



Encouraging Seasonal Migration to Address Income Insecurity

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Evidence
Action



The Problem: Seasonal Poverty

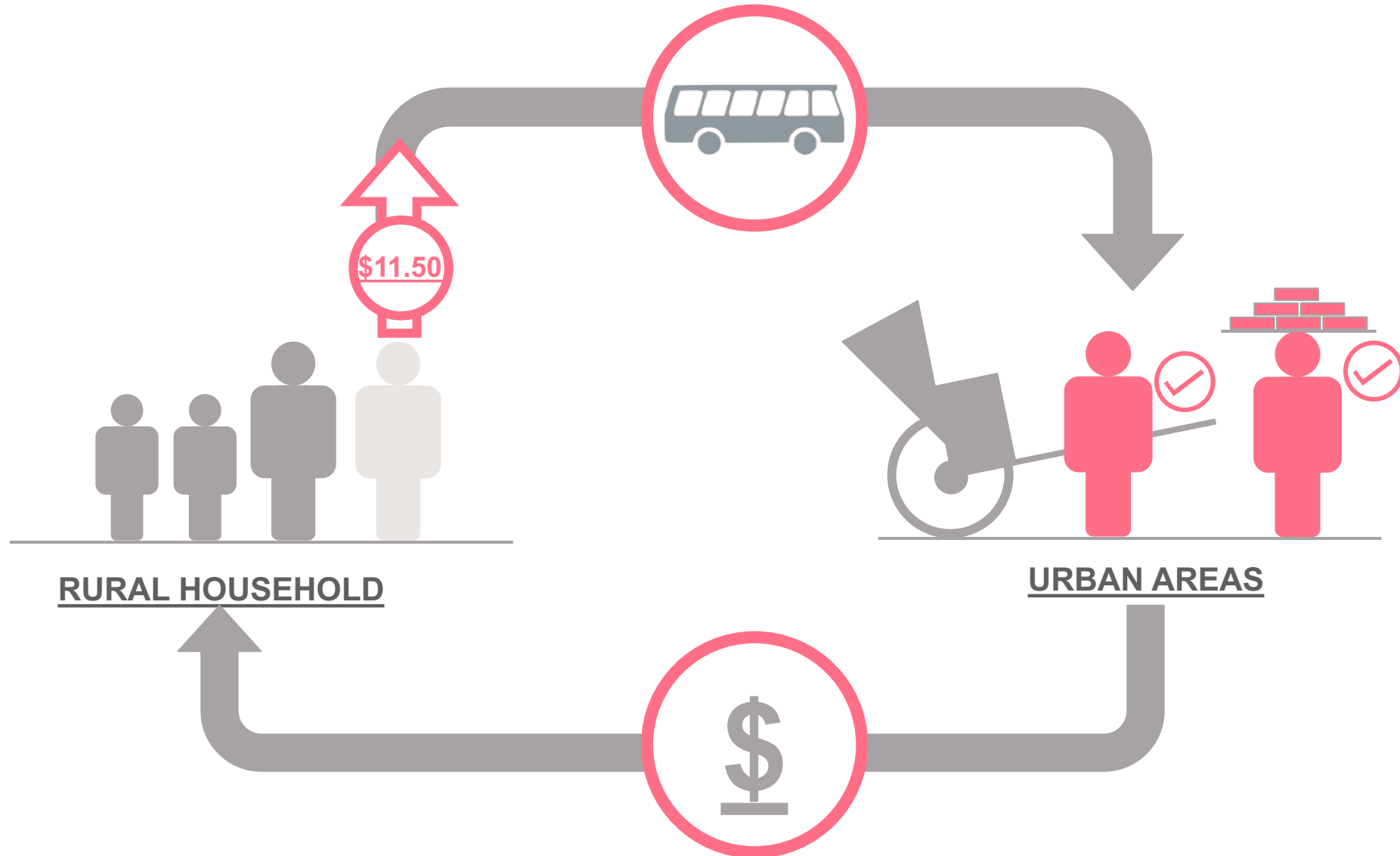
0.5 - 1 billion
people in the world
experience seasonal
hunger

A photograph of a crowded bus, likely in South Asia, with people hanging out of the windows and others standing around it. The bus is yellow and white with some blue and green accents. The text "সিটি মার্ভিস" is visible on the side of the bus. The background shows a street scene with trees and other vehicles.

