

Girum Abebe Tefera

International Finance Corporation
2121 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,
Washington, DC 20433, USA

Email gtefera@worldbank.org
girumabe@gmail.com

Summary

I am a development researcher with over a decade of experience studying how to make markets work for the poor, especially youth and women.

Professional Assignment

April 2024-Current	Principal Economist, International Finance Corporation, the World Bank Group.
August 2022-April 2024	Thematic Lead for Private Sector Development and Entrepreneurship, World Bank's Africa Region Gender Innovation Lab (AGIL)
September 2019-April 2024	Senior Economist, World Bank's Africa Region Gender Innovation Lab (AGIL)
August 2018-September 2019	Senior Research Fellow and Lead Researcher, Policy Studies Institute (formerly the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI))
August 2015- August 2018	Research Fellow and Director Micro and Sectorial Research Centre, Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI).
January 2017-March 2017	Visiting Academic, Department of Economics, University of Oxford
September 2011- August 2018	Research Fellow, Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI)
July 2007- September 2011	Junior Researcher II, Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI)
August 2005-July 2007	Graduate Assistant I and II, Haramaya University,

Education

PhD: Development Economics, National Graduate Institute for policy Studies, Tokyo, Japan, September 2011

MA: Development Economics, National Graduate Institute for policy Studies, Tokyo, Japan, September 2009

MA: International Development Studies, National Graduate Institute for policy Studies, Tokyo, Japan, September 2008
(*with Great Distinction*)

BA: Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, July 2005 (*with Great Distinction*)

Publications

Peer Reviewed Articles

"Urban Public Works in Spatial Equilibrium: Experimental Evidence from Ethiopia," *forthcoming, American Economic Review* (with Simon Franklin, Clément Imbert, & Carolina Mejia-Mantilla).

"Matching Frictions and Distorted Beliefs: Evidence from a Job Fair Experiment" *accepted, The Economic Journal* (with Caria, Stefano & Fafchamps, Marcel & Falco, Paolo & Franklin, Simon & Quinn, Simon & Shilpi, Forhad J)

"Do Factory Jobs Improve Welfare? Experimental Evidence from Ethiopia," *accepted, The World Bank Economic Review* (With Niklas Buehren, Markus Goldstein)

"How Well do Worker Cooperatives Perform in Manufacturing? Evidence from a Large Low-Income Country",

forthcoming, Economic Development and Cultural Change (with Mulu Gebreeyesus).

"Foreign Direct Investment and Knowledge Diffusion in Poor Locations: Evidence from Ethiopia," *Journal of Development Economics*, Volume 158, September 2022, 102926 (with Margaret S. McMillan & Michel Serafinelli).

"The selection of talent: experimental and structural evidence from Ethiopia" (With Stefano Caria and Esteban Ortiz-Ospina). *American Economic Review*, (2021) vol. 111(6), pages 1757-1806, June.

"Anonymity or Distance? Job Search and Labour Market Exclusion in a Growing African City" (with Stefano Caria, Marcel Fafchamps, Paolo Falco, Simon Franklin and Simon Quinn). *The Review of Economic Studies* (2021) 88(3): 1279-1310.

Changing saving and investment behaviour: the impact of financial literacy training and reminders on micro-businesses," *Journal of African Economies* (2018). vol. 27(5), pages 587-611 (With Biruk Tekle and Yukichi Mano).

"Earnings, Savings, and Job Satisfaction in a Labor-intensive Export Sector: Evidence from the Cut Flower Industry in Ethiopia". *World Development* (2018). Volume 110, October 2018, Pages 176-191 (With Aya Suzuki and Yukichi Mano).

"Urban Food Retailing and Food Prices in Africa: The Case of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia" (with Thomas Woldu, Indra Lamoot, and Bart Minten), *Journal of Agribusiness in Developing and Emerging Economies*. (2016) 6.2: 90-109.

Book Chapters

"Review of Industrial Policies in Ethiopia: A Perspective from the Leather and Cut flower Industries". With Florian Schaefer. In Joseph Stiglitz and Akbar Noman (ed.), "Industrial Policy and Economic Transformation in Africa". Chapter 5. New York, Columbia University Press, September 2015.

"Main Features of Micro and Small Enterprises in Ethiopia: Baseline Survey Report." with Mulu Gebreeyesus, Abebe Ambachew, Tigabu Getahu, Berihu Assefa, Seid Hassen, Haileselassie Medhin, Ethiopian Development Research Institute, 2018.

