1. Title: Using weekly financial and health diaries to track health and income effects of the COVID-19 outbreak and government response measures in rural Kenya

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3. Abstract
While the current number of COVID-19 cases is relatively limited in Kenya, the anticipation of COVID-19 arrives much earlier than any exponential growth of infections, and so do the measures in response to it. Even in the absence of COVID-19 cases, the government-implemented counter measures, such as travel restrictions, curfew and school closures, directly affect livelihoods and well-being in the very short run, by reducing consumption of households and increasing their risk on poverty. Moreover, anecdotal evidence from the field indicates that people have started reducing their (non-COVID19) visits to health care providers in order to avoid becoming infected with the virus, with potentially severe health consequence as a result. This study will provide rapid information on how the COVID-19 outbreak, and the government’s response, is affecting the health and incomes of the households in rural Kenya using weekly financial and health diaries. We will examine (1) how the government lockdown measures affect income and consumption patterns for men and women separately; and (2) the effects of COVID-19 and preventive measures on maternal and newborn health care utilization and outcomes.

4. Data description
Since November 2019, AIGHD (Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development) and APHRC (African Population & Health Research Centre) have been collecting high-detail high-frequency “financial and health diaries” in a sample of 100 households in Kisumu and 230 households in Kakamega, Kenya. We sampled households with a pregnant woman or a child below 4. After a baseline survey in November 2019, we have visited the households on a weekly basis to collect detailed information on each adult’s financial transactions in the past week (income, expenditures, gifts, loans, remittances and savings) and the health events of all household members (illnesses, injuries, maternal and child health consultations, health expenditures). In alternating weeks, enumerators ask additional questions about mental well-being of adults and food consumption of children. The data collection was set up to evaluate the roll-out of national health insurance (in Kakamega) and universal health coverage (in Kisumu) for a period of 12 months, but now provides a unique opportunity to study the short-run effects of the COVID-19 outbreak and government response measures in a rural sample in Kenya with the potential to provide useful insights for policymakers in a very short timeframe.

5. JEL codes for the project
6. Key-words
Financial and health diaries, Kenya, healthcare utilization, income shocks