



CEGA Fellowship: Special Call

Spring 2025 Request for Applications

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TIMELINE

Release date:	June 14, 2024
Submission deadline:	July 15, 2024
Notification date:	August 1, 2024
Fellowship period:	January 14-May 16 2025

OVERVIEW OF OPPORTUNITY

CEGA invites **scholars from Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America** (see specific eligibility criteria below) to participate in a **four-month rigorous research fellowship at the University of California (UC) Berkeley**, to be completed during the **Spring 2025 academic semester (January-May 2025)**. We will select 2-3 fellows in this round.

The fellowship will have three “tracks,” each with a different sector and geographic focus:

- **Track 1: Displacement.** Fellows in the “Displacement” track will be supported to study the effectiveness of programs designed to improve the lives and livelihoods of refugee, migrant and host community families—especially “two-generation” approaches that integrate early childhood development (ECD) and livelihood interventions. For this track, we will prioritize fellows conducting relevant research in **Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, and Uganda**.
- **Track 2: Early Childhood Development (ECD).** Fellows in the “ECD” track will be supported to study the effectiveness of programs that support good health, adequate

nutrition, safety and security, responsive caregiving, and opportunities for early learning—especially for children 0-3 years of age. For this track, we will prioritize fellows conducting relevant research in **Tanzania, Mozambique, and Kenya**.

- **Track 3: Youth Livelihoods.** Fellows in the “Youth Livelihoods” track will study the effectiveness of programs designed to help young people (ages 16-24) find meaningful work by delivering education, skills training, and comprehensive support. For this track, we will prioritize fellows conducting relevant research in **Kenya—especially in the city of Mombasa**.

Note that this is a special call separate from the general CEGA fellowship call, which supports African scholars interested in economic development research broadly. The general call will be released in November 2024.

During the fellowship, visiting researchers will:

- Audit courses at UC Berkeley, including those covering topics such as global development, migration and forced displacement, impact evaluation, economics, and other topics relevant to the scholar;
- Develop a new project OR work on an existing research project focused on forced displacement, ECD, or youth livelihoods in priority countries with mentorship from a [CEGA affiliate](#) with relevant subject matter and geographic expertise/interests;
- Be matched with a peer PhD partner for collaboration and (mutual) feedback;
- Participate in tailored, hands-on modules on research transparency and reproducibility, research communication skills, qualitative data collection and analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, data science, and other topics of special interest;
- Engage in supplementary skills training, such as leadership, communications, public speaking, writing and language translation, navigating the publication process, and translating research for non-academic audiences;
- Visit, network, and present at nearby universities, including Stanford University, UC Davis, or UC Santa Cruz;
- Design rigorous research curricula and learning resources that can be used for instruction at their home institutions (academic and non-academic).

CEGA will cover the costs of room and board in Berkeley, health insurance, a stipend, visa fees, and round-trip economy airfare for selected fellows. Please note that CEGA does not have the funds to provide financial support for spouses or other family members.

Post-Fellowship Support

Upon completing the fellowship, scholars are expected to return to a university or research institute in their home country or region, and assume a leading role in promoting the use of rigorous evidence to inform policy.

After successful completion of the fellowship, fellows will receive:

- A “Catalyst” grant to train colleagues and students at their home institutions in rigorous research methods, using case studies focused on forced displacement, ECD, or youth livelihoods.

- Sponsorship to attend a gathering of researchers and evidence practitioners (either CEGA's annual [Africa Evidence Summit](#), a dissemination event held in a different East African country each summer, or [Evidence to Action](#), CEGA's flagship research conference held in Berkeley, CA). These events will provide fellows with the opportunity to present research and network with scholars and partners.
- [For African scholars]: An invitation to join the Network of Impact Evaluation Researchers in Africa ([NIERA](#)), an association of African scholars made up of alumni from CEGA's fellowship programs that seeks to advance decision-focused impact evaluation of development programs.
- Either 1) a USD \$10,000 pilot grant to continue working on a research project developed while at UC Berkeley, or 2) a 4-month, paid research placement at a partner organization (such as the Center for Global Development or J-PAL), or refugee-led organization (RLO) needing research support. *Please indicate your initial preference in the application form (this can be changed after participant selection).*
- Access to funding for publication fees, as needed.

