the grant?

Key points:

- At organisation level, we see that all winners experience an increase in requests for collaborations (100%).
- A large majority of the organisations has won other grants and awards (83%) and saw an increase in funding for the organisation (83%). Especially the latter is interesting since this contrasts with the individual level result of 33% additional funding. A potential explanation for this could be that increased funding is not experienced by the individual researcher for the specific research topic, but organisation-wide more funding is attracted (outside of the research topic) due to exposure through the GDN grant.
- An increase in sustainable developments seems to be experienced stronger at organisational level than at individual level.



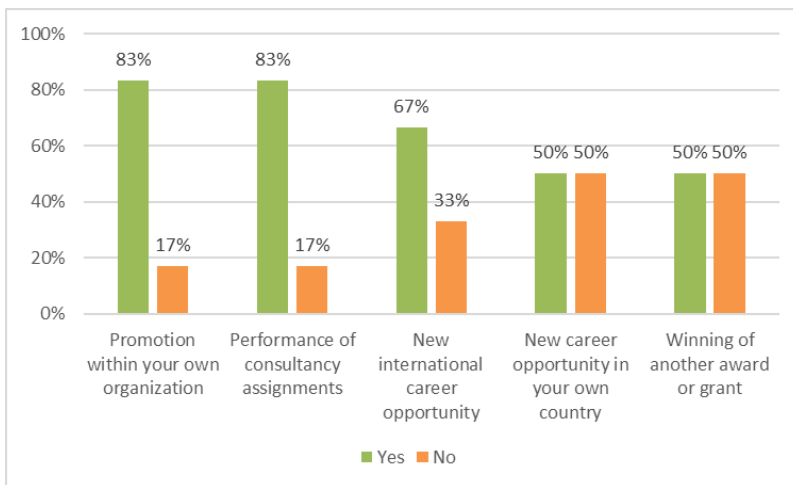
# Individual and organizational impact – research projects

## 2.7 Career advancement and recognition at individual level

Did your organisation experience the following developments, during or within five years after the grant period?

### Key points:

- When looking at career advancement and recognition, we see that a large majority of 83% has made promotion within her/his organisation. Also, 83% of the winners has been asked to perform consultancy assignments.
- The majority (67%) experienced a new international career opportunity in the first five years after winning the grant.
- However, only half of the participants (50%) experienced a career opportunity in own country, similarly 50% won another grant.
- Interestingly, more participants experienced an international career opportunity than a national career opportunity.



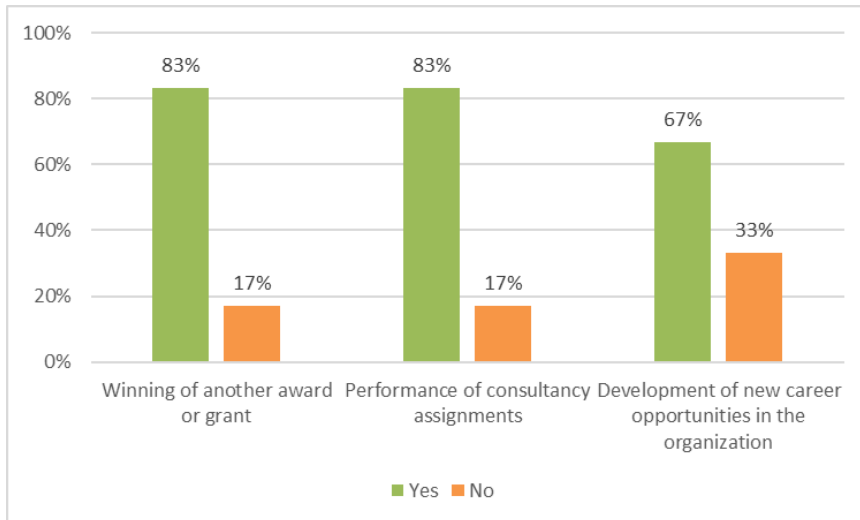
# Individual and organizational impact – research projects

## 2.8 Career advancement and recognition at organisational level

Did your organisation experience the following developments, during or within five years after the grant period?

Key points:

- At organisation level, we see that the large majority of the winners' organisations won another award or grant (83%) after the ORD award. This percentage is higher than the 50% reported at individual level, indicating that the organisation won grants and awards for other research projects as well.
- The same percentage of 83% was asked to conduct consultancy assignments, this number is equal to the individual level score.
- Of the organisations, 67% experienced an increase in development of new career opportunities within the organisation.



# Individual and organizational impact – research projects

## 2.9 Comments – ORD

Describe the most valuable thing that happened to you or your organization as a result of winning the award:

### Quotes:

As one of the most valuable things that happened after winning the ORD grant, winners mentioned the grant enabled them to enter a new research field:

*“After winning the grant, I got engaged into research related to social inclusion.” – ORD1*

Others mentioned the experience and recognition that it brought to them:

*“Experience in grant writing, collaborations with related stakeholders, recognition in my organization.” – ORD4*

Or named the fieldwork and project management skills they gained:

*“At an individual level, the nuances of field based survey research and associated challenges were identified and the management of projects was enhanced.” – ORD6*

# Development impact

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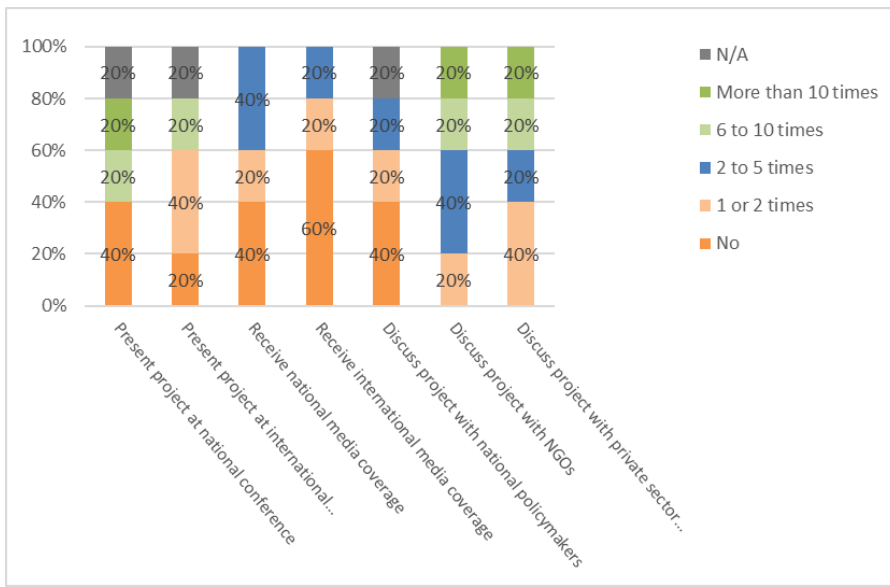
# 3. Development impact – development projects

## 3.1 Visibility and recognition

Did any of the following take place within five years after the grant period?

Key points:

- Especially visibility and recognition within the development sector was experienced by a majority of the winners.
- All winners (100%) presented their project at least once with private sector representatives and have discussed their work with NGOs.
- More than half (60%) of the winners did receive national media coverage.
- Only 40% of the winners received international media coverage, discussed their project with national policy makers or presented their project at a national conference.





