CONNECTING RESEARCH TO POLICY
Connecting on Global Poverty

CFSP is a research organization of leading and up-and-coming economists. Our goal is to alleviate global poverty through helping to identify, define, and develop more efficient financial systems. We strive to generate tangible and objective results that have meaningful lessons for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders.

Our Guiding Principles

RIGOROUS
We perform rigorous research to provide objective analysis and evaluation of financial services for the poor.

DIVERSITY OF APPROACHES
We are committed to employing multiple methods to analyze the impact of access to savings and other financial services on the lives of the poor.

RELEVANT
We support research that is highly relevant to stakeholders in the realm of financial services and poverty.

ACCESSIBLE
We work to ensure that existing technical research and newly-funded research are disseminated in accessible language that can be easily understood by policymakers, practitioners, and the general public.

INCLUSIVE
We identify and support researchers from diverse perspectives, including researchers from developing countries and young, up-and-coming researchers.

Our Faculty Director

Robert M. Townsend, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, directs our research approach in cooperation with the Executive Committee of CFSP.

Our Website

www.cfsp.org
CFSP supports economic research projects in more than a dozen developing countries and ongoing workshops to ensure progress in the field of financial systems and poverty. To stay up-to-date on our work, visit our website.
we strive to provide meaningful lessons for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders who share our goal of fostering financial systems that alleviate global poverty.

Though financial access for the poor has the potential to change the lives of millions around the world, we still have much to learn about how such changes should occur and what kind of impact such changes could have.

Under this vision, the number of savings accounts and the degree of household financial access are not the only criterion used in recommending policy decisions. Rather, we also consider the degree of financial system inefficiency. Without the poor, financial systems are almost invariably inefficient. But what is the new goal? What realistic steps can be taken to move the economy toward better outcomes? Is there more than one optimal solution for these challenges?

CFSP’s team of leading and up-and-coming economists pursue a variety of research approaches, including surveys, economic models, and randomized controlled trials, to generate tangible and objective results in answer to these questions.

We strive to provide meaningful lessons for policymakers, fellow researchers, and stakeholders who share our goal of fostering financial systems that alleviate global poverty.
A COMMITMENT TO RIGOROUS RESEARCH THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

OUR RESEARCH

CFSP is based at the University of Chicago and led by Professor Robert M. Townsend of MIT, who serves as faculty director and principal investigator. We bring together diverse scholars from around the world, who use a variety of approaches, and who study a wide range of developing countries. More information about our research projects, including project descriptions, publications, and key findings can be found on our website at www.cfsp.org.

OUR WORKSHOPS

CFSP also facilitates an important series of ongoing workshops that are designed to foster productive dialogues and scholarly progress in specific topic areas.

FLOW OF FUNDS ACCOUNTS
SAVINGS AND THE UNDERPINNINGS OF MACRO MODELS

OPTIMAL DESIGN OF PAYMENT SYSTEMS
FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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