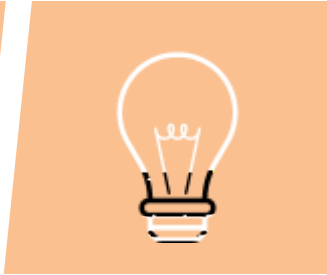


# Doing Better in Forcibly Displaced Contexts: Improving Outcomes through Trial-and-Adopt Impact Evaluation





## Obsolete approach to economic development

Piecemeal

Pre-set designs

No real time information & updating

Evaluation at the end-if at all


## DIME's Trial-and-Adopt technology for economic development

Programmatic

Flexible designs

Intensive use of data and digital

Iterative trials to test ideas and  
adapt implementation to get the  
job done



Small investments in impact evaluation trial-and-adopt technology can increase the impact of our investments by more than 50 percent



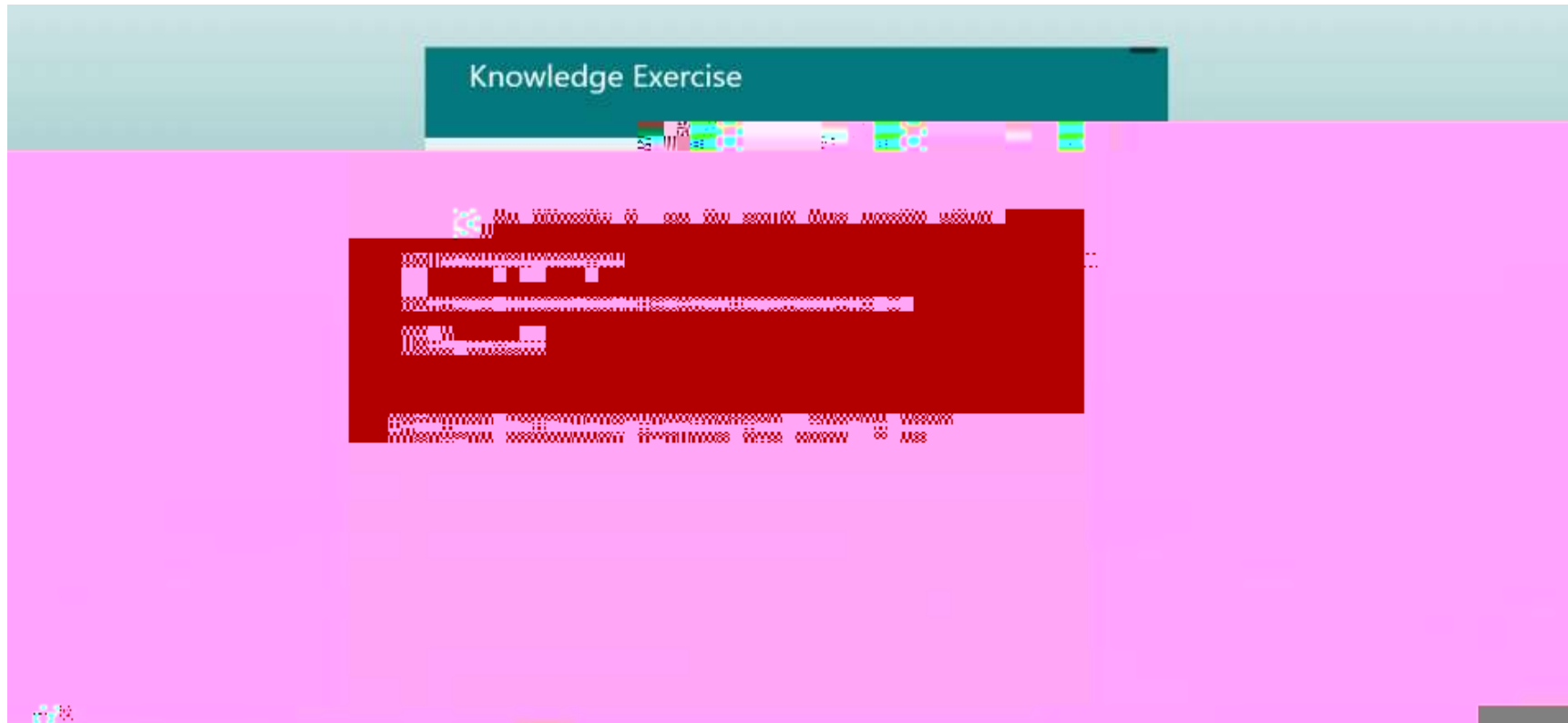
## The technology for doing better

1. Invest in data to know in what and where to invest
2. Trial ideas and adopt the best ("trial-and-adopt" impact evaluation)
3. Work strategically and programmatically to mainstream learning and achieve better outcomes
4. Strengthen local capacity to manage programs and policies for *impact*



# Knowledge Exercise

<https://forms.office.com/r/DfYZuhT1CC>







# Impact Evaluation

- How can we \_\_\_\_\_
- Does a cash grant transfer \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. cash grant combined with training)?



# Important Concepts

What we observe, measure and want  
to affect

Change in outcomes caused by the  
program

cause is used because it can  
be attributed to the program

Impact Evaluation's goal is to respond to the following question ...

What is the impact of

on

?

What is the impact of

on

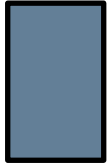
?

Consider the following example...

---

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Before

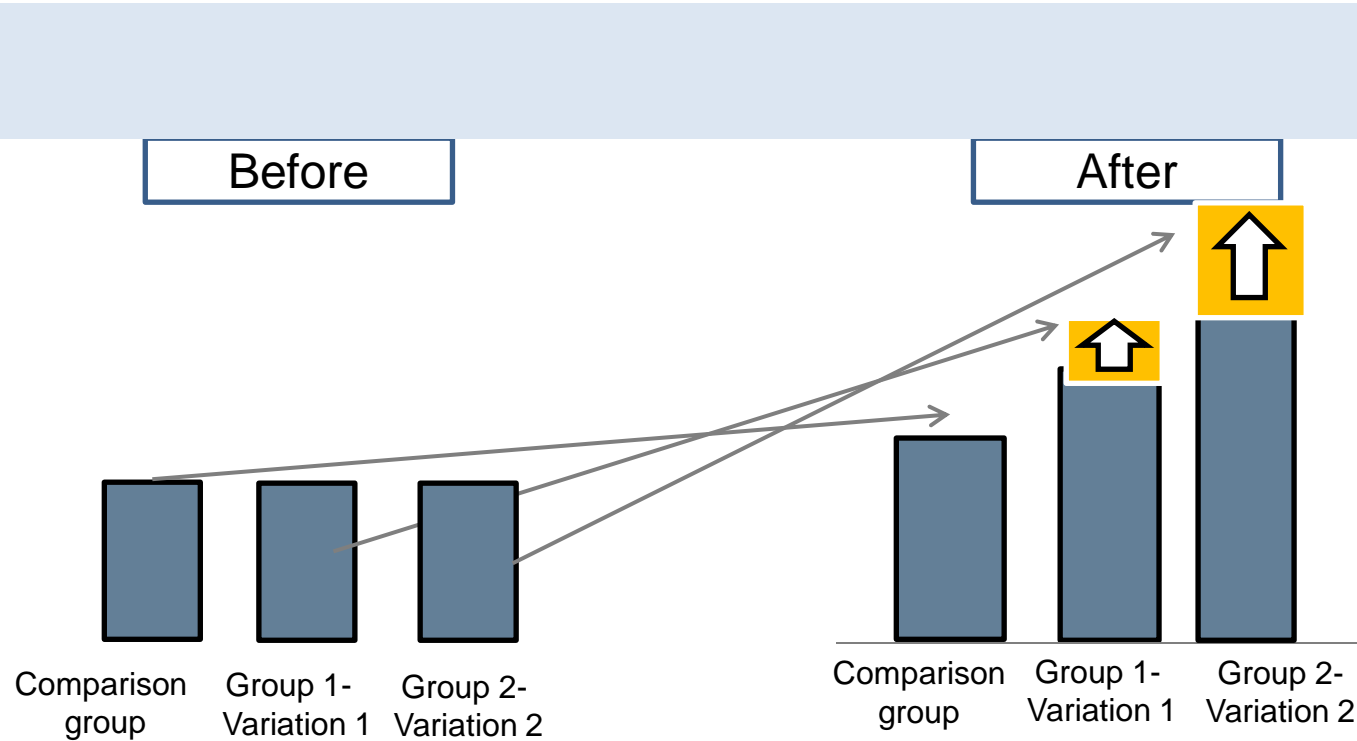


Group 1  
Variation 1



# Use IE to learn & get better

Compare the impact of variations of an intervention on employment outcomes before and after the intervention.



Which Group has a larger effect? \_\_\_\_\_

*...therefore which Group should you adopt in your program*



# Practical challenge for IE: Selecting a proper counterfactual group is not trivial

For our skills training intervention, a valid counterfactual group consists of:

A group of youth with similar characteristics to those who are participating in the skills training program...

But who do not actually participate in the program

Non-participants are usually not a "good" counterfactual because they often are different from the group receiving the intervention and those differences may bias the impact estimates

" ~ " pL %oo> ^ Bp N ^ ~ > B, Y ~ " L ^ N B " Y >



# Steps to Randomize

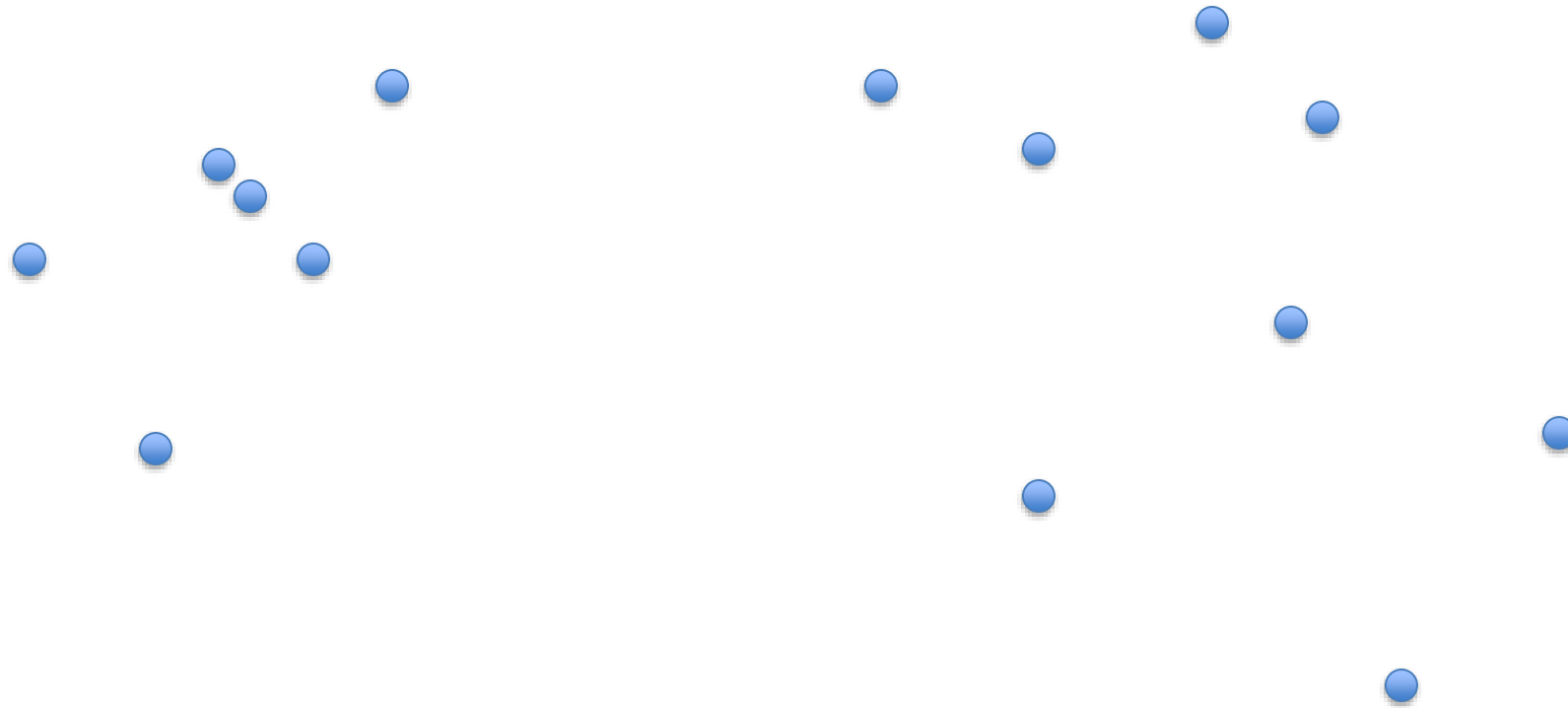
## 1. Choose sample for impact evaluation

