

Collecting Representative Panel Data in a Refugee Setting Evidence from Southern Bangladesh

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Rohingya Refugees in Cox's Bazar

August 2017

- ▶ New wave of violence against Rohingya residents of Rakhine, Myanmar
- ▶ Sparked mass migration to Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

November 2019

- ▶ 719,920 arrivals since August 2017
- ▶ 932,940 refugees living in Cox's
- ▶ Most of them live in camps

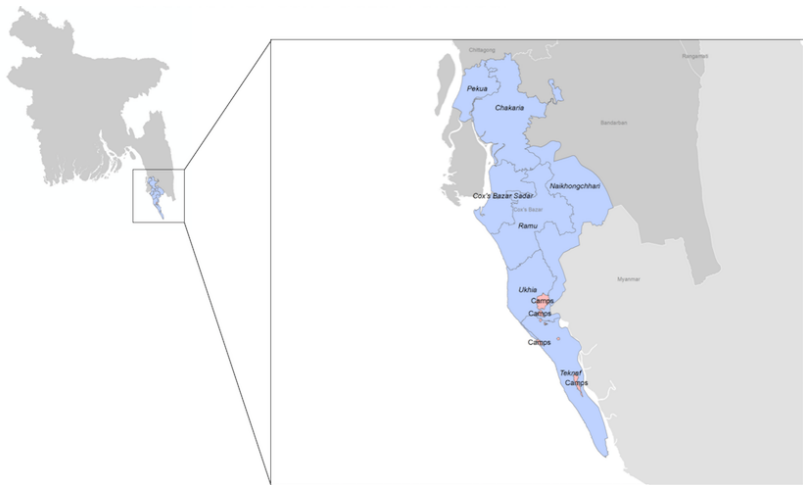
The Cox's Bazar Panel Survey (CBPS)

Key features:

- ▶ Representative of refugees and hosts near and far from camps
- ▶ Mixed-methods study, multi-topic surveys
- ▶ Panel dimension allows to study the trajectories of
 - ▶ Households
 - ▶ Two randomly selected adults
 - ▶ Two cohorts of adolescents and an adult caregiver in a subsample of households

Partners: GAGE/ODI, Yale University, World Bank

The Cox's Bazar Panel Survey



Key Facts about CBPS Sample

Two-stage sampling design

Listing in selected PSU:

- ▶ 45,916 households,
 - ▶ 218,000 people
 - ▶ Camps & host communities, near and far
- ▶ Household residents:
Camps 4.6, Hosts 5.0
- ▶ Female headed households:
Camps 30%, Hosts 13%

Survey sample:

- ▶ 5,020 households surveyed
- ▶ Information on 25,316 household members
- ▶ 9,386 in-depth adult surveys
- ▶ 50% camp residents <15
- ▶ 1% in host communities identify as Rohingya

CBPS Goals

- ▶ Generate
 - ▶ Descriptive evidence
 - ▶ Causal evidence
- ▶ To inform
 - ▶ Selection and design of interventions
 - ▶ Big policy questions
- ▶ Via large representative samples
 - ▶ Continued data collection on “panel” sample of 5,000 HH
 - ▶ Randomized rollout of interventions in listing of 45,000 HH

Descriptive evidence

- ▶ Representative sample of 5,000 households from both host and refugee communities
- ▶ Wave 1 (Apr-Jul 2019)
 - ▶ Comprehensive characteristics and measures of wellbeing
 - ▶ Identify needs and guides intervention design
 - ▶ Today's presentation on assets, prices, and labor markets is a start
- ▶ Wave 2 (Exp. Jul-Oct 2020) and future survey rounds
 - ▶ How does household wellbeing change over time?
 - ▶ What characteristics are associated with positive or negative changes?

