

Job Description
MIT D-Lab MEL Fellow (4 positions)
June-August 2020

Partner: MIT D-Lab

Website: d-lab.mit.edu

Potential Locations: Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Greece, Ghana

Mentor: Laura Budzyna (Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Manager)

MIT D-Lab works with people around the world to develop and advance collaborative approaches and practical solutions to global poverty. 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.

D-Lab MEL Fellows support MIT D-Lab's efforts to evaluate its own programs and build the MEL capacity of its partners. MEL Fellows spend two to three months in the field honing their evaluation skills, developing deep relationships with D-Lab partners, and contributing on-the-ground insights to D-Lab's MEL team.

Each 2020 D-Lab MEL Fellow will take on two projects: (1) **conduct an evaluation** of a D-Lab program and (2) **build MEL capacity** and **strengthen MEL systems** for a D-Lab partner.

2020 Projects and Partners:

- **Scale-Ups Fellowship:** The MIT D-Lab Scale-Ups Fellowship is a global accelerator working with local entrepreneurs bringing poverty-alleviating products and services to emerging markets at scale. This MEL Fellow will conduct an evaluation of the newly redesigned Scale-Ups Fellowship, visiting the six 2019 Scale-Ups Fellows in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. The MEL Fellow will also provide MEL capacity building for one of the [2019 Scale-Ups Fellows](#). Read more about the D-Lab Scale-Ups Fellowship [here](#). **(Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania)**
- **Humanitarian Innovation:** MIT D-Lab is pioneering a new approach to humanitarian innovation, building the creative capacity of refugees and displaced people to design solutions to the challenges they face. This MEL Fellow will work with the D-Lab Humanitarian Innovation program to provide MEL support to its pilot programs in Greece or Uganda. Read more about D-Lab Humanitarian Innovation program [here](#). **(Greece, Uganda)**
- **D-Lab Class Partner TEWDI Uganda:** Students in MIT D-Lab classes have worked in partnership with TEWDI Uganda for over a decade, from advancing clean cooking technologies to teaching innovation workshops. This MEL Fellow will investigate the outcomes of several D-Lab class projects and examine the factors that have made some projects more successful than others. The Fellow will also work with TEWDI to improve its own MEL systems. Read more about D-Lab students' work with TEWDI [here](#). **(Uganda)**
- **Lean Research:** D-Lab's research team has spearheaded Lean Research, a method that places the experience of research participants at the center of a study's design and implementation. This MEL Fellow will develop a framework and tool to examine the adoption of Lean Research by other development institutions, focusing on D-Lab's partnership with Ashesi University's NEXTi2i initiative in Ghana. Read more about the Lean Research initiative [here](#). **(Ghana)**

Projects may include one or more of the following components:

- **Define:** Facilitate a process to develop a theory of change, a log frame and a set of metrics for a project or program. Define evaluation questions and scope an evaluation plan.
- **Collect:** Design survey instruments, reporting tools and templates, and data collection strategies. Conduct surveys, interviews and focus groups.
- **Store:** Explore database software options, make recommendations and provide support to set up a data system that a partner organization can use in the long run.
- **Analyze:** Use Excel, Stata, Kumu, NVivo and other tools to process new or existing data.
- **Utilize:** Turn analyzed data into attractive, usable, actionable products. Lead initiatives to instill a culture of data sharing and reflection.

Selected D-Lab MEL Fellows will be matched with specific host organizations based on interest and skillset. Fellows will be expected to participate in a 3-5 day **orientation** at MIT D-Lab before their departure and a 2-3 day **debrief** after their return.

You can read about past fellows' work below:

- [Tracking Impact Data at D-Lab Scale-Ups Venture Bright Green Renewable Energy](#)
- [Chasing Impact in Kenya's Housing Sector](#)
- [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 international development, social entrepreneurship and/or evaluation
- Have strong experience in MEL, business analytics 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

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 2020**. The cover letter should indicate which position(s) are of particular interest. The deadline to apply is **Sunday, February 23**. Please note that candidates who proceed to the next round will be asked to complete a data challenge.