1) Have any data been collected for this study already?
No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What’s the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
We are studying situations in which people can choose between helping fewer people who are disadvantaged or more people who are less disadvantaged, with disadvantage being inconsequential from a utilitarian standpoint. In this study, we are testing whether reflecting on the relative importance of decision criteria makes people more likely to choose the option that saves the most lives.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
Our key dependent variable is the proportion of people who choose the charity project that is more effective (i.e., more lives saved per $), which is Naruba.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
The study will use a two-cell between-subjects design in which we will manipulate whether or not participants rank decision criteria prior to making their choice.

In our study, participants will be informed about a charity (Help2) which helps developing countries in Africa. They will then proceed to read the information about Help2’s two (hypothetical) donation projects for two countries: Sangala and Naruba. In both conditions, the descriptions will include information about the socioeconomic situation of the two countries (Sangala being slightly worse than Naruba) and about the project’s effectiveness, with the Sangala project saving fewer lives (i.e., 2-4 people per $10) than the Naruba project (i.e., 4-6 per $10). After reading the description of these two charities, participants will be asked to make a choice.

Participants in the control condition will be directly asked to make a choice; in the experimental condition, participants will be asked to rank the importance of the factors that will be subsequently displayed in the choice page (lives saved per donation; population of the country; unemployment rate in the country; literacy rate in the country; average income in the country).

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
Our key analysis will consist of a Chi-Square test on participants’ binary choices.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
We also included a comprehension check that asks participants to report how the money collected by the charity will be used. We will analyze the data both including and excluding participants who failed to only select “For buying and shipping antidotes” among the options.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.
We will target 300 Prolific users (actual number may differ if more people sign up in this online study).

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
We do not plan other analyses, though we will also report the percentage of participants who rank the lives saved per donation as the most important factor to consider when donating.