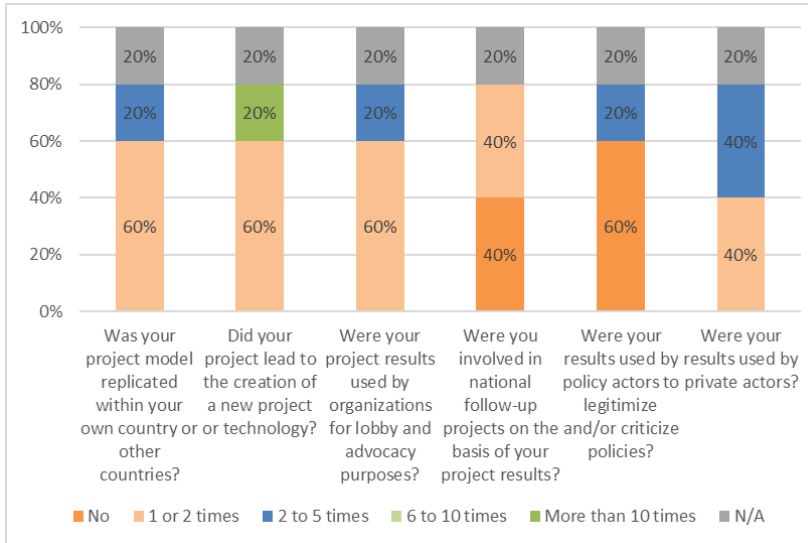
# 3. Development impact – development projects

## 3.2 Uptake and change of behavior

Did any of the following take place within five years after the grant period?

Key points:

- In terms of uptake and change of behavior, there is an overall positive effect. Within the development sector, we see that the majority of the winners indicate that their model has been replicated, has led to the creation of new projects or technologies.
- Interestingly, outside of the development sector, we see that the majority of the winners have seen their research being used for lobby and advocacy purposes. A large majority of 80% has seen her/his research used by private sectors.
- A minority (40%) has indicated to have been involved in national follow up projects or that the research has been used to legitimize or criticize policies.

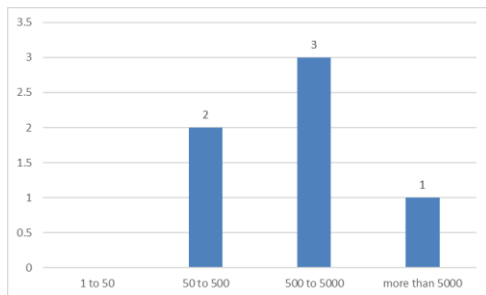


## 3. Development impact – development projects

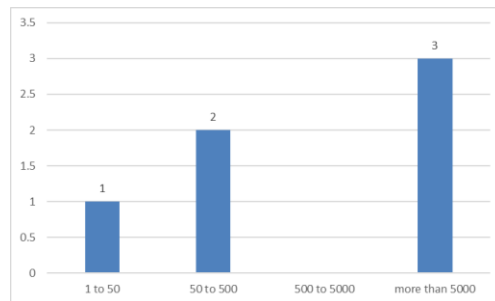
### 3.3 Impact data

The total number of direct beneficiaries for six projects is 13,502, consisting of 60% women and 40%. Most projects focus on adults (61%), then on youth (24%) and 15% of the beneficiaries are children. Total numbers do not add up to 100% because there is overlap between youth and children. The total number of indirect beneficiaries for six projects is a lot higher, and adds up to 2,039,784. Of these beneficiaries 46% is female and 54% is male. The majority of indirect beneficiaries is adult (79%), then youth (35%) and only 20% are children.

Direct beneficiaries



Indirect beneficiaries



Disaggregated by gender:

|          | Total               | Female           | Male               |
|----------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Direct   | 13,502<br>(100%)    | 8,101<br>(60%)   | 5,400<br>(40%)     |
| Indirect | 2,039,784<br>(100%) | 938,300<br>(46%) | 1,101,483<br>(54%) |

Disaggregated by age group:

|          | Total               | Adult (>18)        | Children (0-18)  | Youth (18-24)    |
|----------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Direct   | 13,502<br>(100%)    | 8,187<br>(61%)     | 1,990<br>(15%)   | 3,220<br>(24%)   |
| Indirect | 2,039,784<br>(100%) | 1,611,429<br>(79%) | 407,957<br>(20%) | 713,924<br>(35%) |

## 3. Development impact – development projects

### 3.3 Impact data

The grant winners indicated that the overall impact of their project on their direct target beneficiaries is between ‘somewhat’ and ‘very much’ (average 4.4). Looking at how the project impacts its beneficiaries, we see that impact has a strong effect on the levels of knowledge (average 4.2) and capacities and skills (average 4.2) of the beneficiaries. The effect of the project on behavioral change of the target population is assessed slightly lower at 3.8 on average. Some anecdotal evidence of why winners assessed their impact on the below components:

#### Knowledge increase (score 4.2)

*“The participants obtained knowledge on how to set up a business, how to manage savings and on how to get access to credit.” – MIDP2*

*“Beneficiaries mainly developed their expertise on float-farming and aquafarming; on solar micro-irrigation and how to engineer this.” – JSDF2*

#### Capacity & skill increase (score 4.2)

*“Increased their capacity to produce vegetables, like tomato, pepper and garlic.” – MIDP4*

*“The capacity to apply regenerative agriculture and make use of crop calendaring and participatory crop planning.” – JSDF2*

#### Behavioral change (score 3.8)

*“It led to more gender equality, we now have equal participation of both male and female. They show commitment and are hard working.” – MIDP1*

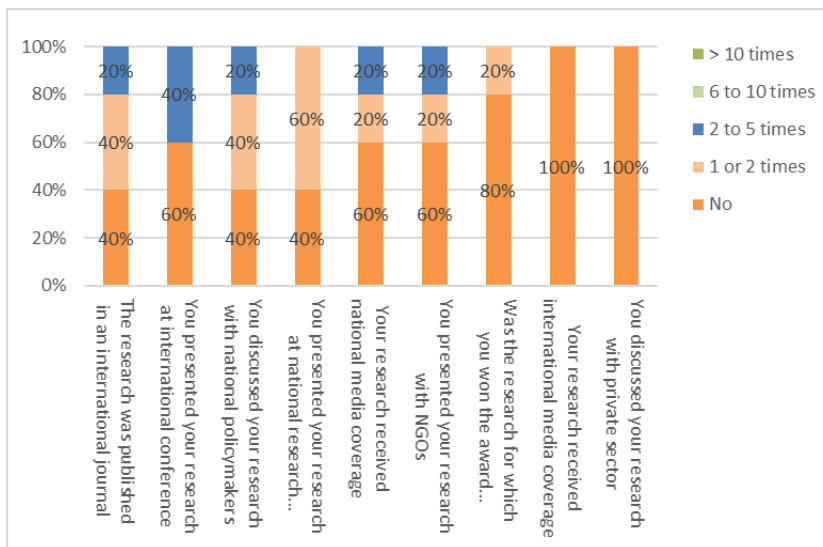
*“The parents of the students are now more engaged into getting their children educated.” – JSDF3*

# 3. Development impact – research projects

## 3.1 Visibility and recognition

Did any of the following take place within five years after the grant period?

- Only 20% published their research in a national paper, as compared to 60% that published in an international journal at least one time (40% 1-2 times and 20% 2-5 times).
- Also, a majority of 60% of the winners discussed their research with national policy makers. Similarly 60% of the ORD winners has presented their research at a national conference 1 or 2 times.
- On the other hand, none of the researcher received any international media coverage for their research. However, 40% of the winners did receive coverage of the research in national media outlets.
- None of the researchers discussed the research with private sector parties.

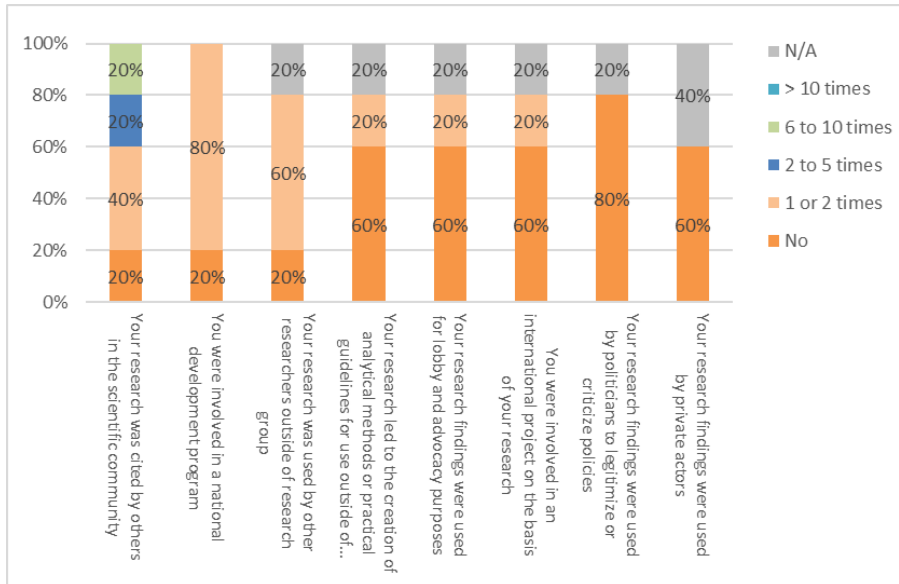


# 3. Development impact – research projects

## 3.2 Uptake and change of behavior

Did any of the following take place within five years after the grant period?

