

## **Approaches to Enhanced Service Delivery for Displaced Children and Families in Egypt: Insights and Pathways to Resilience**

A seminar by the **Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab Middle East and North Africa at The American University in Cairo (J-PAL MENA at AUC)** and **United Nations Children's Fund Egypt (UNICEF Egypt)**

### **About the Global Evidence for Egypt Spotlight Seminar Series Partnership**

UNICEF Egypt and The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab Middle East and North Africa (J-PAL MENA) at The American University in Cairo (AUC) launched the Global Evidence for Egypt Spotlight Seminar Series in Cairo, Egypt in 2019 to foster a dialogue among Egyptian policymakers, development practitioners, and J-PAL affiliated professors around pertinent policy issues in Egypt. During each seminar, policymakers and development practitioners highlight a particular development priority in Egypt. J-PAL affiliates frame the policy issue from a global perspective and offer evidence-informed insights for improving policy and program design from J-PAL's database of Randomized Control Trials (RCTs) conducted globally. In dialogue, the panel will work together to ground the evidence in the Egyptian context and to explore possible policy solutions.

### **About the Upcoming Seminar**

The upcoming seminar focuses on strengthening basic-services delivery for displaced children and their families and fostering social cohesion within host communities. By highlighting emerging insights from J-PAL's global and regional research, we aim to contribute to effective support mechanisms and promote sustainable well-being for all individuals residing in Egypt.

The discussion will focus on emerging lessons from basic service delivery (such as education and healthcare) and efforts to foster social cohesion. It will address the dual challenge of meeting immediate humanitarian needs while promoting long-term, sustainable livelihoods. The session will also explore cross-sector collaboration among government actors, NGOs, development partners, and research institutions—an essential approach to addressing the complex needs of diverse populations. In light of Egypt's new asylum law, the session aims to generate actionable insights to inform effective policies and programming.

### **About the Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Stephen O'Connell is an Associate Professor of Economics at Emory University and a J-PAL Invited Researcher in the Displaced Livelihoods and Humanitarian Protection Initiatives. His research focuses on work, productivity, identity, and inequality, and studies entrepreneurship, forced displacement, gender, and social policy design. His major recent projects have studied the targeting of humanitarian aid and how livelihoods programs affect social cohesion. In two ongoing randomized trials in partnership IOM - Iraq, he is studying how small and large capital grants to entrepreneurs affects resilience and social tensions in displacement-affected communities. He is currently designing another study in Northern Iraq that tests the capacity of traditional institutions to support the reintegration of women and children with perceived familial ties to former combatants. More information about Dr. O'Connell is available [here](#).

**Venue:** Oriental Hall, AUC Tahrir Campus

**Date and time:** Wednesday, 27th of August, 2025 Time: 2:00-4:00pm

AGENDA	
2:00 - 2:05 PM	Welcome
2:05 - 2:15 PM	Introductory remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ahmed El Sayed</b>, Executive Director of J-PAL MENA and Associate Professor at the Onsi Sawiris School of Business, The American University in Cairo</li> <li>• <b>Nathalie Meyer</b>, Deputy Representative Programmes, UNICEF Egypt</li> </ul>
2:15 - 2:45 PM	Global Evidence on approaches to enhanced service delivery for displaced children and families in Egypt  <b>Stephen O'Connell</b> , Associate Professor of Economics at Emory University and a J-PAL Invited Researcher
2:45 - 3:40 PM	Panel Discussion: Grounding the Global Evidence in the Egyptian Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sherifa Said</b>, Head of Humanitarian Assistance, World Food Programme Egypt Office</li> <li>• <b>Mohamed Elkaramany</b>, Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Administration, The American University in Cairo</li> <li>• <b>Janette Shaheen</b>, Chief of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, UNICEF Egypt</li> <li>• <b>Stephen O'Connell</b>, Associate Professor of Economics, Emory University</li> </ul>
3:40 - 3:50 PM	Open discussion with audience
3:50 - 4:00 PM	Closing remarks