



BRAC  
INSTITUTE OF  
GOVERNANCE &  
DEVELOPMENT



PPRC  
POWER AND PARTICIPATION RESEARCH CENTRE

# Livelihoods, Coping, and Support during Covid-19 Crisis

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April 16, 2020



The Covid-19 began as a health crisis but has in time triggered a grave and unfolding economic crisis with particular concerns for the poor and vulnerable. For effective policy response to the poverty consequences of the Covid-19 crisis, the importance of real-time evidence cannot be over-emphasized. Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) and BRAC Institute for Governance and Development (BIGD) teamed up to launch a rapid response telephonic survey utilizing respondent telephone databases from earlier surveys on urban slums and rural poor. A total of 5471 respondents were reached through telephone by a combined survey team of 51 from the two institutions. Our deepest gratitude goes to the respondents who agreed to spare the time to talk in their moments of crisis and uncertainty and also the survey team who turned stay-at-home reality into a dedicated field research endeavor. The research is intended to support better policy responses and design of support programs for the vulnerable population. PPRC and BIGD stand committed to continue providing real-time researched evidence towards the goal of more effective policy responses to this unprecedented crisis of our times.

Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman  
Executive Chairman, PPRC

Dr. Imran Matin  
Executive Director, BIGD

# Team Members

## **BIGD**

- Dr. Narayan C Das, Senior Research Fellow
- Dr. Imran Matin, Executive Director
- Shakil Ahmed, Senior Research Associate
- Atiya Rahman, Senior Research Associate
- Tahsina Naz Khan, Research Associate
- Montajina Tasnim, Research Associate
- Nusrat Jahan, Head, Knowledge Management

## **PPRC**

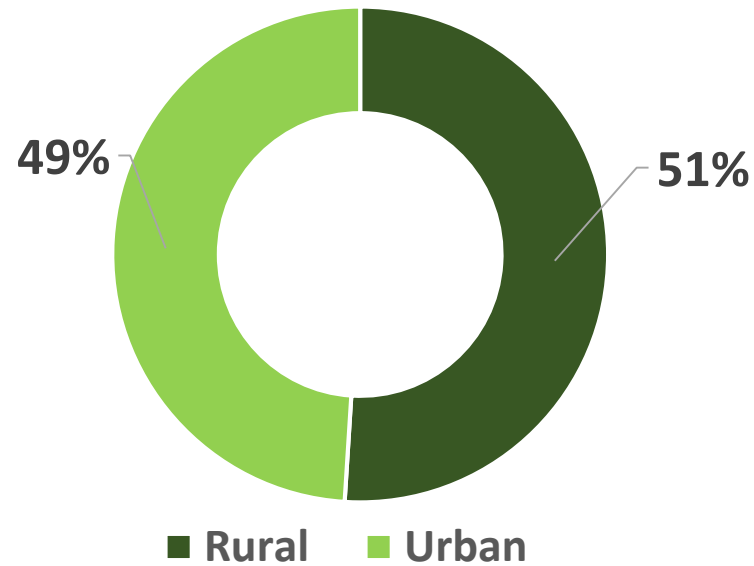
- Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Chairman
- Md. Abdul Wazed, Senior Fellow, PPRC & Former DG, BBS
- Umama Zillur, Research Associate
- Sabrina Miti Gain, Research Associate
- Fatema Mohammad, Research Associate
- Field Research Team

