

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2026

CO-CREATION LABS

Tokyo, 15 December 2026

Fourteen projects built on work GDN has supported, each of which has hit something specific that stops it reaching more people. On the afternoon of 15 December, each host gets a table of the people best placed to help design a way past it. **Solution Partners** say what could be built, **a Scaler** says what would make it fundable, and **Peer Innovators** bring what happened elsewhere.

TRACKS

TRACK A
SCALE AND OPTIMISE

How a working solution can reach far more people.

TRACK B
INNOVATION PIVOT

What new layer, digital or institutional, would change how the work is done.

TRACK C
AI FRONTIER

Whether machine learning can clear a specific bottleneck.

THE PROJECTS

PROJECT	CHALLENGE HOST	REGION	TRACK
Inclusive Digital Transformation and Sustainable Economies Venue · Asian Development Bank Institute			
Mechanical water kiosk, Philippines	Auke Idzenga, AIDFI	East Asia and Pacific	TRACK A
Solar cold chain to reduce food loss, Ghana	Mathias Yabe, AkoFresh	Sub-Saharan Africa	TRACK A
Digital twin for city waste, Malaysia	Vincent Woon Kok Sin, HKUST (Guangzhou)	East Asia and Pacific	TRACK B
Digital tools for peace and shared natural resources, Benin and Mali	Brice Bio Bone, University of Parakou	Sub-Saharan Africa	TRACK B
Radio classrooms with AI feedback, Pakistan	Fakhira Najib, POWER99 Foundation	Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan	TRACK B
Machine-readable corporate disclosure, Bangladesh	Mizanur Rahman, University of Dhaka	South Asia	TRACK C
AI-assisted teaching for adaptive classrooms, Bangladesh	Korvi Rakshand, JAAGO Foundation	South Asia	TRACK C
Health Innovation, Governance and Resilient Societies Venue · World Bank Group Tokyo Development Learning Center			
Health fund for migrants, Thailand	Nicolas Durier, Dreamlopments Foundation	East Asia and Pacific	TRACK A
Child-led pathways to financial resilience, India	Rita Panicker, Butterflies	South Asia	TRACK A
Compostable banana-fibre pads, Rwanda	Paula Naiga, Bloom	Sub-Saharan Africa	TRACK B
Scaling a family poverty reduction model, Brazil	Sabrina Porcher, Instituto Dara	Latin America and the Caribbean	TRACK B
Research systems ready for digital transformation, El Salvador	Helga Cuéllar-Marchelli, FUSADES	Latin America and the Caribbean	TRACK B
Scaling locally owned AI evidence platforms, Sierra Leone	Regina Mamidy Yillah, Institute for Development	Sub-Saharan Africa	TRACK C
Civic Data Commons for care economy data, Sri Lanka	Nishan de Mel, Verité Research	South Asia	TRACK C

INCLUSIVE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES

Venue · Asian Development Bank Institute

MECHANICAL WATER KIOSK, PHILIPPINES

TRACK A

Auke Idzenga, AIDFI

Philippines · East Asia and Pacific
Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project, 2024

THE PROBLEM

A simpler water kiosk that villages can maintain and that can be made locally, starting with a more robust coin mechanism.

ALREADY RUNNING

227 purely mechanical, coin-operated kiosks installed, with no electronics, alongside AIDFI's fuel-free ram pumps in upland communities.

EXPERTISE THAT COULD HELP

Engineering, manufacturing and materials
Sensors and IoT **Design for low-connectivity users**

SOLAR COLD CHAIN TO REDUCE FOOD LOSS, GHANA

TRACK A

Mathias Yabe, AkoFresh

Ghana · Sub-Saharan Africa
Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project, 2024

THE PROBLEM

The battery bank is a quarter to a third of the cost of a unit and drives several other cost lines with it. The table will look at whether thermal storage can reduce it.

ALREADY RUNNING

Three solar cold hubs and two refrigerated tricycles serve 30 communities and more than 500 paying farmers, extending produce shelf life from three days to 21.

EXPERTISE THAT COULD HELP

Engineering, manufacturing and materials
Sensors and IoT **Design for low-connectivity users**

DIGITAL TWIN FOR CITY WASTE, MALAYSIA

TRACK B

Vincent Woon Kok Sin, HKUST (Guangzhou)

Malaysia · East Asia and Pacific
Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development, 2020

THE PROBLEM

Connecting a model that optimises city waste management to live data across the waste chain, from bins and collection vehicles to disposal and treatment, so cities can run it in real time.

ALREADY RUNNING

The optimisation model that connects the environmental-economic-social nexus was built for Malaysian municipal waste and shared with more than 200 local communities.

