

**Timeline**

March-July 2021

**Study Type**

Randomized Evaluation

**Research Implemented by IPA**

No

Section 1: Introduction

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/067QjPjFMFL7Lg\\_55yK2eMA...](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/067QjPjFMFL7Lg_55yK2eMA...)

**Section 1: Introduction**

(FO: READ THIS CONSENT STATEMENT FOR QUESTION 2)

You are being invited to participate in this survey because we are interested in female entrepreneurship, and you were selected to participate. The purpose of this survey is to observe the current economic conditions of female business owners in Kenya.

If you agree to this survey, I would like to ask you some questions about your business. We may also follow up with you in the next week or two. At the end of this survey, we would like to invite you to participate in an intervention.

We anticipate minimal risks associated with participating in this survey. If any questions make you feel uncomfortable, you are free to decline to answer any question you do not wish to or to end the interview at any time.

As with all research, there is a chance that confidentiality could be compromised; however, we are taking precautions to minimize this risk. All answers will be kept as confidential as possible, and any information that identifies you will be separated from your other answers, so that only our researchers will be able to track your answers back to you.

\* Required

1. What is your name? \*

\_\_\_\_\_

2. (FO: Read consent statement above. Then ask) Do you consent to take part in this research? \*

Mark only one oval.

Yes  
 No

3. (IF DECLINED CONSENT) Please briefly describe the reasons for declining consent

\_\_\_\_\_

# Addressing the “Baby-Profit Gap”: Testing Interventions to Boost Profits for Female-owned Businesses in the Wake of COVID-19 (Questionnaire)

## Abstract

In low- and middle-income countries, firms owned by women typically have lower profits than those owned by men. COVID-19 has exacerbated this profit gap as women-owned firms tend

to be concentrated in sectors where demand has dropped the most, such as services, hospitality, and retail trade. Childcare is an additional constraint for women-led businesses. In one setting, up to 37 percent of female owners bring small children to work, compared to zero men (Delecourt and Fitzpatrick 2021). These childcare duties are correlated with a 'baby-profit gap,' as businesses where children are present earn 48 percent lower profits than other women-owned businesses without a child present. This study aims to understand how increased childcare burdens due to COVID-19 school closures have exacerbated existing gender profit disparities in Kenya.

In the first stage, the research team will collect new data to evaluate how the number and timing of children and childcare duties are associated with the profitability of women-owned businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The representative sample includes 1,000 firms in Kenya to see if birth and childcare duties were related to firm profitability and firm death. In the second stage, the team will pilot two light-touch interventions aimed at addressing the childcare-related constraints among businesses where women have children.

*This project is a part of the [Women's Work, Entrepreneurship, and Skilling \(WWES\) Initiative](#).*

## Questionnaire Description

The purpose of the survey is to observe current economic conditions of female business owners in Kenya. In particular it focuses on location of business and caregiving responsibilities of female businesses.

## Respondent Population Characteristics

Small and medium business owners

## Implementing Organization

REMIT Kenya

## Researchers (\*corresponding author)

Solène Delecourt (UC Berkeley, Haas School of Business); Anne Fitzpatrick (University of Massachusetts, Boston); Layna Lowe, UC Berkeley, Center for Effective Global Action) ; Anya Marchenko (UC Berkeley, Center for Effective Global Action)

## Partners

REMIT Kenya

## **Questionnaire File Type**

Reader-friendly survey instrument

## **Questionnaire Language(s)**

English

## **Questionnaire Stage**

Baseline Completed

April 04, 2022