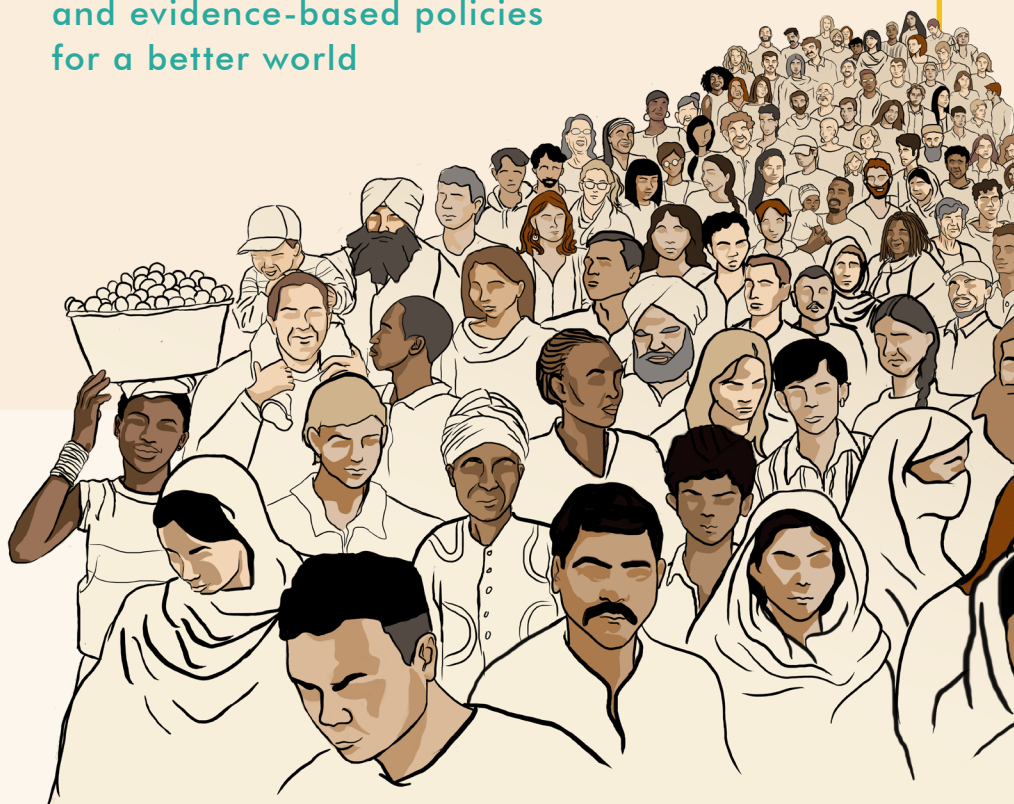




CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF J-PAL

Advancing more equitable
and evidence-based policies
for a better world



2003–2023

We opened our doors in 2003 with a mission to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is informed by scientific evidence. In our first decade, we set out to build a robust infrastructure for rigorous research in new contexts. In our second decade, we worked to transform how evidence is applied to policy change and build researcher and implementer capacity—all with the goal of improving lives worldwide.

FOUNDING AFFILIATES

J-PAL was founded by professors Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo, and Sendhil Mullainathan of MIT. The five affiliated professors who joined them when we first opened our doors in 2003 paved the way for a growing network of more than 325 affiliates today. Our affiliated researchers are at the heart of what we do and have helped spearhead two decades of innovative and impactful research.



Abhijit Banerjee
MIT



Marianne Bertrand
University of Chicago



Esther Duflo
MIT



Dean Karlan
Northwestern University



Michael Kremer
University of Chicago



Dan Levy
Harvard University



Edward Miguel
UC Berkeley



Sendhil Mullainathan
University of Chicago

AWARDS THROUGH THE YEARS

As randomized evaluation methods have evolved in scale and impact over the past twenty years, many of our affiliated professors have been recognized by leading economics organizations for their path-breaking research.

