

REDUCING  
POVERTY BY  
ENSURING  
POLICY IS  
BASED ON  
SCIENTIFIC  
EVIDENCE



## 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL

Poverty Action Lab



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TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO ACTION



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was founded on the belief that development programs can be made more effective, creating positive change in the lives of the poor, if policymakers have access to rigorous scientific evidence of what works. Since 2003, J-PAL has worked to support researchers using randomized evaluations and expand its own research base, train others outside of J-PAL to conduct randomized evaluations, and translate research findings into concrete policy action.

To those ends, FY2012 has seen the further growth and influence of J-PAL's work. Evidence generated by J-PAL has led to the scale-up of proven programs—from school-based deworming to police skills training to chlorine dispensers for safe water—and has now reached more than 63 million people. The organization has made progress in setting up its newest regional office, J-PAL Southeast Asia (to be based at the University of Indonesia, in Jakarta), with hopes to launch it in mid-2013. Professor Ben Olken was appointed J-PAL's fourth Director, and staff grew to more than 100 throughout the Global and regional offices. Since its founding, J-PAL has trained 1,014 people, worked in 51 countries on 345 evaluations, and welcomed 70 researchers into its network of research affiliates.



LOTTERY DRAWING FOR VOUCHERS THAT SUBSIDIZE A PORTION OF THE COST FOR LATRINE PARTS  
RAJSHAHI, BANGLADESH  
PHOTO BY ISHITA AHMED

# THE GROWTH OF J-PAL

## INITIATIVES

As of FY2011, J-PAL was managing three initiatives: the Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative (ATAI), the Governance Initiative (GI), and the still-nascent Youth Initiative.

At present,

> ATAI is funding 23 projects (from 73 proposals), of which 10 were awarded a combined \$1.7 million in FY2012 (from 27 proposals). ATAI also secured an additional \$5.7 million in funding from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) (via the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) to analyze the impact of technologies (and their adoption) on household consumption and nutrition.

> GI had its first request for proposals (RFP) in Fall 2011 and its second in Spring 2012. Eighteen proposals were submitted, of which 11 projects were funded, dispersing a total of \$1.5 million.

> The Youth Initiative completed its first round of RFPs in June 2012. The Initiative received applications from 12 J-PAL affiliates with a total request of \$1.2 million, against an available budget of \$360,000. Given the strong interest in youth employment research that this demonstrates, the Initiative is currently pursuing additional funding partners, particularly in regions with strong policymaker interest in this topic, such as Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

In FY2012, three additional initiatives were launched:

> The Urban Services Initiative (USI), to identify and evaluate innovative solutions to the problem of inadequate access to urban water, sanitation, and hygiene services in cities throughout Asia and Africa. USI was launched with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Dedicated USI staff have been hired at J-PAL Global, J-PAL South Asia, and J-PAL Africa, as well as our sister organization, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), in its Bangladesh office.

> The Post-Primary Education Initiative (PPEI), to generate rigorous evidence-based policies to increase access to, and improve the quality and relevance of, secondary, tertiary, and vocational education in developing countries. PPEI raised initial funding from the MacArthur Foundation and the Douglas B. Marshall, Jr. Family Foundation in FY2012.

> The Primary Education Initiative (PEI), to disseminate J-PAL research results on education to relevant policymakers, and encourage the scale-up of successful programs. PEI has received seed funding from the Douglas B. Marshall, Jr. Family Foundation. The initiative held its first conference in October 2012, attended by J-PAL affiliated researchers and policymakers. Following this, the Initiative will focus less on research—as is hallmark for the other J-PAL initiatives—and instead concentrate on policy dissemination and scale-up.



PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN  
MOROCCO, AFRICA  
PHOTO BY AUDE GUERRUCCI

## J-PAL SOUTHEAST ASIA

With established regional offices in South Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Africa, J-PAL has been particularly successful in promoting its objectives in its respective regions. These offices provide opportunities to investigate new research areas with special local salience, to connect more closely with local policymakers, and to launch new capacity-building efforts. A new J-PAL office will support such activities in Southeast Asia. The office will be based at the University of Indonesia in Jakarta, building on relationships previously developed by

J-PAL Director Benjamin Olken. (Olken has worked extensively in Indonesia, studying governance issues such as corruption in road building and the effectiveness of conditional community cash transfers.)