Evidence of effectiveness

- ▶ Randomized evaluations
 - ▶ Credible method to establish causal relationships
 - ▶ Built-in control group: sample of 5,000 HHs
 - ▶ Large pool for treatment group: listing of 45,000 HHs
 - ▶ Allows for multiple interventions to understand the best combination
- ▶ Other methods
 - ▶ Some things, like transportation infrastructure, are difficult to randomize but important to study
 - ▶ Rollout can create “natural” treatment and control groups

Household Interview: Overview of Topics Covered

Administered to one adult household member

- ▶ Household roster: current and former household members, education, and employment
- ▶ Household characteristics: dwelling building materials, population density
- ▶ Consumption and food security: a seven-day food consumption recall; food scarcity and coping strategies
- ▶ Assistance: types of aid or assistance received by the household and assistance bartered
- ▶ Asset: key assets owned, resale value, ownership in July 2017
- ▶ Anthropometrics: height and weight for one randomly selected child under the age of 5

Adult Interview: Overview of Topics

Administered to two randomly selected member age >15 or above

- ▶ Labor market: employment activity, past week and past year
- ▶ Labor market history: employment in July 2016-July 2017
- ▶ Migration history: short-term migrations in the past year and long-term migrations since age 12
- ▶ Use of health services: health care utilization, status, and expenditures; and commuting time to clinics
- ▶ Crime and conflict: exposure to crime and conflict at home and in the neighborhood
- ▶ Trauma and mental health: traumatic experiences depressive symptoms, and trauma symptoms

Preliminary Findings

Labor markets

- ▶ Host employment and earnings increased modestly
- ▶ While similarly productive pre-displacement, refugees earn much less post-displacement

Assets

- ▶ Refugees experienced major losses of productive assets
- ▶ No evidence of dissaving by hosts

Prices

- ▶ Suggestive evidence that food aid is traded, with mixed effects on prices
- ▶ But prices fluctuate significantly for reasons unrelated to displacement

Important disclaimers

- ▶ Comparisons here are informative but *not causal*
- ▶ In the interest of time, will elide some methodological details

Key Findings - Labor markets

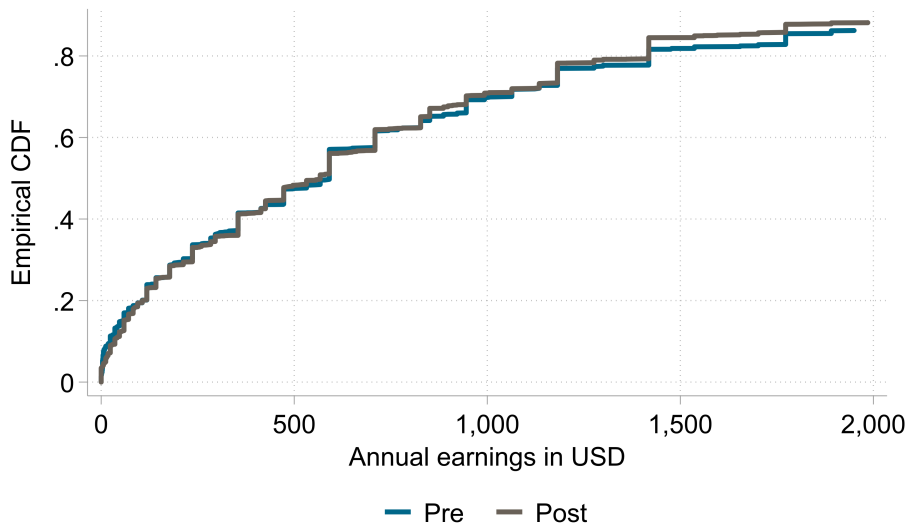
- ▶ Host employment and earnings increased modestly
- ▶ While similarly productive pre-displacement, refugees earn much less post-displacement

Any Employment in Prior 12 Months



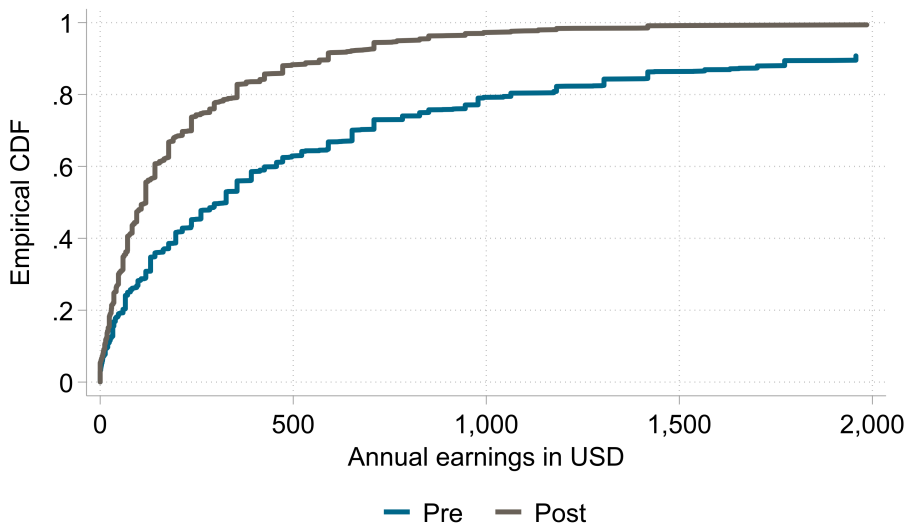
- ▶ High post-displacement employment among refugees likely explained by in-camp volunteer activities
- ▶ Labor force participation differs across groups

