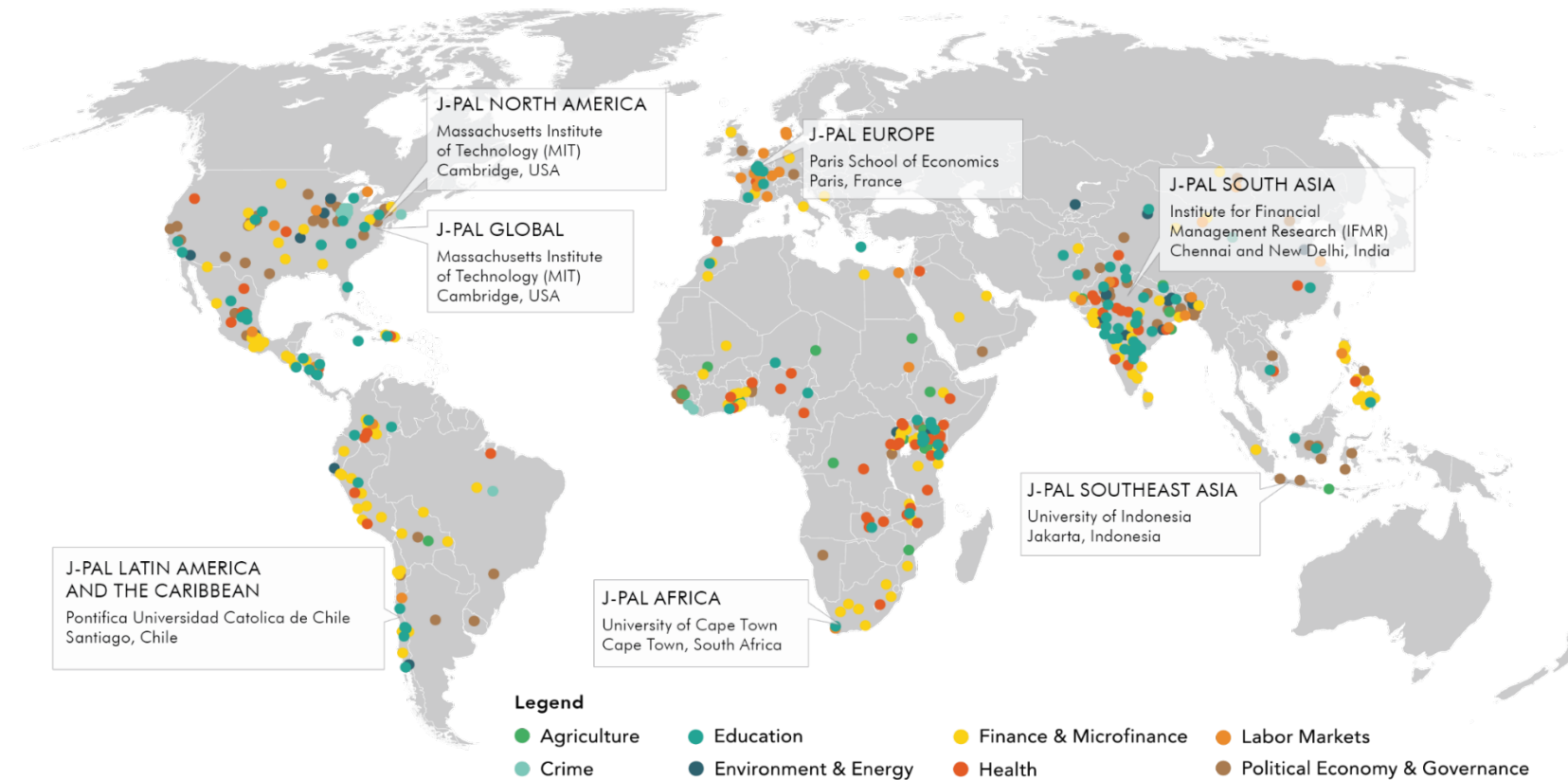# Supporting Evidence-Based Policy to Strengthen Social Protection Programs

