

# Forced displacement and vulnerability

Evidence from high-frequency microdata across 11 LMICs

**Yannick Markhof** (United Nations University & LSMS Team – World Bank)

Joint work with Sedi Boukaka (IFPRI), Harriet Mugeru (World Bank), Philip Wollburg (World Bank)

The Pulse of Progress conference, World Bank, December 17, 2024

# Motivation



117m forcibly displaced people (FDPs) → +8% since last year, rising for 12<sup>th</sup> year in a row

Crises and displacement closely linked & crises most devastating to those most vulnerable to start with



**Data gap:** FDPs not commonly included in national surveys and poverty estimates

- **Vulnerability:** FDPs have worse housing conditions, fewer assets, and are less likely to be employed than hosts (World Bank 2023)
- **Exposure:** World's largest FDP camps cluster in climate-vulnerable areas (Fransen et al. 2024)
- **Hosts:** FDP camps bring economic opportunities to surrounding areas but some adverse (short-term) effects (Verme & Schuettler 2021)



Need to measure what we want to manage!

- We assemble one of the **largest cross-country, longitudinal datasets** on forced displacement so far, covering a time of compounding shocks and crises

# Today's presentation

Use unique, high-frequency dataset to answer:



How does the **exposure** of FDPs to shocks compare to the non-displaced population?



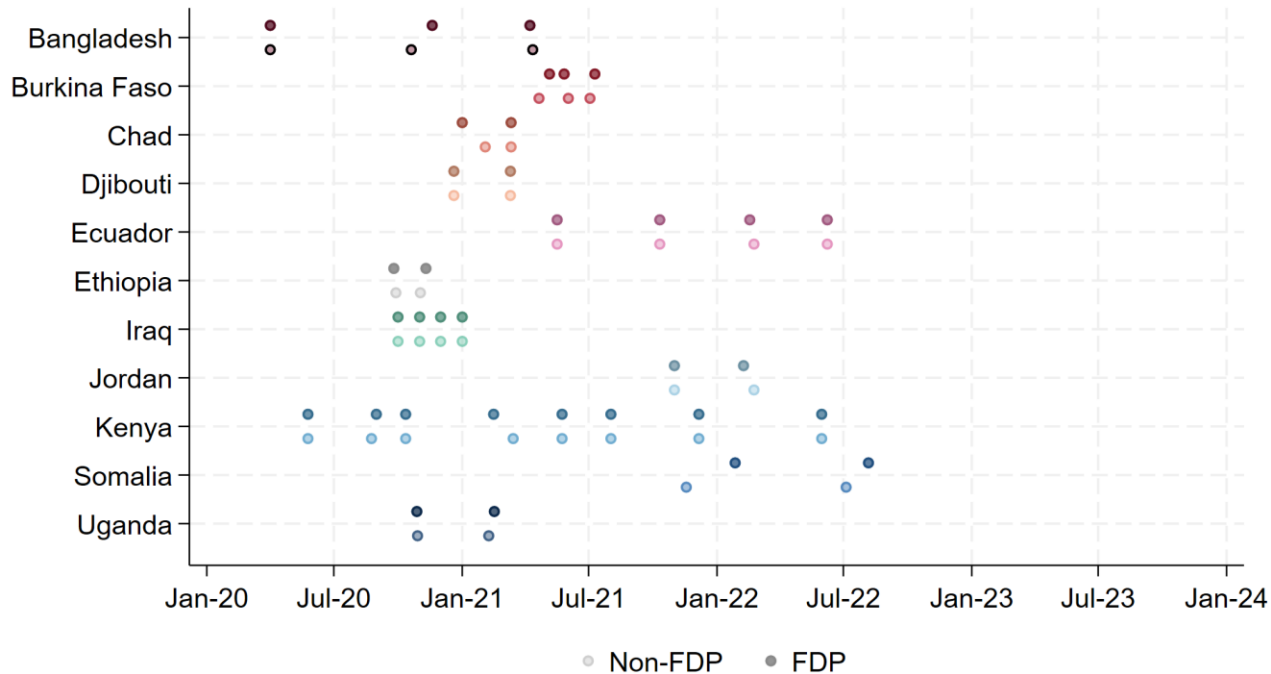
How much more **vulnerable** are FDPs than the general, non-displaced population and the communities they are hosted in?



