Using Evidence to Scale-up Ultra poor/Graduation program

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At J-PAL we translate research into action. Connecting the dots from research to action.

Research
Our staff leads the implementation of rigorous, policy-relevant research on the ground.

Policy outreach
We synthesize research results, build partnerships, lend technical assistance, and embed staff.

Capacity building
We conduct executive trainings and online courses to build local expertise.

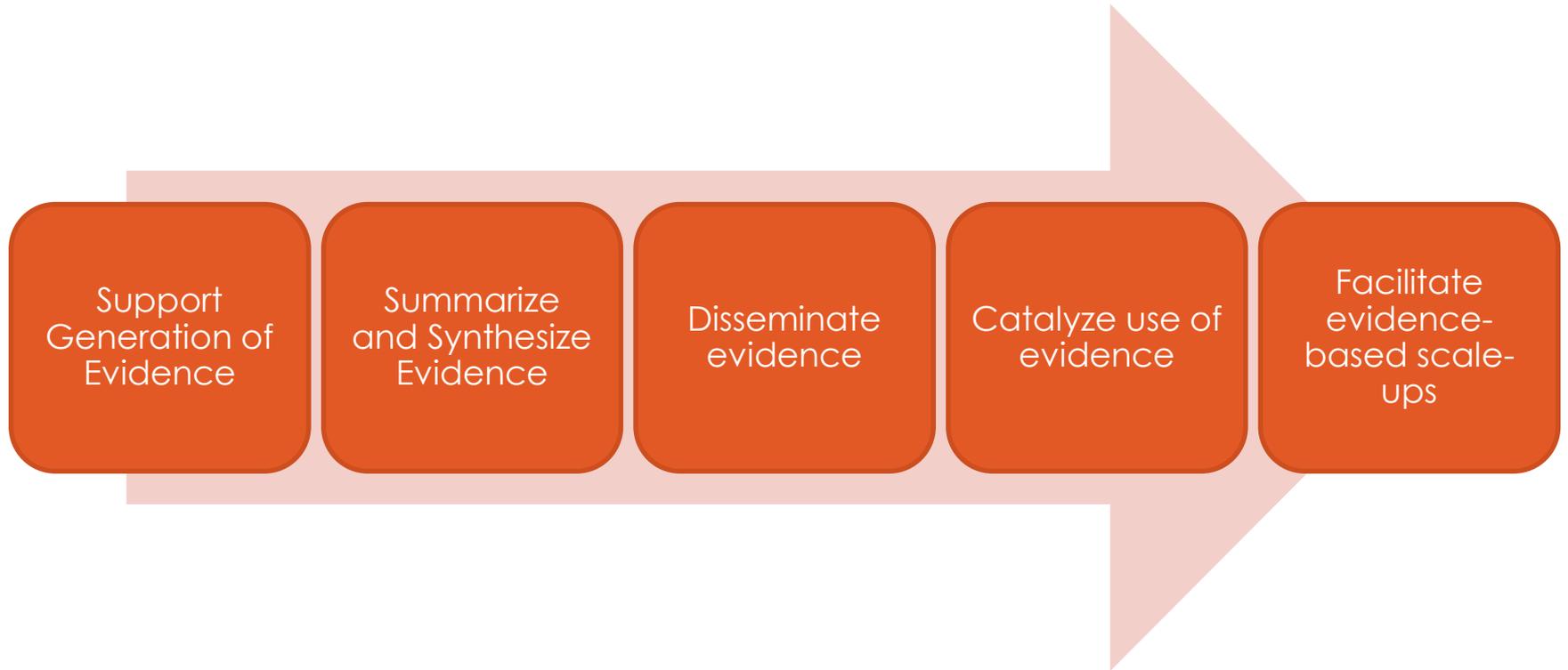# J-PAL started at MIT (USA) and is now a network of 262 affiliated professors from 74 leading universities around the world
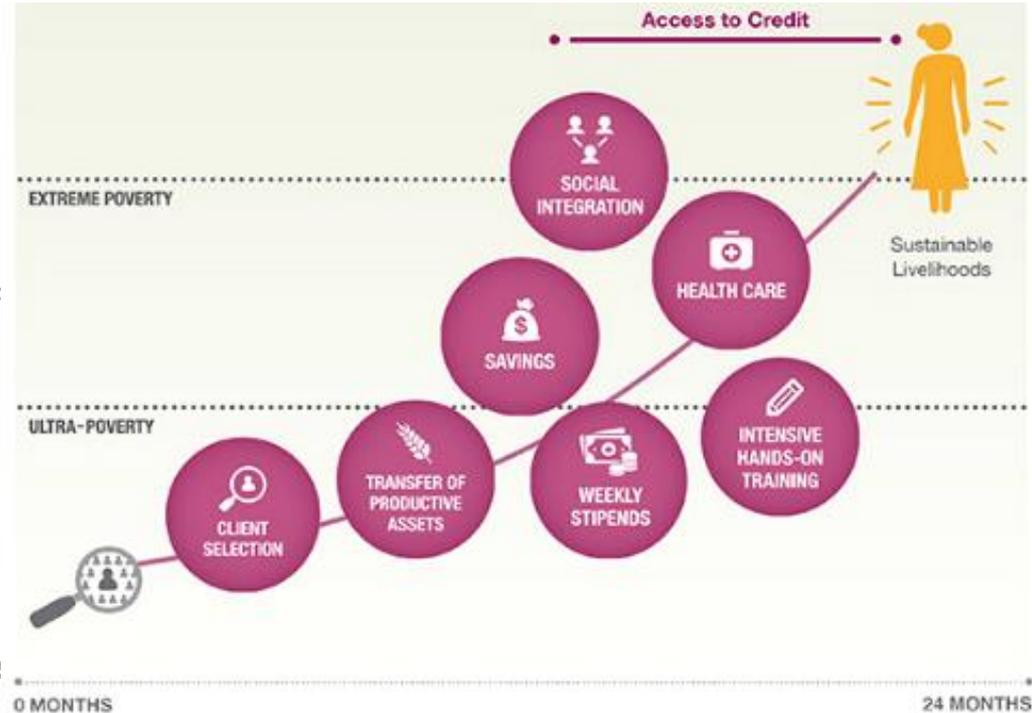
From Evidence to Policy Change