# The Study

## 5,471 HHS

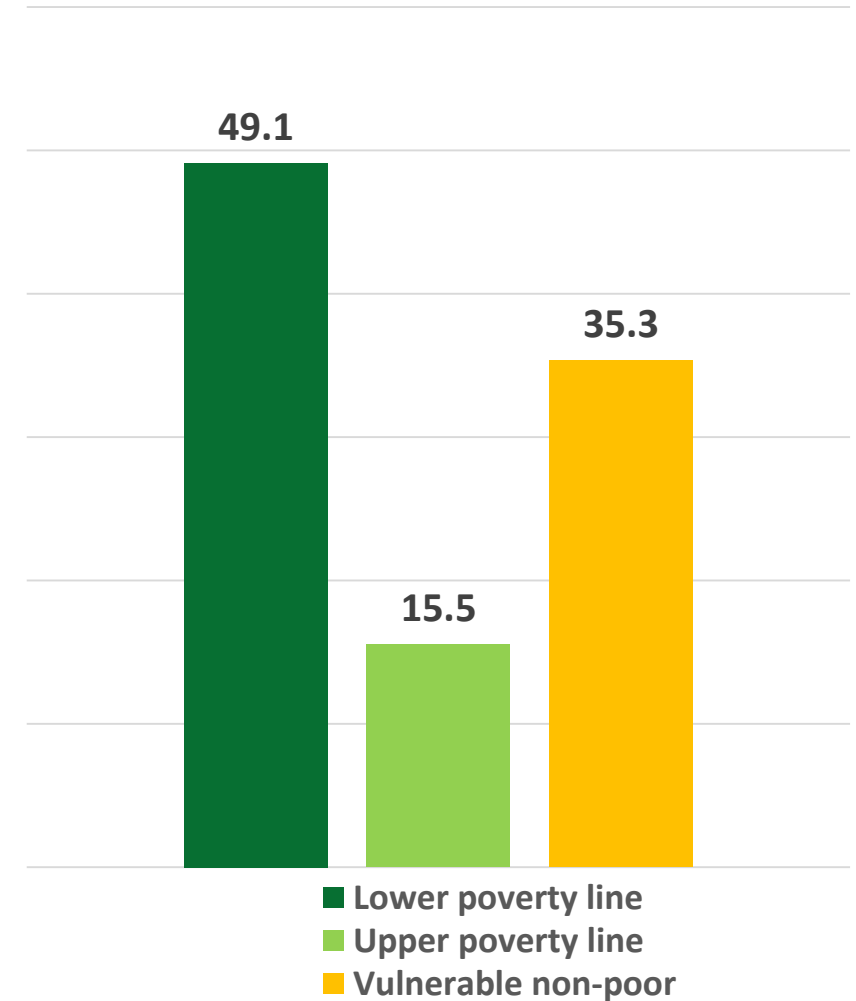
Study Period

4 April — 12 April



Average family size of the respondents  
**4.85**

## Poverty Classification(%)



Sample Source:

**Urban:** from a census in 2016-2017 of 24,283 slum HHS in 35 slums across 9 districts in Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, Barisal and Rangpur

**Rural:** from a nationally representative survey of 26,925 HHS across 64 districts

# Respondent Profile: Principle Source of Income

	rural	urban	Total
<b>Business</b>	15.7	20.11	17.84
<b>Wage/Salaried labor</b>	21.66	37.25	29.23
<b>Casual labor</b>	41.41	39.17	40.32
<b>Agri/Livestock rearing</b>	16.76	1.05	9.14
<b>Help/Assistance/Others</b>	4.47	2.41	3.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>