These are people who are eligible for project

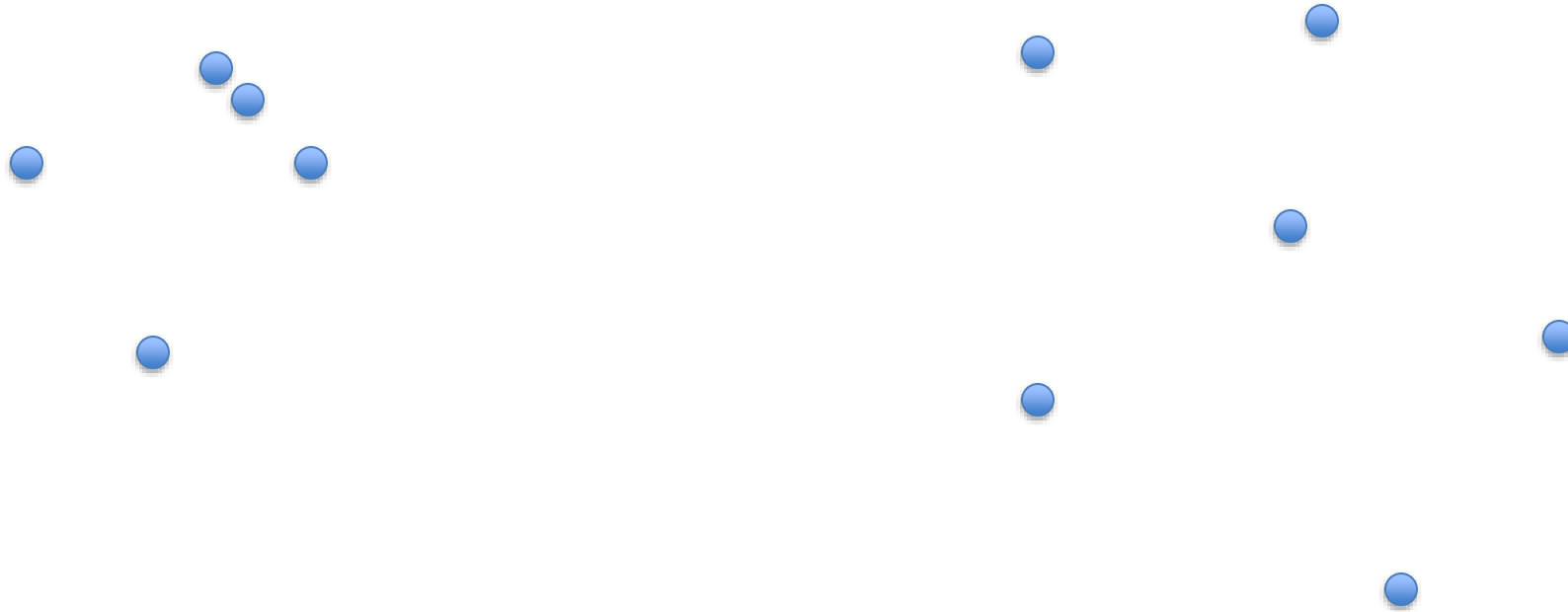
Selection of sample affects

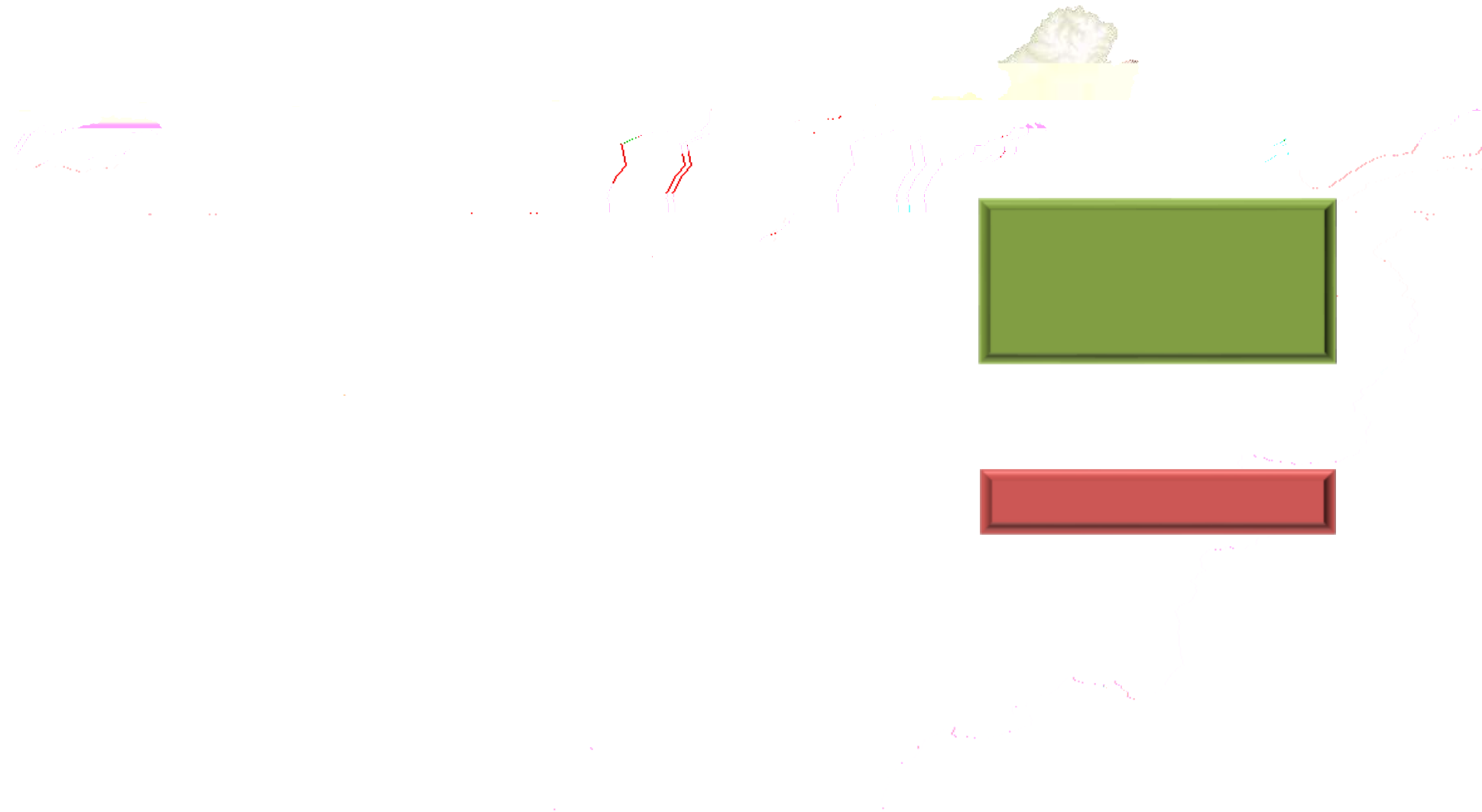
only, i.e. the ability to

Start with sample of  
all possible program participants



# Choose who will be part of impact evaluation







# There are many real-world situations where random assignment make sense. For example:

Budget constraints prevent full coverage – Random assignment (lottery) is fair and transparent

Limited implementation capacity – Randomized phase-in gives all the same chance to go first, Niger example

Situations where there is limited pre-existing data

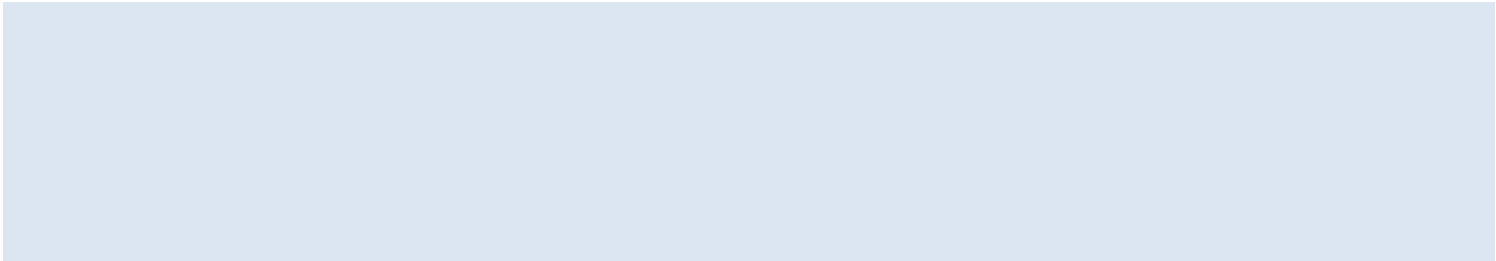
No evidence on which alternative is best – Random assignment enables you to pilot variations of an intervention and scale the one variation that is successful.

