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STORIES OF CHANGE IN NUTRITION





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Getting to Specifics: Bangladesh's Evolving Nutrition Policies

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Bangladesh



Bangladesh sustained reductions in child underweight and stunting prevalence over the 1990s and 2000s.

Impact

- The percentage of underweight children declined by 1.1% per year from 1997-2007.
- Stunting rates declined by 1.3% per year during the same time period.

Bangladesh

Factors contributing to success

- Pro-poor economic growth was accompanied by declines in acute food shortages, investments in assets, improved infrastructure, and increased availability of nonfarm and manufacturing work.
- Agricultural production increased.
- Expanded family planning support reduced fertility.
- Maternal and infant mortality declined while antenatal coverage and birth attendance by a skilled provider increased.
- School attendance increased and stipend programs improved enrollments.
- Access to improved drinking water sources and sanitation increased.
- Women's educational achievement increased alongside widespread participation of women in NGO-supported income generation and increased employment of women with control of their income.

Bangladesh: Lessons learned

- Nutrition-sensitive drivers within a wider enabling environment of pro-poor economic growth have likely contributed to improvements in nutrition. Such indirect drivers have multiple impacts and are mutually reinforcing.
- Nutrition-specific interventions directly aimed at improving nutritional status are needed to sustain the gains already made and to make further improvements.