J-PAL Southeast Asia's launch conference is expected in mid-2013; it will include academics and representatives from governments, NGOs, foundations, and multilateral organizations.



"TARGETING THE POOR" INTERVIEW PROCESS BEING CONDUCTED IN A KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM  
OGAN KOMERING ILIR, SOUTH SUMATERA, INDONESIA  
PHOTO BY TALITHA CHAIRUNISSA

# RESEARCH

The Research Group's primary goal is to produce new rigorous evidence through research projects. Currently, J-PAL has 190 ongoing randomized evaluations and 155 completed evaluations, up from 172 ongoing and 130 completed projects in FY2011.

## EXPANDING RESEARCH BASE

One of J-PAL's overarching objectives in FY2012 was to build a research base in underserved areas of study. In order to broaden and deepen the evidence base and structure its research more strategically, J-PAL worked to develop new research initiatives and expand its network of research affiliates.

Fifteen new affiliates were invited to join the J-PAL network in FY2012. A number of these helped build J-PAL's expertise in underserved areas. For example, new J-PAL Global affiliate Seema Jayachandran's important work on environmental issues (including examining the impact of payments for ecosystem services on conservation in Uganda) brings additional research capacity to J-PAL's Environment and Energy program. Michael Rosholm joined as a J-PAL Europe affiliate, bringing with him partnership opportunities with the Danish Labor Market Authority. New affiliates Alessandro Tarozzi and Aprajit Mahajan immediately became involved in J-PAL South Asia activities: Prof. Tarozzi participated in the USI match-making conference in Sri Lanka, while Prof. Mahajan lectured at the Delhi-based Executive Education course.



CHAKKI OWNER SHOWS LOG BOOK TO FOUNDATION WORKER  
UDAIPUR, INDIA

## THE REGISTRY

Randomized evaluations are widely regarded as the “gold standard” of impact evaluation because they, if properly implemented, eliminate the threat of selection bias in impact estimates. However, other biases may still taint our understanding of which programs work and which do not. Publication bias, in particular, can occur when studies with statistically significant results are published with higher probability than those that find no statistically significant effect of a program. To combat publication bias in the medical field, the United States Food and Drug Modernization Act of 1997 created [ClinicalTrials.gov](http://ClinicalTrials.gov), an online public repository of all medical trials. Today, most medical journals no longer accept submissions if the trial described has not first been registered at [ClinicalTrials.gov](http://ClinicalTrials.gov).

No such registry yet exists for nonmedical fields, and thus J-PAL has taken the lead in creating this for randomized evaluations conducted by economists from both within and beyond the J-PAL network. In the second half of 2011, J-PAL created a registry proposal and proof-of-concept system to demonstrate how such a registry would function. In April 2012, the American Economic Association (AEA) Executive Committee approved the proposal, agreeing to run the new registry site. The registry is anticipated to be a significant public good for both the profession and policymaking in general, by giving a more comprehensive picture of results in a given area.

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Research projects conducted in J-PAL's regional offices continue to generate important evidence for both local and global contexts. Below, some recently initiated or completed projects are described

### J-PAL AFRICA

After the Planning Commission in the Government of South Africa approached J-PAL Africa to conduct more research in the area of labor markets, J-PAL Africa set up the Collaborative Analysis for Labour Interventional Effectiveness (CALIE). Through this new collaboration, several microgrants have been given to J-PAL researchers (as well as nonaffiliated local researchers) to identify and develop innovative programs targeting unemployed youth.



