

ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL

Poverty Action Lab



TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO ACTION

# Elections, Leakages and Conflict

## *Using Impact Evidence to Inform Policy*

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*Director of Policy, J-PAL @ MIT, Cambridge*

*Scientific Director, J-PAL South Asia @ IFMR, Delhi*

Impact and Policy Conference, Bangkok, August 31, 2012



Massachusetts  
Institute of  
Technology

# Same Dilemma in Governance Issues as the rest of Development Policy: *Many Good Choices*

## How Do You Reduce Leakages / Corruption in Government Programs?

1. Improved program design
2. Recruit more honest and efficient staff
3. Better training / sensitization
4. Improve salaries and work conditions
5. Strict penalties for corruption
6. Better monitoring through technology
7. Intrinsic motivation
8. Community participation
9. Information disclosure

## But Which One Do You Prioritize and How Best to Design the Intervention?



*Parents collecting incentives for getting children immunized in Udaipur; co-PI: Esther Duflo (MIT)*

# Can Research Help Answer Critical Policy Questions in Leakages?

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**Endemic Corruption in Road Construction Projects:**

*What works best and when - More Audits or Better Community Monitoring?*



*Measuring Leakages in Road Works in Indonesia; PI: Ben Olken (MIT)*

# Can Research Help Answer Critical Policy Questions in Elections?

Voting Based on Caste or Ethnic Lines:

Can Better Information About Performance of Elected Representatives Lead to Performance Based Voting?



**People's Mandate**

Delhi (Urban Sabha) Assembly  
**"Netaji's" Report card - Affidavit**

Municipal Ward No. 11, Constituency No. 5134  
 Total Affiliated Money (₹ Lakhs): 6647.0  
 Average Affiliation per Area: 5134

Party	Members	Share of Seats	Share of Money
BJP	2	20%	20%
INC	2	20%	20%
SP	2	20%	20%
BJP (C)	2	20%	20%
Others	2	20%	20%

**Parvej Hashami (Present MLA)**

**Tughlakbad (55)**

**Ramesh Bidhuri (Present MLA)**

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Voter Information Project in India; co-PI: Rohini Pande (Harvard)

# Can Research Help Answer Critical Policy Questions in Conflict Recovery?

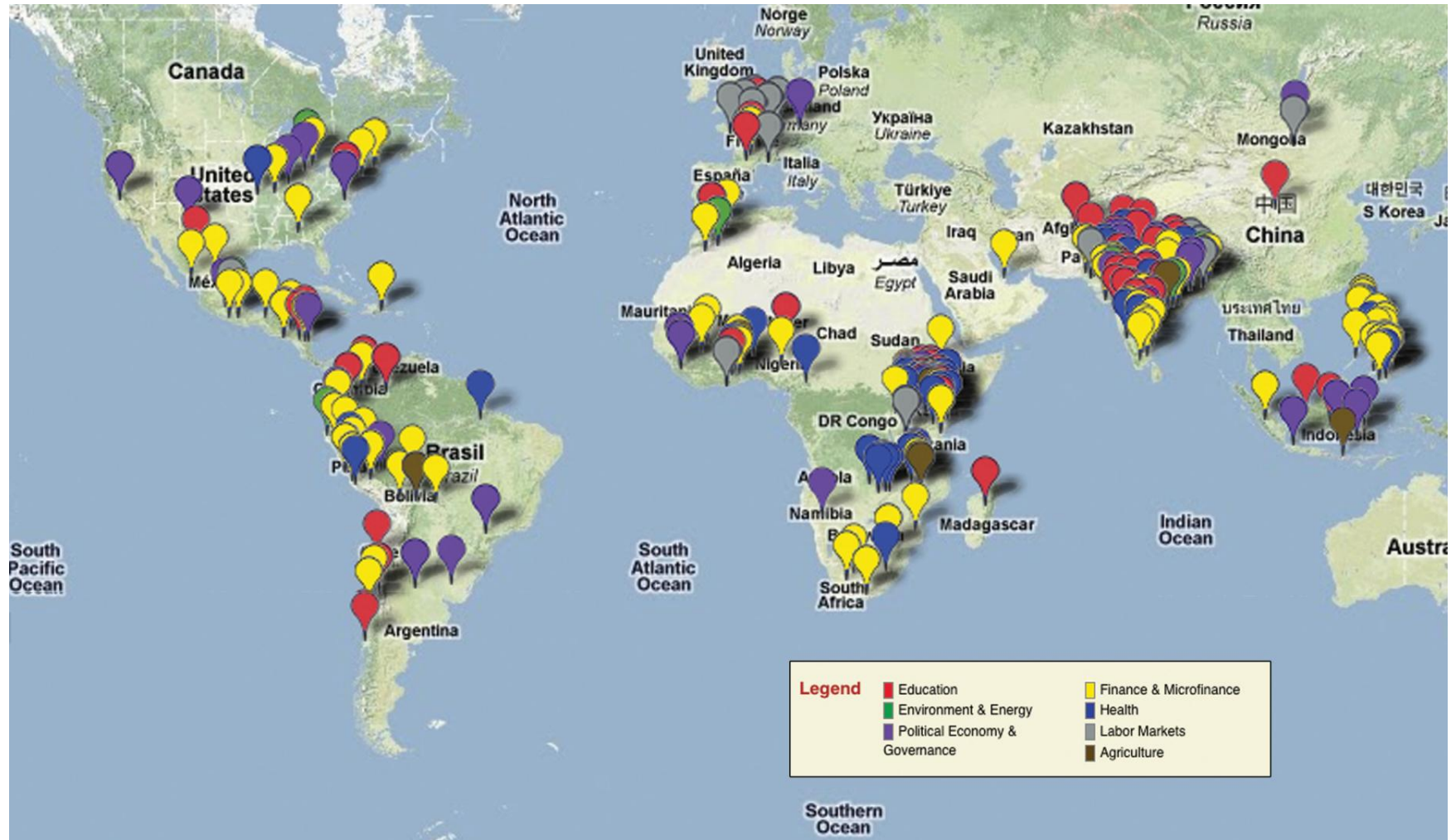
## Reintegrating Conflict-Torn Societies:

*Can integrated civic institutions like schools foster greater collaboration across ethno-religious lines?*



*Experiments in Inter-Ethnic Cooperation; co-PI Fotini Christia (MIT)*

# Growing Body of Rigorous Evidence – IPA and JPAL have 350+ Evaluations in 51 Countries – Over 50 in Political Economy and Governance



# Today's Agenda: *From Evidence to Policy and From Policy Priorities to Research Partnerships*

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## **Researcher Presentations:**

- Examples of how rigorous research can answer critical policy questions
- Evidence on how to strengthen elections and increase participation, reduce leakages and promote post-conflict recovery

## **Practitioner Presentations and Panel Discussions:**

- Examples of innovative programs to solve intransigent problems
- Identify key policy priorities

## **Matchmaking:**

- Foster practitioner-researcher partnerships to design innovative programs and measure their impact

# Our Goals

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## **Make the Day Very Interactive:**

- Numerous opportunities for interaction, Q&A – Moderated Panel
- Will use Mikes, but please write down questions before breaks

## **Stay on Time:**

- Timer: 5 minutes to end, 2 minutes to end and stop
- Short and to the point questions, please no lengthy remarks
- No Bios – please refer to the handouts

## **Matchmaking:**

- Two sessions (Elections/Leakages and Post-Conflict Recovery)
- Practitioner presentations > Small group discussions > Proposals