What can we learn for **social protection** to mitigate vulnerability differences?

# Longitudinal dataset from World Bank's HFPS

Data collection schedule



- **217,000 interviews** with 18,000 forcibly displaced and 34,000 non-displaced households across 11 LMICs (focus on 125,000 interviews with temporal overlap)
- **Sampling:** non-FDPs (7 countries re-contact survey, 3 RDD, 2 social registry), FDPs (5 countries re-contact survey, 2 RDD/number list, 7 UNHCR/admin registry)
  - Typically, national coverage for non-FDPs + main FDP areas / camps for FDPs
- **Geographic info** down to district or province level (+ GPS for non-FDPs in 4 countries)
- GPS locations of **FDP camps** and spontaneous settlements from UNHCR

# Measuring exposure and vulnerability

## Exposure



- Number of days with conflict event (battles, explosions, riots, violence against civilians) per 100k population + number of fatalities in last 1, 6, 12, or 24 months from ACLED



- Monthly, long-run temperature and precipitation data averaged within districts
  - Slow onset climatic differences:  $\Delta$  3-month local average vs. national average
  - Rapid onset climatic shocks: 3-month local average  $>$  1.5 SDs than long-run *local* mean



## Vulnerability



- Harmonized data on food security, livelihoods, healthcare access, social assistance

## Estimation

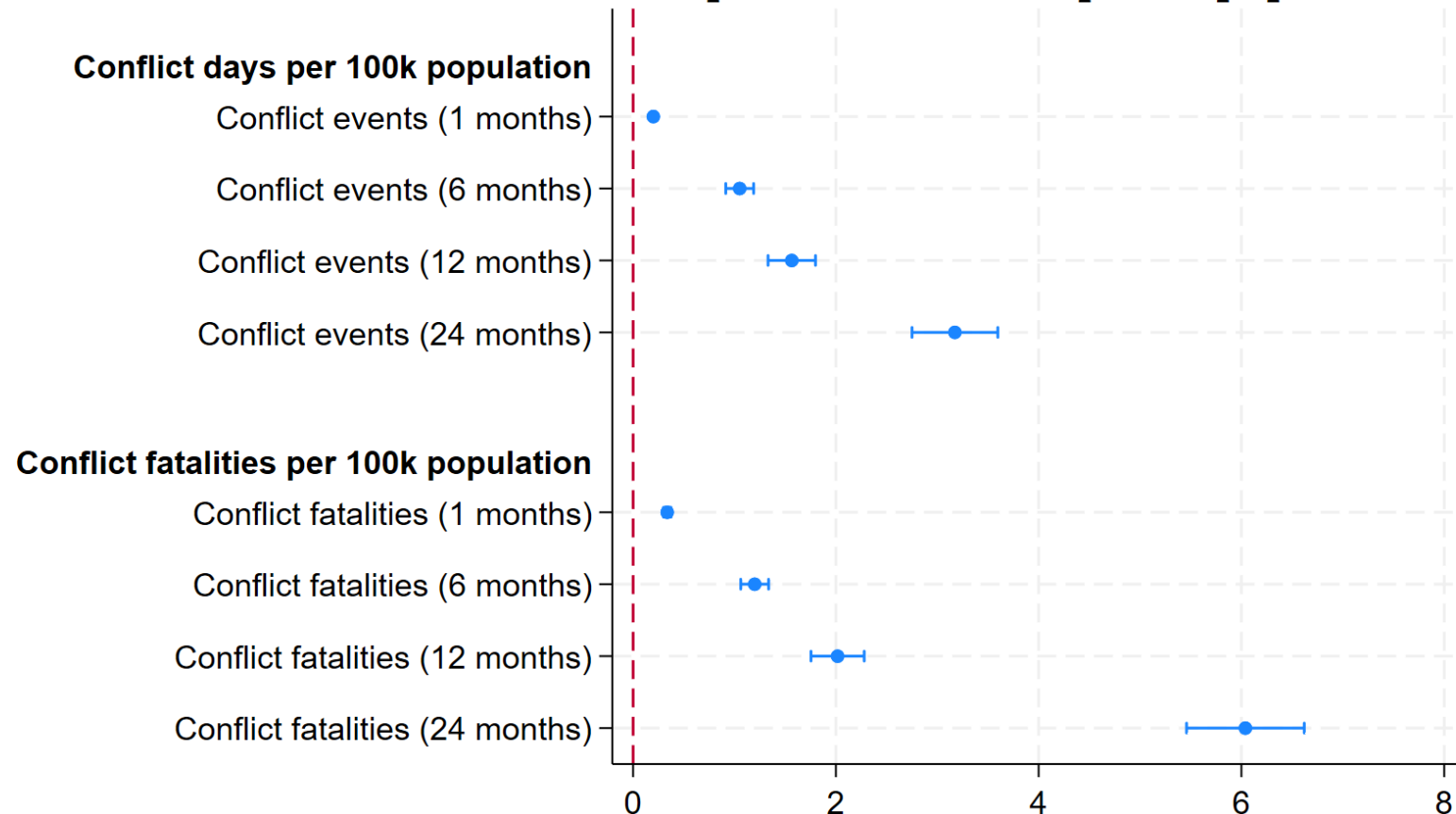
- Compare FDPs to non-FDPs controlling for country-wave fixed effects

