



# Migration and Food and Nutrition Security

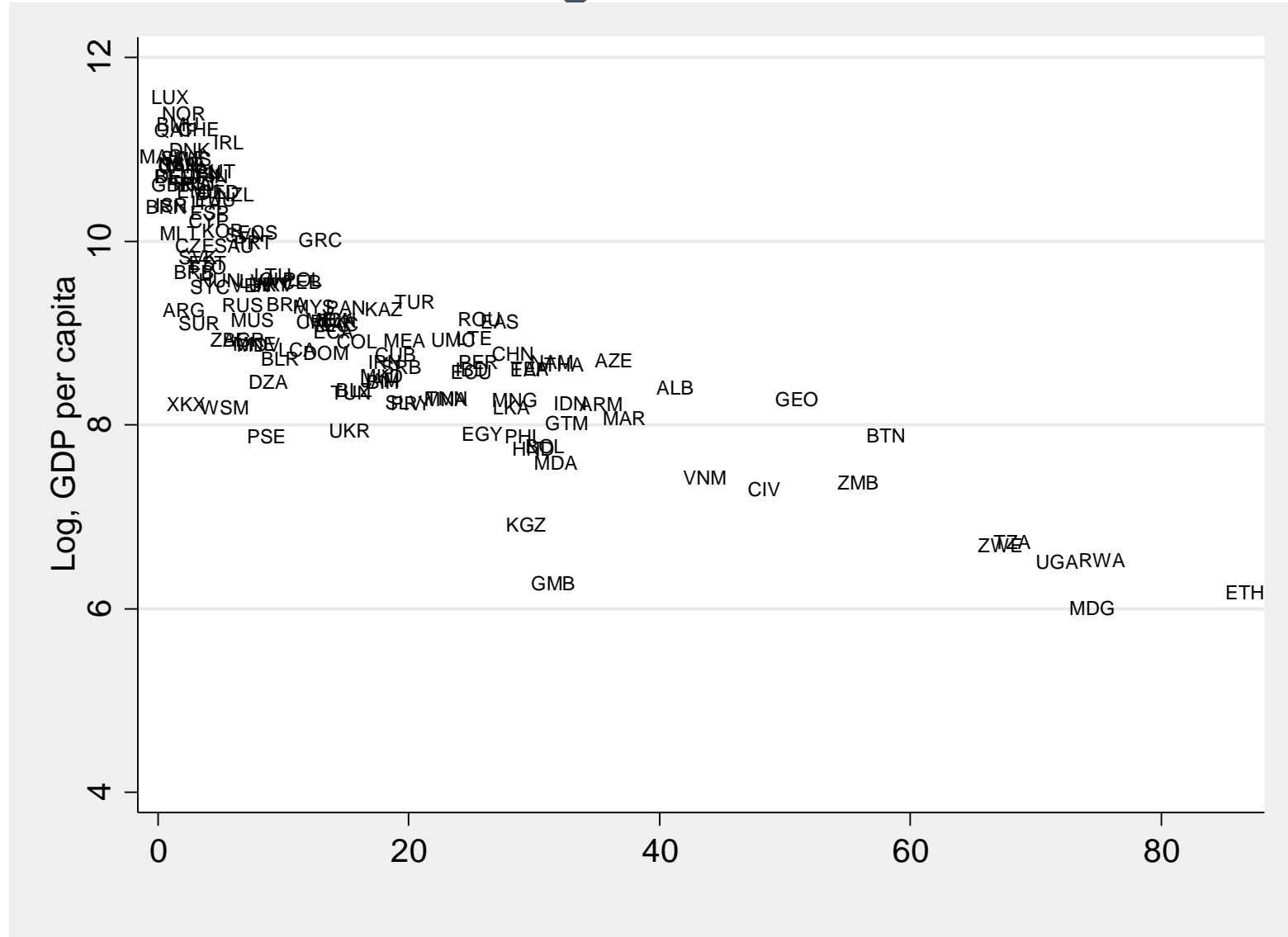
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