Why is it important to generate and use evidence? It helps us understand what's working and why.

Targeting the Ultra-Poor: A big-push approach, over 24 months, to get out of extreme poverty

- Originally designed and implemented by BRAC, Bangladesh in 2002.

- A livelihoods programme, wherein the poorest households are provided with a sequence of services

Aim:

1. Induce occupational shift towards more stable self-employment

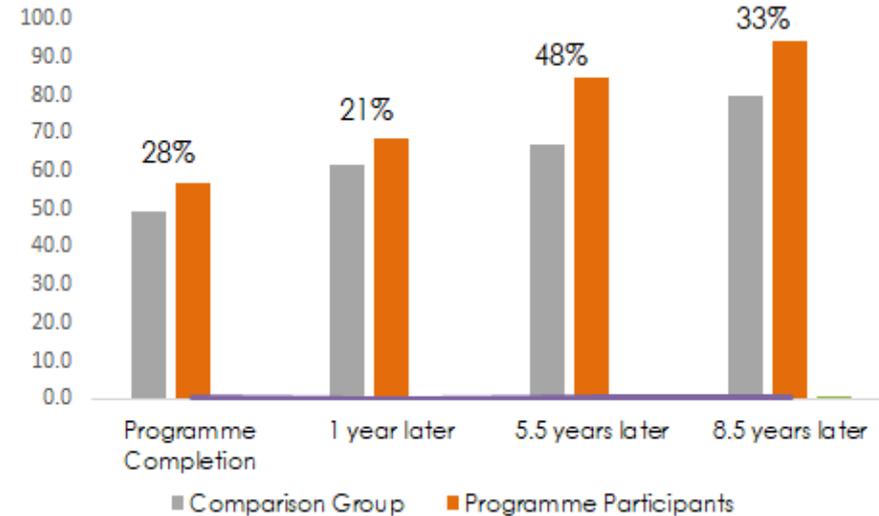2. Assist the ultra-poor to graduate out of extreme poverty

Evidence of impact from evaluations in seven countries

Graduation participants reported: working, earning, and eating more than the comparison group

Consumption gains (Murshidabad, 2020) compared with those who did not get the programme:

We have evidence to show that the graduation approach is effective. How can evidence further help us to scale it up?

We are continuing to build on existing evidence and generate and use more evidence for effective scale-up

- Government led implementation of the model being evaluated (earlier evaluations with grassroots NGOs) in Bihar (with technical support from Bandhan-Konnagar; knowledge and learning support from J-PAL)

  – Translating evidence to large scale: rare opportunity to work closely with government to set up appropriate management structures, answer strategic questions, andbuild monitoring and evaluation processes for evidence-based implementation

  – Evidence needs embedding in the context, this needs detailed work, joint field-visits. In our role as learning and knowledge partner, we are also doing process monitoring and supporting building of MIS systems including digital processes

  – Work of translating evidence in informing a scale-up is challenging and much deeper than first expected, e.g., operational structures need to change, new solutions need to be adopted and commitment and time from all stakeholders is crucial for success

Thank you