



Reintegrating Boko Haram returnees

Graeme Blair, UCLA



Internally-displaced persons camp,
Konduga, Nigeria, outside Maiduguri.



Internally-displaced persons camp,
Maiduguri, Nigeria.

Baseline attitudes

90% support torture of returnees

50% support capital punishment

50% support accepting returnees

(80% note fear, 75% note anger)

Allow child to marry

Vote for them

Trade with them

Invite to event

Allow in meetings

Allow to reintegrate

0.00

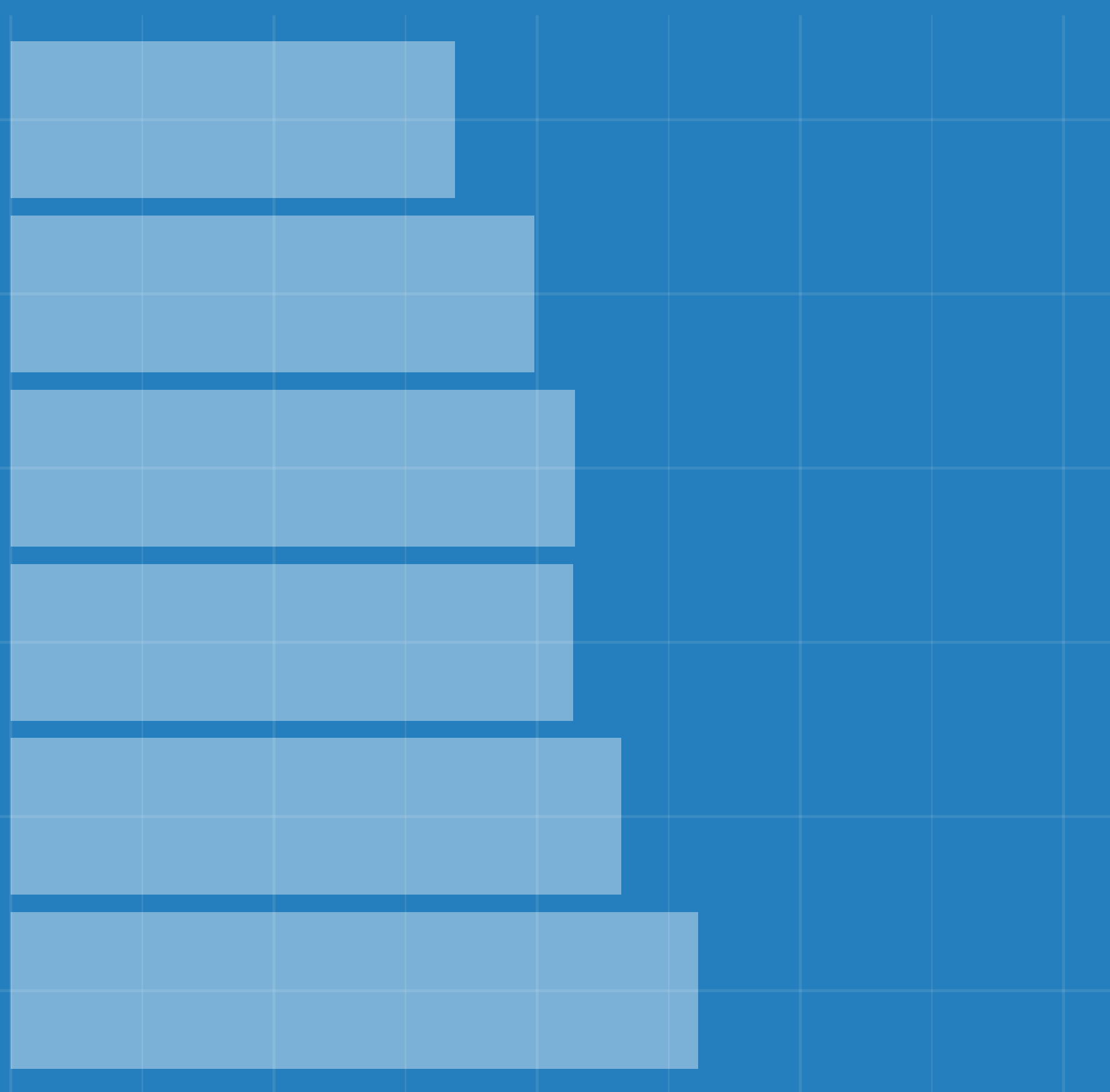
0.25

0.50

0.75

1.00

Proportion of respondents in placebo-control group



Idea

**Trusted authorities can
shift minds and
change norms**

Q: What would you need to accept returnees?

"We would seek guidance from our community leaders [...]"

"If our leaders said to welcome them back, we would"

IMAM TRAINING COURSE IN EMPOWERMENT
AND PEACE BUILDING (ITCEPB)



Theme: COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
FOR IMAMS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS



Why trusted authorities?

People listen to trusted authorities

Leader cues → beliefs, decisions

Leaders signal social norms

Why religious authorities?

