



The John D. Rockefeller 3RD Scholars Program: **WHY STRENGTHEN LOCAL CAPACITY FOR APPLIED POLICY RESEARCH ?**



What is JDR3?

Winrock International created the John D. Rockefeller 3RD Scholars Program (JDR3) in 2004 to continue the Rockefeller family's longstanding commitment to building the capacity and leadership skills of emerging scholars. The program promotes independent social science research and strengthens policy engagement skills of people from underrepresented groups. Research themes focus on development challenges facing disadvantaged groups, including women, youth, ethnic minorities and low-income groups.

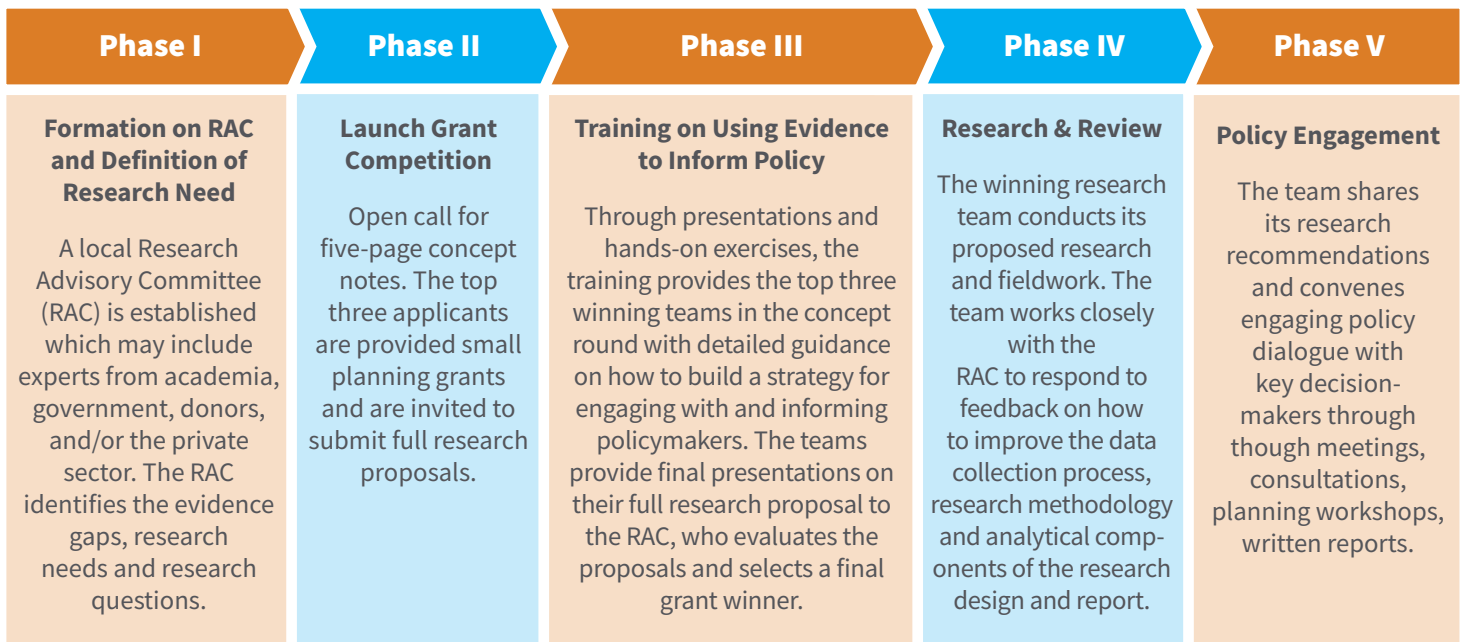
Why JDR3?

Donors have increasingly noted the importance of linking research and evidence-based practices to development programs to improve efficiency and effectiveness. To do this, it is imperative that donors and implementers strengthen the capacity of researchers globally to generate high quality evidence and engage with decision-makers to inform policies and practices. The JDR3 Program provides grants for locally-led social science research that supports the development goals of Winrock's donor-funded projects.

How Does JDR3 Strengthen Local Research Skills?

The JDR3 Program awards applies research grants through a phased grant competition, summarized in the figure below, which targets researchers under the age of 45, prioritizing women people from disadvantaged groups, and people with lived experience. During the grant competition, applicants receive detailed feedback from a local Research Advisory Committee (RAC), which may include experts from academia, government, donors, and the private sector, according to the research topic. The winning research team works closely with the RAC to engage with key decision-makers on policy and practice, thereby translating evidence into action.





How Does JDR3 Improve Policies and Practices?

Following are examples of current and past JDR3 teams and their contributions to policy change:

Nepal – Generating Evidence to Inform Interventions to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2019-2022)

This project engaged three research teams to explore three topics: 1) barriers to survivors of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) accessing justice in Nepal and host countries; 2) vulnerability and TIP in Nepal’s foreign employment sector; and 3) practices and approaches to reintegrate TIP survivors in Nepal. Based on the research findings, the recipients of the research grant made policy recommendations to provincial stakeholders, including the Ministry of Social Development, regional municipalities, police, journalists, and civil society organizations. The key messages and recommendations included: redefining TIP in a manner consistent with the Palermo Protocol, developing comprehensive guidelines for victim identification and providing training for frontline workers, establishing a unified standard guideline for dignified reintegration, fostering the leadership of survivors, and amending the Human Trafficking & Transportation Control Act and the Foreign Employment Act and regulations to align with the federal structure and the Palermo Protocol.

Bangladesh and Malaysia – Concealed Perils of Migration (2020-2021)

This research investigated and developed policy recommendations on the hidden costs of migration incurred by laborers as they move from Bangladesh to Malaysia, and barriers to improving migrant protections through the Asia Counter Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) project. This JDR3 project is the first known research to examine cross-border, bilateral agreements on migration. As a result of the research findings, the research grant recipients made policy recommendations to the Malaysian Ministry of Human Resources and the Malaysian Ministry of Home Affairs.

Vietnam and Thailand – Payments for Environmental Services to Benefit the Rural Poor (2006-2009)

In Vietnam, the JDR3 team conducted a willingness-to-pay survey for 600 Ho Chi Minh City residents. Over 90% of respondents expressed willingness to pay an average of 5% or more in increased water fees to protect local forest watersheds. These results informed the residential water tax incorporated into a 2010 law mandating Payment for Forest Environmental Services (PFES), a forest-driven approach to conserve watersheds. This groundbreaking law led to additional protection for the environment, including the transfer of \$723 million in funds for environmental services, including watershed protection, between 2011-2020. Additionally, 45 provinces are now participating in the PFES; 540,000 households are benefiting annually from PFES; 6.6 million hectares of forest have been protected (through 2020); 27 provinces are now making electronic payments to forest owners; and three provinces are piloting data collection and entry in a national PFES monitoring and evaluation system.

