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Request for Proposals - Pilot / Full RCTs

*The Egypt Impact Lab is a collaboration of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development with J-PAL MENA at AUC. Strategic partners play key roles and include the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the National Council for Women, the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency, and the National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development. The EIL is made possible with support from founding partners Sawiris Foundation for Social Development and Community Jameel, with additional support from UNICEF Egypt.*

Proposals for Egypt Impact Lab funding consist of:

(i) An application form, which includes a cover sheet and narrative;

(ii) A budget form; and

(iii) Letters of support

Funding details:

1. Pilot proposals: up to $75,000
2. Full research proposals: up to $250,000

# **I. COVER SHEET AND NARRATIVE**

## **SECTION A: COVER SHEET**

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| TITLE OF PROPOSAL | | | |
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| J-PAL AFFILIATED/INVITED RESEARCHER(s) | | | |
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| NON-J-PAL CO-PI(s) (Institutional Affiliation) | | | |
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| ☐ I agree | *By checking this box, all J-PAL affiliates and invited researchers who are co-PIs on this project certify that they will be active, engaged, and responsive PIs dedicated to guaranteeing the quality control on all aspects of this project; and that their participation in this project is not merely to provide access to J-PAL resources and funding to anyone else working on this project who is neither a J-PAL affiliate nor invited researcher.* | | |
| EIL STRATEGIC GOVERNMENT PARTNER(S) | | CONTACT (NAME, EMAIL, PHONE) | |
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| OTHER PARTNER(S) | | CONTACT (NAME, EMAIL, PHONE) | |
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| CO-FUNDER(S) | | FUNDED AWARD (PI, Project Title, Amount) | |
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| **Have you submitted this or a related proposal to any other J-PAL funding initiative?** | | | |
| ☐ Yes  ☐ No | | If yes, which initiative and when? | |
| EIL FUNDING REQUEST *(Check all the boxes that correspond to your application)*  **Thematic Area(s)**:  *Social Protection and Poverty alleviation* ☐  *Family Development and Female Empowerment* ☐  *Employment and MSME development* ☐  **Award type**:  *Pilot ☐*  *Full RCT ☐* | | | |
| NOTE: In responding to the following items, please refer to Section 3 of the RFP Overview for guidance on funding amounts and suggested grant timelines. | | | |
| FUNDING AMOUNT | | | |
| Amount requested from EIL | **$** | **Total co-funded by other funders** | **$** |
| GRANT PERIOD | | | |
| Start date:  (yyyy-mm-dd) |  | End date:  (yyyy-mm-dd) |  |
| Will AUC receive funds and J-PAL MENA implement? |  | If not, institution to receive funds and contact for contracting issues |  |
| **Does your proposal involve Human Subjects Research?**  *Yes* ☐ *No ☐*    If yes, please fill out the two boxes below. | | | |
| IRB OF RECORD |  | IRB CONTACT |  |

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## **SECTION B: NARRATIVE**

### PLEASE INCLUDE A SHORT RESPONSE TO EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SUB-SECTIONS.

### **POLICY ISSUE AND INTERVENTION DETAILS**

A summary of the context and policy issue, identified by the government partner, that motivates this research. *[suggested word count: Up to 250 words]*

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Please briefly describe the intervention and how it will address the policy issue. *[suggested word count: Up to 500 words]*

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Target population most likely to benefit from the intervention *[suggested word count: Up to 500 words]*

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A clear project timeline (Gantt chart preferred) including short-term markers of success. *[suggested format: Please attach spreadsheet or table containing Gantt chart]*

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### **RANDOMIZED EVALUATION DESIGN AND OUTCOMES**

The research question(s) this evaluation is meant to answer.

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Outcomes measured to detect impact.

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The causal relationship between the intervention and the outcomes that is to be tested.

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Randomization Method (lottery, phase-in, encouragement…etc.).

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Unit of randomization.

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Treatment and comparison groups.

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Sample size (Please include power calculations for full RCTs only).

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Gender issues addressed, including analysis disaggregated by gender.

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An assessment of the cost effectiveness potentialof the intervention if delivered at scale.