Often highly trusted (e.g. 97%)

Legitimate use of religious ideas

Sought for advice on many topics



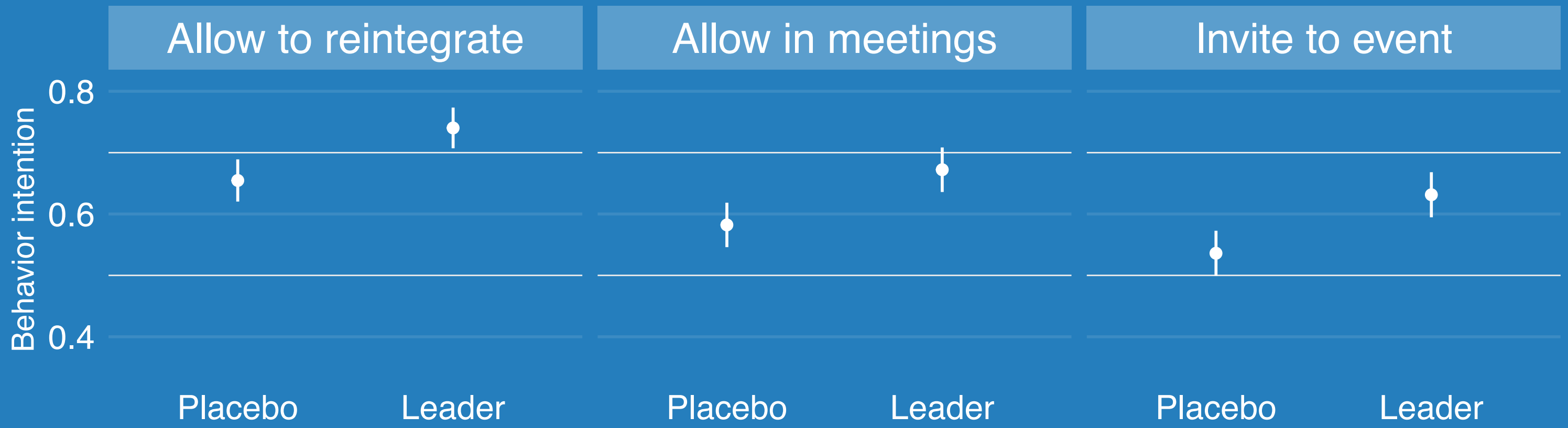
Radio intro: "...Goni Muhammad Sa'ad Ngamdu himself, a known Muslim cleric in Borno State."

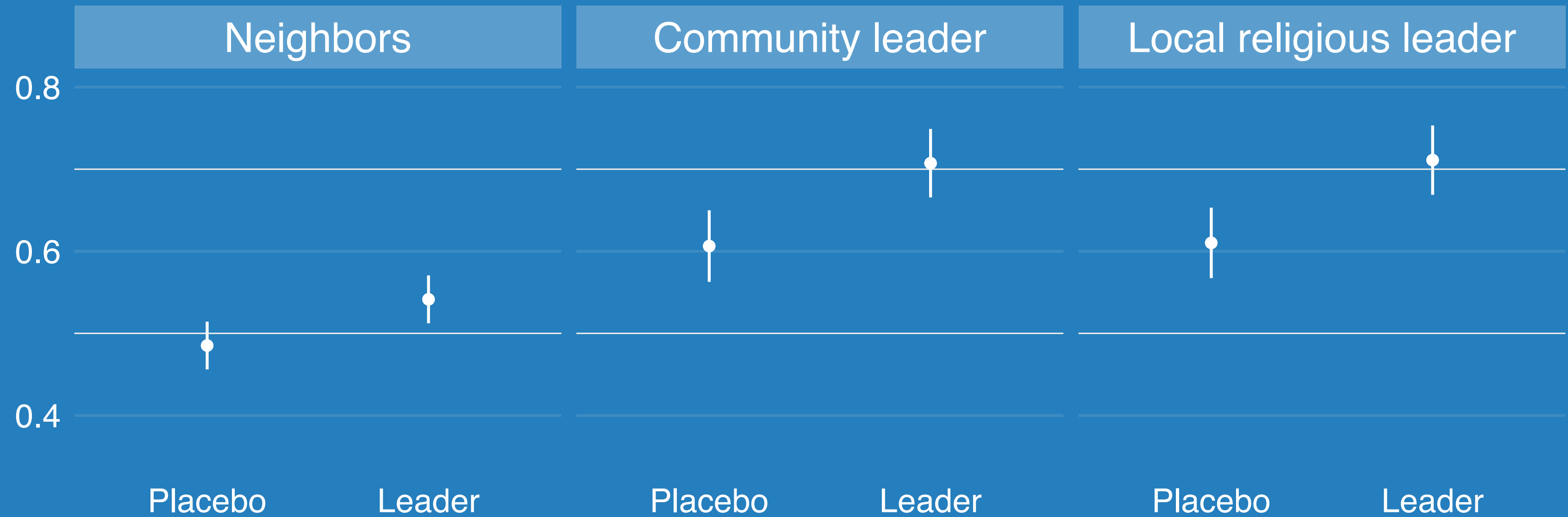
In his own voice:

- 1. Emphasized idea of forgiveness in Islamic texts**
- 2. Announced leader would forgive fighters**
- 3. Called on followers to forgive as well**

Outro









Policy implications


UNHCR
The UN
Refugee Agency


UNHCR
The UN
Refugee Agency


UNHCR
The UN
Refugee Agency


UNHCR
The UN
Refugee Agency


UNHCR
The UN
Refugee Agency

Teaser for related work

**Can we change beliefs about
attitude malleability**

**Can apologies shift community
acceptance?**

Community acceptance in 2021

**UNU-CPR Managing Exits from Conflict estimates:
69% (male affiliate), 70% (female affiliate)**