Lina Marliani

Executive Director, J-PAL SEA

18 February 2020

J-PAL's mission is to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is informed by scientific evidence

J-PAL NORTH AMERICA
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Cambridge, USA

J-PAL EUROPE
Paris School of Economics Paris, France

J-PAL SOUTH ASIA
Institute for Financial Management Research (IFMR) Chennai and New Delhi, India

J-PAL GLOBAL
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Cambridge, USA

J-PAL SOUTHEAST ASIA
University of Indonesia Jakarta, Indonesia

J-PAL LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Pontifica Universidad Catolica de Chile Santiago, Chile

J-PAL AFRICA
University of Cape Town Cape Town, South Africa

Legend
- Agriculture
- Education
- Finance & Microfinance
- Labor Markets
- Crime
- Environment & Energy
- Health
- Political Economy & Governance

We have 7 regional offices at universities around the world. Our network has 900+ completed and ongoing evaluations in 75+ countries and 9 sectors

J-PAL in Southeast Asia

- J-PAL SEA launched in 2013; keynote by H.E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono

- Led by two Scientific Directors: Professors Ben Olken (MIT) and Rema Hanna (Harvard)

- Based at the Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Indonesia (FEB UI)

- Core funding support from the Australian Government

J-PAL Southeast Asia Launch
Tuesday, June 25, 2013 | Kempinski Grand Ballroom, Jakarta

How we promote the use of evidence to inform decision making

Process of Informing Evidence

1

2

3

4

Supporting Generation of Evidence

Building long-term relationship with partners to identify priority needs

Supporting Generation of Evidence

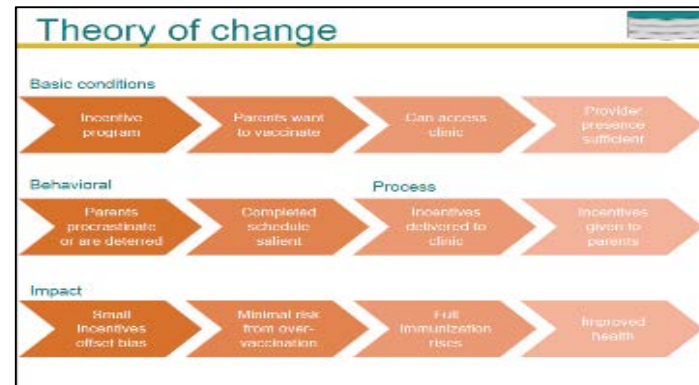# Developing policy relevant and high quality research

1. **Build long-term partnership** to identify local policy needs

2. **Matchmaking process** to establish mutually-aligned interests between academics and partners
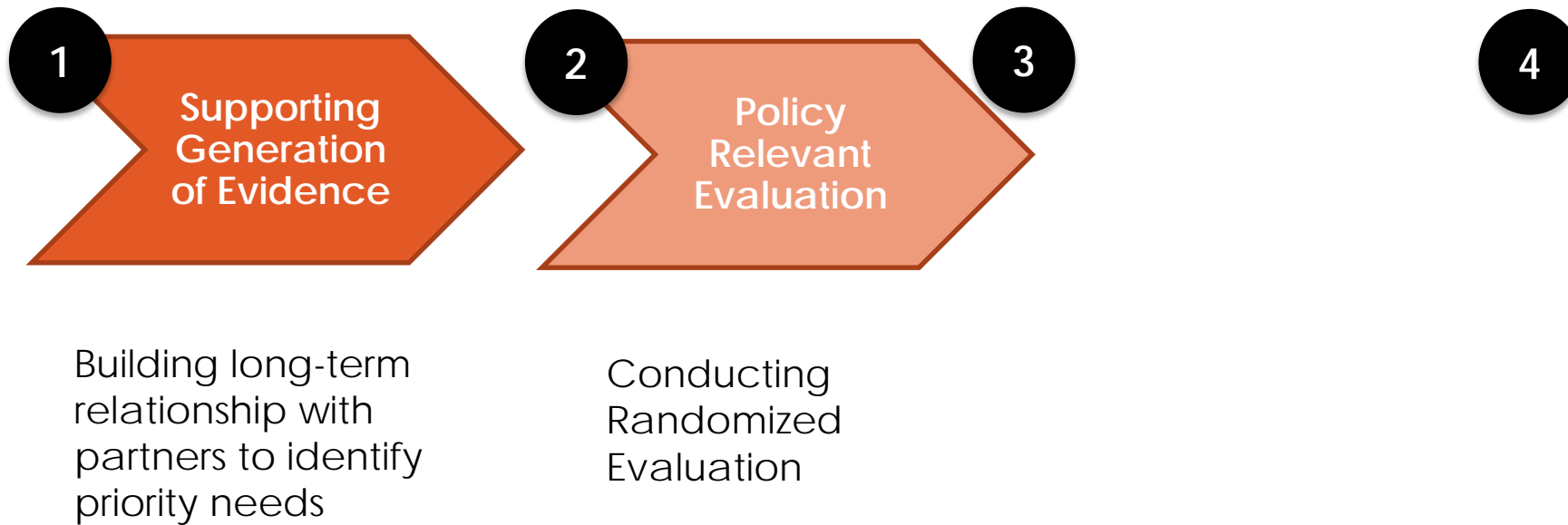

