Title: The Impact of COVID-19 on the Lives of Women in the Garment Industry: Evidence from Ethiopia

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Abstract
In this project, we conduct high-frequency phone surveys on a panel of women who work in garment factories in Ethiopia’s largest industrial park in the city of Hawassa to document how their lives are changing during the COVID-19 crisis. Sampling from an administrative database of all workers in the Hawassa Industrial Park, we aim to collect data on a representative sample of 5,000 workers. Respondents will be interviewed on a bi-weekly basis for a duration of six months. Studied outcomes include socioeconomic status, employment, mental and physical health, health behaviors, empowerment, trust, and economic preferences. We plan to investigate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis for this sample of women, and the interaction between health behaviors, trust in government, and economic preferences. We also hope to inform the government’s response and development partner programming by rapidly reporting key areas of vulnerability and their predictors.

4. Data description
We collect phone survey data on a representative sample of 5,000 garment workers in Hawassa Industrial Park in the south of Ethiopia. Respondents will be interviewed on a bi-weekly basis for a duration of six months. Collected data covers basic demographics, current and past employment, other economic activity, income, savings, physical and mental health, health behaviors, social networks, relationship status, marriage and fertility choices, aspirations, first- and second-order beliefs about COVID-19, trust in government, perceived needs in the community, and economic preferences.

5. JEL codes for the project
I18 Government Policy; Regulation; Public Health, I12 Health Behavior, J65 Unemployment Insurance; Severance Pay; Plant Closings, O12 Microeconomic Analyses of Economic Development, D91 Role and Effects of Psychological, Emotional, Social, and Cognitive Factors on Decision Making

6. Key-words
COVID-19, Ethiopia, Industrial Parks, Health Behaviors