Example- Sahel ASP work

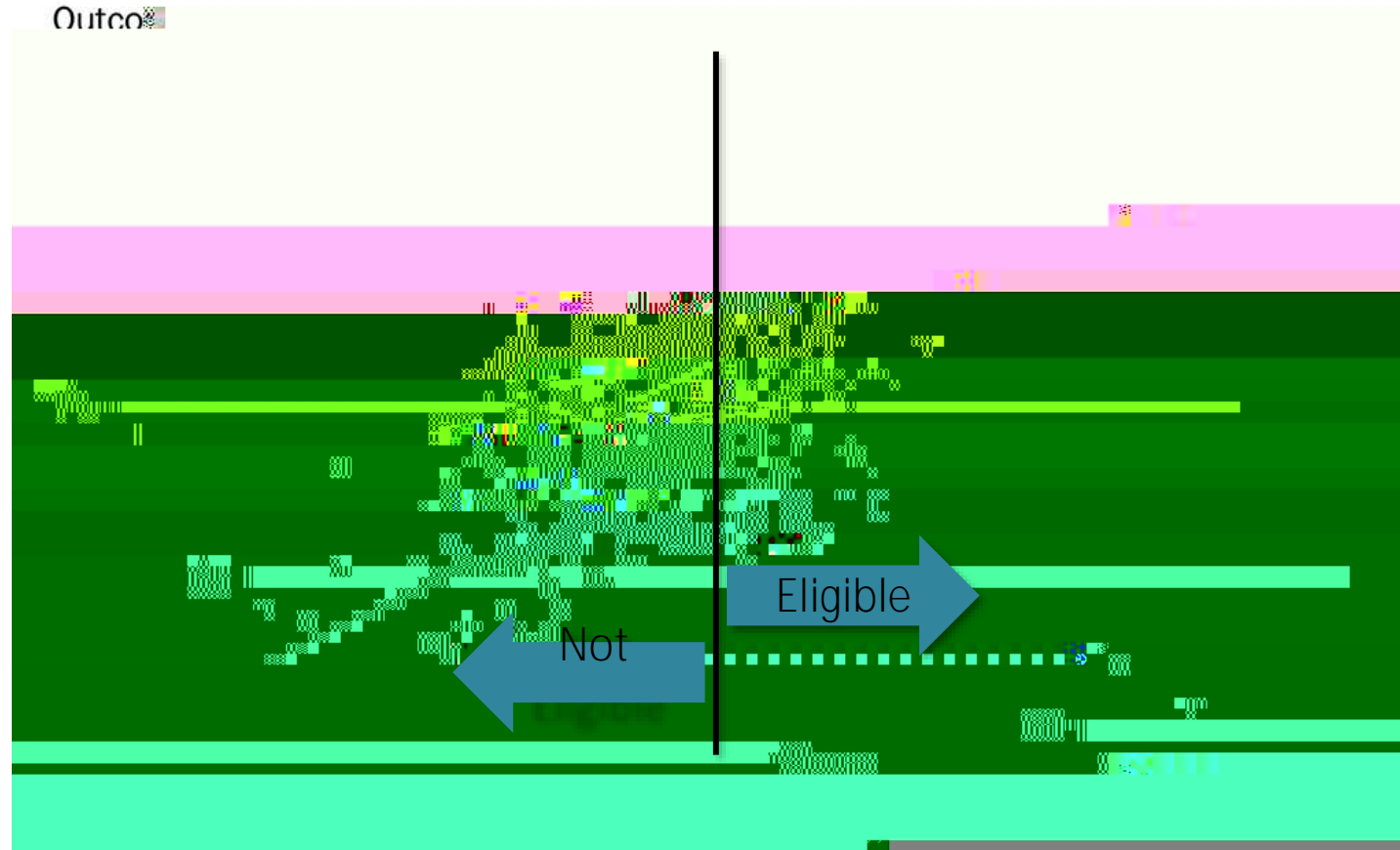


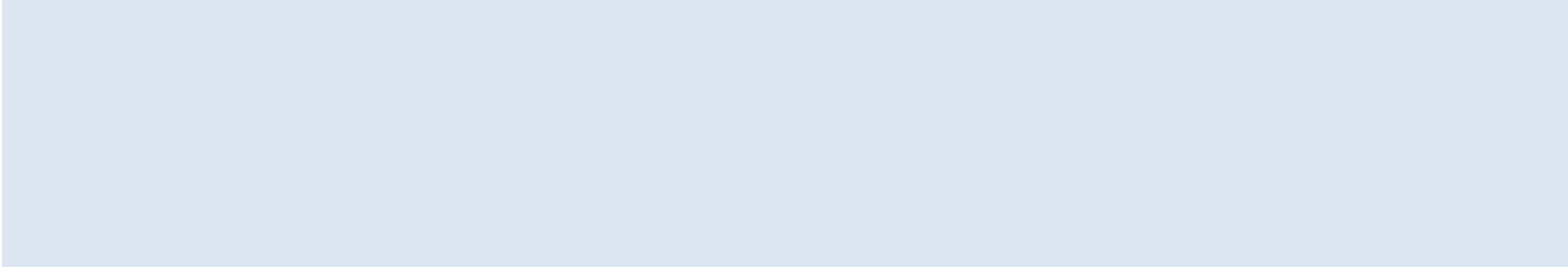
# Impact Evaluation Methods Toolbox

If it is not possible to randomize, there are other methods that can be employed to measure impacts in a rigorous manner.

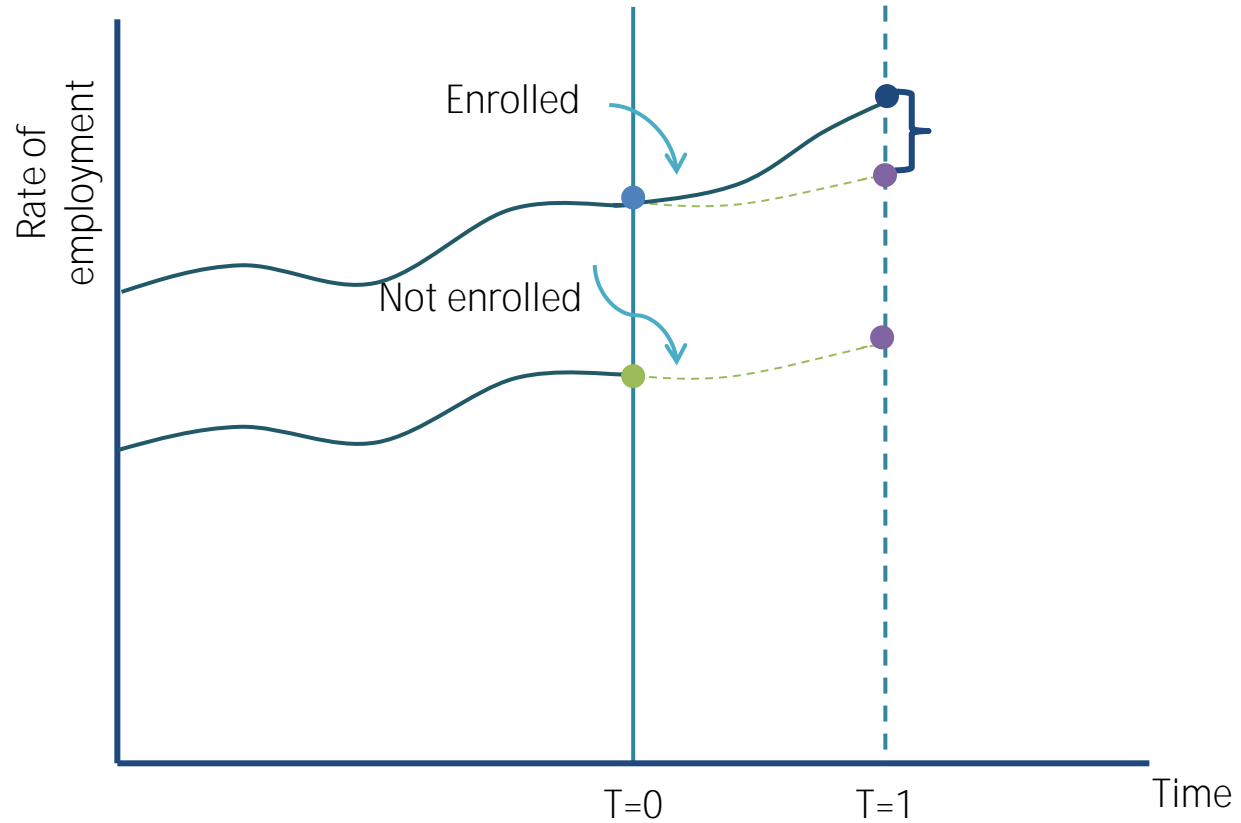


# We can't randomize – 1 : Discontinuity Design





# We can't randomize - 2 : Difference-in-differences



# We can't randomize – 3 : Propensity Score Matching (PSM)

Match individuals based on observable characteristics before the intervention takes place

Measure differences between these matched groups after the intervention is finished

# We can't randomize – 3 : Propensity Score Matching (PSM)

Can only match on observables

More observables = better match

But data are expensive

And unobservable characteristics might matter a lot

# Case Studies

the effects of reparations for victims of gross human rights violations, including victims of forced displacement, homicide, and other atrocities during the conflict

on household outcomes post-return

Economic opportunities to displaced and host populations

- Working to investigate and document impact of social protection programs on mental health



# References



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A fully virtual course, in which participants learn the workflow for primary data collection. The course covers best practices at all stages of the survey workflow, from planning to piloting instruments and monitoring data quality once fieldwork begins. There is a strong focus throughout on research ethics and reproducible workflows. The course uses a combination of virtual lectures, readings, and hands-



# Policy question

Can reparations help victims of human rights violations (mostly FD) rebuild their lives?

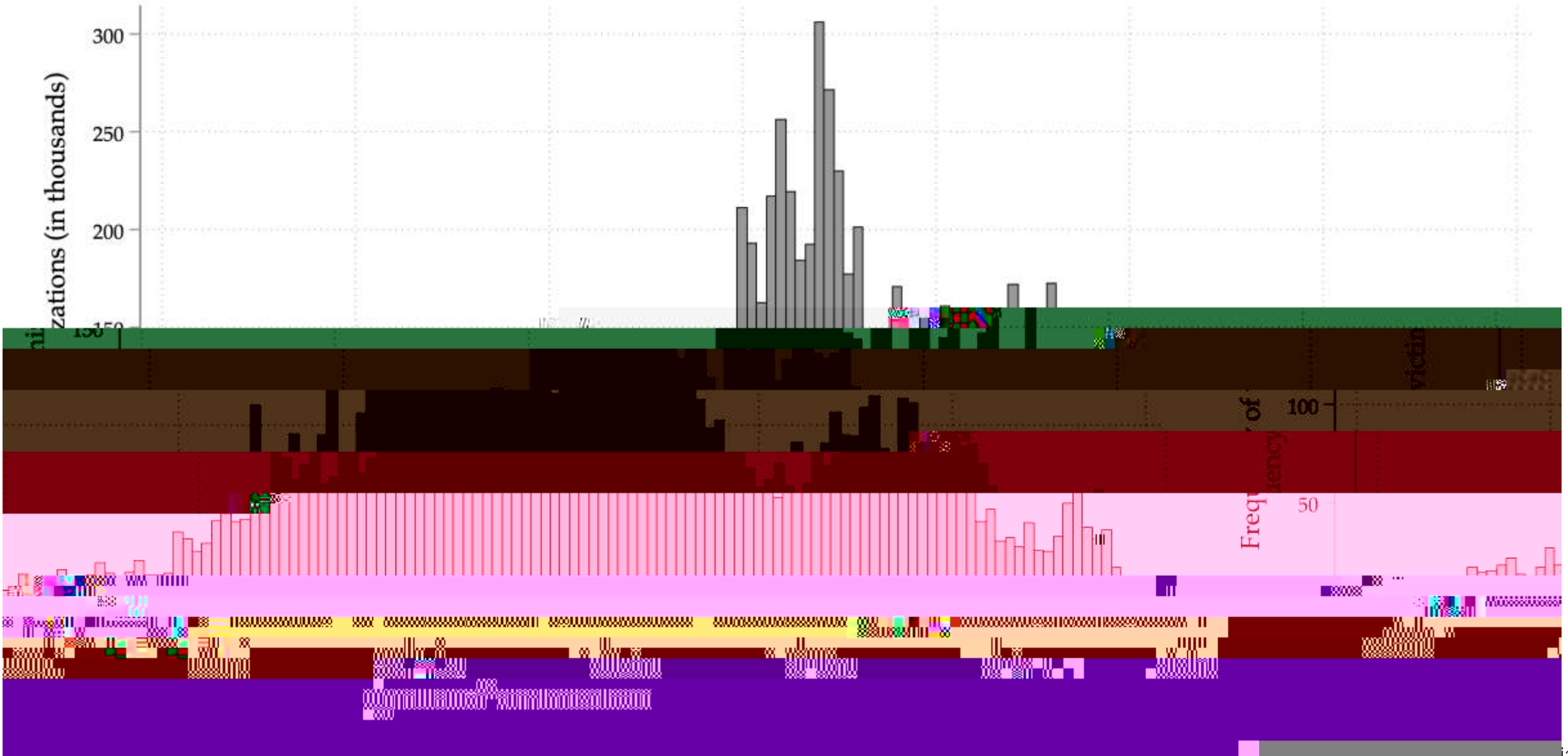
30 countries

What can we do?