3. **A theory-driven** approach to increase rigor

How we promote the use of evidence to inform decision making

Process of Informing Evidence

1 Supporting Generation of Evidence

2 Policy Relevant Evaluation

3

4

Building long-term relationship with partners to identify priority needs

Conducting Randomized Evaluation

Conducting randomized evaluation to generate evidence for effective policies

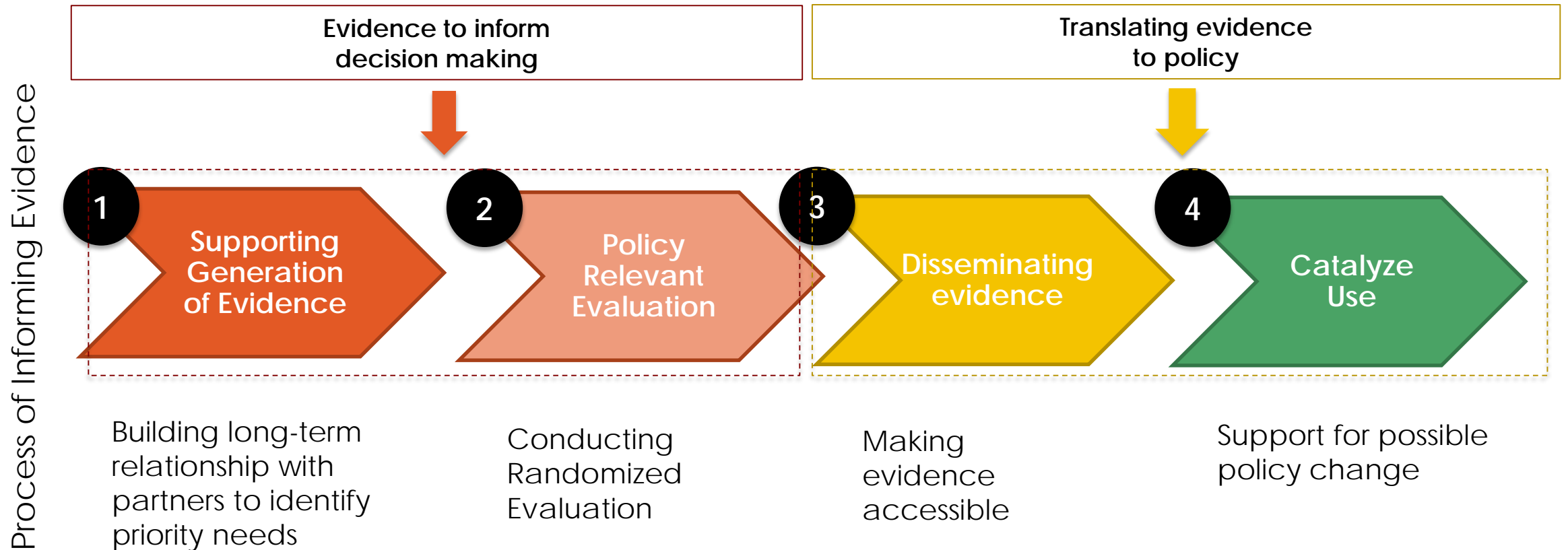Because of the randomization, the two groups are *statistically equivalent* at the beginning of the study.

