

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

TITLE: COVID-19: gendered risks, impact & response in the Indo-Pacific: Fieldwork in the Philippines

HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE APPROVAL NUMBER: 2021/148

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:

Prof. Sara Davies and Assoc. Prof. Robin E Roberts

Dear participant,

You are invited to participate in this research study as described below.

Why is the research being conducted?

The COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to increases in food scarcity and higher food prices. Food security is a genuine barrier to shifting populations out of extreme poverty. Regionally, women and children have experienced more hardships to accessing safe, affordable and nutritional foods during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is vital to understand the baseline food insecurity position in the region as a result of the pandemic. In agriculture and food systems, women experience more discrimination and challenges than men, in particular in accessing credit, seed, and markets. A crisis on the scale of COVID-19, where lockdowns and border closures have caused extensive disruption to food systems and access to food markets, is likely to have created challenges.

This research is being conducted to investigate the experiences and perspectives of women during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, to understand individual experiences of food insecurity and economic impacts as a result of the pandemic.

Who is undertaking the study?

This study is funded by the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research, and is being led by the Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia, under the leadership of Professor Sara Davies and Associate Professor Robin E Roberts. The interviews are being conducted by Philippines program lead Claire Samantha Juanico (ctjuanico1@up.edu.ph) and Darlene Casaldo (ddcalsado@up.edu.ph).

Why am I being invited to participate?

You have been selected to participate because of your experience in the food sector, and the impact on your livelihood in the pandemic environment caused by COVID-19.

What will I be asked to do?

You will be invited to participate in an interview (either face-to-face or online if COVID-19 restrictions prevent face-to-face) to discuss your personal experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic.

How much time will the study take?

We expect interviews to last approximately 45-60 minutes. We will either travel to a location that is best suited to you or conduct interviews online (you will be provided with the option of MS Teams or Zoom).

Are there any risks associated with participating in this study?

There are no foreseeable risks to you as a result of participating in this research. If discussing your experiences in an interview causes any distress to you or your family, we encourage you to access one of these free support services from the Shaping Iloilo – Agubayani Community group – through

<https://www.shapingiloilo.org/agubayani>.

What are the benefits of this research study?

This study will develop knowledge about the ways that women have been affected and are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in their communities. This knowledge could help to develop an understanding of how their communities might prepare for potential future changes and challenges.

Can I withdraw from the study?

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. If you agree to participate, you can withdraw from the study at any time.

What will happen to my information?

Your information will not be made public. Any identifiers will be removed from the data once collected, and the full dataset will be securely stored at Griffith University on the Chief Investigators password-protected computer. These records will be kept for a minimum of five years after any publishing opportunities have been exhausted, and destroyed when no longer needed. The information and results will be used in academic and industry publications and may be presented at conference events. At all times only aggregated data will be made public; no individual data will be presented or released.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the study?

If you have any queries or concerns about this study please contact the Chief Investigators Professor Sara Davies (sara.davies@griffith.edu.au) or Associate Professor Robin E Roberts (robin.roberts@griffith.edu.au). A summary of the research results can be obtained by emailing the Chief Investigators for this study.

What if I have a complaint or any concerns?

Griffith University conducts research in accordance with the national statement on ethical conduct in human research (2007). The Manager, Research Ethics, Griffith University will be promptly notified if any adverse events occur or if any concerns or complaints are received about the ethical conducted of this research, or if the project is suspended or discontinued for any reason. Any complaint or concern will be treated in confidence and fully investigated. You will be informed of the outcome.

If you have questions or problems associated with the study or wish to raise a concern or complaint about the study, then you should consult the Principal Investigator. You are also welcome to directly contact the Human Research Ethics Committee's Secretariat on phone +61 7 373 4375 or by email to research-ethics@griffith.edu.au if you wish to speak with an independent person regarding concerns or a complaint, the University's policy on research involving human participants, or your rights as a participant.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sara Davies
Chief Investigator
sara.davies@griffith.edu.au