1. Title
Impact of social-distancing on the urban poor in South Africa and Ghana

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3. Abstract
The novel Coronavirus, COVID-19, and measures to combat it are expected to have a significant impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of all people, but especially those living in poor urban neighbourhoods. We are conducting a panel phone survey over several months in low-income urban neighborhoods in Accra, Ghana and Johannesburg, South Africa to analyze the impact of the various social distancing policies, such as school cancellations, curfews and lockdowns, on people’s income, work security, food security, stress and anxiety. In addition, we also want to determine what people know about COVID-19 and how they perceive their government’s response to the virus. All three factors will determine whether people will follow the recommendations of the WHO to keep distance and hence will determine whether the spread of the Coronavirus can be contained in poor urban neighborhoods.

4. Data description
We use a random sample of households from Ekurhuleni municipality, east of Johannesburg and a random sample of households from 18 low-income settlements around Accra, which was also used for the most recent Ghana Living Standard Survey in 2017. We conducted first 1500 phone interviews (1000 in Ghana and 500 in South Africa) end of April – beginning of May and will follow up with these households at least twice over the next months.

5. JEL codes for the project
JEL I15 (Health and Economic Development), JEL I32 (Measures and analysis of poverty), JEL I38 (Government Policy, Provision and Effects of Welfare Programs), JEL I31 (General Welfare, Well-Being), JEL D14 (D14: Household Saving, Personal Finance)

6. Key-words
Social distancing, lockdown, Covid-19, behaviour, information, income, food security, anxiety, poverty