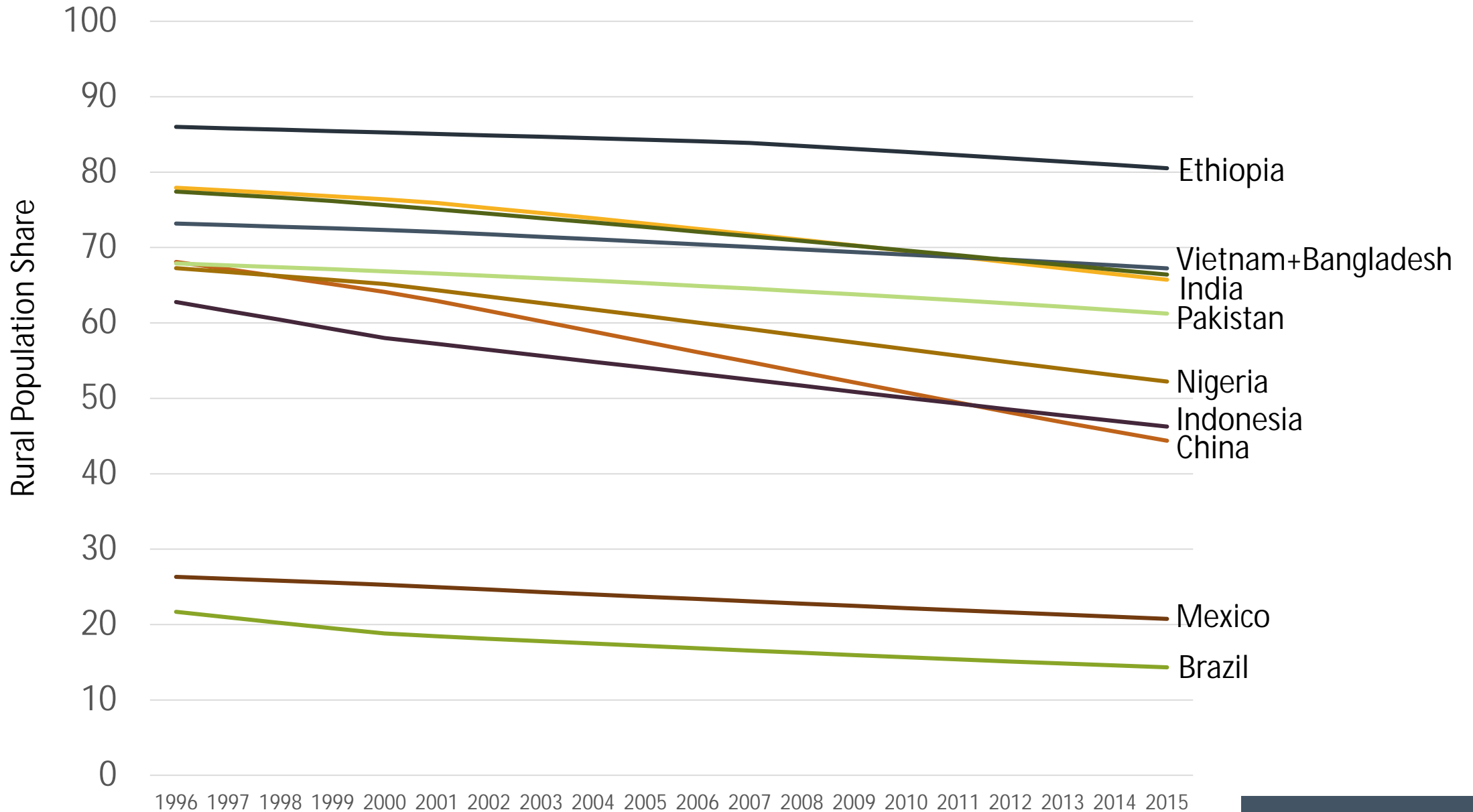
# Migration: Part and Parcel of the Economic Development Process