### Testing the Effectiveness of Payments for Ecosystem Services to Enhance Conservation in Uganda (Ongoing)

Finding cost-effective ways to curb deforestation is a key question for climate policy because deforestation and forest degradation account for a large share of global carbon emissions. Payments for ecosystem services (PES), which offer participants payments for complying with conditions that protect

the environment, have the potential to reduce carbon emissions and improve livelihoods, but it is difficult to observe the impact of PES programs. J-PAL affiliate Seema Jayachandran, along with coauthors Joost de Laat, Eric Lambin, and Charlotte Stanton, are partnering with the Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWCT) to assess the impact of a PES program in Uganda. One hundred and forty villages in the Hoima and Kibaale districts were randomly assigned to either the treatment or the comparison group. In treatment villages, CSWCT staff offered an incentive contract to each individual landowner. This contract entitles them to receive annual payments if they meet certain terms, including not cutting trees on their land and reforesting a portion of the land. This is an ongoing study, with results forthcoming.

### Parent Empowerment Through Primary School Community Grants in Niger (Completed)

In recent years school enrollment has risen dramatically in developing countries. However, the quality of education is often low. In the face of significant resource constraints, both financial and in terms of human resources, governments and NGOs have increasingly looked to local beneficiary participation as a means to improve service quality. J-PAL Europe affiliate Élise Huillery along with Elizabeth Beasley, in collaboration with the Niger Ministry of Education and the World Bank, used a randomized evaluation to measure the impact of primary school grants on community participation in Niger and how that impact may vary by community characteristics. One thousand schools were randomly assigned to either the treatment or comparison group. The five hundred schools in the treatment group each received an annual lump sum based on the number of classrooms in each school, with an average of US\$209 per school (US\$1.83 per student). Researchers found that parents were generally ready to participate in supporting school staff or assisting them with management tasks, but were less willing to carry out activities that required them to oppose school staff, such as monitoring teacher attendance. The results also suggest that demand for education (measured by enrollment) increased in response to the program.



## J-PAL EUROPE

### FRATELI: Innovative Actions to Improve the Integration of Students in France (Ongoing)

In countries with high rates of unemployment and underemployment, people who are unfamiliar with job search methods, or who do not have a social network to tap into, may find it more difficult to find work. If this is the case, then job-related mentoring and support that builds connections to the labor market could improve labor market outcomes for poorer students. There is little empirical evidence on this issue at present. J-PAL Europe affiliates Luc Behaghel and Roland Rathelot, along with coauthor Julien Grenet, partnered with Association Frateli to evaluate the impact of mentoring and support services on labor market outcomes for students. Over two years, students in three French universities were randomly assigned to either a treatment group—which received Frateli’s program of personal mentoring, collective workshops with other students, and opportunities to interact with other students through an online network—or a comparison group, which did not receive these services.



### Extending Microfinance to the Poor in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Completed)

The rapid growth of microfinance institutions (MFIs) has brought formal credit to millions of low-income households around the world, yet there is little rigorous evidence about whether providing microloans to slightly more risky clients by

lowering collateral requirements can improve the clients’ well-being or be profitable for the MFI. In partnership with a well-established microfinance institution in Bosnia, J-PAL Europe affiliate Costas Meghir, along with coauthors Britta Augsburg, Ralph De Haas, and Heike Harmgart, conducted a randomized evaluation to examine the impact of microcredit on business investment, income, and household consumption and savings among slightly underqualified Bosnian microcredit applicants. They found that providing loans to slightly underqualified microcredit applicants increased small business investment, but not income, and decreased school participation among high school aged youth who began to work in family businesses.

## J-PAL LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

The Quipu Commission in Peru—a collaboration between J-PAL LAC, IPA Peru, Business Solutions for Poverty, the Ministry for Social Development and Inclusion, and the Ministry of Economics and Finance—was launched in March 2012. The commission seeks to generate innovative proposals and empirical evidence that the Peruvian government can use to answer key policy questions, as well as design and implement better public policies. To achieve this goal, the Quipu Commission is bringing together academics, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss the most pressing social issues in Peru and develop evidence-based policies that aim at resolving them.