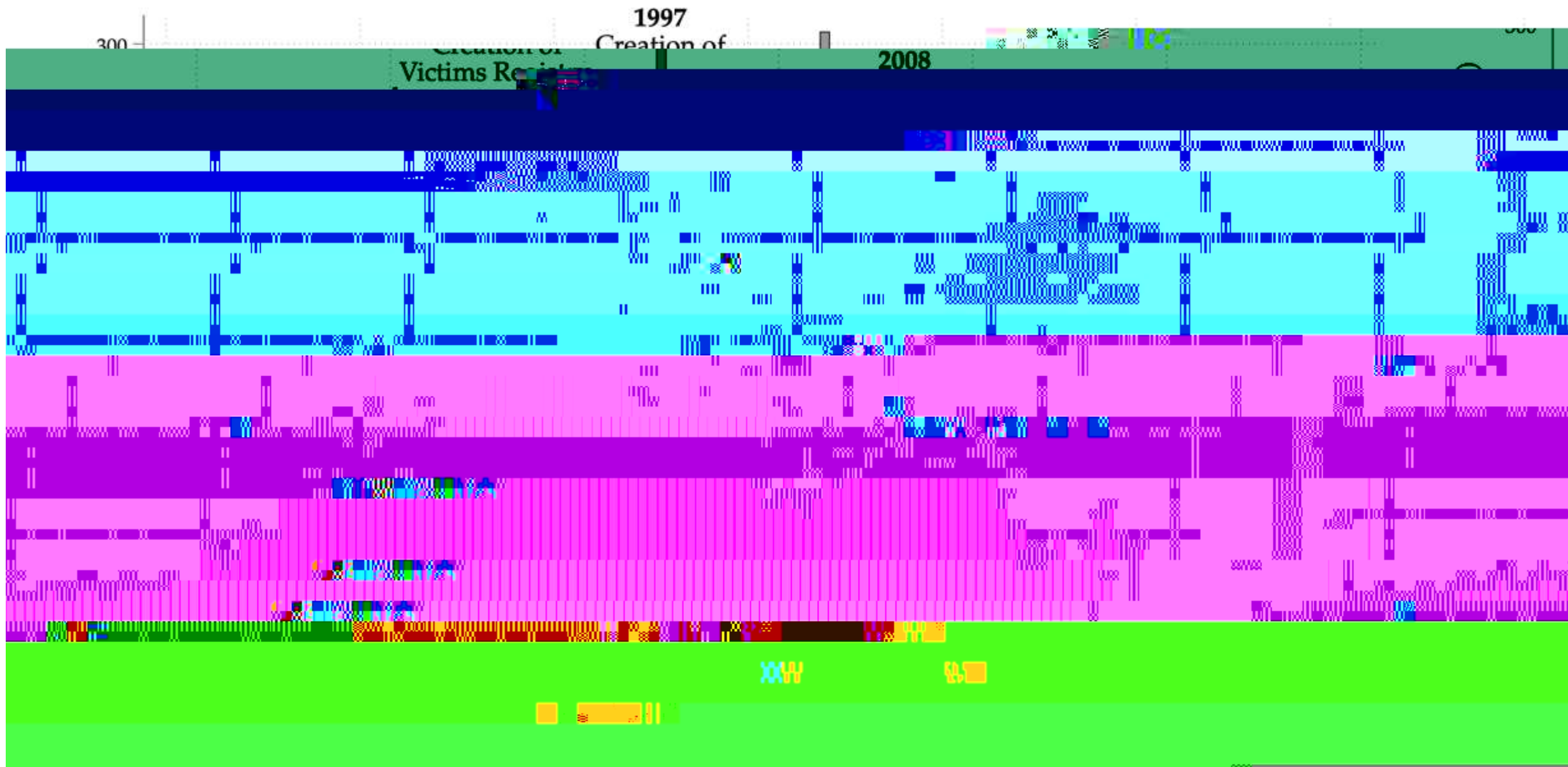




# Colombia's internal armed conflict and victims



# Colombia's internal armed conflict and victim assistance





# What can we do?

RCT

7 million

over 1 million

\$10,000 (\$26.200 at PPP)

# The key? Rich admin data!

panel

1. Work and living standards:



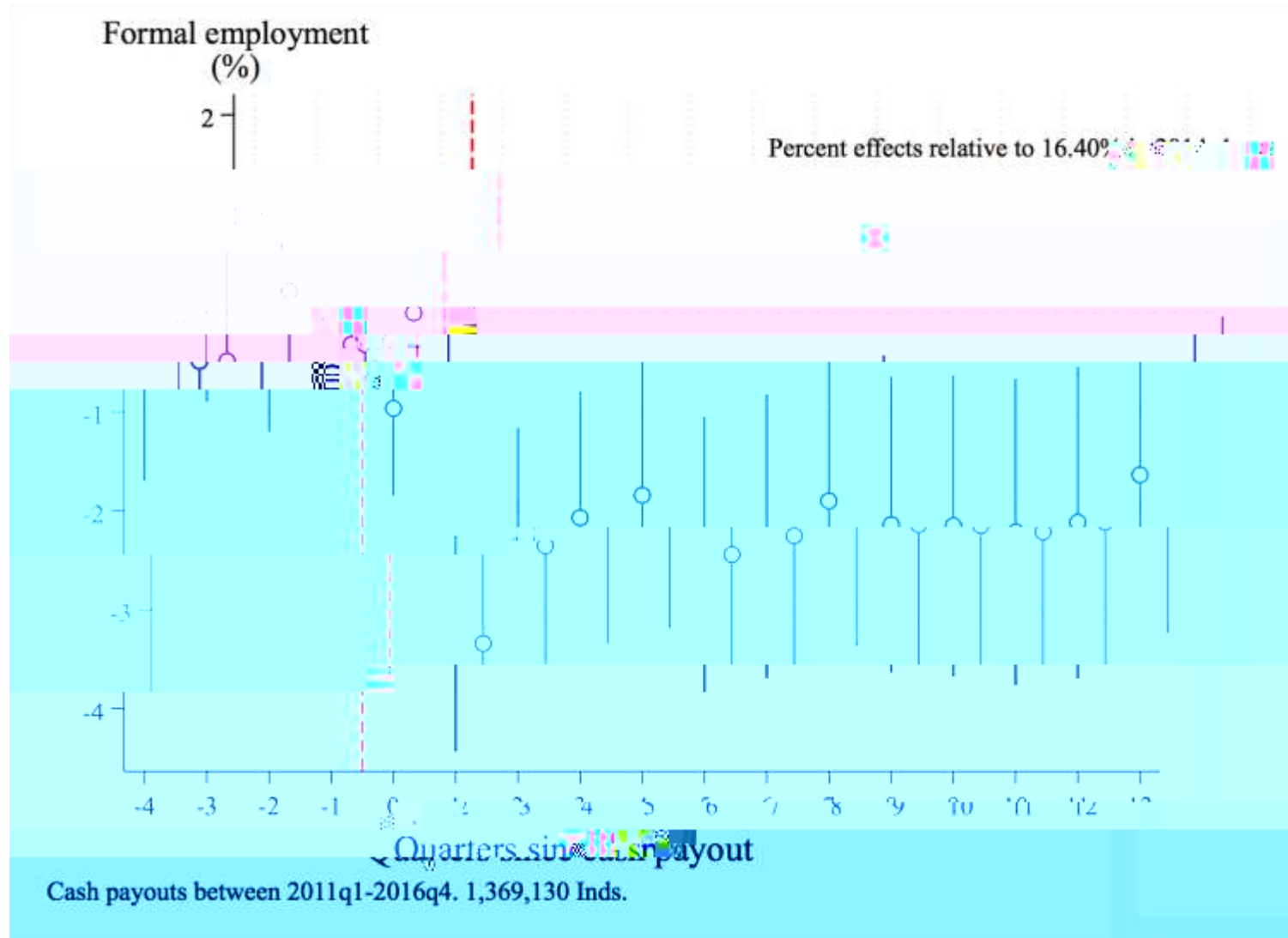
2. Health:



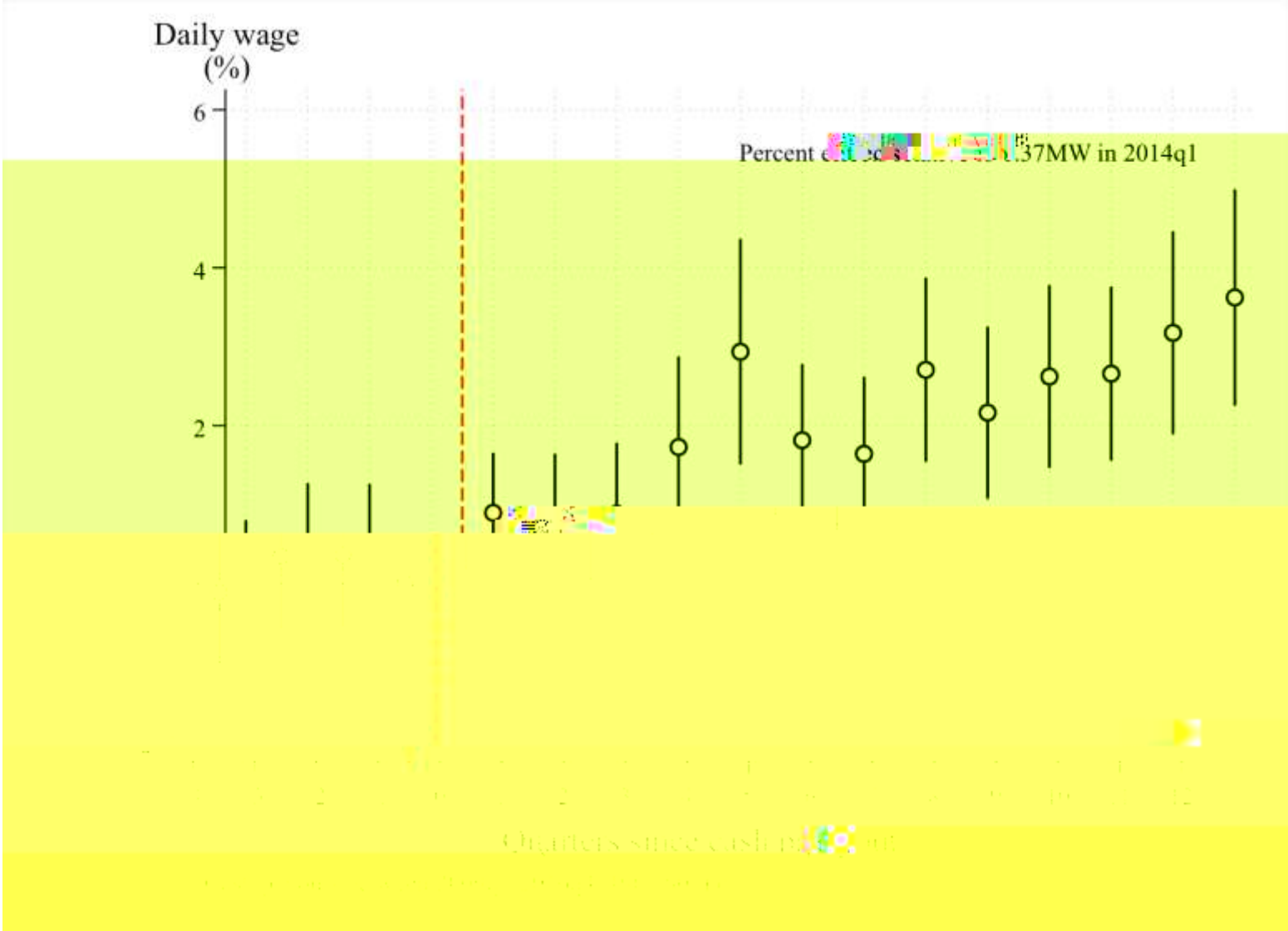
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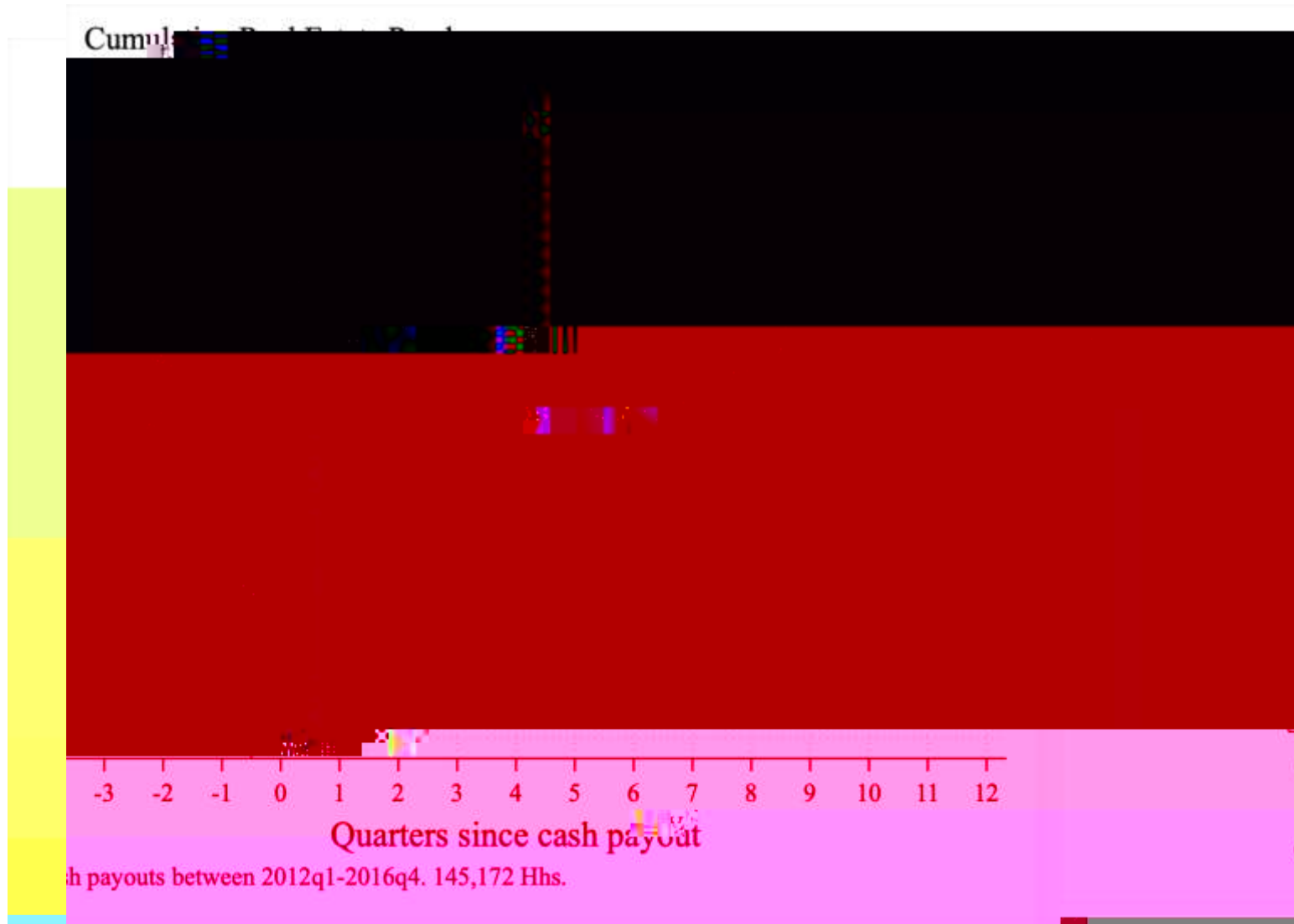
# Reparations induce a tiny shift out of formal employment



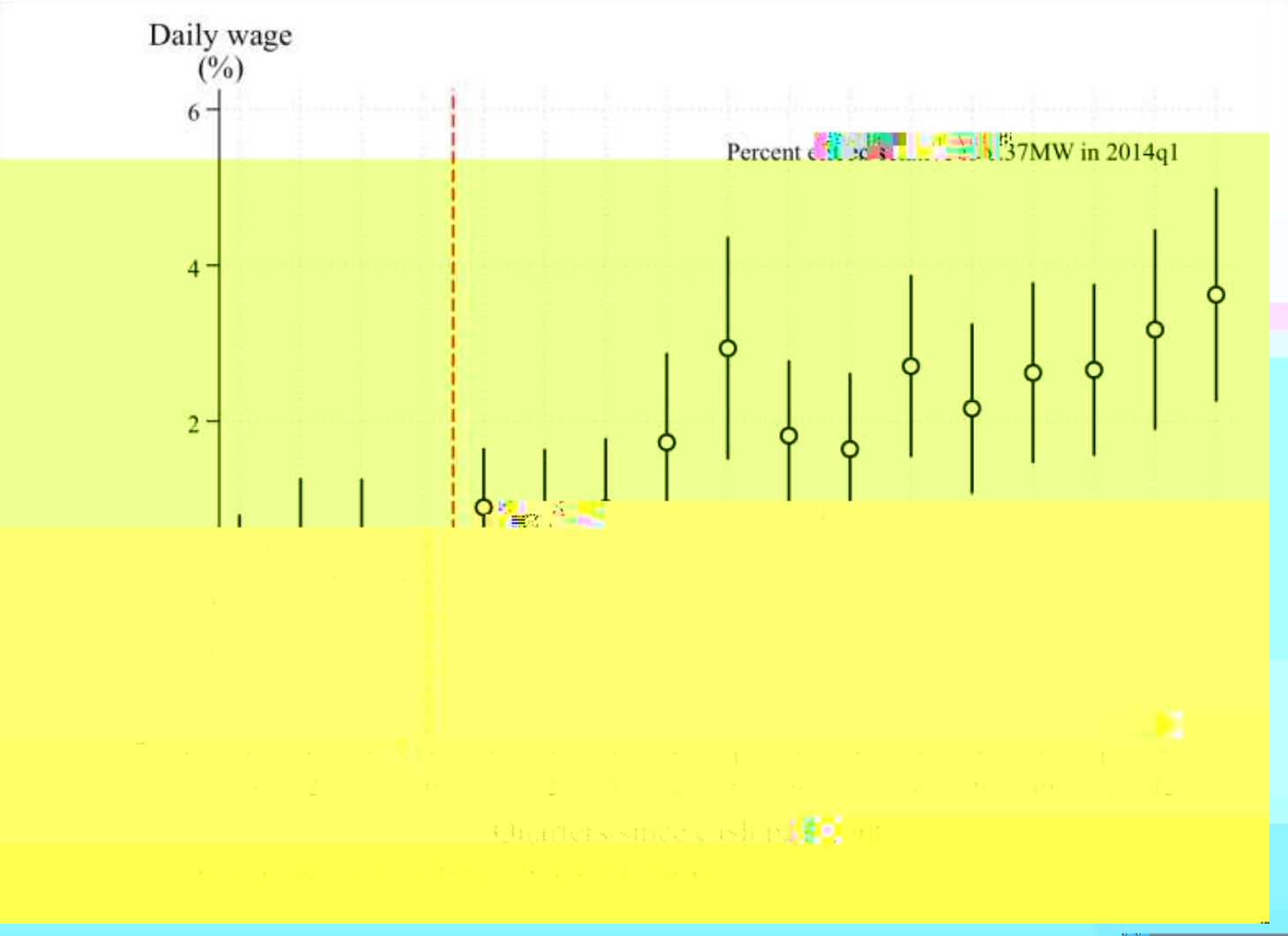
# Reparations improve outside options and job quality



# Reparations increase durables consumption



# Reparations seem to improve recipients' health



Victims invest reparation in their children's human capital

# Key Messages



# Contacts & Funding

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UCLA: Juliana Londoño-Vélez - [j.londonovelez@econ.ucla.edu](mailto:j.londonovelez@econ.ucla.edu)

Banco de la República: Christian Manuel Posso - [cpossosu@banrep.gov.co](mailto:cpossosu@banrep.gov.co)

We acknowledge and thank the following for funding this project:

- Center for Effective Global Action
- Weiss Family Program Fund
- Center for Equitable Growth at UC Berkeley.

# Building Evidence on the Return Experience of Afghan Refugees: A WB-UNHCR Collaboration

Paola Elice, Impact Evaluation Specialist, FCV Group, World Bank

Work led by: Hisham Esper, Nandini Krishnan, and  
Christina Wieser





# Data sources

(PPVR) --- 2011 in Pakistan

UNHCR's

(VRF) --- (102,253 household observation;  
442,993 individuals between 2016 and  
2017).

UNHCR's

# Sudden programming change

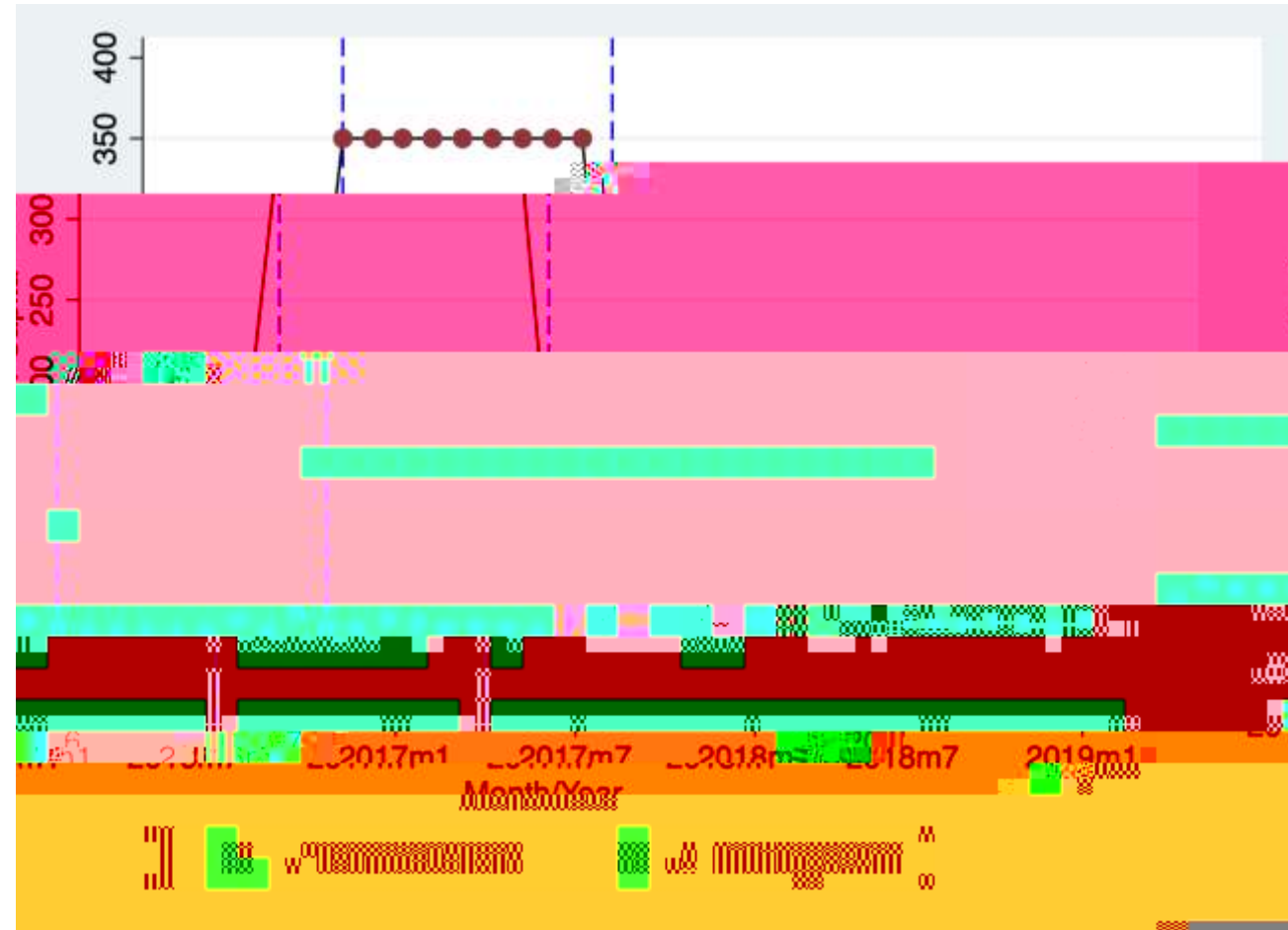
UNHCR provides an Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) to all registered Afghan refugees returning from Pakistan.