- A large majority of 80% was cited at least once by others in the scientific community. 60% of the research was used by other academic researchers outside of the research group.
- Interestingly, 80% of the ORD winners has been involved in a national development project as result of the research. This is an interesting development in uptake of the research, outside of academia.
- None reported their research findings were used by private sector actors or by politicians to legitimize or criticize policies.



## 3. Development impact – research projects

### 3.2 Uptake and change of behavior

What has been the biggest achievement of your research findings in terms of development impact?

*“The biggest achievement was my engagement in the policy-making groups that develop the new education policies in Macedonia, where I had the opportunity to incorporate some of the research recommendations into the policy documents developed.” – ORD5*

# Individual and organizational impact – development projects

## 4. Specific program related feedback

### How did you experience the collaboration with your mentor?

For both the JSDF grant and the ORD grant, winners have been appointed a mentor by GDN. Respondents were asked about the collaboration with their mentor and if/how this trajectory could be improved.

Key finding seems to be that the level of knowledge on local culture, local context and topic in the specific location, are key factors determining the success and contribution of a coach to the (research) project. If this was in place, mentors were evaluated very positively. Whilst at the same time, this was also one of the main points for improvement, as reflected in a selection of quotes below:

#### Quotes:

*“The mentor must have knowledge of the development sector work wherein not just the financials or the econometrics matter but societal and environmental impacts equally matter in sustaining a program.”*

*“Mentors needed much deeper understanding of diversity in my country’s agriculture and come up with ideas which are more locally practical and relevant.”*

*“The mentor was involved in the final phases of the projects, i.e. providing feedback on the developed research report. His involvement in the earliest phases would have been also beneficial.”*

*“If the mentor was identified from the proposed area or domain of research, the project could have received better support and reached desired outcomes.”*

*“Through the whole process, our mentor’s comments and observations have been critical to improve our research approach and analysis.”*

# Annex II – Research Quality Analysis Report

GDN Impact study – update 2022

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# Sample selection

This table below presents a sample of the ORD winners. The sample is meant to be representative, by taking into consideration the following criteria: varying in year of participation and geographical location. In total 4 papers have been analyzed:

|   | Full name                    | Gender | Country   | Year | Grant  | Title of project  |
|---|------------------------------|--------|-----------|------|--------|---|
| 1 | Maria-José Castillo          | Female | Ecuador   | 2015 | 5,000  | Beef demand in Ecuador: quality perceptions and the efficiency of the beef supply chain                 |
| 2 | Yadeta Bekele                | Female | Ethiopia  | 2017 | 22,500 | Promotion of Coffee certification and contract farming participation: The case of smallholder coffee    |
| 3 | Ana Mickovska-Raleva         | Female | Macedonia | 2016 | 10,000 | Teaching 'Learning to Learn' competence for the knowledge-based society.                                |
| 4 | Gloria Maria Carrion Fonseca | Female | Nicaragua | 2016 | 5,000  | The Political Economy of Public Financing of Education and its Impact on Gender Inequality in Nicaragua |

# Approach and Methodology

For the quality analysis of research outputs we made use of a method designed by Aidenvironment for the evaluation of a global research program. This instrument was also used in previous impact assessment for GDN and follows the accepted international research quality standards. In the absence of a universal mechanism of assessment it draws on interpretation of international research quality standards according to the following categories:

1 = unclassified: quality that falls below the standard of nationally recognised work or does not

present original evidence (e.g. text book contributions for student learning);

2 = quality that is recognised nationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour;

3 = quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour;

4 = quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour but which falls short of the highest standard of excellence;

5 = quality that is world leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour.

(Note: this is a standard of excellence relating to original, cutting edge research by world leading academics that is extremely hard to achieve, it is not expected that project publications fall into this category).\*

# Approach and Methodology

Designation of outputs based on 'originality, significance and rigour takes into account the following quality criteria:

- Scientific rigour and excellence with regard to design, method, execution and analysis;
- Potential and actual significance of the research;
- Logical coherence of contribution;
- Contribution to theory building;
- Significance of work to advance knowledge, skills, understanding and scholarship in theory, practice and policy.

*For journal articles, classification of scientific quality also takes into account the 'impact factor' of the journal.\*\**

# Approach and Methodology

## Research outputs

Out of 8 ORD winners in total, we see that for 7 out of 8 ORD winners (87.5%), there is already an output available. At least three winners (37.5%) had already published two papers building on the results acquired with the GDN grant. Five out of eight (62.5%) have published their research output online. Of these five, two articles have been published in an academic journal, one research is published as chapter of a book (PhD) and two papers have been published by policy organisations that are involved in the research and its implications.

## Assessment of a selection of four papers

Based on the methodology, the following assessments have been made:

| Paper assessed | Final score |
|----------------|-------------|
| ORD 1          | 3/4         |
| ORD 2          | 2           |
| ORD 3          | 3           |
| ORD 4          | 2           |
| Average        | 2.63        |

# Results - scorecard

| ORD1                  |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Author(s)             | María José Castillo, Carlos E. Carpio  |
| Article               | Demand for High-Quality Beef Attributes in Developing Countries: The Case of Ecuador   |
| Year of publication   | 2019   |
| Journal               | Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics  |
| Classification        | 3/4  |
| Impact factor journal | 1.41   |
| Overall assessment    | <p>This paper investigates the potential demand for high quality beef in Ecuador with the aim of examining how consumer demands could shape the preference for and supply chain of high quality beef in Ecuador. The research applies a mixed method design. Research concludes that consumer perception of local beef quality is positive, but consumers are willing to pay more for beef with credence attributes. Clearly written and practical / applicable research topic. The study reflects on key limitations of the study, the experimental survey methodology. There is no reflection on the implications for theory or how this study can be used in other contexts. The study has specific and clear local relevance for development of the beef supply chain in Ecuador. The article has been cited 10 times, in research on beef supply chains in beef producing countries such as Venezuela and Peru.</p> |

# Results - scorecard

| ORD2                  |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Author(s)             | Yadeta Bekele Bekere, Guta Regasa Megersa   |
| Article               | Coffee Certification Participation and its Impact on Smallholder Farmers' Income in Jimma Zone, Southwestern Ethiopia   |
| Year of publication   | 2021  |
| Journal               | Agricultural Socio-Economics Journal  |
| Classification        | 2   |
| Impact factor journal | N/A   |
| Overall assessment    | Research on the interesting and relevant topic of certification in the coffee value chain in Ethiopia. Study uses quantitative surveys in a comparative design to examine characteristics of farmers that are part of certification schemes versus those that are not and investigates the income difference between both groups of farmers. The research finds that farmers with larger family sizes, higher education levels and more experience in coffee farming are more likely to be part of a certification scheme. As main conclusion, the study highlights the importance of farmers receiving information on certification, which does not directly seem to follow from the results. The study provides the first step of the analysis, but does not reflect on the limitations of the study, potential follow up topics and leaves important questions unanswered or unexplained, such as for example the motivation or lack thereof of farmers to join the certification scheme. No strong link or feedback loop in conclusion to theory on the topic or other research findings. |