ELIGIBILITY

Please carefully consult the criteria below.

For all Fellowships, applicants must:

- ✓ Be **fluent in English**.
- ✓ Identify as an "**LMIC scholar**," which CEGA defines as a researcher raised and educated (at least through secondary school) in a [low- or middle-income country](#). Preference will be given to applicants who are **from the country (or region)** where they plan to conduct research during their fellowship, although applicants currently living outside of these countries will be considered. For the Displacement track, we will give preference to individuals with lived experience of displacement, including refugees, internally displaced peoples (IDPs), asylum seekers, returned refugees, returned IDPs, individuals under UNHCR's statelessness mandate, members of host communities, and other groups or persons of concern to UNHCR ([UNHCR](#)). *Note that citizenship will not be considered in determining eligibility for this fellowship.*
- ✓ Have completed a PhD within the last 8 years, or be enrolled in a **PhD program** in economics, statistics, epidemiology/public health, migration studies, or another social science discipline. We will consider candidates who have completed a **Masters** degree and are considering a PhD, in exceptional cases only. Please state your intent to pursue a PhD in your personal statement, or explain why the Masters is the terminal degree in your field;
- ✓ Have a **current affiliation** with a research institution, university or other research organization, preferably one that supports policy-relevant, quantitative social science research; and
- ✓ Plan to **return to a university or research institute** in their home country or region after the fellowship.

Women and people with a lived experience of forced displacement are strongly encouraged to apply.

Please direct any questions about eligibility to Mansi Kalra mkalra@berkeley.edu.

HOW TO APPLY

To respond to this RFA, please submit the following information and documents through this [Submittable portal](#) by **Monday, July 15, at 5 pm GMT:**

- 1) **Personal Statement** (2 pages): Please describe your personal motivations for applying to this fellowship. Of all fellowships available to you, why are you interested in this one? What do you hope to accomplish during the semester and beyond? *If your highest degree completed is a Masters's degree and you are considering a PhD, please state your intent to pursue a PhD in your personal statement or explain why the Masters is a terminal degree in your field.*
- 2) **Curriculum Vitae/Resume**
- 3) **Transcript** of any coursework completed within at least the last 5 years (i.e. your scores or grades from university courses). A scanned copy is acceptable.
- 4) **Research Plan (2 pages)**: Please describe the research topic that you would like to pursue during the fellowship. This can either be a proposal for a) a new research study OR b) continued work on an existing study, especially in preparation for publication. Refer to Appendix A "Instructions for Research Proposal" and Appendix B "Research Proposal Example" below.
- 5) **Evidence of Leave Approval** from the applicant's supervisor or department chair demonstrating support and certifying that, if the applicant is selected, he/she will be able to take a 4-month leave of absence. A signed letter will suffice.
- 6) **Letters of Recommendation (1 required)**: One academic letter that describes the applicant's research capacity, quantitative skills, and qualifications for the Special Call. **Please use the provided recommendation template (Appendix C).**
- 7) **Optional Attachments**: Please attach any supporting documents of your choosing (working papers, other research documentation, etc). This is not required.

Please submit your application materials [here](#) by 5:00 pm GMT on Monday, July 15th, 2024.

TIMELINE FOR SELECTION:

June 14, 2024	Release of Request for Applications
July 15, 2024	Application deadline
July 15-July 19, 2024	Application review
July 22-July 26, 2024	Interviews with shortlisted candidates
August 1, 2024	Notification of final selections

We may run into delays with this process, and appreciate your patience. If you're experiencing a technical difficulty or have a question before the submission deadline, please direct any questions to Mansi Kalra at mkalra@berkeley.edu or schedule an office hours appointment to discuss your application using the following [link](#).