Elaine Bennett Research Prize

Erica Field (2010)
Amy Finkelstein (2008)
Marianne Bertrand (2004)
Esther Duflo (2002)



Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel

Abhijit Banerjee (2019)
Esther Duflo (2019)
Michael Kremer (2019)



MacArthur Fellowship

Marcella Alsan (2021)
Amy Finkelstein (2018)
Heidi Williams (2015)
Raj Chetty (2012)
Esther Duflo (2009)
Sendhil Mullainathan (2002)
Michael Kremer (1997)



John Bates Clark Medal

Raj Chetty (2013)
Amy Finkelstein (2012)
Esther Duflo (2010)



DIVERSIFYING THE RESEARCH NETWORK



Increasing diversity in J-PAL's research network



Strengthening inclusive policy engagement and communications



Increasing staff diversity



Building inclusive research and training partnerships

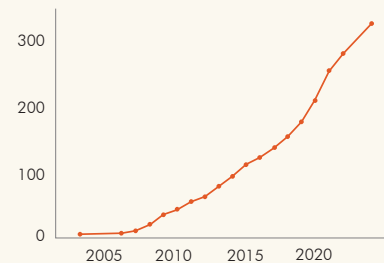


Ensuring an inclusive workplace in which all staff feel welcomed, valued, and empowered

325+ AFFILIATED PROFESSORS

Based at universities around the world, J-PAL affiliates are experts in their fields who are united in their use of randomized evaluations to design, test, and inform adoption at scale of programs and policies aimed at reducing poverty.

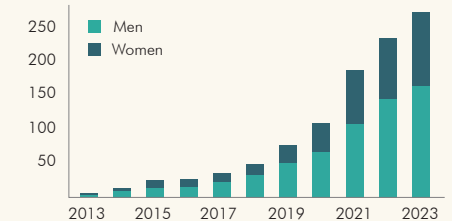
J-PAL AFFILIATES OVER TIME



570+ INVITED RESEARCHERS

Invited researchers are an important element of our mission to increase the number of high-quality, policy-relevant randomized evaluations and ensure that policy is informed by this scientific evidence. Typically researchers who have less experience carrying out randomized evaluations, they add to a growing evidence base while gaining expertise in randomized evaluation methods.

J-PAL INVITED RESEARCHERS GENDER OVER TIME



We are working toward increasing the diversity of our research network, staff, and the places in which we conduct research; and are prioritizing equity and inclusion in our work. This includes strengthening our research network at all stages of the pipeline.



PRE-DOC/RESEARCH ASSOCIATES



PHD STUDENTS



POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS



INVITED RESEARCHERS & REGIONAL SCHOLARS



AFFILIATED PROFESSORS

8

REGIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAMS

Our Regional Scholars Programs enrich evidence generation with local, context-specific grounding by removing barriers for researchers based in low- and middle-income countries to conduct randomized evaluations through funding, mentorship, and training.

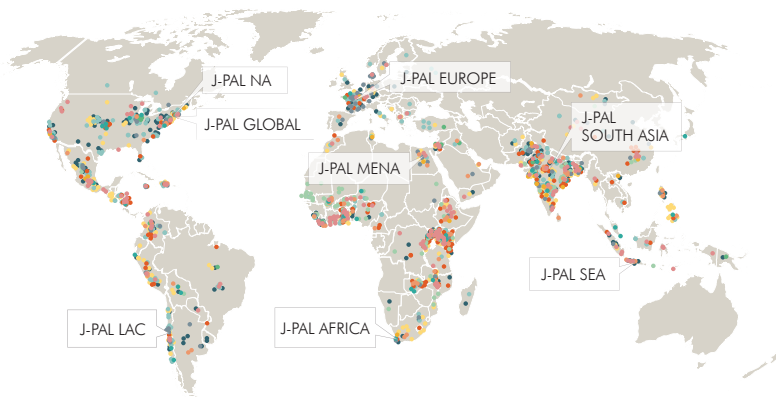
GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE

1,800+
EVALUATIONS

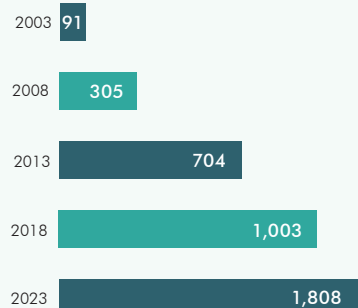
conducted by researchers in our network across 95 countries, building a strong body of evidence on the most (and least) effective approaches to reducing poverty.

J-PAL SECTORS

- Agriculture
- Crime, Violence, & Conflict
- Education
- Environment, Energy, & Climate Change
- Finance
- Firms
- Gender
- Health
- Labor Markets
- Political Economy & Governance
- Social Protection



EVALUATION GROWTH OVER TIME



RESEARCH IN 95 COUNTRIES

has identified region-specific, context-appropriate policy solutions worldwide.



11 SECTORS

concentrate research and policy analysis across a wide breadth of social policy priorities.



1,200+ EVALUATION SUMMARIES

of individual studies help make research results more accessible to policymakers and practitioners.



48 POLICY INSIGHTS

highlight lessons emerging across multiple studies and explain the mechanisms driving these results.