# Results - scorecard

| ORD3                  |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Author(s)             | Ana Mickovska-Raleva   |
| Article               | Teaching 'Learning to Learn' competence for the knowledge-based society  |
| Year of publication   | Unclear  |
| Journal               | N/A, CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND POLICY MAKING   |
| Classification        | 3  |
| Impact factor journal | N/A  |
| Overall assessment    | <p>The paper examines how a shift in education system from teacher-centered traditional methods to learning to learn (LtL)' capabilities, which better match/link with the current job demands and market can be made in Macedonia. Research conducts interviews and surveys among teachers and students. Teachers are regarded as key actor of change and therefore study focuses on teacher's implicit theories of LtL and how these influence their teaching and contribute towards stimulating development of the competence. The research is an exploratory research, which clearly builds on previous research on LTL. A solid theoretical framework is presented. Research finds that a majority of teachers tend to use certain instructional methods which support LtL competence.</p> <p>Clear implications and suggestions for policies and research to further deepen the topic are provided. Recommendations are made as to how the issue can be addressed at systemic level and how LTL can be included in national policies and teacher education and training. Research topic is context-specific for the state of</p> |

# Results - scorecard

| ORD4                  |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Author(s)             | Gloria Maria Carrion Fonseca   |
| Article               | Coffee Certification Participation and its Impact on Smallholder Farmers' Income in Jimma Zone, Southwestern Ethiopia  |
| Year of publication   | 2021   |
| Journal               | N/A, FIDEG   |
| Classification        | 2  |
| Impact factor journal | N/A  |
| Overall assessment    | <p>The research is presented online in a working paper. The paper focuses on gender, education and its financing in Nicaragua. The researcher takes a critical feminist and public policy perspective to discuss the current state of gender and education in Nicaragua. The researcher explores which conceptions have been underpinning the education system in Nicaragua and their effects, as well as exploring the financing sources for education in Nicaragua and their effects. The paper has a solid and extensive theoretical framework outlining the different feminist outlooks on education. Data collection for the research is limited. The qualitative study combines secondary data with three in-depth interviews. The researcher advocates for a transformation of the education system. Focus is strongly on policy reform in the Nicaraguan context. Even though the study specifically focuses on Nicaragua, this topic is relevant and should be on the agenda in postcolonial countries and in the global debate</p> |



# Annex III – Impact case study Report

GDN Impact study – update 2022

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## **Analysing the effects of social interactions between economically disadvantaged and wealthy students at a Peruvian university**

**Interviewee:** Dr. Marcos Agurto

**Author:** Lysanne Vergroesen

**Key words:** research, social inclusion, education, scholarship, experiment, Peru

Dr. Marcos Agurto is Professor and Vice President for Research at the Universidad de Piura (UDEP). He specialises in development economics in combination with social inclusion. In 2016, he has won a Japanese award for Outstanding Research on Development of 30,000 USD to implement his research on the effects of social interactions between wealthy and scholarship students at a university in Peru.



*Photo: dr. Marcos Agurto (source: Marcos Agurto)*

### **Moving towards research on social inclusion within the scholarship program**

Dr. Agurto studied Economics and obtained his PhD in this field at the Vancouver School of Economics (VSE). After his graduation, he started working as assistant-professor at the University of Piura and continued his research on the adoption of technologies in rural communities. During his work at the university, he got interested in the issue of social inclusion of scholarship students at a private university. Dr. Agurto himself comes from a lower middle-class family and was able to study at a private university, so the importance of having access to quality education is evident for him. He feels, that through this research topic, he can help individuals both during their academic career and in their long-term future.

At his own university, he identified the Beca18 scholarship program as an interesting research opportunity. Beca18 is a scholarship program that has been set up by the Peruvian government to support talented but economically disadvantaged students to have access to high quality education at elite private universities. His university had been a recipient of Beca18 fellows for over 8 years.

One of the issues that was salient about this program, was the limited interaction between scholarship fellows and the more upper class or wealthy students. Several universities that were recipients of Beca18 fellows, initially kept both groups in separate sections, aimed at providing the Beca18 fellows with more support. However, through this separation students from poorer households would also not be able to obtain the necessary soft skills and contacts that students from relatively wealthy families already have. Therefore, dr. Agurto proposed to change this and create mixed working groups, with both Beca18 and more wealthy students. In that way, he could adapt the level of exposure between groups and analyse the potential effects of this on their interactions and educational benefits.

### **The impacts of winning the GDN award**

For this innovative research idea dr. Agurto was awarded with a Japanese award for Outstanding Research on Development in 2016. With the grant funding, he was able to carry out the study and observe the academic outcomes of the working group interventions. His research showed that the performance of students of both groups increased when they worked in a more diverse group during their freshman year. He wrote a research paper about this study, which has been published in the scientific journal Economics of Education Review in 2019.

*“The grant put me on a track where I gained the abilities and capacities to successfully compete for research grants and to implement research in the field.”*

On a more personal level, winning the grant guided dr. Agurto further towards the research topic of social inclusion. Before winning the grant, Dr Agurto had been exploring different research topics and questions. However, due to the ORD grant he was able to build his capacity in the implementation of social inclusion research projects in the field. The focus on social inclusion led to interesting developments for him. He was invited to participate in academic conferences around the world and form research networks both in- and outside of Peru. One example of this is, was when he successfully presented his work on the topic in a conference in India, where social inclusion is an essential issue, and his research was received positively. Also, he was invited to join the editorial board of the Peruvian journal Economia and started mentoring research projects in Malawi and Guinea Bissau. After winning the ORD grant, he managed to secure other grants and funding to develop his research and expertise further.

*“Winning the grant provided me with an important boost at an important moment in my career.”*

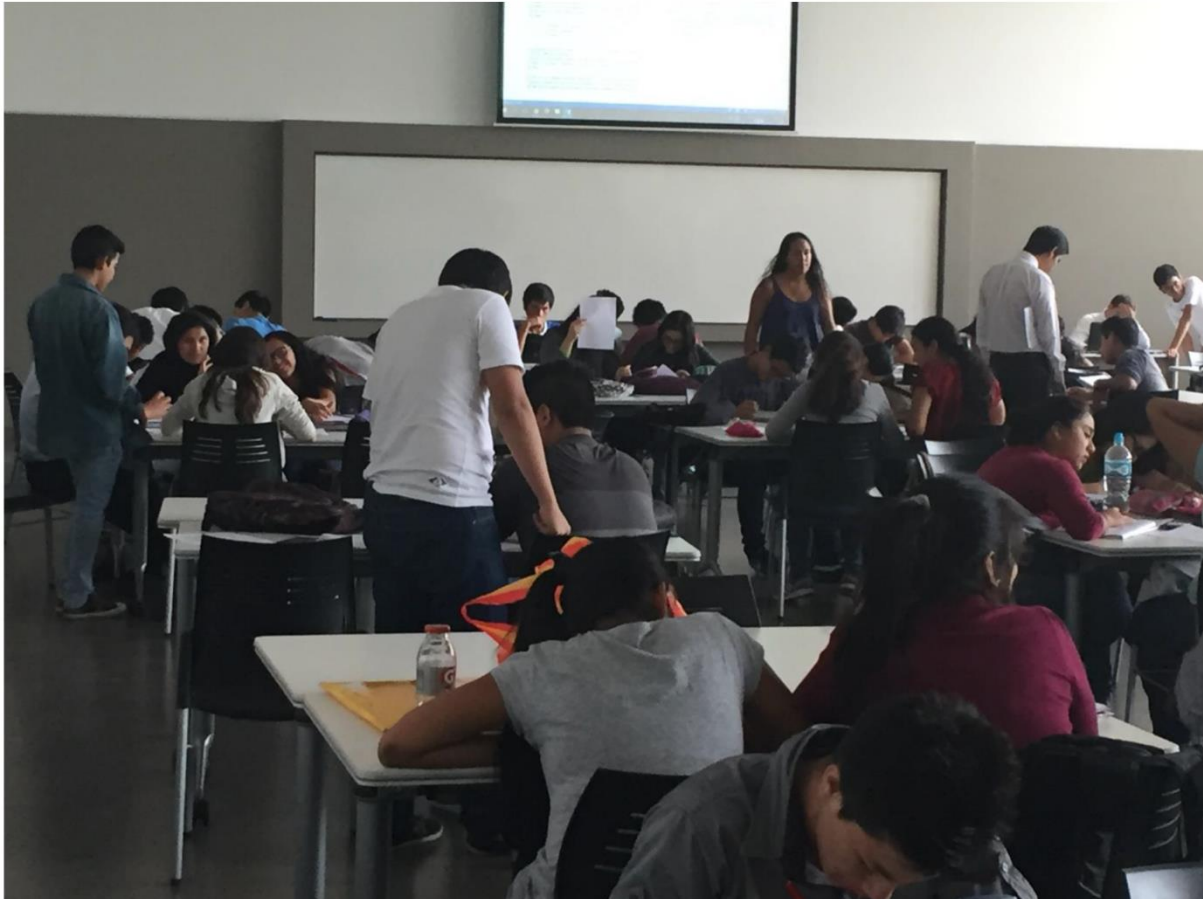
Winning the ORD award helped dr. Agurto to connect more closely with the Beca18 project, and has inspired his follow up research on this concept. He sees the GDN award as a relevant vehicle to further his research career. He is now the Vice President for Research at the Universidad de Piura. In this capacity he is responsible for helping other researchers at the university to find opportunities to thrive in their own research. Winning the grant also gave him a clear sense of how to create these opportunities. A specific example of this, is that he recently set up of a seed fund at his university to promote innovative research ideas linked to SDGs. The participating researchers will join in a seminar where they can work together and improve their ideas, before the winners receive a small seed fund to kickstart their research. This concept is based on specific elements dr Agurto had seen at the GDN awards, such as the recognition of research efforts, taking risks and promoting local researchers.

