

SURVEY PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

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

HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE APPROVAL NUMBER: 2021/156

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:

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

Dear participant,

You have been invited to participate in a research survey for a research study as described below.

This research is being conducted to investigate the experiences and perspectives of women during the COVID-19 pandemic. The benefits of this study will provide a greater understanding the food insecurity and economic impacts for women and aid development activity planning. This study is being led by Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia.

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.

Why am I being invited to participate in this survey?

You have been randomly selected from a panel to participate in this survey. Your feedback and cooperation will be highly appreciated. Your answers will be confidential and help to us understand the effect of COVID-19 on the affordability and access to food.

Who is conducting the survey?

GeoPoll is the independent company that is conducting the mobile phone survey in Myanmar.

What will I be asked to do?

Your information will not be made public and any identifiers will be removed from the data once collected. 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.

How much time will the study take?

We expect the survey to last approximately 10-15 minutes.

Are there any risks associated with participating in this study?

There are no foreseeable risks to you as a result of participating in this survey. However, it may be distressing to answer questions about food insecurity and hunger.

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.

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.

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). You are very welcome to email the Chief Investigators of the this for a summary of the research results.

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). 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 or 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. Any complaint or concern will be treated in confidence and fully investigated. You will be informed of the outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sara Davies

Griffith University