## *GDP and Share of Labor in Agriculture*





# Rural Population Share, 1996-2015





- Migration Literature -> Difficult to Establish Causality, and Food Security far down the causal chain
- Food Security Literature -> Mostly Ignores Migration





# A Note on Involuntary Migration

- People may decide to leave (rural areas, home country) for higher wages, marriage etc.
  - Voluntary Migration
- But other reasons- may fear for their life (conflict), area becoming uninhabitable (climate? Major weather shocks)
  - Continuum to Involuntary Migration
  - Major international policy role in the latter- refugee camps etc.
  - Clear food security implications both before and after migration occurs



# Migration and Rural Income

1.

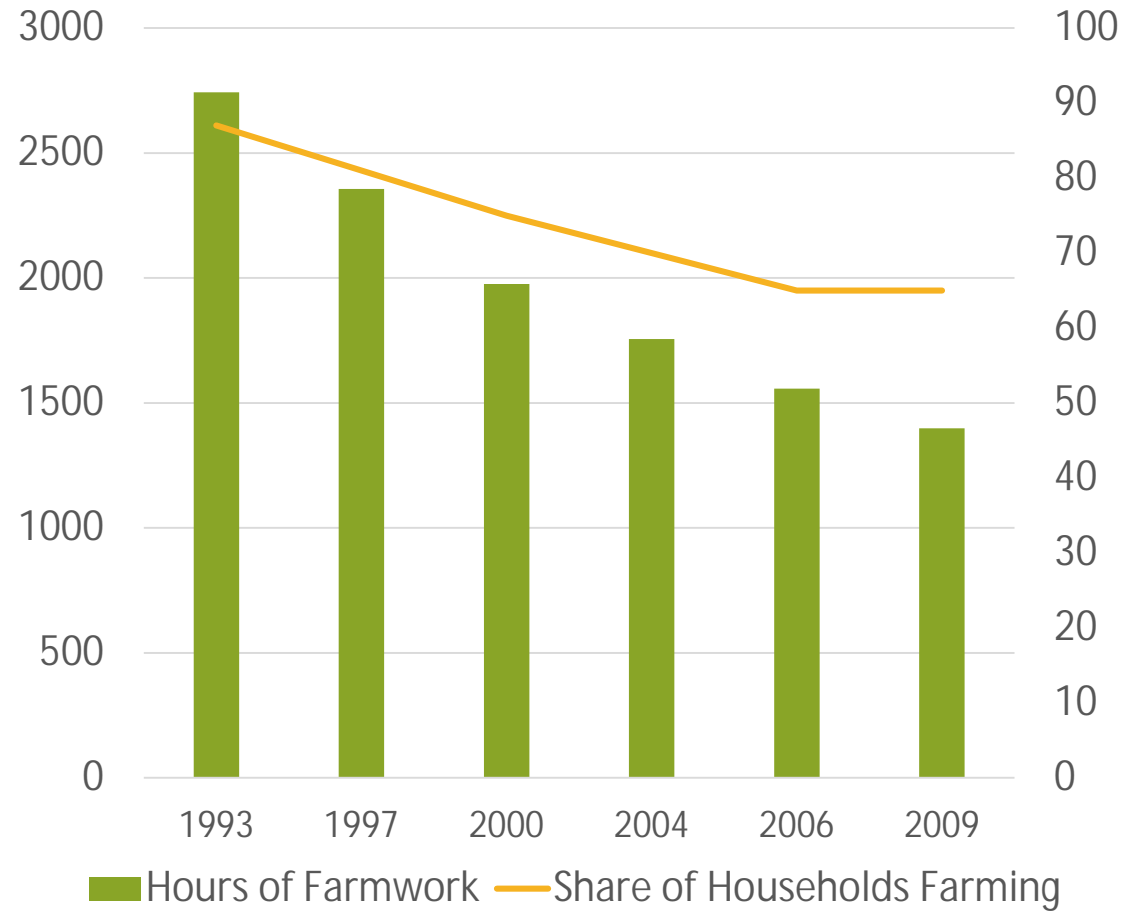


# Evidence: Agricultural Productivity

- Any evidence of lost labor effects in agriculture?
  - In general, challenging problem due to endogeneity of migration so little convincing evidence in the literature
- But lots of papers from China...
- Outside China:
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### Agricultural Labor, CHNS





# Evidence: Migration and Risk

- “Old” idea: Migration advantageous to rural households because covariance of incomes lower than for local off-farm labor (e.g. Rosenzweig and Stark, 1989)
- Poor potential migrants may not leave due to risk at destination (e.g. Bryan, Chowdhury and Mobarak, 2014)
- Yet can be a more complicated relationship
  - Morten (2017) studies how seasonal migration affects risk-sharing in source community in India
  - With more migration, due to covariate risk households might have less need for traditional insurance mechanisms

