

## Senior Policy Associate (Humanitarian Initiative)

**J-PAL Office:** J-PAL Europe at the Paris School of Economics

**Country:** France

**Education:** Bachelor's; Other advanced degree

**Language Requirement:** English; proficiency in French and other languages highly desirable

**Start Date:** April/May 2020

J-PAL is looking to hire a Senior Policy Associate to help launch and deliver a new research initiative focused on promoting rigorous evaluation of humanitarian interventions, including a focus on humanitarian protection. The selected candidate will join J-PAL Europe's growing Policy and Communications team based in **Paris** and report to the Policy Manager (Humanitarian Initiative) based at J-PAL Europe. The candidate will work with the Policy and Communications team to conduct outreach with humanitarian organizations based in Europe, build awareness of and exposure to rigorous impact evaluation methods among these organizations through meetings, trainings and convenings, and assist in the scoping and development of a learning agenda around priority questions regarding humanitarian effectiveness.

### About J-PAL:

The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) is a global research center working to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is informed by scientific evidence. Anchored by a network of some 200 affiliated professors at universities around the world, J-PAL conducts randomized impact evaluations to answer critical questions in the fight against poverty. The Policy & Communications Group plays a key role in translating research by J-PAL affiliates into actionable poverty alleviation policies around the world and in helping create new links between partner organizations and researchers to launch new evaluations. Staff connect the dots between economics and policy and are passionate about working with organizations to form partnerships for evidence-informed development policy.

### About the Humanitarian Initiative:

The new Humanitarian Initiative aims to foster the design and implementation of a multi-million dollar portfolio of rigorous evaluations of humanitarian programming. In 2020, the initiative will focus on outreach to governments, humanitarian organizations, other implementing partners, and researchers to develop a learning agenda that responds to practitioner priorities and focuses on the effectiveness of humanitarian programming. The learning agenda will then guide the launch of a competitive research initiative to fund randomized evaluations of humanitarian interventions, with the overarching goal of improving the effectiveness of humanitarian policy, with a focus on protection.

### Responsibilities:

*As a Senior Policy Associate, your primary tasks will involve partnership and project development, learning agenda development, communications/writing, and event planning.*

**Outreach, partnership and project development:** Map and develop a deep understanding of key actors, policies, and programs related to humanitarian protection. Forge new connections and maintain strong

relationships with key partners in government agencies, NGOs, foundations, and humanitarian agencies. Initiate and build partnerships to identify new opportunities for rigorous evaluation of humanitarian protection policies.

**Learning agenda development:** In collaboration with the academic chairs and colleagues in other J-PAL offices, engage with relevant stakeholders from academic, government, and humanitarian organizations to map out a learning agenda for the effectiveness of humanitarian interventions.

**Communications/Writing:** Draft and edit materials for policy outreach, including tailored evidence note presentations, policy briefs, as well as other high-level deliverables, as requested by J-PAL staff and affiliates. Write blog posts and other materials to support outreach around J-PAL's activities related to humanitarian protection.

**Event planning:** Organize convenings with key partners in government agencies, NGOs, foundations, academia, and humanitarian agencies designed to spur new research collaborations.

Additional tasks, projects, and areas of work may be added as needed. This position will require travel primarily but not exclusively within Europe.

## **Professional Development**

*The Policy Group invests in your professional development. As a (Senior) Policy Associate, you will learn, engage, travel, and grow.*

*Learn:* J-PAL supports a culture of learning. All J-PAL staff are also eligible to take the innovative online MITx MicroMasters credential in [Data, Economics, and Development Policy \(DEDP\)](#) free of charge. You will also be a member of an active community of economists and professionals at the Paris School of Economics dedicated to evaluating social programs and development programs around the world.

*Engage:* Associates have the opportunity to work with J-PAL affiliated researchers and directors, as well as interact with J-PAL partners, including decision-makers and practitioners, alongside senior staff. As core content creators, Associates' publications are distributed to development stakeholders worldwide.

*Travel:* Associates have the opportunity to present at J-PAL's regional offices, attend policy events worldwide, and participate in a unique "Associate-to-Field" international experience supporting on-the-ground research during their time at J-PAL.

*Grow:* Associates can expect to join a peer group eager to build institutional knowledge and pass on lessons learned. Associates receive one-on-one mentorship from senior staff. Promotions to Senior Associate are based on performance and ability.

## **Qualifications**

*Your technical expertise, strong communication and organizational skills, passion for translating research into action, and interest in poverty reduction and development make you an ideal candidate for this role.*

*Education:* You hold a Bachelor's degree in economics, public policy, or a closely related field, including coursework in microeconomics, econometrics, and development economics.

*Experience:* You have 2-4 years of relevant work experience, including work related to either humanitarian work or to the design of impact evaluations and evidence-informed policymaking. Some of your work experience has focused on or in humanitarian settings. You have a successful track record of identifying opportunities, developing and managing external partnerships, and relevant experience in communication and development.

*Skills:* You have strong project management skills, including how to write and manage budgets. You have excellent written and oral communication in English and an excellent command of Excel, word and PowerPoint. Experience running or interpreting randomized evaluations is desirable but not required.

*Communication:* You are detail-oriented and have excellent writing and public speaking skills. You understand how to communicate policy lessons from technical academic research in ways that policymakers and practitioners understand. You are precise, clear, and creative. You are adept at managing relationships across countries and time zones.

*Organization:* You are a strategic thinker. You can handle multiple projects at once with little supervision, meet deadlines while conducting high-quality work, and effectively manage your time.

*Attitude:* You love learning. You are passionate about international development policy and the rigorous research that informs it. You are self-motivated, work hard, and enjoy working in teams.

### **How to Apply**

Interested applicants should send a CV and cover letter, including details on how their experience and qualifications are relevant to the position and their authorization to work in the European Union, to [recrutement@povertyactionlab.org](mailto:recrutement@povertyactionlab.org). J-PAL values the strength that diverse teams bring to this work. We actively welcome applicants who come from backgrounds that reflect populations most impacted by poverty and from backgrounds that are underrepresented in the economics field.

Please apply as soon as possible; an initial review of applications will begin in the week of 24 March.