Host Earnings



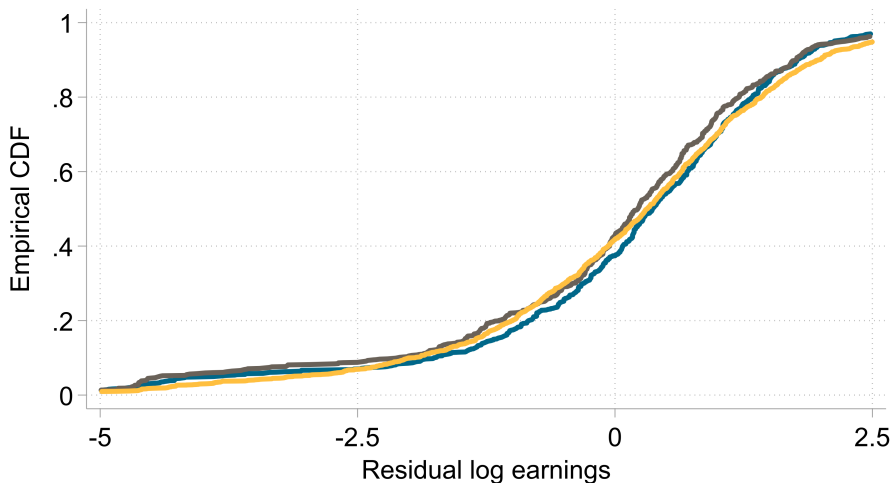
Monetary earnings from primary jobs over a 12 month period.
Excludes respondents who report not being employed or temporarily absent from work.
Excludes employed respondents who refused or did not know earnings.

Refugee Earnings



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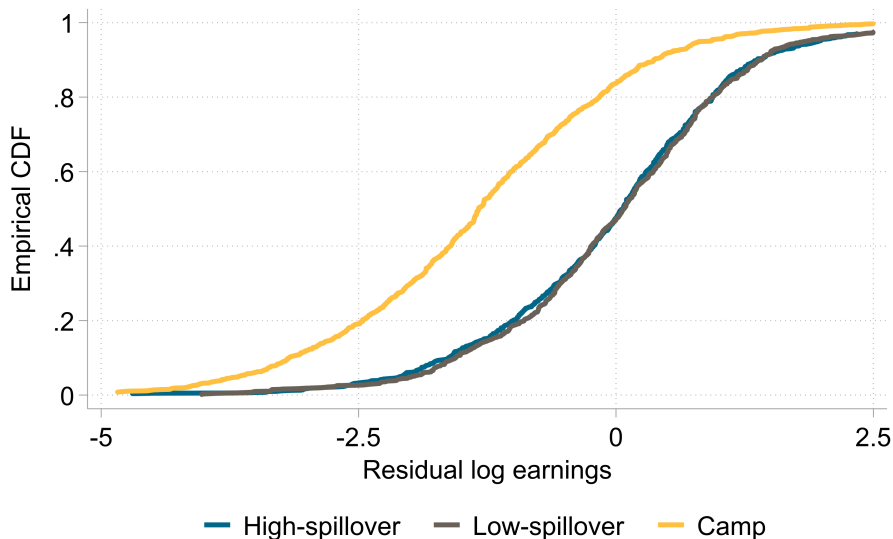
Refugees and Hosts Equally Productive Pre-Displacement



— High-spillover — Low-spillover — Camp

CDFs of residuals from regressing log earnings on age, age squared, gender indicator, and education indicators.
Regressions estimated using host respondents only.

