



Creating an evidence-based mindset: A perspective from the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab

Hana Lakhdar Ghazal (Deputy Director, Morocco Employment Lab)

David Alzate (Senior Policy Associate, J-PAL Global)

February 2nd, 2021



**Good policy requires rigorous
evidence.**

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2019



© Nobel Media. Photo: A. Mahmoud

Abhijit Banerjee

Prize share: 1/3



© Nobel Media. Photo: A. Mahmoud

Esther Duflo

Prize share: 1/3



© Nobel Media. Photo: A. Mahmoud

Michael Kremer

Prize share: 1/3

Anchored by a global network of academic researchers



Northwestern



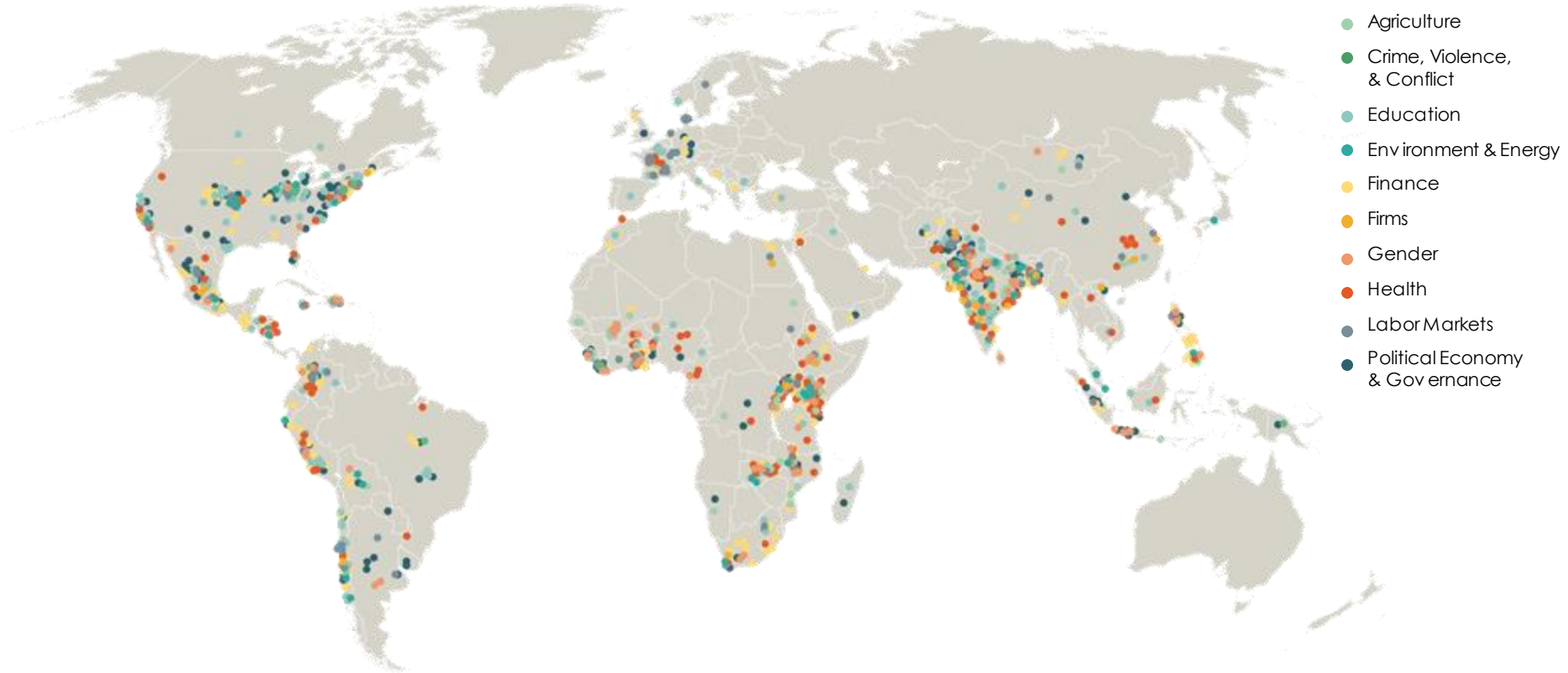
UC San Diego



Tufts UNIVERSITY

Yale

Global knowledge: 1,028 randomized evaluations in 88 countries, including 34 on Covid-19 response



Yet despite the availability and
appetite for rigorous research, an
'evidence-policy gap' persists.

