



Annual Report 2011-2012

Bringing a Scientific Lens to Global Development

Letter from the Directors

In the last year, we have witnessed major social and economic change in the Middle East and North Africa: with the Arab Spring of 2011, millions of citizens mobilized in demonstration against their governments. Within the same year, governments transitioned in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen. These complex events pose important questions for development researchers: How does political violence affect households and livelihoods? And how should we rebuild political and community institutions after conflict has subsided?

This year, CEGA has focused on research in the areas of post-conflict governance and institutional development. Our annual Evidence to Action symposium, which highlights research with large-scale social impact, featured evaluations of post-war reconstruction in Sierra Leone and Afghanistan. We also explored the economic impacts of the 2007 post-election violence in Kenya, with a focus on women's livelihoods and sexual health.

This area of research is challenging and controversial: it takes place in risky settings, and is often implemented in partnership with governments that lack popular support. Reliable data are difficult to collect, and carefully planned experiments can be disrupted by rapid changes in the political environment. Yet the lessons from this work are important and promise to influence long-term development outcomes in fragile states throughout the world.

In CEGA's fourth annual report, we highlight a few of the political and institutional development projects led by our researchers. We also report on our own institutional development: indeed, CEGA has expanded rapidly over the last 12 months. Launched in 2008 by just six Berkeley researchers, we are now a rich network of 35 faculty members spread across the University of California and Stanford University. The network includes experts in economics, public health, engineering, agriculture, and political science.

One of our most rewarding areas of growth has been the development of two new "collaboratives." These programs mirror CEGA's research initiatives, but are focused on leadership development for young scholars from developing countries. The East Africa Social Science Translation (EASST) Collaborative is establishing a network of economists in the region who will provide local leadership in impact evaluation, policy design, and media outreach. Another initiative, the BRAC-CEGA Learning Collaborative, will enhance the capacity of the world's largest NGO to carry out randomized and quasi-experimental evaluations of its own innovative programs. Both efforts promise to enrich and generate ideas, create new partnerships, and empower local voices in the coming years.

TEMINA MADON
Executive Director

EDWARD MIGUEL
Faculty Director

The Road from Conflict to Recovery

In 2012, CEGA's annual Evidence to Action symposium focused on "The Road from Conflict to Recovery." The event featured program evaluations carried out in fragile post-war environments, from Afghanistan and Pakistan to Kenya and Sierra Leone. In concert with the symposium, CEGA invited student researchers to submit their ideas on the topics of political violence, corruption, and community development. With generous support from Child Relief International, five challenge grants of \$5,000 to \$12,000 were awarded to students on three different campuses. Zoe Cullen (Economics, Stanford) will analyze social media data from multiple countries in the Middle East, to explore the role of online anonymity in political activism during the Arab Spring. Brigitte Zimmerman (Political Science, UCSD) is using randomized experiments to examine whether governing institutions in Zambia and Malawi can condition corruption. Jessica Gottlieb (Political Science, Stanford) is exploring the determinants of bloc voting in Senegal, and Sinaia Urrusti-Frenk (Economics, Berkeley) is studying the impact of media on political outcomes, accountability, and corruption in Mexico. Tarek Ghani, the top-scoring recipient, was awarded \$12,000 for an experiment to evaluate the impact of mobile payments on corruption in post-war Afghanistan.



ENGAGEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT

the Independent Commission for Aid Impact



This year, CEGA began work with the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI), a non-governmental body established by the British parliament to review the effectiveness of UK foreign aid, delivered primarily through the Department for International Development (DFID). To date, CEGA faculty, staff, and students have participated in four reviews of health and education programs in Africa and South Asia. By participating in ICAI, CEGA aims to explore the use of rigorous evidence in DFID's spending decisions. We are asking if DFID has incorporated evidence from randomized and quasi-experimental studies into the design and management of its programs. Success to date has been mixed. A review of educational investments in East Africa, co-led by Berkeley visiting scholar Eoin McGuirk, suggests that much must be done to incorporate research-based evidence and rigorous evaluation techniques into DFID programs. Nevertheless, the ICAI framework has the potential to significantly and sustainably improve DFID's development outcomes, and CEGA will continue to participate in reviews in 2012-2013.



CEGA to Host Scholars from Africa and Asia

Scholars in developing countries play an important role in debates about development effectiveness and foreign aid. Yet few researchers in these countries have led rigorous evaluations of social policies and programs. To build the leadership of African and South Asian researchers in impact evaluation, CEGA has launched two new learning initiatives this year. These “collaboratives” aim to generate new knowledge about the design of development programs, while strengthening our partners’ expertise in evaluation research.

