



CEGA Fellowship: 2023-2024 Request for Applications

Release date: January 12, 2023

Submission deadline: February 23, 2023

Notification date: April 15, 2023

The Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) invites African researchers interested in developing their skills in impact evaluation to apply for its **Resident and Non-Resident Fellowship Program** to be completed in **Fall 2023 and Spring 2024**. Selected researchers will audit courses, develop skills in impact evaluation, access a personalized mentorship program to develop their research ideas, and build their research networks. Resident Fellows will spend a semester, quarter, or two quarters at UC Berkeley or Northwestern University in the United States.

To be eligible, researchers must be **East or West African nationals** (see full list under eligibility) who hold a staff or student position at a research institution, university, or other organization headquartered in Africa and have completed a Master's degree or PhD (or PhD in progress) within the last 8 years in economics, statistics, epidemiology/public health, or another social science discipline.

The application deadline is **5:00 PM GMT on February 23rd, 2023**.

OVERVIEW

The Center for Effective Global Action ([CEGA](#)), a research hub based at UC Berkeley, invests in capacity building to empower low- and middle-income country (LMIC) scholars to lead rigorous studies on economic development in their home regions (see [Global Networks](#)). We've hosted 61 CEGA fellows since launching the fellowship program in 2012 and we are happy to announce our 2023 Request for Applications. In this call, CEGA invites researchers from East and West Africa interested in developing their skills in impact evaluation and evidence-informed policy to apply for one of two opportunities: 1) A 4-Month (Semester/2 quarters) or 10-week (1 quarter) Resident fellowship during Fall 2023 or Spring 2024 in-person at the University of California, Berkeley or Northwestern University 2) A 12-week Non-Resident Fellowship, a virtual version of our flagship resident fellowship. *We invite applicants to indicate if they would like to be considered for the Resident Fellowship or the Non-Resident Fellowship, please carefully review the activities and time commitments to choose the best option for yourself.*

The CEGA Fellowship Program seeks to equip early-career African social scientists with the skills needed to carry out rigorous evaluations of economic development programs. Selected fellows will

audit courses in economics, health, development, and other topics of interest; as well as participate in workshops on research transparency, cost analysis, data science, qualitative methods, communications, and fundraising for research. For the Resident fellowship program, we are delighted to partner with The Global Poverty Research Lab ([GPRL](#)) at Northwestern University as a second host institution. GPRL is an academic hub for empirical development economics, established in 2017 by professors Dean Karlan and Christopher Udry. While we don't invite preferences of the host institution at the application stage, we will invite you to share these and take them into account in the interview stage. Resident Fellows will be paired with a [CEGA](#) or GRPL affiliated faculty member. Non-Resident Fellows will be mentored by CEGA Faculty. CEGA/GPRL staff and PhD student peer mentors will provide additional mentorship during the fellowship.

After successful completion of the Resident or Non-Resident fellowship, fellows will be eligible for "catalyst grants" of \$5,000 to train others in impact evaluation methods and build institutional capacity to conduct rigorous evaluations, as well as pilot research grants of \$7,000-10,000 to continue working on research developed during the fellowship. They will also be able to apply for larger research grants of up to \$75,000 to conduct an impact evaluation that answers a pressing economic development question in East or West Africa. All Resident and Non-Resident fellows will be sponsored to attend CEGA's annual Africa Evidence Summit, a dissemination event held in a different East or West African country each summer. *Non-Resident Fellows* will also receive sponsorship for a 1-2 week in-person visit to UC Berkeley to present their research in person, meet with CEGA affiliates and PhD partners, attend 2-3 PhD level seminars, and engage in a sightseeing activity.

Upon successful program completion, CEGA Fellows (both resident and Non-Resident) will be considered members of the CEGA Fellowship network. They will also be invited to join the [Network of Impact Evaluation Researchers in Africa](#) (NIERA), an association of African scholars seeking to advance decision-focused impact evaluation of development programs through capacity building, evidence generation, and policy outreach. Fellows based in West Africa will also have the opportunity to be connected with the [Development Impact West Africa](#) (DIWA) network, a program co-hosted by the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) and CEGA.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants to the CEGA Fellowship Program must:

- ✓ Be a **national** of an East African or Anglophone West African country (Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Burundi, South Sudan, Uganda, the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte D'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Somalia, and Cameroon) and **fluent in English**;
- ✓ Have completed a **Master's degree or a PhD within the last 8 years**, or **be enrolled** in a PhD program in economics, statistics, epidemiology/public health, or another social science discipline;
- ✓ Have a current affiliation with a research institution, university or other research organization **in East or West Africa**, preferably one that supports policy-relevant, quantitative social science research;

- ✓ **[Resident Only]** Plan to **return to a research institute in East or West Africa** after the resident fellowship at UC Berkeley or Northwestern University. If currently enrolled in a PhD program outside the African continent, scholars may complete their PhD before their return.