### Paying for Environmental Services: An Experimental Study in Bolivia (Ongoing)

Some agricultural and farming practices create spillovers that affect others or the environment. These spillover effects, known as externalities, can create a wedge between the benefits a farming practice has for individuals and the effects it has on society as a whole. Although adoption of agricultural technologies that reduce the production of negative externalities, such as pollution or deforestation, is beneficial to society, such technologies will not be adopted if they do not bring benefits to individual users. J-PAL Global Director Abhijit Banerjee, together with affiliate Nava Ashraf and ATAI affiliate Kelsey Jack, partnered with Fundación Natura Bolivia to evaluate interventions designed to increase the adoption of more environmentally-friendly cattle management practices, including

the establishment of pastures with trees and water troughs. These practices would reduce negative externalities related to health, productivity, and environmental processes by reducing the time cattle spend grazing near streams. Different combinations of information and incentives will be introduced at the village level, targeting either individual- or community-level behavior change. In addition to evaluating effectiveness of incentives for conservation outcomes, the treatments will be designed to shed light on the process of collective action within the community.

#### Microentrepreneurship Support Program In Chile (Completed)

Small and medium-size businesses employ many workers in developing countries. However, little is known about the constraints of these enterprises and how they can be best supported to generate employment and income. By offering entrepreneurs business education and seed capital to make investments, they may be able to use limited resources to develop operations and foster economic growth. The Chilean Government's Micro-entrepreneurship Support Program (Programa de apoyo al Microemprendimiento, or PAME) provides these services to 24,000 beneficiaries each year. J-PAL LAC affiliate Claudia Martínez, along with coauthors Esteban Puentes and Jaime Ruiz-Tagle, conducted a randomized evaluation to examine the impact of PAME on business investment, income, school attendance, and child labor among poor, unemployed individuals. The study finds that a microentrepreneurship program that provides training and seed capital for business projects significantly increases employment and income among program participants.



DON FABIAN'S MOBILE PLANT SHOP  
VALLENAR, CHILE  
PHOTO BY MARIA CUELLAR

#### J-PAL SOUTH ASIA

J-PAL South Asia, established in 2007 as J-PAL's first regional office, continued to expand its already significant research base, with over a dozen new projects beginning in FY2012.

#### The Impact of the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation Program (Ongoing)

Historically, student evaluations in India have focused exclusively on end-of-the-year examinations. India's Right to Education Act (2009) introduced a system of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) to promote more frequent, lower-stakes tracking of children, allowing teachers to continually customize their teaching based on the current learning levels of individual students. A potential challenge for the program is that the vast majority of students in grades 1 – 5 do not possess grade-level competencies, and while CCE may highlight this challenge, the program by itself does not equip teachers with the tools to bring these children to grade level. To tackle this problem, a remedial education component, the Learning Enhancement Program (LEP), designed by the NGO Pratham (and proven effective in prior J-PAL evaluations), was incorporated to help children catch up. In LEP, teachers are given training and material on remedial education, and for a segment of each day, the class is restructured according to current learning levels—rather than grade levels. J-PAL Global Director Esther Duflo, affiliate James Berry, J-PAL Director of Training Marc Shotland, and J-PAL South Asia Executive Director Shobhini Mukerji, are evaluating the impact of the CCE program in five hundred schools across four blocks in the state of Haryana to quantify the effect of CCE and LEP on student learning outcomes.

#### The Impact of Improved Cookstoves in Rural Orissa, India (Completed)

Nearly half of the world's population relies on solid fuels, including wood and coal, for its energy needs. The smoke released from using such fuels has been shown to lead to respiratory diseases and lung cancer, and is a leading cause of indoor air pollution that contributes to two million deaths annually. Improved cooking stoves have been promoted as a simple solution to this problem. J-PAL affiliates Rema Hanna, Esther Duflo, and Michael Greenstone, working in conjunction with a local NGO, Gram Vikas, evaluated the impact of inexpensive, improved cooking stoves on household well-being

in Orissa, India. The study found that improved cookstoves did not reduce smoke exposure, improve health, or reduce fuel usage of recipients because they were not used regularly and recipients did not invest to maintain them properly. The study concluded that for stove programs to have the potential to succeed at a large scale, identifying the right technology will be of vital importance.