Why does the 'evidence-policy gap' persist?

- Low prioritization of, and limited capacity for, evidence-informed policymaking
- Financial constraints
- Political uncertainty
- Difficulty finding the right evidence and applying it to a new context
- Behavioral biases in decision-making ([Banuri et al. 2019](#))
- Lack of bureaucratic incentives to leverage and apply evidence

An **“evidence-based mindset”** is
necessary to bridge the gap.

Three strategies to develop an evidence-based mindset



#1: Generating tailored evidence to solve specific problems identified by policymakers



#2: Leveraging existing evidence from around the world to inform local decision-making



#3: Institutionalizing a holistic culture of evidence use

The **Morocco Employment Lab** is a special initiative to bridge the evidence-policy gap.

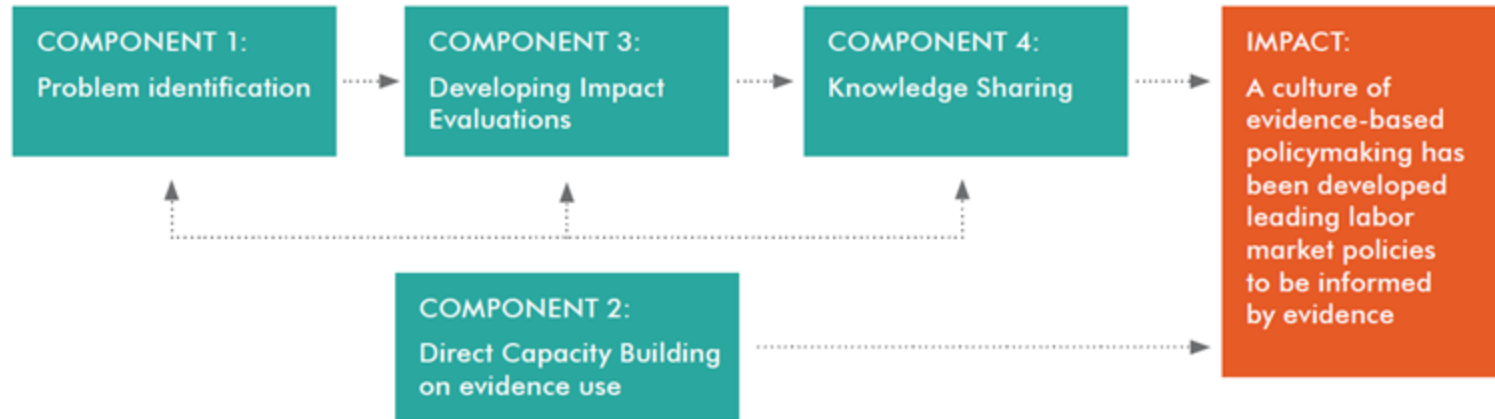
Our goals

- **A hub for labor-market evidence innovation**
- **Culture of evidence-based policymaking**
- Large panel of **labor market stakeholders**



Our approach to **evidence based**
culture.

The Lab includes several components designed to support the development of an evidence-based culture



As a complement to evaluation efforts, the Lab is building the capacity of a variety of stakeholders



We plan to roll out research projects with the main players in the Moroccan labor market

The Lab works with:

- Public labor markets institutions
 - MTIP
 - ANAPEC
 - Ministry of Finance
 - ...
- NGOs
- Researchers

The Lab has recently launched a series of impact evaluations in partnership with the implementing partners.

Partner	Research topic/project
EFE	Training program for adapting the skills of jobseekers to the needs of companies in the recruitment phase.
ONMT / MTIP	IDMAJ and TAHFIZ programs to promote professional integration through employment subsidies and training to match supply and demand.
ANAPEC	AMAL program for the integration of jobseekers whose employment has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.
INDH	Evaluation of the pre-school support program.

Thank you!

Questions?

J-PAL Governance team

Contact: David Alzate

dalzate@povertyactionlab.org

Morocco Employment Lab, J-PAL Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Contact: Hana Lakhdar

hlakhdar@povertyactionlab.org

J-PAL MENA

Contact: Engy Saleh

esaleh@povertyactionlab.org