Refugees Much Less Productive Post Displacement

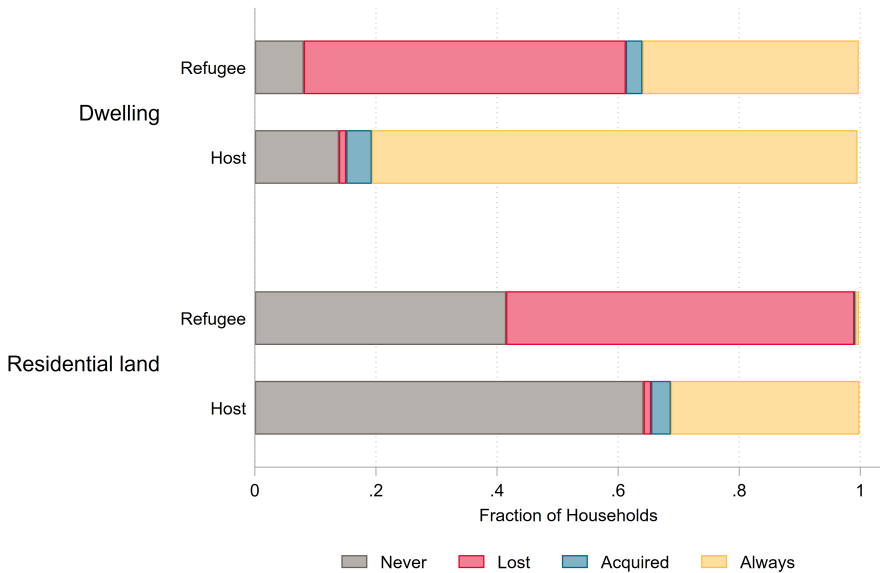


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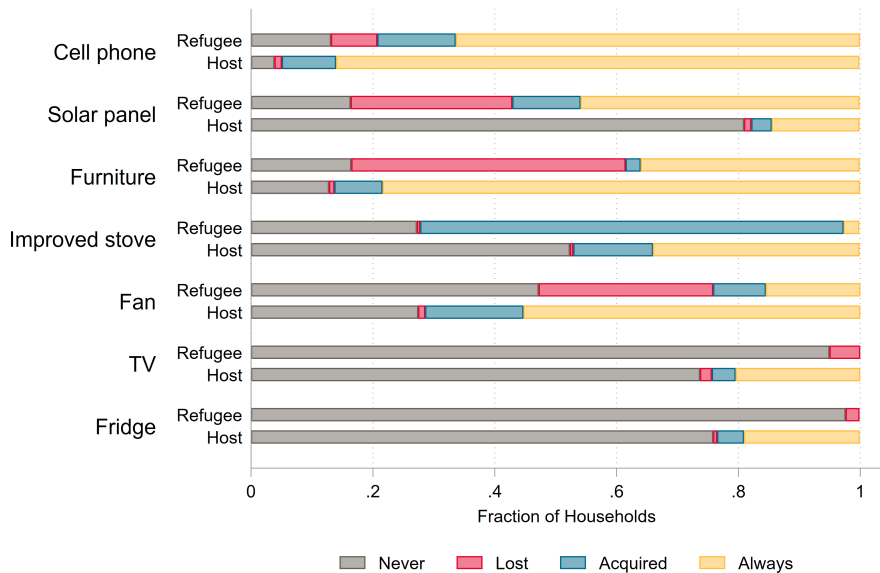
Key Findings - Assets

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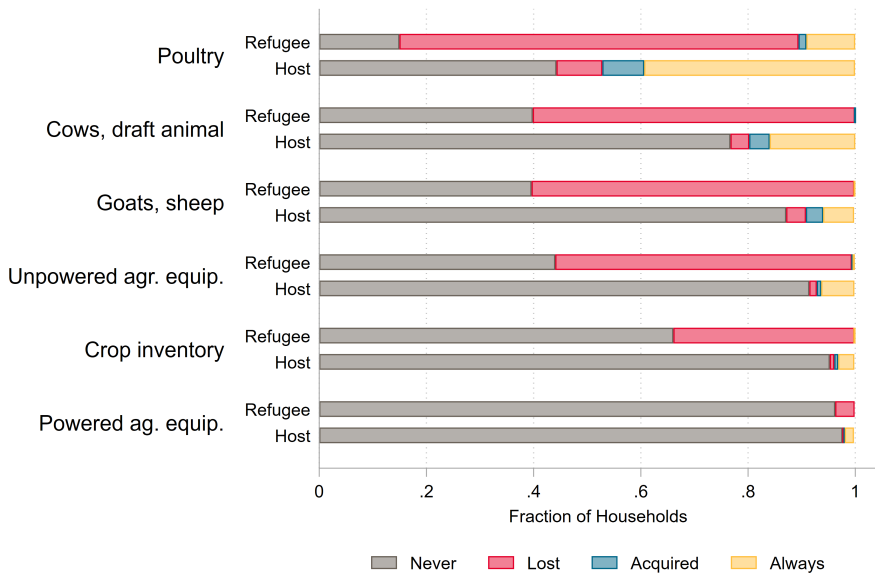
Dwelling



