

Job Description
MIT D-Lab MEL Fellow (2 positions)
June-August 2021

Partner: MIT D-Lab

Website: d-lab.mit.edu

Location: Remote

Mentors: Laura Budzyna (MEL Manager) & Artie Maharaj (MEL Associate)

MIT D-Lab works with people around the world to develop and advance collaborative approaches and practical solutions to global poverty challenges. D-Lab is a pioneer in design for development training and education, with over 15 years of experience in building community capacity for innovation and problem solving. D-Lab uses a participatory design approach that challenges traditional notions of *who* can play a role in designing solutions to global development challenges.

MIT D-Lab MEL Fellows support D-Lab's efforts to evaluate its programs, build the MEL capacity of its partners, and develop new and creative ways to measure the outcomes of inclusive innovation projects. MEL Fellows spend two to three months on a project honing their evaluation skills, developing relationships with D-Lab staff and partners, and contributing insights to D-Lab's team.

MEL Fellow projects may include the **design** of evaluation questions and instruments; the **collection** of data through surveys, interviews, or focus groups; the **analysis** of quantitative and qualitative data; and the **communication** and reflection on results. Throughout their projects, MEL Fellows put D-Lab's values into practice by incorporating inclusive, participatory practices in each step of the MEL process. This ensures that both the MEL systems and findings are relevant to those who most need them.

2021 Project Opportunities:

- **Creative Capacity Building:** Spearheaded by MIT D-Lab, creative capacity building (CCB) is a methodology that provides a pathway for local community members to design solutions to the challenges they face. The MEL Fellow will contribute to an ongoing D-Lab research project to develop and test new strategies to measure the outcomes of CCB and similar programs. The MEL Fellow will conduct a literature review, interview practitioners and researchers about their experience measuring outcomes of interest, develop instruments to measure 2-4 outcome areas, and provide support and accompaniment to D-Lab partners engaged in testing these instruments. They will also provide support analyzing and presenting data for ongoing CCB programs led by MIT D-Lab in Uganda and Colombia. Read more about CCB [here](#) and about the evaluation effort [here](#). Spanish-speaking candidates strongly preferred. (Mentor: Elizabeth Hoffecker, Research Scientist)
- **Dissemination of Clay Pot Coolers:** Evaporative cooling devices are simple and inexpensive ways to keep vegetables fresh without the use of electricity. MIT D-Lab is working with the World Vegetable Center and Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER) to improve the design of clay pot coolers and improve their dissemination in rural Mali. The MEL Fellow will help the team assess the effectiveness of their dissemination training, which aims to scale adoption of the clay pot coolers by training agricultural extension officers, vegetable sellers, pot makers, farmers, and other community members. Read more about D-Lab's work on evaporative cooling technologies [here](#) and about the clay pot cooler dissemination project [here](#). French-speaking candidates strongly preferred. (Mentor: Eric Verploegen, Research Engineer)

Selected D-Lab MEL Fellows will be matched with projects based on interests and skillset. Fellows will be expected to participate in a 3-5 day virtual **orientation** by MIT D-Lab in May 2021 and a 2-3 day **debrief** in late August or early September. The 2021 MEL Fellowship will be held remotely.

You can read about past fellows' work below:

- [A Summer Fellowship Redesigned!](#)
- [What factors are most important for D-Lab student project success?](#)
- [Tracking Impact Data at D-Lab Scale-Ups Venture Bright Green Renewable Energy](#)
- [Evaluating an entrepreneurship training program in Uganda: How effective is your survey?](#)
- [How can a social enterprise start measuring its impact? The case of EcoAct Tanzania](#)
- [Designing usable impact frameworks to support youth entrepreneurship in Kenya](#)

The ideal candidates will:

- Currently be enrolled in a Masters' program related to global development, social entrepreneurship and/or evaluation
- Have strong experience in MEL and/or research design and implementation
- Be able to distill complex data into clearly communicated findings for diverse stakeholders
- Have experience working in developing country settings
- Balance critical evaluative thinking with an empathetic and collaborative spirit
- Be flexible, adaptable, resilient, and eager to jump in
- Have excellent writing skills
- Speak Spanish (*Creative Capacity Building* project)
- Speak French (*Clay Pot Cooler* project)

D-Lab will provide \$2,500 toward each Fellow's living expenses. Fellows are responsible for securing matching funds through their university or other grant programs.

Interested students should send a CV, cover letter, and MEL-related work sample to Laura Budzyna at lbudzyna@mit.edu with the subject line **D-Lab MEL Fellow 2021**. The cover letter should indicate which position(s) are of particular interest. The deadline to apply is **Sunday, March 7**. Please note that candidates who proceed to the next round may be asked to complete a data challenge.