Please direct any questions about eligibility to our staff team at cegafellowship@gmail.com.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Successful candidates must:

- Demonstrate strong analytical skills, with past coursework in quantitative methods;
- Have participated in or have familiarity with impact evaluation research (either randomized or quasi-experimental studies), policy analysis, and field data collection;
- Demonstrate a commitment to evidence informed policy making, either through direct experience or an understanding of the process;
- Demonstrate a commitment to building the capacity of African research institutions;
- Be fluent in English (written and spoken), and a strong communicator.

Who we will sponsor: A total of seven Resident fellows and up to five Non-Resident fellows will be accepted for the 2023-2024 Academic Year. Of these, one resident slot will be reserved for a fellow interested in studying problems associated with infectious disease (HIV excepted, unless in the case of comorbidities with other infectious diseases) with a rigorous implementation science lens (see [here](#)). The other slots are available for fellows interested in any field related to economic development—including agriculture, financial inclusion, gender, technology for development, energy and climate change, and others. **Female applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.**

Option 1: Resident Fellowship Program

The program will cover the costs of housing at UC Berkeley/Northwestern University, health insurance, board (UCB) or food costs (included in stipend for Northwestern), a monthly stipend, visa fees, and round-trip economy airfare. Please note that the program does not provide financial support for spouses or other family members.

RESIDENT FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

During the resident fellowship, researchers will:

- Participate in seminars and conferences on research in social and economic development;
- Present their own research during seminars and workshops;
- Engage in UC Berkeley/Northwestern University coursework, such as a rigorous doctoral-level seminar in impact evaluation;
- Carry out an independent research project under the mentorship of a CEGA/GPRL faculty member (projects can use existing data for retrospective analysis or set-up a study design for future data collection);
- Participate in tailored, hands-on modules on research transparency and reproducibility, communication skills, qualitative data analysis, and cost-effectiveness analysis;
- Meet and collaborate with faculty and students in multiple academic departments;

- Visit and present at other campuses, including UC San Diego, University of Chicago, UC Davis, and/or Stanford University;
- Design impact evaluation curricula that will be taught at an East or West African institution
- Join team building and sightseeing activities with CEGA staff.

Option 2: Non-Resident Fellowship Program

CEGA Non-Resident Fellows will be engaged remotely for **12 weeks, at about 15-20 hours per week**. Fellows will receive a stipend to support their internet data costs and their time spent on the fellowship.

NON-RESIDENT FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

During the 12-week fellowship, non-resident fellows will:

- Actively audit one online course, such as an intensive causal inference workshop or a doctoral-level seminar in impact evaluation;
- Participate in tailored, hands-on (virtual) modules on research transparency and reproducibility, communication skills, qualitative data analysis, and cost-effectiveness analysis
- Carry out an independent research project under the mentorship of a CEGA faculty member, a peer mentor, and an Africa-based mentor (projects can use existing data for retrospective analysis or set-up a study design for future data collection);
- Meet via Zoom to collaborate with faculty and students in multiple academic departments;
- Present their own research during online seminars and workshops;
- Attend online CEGA conferences and other relevant events
- Design impact evaluation curricula that will be taught at an East or West African institution

In the year following successful completion of the Non-Resident fellowship, fellows will receive:

- A 1-2 week in-person visit to UC Berkeley to present their research in person, meet with CEGA affiliates and PhD students, attend 2-3 PhD level seminars, and engage in a sightseeing activity.

WHICH OPTION IS THE RIGHT FIT FOR ME?

If you are seeking an immersive learning experience and would like to commit to a semester or quarter of in-person engagement, our **Resident Fellowship** might be the right option for you. Resident fellows will have the opportunity to join a wide variety of seminars, workshops and networking events that the UC Berkeley and Northwestern Universities have to offer. This is an intensive in-person fellowship and most resident fellows will spend at least 8 hours per day, engaged in research, attending courses and seminars, networking, and studying. It is therefore important to limit work engagements back home during the fellowship.