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 FDP + \delta_{ct} + \varepsilon$$

## FDPs significantly more exposed to conflict

- Over six-month period: 1 additional conflict day (+ 71%) & 1.2 additional fatalities (+ 78%) per 100k population
- Over 12-month period: + 1.6 conflict days (+ 56%) & + 2 conflict fatalities (+ 66%) per 100k pop.

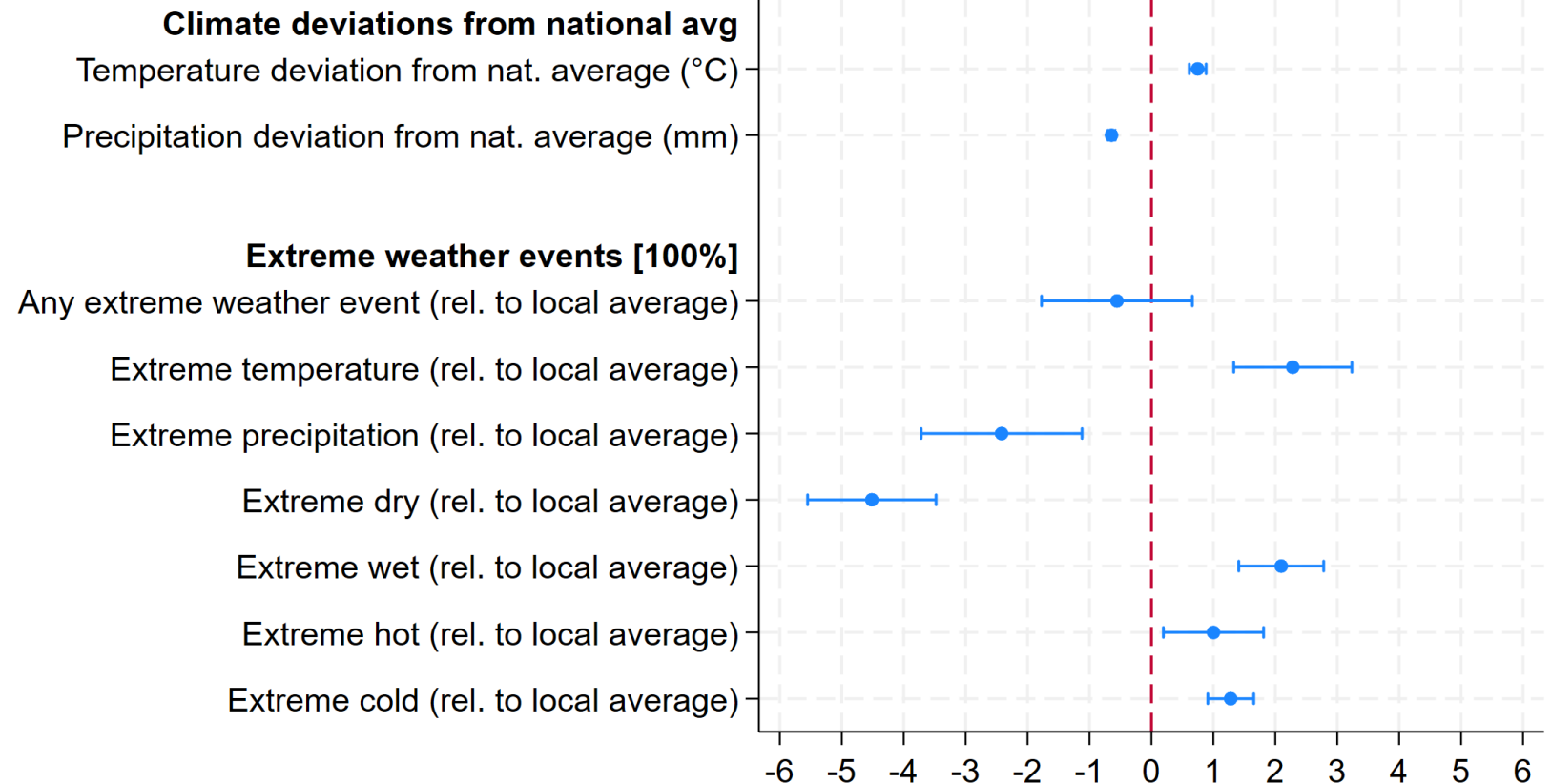
### Displaced vs. Non-displaced population