The **BRAC-CEGA Learning Collaborative** connects CEGA faculty and PhD students with researchers from BRAC, the world’s largest NGO. The program enables BRAC economists to spend a semester at a CEGA campus conducting research, auditing courses, and presenting at seminars. It also provides research grants to pairs of CEGA and BRAC researchers, for collaborative evaluation of BRAC programs. To kick-off the partnership, we held a matchmaking workshop in Berke-

ley this April, headlined by Dr. Mahabub Hossain, Executive Director of BRAC. Following the workshop, five CEGA faculty members traveled to Bangladesh and Uganda to meet with local researchers and visit programs in the field. These visits, combined with ongoing matchmaking activities, are expected to generate new research questions and learning opportunities.

Given BRAC’s massive scale—with more than 100,000 employees in 11 countries, operating on an annual budget of over half a billion dollars—we still have many programs and ideas to explore. Fortunately, the collaborative is supported through 2014 and enjoys strong support from BRAC’s leadership. Through this effort, we are confident that CEGA, BRAC, and our funders (including an anonymous donor and Child Relief International) will help to poise BRAC as a global leader in impact assessment of development innovations.

CEGA's second learning initiative is the **East Africa Social Science Translation (EASST) Collaborative**, launched in early 2012. This multi-university research network, administered in partnership with Makerere University in Uganda, aims to promote rigorous evaluation of programs and policies in the East Africa region. The initiative specifically seeks to generate African leadership in the field of impact evaluation, so that local researchers play a more active role in the design and testing of education, health, and other public programs. To achieve these goals, EASST pairs junior social scientists at East African research institutions with CEGA faculty affiliates. These researchers can compete for research grants and visiting scholarships in partnership with their CEGA mentors. EASST will also convene an annual impact evaluation summit and media training, with the goals of enhancing researchers' evaluation skills and expanding their linkages with local journalists.

The EASST Collaborative grew out of a meeting held at Makerere University in January 2009, bringing CEGA together with 12 researchers from 5 institutions in the region. These discussions led to the creation of a framework for the collaborative—and a commitment by the partner institutions to build a sustainable network for impact evaluation. In December 2011, a 1-year grant from an anonymous donor was awarded, with the full program of activities launching in early 2012. A second year of funding comes in the form of a matching challenge grant, and we continue to raise funds to sustain the collaborative. Ultimately, the legacy of EASST will be in empowered East African voices in the field of development economics, and accelerated translation of research findings into better public policy. Read more at <http://easst-collaborative.org>.



Improving Access to Agricultural Technologies

The Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative (ATAI), a joint initiative of CEGA and the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) at MIT, ended its third year in 2012, awarding \$1.7 million in grants to 10 teams of CEGA and J-PAL researchers. Established with funding from the Gates Foundation and an anonymous donor, ATAI has now awarded over \$4 million for studies to improve access to profitable agricultural technologies for small-scale farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

This year, CEGA Faculty Director Ted Miguel (UC Berkeley) received a grant to explore how access to credit and savings products might impact the adoption of fertilizer and hybrid seeds by farmers in Western Kenya. The study is carried out in partnership with One Acre Fund. Another award, to Alain de Janvry (also at UC Berkeley), will assess how innovative contractual arrangements between onion farmers and traders impact prices obtained by growers in Senegal. The

study will also evaluate whether the signing of these contracts leads to increased take-up of technologies that enhance crop quality. These and other awarded projects are described online at <http://atai-research.org>.

ATAI now has a portfolio of more than 20 randomized evaluations, demonstrating success in drawing new talent and ideas into the field of agricultural development. As a result, we were able to attract an additional investment of \$6 million from the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) in 2012. The new grant will expand ATAI's scope beyond technology adoption, to explore the household and community-level impacts of technologies that have been adopted. This support will enable us to explore impacts on various dimensions of human welfare, including income and consumption, nutrition, educational investments, the environment, and natural resource management.