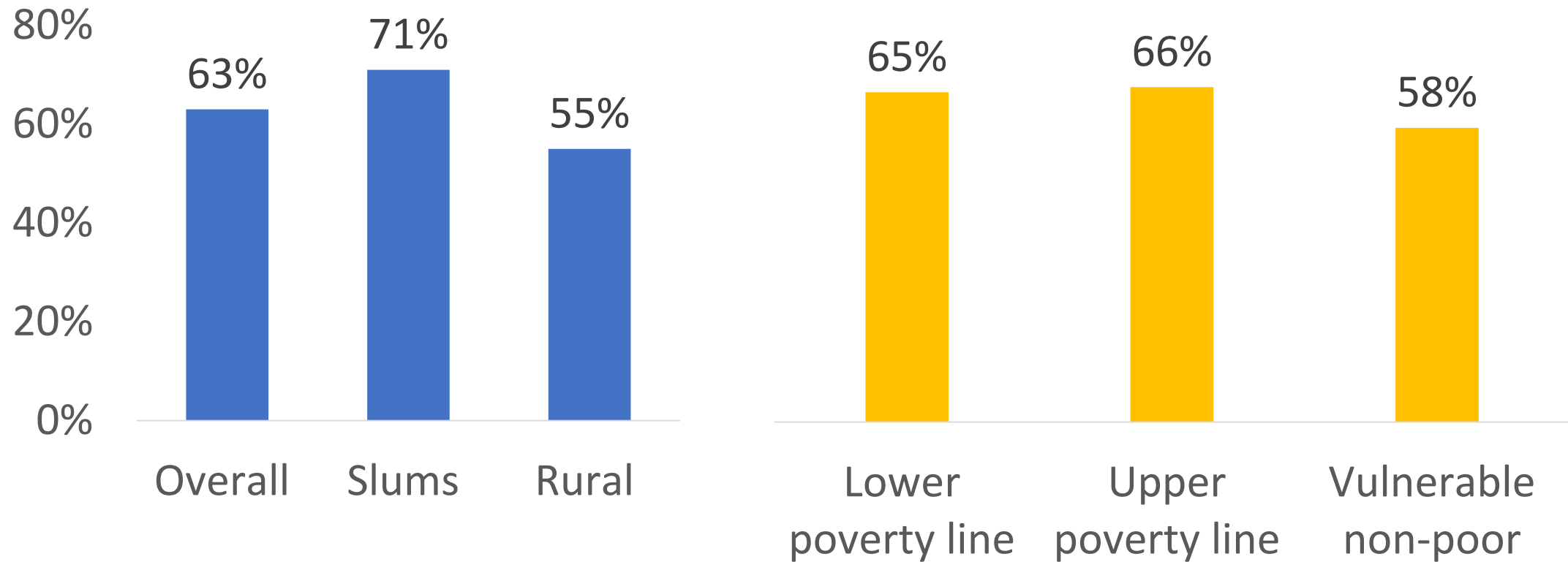


# Impact on Income and Employment



# Impact on Employment

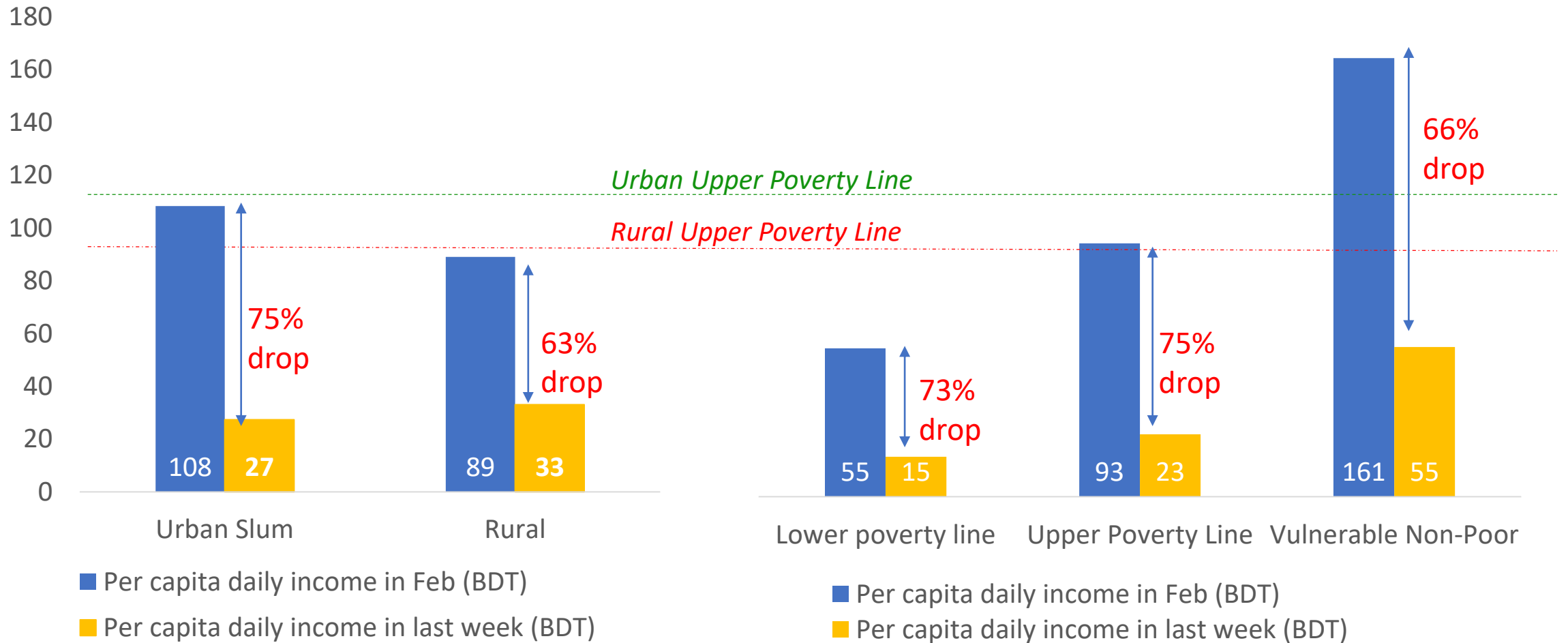
*% of main earners rendered economically inactive (Zero income last week)*