## FDPs live in places that are hotter and drier than national average

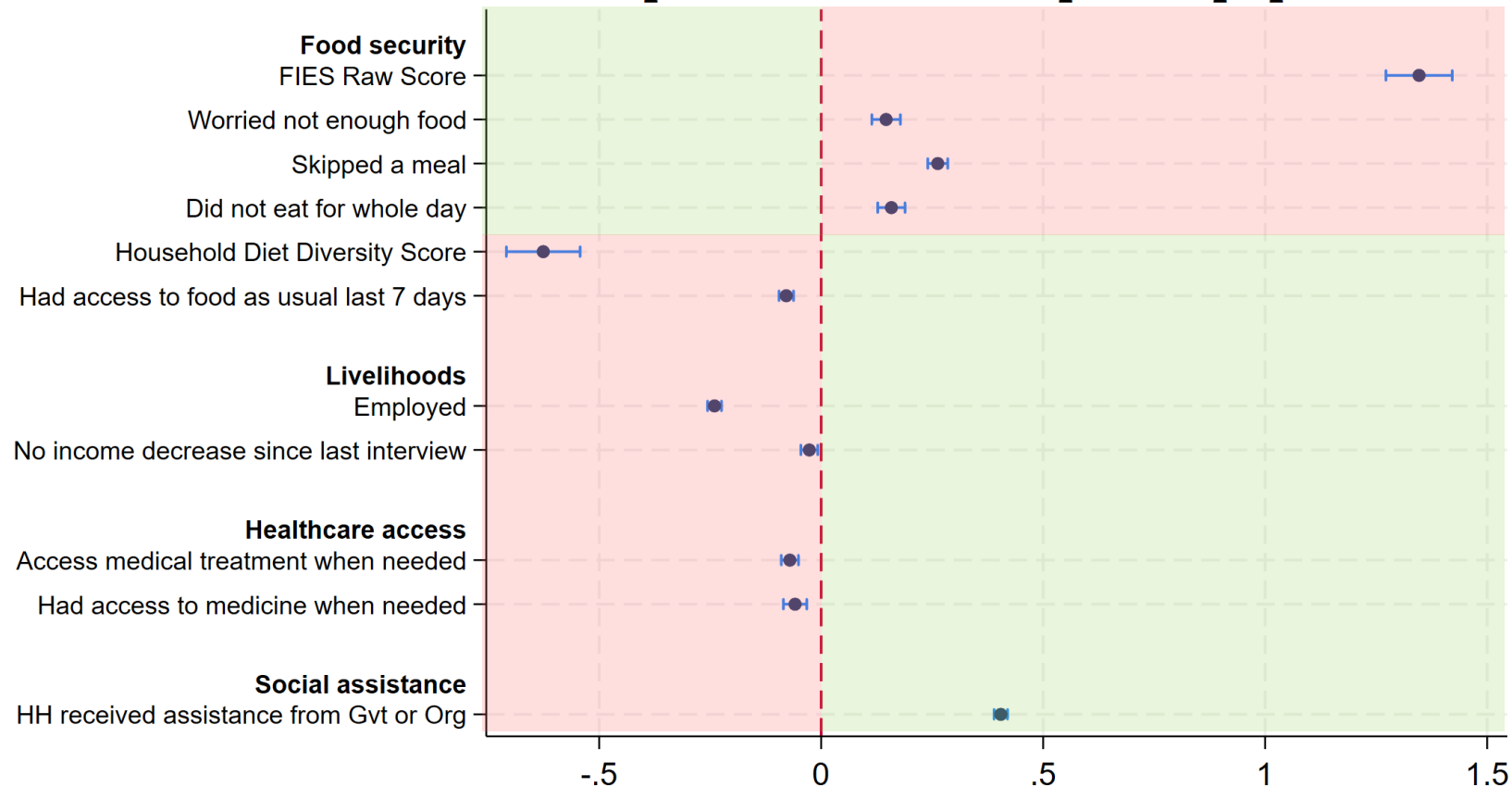
- FDPs live in places that are 0.8°C hotter and receive 0.7mm less rainfall on average per month
- Even relative to normal *local* conditions, they are more likely to experience extreme temperatures (hot or cold)
- Because they live in drier places to start with, less likely to experience extreme drought

## Displaced vs. Non-displaced population



## FDPs are much more vulnerable across the board

## Differences: Displaced vs. Non-displaced population



- **Less food secure:**

FIES score (+62%), 17pp (89%) more likely to go a day without eating, 8% lower dietary diversity score