Household goods



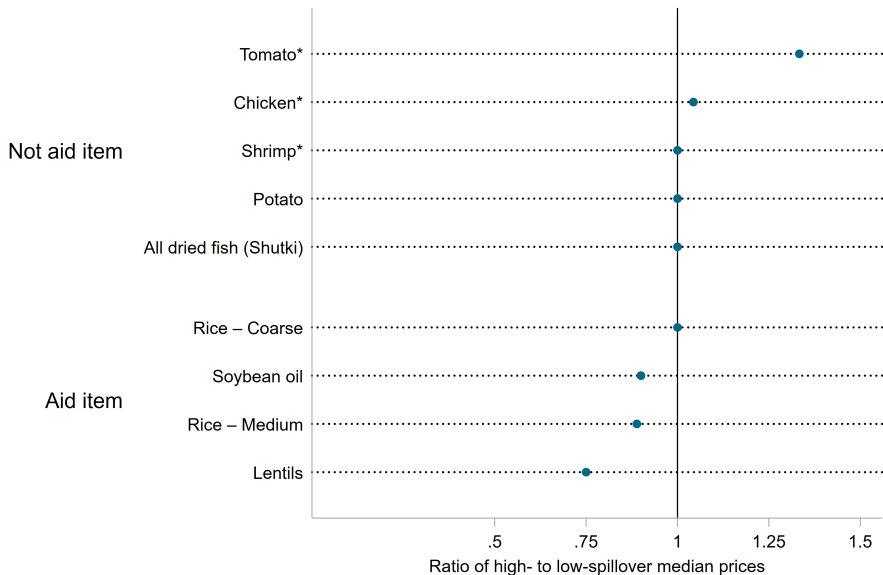
Agriculture



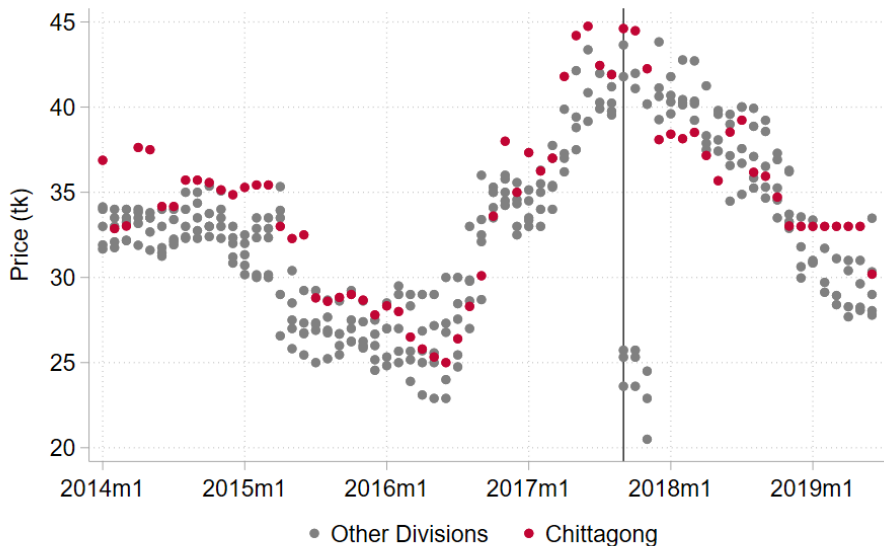
Key Findings - Staple food prices

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- ▶ But prices fluctuate significantly for reasons unrelated to displacement

