



Global Development Awards Competition Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) 2021 Edition

CALL FOR PROJECTS

Competition Theme

The [Global Development Network \(GDN\)](#) invites non-profit Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from low and lower-middle-income countries to submit applications for the **Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development (MIDP) Project** within the following three themes:

Theme 1: Universal health coverage and COVID

The World Health Organization defines universal health coverage as the capacity of “all people [to] have access to the health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship.” A wide number of factors play a critical role in making this a reality: the quality and breadth of health services available, their physical and financial accessibility, the reduction of stigma or exclusion, the role of family members and communities, the skills of health workers, the systems and policies in place. The ongoing pandemic has impacted virtually all these dimensions, but also pre-existing strategies to lower barriers to healthcare access. Under this theme, the MIDP Awards seek projects that are currently working to innovatively overcome some of these barriers in the face of the additional challenges posed by the COVID pandemic to healthcare access, with specific regard to the inclusion of the poorest and most vulnerable groups in society, including the elderly. Projects should not seek to use awarded funds to set up or directly resource health financing facilities.

Theme 2: Community-driven Climate-related Disaster Risk Reduction in Rural Areas

Climate change is responsible for changes in the intensity, frequency and location of climate-related hazards, making it more difficult to reduce disaster-related risks. Furthermore, the poorest and most vulnerable communities in developing countries are disproportionately affected by these changes: they face the highest losses for people and property, but also increased vulnerability to non-climate-related hazards. Under this theme, the MIDP awards seek projects that focus on building capacities at the grassroots level including the poorest and most vulnerable

communities in rural areas in disaster preparedness, and specifically risk identification and communication - taking into consideration the nature, frequency and intensity of risks faced by groups living in rural areas, over the short-, medium- and long-term.

Theme 3: Quality urban infrastructure and community driven governance

Rapid urban growth across developing countries poses considerable infrastructural challenges, both in terms of scale and of quality, with inequitable implications for traditionally excluded groups such as the poor and most vulnerable, gender considerations, and accessibility (particularly for the elderly and the disabled). Under this theme, the MIDP Awards seek projects that work on advancing inclusive planning, design, implementation and evaluation of urban infrastructure, through community driven/inclusive approaches to citizen engagement, with specific attention to the poorest and most vulnerable groups in cities/municipalities. Projects can focus on awareness raising and promoting enhanced attention to the needs and perspectives of vulnerable groups around issues such as building efficient and inclusive transport systems locally; constructing electric power grids to serve lower income segments; establishing water-supply or waste treatment systems, among others.

For each theme, up to 3 organizations will be awarded. Applications to more than one theme are not permitted.

The Award

The Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project is a competitive grant program under the umbrella of the [Global Development Awards Competition](#), administered by the Global Development Network and funded by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan. The award program invites non-profit Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to submit project proposals supporting (in particular) improved service delivery, and innovative approaches that may be scaled-up through a grant. The Award targets projects currently at the stage of implementation, and which have a high potential for impact targeting exceptionally marginalized and disadvantaged groups located in developing countries.¹

For each theme, the winning projects will receive grants worth **US\$ 45,000** and, in total, **the MIDP category will award 9 grants worth US\$ 135,000**. The awards will be given to organizations whose projects embody an innovative approach to an important development need and hold the greatest promise for:

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

- I. responding directly to the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable, underserved groups to improve their lives aiming at rapid results for improved livelihood;
- II. supporting initiatives that lead to developing sustainable outcomes through the scaling-up of the project.

The two first prize winners under each theme will receive a grant of **US\$ 20,000 each**. The second prize will receive a grant of **US\$ 5,000**. In addition, GDN will review the suitability of the proposals winning the First Prize for a much larger grant of **up to US\$ 200,000** within the framework of the World Bank-administered [**Japan Social Development Fund \(JSDF\)**](#). The last date for submission of the online registration form in the MIDP application template and other supporting documents is **9 June 2021 (Indian Standard Time 6:00 PM)**.