### **Impact beyond the field of research**

*“Happy that I can do research, ask questions about problems that are relevant for our society and propose solutions. Our research contributes towards social change.”*

The research outcomes have directly impacted practice at the UDEP university, as the university is now more conscious of the effects of the integration between the different groups of students. Through the research interventions, the university was convinced to create mixed groups during their courses.

Even though dr. Agurto was able to present and discuss the research with policy makers at the Ministry of Education, influencing education policy proved to be challenging due to changes in government and corresponding priorities. However, he does see that interest in the research topic is picking up and that citations have started to increase in the last years. In Peru, more people started working on Beca18 program impact.



*Photo: Students in working group setting (source: Marcos Agurto)*

### **Ambitions for future research projects**

In his role as Vice President for Research, dr. Agurto does not have a lot of time to focus on his own research. His main ambition is to help his fellows thrive in their own research. However, he would also like to be able to continue conducting his own research. He has a lot of ideas for potential research questions on social inclusion and education. One example of this is that he is currently involved in work on how female role models can encourage your girls to find their path within STEM fields. He also explored to community engagement strengths the leadership of college students from disadvantage backgrounds, in particular he finds that women that participated in this program felt more valued and respected in their communities and also improved their academic performance. He has also studied how technology adoption can be foster by key members of the target communities, who can act as technological change ambassadors and promote social change. He remains passionate about research topics that directly benefit social inclusion and society as a whole.

# **Applying modern farming techniques to improve livelihoods in rural Kenya**

**Interviewee:** Mr. George Onyango

**Author:** Lysanne Vergroesen

**Key words:** agriculture, rural, Kenya, food security, urban farming, women, youth, income

Mr. George Onyango is the Executive Director of Dandora Dumpsite Rehabilitation Group (DADREG), a local humanitarian organisation based in Kenya. In 2018, George won a Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) award of 5,000 USD to continue his work on improving livelihoods of women and youth through modern farming techniques.

## **Starting to work on farming with vulnerable groups of women and youth**

Before starting his work for DADREG in 2012, Mr. George Onyango used to work in another slum area in Nairobi. He mainly focused on improving the education of women and young people that live and work on the dumpsites. During this work he observed the need for development of sustainable activities to help young people and women become competitive in the job market, while at the same time improving their nutrition status.

DADREG started piloting urban farming near the dumpsites. They worked with women in the urban centre of Nairobi to apply carrot and other vegetable farming for consumption. While there was clear potential for the approach, they faced two issues: lack of land ownership opportunities for women and the limited spaces of land that were available for urban farming.

Many women that are living on the dumpsite originally come from the rural areas of the country. Poverty and food insecurity drives them to the city to look for a job and better livelihood. However, when they cannot find this job, they end up working at the dumpsites. Mr. George Onyango and his team realised that it would be a good idea to start a project in the rural area where these women come from, besides their existing project on the dumpsite. In that way, they could enable their beneficiaries to employ themselves, do the farming at proper scale and support their families. With this idea DADREG applied for a Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project award, which they won in 2018.

## **Winning the Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project**

The GDN award ceremony took place in New Delhi, where Mr. George Onyango came to know many organisations that are working on similar topics. He was able to get details on how their projects work and learned directly from them. This experience has broadened George's mind and gave him new ideas for the project.





*Photo: Farmers working in a green house (source: George Onyango, DADREG)*

With the MIDP grant, DADREG was able to take a slightly different approach than they had before. First, they focused more on obtaining land for women to grow food on and second, they moved their project to the rural area of Mbita County. In Mbita County, they again started supporting marginalised women to engage in modern farming of for example tomato, vegetables and watermelon.

*“With the grant from GDN we are able to upscale the approach and move to the rural area.”*

DADREG provided the targeted women with seeds and assistance in the form of mechanised labour such as ploughing. The organisation also hired a small piece of land for women to start farming for one year. The profits women obtained from the sales of their produce would enable them to hire the land for themselves from the first year onwards.

*“Winning the grant opened doors for us to collaborations and to winning other grants. Without the GDN award we would not have won the other award.”*

Implementing the MIDP grant gave DADREG a platform to demonstrate to other parties what they were doing in practice. Winning the grant set in motion some developments for the project. First, DADREG was able to multiply the grant through winning the Prince Talal International Prize in 2019. With this funding they were able to implement irrigation systems, so that women could have access to water for domestic use and irrigation. This grant also allowed DADREG to scale up to more women and to include young people in the farming project.

*“They now look at us as professionals. They see that we can really make things happen on the ground.”*

Obtaining the MIDP grant also led to a collaboration with the country government. After showcasing the project, DADREG was invited to become part of the Nairobi City County food systems strategy. In

this strategy they advised the Nairobi government on their strategy to use the small available urban spaces optimally to grow food like fruits, vegetables and rear pigs and chicken. The government is now also looking into DADREG's approach for food security in the rural areas.

DADREG started project implementation in 2019 and in total 600 people have benefitted directly from the project. The main changes Mr. George Onyango and his team witnessed, is that their beneficiaries are increasingly able to generate a decent income, feed their children, support them to go to school and buy medicines.

*"It makes me proud to see the women we work with, being able to sustain themselves and their families."*



*Photo: Farmers bringing produce to the market (source: George Onyango, DADREG)*

### **Ambitions to upscale the project concept and add more value**

When looking at the future, DADREG has a lot of plans on how to increase their impact further. They plan to put the whole area under an irrigation scheme to boost agricultural productivity and income. Mr. George Onyango's personal ambition for the future is to develop one of the largest organisations that introduces women and youth to farming methods to give them more income. He foresees to set up a training centre focused on value addition to the farming products. This would allow women and youth to set up a small enterprise and make their products more valuable through drying or other kinds of processing. With these interesting employment opportunities, he foresees, that marginalised people do not have to move away from their communities and go to the city to find employment.

## Providing accessible and affordable education to children from marginalised communities through radio

**Interviewee:** Mrs. Fakhira Najib

**Author:** Lysanne Vergroesen

**Key words:** education, marginalised communities, radio, Pakistan

Mrs. Fakhira Najib is the Chief Executive Officer of Power99 Foundation, a non-profit development organisation focused on improving education accessibility and affordability for children in Pakistan. She has developed the '*Broadclass – Listen to Learn*' radio program for improving literacy, numeracy, and healthy habits for children. In 2016, she has won a Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project of 30,000 USD and in 2017 she won a follow up Japanese Social Development Fund award of 200,000 USD to implement and upscale this radio education program in Pakistan.

