

# Internet Access, Employment, and Household Bargaining

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## **Abstract**

New information and communication technology has a demonstrated impact on labor market outcomes. These impacts may vary by gender due to differences in education, skill and household structure between men and women. I study how the introduction of fast Internet via submarine cables to 8 African countries impacted employment by gender, as well as household bargaining. By combining inter-country timing differences in submarine cable arrival with intra-country geospatial differences in access to existing terrestrial cables, I demonstrate that men and women experienced very different employment effects from exposure to fast Internet. While men saw large employment gains (4.9 percentage points from a mean of 73.5%), women saw smaller, insignificant gains. Differences in treatment effect are partially explained by education and household composition. Internet access has minor impacts on reported household decision-making roles but does increase support for domestic violence against women substantially among both women and men.