## J-PAL SOUTHEAST ASIA

### Reducing Leakages in the Raskin Program (Ongoing)

Indonesia's rice subsidy program (Raskin) is the largest social assistance program in Indonesia, costing \$1.5 billion and accounting for 53 percent of all social assistance expenditures. However, many households do not receive their entitled subsidy; instead, they receive only 30 percent. In this project, J-PAL Directors Abhijit Banerjee and Benjamin Olken, together with affiliate Rema Hanna, introduced identification cards for beneficiaries and allow the community to compete

for the right to distribute Raskin within the village, increasing program transparency and community involvement. The program launched in August and will run through December 2013. The project will measure how treatment affects service provider accountability and price inflation.

### Project Generasi (Completed)

Development assistance is frequently criticized for being inefficient, wasteful, and subject to misdirection by elites. Performance-based aid could in principle improve the efficiency of development programs by tying the level of support to specific outcomes. In 2007, the Indonesian government began a pilot program called Project Generasi, which provides community-based block grants that are partially tied to community-level performance on 12 health and educational indicators. J-PAL Director Benjamin Olken, along with coauthors Junko Onishi and Susan Wong, found that community block grants linked to performance were more effective in improving maternal and child health outcomes than nonincentivized grants.



COMMUNITY MEETING,  
INDONESIA  
PHOTO BY BEN OLKEN

# POLICY & SCALE-UP

The Policy Group's primary objective is to disseminate evidence of what works, and promote proven evidence-based policies.

## PUBLICATIONS

The Policy Group translates some of the most relevant J-PAL research studies into policy publications that are clear and relevant for policymakers. The two hallmark publications are its Policy Briefcases—which highlight one particular J-PAL research project each—and Policy Bulletins—cross-cutting analyses that synthesize results from several research projects (both J-PAL and non-J-PAL studies). Bulletins sometimes include cost-effectiveness analyses (CEAs), which compare multiple programs aiming to achieve a given policy goal.



FY2012 saw a sharp increase in the frequency and regularity of these publications—a Policy Briefcase was released almost every month. One Policy Bulletin—a review of the evidence on school-based deworming programs—was also produced. J-PAL's Policy Group is developing an extensive analysis of programs that aim to increase test scores in primary schools. This meta-analysis will eventually include more than thirty programs. Furthermore, the CEA of programs that increase student enrollment and attendance has also been expanded to include more than twenty studies.

## CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

Outreach activities continued in FY2012, with more than forty formal presentations to aid agencies, international development organizations, foundations, and NGOs given to publicize results of individual evaluations and cost-effectiveness analyses. Regional policy staff have attended dozens more of these events around the world.

In addition to targeted outreach and speaking requests, the J-PAL Policy Group helped organize numerous conferences and workshops around the world, including:

- > A workshop on rigorous evidence in governance in Malawi, in collaboration with IPA Malawi, with support of J-PAL's Governance Initiative, DFID, the EU, Irish Aid, and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad);
- > A two-day conference on evidence-based education in Ghana;
- > A matchmaking conference in Sri Lanka, bringing together urban services researchers and policymakers in South Asia;





## SCALING OF EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS

Scale-ups of programs identified as effective by J-PAL research have reached over 63 million people. For example, in Kenya J-PAL's deworming study led to direct policy change at the national level, with the Government of Kenya agreeing to national school-based deworming for the next five years. J-PAL will continue supporting these activities, collaborating extensively with the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) and Deworm the World (DtW). During this collaboration, J-PAL's Policy Group has played a key role in translating the original deworming research results into policy lessons and developing a custom analysis to estimate the potential cost-effectiveness of a scaled program.

J-PAL and its sister organization, IPA, have further worked on the scale-up of chlorine dispensers. Following J-PAL research, which indicated that chlorine dispensers boosted take-up of chlorine-based water purification from 5 percent to 60 percent, IPA developed the Dispensers for Safe Water (DSW) initiative. DSW programs have expanded beyond Kenya—where the initial research was conducted—to Haiti. A total of 440,000 people have been reached by scale-up efforts so far, with plans to move into two additional countries by 2014.

