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Women's Economic Empowerment Through Financial Inclusion

A Review of Existing Evidence and
Remaining Knowledge Gaps



El empoderamiento económico de la mujer mediante la inclusión financiera

Una revisión de la evidencia actual
y las brechas que aún existen

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Women's Economic Empowerment Through Financial Inclusion

Research shows that when people participate in the financial system, they are better able to manage risk, start or invest in a business, and fund large expenditures like education or a home improvement. Increasing women's financial inclusion is especially important as women disproportionately experience poverty, stemming from unequal divisions of labor and a lack of control over economic resources. While demand and supply side barriers to women's financial inclusion remain, this review shows that appropriate financial product design can help overcome some of these barriers. This review is organized by product and presents the existing evidence on the impact of savings, credit, payments, and insurance products on women's economic empowerment outcomes, as well as the remaining open research questions in each area. The studies included in this review are limited to those designed as randomized control trials (RCTs), widely considered to be the gold standard in impact evaluation methodology.

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