

Investment Opportunity: *EGC Incubation Fund*

The Economic Growth Center at Yale fosters innovative data-driven research that promotes equitable global development. Economic growth has delivered immense gains for low- and middle-income countries. However, in an era of climate breakdowns and rising inequalities, growth is no longer a panacea for ensuring equal access to opportunities to raise incomes and living standards for individuals, communities, and countries.

Under the leadership of its Director Rohini Pande, EGC has deepened and expanded its support for **frontier research that answers questions important to policymakers, leaders, donors, and other key stakeholders in lower-income countries.** Recent methodological advances allow researchers to evaluate policy pilots before scaling them up to a large target population. Partnerships with

organizations and researchers in low- and middle-income countries can ensure research and policy recommendations consider local contexts and foster sustained engagement with policy counterparts. However, conducting high-quality, embedded development research, and employing novel data methods, is time-consuming and expensive. EGC now has an opportunity to catalyze a much larger set of research to answer priority questions facing lower-income countries.



The EGC Research-to-Policy Incubator Fund enables EGC faculty researchers to take advantage of high-potential, time-sensitive policy-focused research opportunities. When opportunities arise, the fund is invested in research teams. Fund resources can be utilized in numerous ways. Prospecting funds assess vital new opportunities, pilot funds help start and strengthen new projects, bridge funds allow a project to continue while seeking larger-scale funding and policy engagement, and dissemination resources strengthen the bridge from research results to the kind of policy institutionalization that improves citizen wellbeing.

The Fund opens many ways to directly involve **Yale students, junior researchers, and international collaborators in research.** Yale undergraduate interns would gain hands-on experience with project development, data analysis, policy communications, and researcher-policy maker interactions. PhD students and post-doctoral associates on research teams enable hands-on mentorship of a rising generation of policy-engaged researchers, alongside an economical and effective way to advance project aims. EGC could use the funds to invite researchers and other collaborators from lower-income countries to New Haven for an immersive Yale research experience, laying the groundwork for future collaborations. EGC team members could travel abroad to build and strengthen international partnerships and Yale's presence abroad. Building up the next generation and engaging with counterparts abroad are key strategies at EGC for strengthening the development research community and building direct channels to policy impact.

EGC welcomes flexible funding to strategically support key points in the research-to-policy process which would aid in achieving long-term policy change and impact. To explore opportunities to support ground-breaking research and policy impact in these areas and others through the EGC Research to Policy Incubator Fund, please reach out to deanna.ford@yale.edu.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPACT

*Offered by the EGC Research-to-Policy
Incubator Fund*

Improving Women's Socioeconomic Wellbeing

Despite global progress toward improving women's lives, from lowering maternal and child mortality to increasing female educational attainment, women's ability to get the jobs they are qualified for and want remains limited. Gender gaps in earnings also persist. Restrictive gender norms, a lack of economic opportunities, and inadequate support for women engaged in caregiving limit women's autonomy and mobility, stifling education, technological adoption, and economic activity. This misallocation of talent harms women and slows economic growth. **What are the most effective approaches to addressing these social issues? And how can policy improve women's socioeconomic well-being and assist women in increasing their economic activity and inclusion?** EGC researchers are assisting policymakers in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa in answering these questions through research collaborations. By analyzing existing data from government programs and testing new policy innovations, EGC seeks to understand the constraints to female labor force participation while identifying promising policies to help more women gain an equitable economic footing.

Environmental Sustainability & Climate Resilience

India has one of the world's fastest-growing economies and has made ambitious climate commitments; however, it is the world's third largest CO₂ emitter and faces some of the highest climate disaster risks. The entire population breathes polluted air, and millions are vulnerable to climate-related risks such as flooding, despite their remarkable resilience. **All countries, rich or poor, face the challenge of balancing economic growth and environmental sustainability. India's insights can directly inform global policy decisions about climate change and its consequences.** EGC researchers engage with policymakers to assess innovative solutions for environmental sustainability and climate resilience. Recent research has focused on establishing the world's first emissions market for particulate air pollution, assisting in the design of carbon markets, and providing actionable information to improve natural disaster response. Other research examines migration responses to climate change, and their implications for agricultural productivity.

Helping Governments and Markets Serve the Poor

The vast majority of the world's extreme poor are concentrated in lower-income countries and rural areas. Poor access to information and credit limits their ability to participate in markets and use government services. As these countries grow, domestic spending decisions are critical in how well the poor can access opportunities for socio-economic advancement. (For example, international aid in India is 0.1% of GDP but domestic budget spending on social sectors is 2.7%, highlighting the importance of government resources in the overall effort for equitable growth). **Identifying, supporting, and improving public programs in lower-income countries that promote market access for the poor, ensure social services are well-targeted, and support politicians to more effectively spend domestic resources on social protection can yield some of the highest returns in reducing poverty and serving marginalized communities.** EGC research teams have collaborated with central and state governments in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America to better understand domestic state spending priorities and how to assist governments in working efficiently and effectively in areas ranging from early childhood interventions to school and college admission procedures to workfare program design.