APPENDIX A: INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESEARCH PLAN

Applicants must submit a research plan of no more than 2 pages (not including reference pages) along with their fellowship application. This can refer to either a new or completed study, and should be aligned with one of the following tracks:

1) Displacement: research plan should focus on programs that support refugee, migrant and host community families—especially “two-generation” approaches that integrate early childhood development (ECD) and livelihood interventions—in **Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, or Uganda**.

2) Early Childhood Development: research plan should focus on interventions that promote ECD, especially for children ages 0-3 years-old, in **Tanzania, Mozambique, or Kenya**.

3) Youth Livelihoods: research plan should focus on interventions that promote youth livelihoods in **Kenya** (especially Mombasa, Kenya).

While the research questions should be very clear, demonstrating your ability to think through a rigorous research design, the 2-page plan need not be fully fleshed out with details about your partner(s), specific outcome measures, and field research plan. If this describes an existing study, **make sure to carefully document the current status of the research**.

The plan must not exceed **2 pages (not including references)** and must include the following six sections (do not leave any section blank):

1. Problem statement	Succinctly describe the evaluation question (or questions) you seek to answer.
2. Contribution to learning	How will this research teach us something new about social or economic development? Include a very brief literature review and explain the project’s unique scientific contribution. What knowledge gap are you addressing, and how will it advance the field?
3. Description of program(s), policy, or intervention	Describe the intervention that you will design and/or evaluate. Explain the theory of change and potential implementing organization(s) or governments that will participate in the proposed evaluation. Include existing quantitative and qualitative data in support of your hypotheses, models and/or theories of change. Describe if you are taking advantage of any existing datasets.
4. Evaluation Design and Empirical Strategy	Describe the evaluation design. What is the goal of the study and your research questions? How will you determine quantitatively that your study led to impact? What are the indicators you will use, and how will you collect data? Are you utilizing any secondary data sources, if so to what extent do you already have access to them?
5. Use for Decision Making	How will the evidence be used for decision making? Clearly state the problem that is addressed by the program or project to be evaluated. Is there quantitative evidence of the development challenge to be addressed? Explain whether the evaluation will, or has already, test(ed) an existing program or new intervention. Discuss if any policy partners, stakeholders, or end users of the research have or will be involved in any stage(s) of the study design.

6. Current Status of the Research

Indicate if the research you have proposed is in the design stage, has already begun, or is in the manuscript development stage. State if it is already supported by funds, and describe the sources and amount. State and describe if you have access to data sources. State if you have already received ethical approvals (ie. IRB).

APPENDIX B: RESEARCH PLAN EXAMPLE

Problem Statement:

The two leading causes of childhood mortality worldwide are diarrheal disease and acute respiratory infections (Black et al. 2003). In addition, chronic parasitic infections and diarrhea can lead to anemia, which further hinders children's development (Curtis and Cairncross 2003). Medical evidence suggests that the hands are the main transmitters of diarrhea and respiratory infections. As such, they constitute disease vectors carrying respiratory microorganisms and fecal material into the domestic environment of the susceptible child (Hendley et al. 1973, WHO 2003). Health experts recommend handwashing with soap as a critical action in protecting public health because it is a mainstay in infection control (Luby et al. 2005). Yet, rates of handwashing with soap at critical times remain low throughout the world, even when both soap and water are available (Scott et al. 2003).

Contribution to Learning:

Previous studies in the literature of handwashing promotion campaigns typically find that handwashing does reduce diarrhea in children under five years old, but those campaigns usually require intensive and controlled interventions. In a review of 14 randomized trials Ejemot (2009) concludes that handwashing programs resulted in a 39 percent reduction in diarrhea episodes in children residing in institutions in high-income countries and a 32 percent reduction in such episodes in children living in communities in low- or middle-income countries. Luby et al. (2001) also show that handwashing with soap reduces the incidence of acute respiratory tract infections, as well diarrhea, as a result of implementing an intensive and small-scale community-level intervention. However, these studies focused on interventions that impose controlled conditions in small populations over short time periods. This research, however, aims to study the effectiveness of a national handwashing campaign to learn the impacts of large-scale handwashing interventions in a real-world context on a wide range of health indicators.