# Impact on Household Income

Income in February vs. Last Week – Rural, Urban

Income in February vs. Last Week by Income Group

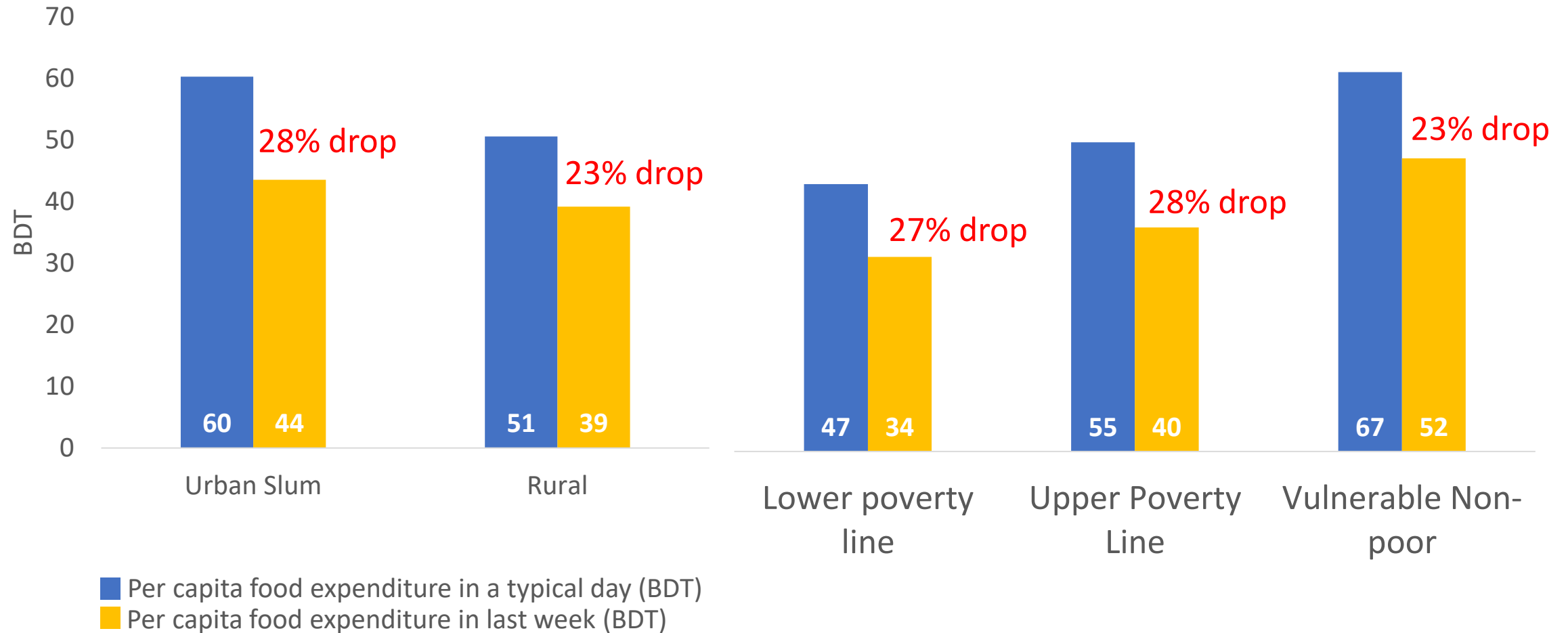




A high-angle, top-down photograph of a person with dark hair, wearing an orange and yellow patterned sari, cooking in a rustic kitchen. The person is positioned at the bottom center, reaching into a black frying pan on a wooden stove. The stove is built on a concrete base and has several other pots and pans on it. To the left, there are more pots and a small bowl. To the right, there are more pots, a red plastic container, and a white bowl. The floor is made of concrete and has some debris on it. The walls are made of mud and brick. The overall scene is one of a simple, traditional cooking environment.