"Foreign Direct Investment in Ethiopia: Challenges, Opportunities and Policy Options for Effective Use to Stimulate Industrialization", FDRE, Policy Study and Research Center Industrial Development Policy Study and Research Department, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, ISBN 978-99944-74-37-0. With Mulu Gebreeyesus and Birhanu Beshah.

"Transformation Ethiopian MSEs to SMEs-The case of capability building policies," with Seungwon Yu, in "2014/15 Knowledge Sharing Program with Ethiopia: Developing Action Plans for the Priority Agendas of the second Stage of Growth and Transformation Plan", Chapter 2, Korean Development Institute and the Ministry of Strategy and Finance, Republic of Korea (2015).

Blogs

The COVID-19 Crises : Business Disruptions and Job Losses in Ethiopia (with Christina Wieser, 2021)

<https://www.jobsanddevelopment.org/21-the-covid-19-crisis-business-disruptions-and-job-losses-in-ethiopia/>

Gender and Tech Gaps:How Ethiopian Businesses Fare Under COVID-19 (with Christina Wieser, 2021)

<https://www.jobsanddevelopment.org/22-gender-and-tech-gaps-how-ethiopian-businesses-fare-under-covid-19/>

Assessing Ethiopian women's vulnerability to the COVID-19 pandemic (with Menaal Ebrahim & Christina Wieser, 2021)

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/africacan/assessing-ethiopian-womens-vulnerability-covid-19-pandemic>

Learning management through matching: Experimental evidence from Ethiopia (with Marcel Fafchamps & Michael Koelle & Simon Quinn, 2020)

<https://voxdev.org/topic/firms-trade/learning-management-through-matching-experimental-evidence-ethiopia>

Helping young people access better employment opportunities (with Stefano Caria, Marcel Fafchamps, Paolo Falco, Simon Franklin and Simon Quinn)

<https://voxdev.org/topic/labour-markets-migration/helping-young-people-access-better-employment-opportunities>

Video: Helping young Ethiopians find jobs

<https://www.theigc.org/multimedia/helping-young-ethiopians-find-jobs/>

Honors and Awards

VPU Team Award as part of the team for analytical work on “East and Southern Africa Gender Platforms” World Bank, 2023.

VPU Team Award as part of the team for analytical work on “More, better, and more inclusive jobs in Ethiopia” World Bank, 2022.

VPU staff Award as part of the team for designing, implementing and analysing a COVID-tracking high frequency survey, World Bank, 2020.

VPU staff Award as part of the Ethiopian Gender Lab team that uses “evidence to close the gender gaps”, World Bank 2020.

2017 Highly Commended Award by Journal of Agribusiness in Developing and Emerging Economies, 2017.

Japan International Cooperation Agency’s PhD scholarship award, September 2008

Dean Award for outstanding academic performance, GRIPS, September 2008

Faculty Award for outstanding academic performance, Addis Ababa University, July 2005

Specialized Training Courses with certificates awarded

First Summer School on New Structural Economics and Development in Africa, organized by the National School of Development Peking University, China, Beijing, June 2014.

Research Methods workshops on Experimental Design on Savings and Payments Research. Organized by Yale University’s Savings and Payments Research Fund, Kampala, Uganda, June 20-24, 2013. .

Training Course on “GAMS/CGE-Static and Dynamic Versions”, Organized by ESSP-II, EDRI, Addis Ababa University- School of Economics, October 17-28, 2011.

Affiliation

IZA network member

Job Advisory Council: Member of an advisory council that supports the Job Creation Commission on key intervention areas to make the labor market work better and more inclusive.

Research Associate (non-resident): China Africa Research Initiative, John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, United States of America.

Member of the African Growth and Development Policy Modeling Consortium (AGRODEP) Team

Membership in the Ethiopian Economics Association

Membership in the Econometric Society

Membership in American Economics Association

Major Grants Awarded

£112,819.82-International Growth Center (IGC). ‘The welfare and labour market effects of job displacement insurance in Ethiopia’ (with Stefano Caria, Lukas Hensel and Francois Gerard)

\$140,000- JPAL. ‘The welfare and labour market effects of job displacement insurance in Ethiopia’ (with Stefano Caria, Lukas Hensel and Francois Gerard)

£50,000-J-PAL “Evaluating the Impacts of a Comprehensive Youth Employment Program at Scale: A Pilot Study” (with Stefano Caria, Bruno Crépon, Simon Franklin and Christian Meyer)

£225,000-DfID-IZA “Can Temporary Financial Incentives for Industrial Workers Lead to Long-Term Retention and a Better Allocation of Talent” (with Stefano Caria, Stefan Dercon and Lukas Hensel).