### Promoting access to education through radio

Mrs. Fakhira Najib has a strong passion for education. She started her career as a primary school teacher for the federal government and worked with the Ministry of Education for over 15 years. During this work and her travels throughout Pakistan she observed the educational challenges children, and especially girls in Pakistan face, with her own eyes.

Pakistan has the world's second-highest number of out-of-school children in the world, with an estimated 22.8 million children not attending school. Most girls cannot continue with their primary or secondary education because schools are not in the vicinity, for security and economic reasons. Mrs. Fakhira Najib strongly believes that education is important for every girl and that society only progresses when all girls are educated.

During her work in education, Mrs. Fakhira Najib had the chance to work with an international organisation, that had a program on interactive radio education. Following this experience, she started working at the radio station Power99. At the time, the radio station was already working on topics related to the improvement of education. For example, the radio station was one of the first ones to interview Malala Yousafzai on radio. The radio station wanted to focus more on education. With her strong background in the field of education Mrs. Fakhira Najib was asked to join the program development team.

Following a huge earthquake in Pakistan in 2005, she developed a communication strategy through storytelling radio shows for children in the affected areas. This was a new format, and one of the first radio programs in Pakistan that were targeted specifically at children. The stories focused on life skills, coping with trauma, and moral development of children. The response of children to the storytelling radio gave Mrs. Fakhira Najib a lot of motivation to continue this path.

In 2009, she started setting up an interactive education program in radio format at Power99 Radio. With limited budget, and together with female volunteers and interns, she was able to produce the first episodes. Aim of the program was to increase the quality of education of children in marginalised communities and to provide girls both in and outside of the classroom the opportunity to receive this education free of cost. In 2012, she registered Power99 Foundation and started piloting their episodes in classrooms. These shows became the Interactive Radio Instruction Program *Broadclass - Listen to Learn*, a program focused on improving literacy, numeracy, and English as a second language on primary schools in Pakistan.



Every day there is a live 45-minute interactive broadcast that teachers use in their classrooms. The radio shows are complemented by a face-to-face teacher training and community support. The large advantage of this methodology is the high accessibility and low costs for users, through which they can reach girls both inside and outside of the classroom. After seeing the promising results of the first pilots in three districts, they applied for a GDN MIDP award to roll out the program in schools in Abbottabad.



Photo: Girls reading teaching materials (source: Mrs. Fakhira Najib)

### **The impact of winning the awards**

Mrs. Fakhira Najib and her team at Power99 Foundation won the MIDP award in 2016. The award ceremony took place in Lima, where she was able to present the program. Seeing how the judges and other attendants were appreciative of their story, provided a lot of motivation for Mrs. Fakhira Najib and her team.

*“Winning the award totally changed our way of thinking. We realised that now we could do something that could be scaled up. Something we can sustain not only in Pakistan, but in the rest of the region as well.”*

The GDN grants led to an increase in exposure and collaboration requests for Power99 Foundation. In general, Mrs. Fakhira Najib highlights the continuous engagement of GDN to obtain visibility and a network for Power99 Foundation.

*“GDN gave us some space to communicate to others, which helped us to find partners. Sharing the success of the GDN award with other partners increased their trust in us.”*

One example of this is the partnership with Open Society Foundations, that followed from winning the GDN award. Together with this organisation, Power99 Foundation was able to increase the

number of districts further. Another interesting development was that the *Broadclass* concept was featured in a documentary on national television, which generated a lot of exposure. Up until now, Mrs. Fakhira Najib sees that through GDN, Power99 Foundation is getting connected to other organisations. Recently, the organisation got connected to Canada International with whom they developed podcasts during the COVID pandemic. Another development was that in a September 2019 during COVID, they were also recognized by a Hundred in Finland as innovators of the month. Power99 Foundation used the MIDP grant funding to pilot the implementation of *Broadclass Listen to Learn* in 127 Grade 1 classrooms in three districts in Abottabad. The impact assessment at the end of pilot program showed that there was consistent and significant evidence that the program has increased students' learning in literacy, numeracy, and healthy habits. Based on the successful implementation and promising results of the program, they received a follow up JSDF grant to scale up to 187 Grade 2 classrooms at the same partner schools in Abottabad.

Through the MIDP grant, Power99 Foundation benefitted 4,963 children, 127 teachers and 2,151 parents, school council and community members in Abottabad. With the JSDF scale up, they have targeted 7,585 children, 2,500 parents and around 240 teachers. Girls make up 60% of the total amount of learners. The main target group is children between the ages of 5-10 years old. However, there are indications that a lot of adults are listening to the programs as well. Even though the main beneficiaries are targeted through school programs, girls that have dropped out of school can still be found listening to the radio episodes to keep learning from it. The MIDP's project implementation in Abbottabad created huge demand from government and communities for its extension and replication in other areas.

#### **Plans and ambitions for Power99 Foundation**

Initially, when Power99 Foundation was implementing the GDN grants, they focused only on grade 1 and 2 students. Since then, they have managed to expand the content of their program further. By now, they have expanded up to grade 5, and offer more subject areas. Where they were initially working with English integrated into all subject areas, they now have separate language sessions. They are also working on environment, history, geography, music and languages and during Covid they have included art and culture. Power99 Foundation has the ambition and plans to expand from radio to for example video lessons for children. The team is currently working to receive inputs to improve the content of their classes further. Power99 Foundation has also started to work with refugees that are in high school in the largest refugee camp in Pakistan with support from UNESCO. In this program youth is broadcasting radio episodes themselves. Mrs. Fakhira Najib and her team at Power99 Foundation are ambitious to upscale the impact of their concept to more children in marginalised communities throughout Pakistan and beyond. They see the need for replication of the program in the region and out of Pakistan and will work to achieve this in the coming years.



*Photo: Boy sitting in the grass listening to radio (source: Mrs. Fakhira Najib)*



## **Piloting solarized digital schools to guarantee high quality education for children in rural Bangladesh**

**Interviewee:** Dr. Korvi Rakshand

**Author:** Lysanne Vergroesen

**Key words:** digital education, solar power, children, clean energy, Bangladesh

Mr. Korvi Rakshand is the founder of JAAGO Foundation, a non-profit organisation that focuses on education and youth development in Bangladesh. In 2015, he won a Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project of 10,000 USD to pilot his digital schooling approach with solar energy in remote areas in Bangladesh.

### **Starting the digital school concept for quality education**

During his education to become a lawyer, Korvi Rakshand started working on setting up free-of-cost quality schools for underprivileged children in Dhaka. Together with friends, he started JAAGO Foundation. In 2007, JAAGO Foundation started set up its first school in Dhaka based on online education. At the time, the traditional education system in Bangladesh was facing a lot of problems, such as the lack of teacher availability, limited capacity, and extremely large school classes. These issues led to low-quality education and therefore in turn to low school attendance rates.

JAAGO came up with the idea to set up a digital school to guarantee access to high quality education for all its students. In a pre-pandemic era, this was an innovative and unfamiliar concept. In JAAGO's approach, children would get a large part of their classes taught via a television screen, whereby the local teacher would support these high-quality classes with interactive elements. With a generator and internet, they were able to roll out their education model in the capital city. However, when in 2010 they scaled up to schools outside of Dhaka, they were confronted with large electricity and internet reliability challenges. This was even more of an issue in the most vulnerable and remote areas of the country, where the need for improved education was greatest. There, the unreliable connection, and low-quality education particularly led to low school attendance and achievements.

At that moment JAAGO Foundation brought forward the idea to pilot the use of solar energy to guarantee access to quality online education in remote rural schools. At the time, piloting solarizing schools was an innovative and new idea, as clean energy was not as valued and common as it is now in Bangladesh. JAAGO Foundation decided to pilot this approach in their primary school in Bandarban, in the border area of Bangladesh. This remote area is vulnerable to conflict, faces low investments, high poverty rates and has various Rohingya refugee settlements.