Treatment group   Comparison group

When we compare the outcomes of the two groups after the intervention, **any differences between the two groups can be attributed to the program**, and not other factors, such as regional differences.

How we promote the use of evidence to inform decision making

Process of Informing Evidence

Evidence to inform decision making

Translating evidence to policy

1 Supporting Generation of Evidence

2 Policy Relevant Evaluation

3 Disseminating evidence

4 Catalyze Use

Building long-term relationship with partners to identify priority needs

Conducting Randomized Evaluation

Making evidence accessible

Support for possible policy change

Disseminating evidence → Catalyze Use

Making evidence accessible and supporting windows of policy change

Policy conferences and workshops to disseminate findings for the wider public

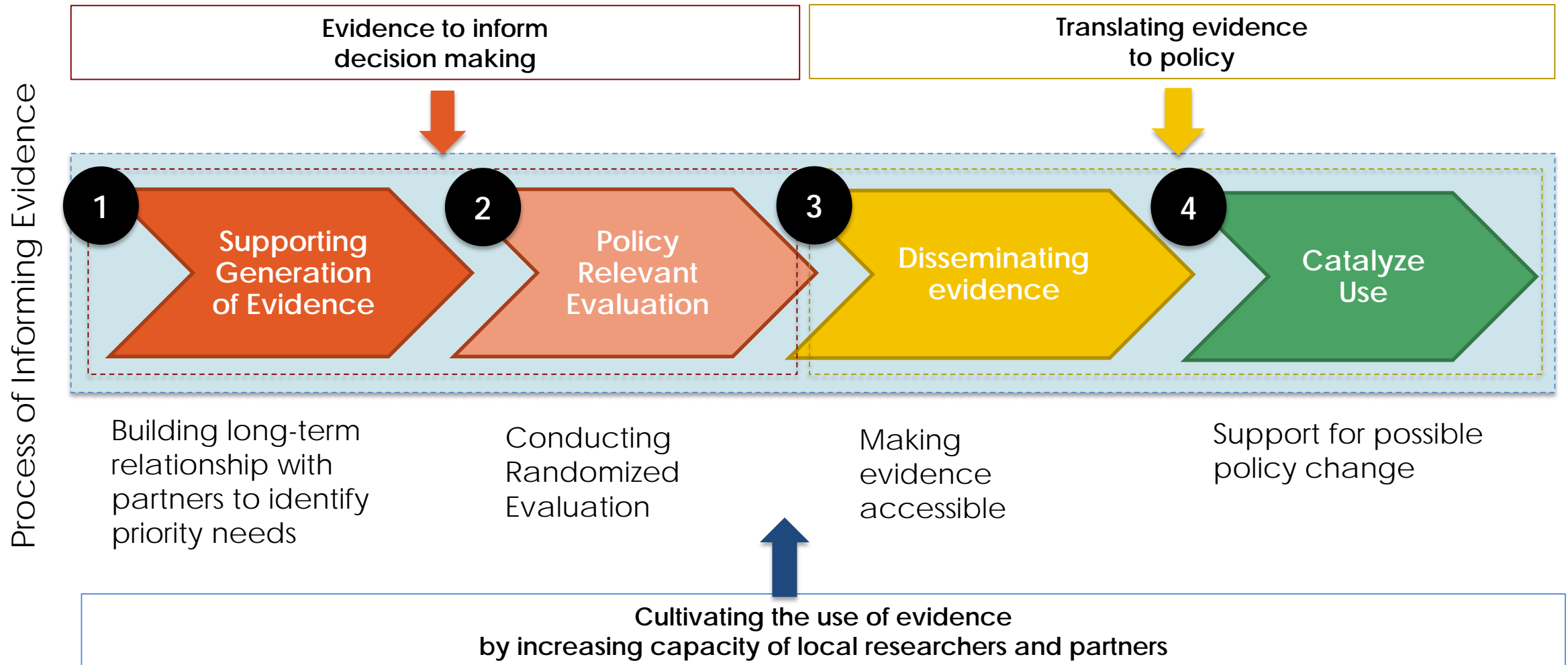**One-on-one meetings** with partners/policymakers to share evidence and offer support to catalyze use

