

**Timeline**

July-October 2020

**Study Type**

Quasi-experimental Analysis

**Research Implemented by IPA**

No

# Tracking the Economic Impacts of Coronavirus on Small Firms in Rwanda

## Researchers

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## Abstract

The coronavirus pandemic threatens unprecedented economic disruptions in Africa, where poverty and limited government resources for mounting effective responses may compound its negative effects (CGD 2020). This study will examine the pandemic's impacts on small businesses in Rwanda, which play a unique role in the economy, comprising—as in many low-income countries—the vast majority of businesses and contributing more than 60% of employment and GDP (World Bank 2011). The pandemic jeopardizes not only the livelihoods of these firms but the wider economy through channels ranging from disruptions to inputs to negative shocks to demand and the health and earnings of employees. In Rwanda, where most citizens live on less than USD\$1 per day, the virus could impose significant financial burdens on a population that already ranks among the world's poorest (IMF 2019). Through firm surveys and use of administrative tax data, we seek to provide current and detailed evidence on the economic effects of Coronavirus and government responses to the pandemic.

## Partners

Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA), Laterite

## Impact Goals

- Build resilience and protect the financial health of families and individuals
- Build resilient and adaptable businesses and employment opportunities

## Results Status

No Results Yet