LOCAL GROUNDING

7 REGIONAL OFFICES

Our network of regional offices are hosted at universities around the world and lead research, policy engagement, and training across their regions. We also work closely with our partner organization, Innovations for Poverty Action, which has offices in 20 countries.

HOST UNIVERSITIES AND PARTNERS



CELEBRATING LONGTIME STAFF

J-PAL has been home to thousands of talented individuals who have helped shape our organization. We celebrate the current J-PALers who have been with us continuously for more than ten years, making countless impactful contributions along the way. Thank you!



- Row 1** B. Ayyappa (South Asia, 2007), Shobhini Mukerji (South Asia, 2007), Chaerudin Kodir (Southeast Asia, 2008), Hansa Parmar (South Asia, 2008), Vipin Awatramani (South Asia, 2009), Iqbal Dhaliwal (Global, 2009), David Sears (Global, 2010).
- Row 2** Narayanee A (South Asia, 2011), Ilf Bencheikh (Europe, 2011), John Floretta (South Asia and Global, 2011), H.Y. Gowramma (South Asia, 2011), Harini Kannan (South Asia, 2011), Heather McCurdy (Global, 2011), Arindam Mukherji (South Asia, 2011).
- Row 3** Ruben Menon (South Asia, 2012), Claire Walsh (Global, 2012), Putul Gupta (South Asia, 2013), Sabahat Ali Khan (South Asia, 2013), Claudia Macías (Latin America and the Caribbean, 2013), Lina Marliani (Southeast Asia, 2013).

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

20K+ PEOPLE TRAINED

Since its start in 2005, the J-PAL training group has grown to deliver hundreds of online and in-person courses and train more than 20,000 people around the world in conducting rigorous randomized evaluations.

2,200+ RESEARCH STAFF TRAINED

In partnership with IPA, J-PAL hosts multiple in-person research staff trainings annually for employees of J-PAL, IPA, Evidence for Policy Design, and other research staff working on evaluations led by J-PAL affiliated researchers.



FLAGSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

Our Evaluating Social Programs course provides an introduction to randomized evaluations for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners and is offered virtually and in-person each year in locations worldwide.



CUSTOMIZED OFFERINGS

Customized trainings are tailored to support policy and research partners working in specific sectors and regions.



ONLINE COURSES

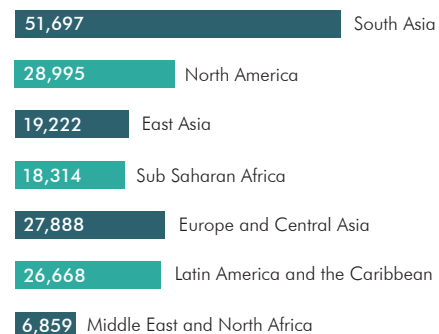
Online courses in several different languages make learning more accessible to broader audiences worldwide.

350K+ DEDP LEARNERS

In 2017, J-PAL launched the online Data, Economics, and Design of Policy MicroMasters program in collaboration with MITx and the MIT Department of Economics. The program has reached over 350,000 learners with over 620,000 total enrollments across all courses.

Our learners come from **214 countries and territories**, with more than **69% from low- and middle-income countries** and 92% receiving some form of financial assistance.

ENROLLED LEARNERS



POLICY-RELEVANT RESEARCH

30 INITIATIVES LAUNCHED

Through our innovative initiative model, J-PAL initiatives identify evidence gaps on key policy priorities; fund cutting-edge research through a competitive, peer-reviewed grant-making process; and engage with policymakers to share results and catalyze adoption of evidence at scale.



- 2009** Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative (ATAI)
- 2011** Governance Initiative (GI)
Urban Services Initiative (USI)
- 2012** Youth Initiative Post-Primary Education (PPE)
- 2013** North America Social Policy Research Initiative (SPRI)
- 2014** U.S. Health Care Delivery Initiative (HCDI)
- 2015** North America State and Local Innovation Initiative (SLII)
Government Partnership Initiative (GPI)
- 2017** Cash Transfers for Child Health Initiative (CaTCH)
Skills for Youth Program (SYP)
Crime and Violence Initiative (CVI)
- 2018** North America Education, Technology, and Opportunity Initiative
- 2019** Innovation in Government Initiative (IGI)
European Social Inclusion Initiative (ESII)
Innovations in Data and Experiments for Action (IDEA)
Africa Digital Identification and Finance Initiative (DigIFI)
North America Worker Prosperity Initiative