Important Dates

- Deadline for submissions: 9 June 2021
- Announcement of Eligibility screening results: 14 June 2021
- Announcement of Desk review results (1st shortlisted applications): 30 June 2021
- Announcement of Business review results (2nd shortlisted applications): 16 July 2021
- Site visits to 2nd shortlisted applications: 19 July until 13 August 2021
- Announcement of finalists: 15 September 2021
- Announcement of winners: 24 October 2021

Finalists are expected to be available during the following periods

- 20-21 October 2021 - Communications training
- 22-24 October 2021 – Session at an event for the presentation of their projects to the jury

Competition Rules and Guidelines

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

A. General Rules

- Please note that the submission of all documents is mandatory for your application to be treated as complete and eligible.
- The application and the required documents must be submitted as electronic files at GDN's online submission platform (www.gdn.int/awards2021/apply). Please note that GDN accepts applications through the online submission platform EXCLUSIVELY.

- Project proposals should be submitted only in the designated [application template](#).
- The Proposal Template must not exceed 20 pages. Format should be in Calibri, 11- point font with single line spacing and one-inch margins.
- An organization can only submit one application, irrespective of the theme.
- All applications must be accompanied by CVs of all the team members.
- Proposals must be submitted in the English language only.
- Please note that all personal information details provided in the application (along with the CV) should be correct, else the application will be liable for disqualification at any stage of the competition, including after the grant has been conferred.
- All project proposals must include an analysis of risks for the proposed work linked to existing restrictions to movement and other restrictions linked to pandemic response in the relevant geographical areas.
- The three finalists per theme, nine in total, are scheduled to present their work at the physical event from 22-24 October 2021 and are expected to attend the Communications training scheduled to take place between the 20-21 October 2021. *In case social distancing policies do not make travelling possible, the events will be held on a virtual setting.*

B. Eligibility Criteria

- The MIDP Award is open to all development projects being implemented in **low-income countries and lower-middle-income countries**².
- Comply with the [WB Environmental and Social Framework's \(ESF\)](#) and the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs). Please check Annex 1 at the end of this call to see the exclusion list of ineligible activities.
- The project must be managed by a non-profit, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) or Civil Society Organization (CSO) with its headquarters in one of the eligible countries.³
- Projects must have started its implementation on 1st June 2020 or earlier to be considered eligible.
- Submissions concerning a recently started project or only a project idea or a feasibility or baseline study will not be considered.

² Press [here](#) to visit the list of countries which are recognized as low and lower-middle income countries by the World Bank

³ The NGO/CSO must be eligible to receive funds from abroad according to the national legal framework (e. g. in India, the NGO/CSO must be FCRA compliant)

- Submissions for funding conferences (either in part or in full) will not be considered.
- Applicants from previous years (except winners) may re-apply, but they must update the application to include new aspects of the project.
- Previous MIDP winners are not eligible to apply.

C. How to Apply

Follow the steps given below:

• **Prepare your Application**

- **Proposal Template** - Download the proposal template document [available here](#). Fill it in and save it on your computer in .doc, .docx or .pdf format for upload.
- **Organizational Profile** - Prepare a document providing the profile (up to 1 page) of your organization (if any) and save it on your computer in .doc, .docx or .pdf format for upload.
- **NGO Registration** - Obtain an official document certifying the registration of your non-profit NGO/CSO. If the document is not available in English, please provide a translation (noncertified is acceptable).
- **CVs of the project team** - Collect all the CVs of the different team members, matching the name of the documents and compress them into a .zip, .rar or similar type of files.

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

- Follow to GDN's dedicated online submission platform using the following link: www.gdn.int/awards2021/apply
- Register or Log in into the platform to have access to your profile. You will receive an email confirming the successful registration of your profile and only after verifying your profile, will you be able to submit an application.
 - Take note that you will have to accept the terms and conditions of the Awards Force platform as well as the terms and conditions of the Global Development Awards Competition which state every aspect available on the Call for Proposals.
- On your profile page, you will have access to *My entries* where you may either resume (selecting the entry you would like to continue from the list) or start entry. Select "Call for MIDP Projects" under Category.