Policy lessons summarized in a J-PAL Briefcase
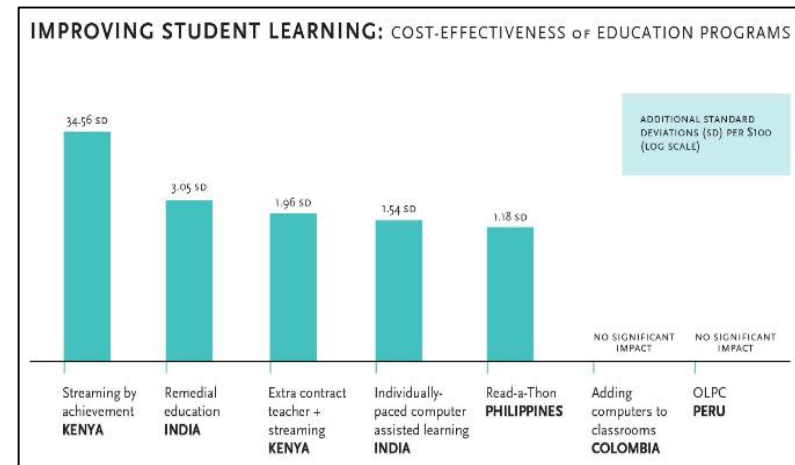
Cost Effective Analysis

How we promote the use of evidence to inform decision making

Process of Informing Evidence

Evidence to inform decision making

Translating evidence to policy

1. **Supporting Generation of Evidence** — Building long-term relationship with partners to identify priority needs

2. **Policy Relevant Evaluation** — Conducting Randomized Evaluation

3. **Disseminating evidence** — Making evidence accessible

4. **Catalyze Use** — Support for possible policy change

Cultivating the use of evidence by increasing capacity of local researchers and partners

Increasing local capacity to use, design, and implement high-quality impact evaluations

In-person training	
J-PAL *Evaluating Social Programs*	Annual trainings opened for local professors, donors, government and partner organizations
Collaboration on evaluations	• Increasing capacity of local researchers and research organizations in conducting REs • Customized training to better fit partner's policy priorities
Internal Capacity	Hiring senior fellows / post docs and building capacity of staff
Online training	
J-PAL Online Courses (free)	• JPAL 101x: Evaluating Social Programs • JPAL 350x: Measuring Health Outcomes in Field Surveys • Micromasters J-PAL x MIT

Throughout the process of informing policy, we closely collaborate with different stakeholders