Partnering with Agricultural Research Centers

In early 2012, CEGA held an evaluation design workshop in Nairobi, Kenya with researchers from the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) based in Africa. The meeting was supported in part by a USAID linkage grant awarded to CEGA and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), a CGIAR center with regional hub offices for East Africa in Tanzania. In follow-up to the workshop, two UC doctoral candidates each spent five weeks at IITA, engaging in field visits across Tanzania, Malawi, and Zambia and providing assistance in the design of the institute's impact evaluations. Deepening CEGA's partnership with the CGIAR centers promotes the sustainability of ATAI, by institutionalizing the practice of impact evaluation within well-established agricultural research organizations. These relationships may also speed the take-up of new evidence by the CGIAR centers.



Seeding Innovation in Development

Every year, CEGA offers “**seed grants**” to UC Berkeley doctoral students conducting research in low- and middle-income countries. CEGA seed grants facilitate the development of promising research by supporting field-related expenses (such as travel and surveys) and data set acquisition, helping students to become more competitive as they apply for grants from traditional research funders. In 2011, with generous support from the Levin Family, CEGA was able to award two \$1,500 Seed Grants – one to Yiwen Cheng for her work on “Bureaucrat incentives and the conversion of rural land in China,” and the other to Willa Friedman for her work on “Monitoring and Public Sector Productivity in Kenya.”

As part of our effort to train the next generation of development innovators, CEGA launched an **Undergraduate and MA Advising Program** this year, offering personal mentoring to students in all disciplines. Our professional staff helps students interested in development to navigate courses, internships and career planning through office hours and email consultation. We also work with students to develop practical skills such as networking, resume building, and interviewing. Collectively, CEGA’s staff has graduate degrees in Public Policy, Public Administration, Economics and International Affairs, and professional experience with a wide variety of international development organizations (in both the public and private sectors).

In addition to providing educational and career guidance, CEGA has begun supervising policy analysis projects implemented by master’s students at UC Berkeley. One such project, entitled “**Carbon Certification in the Developing World,**” helped CEGA map the landscape of carbon financing for development, informing future engagement with key stakeholders. The project was conducted by four students from the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley. The Center is now exploring opportunities to partner with the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, to provide policy analysis experiences for their students as well.

UC San Diego (UCSD) is a hub for research on governance and public sector accountability: since 2006, several of the university's economists and political scientists have begun working across disciplines to generate new solutions for governance problems. Much of this work is coordinated by Eli Berman, a CEGA faculty affiliate, Professor of Economics, and Research Director for International Security Studies at the UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC). Berman conducts theoretical and empirical research on terrorism, insurgency, governance, and development in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, and other fragile states. His driving interest is in a basic question: How can we best design development programs when people and property are insecure? Here, he highlights the innovative use of information technologies to combat corruption, which undermines governance and in turn impedes human development.

In developing countries around the world, governments are faced with high absenteeism among civil service staff – a form of corruption observed among teachers, clinicians, and agriculture extension workers. In an effort to reduce absences, governments often send internal monitors to audit facilities. However, these monitors are not themselves audited, and their reports may contain unverified or false information. Monitoring using new technologies, such as cameras and smartphones, can solve these problems by generating an objective report that contains a picture, a time stamp, and even a location stamp. This information can be instantly transmitted to a public website where it is available to senior bureaucrats and civil society organizations, for increased transparency and community monitoring – and ultimately less corruption.

A test of this approach is now being designed by Mike Callen (a CEGA and IGCC postdoctoral fellow). The intervention, situated in the Punjab region of Pakistan, collects mobile phone numbers from individuals who access public services like health clinic visits or veterinary services. Clients of these services are later surveyed by phone, to investigate the quality and pricing of services provided. The survey includes questions about user satisfaction and the incidence of absenteeism or bribes. The hypothesis is that generating information about service quality can, in turn, be used to improve service quality through government pay-for-performance, sanctions, or other incentives.

In another test of this approach, Callen and colleague James Long (a UCSD graduate now at Harvard) have conducted a randomized evaluation of a smartphone intervention carried out during the 2010 Afghan parliamentary elections. The research team announced to poll center workers that photographs of immediate post-election vote counts would be taken, to verify that no fraud took place. Supported by USAID, the intervention led to a 60 percent reduction in theft of election materials and a 25 percent decrease in the number of votes for those candidates most likely to buy votes. The intervention was simple and inexpensive, because it activated a dormant resource – the cellphone network. It was implemented in 19 of the 34 provinces in Afghanistan, compared with just 9 provinces that could be audited by international observers.

