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Peer Donor Profiles

WEE-DiFine seeks to expand funding opportunities for high quality research, especially for academics from our countries of focus. As such, the WEE-DiFine team has compiled a list of peer donors supporting rigorous research broadly related to our interests, including on gender, financial inclusion, and digital infrastructure. We hope to raise awareness amongst our network of the various funding opportunities available, and we aim to provide alternative funding prospects should a proposal be better suited to a peer donor's research agenda.

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) is a research and policy nonprofit organization that generates evidence and connects bridges between researchers and policymakers to create an impact on reducing poverty. IPA works in 22 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Several IPA initiatives host funding opportunities, as noted below.

1. **Intimate Partner Violence Initiative:** IPA's [Intimate Partner Violence Initiative](#) seeks to inform global development policy and practice through expanding and improving the scientific evidence on pathways to mitigate intimate partner violence (IPV). By building on existing studies, the IPV Initiative aims to generate insights on the types of development programs that shift IPV outcomes and what factors drive these changes, including studies of programs that impact household finances, increase women's empowerment, and improve socio-emotional skills.

For more details, please visit:

<https://www.poverty-action.org/ipv-initiative>

2. **Consumer Protection Research Initiative (CPRI):** IPA's [Consumer Protection Research Initiative](#) is a four-year initiative which partners with policymakers, financial institutions, and civil society to develop new consumer protection solutions in digital financial services. The Initiative focuses on key consumer protection themes relevant to digital financial services.

Thematic areas:

- **Fraud in digital channels.** Digital financial services have created new opportunities for fraudsters to take advantage of consumers such as phishing messages and call center impersonation. Lost money from fraud can erode consumer trust and cause consumers harm. IPA seeks to identify and measure

emerging fraud risks, then test solutions to help consumers and providers reduce the likelihood of fraud in digital financial services.

- **Consumer redress and complaints handling.** In emerging markets, many lower-income consumers struggle to obtain effective resolution of problems. To improve the complaints and redress experience for low-income consumers, we will develop and test solutions (i) to increase use of complaints channels and (ii) to improve effectiveness of redress for consumers suffering harm or abuse.
- **Product information and consumer choice.** Well-timed, relevant, and clear product information can help consumers to be better informed and make more suitable and cost-effective choices with their financial services. Digital channels create new opportunities to provide timely product information and advice to consumers. We will develop and test new methods for providing consumers with information on products available in the marketplace, and to facilitate easier comparison shopping and improved consumer outcomes.
- **Overindebtedness.** Credit can be a boon if utilized for productive uses or responsible consumption smoothing. However, credit can also lead to negative outcomes for borrowers if not managed appropriately. There is a lack of robust evidence on how the risks of overindebtedness can be identified and minimized. This initiative will leverage data analysis and experimental interventions to test new solutions to reduce the risks of overindebtedness.

Countries: Bangladesh, Nigeria, Kenya and Uganda

For more details, please visit:

<https://www.poverty-action.org/program-area/financial-inclusion/consumer-protection-initiative>

J-PAL

The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) is a global research center working to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is informed by scientific evidence. Anchored by a network of 262 affiliated professors at universities around the world, J-PAL conducts randomized impact evaluations to answer critical questions in the fight against poverty. Several J-PAL initiatives host funding opportunities, as noted below.

1. **Inclusive Financial Innovation Initiative (IFI):** J-PAL's **Inclusive Financial Innovation Initiative** aims to generate evidence on what digital financial services (DFS) work, why they work, and how they can be deployed to maximize impact.

Thematic areas:

- **Digital G2P transfer** to help beneficiaries to expand choice of receiving G2P transfer for beneficiaries, effectively utilize their G2P in-kind/fund transfer, and to educate beneficiaries to effectively use the disbursement choice.

- **Agent network** on ways to expand the agent network to provide better access for people living in rural areas with limited banking infrastructure and to enhance agents' capabilities to encourage new customers to use digital financial services.
- **E-commerce** platform usage for new rural Micro-Small Enterprises and ways to help Micro-Small Enterprises become successful on the e-commerce platform.
- **Innovation for on-boarding new users** to leverage the widespread use of mobile phone in adopting DFS products (e.g. digital remittance, P2P lending, electronic money) and ways for creating a new pool of potential digital loan customers that can be expanded using alternative approaches of credit scoring.

