

## **PROPOSAL: MICROFINANCE FIELD EXPERIMENTS**

**Dean Karlan, Assistant Professor  
Department of Economics**

Microfinance is an increasingly idea for poverty alleviation, particularly with the recognition that has come with the award of a 2006 Nobel Peace Prize to Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank. Still, there is much work to be done in understanding how microfinance works, when it helps, and ways to make it better. We are conducting a series of field experiments that seek to answer questions about financial decision-making by the poor in developing countries. These projects span from commitment savings products to credit-scoring to determinants of repayment to peer network effects in group lending. We have needs for literature reviews (covering both economics and psychology) as well as some data work and assistance developing survey instruments to maintain consistency across multiple countries and sites. A working knowledge of STATA is beneficial.