This approach has been replicated in Uganda, during the 2011 general elections. The original research team, joined by CEGA faculty affiliate Clark Gibson, implemented another randomized trial measuring outcomes similar to those in Afghanistan. In partnership with Qualcomm, Inc., the team embarked on a larger scale intervention – this time using smartphones to allow for real-time monitoring. They also introduced an additional warning to poll center monitors: a reminder of the locally established penalty for election fraud. Hitting 1,000 polling stations across Uganda, the researchers again found a statistically significant reduction in fraud. With this validation, additional replications of the project are now being planned for other developing countries.

New technologies are also being applied to reduce leakage and increase efficiency in government-run welfare programs in India. CEGA faculty affiliates Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus, with colleague Sandip Sukhtankar (Dartmouth), are collaborating with the state government of Andhra Pradesh to evaluate the use of smartcards to enable benefit payments. These plastic cards, encoded with biometric data, are used alongside 'Point of Service' devices that allow payment distributors to authenticate the identity of the recipient. While it is still too early to determine the impact on leakage, preliminary results indicate high satisfaction with the program among beneficiaries. They also suggest substantial time savings for beneficiaries and lower risk of underpayment. With the Government of India now investing in biometrically authenticated identification cards for all residents under its "Unique ID" program, lessons from this pilot will help inform the national scale-up.

RESEARCH & DISSEMINATION EVENTS

TOPIC	DATE	LOCATION
Evaluating the Impact of Public Health Programs	July 11-15, 2011	Chennai, India
Enhancing Implementation Science: Program Planning, Scale-up, and Evaluation	July 15-16, 2011	Rome, Italy
UC Berkeley Development Lunch Series	Fall 2011-Spring 2012	Berkeley, CA
2011 Symposium on Economic Experiments in Developing Countries	December 1-3, 2011	Berkeley, CA
Working Group in African Political Economy (Fall)	December 9-10, 2011	Stanford, CA
CEGA Research Retreat	October 28, 2011	Berkeley, CA
Impact Evaluation for Agriculture Workshop	January 23-26, 2012	Nairobi, Kenya
Evaluating the Costs & Benefits: Can We Do More with Less in Foreign Aid?	March 1, 2012	Washington, DC
Ending Poverty through Education: New Evidence from India and Africa	March 2, 2012	Washington, DC
CEGA/BRAC Match-Making Workshop	April 3-4, 2012	Berkeley, CA
Scale and Impact through BRAC's Holistic Approach: Learning from the World's Largest NGO	April 4, 2012	Berkeley, CA
Evidence to Action: The Road from Conflict to Recovery	April 27, 2012	Berkeley, CA
African Social Scientists Reception	May 4, 2012	San Francisco, CA
Working Group in African Political Economy (Spring)	May 24-25, 2012	Berkeley, CA



The Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE)

WGAPE brings together faculty and advanced graduate students in Economics and Political Science who combine field research in Africa with political economy methods. Founded in 2002, the group is co-led by Daniel Posner (Department of Political Science, MIT) and CEGA Faculty Director Ted Miguel. WGAPE meets semi-annually to discuss the work-in-progress of established scholars of African political economy, as well as work by new scholars and graduate students. It serves as a unique forum for presenting ongoing projects, and it provides an unparalleled opportunity to solicit detailed feedback from leaders in the field. After nine years as an exclusively west coast entity, WGAPE expanded this year to include scholars across the US. With support from the National Science Foundation (NSF), CEGA held the first national WGAPE meeting in May 2012 at UC Berkeley.

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We thank our donors for their generous support.

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Expense Category

Amount

Core Staff Support	\$318,300
Supplies & Expenses	\$21,500
Graduate Student Support	\$27,400
Impact Evaluation Workshops	\$8,600
Research & Dissemination Events*	\$102,000
Research Challenge Funds**	\$511,400

Total

\$989,200

*Includes seminars, conferences, and partnership development meetings.

**Excludes graduate research challenge competitions, which are under "Graduate Student Support".

Photo Description (Source): Mobile Phones in Afghanistan (Tarek Ghani), Visiting Scholar Eoin McGuirk (Eoin McGuirk), Pg 2; Breakout Session at BRAC/CEGA Match-Making Meeting (Lisa Chen), Pg 3; Presenters at EASST Collaborative Launch Conference in Uganda: Elijah Mungai from the Ministry of Education in Kenya, Yahya Ipuge from Ifakara Health Institute in Tanzania, and Degnet Abebaw from the Ethiopian Economics Association (Angeli Kirk), Pg 4; Willia Friedman (Lisa Chen), Rural Kenya (Lisa Chen), Pg 6; Market in Rural Kenya (Carson Christiano), Pg 9.



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