



CURRENT STATUS OF CHILD NUTRITION IN PNG combined with Socioeconomic determinants of malnutrition

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PUBLIC HEALTH WING

NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

THE CURRENT STATUS

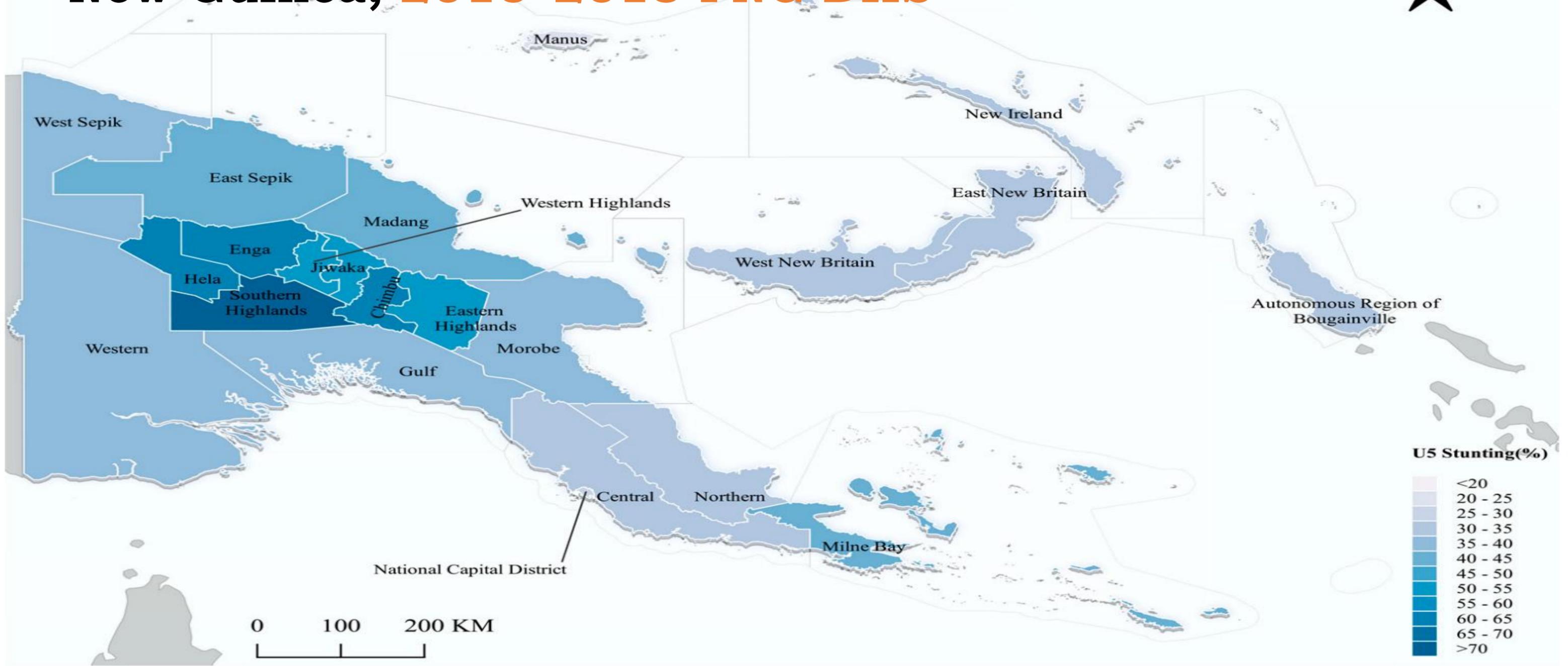
- Child malnutrition is a critical issue in Papua New Guinea (PNG), with nearly half of children under five being stunted, a rate among the highest in the world.
- **This data is more than 10 years old – There is a need to conduct a National Nutrition Survey to assess the nutritional status of our children. (Plan for 2026)**



Nati



Spatial distribution of stunting rates for children under five years of age by provincial-level divisions in Papua New Guinea; 2016–2018 PNG DHS