- In case you need to exit the application and complete it at a later time, click on **Save + Close**. You may return and complete your application on the online platform before the closing date (9 June 2021) but it will be considered as submitted only if you press **Submit Entry**.
 - Take note that you will be able to resume your entry at any time up to the deadline. If there are duplicate entries, the most recent one will be considered as only one proposal per applicant is allowed.
- You will be asked to indicate to which theme (1. Universal health coverage and COVID; 2. Community-driven Climate-related Disaster Risk Reduction in Rural Areas; and 3. Quality urban infrastructure and community driven governance) you are applying and provide all documents listed in the section “Application Structure” above.
 - You will be asked to provide the details of the proposal and applicable personal details of each member of the research team.
 - Upload your proposal, organizational profile, non-profit NGO/CSO registration and CVs on the **Attachments** tab, one at a time.
 - Once you have completed your application, click on **Submit Entry**. You will receive an email notifying you on the successful submission of your application.

The last date for submission of the online registration form, the full project proposal in the application template and CVs of the applicants is **9 June 2021 (Indian Standard Time 6:00 PM)**.

• Review Criteria

The project proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Innovative Approaches**
 - How is your project different from other existing approaches?
 - Is it proposing to pilot alternative approaches or to reach the target groups not reached by other programs?
 - Does this approach come from bottom-up partnerships engaging NGOs/CSOs, community associations, or local governments as implementing agencies?
 - Does it reflect a participatory design and consultation process with the targeted beneficiaries?

➤ **Clear Development Objective, Activities and Measurable Results**

- Does the project have a clear and measurable results framework?
- Does it utilize participatory monitoring and evaluation to help beneficiaries address their vulnerability and to ensure ownership and sustainability?
- Does the project have a realistic plan with steps/activities that build concretely towards achieving the project's objectives, and that can do so within a year of implementation after receiving the Award?
- Has the project designed a way to use monitoring and evaluation for learning and measuring outcomes and, ultimately, impact?

➤ **Sustainable Social Impact**

- Does the project contribute to poverty alleviation and social development in the short and long term?
- Is the development impact sustainable in the long run?
- Has the project generated local ownership?
- Is there a plan to transfer ownership?
- Has the targeted population demonstrated an increase in skill development or an increased willingness to learn new skills?
- Does the project help strengthen capacity of the targeted population to continue with the work themselves in the long run?
- Does the project support Community-Driven Development by Empowering the Poor at the local community level, to participate in society and government and to affect their development and learning by doing?

➤ **Expansion**

- How easily can the project be replicated and adapted to other countries, regions, sectors and cultures?
- What are the prospects for the project's expansion using the resources obtained from the award?
- Does the project have potential to have a large-scale development impact?

➤ **Cost Efficiency**

- Is the cost of the project justified in terms of measurable impacts/outcomes?

- What are the measurable impacts/outcomes (performance) of the project in comparison to the cost of the program?
- **Thorough Risk Assessment**
 - Are there any significant risks associated with the project?
 - How well prepared is the project team in mitigating these risks?
- **Efficient Management of Financial and Human Resources**
 - Are policies in place within the organization to ensure effective utilization of financial and human resources for implementation of the project?
- **Transparency and Accountability in Operations**
 - Does the project work in a way that allows gathering information on an ongoing basis and disclosing all appropriate information on the implementation, in particular to the project's direct stakeholders?
- **WB Environmental and Social Framework's Environmental Social Standards**
 - Does the project comply with the WB [Environmental and Social Framework's \(ESF\)](#) including the Environment Social Standards (ESS). Are there any E&S risks and impacts associated with the project and how is the project team planning to mitigate these risks and impacts?
 - Does the project comply with the exclusion list⁴ of ineligible activities?

