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THE CHOLERAPHONE

Cholera surveillance using mobile phones in Bangladesh

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BACKGROUND

- **Cholera** is native to Bangladesh and still causes thousands of hospitalizations and an unknown number of mortalities every year, yet its outbreak patterns are poorly understood.
- A big problem in diarrhea surveillance is a very short **recall period**, meaning the patient's ability to remember and report episodes of diarrhea, is limited to 72 hours.
- Mobile phone use allows for **real time surveillance**, uses less resources and cuts down on research fatigue.
- **Mobile phones** have previously not been used for diarrhea surveillance.



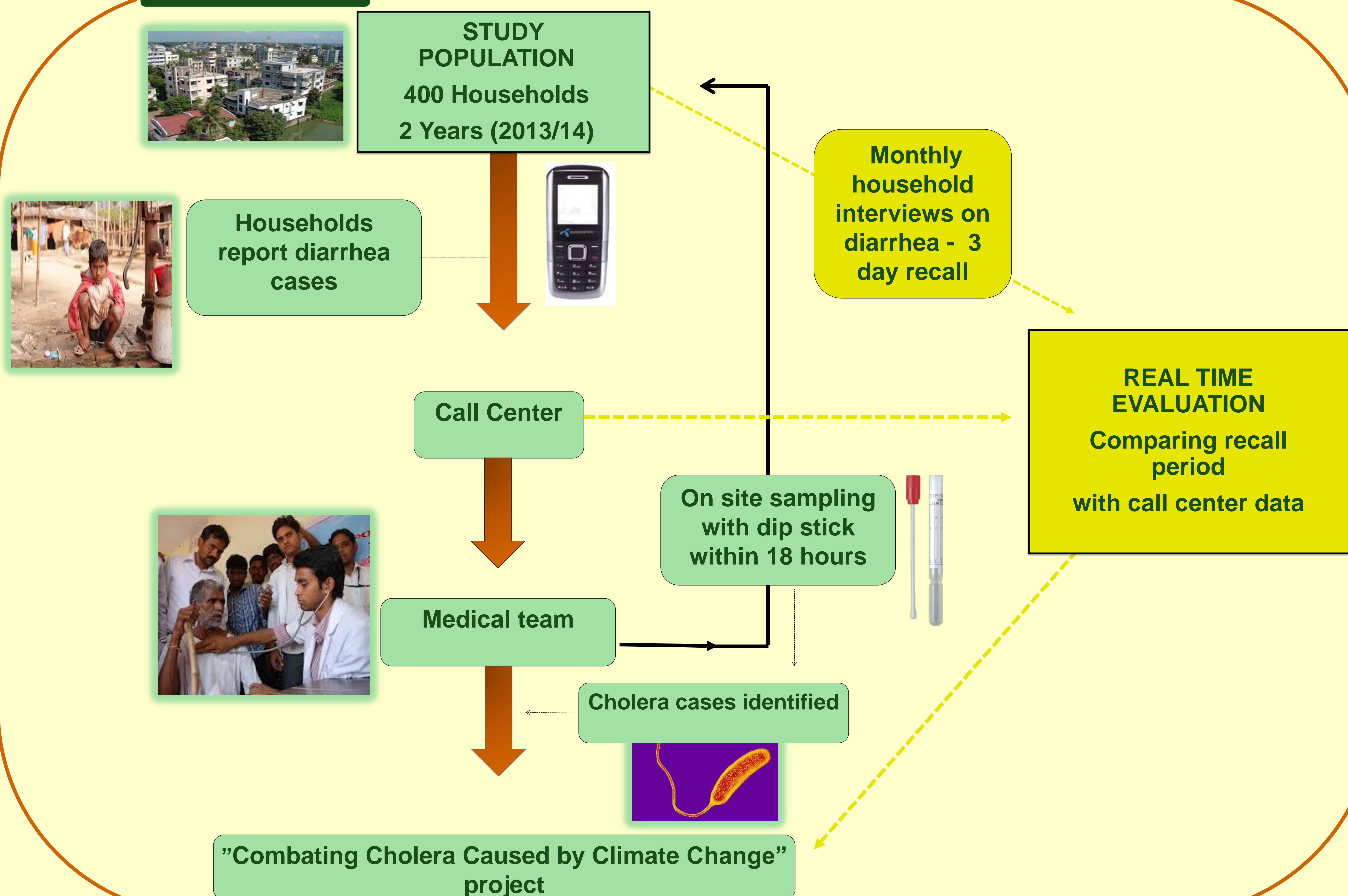
OBJECTIVE

Overall objective: Establish a novel method for identification of diarrhea cases in Bangladesh through a mobile telephone reporting system.

Specific objectives:

1. Design the mobile reporting system and implement it in the households.
2. Evaluate the sensitivity of the method through interviews with random selected households.

STUDY DESIGN



EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Elimination of recall bias in diarrhea surveillance.
2. Possibility for environmental sample from household (water, food etc.) within 18 hours from onset of diarrhea.
3. Continuous evaluation of method by monthly conventional household interview with a 72 hour recall period.