£430,000- PEDL “Why do African Firms underinvest in management training? Experimental evidence from middle and large Ethiopian Firms” (with Stefano Caria, Pascaline Dupas, Deivy Houeix and Marcel Fafchamps).

£ 463,567-Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries (PEDL). “Management Traits as Embodied Human Capital: A Randomised Field Experiment in Ethiopia” (with Marcel Fafchamps, Michael Kolle and Simon Quinn), 2018-2020.

£500,000-UJFSA (Ministry of Urban Development and Housing). “Impact evaluation and Proxy Means Testing on the Urban Productive Safety Net Program”. March 2017-2019.

£ 402,815-Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries (PEDL). “An Internship Program for Young Ethiopian Entrepreneurs” (with Marcel Fafchamps and Simon Quinn), 2015-2017.

€374,928-European Union. “Research on Private Sector Development Employment and Productivity”, 2017-2019.

£ 65,000- International Growth Centre (IGC). “Do Managers use Incentives effectively: Experimental evidence from Ethiopia” (with Stefano Caria), 2016-2017.

£275,000-IGC and Oxford Martin School, “Understanding Industrial Parks” (with Stefano Caria, Stefan Dercon and Simon Quinn).

£63,000 –International Growth Centre (IGC). “Assisting Job Search in Low-Employment Communities: The effect of Screening Intervention in Addis Ababa” (with Marcel Fafchamps, Simon Quinn, Simon Franklin, Pablo Falco and Stefano Caria), 2014-2015.

£253,000-GLM-LIC “Assisting Job Search in Low-Employment Communities: The Effect of Information Provision and Transport Vouchers in Addis Ababa” (with Marcel Fafchamps, Simon Quinn, Simon Franklin, Pablo Falco and Stefano Caria), 2013-2015.

\$64,000-JDS “Impact Survey Project on Capacity Building for Dissemination of Quality and Productivity Improvement (KAIZEN)” January 2012- 2014

\$18,400-ACBF and TTI-IDRC “Saving Constraints in Enterprise Development: Experimental Evidence from Ethiopia”, January 2013-November, 2013.

Selected Public Lectures and Conference Presentations

The Nobel in Africa Symposium in Economic Sciences on “*Micro development research in the last 20 years: what have we learned?*” March 10-15, 2024, The Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS), Cape Town, South Africa.

CSAE’s annual conference on “Economic Development in Africa”, March 2024, Oxford, United Kingdom, chaired a session and presented a paper entitled “Does phone-based financial heuristic training alter entrepreneurial behaviour? Experimental Evidence from Ethiopia”.

The 8th Zurich Conference on Public Finance in Developing Countries, December 2023, presented a paper on “Mitigating the consequences of job-loss in low-income countries: Experimental evidence from Ethiopia”, Zurich, Switzerland.

African Meeting of the Econometrics Society (AFES 2023), June 2023, Session organizer and Chair Nairobi, Kenya, “Financing women entrepreneurs: Innovations to promote access to capital in underserved markets”.

UN-ECA, May 2023. “Gender-focused policies to end poverty” at the Inter-agency Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty at the UN-ECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

CSAE Lunch Time Seminar, April 2022, “Welfare Impacts of Factory Jobs: Experimental Evidence from Ethiopia”, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The World Bank, BBL Series, December 2019, “Welfare Impacts of Factory Jobs: Experimental Evidence from Ethiopia”, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

ILO’s African Fashion Week, Panel, November 2019, “Advancing Decent Work and Inclusive Industrialization in Ethiopia”.

The World Bank, BBL Series, September 2019, “Getting Ethiopia to Work: Tackling Unemployment and the Constraints to Job Search in Addis Ababa”, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Center for the Study of African Economies (CSAE), University of Oxford, annual conference on African Development “Group Entrepreneurship: Can Worker Cooperatives Provide Viable Paths to Create Successful Enterprises?” March, 2019.

Center for the Study of African Economies (CSAE), University of Oxford, annual conference on African Development “Identifying dynamic and constrained entrepreneurs in low income countries: evidence from Ethiopia,” March 2018.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI)-high level forum. “What explains productivity in the manufacturing sector: evidence from the metalworking industry in Ethiopia”, November 7, 2017.

Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI)-seminar series. “What explains productivity in the manufacturing sector: evidence from the metalworking industry in Ethiopia”, October 27, 2017.

