Preregistered Design Features:
Message Survey

RCT ID: AEARCTR-0006414

Nicholas Otis

UC Berkeley

October 27, 2021

Table of Contents

1   Introduction

Participants producing messages that pass the exclusion criteria outlined in the preregistered document *Preregistered Design Features: Screening Survey* will be recontacted and invited to complete the Message Survey. This document preregisters design features for the Message Survey. It was uploaded to the AEA registration page before data collection for the Message Survey had begun.

2   Exclusion Criteria

Message exclusion criteria. Messages will be evaluated by research assistants who are blind to the experimental condition the participant was assigned to. They will be asked to assess whether each message violates either of the following criteria:

1) Messages cannot contain any false information. Here are four examples of messages violating this rule:

- *By careful, coronavirus will make you sterile.*
- *We will send you information on which of your friends have been vaccinated.*
- *Call us at 12345 to receive free advice on coronavirus.*
- *Hot water and lemon will boost your immunity and keep you safe from corona.*

2) Messages cannot offer financial incentives. Here are two examples of messages violating this rule:

- *We will pay you KSh 100 if you sign up.*
- *Don't wait! Sign up today and receive a cash prize.*

Repeated submissions. Participants who may have previously participated in the Message Survey will be identified via duplicate phone numbers, email addresses, IP addresses, or Qualtrics's ballot box stuffing algorithm. Among respondents who are suspected to be duplicates, the first response will be counted, and subsequent responses will be excluded.

3   Message Editing

Participants are informed that we will make the following changes to their messages:

- *We will correct spelling and punctuation (you can still use abbreviations like u for you).*
- *We will replace messages in ALL CAPS with correct capitalization. We won't change capitalization if only a FEW words are in CAPS.*
- *We will remove emojis (do not include emojis).*
- *Messages will be sent in English (Kiswahili messages will be translated).*

Additionally, participants whose messages reference the *reply* options in the text incorrectly will be corrected. For example, in the message *For peace of mind, text back 0 to begin receiving updates.* the respondent incorrectly listed **0** as the number the recipient needed to text to receive information instead of the correct reply option of **1**.