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Submit

Country

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ALL ▼

Submit

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Status

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306 Results

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### LABOR MARKETS, FIRMS

## The Impact of Virtual and Face-to-Face Peer Networks on Innovation and Entrepreneurship in 49 Countries across Africa

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[Diego Ubfal](#) , Fernando Vega-Redondo, Paolo Pin, Cristiana Benedetti-Fasil, Charles Brummitt, Gaia Rubera, Drik Hovy, Tommaso Fornaciari

Researchers compared the effects of face-to-face and virtual peer interaction on the submission and quality of business

proposals by individuals from 49 African countries enrolled in an online entrepreneurship course. They found that face-to-face networks and the virtual interaction of groups of entrepreneurs of the same nationality increased the submission of business proposals to a funding...

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## **AGRICULTURE**

### The Impact of Video-Based and Decentralized Extension Services on Technology and Practice Adoption in Ethiopia

[Markus Frölich](#) , Denise Hörner, Adrien Bougen, Meike Wollni

Researchers randomly evaluated the effects of a decentralized extension program and an additional video-based information campaign on farmers' adoption of a package of integrated soil fertility management (ISFM) technologies as well as individual practices in Ethiopia. They found that both in-person extension services and extension services combined with a video campaign increased the adoption of...

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## **POLITICAL ECONOMY & GOVERNANCE**

### Unconditional Cash Transfers and Civic Engagement in Kenya

[Kate Orkin](#), [Michael Walker](#)

Citizen participation in local civic affairs and in decision-making processes around village resources can be a way to

align policies with local preferences, hold politicians accountable, and improve public service delivery. However, there is mixed evidence on how best to improve citizen engagement. In rural Western Kenya, researchers are partnering with GiveDirectly to evaluate the impact of...

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### **FIRMS, LABOR MARKETS, GENDER**

## The Impact of Local Mentorship and Business Training on Microenterprise Profits in Kenya

[Kevin Donovan](#), [Wyatt Brooks](#) , Terence R. Johnson

Researchers conducted a randomized evaluation to test the impact of two different types of business training—formal business classes and mentorship from a successful entrepreneur in the same industry—on female entrepreneurs' profits and use of new business practices in Kenya. They found that inexperienced female microenterprise owners benefited from mentorship, leading to increased short-term...

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### **POLITICAL ECONOMY & GOVERNANCE**

## The Impact of Varying Acceptance Offers on Volunteer Retention, Performance, and Employability in Kenya

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Michael Kremer , Guthrie Gray-Lobe, Willa Friedman

Researchers are conducting an evaluation of the Government of Kenya’s G-United youth volunteer program to test the effect of randomly placing students in locations they prefer on the retention of volunteers in the program, their job performance, and their employment outcomes after the program.



**AGRICULTURE**

The Impact of an Inventory Credit Program on Palm Oil Farmers in Sierra Leone

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Lorenzo Casaburi , Sullay Kamara

Prices for agricultural goods typically increase after the harvest season. However, farmers often lack storage facilities to preserve their agricultural products and do not take advantage of these price fluctuations. Researchers tested the effect of an inventory credit program that provided storage facilities and loans on palm oil farmers’ agricultural activities in Sierra Leone. Take-up and use...

## Pages

□

47
48
49

50

51

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