

# Yale *Inclusion Economics*

## **How can lower-income countries use policy to include the excluded?**

Healthy societies promote inclusion by equitably distributing power and opportunity, rather than reinforcing traditional exclusion and bias. Inclusion must be intentional: it is not guaranteed by strong economic growth, democratic elections, or even altruism. And it must be supported by informal and formal institutions.

**Inclusion Economics** is a policy-engaged research initiative promoting inclusive institutions, economies, and societies.

The Inclusion Economics network's researchers ask how policy can promote inclusive and accountable states, markets, and societies; and how citizens – including the vulnerable and marginalized – can gain influence to make political and economic systems more responsive to their needs now and in the future.

### **Drawing insights from various disciplines, Inclusion Economics research focuses on a set of linked activities:**

■ ***Innovative data collection*** to identify who is failing to access resources they need, and the invisible social and power structures that constrain opportunity.

■ ***High-quality research*** to understand how to promote and sustain inclusive and accountable institutions.

■ ***Close engagement with stakeholders*** ranging from government officials and local researchers to marginalized individuals to ensure research addresses policy-relevant questions and provides timely insights.

■ ***Communication of data-driven insights*** to shape narratives and understanding on inclusion.

Inclusion Economics at Yale University (YIE) is a collaboration between the Economic Growth Center and the MacMillan Center. The Inclusion Economics network spans YIE, Inclusion Economics India Centre at the Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR), Inclusion Economics Nepal at Governance Lab, and exploratory engagements in Sub-Saharan Africa.





## Inclusion Economics research focuses on three questions core to future well-being:

### 01 **How can access to economic opportunities improve socioeconomic wellbeing in gender-unequal societies?**

Despite global progress toward improving women's lives, from lowering maternal mortality to increasing female educational attainment, women are still unable to gain jobs they are qualified for and want, earn less than men, and have their mobility and opportunities restricted by gender norms. This talent misallocation harms women and hinders economic growth.

Inclusion Economics collaborates with governments to understand and test policies and programs seeking to address economic and social challenges. In Madhya Pradesh and Bihar states in India, we work with officials to understand how safety net programs can better reach and empower women economically. In another state, Chhattisgarh, we investigate how women's access to mobile phones and Internet affects them, their households, and their communities. In Nepal, we ask whether better information empowers women to rise up the ranks of political leadership. Our work shows that gender-intentional social protection design can loosen patriarchal views, a promising finding that the government is keen to see us support for millions of low-income women.

### 02 **How can countries ensure environmental sustainability and climate resilience?**

India has one of the world's fastest-growing economies and has made ambitious climate commitments – however, fulfilling those commitments while continuing to grow will be a challenge. Moreover, India faces some of the highest risks of climate disasters, especially for the poor and vulnerable. The entire population breathes polluted air, and millions, despite their remarkable resilience, are vulnerable to climate-related risks such as flooding. All countries, affluent or poor, must grapple with how to maintain economic growth while encouraging environmental sustainability. India's insights can directly inform global policy decisions about climate change and its consequences.

Inclusion Economics works in multiple Indian states to understand how to reduce pollution, promote climate disaster resilience, and operationalize market reforms to efficiently cut emissions. Recent work, for example, implemented across one Indian state and soon to expand, has focused on providing actionable information to grassroots volunteers to improve responses to climate change-induced extreme flooding.

### 03 **How can public programs reach those who need them the most, but often have trouble accessing them?**

Countries often launch impressive programs to serve the public and protect the vulnerable. But good governance only starts with sound policies; beyond that, implementation is the crux of development. Many low- and middle-income countries now support ambitious social protection programs to channel resources to the poor – but the effects of such programs are often blunted by implementation challenges.

Inclusion Economics collaborates with governments in India and Nepal on two crucial areas: First, how to effectively deploy information and align incentives within the public sector to deliver services more effectively; and second, how to engage traditionally marginalized citizens to give them greater voice and ensure officials, both appointed and elected, are accountable to all.

Visit [ie.yale.edu](http://ie.yale.edu)  
to learn more