Cash transfer amount of about \$200.

UNHCR commissioner announced an increase in the cash transfer amount on 1 July 2016. Similar process for later reduction ([UNHCR, 2016](#)).

Increase effective for 9 months, from July 2016 to March 2017.

Reduced back to \$200 in April 2017 due to UNHCR budget constraints.



# Findings

16 months after return ...

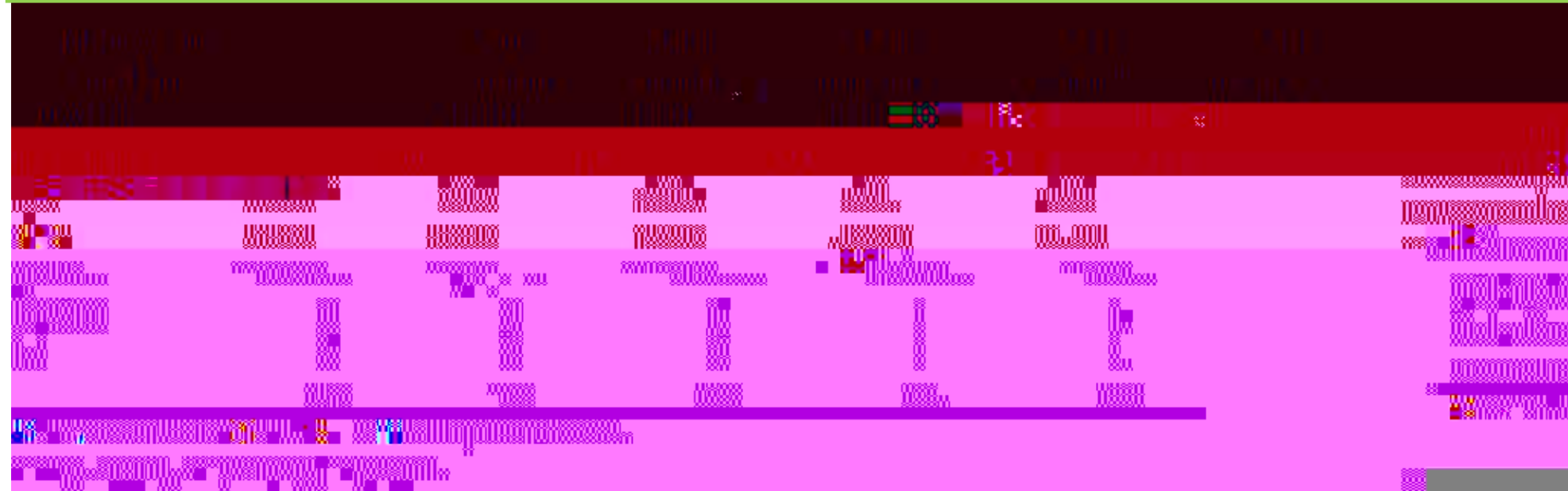
: Those that received \$400 were  
to invest in durable assets (for example a house);

: those that received \$400 were  
to have obtained legal documentation for all household members;

# Regression results

<i>item</i>	(1) <i>Own house</i>	(2) <i>Employed household Member</i>	(3) <i>All household members have tasks</i>	(4) <i>Spent most of the assistance on food</i>	(5) <i>All children in school</i>
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Cash amount	-0.170***	0.016	-0.298		
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# House ownership post-return

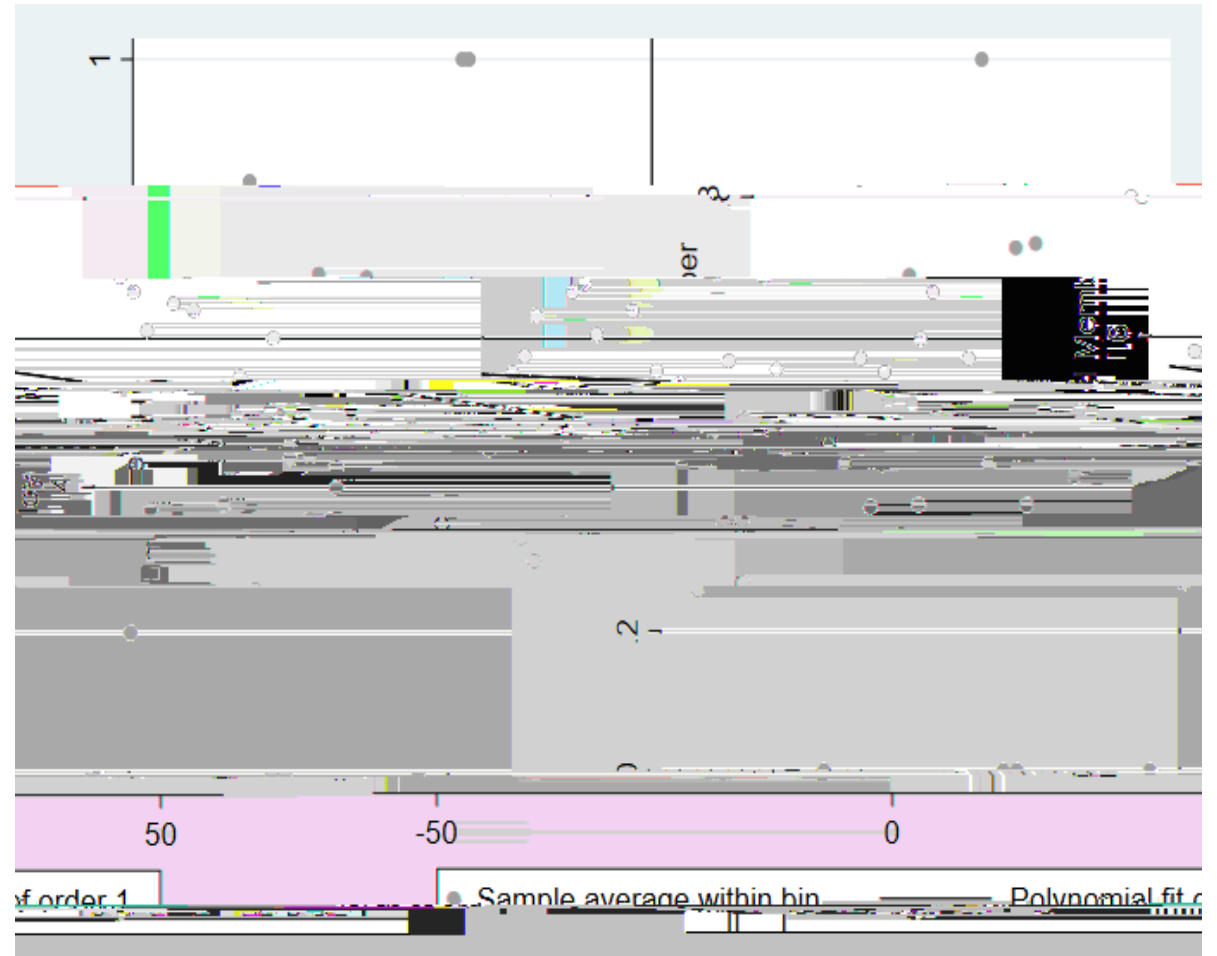


# Employment outcomes post-return

No significant effect of reintegration assistance on employment outcomes.

Probability of households having an employed member is around 50% for both groups.

In line with literature on effect of UCTs on labor supply ([Banerjee et al. 2017](#) and [Covarrubias et al. 2012](#))



# Wrap-up

Impact Evaluation with a Regression Discontinuity Design with cut-off being the date the programming change was implemented

Impact Evaluation utilizing Existing Administrative Data

Important findings on the impact, 16-months post-return, of receiving a larger cash assistance amount on durable assets, documents

# Thank you

This work is part of the program "Building the Evidence on Protracted Forced Displacement: A Multi-Stakeholder Partnership". The program is funded by UK aid from the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), it is managed by the World Bank Group (WBG) and was established in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The scope of the program is to expand the global knowledge on forced displacement by funding quality research and disseminating results for the use of practitioners and policy makers. This work does not necessarily reflect the views of FCDO, the WBG or UNHCR.



# Context

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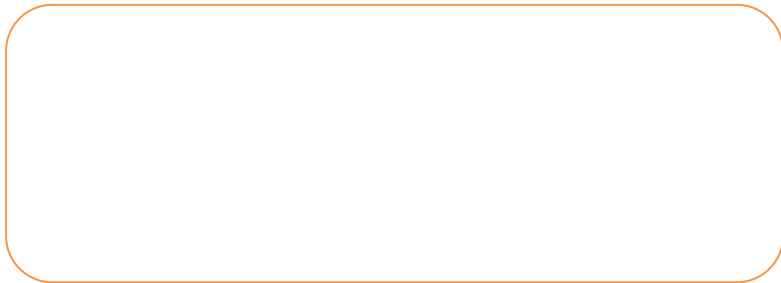
# PARCA

World Bank-funded Refugees and Host Communities Support Project  
(Projet d'appui aux réfugiés et aux communautés d'accueil, PARCA)