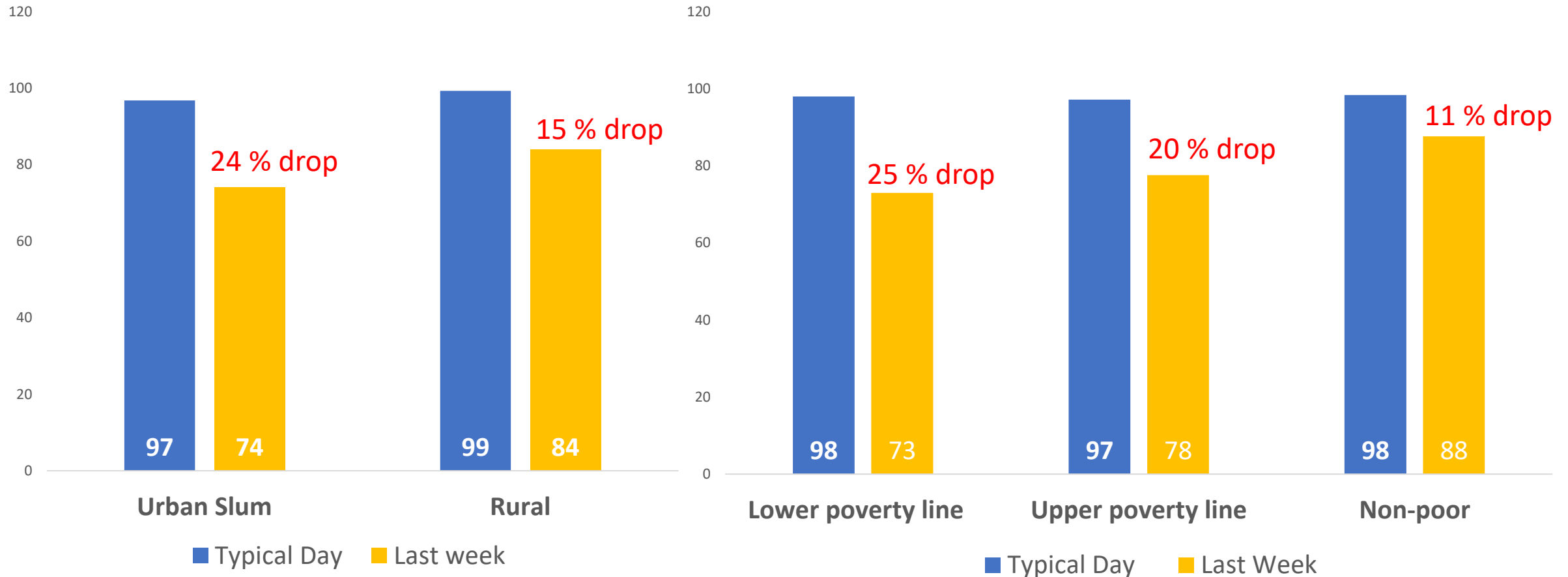
# Food Insecurity

# Drop in Per Capita Food Expenditure (in BDT)



# Nutritional Impact

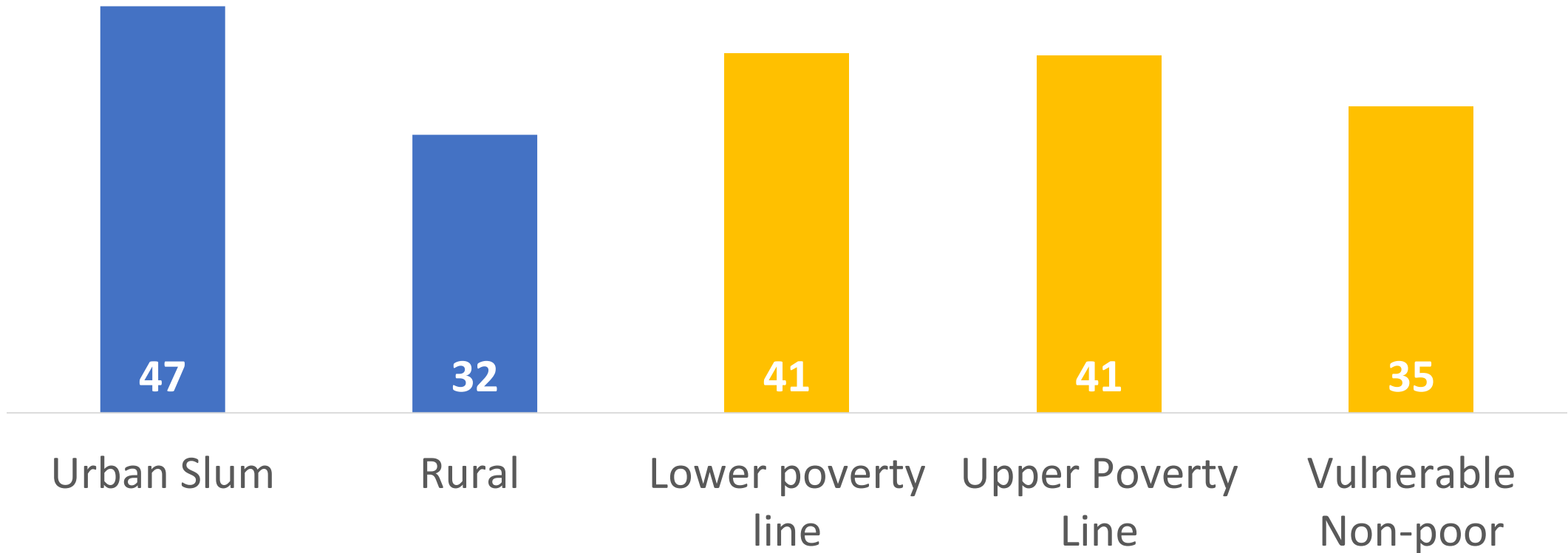
*Households having 3 meals in a day: % Drop*