- 2020** Gender and Economic Agency Initiative (GEA)
North America COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Initiative
King Climate Action Initiative (K-CAI)
Jobs and Opportunity Initiative (JOI)
Southeast Asia Inclusive Financial Innovation Initiative (IFI)
- 2021** Digital Agricultural Innovations and Services Initiative (DAISI)
Jobs and Opportunity Initiative in Brazil (JOI Brazil)
- 2022** Alliance for Scaling Policy Impact through Research and Evidence (ASPIRE)
Social Protection Initiative (SPI)
Science for Progress Initiative (SFPI)
- 2023** Learning for All Initiative (LAI)
Displaced Livelihoods Initiative (DLI)

EVIDENCE TO POLICY

25+ EMBEDDED LABS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

J-PAL has worked with governments and other organizations to create embedded labs to launch new highly policy-relevant randomized evaluations and to institutionalize the use of evidence in policy and practice.

Most recently, this includes

- a series of **Air and Water Labs (AWL)** launched with Community Jameel and local partners in Egypt, India, and South Africa,
- the **Egypt Impact Lab (EIL)** in Egypt's Ministry of Planning and Economic Development,
- and the **University Mohammed VI Polytechnic - J-PAL Agricultural Lab for Africa (UJALA)** with OCP in Morocco.

PATHWAYS TO POLICY CHANGE

SHIFT GLOBAL THINKING



Free bednets to fight malaria across Africa

Teaching at the Right Level to improve learning

APPLYING RESEARCH INSIGHTS



Communicating Covid-19 information at scale

Cash transfers for vulnerable households in Chile

SCALING UP AN EVALUATED PILOT



Improving access to justice in Mexico

Helping children catch up in the United States

INSTITUTIONALIZING EVIDENCE USE



A trusted partnership built over time in Tamil Nadu

Bolstering evidence use in the United States

ADAPTING AND SCALING A PROGRAM



A trusted partnership built over time in Tamil Nadu

Bolstering evidence use in the United States

SCALING BACK AN EVALUATED PROGRAM

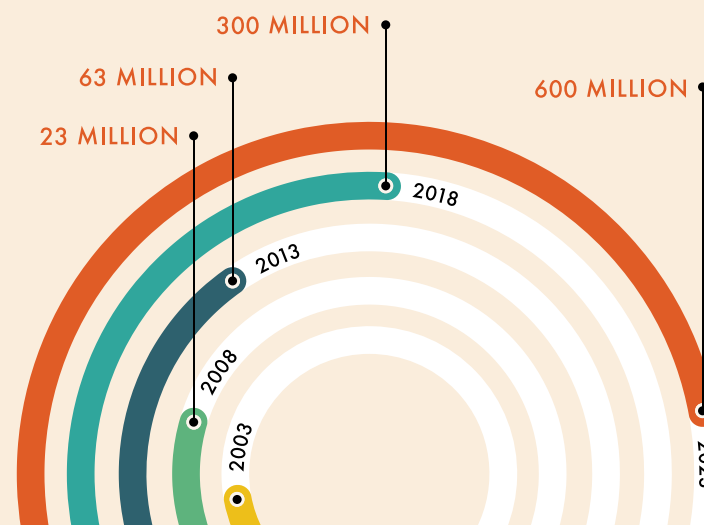


The unintended effects of anonymous resumes in France

The limits of high-tech solutions in health care in India

600 MILLION LIVES REACHED

2003–2023



Evidence from randomized evaluations is changing how we understand and address problems related to poverty. Policymakers, practitioners, and funders worldwide are increasingly applying these learnings to social policies and programs.

Over 600 million people have been reached by programs and policies that have been informed by evaluations by J-PAL affiliated researchers.

ENABLING INNOVATION AND GROWTH

Who is Abdul Latif Jameel?

Following in the footsteps of his late father, the entrepreneur and mission-driven philanthropist Abdul Latif Jameel, Mohammed Jameel KBE—an MIT alumnus—launched Community Jameel in 2003. Community Jameel partnered with J-PAL in 2005 with three significant endowments that sparked the lab's expansion to the worldwide research center it is today and catalyzed its transformative impact. J-PAL continues to work in close collaboration with Community Jameel, an independent, global organization that advances science and learning for communities to thrive.



Photo (left to right): Iqbal Dhaliwal, Esther Duflo, Hassan Jameel, Mohammed Jameel, Abhijit Banerjee, Ben Olken, Fady Jameel.

Our visionary partners

Our work is generously supported by foundations, governments, and individual and family philanthropists. In addition to Community Jameel, major donors include Arnold Ventures, The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Co-Impact, Echidna Giving, Founders Pledge, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Global Innovation Fund, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, Google.org, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The IKEA Foundation, King Philanthropies, The LEGO Foundation, Livelihood Impact Fund, The Douglas B. Marshall Jr. Family Foundation, The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Omidyar Network, Open Philanthropy, The Sawiris Foundation for Social Development, Schmidt Futures, The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, The Target Foundation, The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, USAID Development Innovation Ventures, The US Millennium Challenge Corporation, and Veddiss Foundation.