Implemented by the Nigerien government

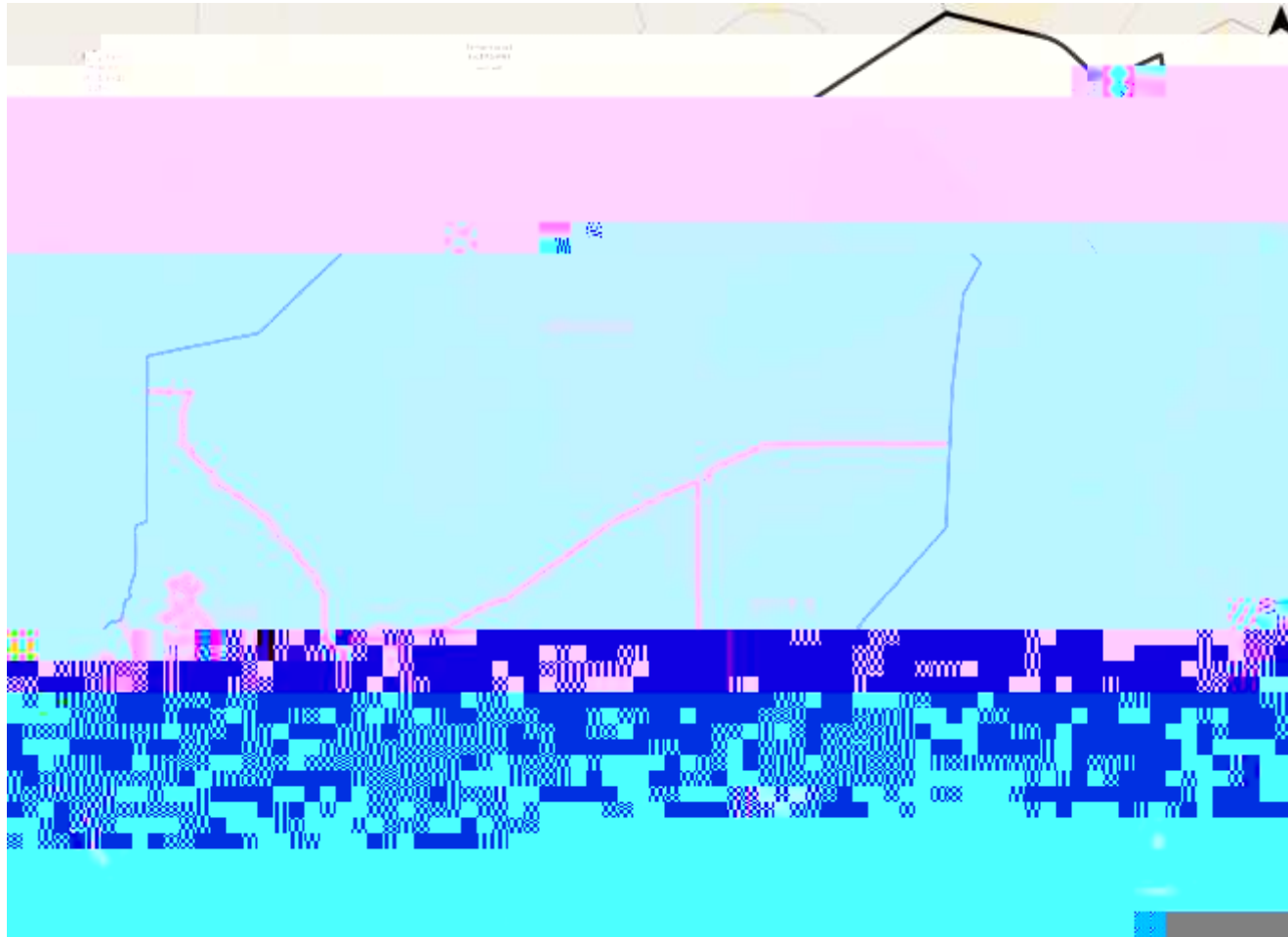
Improve access to basic services and economic opportunities for  
refugees, IDPs, and hosts

In Niger's most fragile regions (Diffa, Tillabéri, Tahoua, Maradi)





# PARCA regions



2018-2023 reported conflicts, ACLED



# Supporting PARCA from design

## ...to implementation

June 2020

- Community-based poverty ranking, classify into different poverty levels

# Debunking misconceptions through data

Examples of tentative biases at project conception:

High number of displaced in all areas of the program?

Displaced worse off than hosts?

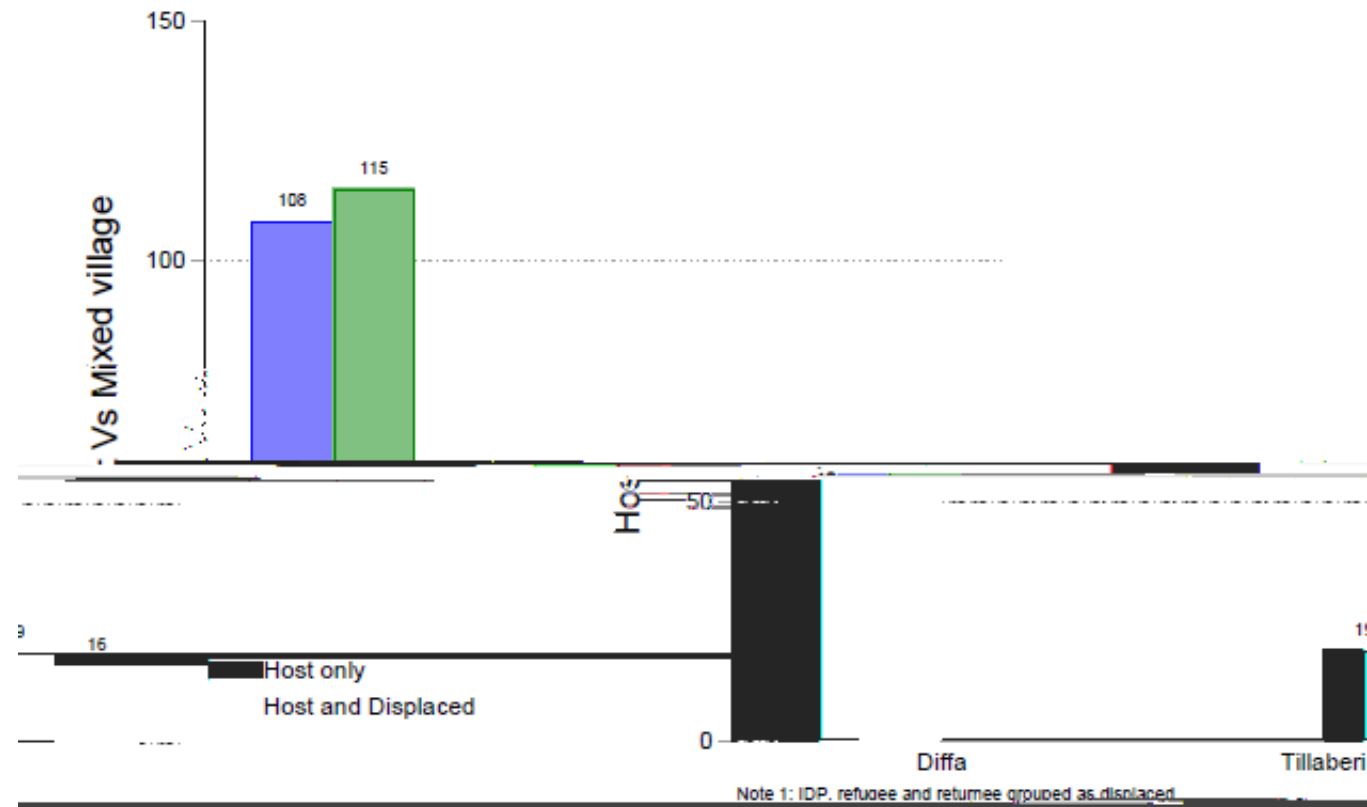
May be tensions between different population groups?

~A>%<sub>0</sub> S~L`H>" >~

# Where are the displaced?

40% displaced in Diffa, versus 22% in Tillabéri  
(only IDPs)

Villages are also less mixed in Tillabéri



- Hosts
- IDPs
- Refugié.es
- Retourné.es

# Vulnerability differences?

Populations are all extremely vulnerable, regardless of whether they are hosts or  
HS%o.>BLH

Food Security: barely meets the international threshold

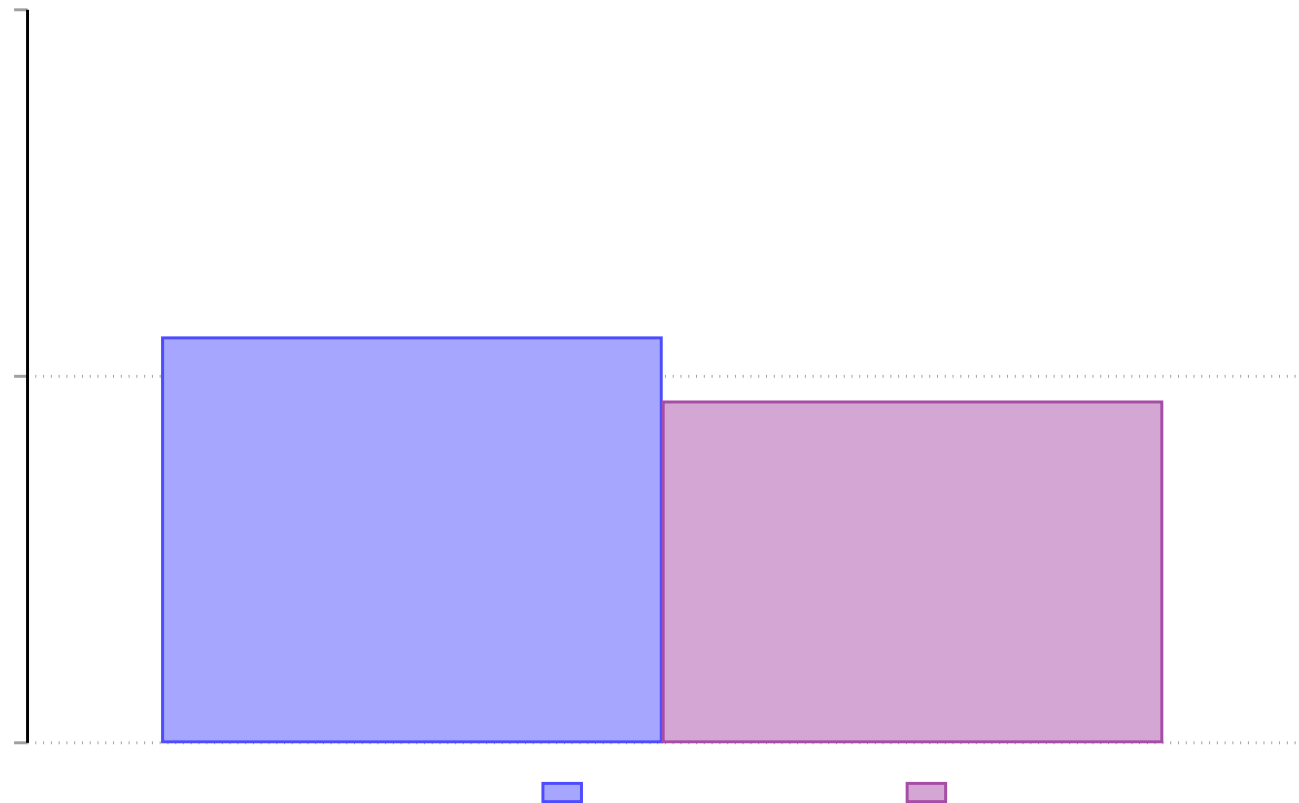


# Tensions?

Distrust and tensions are low  
(discrimination, aggression, theft)

Rethink social cohesion  
constraints within these areas and  
what are the drivers of conflict

Less than 10% report conflict



# Key messages

Trial-and-Adopt/IEs exercises can be helpful throughout the project lifecycle (facilitate design, data to rethink interventions)

## (Very) Preliminary Findings

Suggest that the entrepreneurship package had positive effects on household income, employment, and economic activities

## Forthcoming

Other outcomes psychological well-being, vertical and horizontal trust, and social interactions

Breakdown per population group, incl. internally displaced individuals, refugees, and



# Contacts & Funding

## World Bank:

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Chloë Fernandez: [cfernandez2@worldbank.org](mailto:cfernandez2@worldbank.org)

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Carol Newman: [cnewman@tcd.ie](mailto:cnewman@tcd.ie)

We acknowledge and thank the following for funding:

- PARCA project
- FCDO-UNHCR-WB Building the Evidence on Forced Displacement Research Program
- World Bank Knowledge for Change Program
- World Bank Sahel Country Management Unit

# Psychosocial Value of Work *Rohingya Refugee Camps*



The image is a vertical collage. The top section shows a dark, atmospheric landscape with a greenish tint. Below this is a close-up of a person's face, partially obscured by a semi-transparent pink bar containing the text "and give us work.". The bottom section features a vibrant field of yellow and orange flowers, possibly tulips, with a green foreground. The overall composition is layered and colorful.

and give us work."