EXPERTISE THAT COULD HELP

Data systems and standards **AI and machine learning**
Policy and government adoption

DIGITAL TOOLS FOR PEACE AND SHARED NATURAL RESOURCES, BENIN AND MALI

TRACK B

Brice Bio Bone, University of Parakou

Benin and Mali · Sub-Saharan Africa
Savoirs Sahel, 2022 to 2026

THE PROBLEM

Moving paper-based mapping and mediation over shared land and resources into a digital system that works in fragile, low-connectivity settings.

ALREADY RUNNING

In northern Benin the approach has delimited pastoral areas, set up multi-stakeholder committees and led to municipal by-laws. Work is extending to artisanal gold mining in Mali.

EXPERTISE THAT COULD HELP

Geospatial and mapping
Mobile and low-bandwidth delivery
Data governance and ethics
Dashboards and decision support

INCLUSIVE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES

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RADIO CLASSROOMS WITH AI FEEDBACK, PAKISTAN

TRACK B

Fakhira Najib, POWER99 Foundation

Pakistan · Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan
Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project and JSDF Award, 2016

THE PROBLEM

Replacing slow manual monitoring of radio lessons in early-grade classrooms with simple tools that turn classroom data into practical advice for teachers.

ALREADY RUNNING

BroadClass has run interactive radio lessons with teacher facilitation in Pakistan since 2012, and grew through the Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project and the JSDF Award. Its design could be adapted to other contexts, including Afghanistan.

EXPERTISE THAT COULD HELP

- AI and machine learning
- Mobile and low-bandwidth delivery
- Monitoring and evaluation

MACHINE-READABLE CORPORATE DISCLOSURE, BANGLADESH

TRACK C

Mizanur Rahman, University of Dhaka

Bangladesh · South Asia
Medal for Research on Development, First Prize, Regional Integration, 2009

THE PROBLEM

Bangladesh began building a national Inline XBRL taxonomy in 2023. The hardest step remains untaken: mapping the country's own acts, rules and regulations onto machine-readable tags. That calls for XBRL standards expertise and detailed command of local disclosure law at the same time, a combination that is scarce in any market. The 1,456 requirements are already codified. What is missing is the tagging.

ALREADY RUNNING

A World Bank and UGC-funded University of Dhaka programme (2012 to 2015) codified the 1,456 mandatory requirements across IFRS, corporate governance and Basel rules, built disclosure-compliance panels for 212 listed companies, and produced accounting-based valuations of 257.

EXPERTISE THAT COULD HELP

- XBRL and iXBRL taxonomy design
- Financial supervision and regulation
- Data systems and standards
- AI and machine learning

AI-ASSISTED TEACHING FOR ADAPTIVE CLASSROOMS, BANGLADESH

TRACK C

Korvi Rakshand, JAAGO Foundation

Bangladesh · South Asia
Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project, 2015

THE PROBLEM

Helping teachers use AI to deliver curriculum-aligned lessons adapted to different student competency levels, while keeping teachers in control.

ALREADY RUNNING

JAAGO's Digital School model connects expert teachers with underserved classrooms across Bangladesh, currently reaching more than 5,000 students across 11 schools.

EXPERTISE THAT COULD HELP

- AI and machine learning
- Learning science and adaptive assessment
- EdTech design and localisation

WHICH ROLE IS YOURS

Solution Partner

Engineers, data and AI specialists, designers, researchers, policy and regulatory experts, from companies, universities, agencies and NGOs.

You say what could be built, what it would really take, and when something is not feasible.

Scaler

Development banks, bilateral agencies, foundations and impact investors.

You read the emerging design against real financing criteria and say what would make it fundable and what would rule it out.

Peer Innovator

Practitioners and researchers who have run something comparable, in any country or sector.

You bring what you learned, including what failed, so the table does not repeat it.

HEALTH INNOVATION, GOVERNANCE AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES

Venue · World Bank Group Tokyo Development Learning Center

HEALTH FUND FOR MIGRANTS, THAILAND

TRACK A

Nicolas Durier, Dreamlopments Foundation

Thailand · East Asia and Pacific
Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project, 2025

THE PROBLEM

Digitising enrolment for a not-for-profit health fund for migrants, refugees and stateless people, in a way that meets the regulatory rules of several countries.

ALREADY RUNNING

M-FUND has run since 2017 in 22 Thai provinces and border areas of Myanmar and Cambodia, with more than 122,000 members enrolled. Expansion in Malaysia is underway.

EXPERTISE THAT COULD HELP

- Design for low-literacy users
- Digital payments and fintech
- Policy and regulation

CHILD-LED PATHWAYS TO FINANCIAL RESILIENCE, INDIA

TRACK A

Rita Panicker, Butterflies

India · South Asia
Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project, 2006

THE PROBLEM

A light, offline, multilingual system so child-led savings groups can be replicated without adult facilitators and paper records.