- **Worse livelihoods outcomes**

24pp (34%) less likely to be employed in last 7 days

- **Worse access to healthcare**

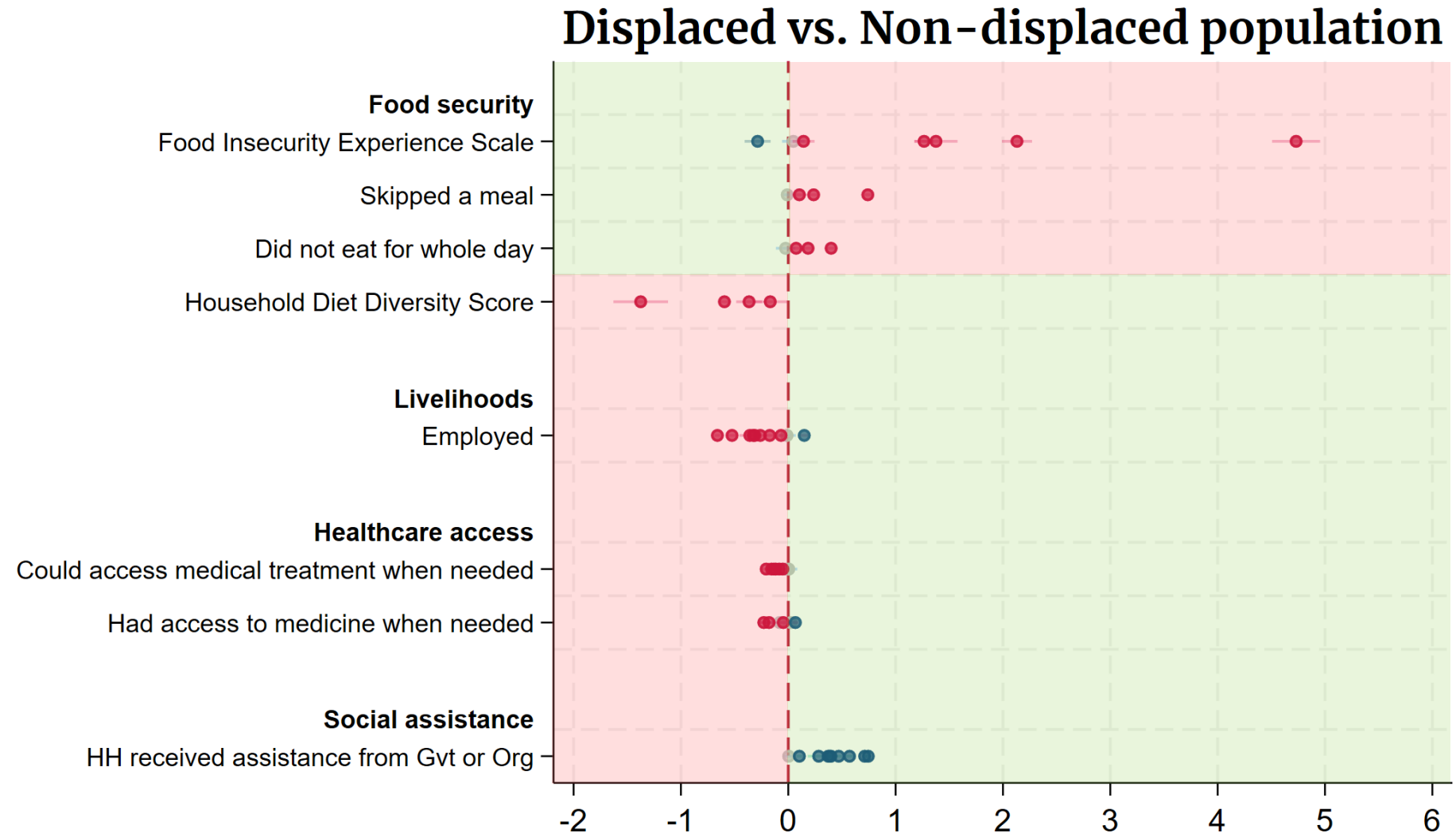
7pp (9%) less likely to access medical services when needed and 6pp (13%) less likely to access medicines