# Refugees worldwide

And yet

70% of refugees face restrictions on the right to work (UNHCR Global Livelihoods Survey, 2019)

Rights to work and start a business are protected by the 1951 Refugee Convention

Nearly half the states that have ratified the Convention have declared reservations to these rights

Many of the 48 non-signatory states also limit work rights

This contributes to the high incidence of poverty among many refugee populations.

# Unemployment and Mental Health

Identifying the benefits of employment has implications for a vast range of policies:

Responses to forcibly displaced communities

Assistance schemes for the unemployed (Universal Basic Income, cash-for-work)

# Policy question

What is the value of employment,  
beyond its direct monetary benefit,  
on

# Employment in the Rohingya refugee camps

Bangladesh is not a party to the 1951 Convention and refugees not allowed to work

There are limited opportunities to engage in informal day labor (agriculture, construction) which is difficult because of strict military checkpoints -> mobility restrictions

Most jobs that are available in the camps are provided by NGOs

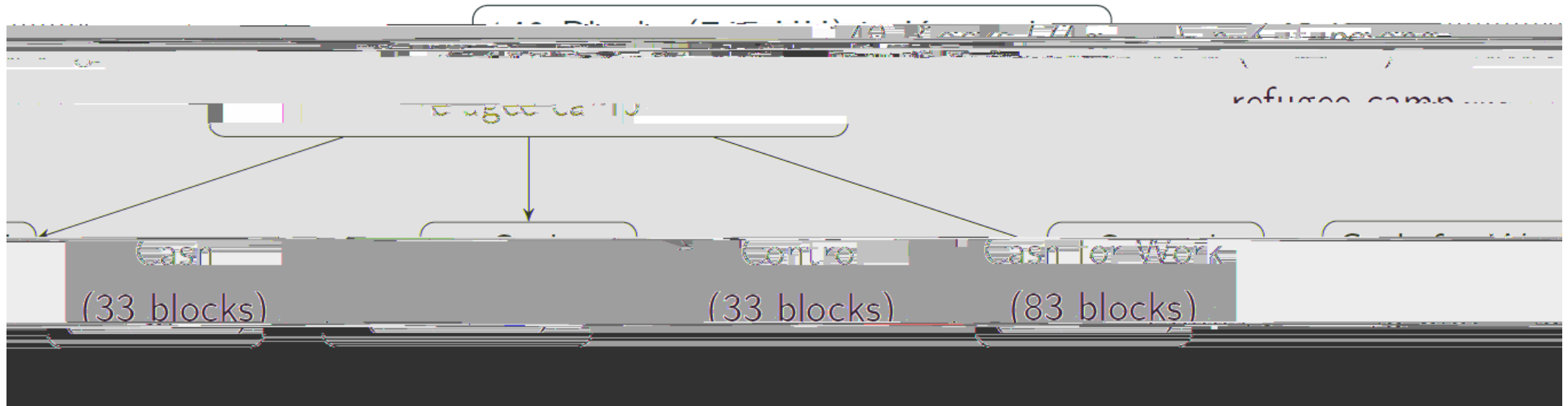
Refugees can be engaged in cash-for-work or volunteer activities for operational needs in camps (World Bank, 2020)

# The need for an impact evaluation

1. Selection: the unemployed may be different from the employed (attributes, or personal histories) in ways that affect their mental health regardless of their employment status.  
-- ~ >~ " ~compare employed to unemployed!
2. Mechanism: conflation of pecuniary and non-pecuniary benefits to wage labor



# Program Design



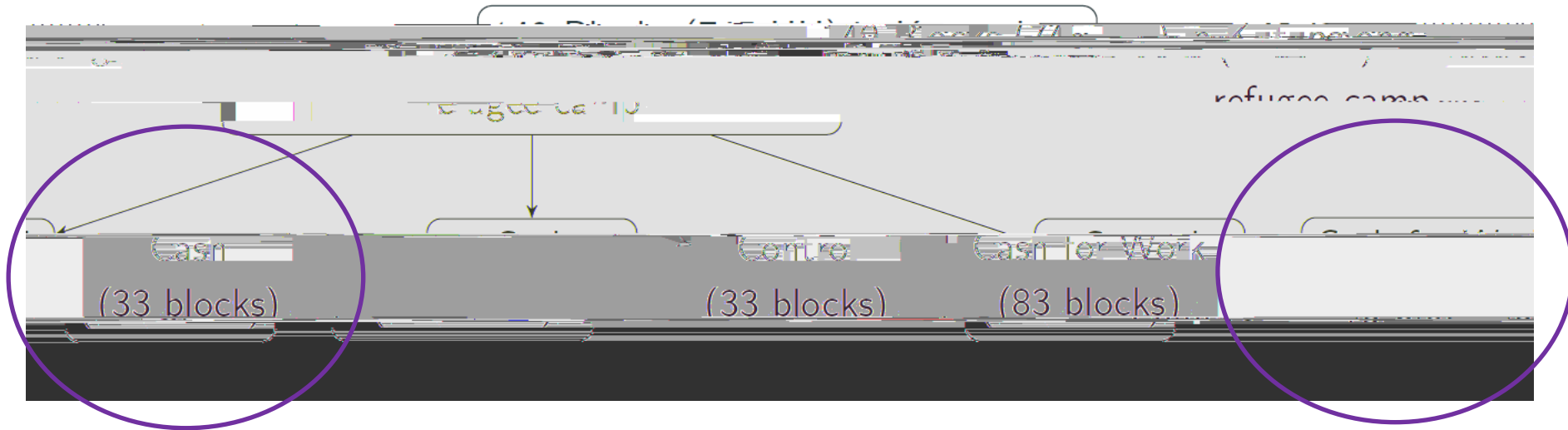
~5.30 USD for 3-4 days of work per week (8 weeks)

~5.30 USD for answering 15 min surveys per week (8 weeks)

0.60 USD for answering 15 min surveys per week (8 weeks)

# Program Design

Measuring the psycho-social value of work



# Program Design

Measuring the psycho-social value of work beyond monetary benefits



# Work interventions in the context of the camps

## Contextualized:

- Accessible to men and women

- Amenable to low literacy workforce

## Not too good, not too bad:

- Physical movement, outdoors, repetitive

- Required meaningful time and attention, but not physical

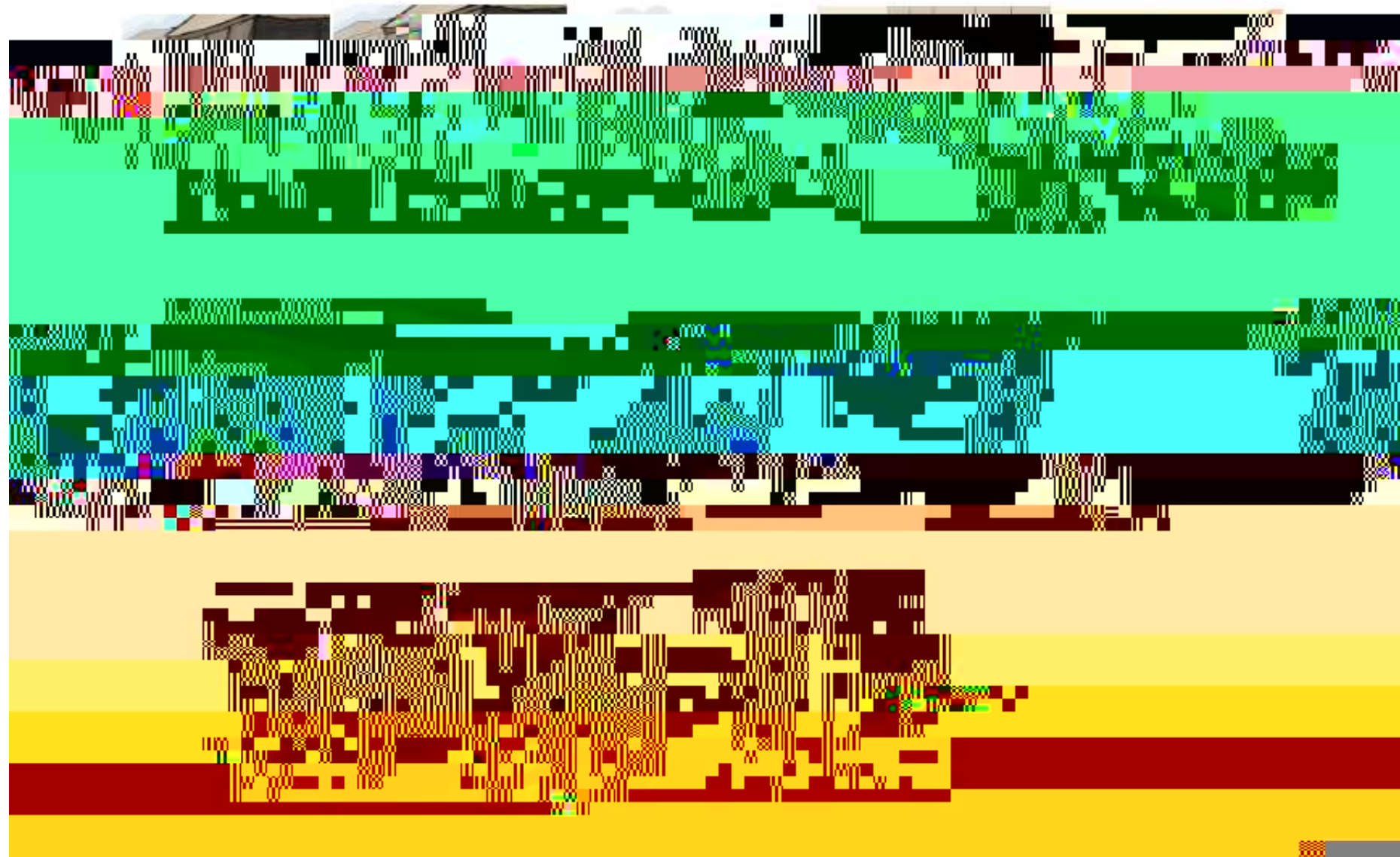
- Had clear purpose, but secondary to typical employment

- Offered by NGO, but no name recognition

NAME:

HHID:

TIME: 2:00 - 4:00



# Psychosocial well-being: work relative to no-work or cash

Significant improvement in mental health

A substantial reduction in feelings of anxiety or frustration

Higher life satisfaction, greater beliefs in their own self-worth,  
greater control over events in their lives, and feel more secure



# Psychosocial well-being: work relative to cash

Work yields significantly larger improvements (4 times)  
in psychosocial well-being than only cash

Physical health: 20% decrease in feeling unwell

Improvement in cognitive function!

# Do people value this activity?

97% say they are willing to work

70% of our sample is willing to work *for free*



# Key messages

Psycho-social benefits of work exceed those of cash in this setting (particularly for men)

Important for policy discussions on promoting the right to work  
Suggest cash-for-work programs may be preferable for those who can work than unconditional cash payments, particularly in depressed environments where scope for leisure activities is limited.

Area for further study:

Testing this hypothesis in other contexts

Testing what elements of work yield the greatest psychological benefits.

Documenting the impact of cash and cash for work on intra-household dynamics, bargaining power, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)



# Knowledge Exercise

<https://forms.office.com/r/DfYZuhT1CC>



Tell us your feedback!

Resources from today's session:

# See you at the next module!

Session	Topic	Date
1	Socio-economic data and its application to forced displacement	Sept 27, 2023
2	The Gender Dimensions of Forced Displacement	Oct 4, 2023
3		