Description of Program:

In response to the preventable threats posed by poor sanitation and hygiene, the NGO Water Now is launching a large-scale handwashing project to improve child health and welfare outcomes of rural households in Uganda. The Wash Your Hands Uganda Project borrows from commercial and social marketing to promote better hygiene. The intervention has two different components: i) a mass media communications campaign; and ii) a community and school intervention.

The mass media campaign will be implemented at the provincial level. The campaign will emphasize the importance of the availability and use of soap for handwashing, and the need to wash hands with soap before cooking/eating and after fecal contact (going to the bathroom, changing diapers). The main communication channel is broadcast radio, print materials, and promotional events such as street parades, games, and local theater performances.

The community intervention is conducted at the district level, and includes, in addition to the mass-media campaign, handwashing education sessions with groups of mothers, caregivers, and children, during which community agents will demonstrate how to properly wash hands with soap, explain the critical junctures in which we must wash hands with soap, and provide information on its impacts on children's health.

Target Population:

The project's primary target audience consists of mothers of reproductive age (15 to 49 years), caregivers of children under five, and children up to 12 years old. Children under five are the most susceptible to serious consequences from diarrhea and respiratory infection. Thus, the project's objective is to improve handwashing behavior among the target audience to better the health of children under five.

Evaluation Design:

Research Questions

The objective of this study is to assess the impact of the Wash Your Hands Project on handwashing *knowledge* and *beliefs*, and *accessibility* to soap; on handwashing *behavior*; and *children's health and nutrition*.

Identification Strategy

To assess the causal impact of each of the project components we will conduct a controlled randomized trial comprising of the two components: mass media campaign (T1) and community and school intervention (T2). The study areas will be districts with populations ranging from 1,500 to 100,000 inhabitants. From the universe of Ugandan provinces, 80 provinces will be randomly selected, with 40 assigned to a first group and 40 to a second. From the first group of 40 provinces, 40 districts will be randomly assigned to receive the mass media province-level treatment (T1). From the second group of provinces, 80 districts will be randomly selected, with 40 randomly assigned to receive the district-level community treatment (T2) and the other 40 randomly assigned to serve as control group (C).

Data and Outcomes of Interest

Two rounds of surveys—baseline and endline—will be conducted to collect data on intermediate and final outcomes, which include: effectiveness of handwashing campaigns; determinants for handwashing behavior; handwashing behavior environmental and water contamination; diarrhea and ALRI; anemia; parasites infestations; and malnutrition.

Power calculations

Using latest DHS data for Uganda, power calculations estimated that around 750 households with children under two years old per treatment arm would be necessary to capture a 15 percent decrease in diarrhea incidence. These estimates are based on the collection of 2 data points. An additional 20 percent will be added to the sample size to address attrition, thus the total sample size will be 2,700 households.

Policy Translation:

Previous studies of randomized handwashing interventions focus on intensive and controlled experiments, showing they are effective in reducing diarrhea and ALRI. This study will be the first to examine a large-scale intervention under real-world conditions. If the intervention is proven effective, handwashing campaigns could become a low-cost, preventive measure to improve child health in countries with a high incidence of diarrhea. The study will also be the first to assess all components of the causal chain, thus potentially identifying which components are more effective in changing behavior and improving children's health.

Other Funding Sources:

The project implementation is fully funded by the NGO Water Now. The research study has currently no other sources of funding. If we are awarded the research grant, the funds would be allocated to conduct the baseline survey, and additional sources of funding would be explored for the follow-up survey.