J-PAL AT 20

Listening, Learning, and Innovating

Friday, November 3, 2023

8:30am–6:00pm

MIT Media Lab

6th Floor, 75 Amherst Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts

AGENDA

MORNING PLENARY SESSIONS

8:00–8:30am	Registration and breakfast
8:30am	The journey to J-PAL at 20 Hassan Jameel, <i>Vice Chairman, Community Jameel</i> Esther Duflo, <i>Director, J-PAL and Professor, MIT</i>
8:45am	High-quality education for all Faiyaz Ahmed, <i>Head of Content, Pratham</i> Gifty Amaney, <i>Field Consultant, Innovations for Poverty Action</i> Rukmini Banerji, <i>CEO, Pratham</i> Pascaline Dupas, <i>Professor, Princeton</i> Nuzhat Malik, <i>Program Head, Pratham</i> Stellina Pana, <i>Field Consultant, Innovations for Poverty Action</i> Video: Deborah Danso, <i>Pharmacy Technician</i>
9:30am	Reframing the narrative Ami Vitale, <i>Photographer, filmmaker, and explorer</i>
9:45am	Poverty, the environment, and climate change Gregory Chen, <i>Managing Director of the Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative, BRAC International</i> Kelsey Jack, <i>Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara</i> James Mwenda, <i>Conservationist and entrepreneur</i> Ami Vitale, <i>Photographer, filmmaker, and explorer</i> Video: Hindou Ibrahim, <i>President, Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad</i>
10:30–11:00am	Coffee break
11:00am	My epic failures Ben Olken, <i>Director, J-PAL and Professor, MIT</i>
11:15am	Poverty amidst plenty: The good fight in the United States Maryann Broxton, <i>Main Representative to the United Nations, International Movement ATD Fourth World</i> Janti Soeripto, <i>President and CEO, Save the Children US</i> Ashleigh Stocton, <i>East Tennessee Community Action Team Volunteer Community Lead, Save the Children Action Network</i>
11:40am	Video: Marcelo Rocha, <i>Founder, A Banca</i>
11:45am	Working with quacks: The challenges of unregulated health care Abhijit Chowdhury, <i>Professor and Chair of Hepatology, Indian Institute of Liver and Digestive Sciences</i> Jishnu Das, <i>Professor, Georgetown University</i> Video: Tarun Chakraborty and Tanmay Majumdar, <i>informal health care providers</i>
12:15pm	Plenary closing Esther Duflo, <i>Director, J-PAL and Professor, MIT</i>
12:30–1:30pm	Lunch

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:30pm (concurrent)	Track 1: Small group sector convenings (by emailed invitation)
1:30pm (concurrent)	Track 2: AI: Emerging challenges and opportunities David Autor, <i>Ford Professor and Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellow, MIT</i> AI and the microeconomy Gita Gopinath, <i>First Deputy Managing Director, IMF</i> AI and the macroeconomy Brigitte Hoyer Gosselink, <i>Director of Product Impact, Google.org</i> AI and its applications for social good S. Krishnan, <i>Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology</i> AI and government Iqbal Dhaliwal, <i>Global Executive Director, J-PAL</i> AI and experiments; <i>moderator</i>
1:30pm (concurrent)	Track 3: Innovations in RCT methods and perspectives for the next decade Seema Jayachandran, <i>Professor, Princeton</i> Measuring women's agency Dean Karlan, <i>Professor, Northwestern</i> Megastudies Craig McIntosh, <i>Professor, University of California, San Diego</i> Design and analysis Poppy Widyasari, <i>Associate Director of Research, J-PAL Southeast Asia</i> Leveraging administrative data William Parienté, <i>Professor, Université Catholique de Louvain</i> <i>Moderator</i>
3:00–3:30pm	Coffee break

AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSIONS

3:30pm	How did it all start? Bengt Holmström, <i>Nobel laureate and MIT Professor Emeritus</i>
3:35pm	Fireside chat on the future of J-PAL and experiments in social policy Iqbal Dhaliwal, Esther Duflo, and Ben Olken, <i>J-PAL Directors</i>
4:45pm	Our shared call to action Mark Gorenberg, <i>Chair, MIT Corporation</i>
4:50–6:00pm	Reception



SCAN FOR SPEAKER
BIOS AND MORE