Key Findings - Staple food prices

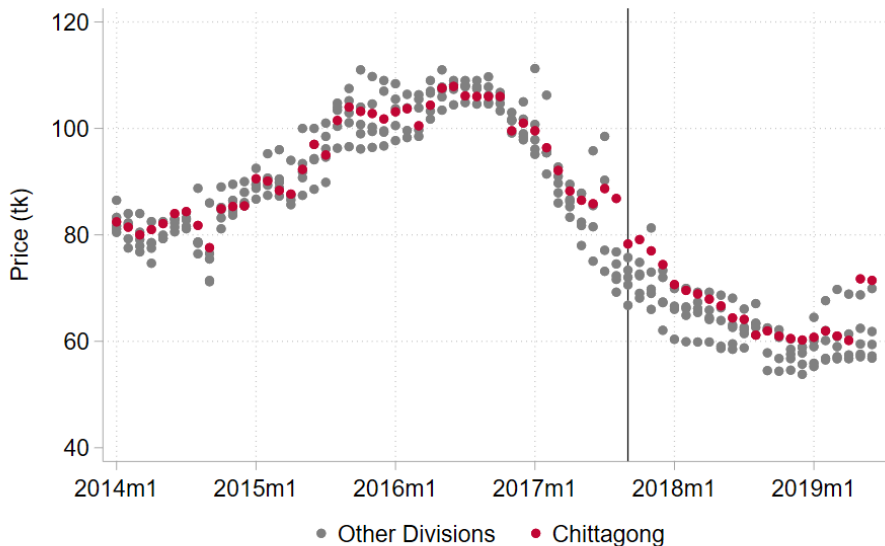


Rice prices



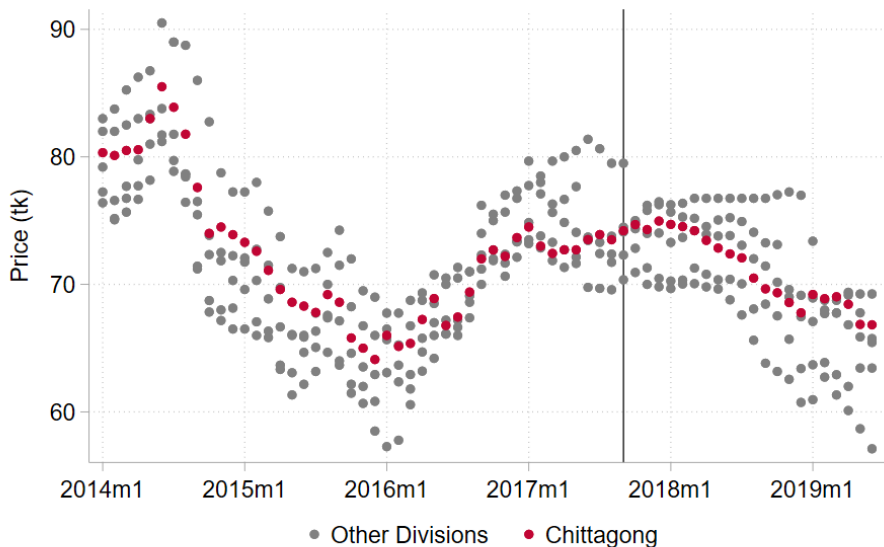
Data from WFP VAM.

Lentil prices



Data from WFP VAM.

Oil prices



Data from WFP VAM.

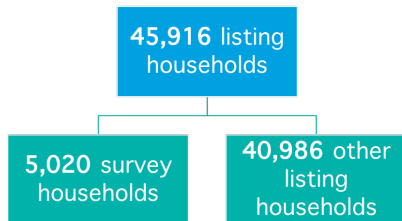
Implications and policy prescriptions

- ▶ Preliminary results show no evidence of negative spillovers in labor markets, prices, or assets
- ▶ Refugees are underutilized resource, could generate significant value
- ▶ Food aid now from wholesalers in Dhaka- can we generate positive spillovers through more local purchases?

Opportunities for future collaboration

CBPS is a platform to support both tracking and experimental evaluations

1. First wave of data → Rich descriptive statistics
2. We plan to follow this sample at 12-18 month intervals
 - ▶ Track evolution of socio-economic conditions
 - ▶ Gauge effects of programs, policy, and infrastructure.
3. The 40,986 listing:
 - ▶ Large sampling frame for future impact evaluations



Thank you and please be in touch!

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