ALREADY RUNNING

The Children's Development Khazana has run since 2001, with children managing their own savings and books, and has reached more than 70,000 children.

EXPERTISE THAT COULD HELP

- Dashboards and decision support
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Training and curriculum

COMPOSTABLE BANANA-FIBRE PADS, RWANDA

TRACK B

Paula Naiga, Bloom

Rwanda · Sub-Saharan Africa
Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project, 2021, awarded to Dufatanye Organisation

THE PROBLEM

Turning a working reusable banana-fibre pad into an affordable disposable one, with a compostable leak-proof backsheet and a cotton compostable topsheet.

ALREADY RUNNING

Working with Dufatanye Organisation and banana farmers in Nyanza, Bloom has installed fibre-processing machinery and a farm-to-factory supply chain, and distributed 3,500 reusable pads.

EXPERTISE THAT COULD HELP

- Engineering, manufacturing and materials
- Product design
- Policy and regulation

SCALING A FAMILY POVERTY REDUCTION MODEL, BRAZIL

TRACK B

Sabrina Porcher, Instituto Dara

Brazil · Latin America and the Caribbean
Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project, 2003

THE PROBLEM

Identifying the essential components of the Método Dara family model and redesigning how they can be delivered at scale, without losing the personalisation, quality and human judgement that make the model effective.

ALREADY RUNNING

Instituto Dara has worked with families experiencing poverty since 1991, directly reaching more than 100,000 people. Its methodology has been replicated by other civil society organisations, adapted internationally, and has informed public policies in Brazil.

EXPERTISE THAT COULD HELP

- AI and machine learning
- Product design
- Training and curriculum

HEALTH INNOVATION, GOVERNANCE AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES

Venue · World Bank Group Tokyo Development Learning Center

RESEARCH SYSTEMS READY FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, EL SALVADOR

TRACK B

Helga Cuéllar-Marchelli, FUSADES

El Salvador · Latin America and the Caribbean
Doing Research, 2020

THE PROBLEM

Extending GDN's Doing Research Assessment to measure the digital and AI capacity of research systems, piloted in El Salvador's second assessment.

ALREADY RUNNING

El Salvador's first assessment (2020 to 2022) produced the country's first full map of its social science research system and won a national research award in 2024. The project builds on this foundation by adding a Digital Transformation Layer.

EXPERTISE THAT COULD HELP

- AI and machine learning
- Policy and government adoption
- Research evaluation and digital research systems

SCALING LOCALLY OWNED AI EVIDENCE PLATFORMS, SIERRA LEONE

TRACK C

Regina Mamidy Yillah, Institute for Development

Sierra Leone · Sub-Saharan Africa
Digital Public Infrastructure Inclusivity Measurement Programme, 2026 to 2027

THE PROBLEM

Scaling an AI evidence platform across countries while each country keeps control of its own evidence, data, languages and governance. Digital ID and health access are the first demonstration.

ALREADY RUNNING

Sabi Salone, IfD's AI-enabled evidence platform, has operated in Sierra Leone since 2023. A GDN-funded study will examine exclusion from digital ID through a survey of about 1,800 households and qualitative research, with findings feeding into a dedicated platform module.

EXPERTISE THAT COULD HELP

- Language and speech technology
- Data systems and standards
- Data governance and ethics
- Policy and government adoption
- Monitoring and evaluation

CIVIC DATA COMMONS FOR CARE ECONOMY DATA, SRI LANKA

TRACK C

Nishan de Mel, Verité Research

Sri Lanka · South Asia
Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development, 2000

THE PROBLEM

An AI-assisted method to extract, check and index care economy data from scattered and scanned sources, so it can be used in public reasoning and decision-making.

ALREADY RUNNING

Verité has data from a nationally representative care economy survey and a Care Economy Literature Dashboard. The government has run National Time Use Surveys and runs quarterly labour force surveys. Verité also runs public finance, media ethics and parliamentary openness data platforms.

EXPERTISE THAT COULD HELP

- Data systems and standards
- AI and machine learning
- Data governance and ethics
- Design for low-connectivity users
- Dashboards and decision support

HOW TO JOIN

1. Send a request to attend the conference.
2. In the Co-Creation Labs section, choose the project you want to work on, a second choice, and your role.
3. We review all requests and allocate seats so that every table has the mix it needs. We don't seat two people from the same organisation at the same table.
4. If your place is confirmed, you complete your registration and we confirm your table before the conference.

Submit your request at conf2026.gdn.int