*Photo: Three kids on their way to school (source: JAAGO Foundation website)*

### **Impact of winning the award**

JAAGO Foundation submitted this pilot idea to GDN and was awarded with a Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project in 2015. The awards were handed out during a conference in which cross-learning between the participants was facilitated.

*“The GDN award conference was a get together of change makers, which was really great.”*

During the event, Mr. Korvi Rakshand was able to attend workshops, speeches and practical trainings. He particularly appreciated the trainings focused on how to convey your story in a short message as they did not yet have that much exposure for their work at the time. Also, through the press release that GDN published, more people learned about their innovative work and valued it. The publicity was important for JAAGO Foundation’s reputation and led to new partnerships.

With the development grant (MIDP) JAAGO Foundation was able to buy and implement the solar panels at the Bandarban school. The community’s response to the pilot was very promising. Teachers responded positively, as they were no longer stuck between classes and could give more time and attention to each group of children. JAAGO Foundation was able to interest and attract more children to come to school, as classes were now consistent and uninterrupted. As a result, school attendance at Bandarban school increased with 20-25% to over 500 students. After the pilot started, the exam results of the students improved significantly as well. Children came home enthusiastically and happy, which in turn sparked interest among their parents and led to a positive butterfly effect throughout the community.

*“It was a very happy and positive thing at that moment and very needed for us as an organisation.”*

The positive attention led to interest for partnerships. For example, the local government was interested in collaboration with JAAGO, after they had seen what the solar system looked like. Through the grant, JAAGO was able to demonstrate that their solarized online education model worked well in remote settings. For the Bandarban school specifically, JAAGO Foundation is now partnering with UNICEF to continue its approach.

*“I knew it would work. We did some studies but we were not able try out the innovation until we won the GDN award.”*

After obtaining proof of their concept, JAAGO Foundation successfully tried the approach in other places as well. The main challenge for upscaling the solarized approach was that the method was quite expensive, and a lot of land is needed to position enough solar panels to cater for multiple classrooms at the same time. However, Mr. Korvi Rakshand saw that more people appreciated the effort and a lot of conversations started that led to support for JAAGO Foundation. Currently, the organisation is still using the solarized approach in some remote locations even though internet and power access have improved significantly in Bangladesh over recent years.

*“In 2010 some people were laughing, as they did not understand what we were talking about. During pandemic online education became popular, and suddenly people wanted to learn from us.”*

JAAGO Foundation successfully piloted a model that is being adopted by many other organisations. Especially now that clean energy has become more important in Bangladesh, organisations apply their learnings. For the organisation, the solarized pilot strengthened their approach, but also their organisation. Currently, JAAGO Foundation is working with 11 schools, and provides education to over 4,500 children in Bangladesh. To do this, the organisation works with 50,000 volunteers and 400 employees. In 2017, JAAGO Foundation got recognised by UNESCO as the best organisation in the world to use ICT in education. A proper research paper is being written on their approach in Bandarban.



*Photo: children running towards Bandarban school (source: movie website JAAGO Foundation)*

**Plans and ambitions for JAAGO Foundation**

Mr. Korvi Rakshand's aim is to set an example and inspire others to replicate their education model. Therefore, JAAGO Foundation's current focus is on improving the quality on their existing schools further, instead of expanding at fast pace. Now that they have more students coming in, JAAGO Foundation wants to take the existing schools from grade 7 up to grade 10, so that kids can graduate and directly go to college. The organisation is focusing on improving the digitalisation infrastructure at schools further through more televisions and routers and expansion of the number of classrooms at each school. Mr. Korvi Rakshand's ambition remains to go to rural places to provide schooling to vulnerable children and make sure no one is left behind.

## **Promoting climate resilient livelihoods in vulnerable areas through float farming**

**Interviewee:** Dr. Dipayan Dey

**Author:** Lysanne Vergroesen

**Key words:** float farming, livelihoods, agriculture, climate adaptation, Bangladesh, India

Mr. Dipayan Dey is Program Director at the South Asian Forum for Environment (SAFE), a civil society organisation working towards sustainable environmental development and poverty alleviation, based in India. In 2016, SAFE won a Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project of 30,000 USD to implement their project on hydroponic aquafarming aimed at improving climate resilience of indigenous smallholders on Majuli Island, India. After successfully finalizing this project, SAFE won the follow up Japanese Social Development Fund Award of 200,000 USD to scale up the project and apply their work on adaptive float farms in a flood prone area in Bangladesh.

### **Coming up with the floating farm concept**

Dr. Dipayan Dey is an environmental biotechnologist by training. He has over 25 years of experience in community-based sustainable climate initiatives in South Asia. Before joining SAFE, he has worked as an associate professor in environmental sciences at the Premiere Institute of Higher Learning in Buthan. Through their work in environmental development, SAFE got connected to the island of Majuli in India. This river island is mainly inhabited by indigenous people and is part of a biodiversity hotspot that covers parts of Bangladesh and India. The area is facing more and more flooding and inundation of arable lands in the monsoon. Because of this, the local community finds itself in a very vulnerable climate situation wherein their livelihoods and food security are under threat.

At the time, there were no other parties involved in the situation on Majuli Island. Therefore, SAFE decided to come up with a solution to mitigate the climate risks for smallholders in indigenous communities. They started to develop floating raft structures made of hydro-foam, agro-waste and vermicompost, that are prepared as farming beds for horticultural cash crops. Each raft can serve as a livelihood unit for one small family and can sustain three cropping cycles during inundation. The idea behind the intervention is that in case of stress or crisis, the community would be able to guarantee their food security through using their floating farms. SAFE tested their approach and found that the floating rafts would provide solid profit returns for the farmers. They developed a full project around floating rafts, capacity building in aqua-farming technology, disaster preparedness, post harvesting processes and market linkages.





Photo: Floating farms on the water (source: dr. Dipayan Dey)

### Winning the grant

*“Usually, innovation is not looked at with a very good eye because of the fear of failure that always comes with innovation, but GDN is that organization, which is ready to support innovations.”*

As their project was focused on a promising, innovative, but not yet proven mechanism, SAFE faced difficulties finding funding for the concept. However, when they applied for a Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project in 2017, they won a 30,000 grant. SAFE was happy with the funding and trust they received from GDN. The MIDP grant allowed dr. Dipayan Dey and his team to implement and pilot their full concept among 5,000 smallholders on Majuli Island, India.

After the successful pilot, SAFE won a follow up JSDF grant to scale up the concept further in districts in both India and Bangladesh. Based on the pilot project, there were three key learnings that SAFE took with them and incorporated into the scaleup to 15,000 indigenous smallholder farmers. First, having the entire innovation designed in a participatory way is key for community adoption. In the scale up SAFE was better able to integrate the community’s perception in their design concept, which made the approach more sustainable. Second, they learned that the climate risk assessment must be accurate, but a plan B should always be in place as there is a huge risk for project beneficiaries. SAFE decided to spread the risk and include other means of livelihoods into the program such as livestock farming, fishing, and other crops. Meaning, that if the crop does not give substantial yield, the fisheries can substantiate that loss. Lastly, it is very important to mainstream their activities into government schemes that are running in that specific area. The three learnings were incorporated in the scale up phase and led to good results.

*“So definitely the GDN support has given us that platform of success, where a lot of partners are now getting engaged.”*

After winning the award, the program received a lot of national and international media coverage. Internationally, the project was noted in a UN South-South Galaxy publication. In India, the Confederation of Indian Industries awarded the project and enabled SAFE to showcase the project among private sector parties. These coverages directly led to follow up partnerships and funding for

expansion of the project. One example of this is that following the Confederation of Indian Industries presentation, SAFE received additional CSR program funding from PriceWaterhouseCoopers. This funding allowed SAFE to add a component on crab fattening to the project. Another example is that during the scale up phase, SAFE was able to secure additional funding from GIZ. With this funding they were able to include linkages with banks and focus on financial inclusion within their program. At the moment, Springer is going to publish a peer reviewed paper on the intervention and its impacts.