# Nutritional Impact

*Coping through reduction in food consumption*

% of HHs who Reduced Food Consumption

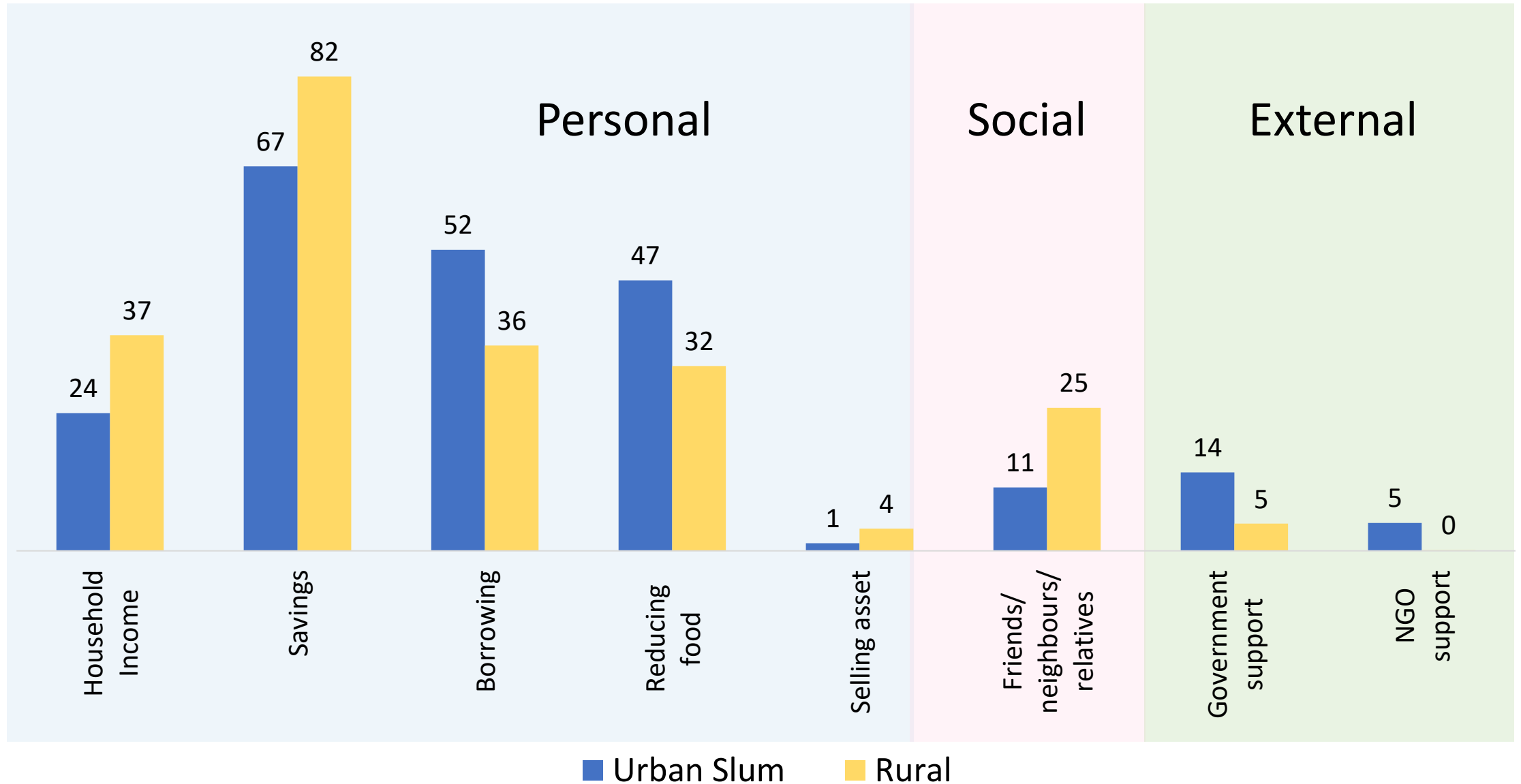




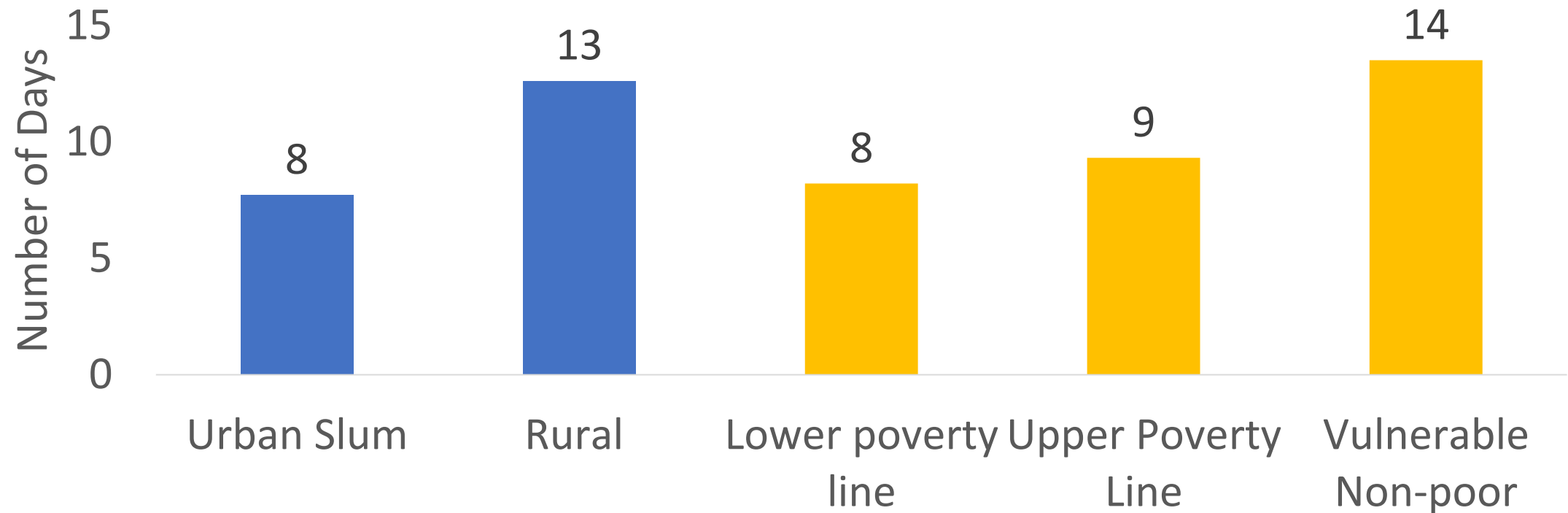


# Coping

# How Respondents Are Meeting Their Food Needs (% of HHs)?



# How Many More Days Respondents Estimate They Can Feed Their Family with Available Income, Savings, and Food Stock (as of April 12)