The Solution: Migration to Urban Labor Markets

100 million
live near thriving cities with
jobs available

The Research: Seasonal Migration



The Experiments 2008-2011

Research by Bryan, Chowdhury, and Mobarak

Randomly assigned incentives to migrate during the 2008 Monga
1900 households in 100 monga-affected villages

- Cash (37 villages): 600 Taka (\$8.50)
- Credit (31 villages): Loan of same amount
- Information / endorsement (16 villages)
- Control (16 villages)

\$8.50 = Round-trip bus ticket + couple of days food

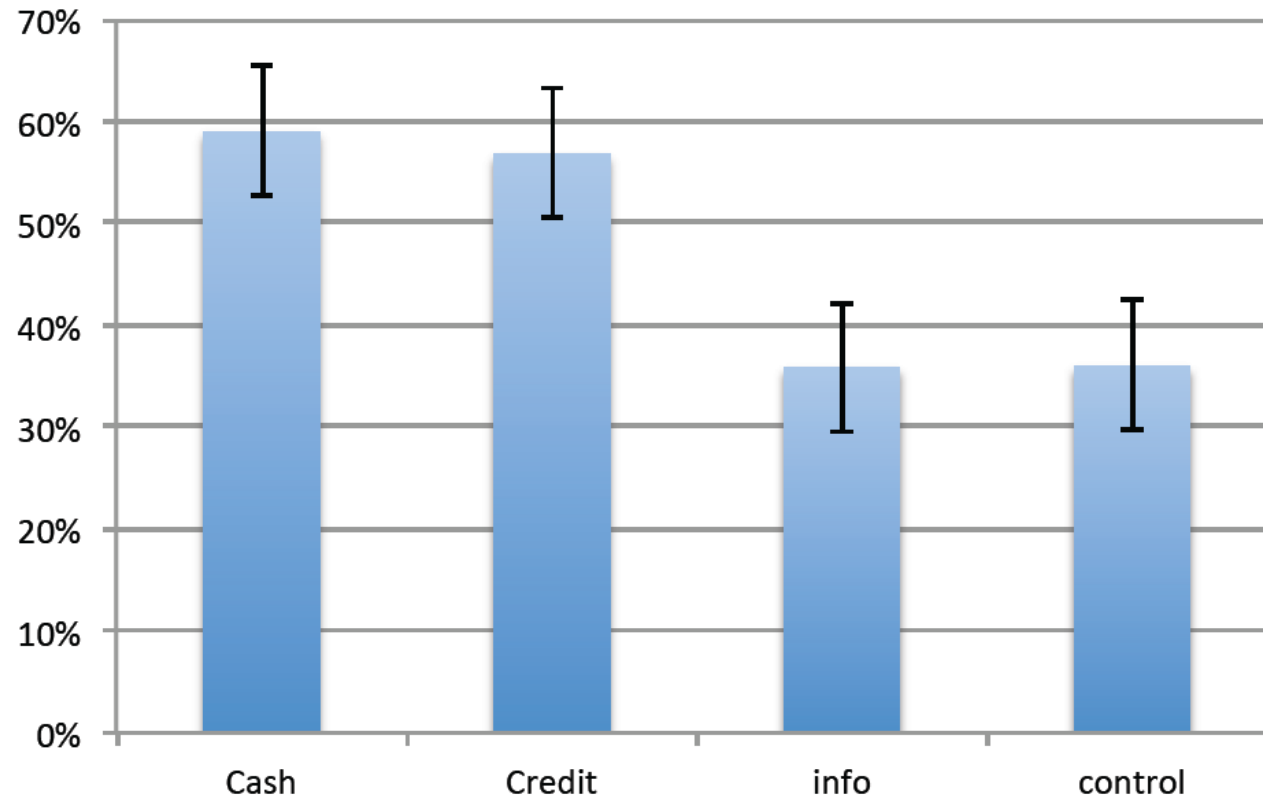
Tracked households in the short run, and in the long-run, after inducements were removed.