References:¹

Black, R., S. Morris, and J. Bryce. 2003. Where and why are 10 million children dying every year? *Lancet* 361, 2226–2234.

¹ This example was prepared by Alexandra Orsola-Vidal, using the evaluation of a large-scale handwashing intervention in Peru. The project was implemented by the Water and Sanitation Program of the World Bank, together with the government of Peru. The evaluation was conducted by Professor Sebastian Galiani, Professor and CEGA's Scientific Director Paul Gertler, and CEGA's Global Networks Director Alexandra Orsola-Vidal. For more details please see: Galiani, S., Gertler, P. and A. Orsola-Vidal. 2012. Promoting Handwashing Behavior in Peru: The Effect of Large-Scale Mass-Media and Community Level Interventions. [Policy Research Working Paper 6257](#). The World Bank, November 2012.

Curtis, V., and S. Cairncross. 2003. Effect of washing hands with soap on diarrhea risk in the community: a systematic review. *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* 3 (5), 275–281, May.

Hendley, J., R. Wenzel, and J. Gwaltney. 1973. Transmission of rhinovirus colds by self- inoculation. *The New England Journal of Medicine* 288, 1361–1364.

Luby, S., M. Agboatwalla, D. Feikin, J. Painter, W. Billhimer, A. Altaf, and R. Hoekstra. 2005. Effect of handwashing on child health: a randomized controlled trial. *The Lancet* 366, 225–233.

Luby, S., A. Halder, T. Huda, L. Unicomb, and R. Johnston. 2011. The effect of handwashing at recommended times with water alone and with soap on child diarrhea in rural Bangladesh: An observational study. *PLoS Med* 8(6), e1001052; doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1001052.

Scott, B., V. Curtis, and T. Rabie. 2003. Protecting children from diarrhea and acute respiratory infections: the role of handwashing promotion in water and sanitation programmes. *Regional Health Forum WHO South-East Asia Region* 7,42–47.

WHO. 2003. *Update 47—Studies of SARS Virus Survival, Situation in China*. Available at: http://www.who.int/csr/sarsarchive/2003_05_05/en/ (accessed July 16, 2003).

World Bank. 2005. *The Handwashing Handbook: A Guide for Developing a Hygiene Promotion Program to Increase Handwashing with Soap*.

APPENDIX C: ACADEMIC RECOMMENDATION FORM

To be completed by the Referee

Applicant Name:	
Name of Referee:	
Institution and Title of Referee:	
Relation of Referee to Applicant:	
Email address of Referee:	
Mobile number of Referee:	
Address of place of work of Referee:	

Instructions:

The applicant above is applying for the 2025 CEGA Fellowship: Special Call offered by the Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) at the University of California, Berkeley. Selected applicants will be placed at the University of California at Berkeley for four months, where they will design collaborative research projects; participate in PhD-level coursework in development economics/quantitative social sciences; present research; attend seminars; and develop mixed-methods research curricula.

In your recommendation, we ask that you comment on the applicant's research capacity and personal qualities that would make them successful candidates for the CEGA Fellowship. Include specific examples and address the applicant's analytic skills as well as their ability to cooperate, communicate, and network effectively with peers/co-workers. We also ask that you provide us with your contact details, so that we can reach you for further information if necessary. Please **return your recommendation letter to the applicant.**

If you have any questions, please contact mkalra@berkeley.edu

Core competencies:

Please comment on the applicant level for each area below:

1. Quantitative Ability	Have Not Observed	Weak	Fair	Good	Excellent
2. Networking Skills	Have Not Observed	Weak	Fair	Good	Excellent
3. Independence	Have Not Observed	Weak	Fair	Good	Excellent

4. Communication (written)	Have Not Observed	Weak	Fair	Good	Excellent
5. Communication (oral)	Have Not Observed	Weak	Fair	Good	Excellent
6. Work Ethic	Have Not Observed	Weak	Fair	Good	Excellent

Recommendation Letter (please feel free to include below or as separate attachment/letter):