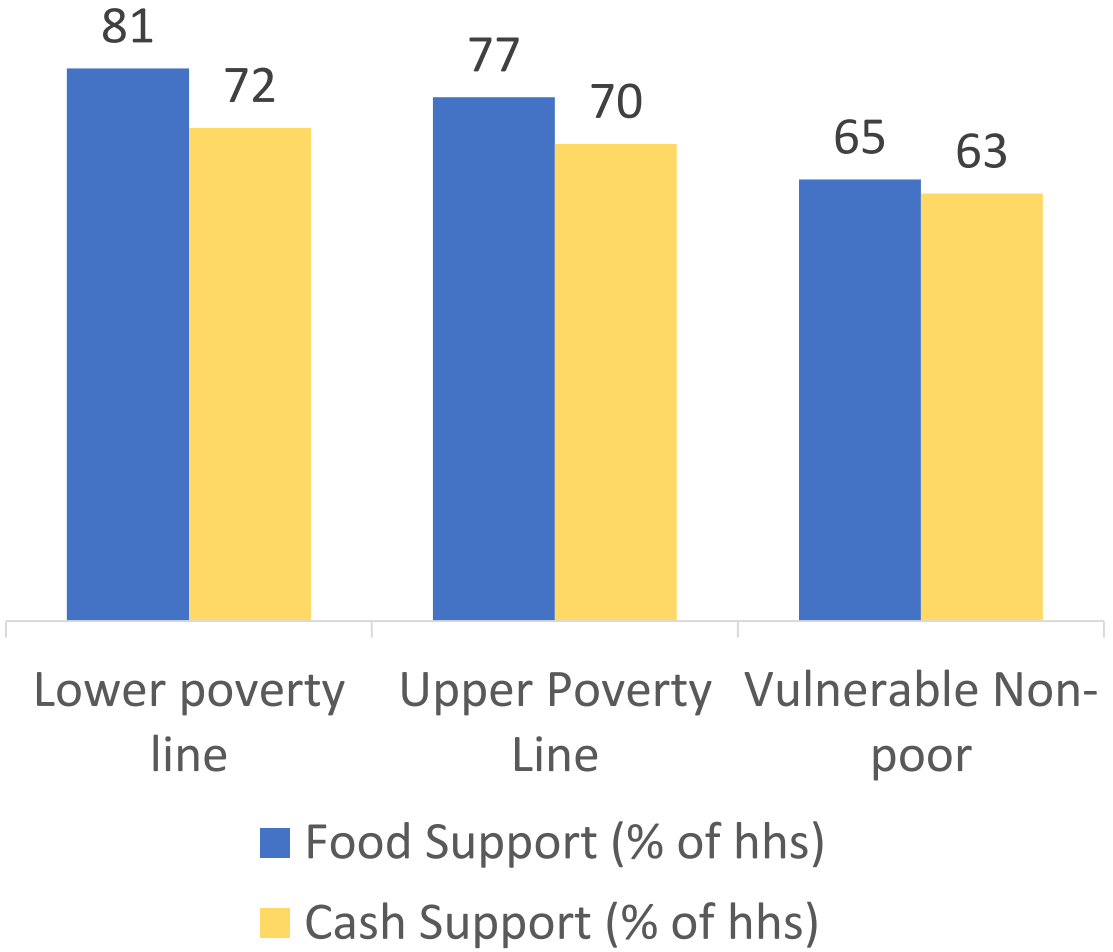
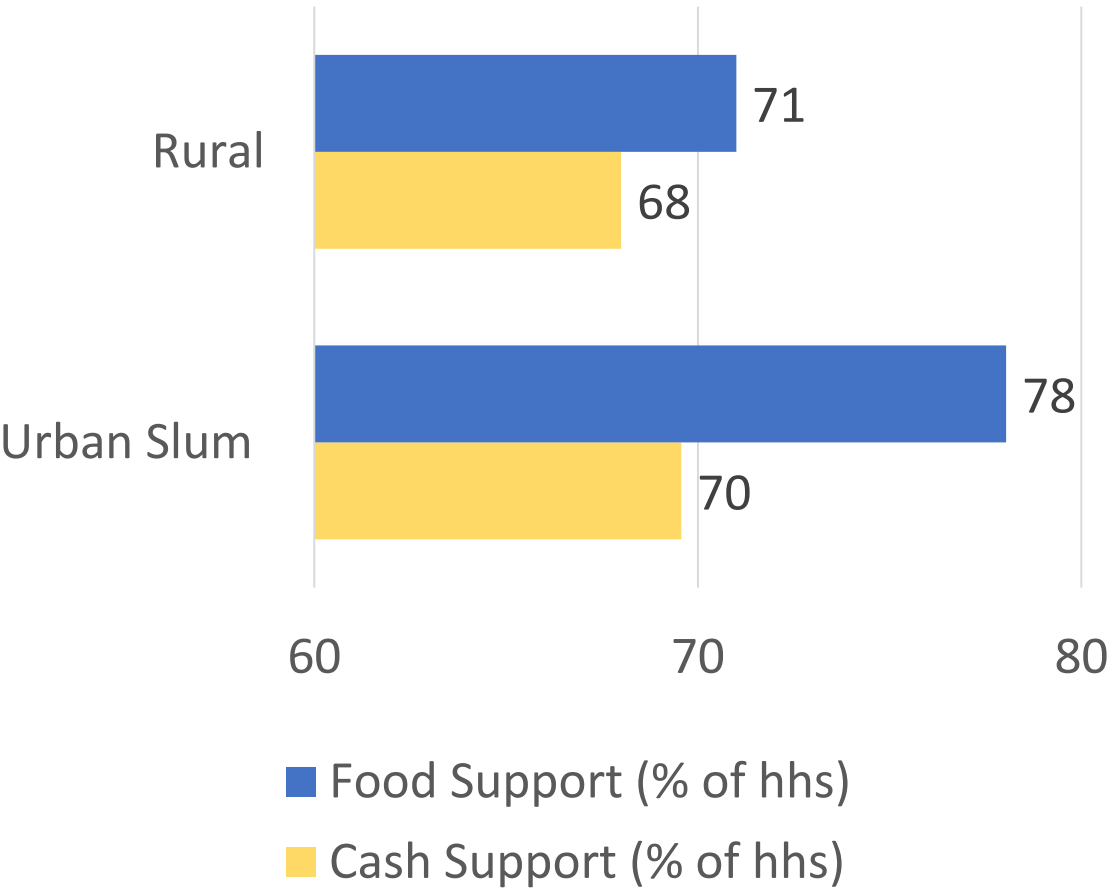
A woman with long dark hair, wearing a purple and white patterned dress, stands on a narrow bamboo bridge. She is looking towards a row of shacks made of corrugated metal sheets. The shacks are built on stilts and appear to be in a shanty town. In the foreground, there is a large field of green, leafy plants, possibly water hyacinths. The background shows more trees and a hazy sky. The word "Support" is overlaid in large white letters in the center of the image.