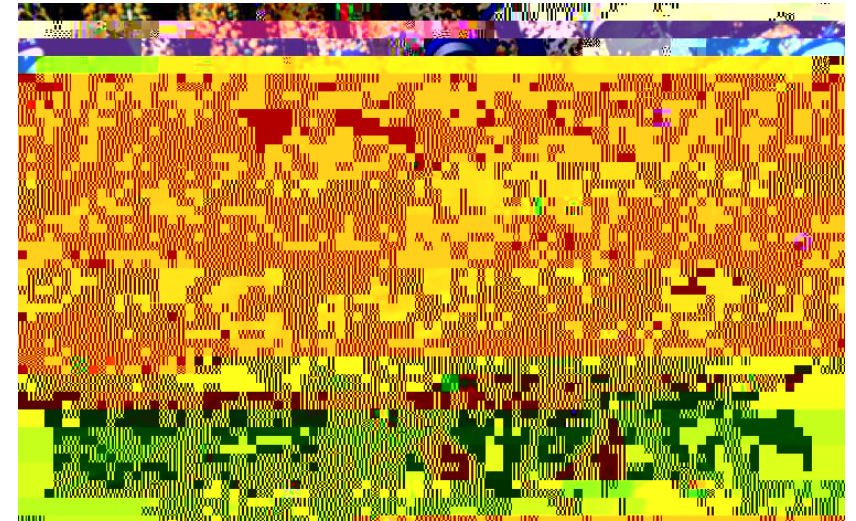


- Credit constraints more important for international migration
  - Lots of costs
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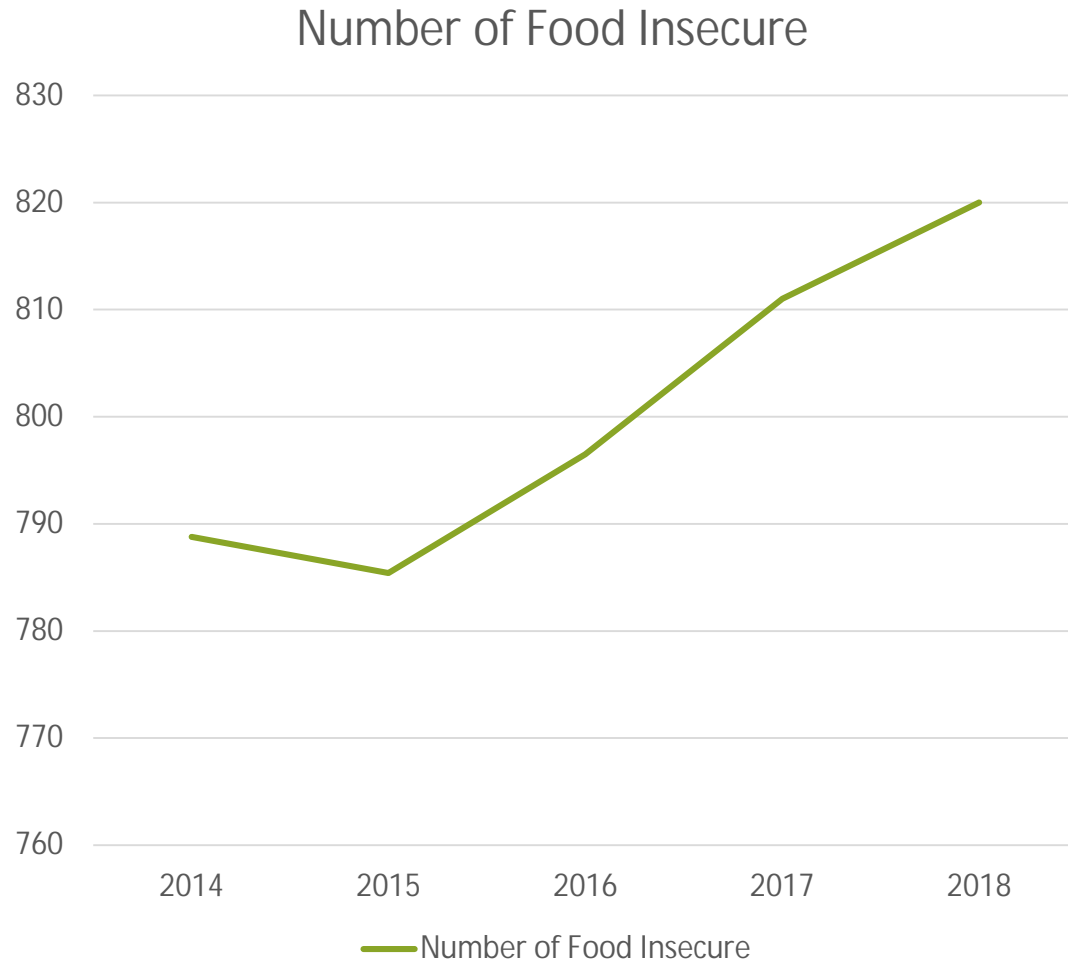
# A Further Investment: Migration and Young Child Nutrition

- Nutritional status among young children has been linked to positive outcomes (including wages) later in life (Hoddinott et al., 2008; Gertler et al., 2014)
- Could be improved outcomes from migration through:
  - increased income
  - more decision making power among women, but
  - Decreased time to care for children (negative)
- Mu and de Brauw (2015) show positive impacts on child weights in rural China
- Carletto, Covarrubias, and Maluccio (2011) also find positive impacts on height in Guatemala (US migration)
- Gibson, McKenzie and Stillman (2011b) find opposite in Tonga





# Food and Nutrition Security leading to Migration?



- Actual share in population is about stable
- We don't know what the standard errors are on these estimates
  - My guess is that they are pretty large
- Since food insecurity not changing, hard to see how migration affects it in the aggregate



# Nutrition Security

- More questions than answers
- How do migrant diets change when migrants leave?
  - Migrant diet- de Brauw, Mueller, and Woldehanna (2017)
  - But may be different in international migration/richer countries
- How do diets change in the source household?
  - One less mouth to feed
  - Very little evidence on this point but likely related to income (again)



# One final point: Food and nutrition security among people or places?



With substantial international migration, changes in food security among people may be different than for country as a whole