D. Selection Process

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

- After a preliminary assessment by GDN, the submissions will be reviewed by an independent external evaluator. The selection process will include on-site visits to the shortlisted projects. The names of three finalists will be announced by **15 September 2021**.
- **The three finalists per theme, nine in total, are scheduled to present their work at the physical event from 22-24 October 2021 and are expected to attend the Communications training scheduled to take place between the 20-**

⁴ See Annex 1 for the Exclusion list

21 October 2021. *In case social distancing policies do not make travelling possible, the events will be held on a virtual setting.*

- The final selection of proposals will be undertaken by the MIDP High-Level Jury, after a public presentation of the projects by the finalists. The decision of the Jury will be final.
- The Jury for the Award will consider the substantive and operational merits of the submissions but will also take into account the potential for expansion into other settings and countries.

E. Terms and Conditions

- GDN reserves the right not to award any prizes under this Award category.
- GDN reserves the right to modify, cancel or not award prizes at any stage of the competition and grant-making.
- Cancellation of the Award: The Award is liable to cancellation in case of unsatisfactory progress of project-related implementation and if the organization or project is found ineligible later.
- Shortlisted candidates will undergo a site visit. All applicant organizations will agree to undergoing a site visit and cooperating with the review process.
- GDN will award the funds to winners through a written grant agreement.

Jury

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

- Association of African Universities, Ghana
- AusAID, Australia
- Australian National University, Australia
- African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Kenya
- Center for Global Development, USA
- EADI, UK
- IDRC, Canada
- International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, India
- JICA Research Institute, Japan
- OECD Development Centre, France
- Peking University, China

- The Brookings Institution, USA
- The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies, Egypt
- The Partnership for African Social & Governance Research (PASGR), Kenya
- The School of Social and Economic Development at the University of the South Pacific (USP), Fiji
- The World Bank, USA
- VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Zagazig University, Egypt.

Most Innovative Development Project Laureates

- Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP), Pakistan
- BARKA Foundation for Mutual Help, Poland
- Biodiversity Conservation in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, Mexico
- Butterflies, India
- Byrraju Foundation, India
- Camara Rwanda, Rwanda
- Chinmaya Organisation for Rural Development, India
- Citizen's Proposal Group, Peru
- Colegio Virtual Iberoamericano, Ecuador
- Conservation through Public Health, Uganda
- Development Reality Institute, Zimbabwe
- Dnet, Bangladesh
- Dream A Dream, India
- Fundacion Paraguaya, Paraguay
- Impulse NGO Network, India
- IRRAD, India
- JAAGO Foundation, Bangladesh
- ONG Bethesda, Benin
- Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society
- The Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bio-Resources (ANSAB), Nepal
- Transparency International, India

Annex 1 – Environment and Social Safeguards Activity Exclusions List

This exclusion list defines activities which will render a project proposal ineligible, vis-à-vis environmental and social standards.

The [World Bank Environmental and Social Framework \(ESF\)](#):

- Activities that cause involuntary resettlement or cause adverse negative impact on income generating activities/livelihood resources.
- Activities which will involve any kind of forceful evictions of people.
- Activities/processes which will involve use of highly toxic and/or banned chemicals, including pesticides
- Activities that involve child workers and/or forced labor, including activities that cause or lead to child abuse, child labor exploitation or human trafficking; No child under the age of 14 should work on the construction, rehabilitation or maintenance of a subproject. Children between ages 14-18 will not be employed or engaged in connection with the project in a manner that is likely to be hazardous or interfere with the child's education or be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.
- Involve development of new settlements or expansion of existing settlements in critical habitats, protected areas or areas proposed for certain levels of national protection (e.g., reserved forests), including cutting of trees for commercial activities.
- Entail the purchase or use of illegal/illicit drugs, military equipment or other potentially dangerous materials and equipment, including chainsaws, pesticides; insecticides; herbicides; asbestos (including asbestos-containing materials); or other investments detrimental to livelihoods including cultural resources.
- Processes/technologies that will discharge highly polluted processed water, emit toxic fumes and noxious odor exceeding the national emission standards or the World Bank Group Environment, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSg).
- Activities that will produce wastewater that will not be possible and viable for on-site treatment.
- Activities which involve works related to religious and political infrastructure;
- Activities which involve the purchase of equipment for government agencies