

Global Development Network

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Responsible Sector and Bank Unit:	DEC
Recipient Agency:	Global Development Network
Web Address:	http:// www.gdnet.org
Financial Arrangements for FY09 (Amount in US \$ Million)	
Total Budget:	9.17
DGF Funding Request:	3.50
DGF Percentage:	38%
Objectives and Expected Outcomes	
<p>GDN is a worldwide association of research and policy institutes whose goal is to create, share, and apply to policy, social science knowledge for the purpose of development. The objectives of the program are threefold: (i) generating knowledge and build research capacity through research competitions and commissioned research; (ii) fostering knowledge generation and strengthen networking and research communication through GDN program electronically and in face-to-face meetings and (iii) applying the results of local research to local policy issues based on a specially designed program of research and training. The immediate beneficiaries are individual researchers and research institutes receiving GDN support. The ultimate beneficiaries are the local policymakers who can draw on an increasing volume of high-quality, policy-relevant research.</p>	
Main Components	
<p>GDN's five core activities are: (1) Regional Research Competitions: A program of small grants administered by GDN's regional partners. Since 1999, GDN has supported almost 900 projects in over 70 different countries. (2) Global Research Projects (GRPs): Major research programs bringing many researchers together to work on a common topic. Nearly 611 grants have been awarded so far for country studies and regional and global summaries. (3) The Global Development Awards: Prizes for outstanding research. Almost 4,279 scholars from over 100 countries have participated in the competition to date. (4) Annual Global Development Conference: GDN's annual event and business meeting. The nine conferences so far have attracted more than 4,739 participants from over 100 countries. 70 percent of participants were from developing countries. (5) GDN: Development Knowledge Portal and Online Services Program. GDN is a leading source of development research; catering to social science research communities by providing them access to online resources and promoting Southern voices; and collaboratively building capacity of regional partners using Knowledge Management as a tool to facilitate access to policy shapers and bridge the gap between research and policy.</p>	
Performance Indicators	
<p>Measurable outputs of core activities were examined in the recent evaluation. Output is measured thus: For (i) Regional Research Competitions the number of submissions, the number of approvals, the number of completed projects, and the number of policy briefs; quality will be judged by peer review; (ii) the Global Research Projects, the measure of capacity building and networking will emanate from the number of country studies and participating researchers. Published books, papers and other refereed work and policy briefs will measure the quantity/quality of the output; (iii) Submissions and the quality of the final papers and projects as judged by the reviewers and selection committees will be the measurable indicators for the Global Development Awards Competition; (iv) Annual Global Development Conferences will be judged by the number and geographical distribution of the participants. Comments from participants determine quality; and (v) The indicators for GDN are the number and geographical distribution of subscribers to Newsletter, online access to the institute, researcher, and document directories.</p>	

Progress and Achievements

Progress in 2008 is as follows: (i) Regional Research Competitions have been maintained at \$2 million; (ii) the Global Research Projects are on track. Four have been completed; three are ongoing: “Bridging Research and Policy, “Development on the Move: Impact of Migration on Developing Countries” and “Impact Evaluation of Innovative Health Projects.” A new joint project with AERC has been initiated, with funding from UNDP on “Institutional Capacity Strengthening for African Public Policy Research Institutes.” In addition, GDN has been selected, through a highly competitive process, to enter negotiations to serve as host institution for the “International Initiative for Impact Evaluation” (3IE). (iii) the 2008 round of Global Development Awards attracted 640 submissions from 94 countries; (iv) the Ninth Annual Development Conference, held in Brisbane, Australia, was attended by 475 participants from 98 countries. The Tenth Annual Conference will be held in Kuwait City in partnership and with generous support of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development; (v) GDNet offers a rich reservoir of development research with more than 14,000 links to research papers, more than 3,675 organizations, more than 7,000 researchers’ profiles and over 21,000 subscribers who receive newsletters. The Knowledge base attracts about 0.5 million visits per month. GDNet now features eight Regional windows in the developing world showcasing region-specific social science research and providing research communities in each region with an online networking platform.

On August 1, 2007, Gobind Nankani assumed the role of President. A Strategic Review was discussed by the Board in January 2008. The review focused on four areas – (i) Goal clarity and positioning; (ii) Financial sustainability; (iii) Policy influence and (iv) Risk management. Staff, including a newly-recruited Chief Economist and Lead Communications Officer, are already well engaged in implementing the recommendations of the revamped strategy. The findings of the recently-completed independent evaluation were generally positive indicating overall progress and evidence of capacity building and knowledge creation. Areas of progress include broadening the reach across beneficiaries and growing evidence of improved capacity building results; decreasing the cost of annual conferences; the creation of sub-committees on the GDN Board of Directors; and the formation of a donor advisory council. The evaluation also reports that despite a financial downturn during 2004-06, GDN was able to diversify and increase funding sources in 2007. According to the report, “*GDN is generally perceived as providing mostly unique, relevant and valuable services.*”

Partners

GDN continues to partner with 11 Regional Research Networks spanning the entire world. Support is received from bilateral donors, the World Bank and several foundations. Seven countries have already signed the Agreement establishing GDN as an International Organization and three others -- Austria, Canada, and France -- have formally indicated their intention to do so. On February 25, 2008, Colombia ratified the Agreement thereby becoming the third country to do so. ***Subsequently in March 2008, the Government of India confirmed that GDN’s status as an International Organization came into effect on February 25, 2008.***

Governance and Management

GDN is governed by an 18-member Board of Directors, representing the worldwide research community. The Board determines the work program following consultations with the Regional Network Partners (RNPs), the research community more broadly, and the GDN Advisory Council (donors). Management of the program rests with the staff based in New Delhi, India; and offices in Cairo and Washington (virtual). The Board monitors all activities with respect to use of funds and outputs. RNPs report to the Secretariat and in turn the Secretariat reports to the Board which includes a World Bank representative.

Exit Strategy

Future DGF support will take into account GDN’s continued progress in addressing co-funding sustainability, its demonstrated success in building research capacity and its continued effective engagement with the Bank, specifically DEC. A major new fund-raising strategy is being developed, aimed at further increasing the share of non-Bank financing for both core and project-related financing. However, the Bank and IDRC remain the main providers of core funding, and recent successes in finding non-Bank sources, for example, the Gates Foundation, have been tied to specific research projects. GDN expects to make progress in this area, although the challenge of obtaining core funding from other sources remains great.