- **But: more likely to receive any assistance**

Almost three times (41pp) more likely to receive social assistance

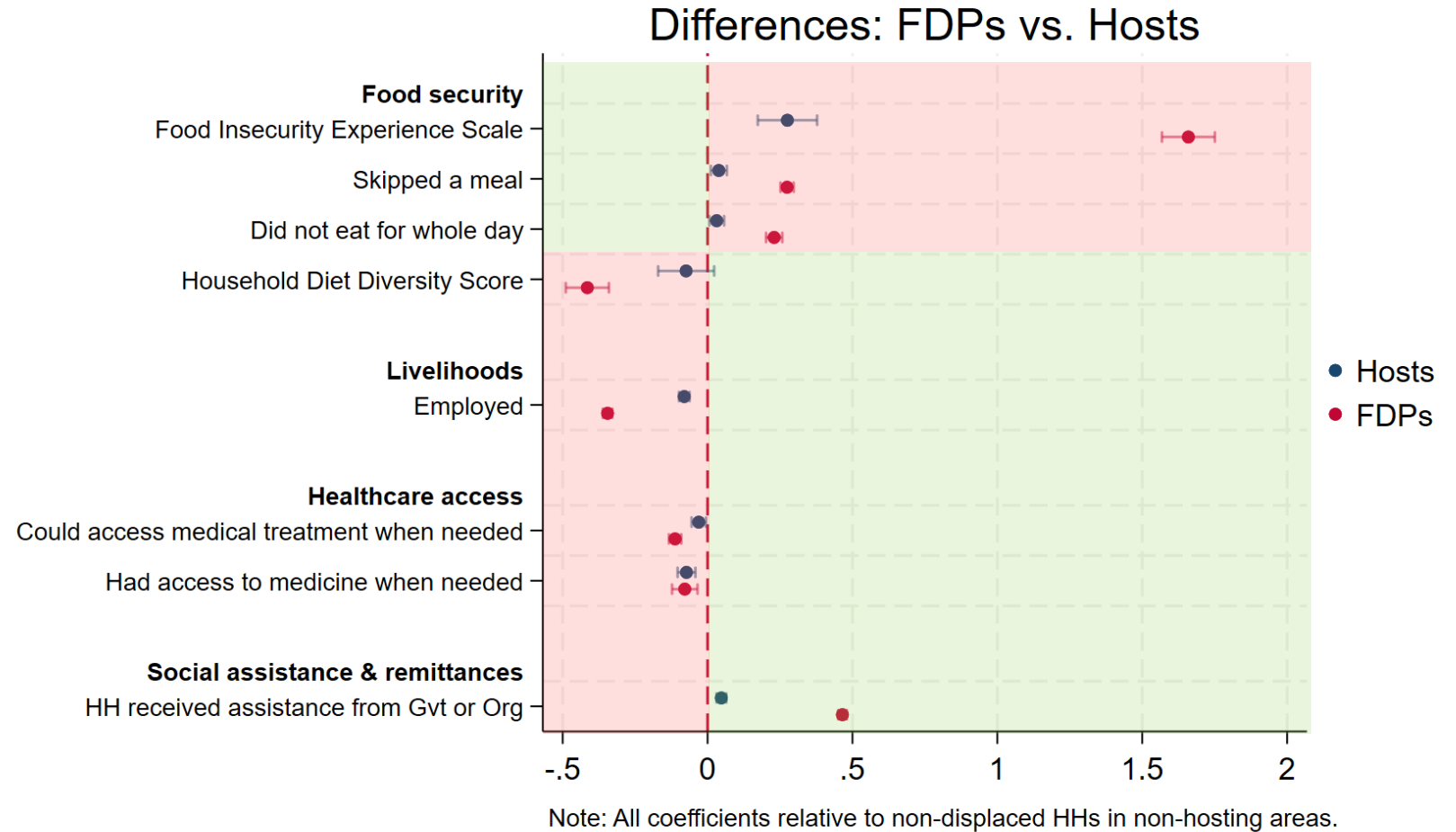


# Cross-country heterogeneity in vulnerability differential

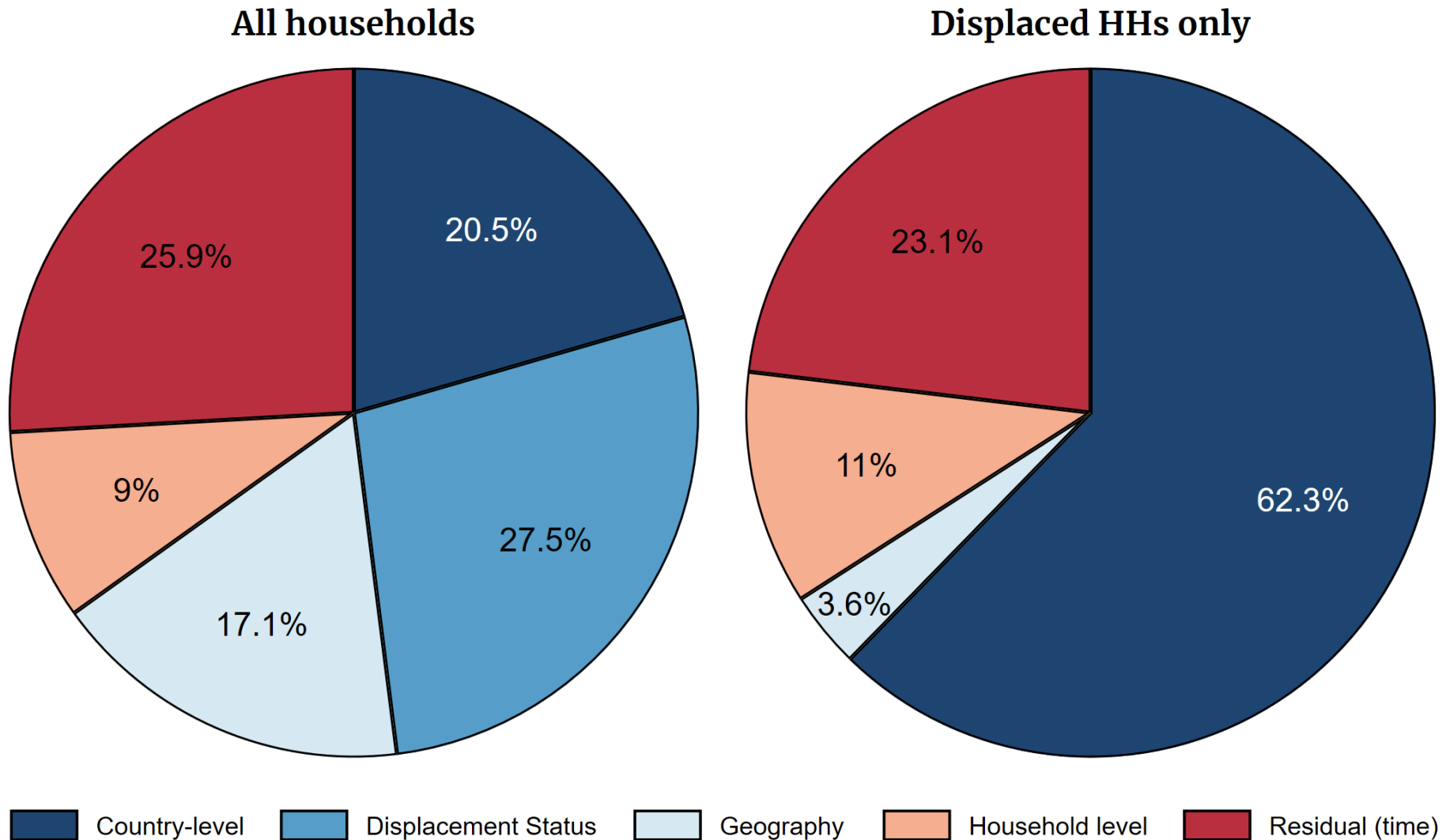


## FDPs also more vulnerable compared to hosts where they live

- Can split non-displaced further into hosts (those living in areas hosting FDPs) and non-hosting HHs
- Even when comparing FDPs to hosting HHs, they fare significantly worse across the board
- Host communities seem to fare if anything slightly worse than non-hosting HHs but FDPs fare *much worse* than either



# What factors explain variation in vulnerability?



# Key takeaways

**Need to measure what we want to manage. We show that...**



- FDPs cluster in locations with conflict levels 60% - 80% higher than non-displaced HHs and in areas that are hotter, drier, and more climate-shock prone



- FDPs have 60%+ higher levels of food insecurity, are 34% likely to be employed, and are ~ 10% less likely to access healthcare when needed



- FDPs are still more vulnerable compared to host communities in areas where FDPs live



- These differences arise *even though* FDPs are much more likely to receive a form of social assistance – clearly not sufficient



- Targeting displaced populations, irrespective of differences between FDP HHs, already goes a long way toward targeting vulnerabilities well

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# In-camp vs. out-of-camp

Differences: FDPs in camps vs. outside camps

