

**Staff**

Elizabeth Koshy  
Senior Program Manager

Lucia Sanchez  
Program Director, Small & Medium Enterprises



**Supporting Women-led Businesses in Low-  
and Middle-Income Countries Through the  
COVID-19 Crisis and Beyond**

Elizabeth Koshy and Lucia Sanchez

Small & Medium Enterprise Program  
Innovations for Poverty Action  
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# Supporting Women-led Businesses in Low and Middle-Income Countries Through the COVID-19 Crisis and Beyond

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) around the world have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Women-led businesses have suffered disproportionately from the slowing pace of business activity. A gender-intentional approach to short-term mitigation and long-term recovery could address some of the gender-specific dimensions of COVID-related shocks and protect gains made on gender equality in recent years. In this brief, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) has compiled key policy-relevant findings for the short- and long-term recovery from the COVID-19 crisis of women-led businesses in low- and middle-income

countries. These insights may help inform the design of programs and policies to support women-led businesses in the context of the current pandemic and beyond.

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