Child Nutrition is a National Priority

2. Malnutrition contributes to under-five mortality and poor health outcomes, making it a pressing public health issue.

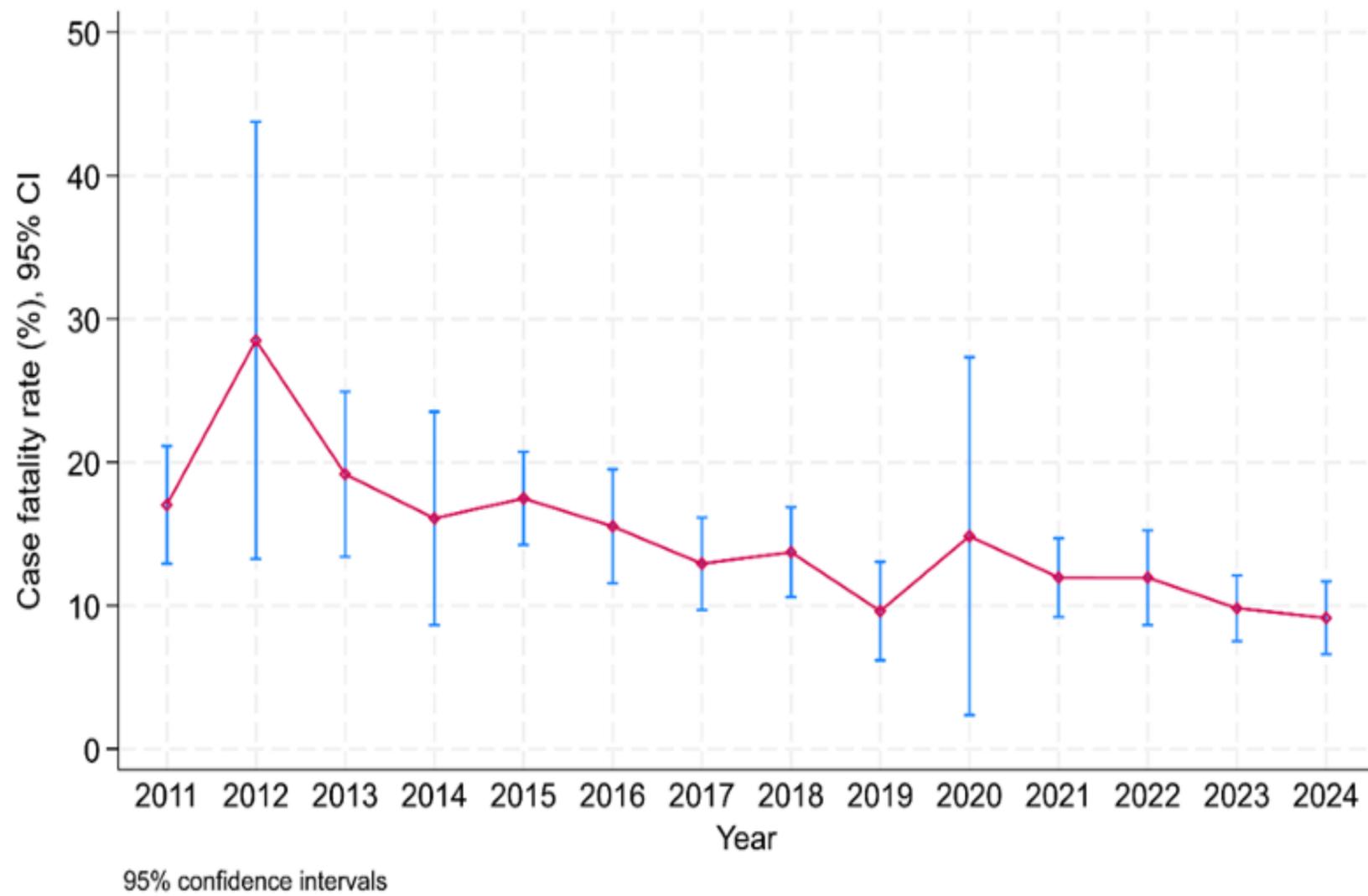


Figure 2: Severe Malnutrition Case Fatality Rate 2011-2024:
Source: Child morbidity and Mortality report 2024