### J-PAL EUROPE

J-PAL Europe saw the scale-up of the successful “La Mallette des Parents” (“The Parents’ Toolkit”) program to 1,300 schools in France.

### J-PAL SOUTH ASIA

Currently, J-PAL South Asia and USAID India are collaborating to launch the “India Grand Challenge” to replicate and scale up early grade reading programs based on evidence from J-PAL evaluations. The target is to reach 10 million primary school students over the next three years.

J-PAL South Asia worked with Deworm the World to implement mass school-based deworming in Bihar (reaching 17 million school children) and Delhi (targeting 3.6 million school children) in FY2012.

Thanks to the results of the J-PAL evaluation, training for police personnel has increasingly been recognized as a core national policy concern for improving policing. Not only has the Government of India decided to scale up the soft skills and professional trainings for police personnel, but it has also pledged to provide adequate resources to build such capacities on an ongoing basis. In 2011, a US\$19 million grant was sanctioned from the 13th Finance Commission of the Government of India to achieve this in Rajasthan.

### J-PAL SOUTHEAST ASIA

Following the results of the evaluation of Project Generasi mentioned above, the Government of Indonesia moved exclusively to incentivized grants and increased its annual funding for the block grant program. In total, over US\$400 million has been pledged to significantly expand the program by 2014, and at its peak it is expected to reach 8.8 million people per year.



# CAPACITY BUILDING

The primary goal of J-PAL's training group is to expand the global pool of researchers and decision makers willing and able to produce rigorous evidence—both inside and outside of J-PAL's network.

## INTERNAL CAPACITY BUILDING

High-quality randomized evaluations are the foundation of J-PAL's mission and remain a significant part of the organization's activities. J-PAL ensures quality of research design through the careful selection of its affiliate network. And it ensures the quality of research implementation through the training of its project staff. Staff training promotes efficiency in implementation, which: (1) allows researchers to conduct more randomized evaluations within the given time and resource constraints, and (2) gives researchers extra bandwidth for external capacity building and policy outreach.

There were four rounds of staff training held globally in the reporting period. Forty-four staff members were trained in New Hampshire (June 2011), 57 in Ghana (July 2011), 42 in India (August 2011), and 47 in Kenya (January 2012), plus additional trainings in India and Chile. J-PAL has trained about 450 research associates or academics at staff training courses or advanced courses—190 in FY2012.



EXECUTIVE EDUCATION COURSE  
CAMBRIDGE, MA  
PHOTO BY BLU NORDGREN

## EXTERNAL CAPACITY BUILDING

J-PAL sees itself positioned at the frontier of rigorous impact evaluation, but not holding a monopoly. Even if J-PAL increases its own capacity to do more evaluations, it will never be able to provide all the evidence that is needed. Governments, NGOs and others must thus be able to conduct high quality evaluations on their own.

To increase this external capacity, J-PAL holds Executive Education (Exec Ed) courses for both external researchers and practitioners. These are held throughout the world and throughout the year in English, Spanish and French. Exec Ed courses teach the methodology behind randomized evaluations and the specific skills needed to launch evaluations of participants' programs. Leveraging J-PAL's regional offices, six standard Exec Ed courses and one advanced Exec Ed course (in J-PAL Africa) were held in FY2012. This brings total (i.e., both standard and advanced) courses offered to 29, and total trained practitioners to approximately 1,000, of which roughly 250 were trained in FY2012. The same course content is also available online (via MIT's OpenCourseWare, and the J-PAL website) so that anyone interested in learning more about randomized evaluations can hear lectures from top researchers, as well as review the case studies. A new version of the online course was recently uploaded (from 2011, replacing the 2009 version).