Center for the Study of African Economies (CSAE), seminar at the Department of International Development, QEH, Mansfield Road “Foreign Direct Investment, Agglomeration and Economic Development: Evidence from Ethiopia, March 1, 2017.

International Growth Centre (IGC), London, LSE, Growth Week. “Agglomeration Advantages in the Developing World: Identification and Micro-mechanisms”, May 2016.

Center for the Study of African Economies (CSAE), University of Oxford, “Changing saving and investment behaviour: the impact of financial literacy training and reminders on micro-businesses,” March 2016.

Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), London; PEDL Conference. “Agglomeration Advantages in the Developing World: Identification and Micro-mechanisms”, March 2016.

World Bank, Washington DC and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, “Can spatial and informational barriers to youth employment be reduced? Experimental evidence from urban Ethiopia.” October and February 2016.

Ethiopian Economic Association Annual meeting, Addis Ababa, “Local Spillovers from Foreign Direct Investment in the Ethiopian Manufacturing Sector”, July 2015.

Yonesi University Public Administration Seminar on International Development and Cooperation in Korea, Seoul. “International cooperation in industrial development: The Case of Cut-flower Industry in Ethiopia,” February 2015.

African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) conference on “The Quest for African Transformation” Presented a paper on “Industrial Policies in Low Income Economies: The Cases of Cut Flower and Leather Industries”, December 2013.

Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) conference on “*Economic Development in Africa*”, presented a paper on “The role of management skill training in enterprise development: the case of shoemaking enterprises in Ethiopia,” The University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom, March 18, 2013.

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA): Third Meeting of the Committee on Governance and Popular Participation (CGPP), Keynote Address on the issue “The Developmental State: What options for Africa?” UNECA, Addis Ababa, February 19, 2013.

EDRI and ESSP workshop on “China and Africa Economic Cooperation” presented a paper on “The Roles of Management Skills Training and Learning from Abroad in the Ethiopian Manufacturing Sector”, Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa, January 21, 2013

IFPRI/EDRI Conference on “Improved Evidence towards Better Food and Agricultural Policies in Ethiopia,” presented the paper on “Prices and Quality in Urban Food Retail: Evidence from Addis Ababa,” Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa, November 2012.

Korean Energy Economics Institute (KEEI) and EDRI Workshop on “Energy Policies and Plans of Ethiopia: Opportunities for Cooperation between Ethiopia and South Korea,” presented a paper on “Review of Plans and Policies on Renewable Energy Development,” Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa, March 2012.

EDRI monthly seminar series “Management Practices, Self-Selection into Management Training Participation, and Training Effects in the Garment Industry in Ethiopia,” EDRI, Addis Ababa, July, 2012

Japanese Economic Association Annual Conference; “The Role of Management Skills Training in Enterprise Development: The Case of Garment Production in Ethiopia,” Kumamoto Gakuen University, Kumamoto city, May 2011.

The World Economy Lecture Series; “Cluster-Based Industrial Development: An African Perspective,” Kanazawa University, Kanazawa city, 2009.

Teaching assistant GRIPS Forum I and GRIPS Forum II, 2008

Teaching assistant Applied Econometrics, 2008

Non-Academic Publications

“Frugality: harnessing its potentials”, The Reporter, December 2010.

“The potentials of imitation for propelling industrial development”, The Reporter, August 2010

“Risk taking behaviour: rethinking cultural shenanigans for market failures”, Aiga Forum, August 2010

“Breaking the Information Monopoly”, The Reporter, June 2010

“Why ADLI Still Remains Appealing”, The Reporter, March 2011

Review and Referring

European Journal of Development Research, Since 2019
Economic Development and Cultural Change, since 2023
Oxford Development Studies, Since 2018
Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, since 2018
Social Indicators Research, since 2018
Ethiopian Journal of Economics, since 2011.

Reference

Michael O'Sullivan, Head of the African Gender Innovation Lab, the World Bank, United States.

Marcel Fafchamps, Professor, Stanford University, United States.

Pascaline Dupas, Professor of Economics and Public Affairs, Princeton University, United States.

Stefano Caria, Professor, Warwick University, United Kingdom.

Simon Quinn, Associate Professor, Department of Economics and Public Policy, Imperial College of London, the United Kingdom.

Margaret McMillian, JRN Professor of International Relations and a Professor of Economics at Tufts University, Boston, United States

Tetsushi Sonobe, Dean and CEO of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo Japan.