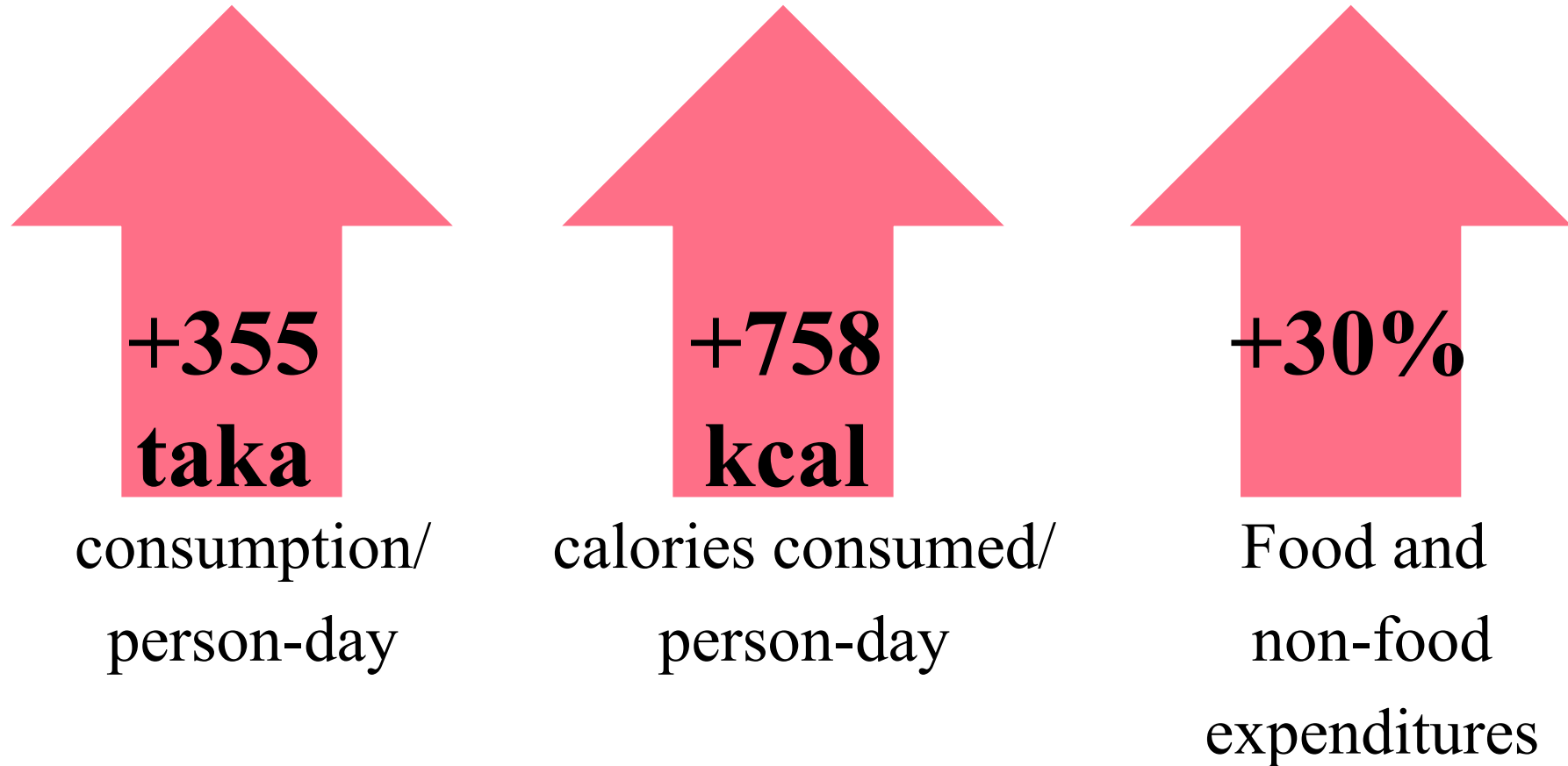
Cash or Credit Both Encourage Migration

1. 24% of households induced to send a seasonal migrant

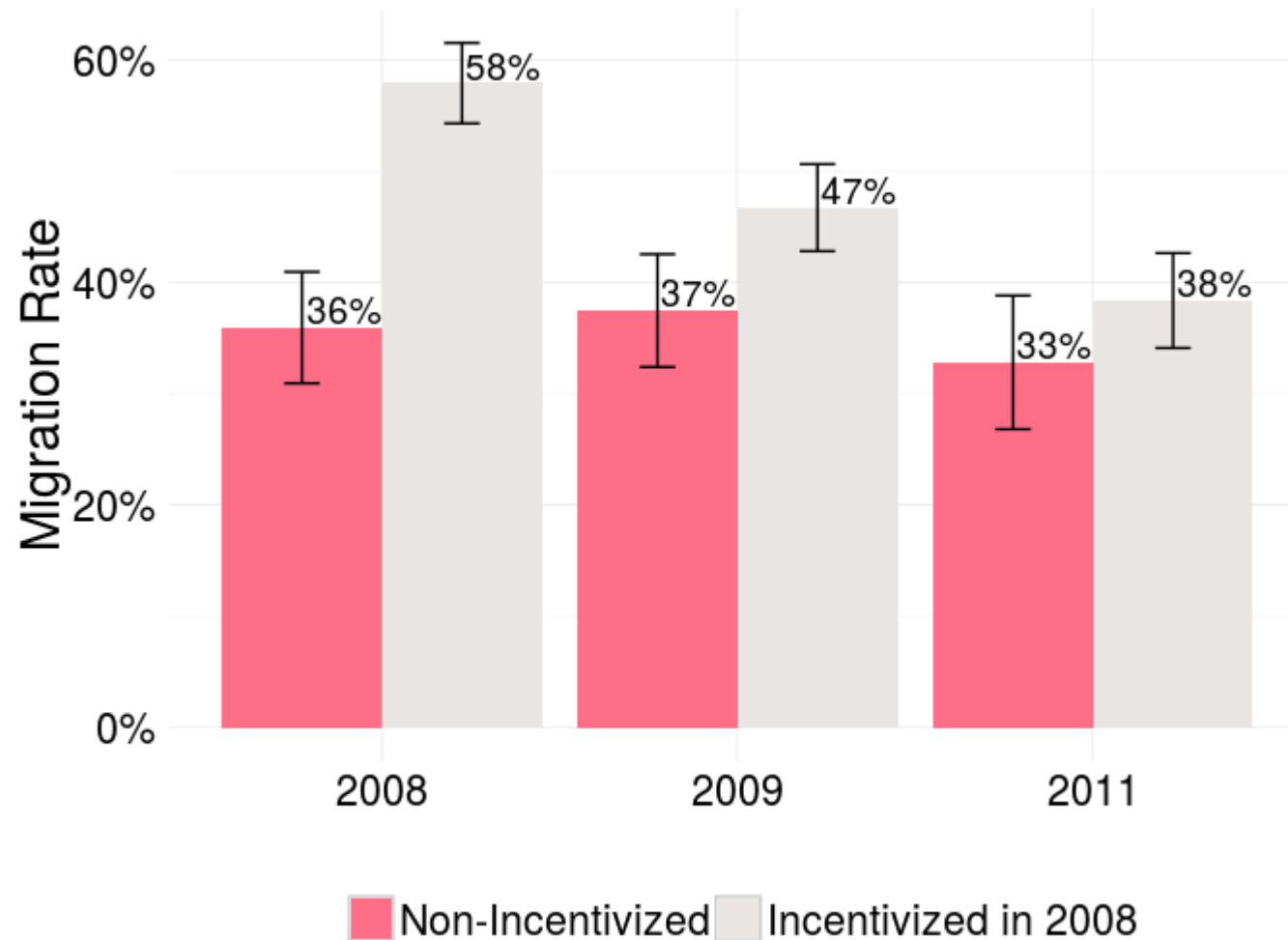
2008 Migration Rate



Strong Impacts on Household Consumption in the Origin Village



Re-Migration in Subsequent Years





NO LEAN SEASON
IS

5X MORE

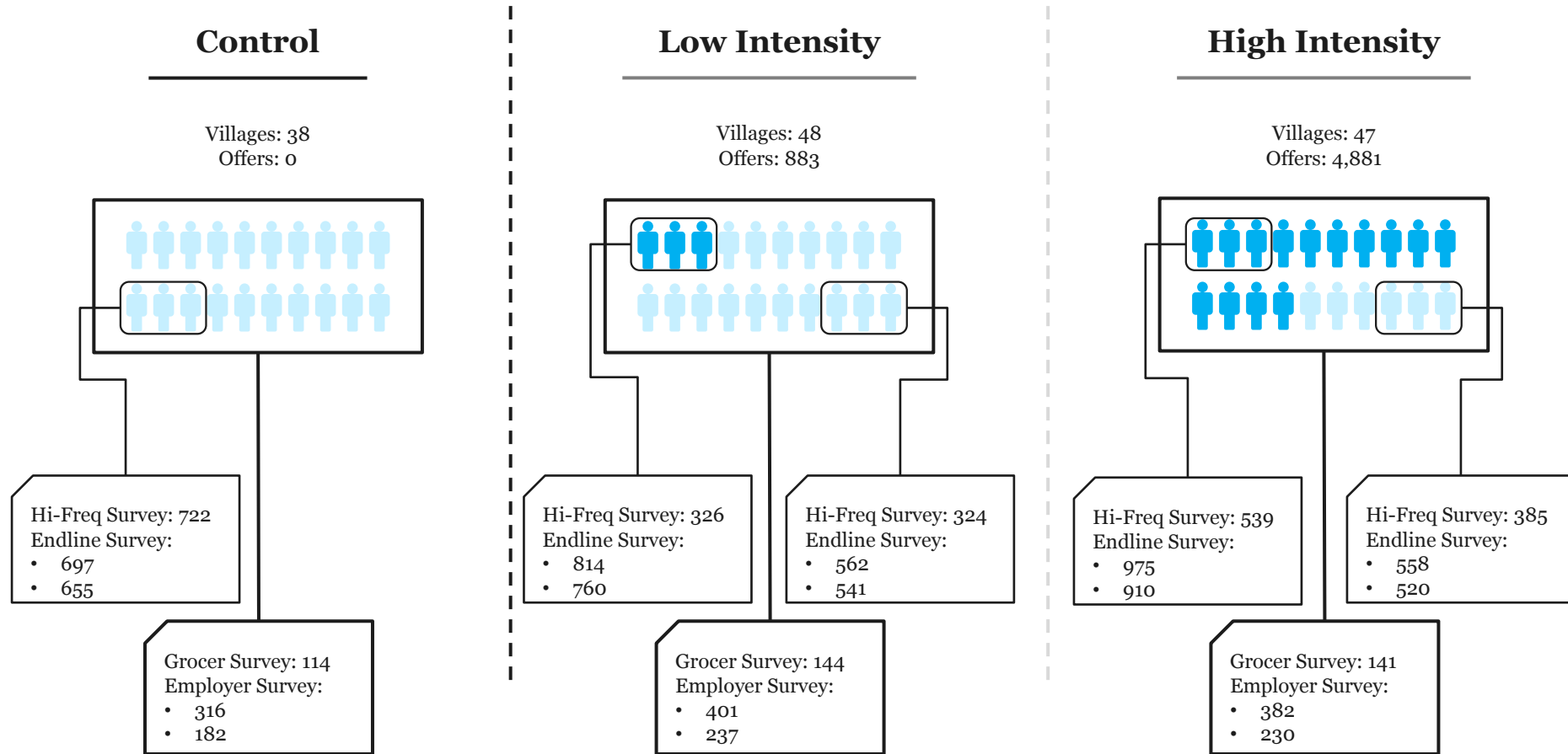
COST EFFECTIVE
THAN FOOD AID

Before we scale-up No Lean Season...

- Why were people not migrating to begin with?
- What about spillover effects on the origin villages when productive people leave?
- What about unintended non-economic (social, health, political) consequences?
- Does this really improve welfare?
- Spillovers on the city?



General Equilibrium Experiment



Endline survey and the employer survey administered twice and enquired about:

- 2014 – 2015
- 2015 – 2016

 Offered Household

 Non-offered Household





No Lean Season - The Program

- In 2015, Evidence Action - an international NGO that scales evidence-based, cost-effective solutions - turned this innovative research project into the No Lean Season program.
- Evidence Action is working with RDRS, an NGO in Bangladesh, to implement and scale No Lean Season to hundreds of thousands of households in Northern Bangladesh. The plan is to reach national scale in the next 4 to 5 years.
- Last year, No Lean Season was operating in 82 villages and disbursed subsidies to over 5,000 households. This year, the program is operating in 700 villages and are planning to offer over 150,000 subsidies.
- Evidence Action plans to continue learning about the impacts of No Lean Season on the households and communities involved in the program. To this end, Evidence Action has created a research learning agenda, and continues to engage IPA and Mushfiq Mobarak in the research on the effects of the program.
- Evidence Action is actively seeking to purposefully expand No Lean Season into new countries. This year, No Lean Season expanded to Indonesia, where a pilot is currently being conducted.

Thank you