Beyond J-PAL's standard Exec Ed course, J-PAL Global and regional offices have conducted 24 customized workshops for specific partners, training over 800 practitioners over the years, and over 250 in FY2012. Opportunities for long-term capacity-building ventures provide J-PAL with an opening to build the capacity within an organization to run their own randomized evaluations. These custom training activities ranged from participation at evaluation conferences to year-long seminars

at a local university. In FY2012, J-PAL developed such capacity building relationships with USAID, AusAid, DFID, the Asian Development Bank, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, among others.

As part of ATAI's capacity-building efforts, J-PAL and ATAI cocollaborator, the Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA, directed by J-PAL affiliates Ted Miguel and Paul Gertler at UC Berkeley), conducted custom courses for researchers at two centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) in January 2012:

- > A three-day executive education-style course for economists at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in Mexico City;
- > A four-day executive education-style course for researchers from a variety of CGIAR centers at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Nairobi.

J-PAL's Governance Initiative also conducted a one-day workshop on randomized evaluations in December 2011 (tied to the "evidence workshop" in Malawi discussed above), in collaboration with IPA Malawi and J-PAL Africa.

## J-PAL AFRICA

In addition to the Exec Ed course conducted in January 2012, J-PAL Africa offered several custom courses and workshops for academics and policymakers:

- > A year-long course for students at the University of Cape Town;
- > A two-day workshop for researchers and postdocs at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa in August 2011;
- > A one-day course for the Department of Trade and Industry in September 2011;
- > A one-day workshop for participants at the International Network for the Demographic Evaluation of Populations and Their Health (INDEPTH) Annual Meeting in November 2011;
- > A half-day workshop for USAID staff in January 2012;
- > A five-day Executive Education-style course in May 2012 (after the joint education conference in Ghana discussed above).



J-PAL AFRICA DIRECTOR KAMILLA GUMEDE SPEAKING AT THE EVIDENCE-BASED EDUCATION POLICY-MAKING & REFORM IN AFRICA CONFERENCE MAY 14-15, 2012 GHANA, AFRICA



## J-PAL EUROPE

Beyond their Executive Education course conducted in Brussels, J-PAL Europe conducted:

- > A two-day course for the Danish Labor Market Authority in May 2012;
- > A one-day course for the Roma Education Fund in Budapest in June 2012.

## J-PAL LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

J-PAL LAC offered a number of customized courses with support from the Inter-America Development Bank (IADB). These included:

- > A two-week course in Santiago for Latin American and Caribbean governments (96 participants);
- > A three-day course in Peru for officials from the Government of Peru (30 participants);
- > A one-week labor markets evidence-based workshop in Washington DC (35 participants).

J-PAL LAC also conducted a two-day training for researchers and practitioners at The Mesoamerican Research Center (CIRMA) in Guatemala in December 2011.

## J-PAL SOUTH ASIA

J-PAL South Asia's relationship with the Pratham Education Foundation continues, with the third four-day capacity building workshop (in a series of four) being conducted in FY2012.

In July 2011, J-PAL South Asia assisted the Department of Education of Haryana in creating the Centre for Research and Experiments for Action and Policy (REAP) as an M&E Center within the department itself to improve its internal monitoring systems. Since July 2011, J-PAL South Asia deputed a Research Manager to coordinate the center, adopted a staff of nearly fifty government employees (teachers and block resource coordinators), and conducted three separate trainings for department staff in August and October 2011.

J-PAL South Asia also conducted several short courses:

- > A two-day workshop in Dhaka for practitioners in Sanitation and Urban Services in July 2011, with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation;
- > A one-day workshop for the Indian Administrative Services (IAS) for Phase III officers (with seven-years' experience) and Phase IV officers (15 years' experience) in July and August 2011, respectively;
- > A one-day workshop for researchers at the National Institute of Administrative Research (NIAR) in July 2011;
- > A five-day executive education-style workshop on how to implement impact evaluations (similar to the internal staff training) in August 2011;
- > A two-day training in Dhaka for high-level officers of BRAC Bank in April 2012;
- > A two-day training in Dhaka on impact evaluation for government officials of South Asia in June 2012, in collaboration with the World Bank.