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Use of existing administrative data systems or technology to collect data (if any)

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**RESULTS AND POTENTIAL SCALE-UP**

Brief description of partnership between researchers, implementers, and government representatives, their involvement in project activities, and any in-kind or financial support they have committed or provided to the project. *[suggested word count: up to 200 words each]*

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Government decisions that may be informed by the evaluation: how can results be used to adapt and/or scale programs. (Be as specific as possible, and refer to any discussions with your government partner on how they intend for this work to inform their decisions). *[suggested word count: 250 words]*

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Elaboration on the government commitment to use the results in a scale-up decision (backed up by letters of support that indicate a commitment to scale-up the intervention) (Full RCTs only)

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The names and titles of the main government contact(s) and the roles they will play over the course of the project. Please note whether they are likely to be transferred during the project and what steps you have taken or will take to ensure continuity of the work in the event of a transfer. Please note other stakeholders who are equally invested in the partnership as well.

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Technical, logistic or political risks that might threaten the completion of the evaluation, and ways to overcome them

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### **POTENTIAL ETHICAL RISKS [OPTIONAL]:**

The domain of an IRB review does not include all ethical considerations. Please discuss, if applicable, any ethical considerations that you feel warrant discussion but are not covered by your existing or planned IRB review. It is fine to leave this section partly or entirely blank; please detail only issues that are not or will not be covered by your IRB and that are not otherwise described elsewhere in your responses to questions in this application but that you feel are potentially important enough for the review committee to be aware of. For more details, see below.

If the underlying intervention you are studying will not be reviewed by the IRB approval that you have secured or will secure (because, for example, the intervention is being implemented by outside entities not for research purposes), then please discuss any relevant ethical considerations around the intervention, taking into account the benefits to society of doing this research vs. the risks to subjects.

*(Can state that intervention will be reviewed by IRB, and nothing else to report here.)*

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Are there potential harms to research participants in the process of data collection and/or research procedures (for example, discomfort to being asked certain questions or breach of confidentiality), that are not part of an existing or planned IRB approval? If so, what are they, and what proactive measures will be taken to assess, monitor, and mitigate/prevent any such potential risks?

*(Can state that intervention will be reviewed by IRB, and nothing else to report here.)*

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Are there potential harms to research staff from conducting the data collection (such as, for example, exposure to political violence, unusual levels of a communicable disease, emotional wellbeing from surveying about difficult matters)? If so, what are they? Has the team taken proactive measures to assess, monitor, and mitigate/prevent any such potential risks?

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Are there any potential unintended consequences of this project for program participants or non-program participants and if so, what are they? What proactive measures has your team taken to assess, monitor, and mitigate/prevent any such potential risks?

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Are there any contractual limitations on the ability of the researchers to report the results of the study? If so, what were those restrictions, and who were they from?

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Beyond anything discussed and/or disclosed in existing or planned IRB submissions, are there any other ethical considerations that you feel are important for the Board to be aware that you have already thought of, and incorporated in your work?

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# **II. BUDGET FORM**

## Please request a budget template by emailing J-PAL MENA at [eil\_rfp@povertyactionlab.org](mailto:eil_rfp@povertyactionlab.org) no later than February 21, 2023. Submit the completed budget form and this proposal document together no later than March 14, 2023 at 5:00pm Cairo time. As studies will all take place in Egypt, J-PAL MENA will work with you to complete the budget template. Please refer to the “Budget instructions'' sheet included in the budget template when developing your budget.

# **III. LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

### **LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM EIL IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**

Please attach a letter of support from the implementing policy partner(s). Each letter should indicate a willingness to work with the research team at EIL and a commitment to provide cost data to EIL.

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### **POTENTIAL SCALE-UP PARTNER LETTER OF SUPPORT**

If available, please attach a letter of support from the potential scale-up policy partner(s). Each letter should indicate a commitment to scale-up the project given significant favorable results.

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If this proposal receives initiative funding, we will ask that you submit: All IRB approval(s) or exemption(s); all IRB-approved protocols; and any IRB-approved consent forms. Please note that J-PAL requires that the reviewing IRB have (<https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/register-irbs-and-obtain-fwas/irb-registration/irb-organizations/index.html>) IORG status with the US Office of Human Protections. You can look up the IORG status of an IRB (<https://ohrp.cit.nih.gov/search/search.aspx?styp=bsc>)