



## Women's Work, Entrepreneurship, and Skilling (WWES) Initiative: Open Request for Proposals

**Deadline:** February 12, 2021

**Focus Countries:** Kenya and Bangladesh

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### Overview

IPA's RECOVR - Women's Work, Entrepreneurship, and Skilling (WWES) Initiative aims to **improve and deepen the existing data and evidence on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls**. The goal is to **provide evidence-based insights and policy recommendations to address gender inequalities in the context of COVID-19 policy responses** during the immediate crisis and extended recovery period.

The WWES Initiative combines data collection efforts, research projects, and policy work, around **two key themes: (1) women's work, entrepreneurship and time use and (2) youth skilling and school-to-work transitions**. You can find a detailed list of driving research questions at the end of this document. The **focus countries** of this initiative are **Kenya and Bangladesh**.

Through the initiative, **funding is available to support piloting, data collection, analysis, dissemination, and policy engagement activities**. For each theme, the initiative will consider **two types of projects**:

- **Diagnostic studies** to understand the effects of COVID-19 and related containment efforts on women's work, entrepreneurship, and skilling, and how the crisis exacerbates gendered risks and existing gender inequalities. The initiative will support a small number of descriptive studies to collect and share urgently needed information to key decision-makers responding to the evolving crisis. Clear policy relevance and demand needs to be demonstrated for this type of projects, as well as lack of existing descriptive data available.
- **Policy and program evaluations** generating actionable insights to identify and scale effective approaches to address and mitigate the gendered impacts of COVID-19 and related containment measures on work, entrepreneurship, and skilling issues, both during the immediate crisis and the longer-term recovery period. Strong preference will be given to randomized controlled trials, but technically strong quasi-experimental designs will also be considered.

Given the amount of existing data already available and the strong need for evidence on effective approaches to address the gender issues raised or exacerbated by the COVID crisis, **evaluative projects will be given priority over diagnostic projects**.

There is a **total of \$260,000** to be allocated among a few exciting projects through this selection round. While there is flexibility in terms of award size, we encourage projects of between **\$10,000 and \$120,000**.

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**This RFP closed on February 12, 2021.** Thank you to all who submitted applications.

In response to the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls, IPA launched the Women's Work, Entrepreneurship, and Skilling (WWES) Initiative as part of RECOVR (Research for Effective COVID-19 Responses). The WWES Initiative combines data collection efforts, research projects, and policy work, focusing on two key themes: (1) women's work, entrepreneurship, and time use and (2) youth skilling and school-to-work transitions. The focus countries of this initiative are Kenya and Bangladesh.

Our Request for Proposals will support piloting, data collection, analysis, dissemination, and policy engagement activities. This document outlines full details about the RFP, including the

process and timeline, application materials (including the [application form](#) and [budget template](#)), and driving research questions. Any questions should be directed to the [SME team](#).

December 15, 2020