Contribution from the supporting roles of different stakeholders, including government partners and policymakers, donor agencies, development organizations and academics
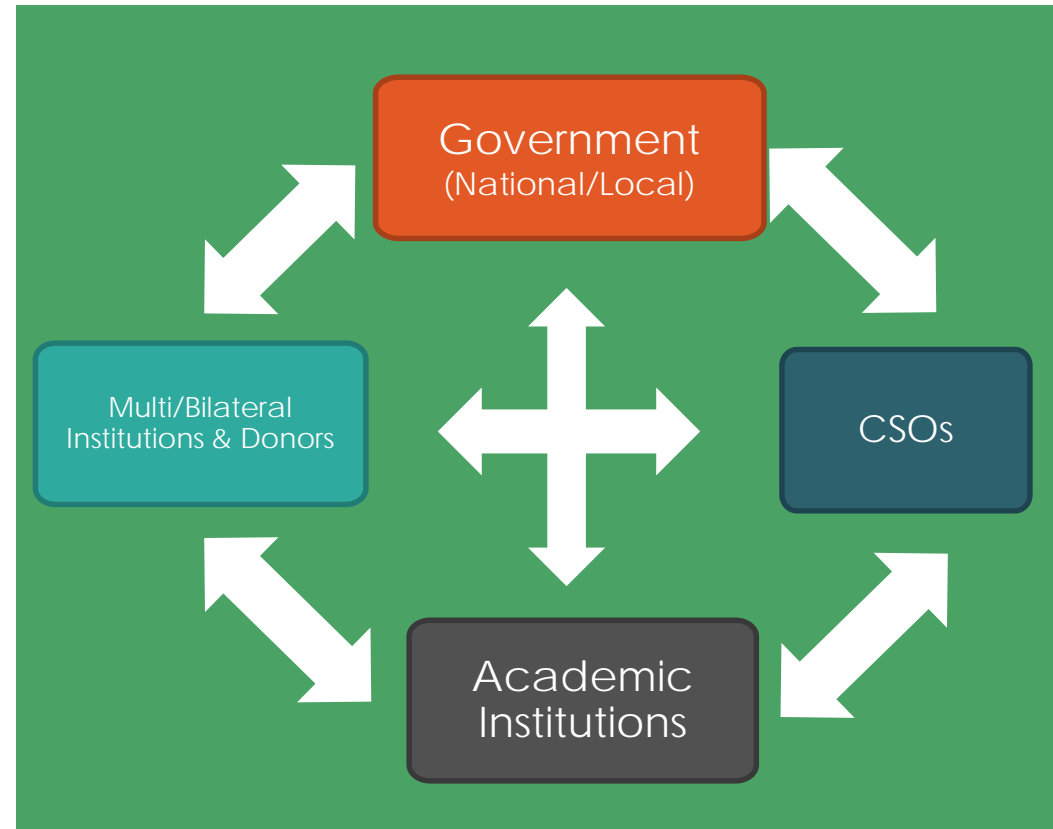
Case Study:
Informing Raskin Reform

Informing the government to improve Indonesia's biggest food subsidy program, Rice for the Poor (Raskin)

The program encountered high leakage and poor service delivery, where:

- Only 1/3 of subsidy are received by beneficiaries

- Beneficiaries have been paying their rice at 42% above official price

As a possible solution, the GoI launched the Raskin ID Card – a card to help inform beneficiaries of their entitlement and address the above challenges

Biggest food subsidy: Established in 1998, Raskin distributes rice to 30% poorest households. The budget for Raskin in 2012 was US$1.5 billion and the government distributed subsidized rice to 17.5 million people

Case Study: Informing Raskin Reform

In 2013, we conducted a randomized evaluation to study the impact of *Raskin ID Card* in reducing program leakage

"Are Raskin ID cards effective to increase take-up of program subsidies and reduce price of rice that beneficiaries are able to purchase?"

Banerjee et al, 2018

Conducted in 572 villages in six different regencies:
- Pemalang & Wonogiri (East Java)
- Palembang dan Ogan Komering Ilir (South Sumatera)
- Bandar Lampung dan Lampung Tengah (Lampung)

Key partners: National Acceleration Team for Poverty Reduction (TNP2K), Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas)

Findings from the evaluation revealed that Raskin ID Card was effective to reduce program leakage:

Beneficiaries received more subsidies by 26%

Beneficiaries were able to pay 2.5% less for every kg of rice

Created by Adrien Coquet
from Noun Project

An overall reduction of program leakage by 33%-58%

Banerjee et al, 2018

After learning about the results of the evaluation, the GoI scaled-up the Raskin ID card in 2014

Reaching:

15.5 million households **OR** 65.5 million individuals
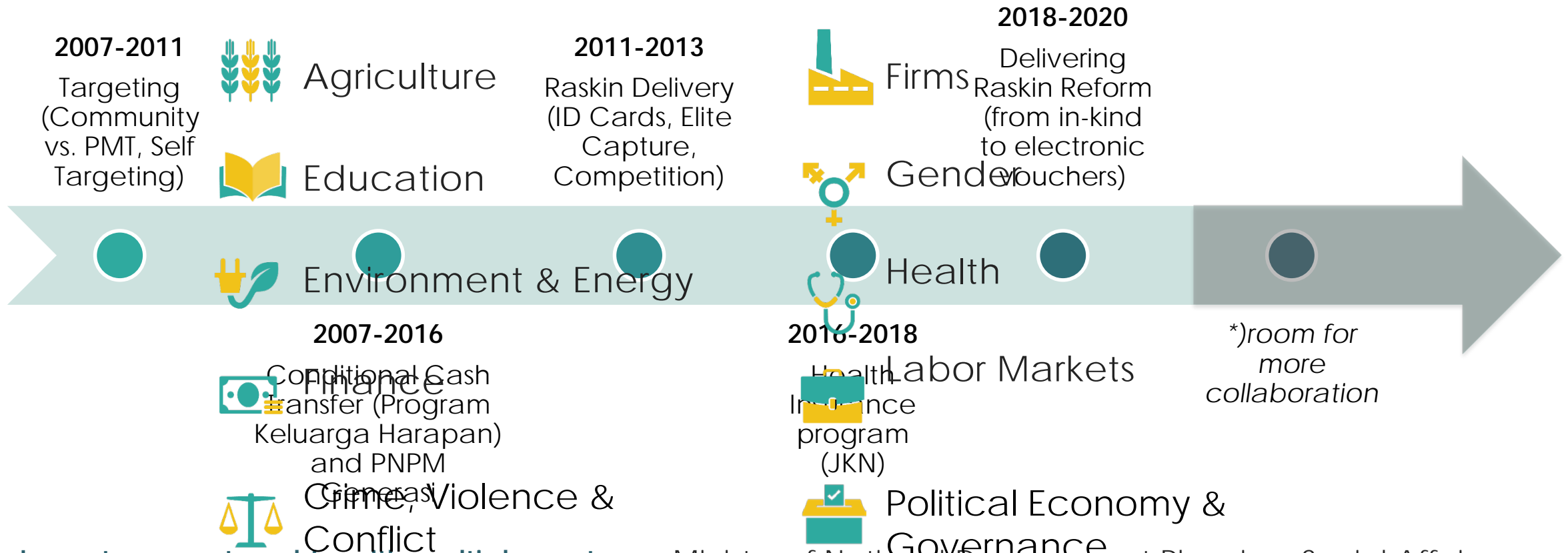
…**and achieving improvement in cost efficiency:**

USD 55.62–117.38 million
annually in reduced leakage and increased transfers in 2013–2017.

Banerjee et al, 2018

Our other collaboration with policymakers and partners over the years

All Our Work in Social Protection

Our Work in the 10 Primary Sectors

2018-2020

2007-2011

Targeting (Community vs. PMT, Self Targeting)

🌾 Agriculture

2011-2013

Raskin Delivery (ID Cards, Elite Capture, Competition)

🏭 Firms

Delivering Raskin Reform (from in-kind to electronic vouchers)

📖 Education

⚧ Gender

🔌 Environment & Energy

🩺 Health

2007-2016

Conditional Cash Transfer (Program Keluarga Harapan) and PNPM Generasi

💵 Finance

2010-2018

Health Insurance program (JKN)

Labor Markets

*)room for more collaboration

⚖ Crime, Violence & Conflict

🗳 Political Economy & Governance

Long-term partnership with multiple partners: Ministry of National Development Planning, Social Affairs, Home Affairs, Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), National Team for Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K), and Social Security for Health (BPJS Kesehatan)

Thank you.

povertyactionlab.org

twitter.com/JPAL_SEA

Collaboration opportunities

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