If you have an engagement at home or at work (i.e. not able to take a sabbatical or have childcare responsibilities), our **Non-Resident Fellowship** might be a more flexible option for you. Our online mentorship and extensive virtual opportunities will provide you with plenty of avenues to connect with relevant training and faculty. This is a rigorous remote fellowship and will take about 15-20 hours of work per week, although we are flexible on accommodating each fellows' needs. With the follow-up

activities provided, you'll still have ample opportunities for in-person engagement after the successful completion of the fellowship.

HOW TO APPLY

To respond to this RFA, please submit the following information and documents through [this Submittable portal](#) by Thursday, February 23rd, at 5 pm GMT:

In the Submittable portal you will find the option to choose if you'd like to be considered for the Resident Fellowship, the Non-Resident Fellowship, or both.

- 1) **Personal Statement** (1 page): Please describe your personal motivations for applying to the CEGA Visiting Fellowship--of all fellowships available to you, why are you particularly interested in this program? What do you hope to accomplish during the fellowship and beyond? Please also comment on your ability to commit to the fellowship (Resident or Non-Resident) and how this will fit into your current commitments.
- 2) **Curriculum Vitae/Resume**: In your CV, please also include relevant quantitative coursework you have completed.
- 3) **Research Proposal**: Not to exceed 2 pages. Refer to Appendix A "Instructions for Research Proposal" and Appendix B "Research Proposal Example," below. During the fellowship, you should work on the proposal you have submitted unless you decide to change it (with agreement from CEGA staff and your mentor).
- 4) **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.
- 5) **Name and contact information for two referees**: Please provide a name, email, phone number, and affiliation for two individuals (supervisors, senior colleagues, professors) who can speak to your research capacity, quantitative skills, and qualifications for the CEGA fellowship.
- 6) **OPTIONAL**: You may attach one **working paper** or **publication**.

**Please submit your application materials [here](#) by 5:00 PM GMT on
February 23, 2023**

If you have any questions or technical difficulties submitting your application, please email cegafellowship@gmail.com.

SELECTION PROCESS:

January 12, 2023	Release of Request for Applications
February 23, 2023	Application deadline
February 23-March 13, 2023	Application review
March 14-31, 2023	Interviews with shortlisted candidates
April 15, 2023	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 our staff team at cegafellowship@gmail.com.

APPENDIX A: INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Applicants must submit a research proposal of no more than 2 pages along with their fellowship application. Your research proposal should lay the groundwork for a full research project to be further developed over the course of your fellowship. The proposed project should be a quantitative (or mixed-methods) impact evaluation in an East or West African country related to economic development, infectious disease, agriculture, financial inclusion, or a related topic. While the research questions should be very clear, demonstrating your ability to think through a rigorous research design, the 2-page proposal need not be fully fleshed out with details about your partner(s), specific outcome measures, and field research plan.

The proposal must not exceed **two pages single spaced** and must include the following four sections (do not leave any section blank):

<p>1. Problem statement 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 test an existing program or new intervention.</p>
<p>2. Contribution to learning Succinctly describe the evaluation questions you seek to answer. How will this evaluation 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?</p>
<p>3. Evaluation Design Describe the intervention and evaluation design. What is the goal of the study and your research questions? What is your identification strategy? How will you identify the counterfactual? What are the units of analysis (e.g. individual, household, village, etc.)? What are the intermediate and final outcome indicators? How will these be measured? When will you time measurements, and how frequently will data be collected? What are your initial power calculations and pre-analysis plans? What are the foreseeable threats to the internal validity of this study? (e.g. compliance, attrition, spillovers, etc.)</p>
<p>4. Policy Translation Provide evidence that the evaluation is likely to be used by development practitioners. Consider the cost-effectiveness of the intervention that you will evaluate. Which other implementing organizations are likely to incorporate this intervention into their operations, if proven successful? How will other implementers become aware of the results of this evaluation?</p>

APPENDIX B: RESEARCH PROPOSAL EXAMPLE

Problem Statement:

Hygiene is essential to the public health mission of reducing the transmission and consequences of disease. 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. Thus, although intensive hand-washing interventions have proven effective in reducing diarrhea and acute lower respiratory infections (ALRI), it has not been proven that similar results could be obtained if those interventions were implemented at scale. 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.

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. Despite these results, handwashing with soap at critical junctures continues to be low. 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. This could have large policy implications for developing countries. 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.

(Optional) 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.

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.

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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.

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.

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*.