Request for Proposals: IFII is accepting proposals to evaluate ideas, programs, and policies to utilize digital financial services (DFS) in supporting financial inclusion in Indonesia. IFII invites proposals from J-PAL affiliates, J-PAL postdocs, IFII invited researchers, and PhD students advised by a J-PAL affiliate or IFII invited researcher for full research projects, pilot studies, and project development grants. All proposal applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

For more details, please visit:

<https://www.povertyactionlab.org/initiative/inclusive-financial-innovation-initiative>

2. **Gender and Economic Agency (GEA):** J-PAL's **Gender and Economic Agency** aims to build a strong body of evidence on policies and programs to promote women's work and enhance women's economic agency in East Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Central America. GEA works to develop policy-relevant insights from this research to drive programming, strategies, and policymaking on women's work in both formal and informal employment. In addition, as there is a growing need to identify and test key indicators for women's empowerment and agency, GEA seeks to enhance the availability and scale of improved metrics for these outcomes.

Thematic areas:

- Workplace arrangements and labor policies to promote formal and informal employment for women.
- Enhancing women's labor potential and work readiness (including self-employment).
- Addressing restrictive gender norms and attitudes related to women's work.

Request for Proposals: J-PAL's Gender and Economic Agency (GEA) Initiative funds randomized evaluations of strategies to enhance women's economic agency. GEA hosts two regular funding cycles per year calling for proposals from J-PAL affiliates and GEA invited researchers for full research projects, pilot studies, and travel/proposal development grants. GEA is currently accepting off-cycle proposals on a rolling basis for projects in Southeast Asia until September 2022.

For more details, please visit:

<https://www.povertyactionlab.org/initiative/gender-and-economic-agency-initiative>

3. **Digital Identification and Finance Initiative in Africa (DigiFI Africa):** J-PAL's [Digital Identification and Finance Initiative in Africa](#) aims to generate rigorous evidence on how African governments, private companies, and NGOs can leverage digital payments and identification systems to improve lives through better public service delivery, governance, and financial inclusion. To achieve this vision, DigiFI plans to support governments and other implementers to monitor and evaluate relevant reforms.

Thematic areas: The scope of funding aims to include projects across a range of possible interventions, including but not limited to:

- How can digital ID systems assist with targeting and efficiency in public programs? Do digital ID systems assist or hinder in reaching marginalized populations?
- How do digital IDs affect voter participation, the fairness of elections and electoral outcomes? Does increased enfranchisement affect policy decisions?
- How can digital ID systems and digital payments assist in building incentive systems to motivate public servants?
- Can expanding the formal economy increase the tax base through incentives and simplified processes introduced by digital payments and digital IDs?
- What is the impact of digital ID and digital payment systems on market-level general equilibrium effects? What are their impacts on wages and employment? Are there impacts on occupational choice or migration?
- Can digital ID systems encourage businesses to enter the formal sector? Do these reforms reduce entry costs to entrepreneurship and enable productive investment?
- How do different privacy measures impact take-up of digital IDs?

Request for Proposals: DigiFI Africa accepts proposals for the following categories: Proposal Development grants (up to \$15,000), Pilot studies (up to \$75,000), and Full-Scale RCTs (up to \$400,000). We are currently accepting proposals on a rolling basis.

For more details, please visit:

<https://www.povertyactionlab.org/initiative/digital-identification-and-finance-initiative-africa-digifi-africa>

Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA)

CEGA's mission is to improve the lives of people living in poverty, by generating key insights for policymakers backed by rigorous and transparent research.

1. **Digital Credit Observatory:** CEGA's [Digital Credit Observatory](https://cega.berkeley.edu/initiative/digital-credit-observatory/) was established in 2016 with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support a coordinated portfolio of rigorous research on the impacts — both positive and negative — of digital credit products in emerging markets.

Regions: Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean

For more details, please visit:

<https://cega.berkeley.edu/initiative/digital-credit-observatory/>

Special Opportunity

Microfinance Opportunities (MFO)

Microfinance Opportunities is a global non-profit committed to understanding the economic realities of low-income and marginalized people.

The Garment Worker Diaries (GWD)

MFO's Garment Worker Diaries' "public channel" based in Bangladesh is a high-frequency panel survey of 1,300 workers (about 75% of whom are women). This initiative interviews the workers every week.

The survey is conducted in two parts: one asks core questions every week focused on the economic behavior of workers and their workplace experiences. Another one asks special questions focused on any topic selected by a researcher or stakeholder organization.

Researchers and stakeholders interested in understanding the lives of garment workers in Bangladesh, especially women garment workers, can place special questions in the weekly survey.

For more information, please contact danielaortega@mfopps.org and visit:

<https://workerdiaries.org/>.