# Support



# Need Assessment

*Respondent view on type of support needed: Food & Cash*



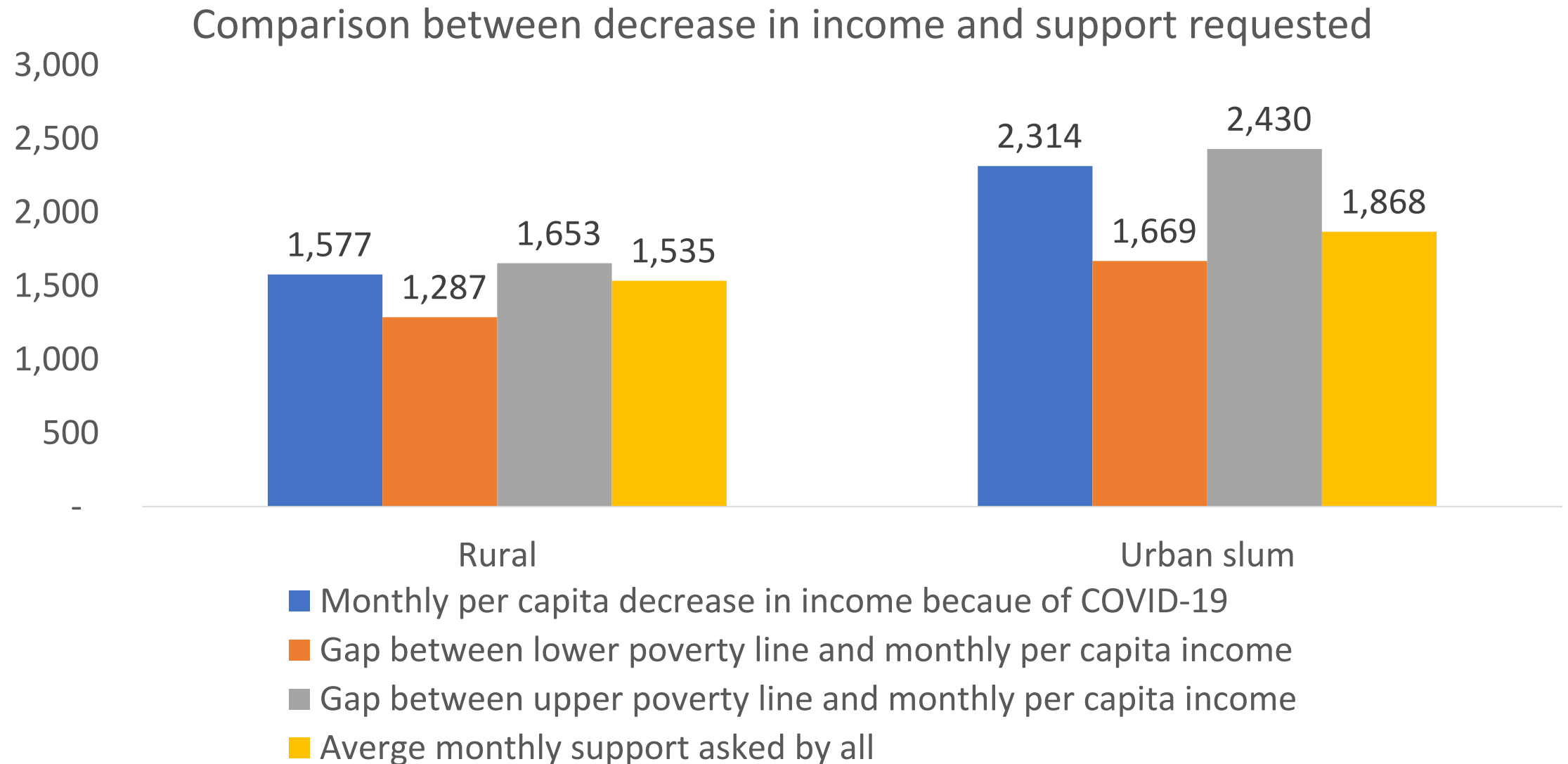
# Need Assessment

## *Respondent Estimate of Financial Support Package Needed*

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Respondent Category	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Urban slum</b>
	BDT per capita per month	BDT per capita per month
Lower Poverty Line	1,322	1,614
Upper Poverty Line	1,577	1,908
<i>All poor</i>	<i>1,368</i>	<i>1,702</i>
Vulnerable Non-poor	1,845	2,214
All	1,535	1,868

# Is What They Want Justified?



# How Much is Needed to Support the Poor?

	Rural	Urban
Per capita support asked by the poor	1,368	1,702
Total poor people in the country	26,964,530	11,192,139

# of poor people calculated based on total population of the country (161.3 million as of 2018, source: World Bank) and Rural and Urban poverty rates of 26.4% and 18.9% in 2016 respectively (Source: HIES, BBS)

Supporting ONLY the Poor will require  
**BDT 5,594 crore per month**





# Policy Implications



# Findings highlights: 3 indicators of vulnerability



***Income drop:*** above **70%** drop in income for all extreme poor, moderate poor and vulnerable non-poor alike



***Economic inactivity:*** **71%** in urban, **55%** in rural; **50%** for poor  
**40%** for vulnerable non-poor



***Reduced consumption:*** **40%** poor, **35%** vulnerable non-poor

# 5 Policy Messages

Covid-19 impact is on both poor and 'new poor'

'New poor' are those who used to be 40% above poverty line but now has gone below poverty line

Food insecurity has started with nutritional decline but crisis to intensify by end-April

Because impact is broad-based, immediate safety net has to go beyond targeting and prioritize self-targeting vehicles such as Open Market Sale (OMS)

5600 crore taka immediate 1-month food security support package for the poor to be supplemented by an additional package for new poor