

# PILOT STUDY: EXPANDING FEMALE ACCESS TO THE JOB MARKET THROUGH AFFORDABLE COMMUTE

## Abstract

Women's livelihood and economic participation is highly affected by limitations on their mobility. However, the issue of mobility in Saudi Arabia affects both males and females, as there are inherent economic and physical barriers that restrict movement. Urban sprawl makes most destinations beyond the reach of pedestrians. And without viable public transportation options, residents are restricted to commuting by car or taxi.

This pilot study aims to inform policy by examining the relationship between mobility and female labor force participation in Saudi Arabia by testing whether reduced commuting costs improve access to employment. We will investigate how introducing subsidized and socially acceptable (ride-sharing with other female commuters) pick-and-drop services could improve employment outcomes for existing jobseekers in the city of Riyadh.

## Expected Impact

Identify possible alternatives that could provide affordable transport for working women and increase job market access.

## PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

- **Duke University**  
Erica Field  
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- **Harvard University**  
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## PROGRAMS & POLICIES EXAMINED

- Transportation Subsidy
- Ride Sharing
- Demand Responsive Transport

## POLICY PARTNERS

- TakaMol
- ADA
- Careem



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*Evidence for Policy Design*



Ministry of Labor  
and Social Development  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



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