SAFE has also focused strongly on collaboration with relevant government bodies to institutionalise and upscale their approach. In general, it was challenging to get support from the government as the idea was still innovative and new. Through lobbying efforts to make the AFLOAT methodology a mainstream activity, they managed to reach agreement with the government to apply the methodology in at least six or seven districts. Also, now that the GDN grant has ended, the program will continue to exist under the umbrella of UNDP within their adaptation focus. Looking at the impact on project beneficiaries and project sustainability, we see the project has made a large impact on its beneficiaries' livelihood resilience. As the ultimate sign of impact, Mr. Dipayan names the success of the project throughout the pandemic and two super cyclones that happened in the area.

*"Within the pandemic, we had also seen two super cyclones in this area. But even in the middle of all that, people had food to eat, people had livelihood means to sustain their lives. That is, I think, the most important impact that we have seen within this project."*

The cyclones only brought limited damage to their floating forms, demonstrating resilience of the technology in extreme weather events. From a project perspective, this damage could be managed financially by the return on investments the project already had. How the project was able to cope with the super cyclone events, led to increased faith in the technology among people.

The targeted smallholders are reporting good production and income levels. Within 10 months, the farmers break even on their investments in floats, while the floats last for 3 years. SAFE observed that aqua farming, especially crab fat meat for export is high yielding and has high value for the beneficiaries. Now that the technology has been proven and shared, Dr. Dipayan Dey has observed that smallholders on Majuli Island are picking up the technology by themselves.

*"Even now, when we go to **Majuli**, we find they themselves are making and adapting the rack because it is a very simple technology."*

After the technology was adopted, SAFE started to give out credit linkages through interest free loans for the construction of the floating rafts. In this way, a revolving fund could be set up to expand the number of beneficiaries for the longer term. Dr. Dipayan Dey sees that the innovation is now coming from the community themselves. For example, in indigenous communities they have started to cultivate indigenous medicinal plants on their floats to make sure that these medicines are at hand. Another interesting development that followed their project is in another area, close to the metropolitan Kolkata, where the technology is being scaled up in a very commercial way. Overall, Dr. Dipayan Dey is very grateful for the trust and support coming from GDN throughout both project stages, as this allowed SAFE to validate their whole economic paradigm, engineering paradigm and their social frame. Now, the approach is proven and ready to be upscaled globally.

## **Plans and ambitions for SAFE**



For the coming time, Dr. Dipayan and his team have high ambitions to scale up their impact further. The technology was developed for flood prone areas, but they are looking at application of the concept in other areas as well. They are for example considering whether it can be taken up on a rooftop or used in a desert or mountainous area. As the concept makes use of a regenerative method, wherein nutrients and waste are recycled into the growth medium, the intervention should be able to be self-sustaining and used anywhere to grow food. The team is currently looking into how the design can be customized as to match other agroecological zones. To implement these ideas SAFE will develop additional capacities on how to link the project with carbon credits and how to refine the economic model further.



*Photo: Woman harvesting vegetables on floating raft (source: dr. Dipayan Dey)*

# Mapping biodiversity of local forest food products to boost food and nutrition security in Benin

**Interviewee:** Dr. Ir. Flora Chadare

**Author:** Lysanne Vergroesen

**Key words:** research, forest food products, native species, local food, food security, NTFP, Benin

Dr. Flora Chadare is an agricultural engineer, who works as a professor at the Université Nationale d'Agriculture in Cotonou, Benin. She is specialised in food science and nutrition. In 2015, she received a Japanese award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) of 10,000 USD to continue her research on local resources to improve food security.

## Starting research on food products in Benin

Dr. Flora Chadare believes in the potential of local food to solve local food security problems. Therefore, she started focusing on the topic of food science and nutrition, right after graduating in food technology at Wageningen University. From her PhD graduation onwards, she worked as lecturer and researcher at the agricultural university of Cotonou. She has continually studied how to improve food security and nutrition through locally available food resources. She particularly focused on food products from the Baobab tree and on how to optimize them for better nutrition. She focused on Baobab food products, because this topic was not explored yet and had big potential for local and sustainable food security.

During her research work, she observed an interesting research method used to prioritize and assess species for conservation purposes. Building on this method, she came up with the idea to develop a similar method to apply in the field of food security. However, she was not yet able to apply this method to identify the nutritional potential of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP). At the same time, she conducted a survey and observed that in the larger cities of Benin there were not that many native forest food products for sale, while she observed market potential for many of these products. Together with a small team of her graduate students, Dr. Flora Chadare applied for the GDN Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) research grant to be able to innovate and develop these new methods.

## The impact of winning the award

As a finalist for the ORD grant, she was invited to participate in a large conference on food security in Morocco. The finalists worked together and participated in workshops on how to present their research in the week leading up to the conference. During this event she made valuable connections with other GDN finalists as well as with food security researchers that presented during the conference. Dr. Flora Chadare won the Award for Outstanding Research on Development grant to apply new methods and broaden her work from Baobab to five potential key food products.

*“Winning the GDN grant was an opportunity to apply so many new methods that I got into contact with in my young career.”*

The research team used the grant funding to perform the proposed mapping. Originally, they applied for a larger grant, so after winning they shifted their objectives slightly. Through the research they got insight into many species that have high nutritional value and great potential to improve food security in Benin.

*“When I gave them my name, they immediately recognised me: are you the one that is mentioned in the Guardian? It was good to see that other people had seen it and knew about my work.”*

Right after winning the grant, she experienced an increase in exposure of her work. She was approached by a journalist that published on her research in the Guardian. Because of this article, she was invited to attend a meeting in the Netherlands. At the meeting, it was interesting to see that colleagues recognized her and knew of her work already. She was also invited to submit an abstract for a large REFORM conference in South Africa in 2016-2017 and was selected to participate. In 2018, GDN gave her the opportunity to participate in a GDN conference in India, where she presented her research again.

*“What I know is that this grant helps to build capacity and career of a researcher.”*

The ORD grant formed the basis for the future of her research work and sparked new research questions. Since the ORD award, the research ideas and projects have gotten bigger and bigger every time. Today for instance, Dr. Flora Chadare is not only focusing on the five identified species, but on a large multitude of local food resources.

She now recommends her students to apply for this type of research grants because she can show from her experience that it really is possible to win. In her opinion, applying for the grant and managing the grant is already a big learning process for a young researcher. For herself, she also sees how winning the ORD grant has contributed to her career development. Over the last five years, she has gotten increasingly more responsibilities at the university in her positions of Dean of the Faculty of Food Science and Lab Director.

### **Impact on food security of local communities in Benin**

During ORD grant project implementation, the team established the nutritional value of five products. Due to the grant size, the project mainly focused on the research and knowledge generation component. However, the team's capacity and knowledge were already developed, so that she was able to apply these in other projects that included follow up dissemination in the villages. There she saw how the research directly impacted local community's food security and the uptake of the promoted foods.

*“What made me happy is when we went to a village for dissemination on fortification trial and people were asking us: why are you asking us to use this product in only one food? You researchers are too narrow. We want to use it in all of our food, and we have started already.”*

### **Future research plans and ambitions**

Dr. Flora Chadare believes that having safe, locally available food resources is key to improve food security sustainably. Thorough research on these food resources should inform local communities on which sources are available, how to use them, and make their food status more resilient.

*“I would like to thank GDN for approving the grant, this gave me the opportunity to see the nutritional potential of some of our local resources.”*

When she started working on Baobab trees, she did not see any Baobab-derived products in stores in the cities. However, she has recently conducted an inventory study that showed how Baobab sales is booming in stores. She sees this is happening for many of the indigenous species. In the future she will continue working on valorisation of local indigenous foods for nutrition and wellbeing in research. In addition, she will continue promoting a lot of start-ups in local food production and their marketability, so that in the future these foods can be found everywhere in the stores.