Percentage of underweight children < 5 years, 2023

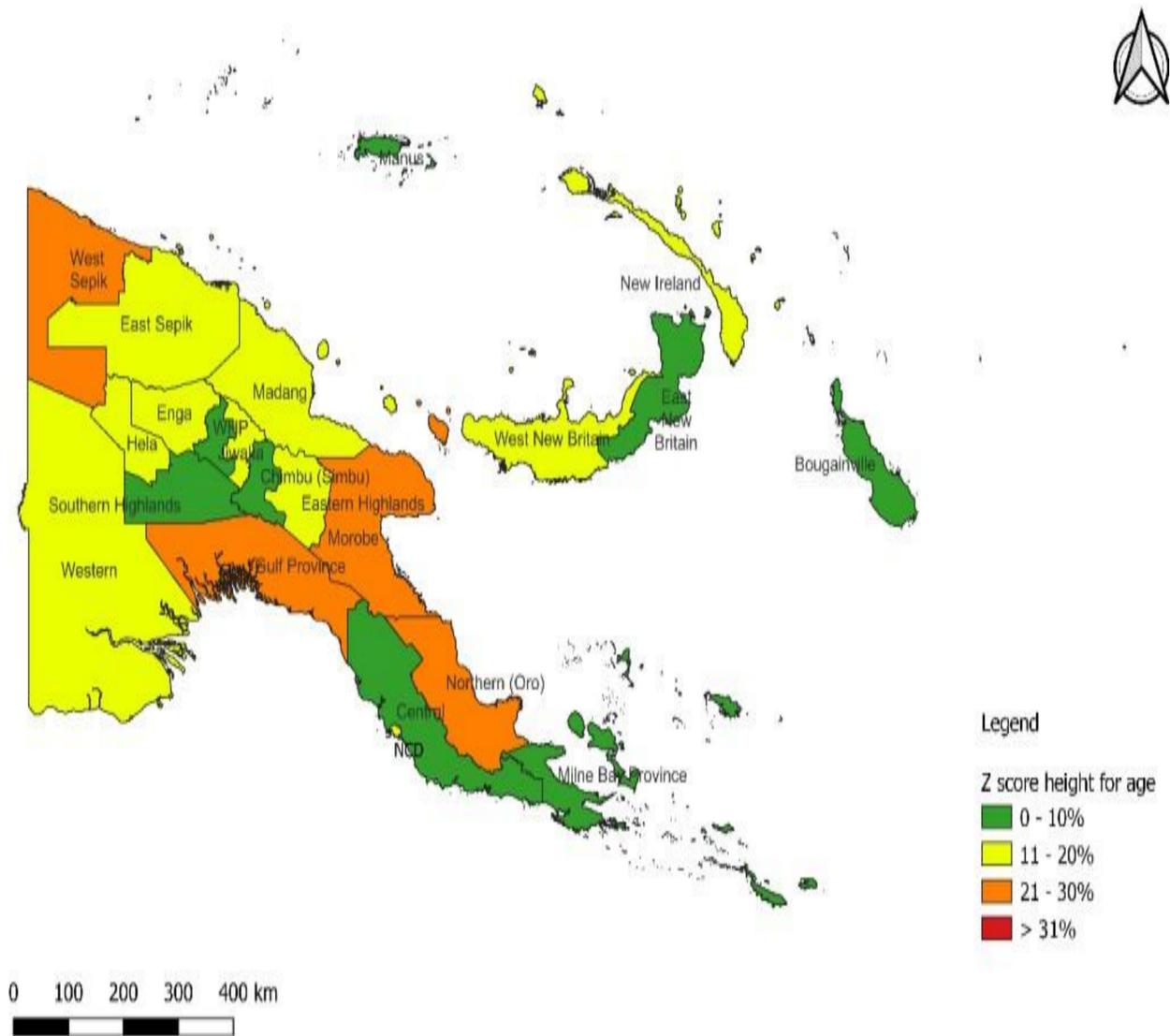


Figure 3: Percentage of Underweight Children < 5 years
Source: SPAR Report 2024



Social Determinants of Health

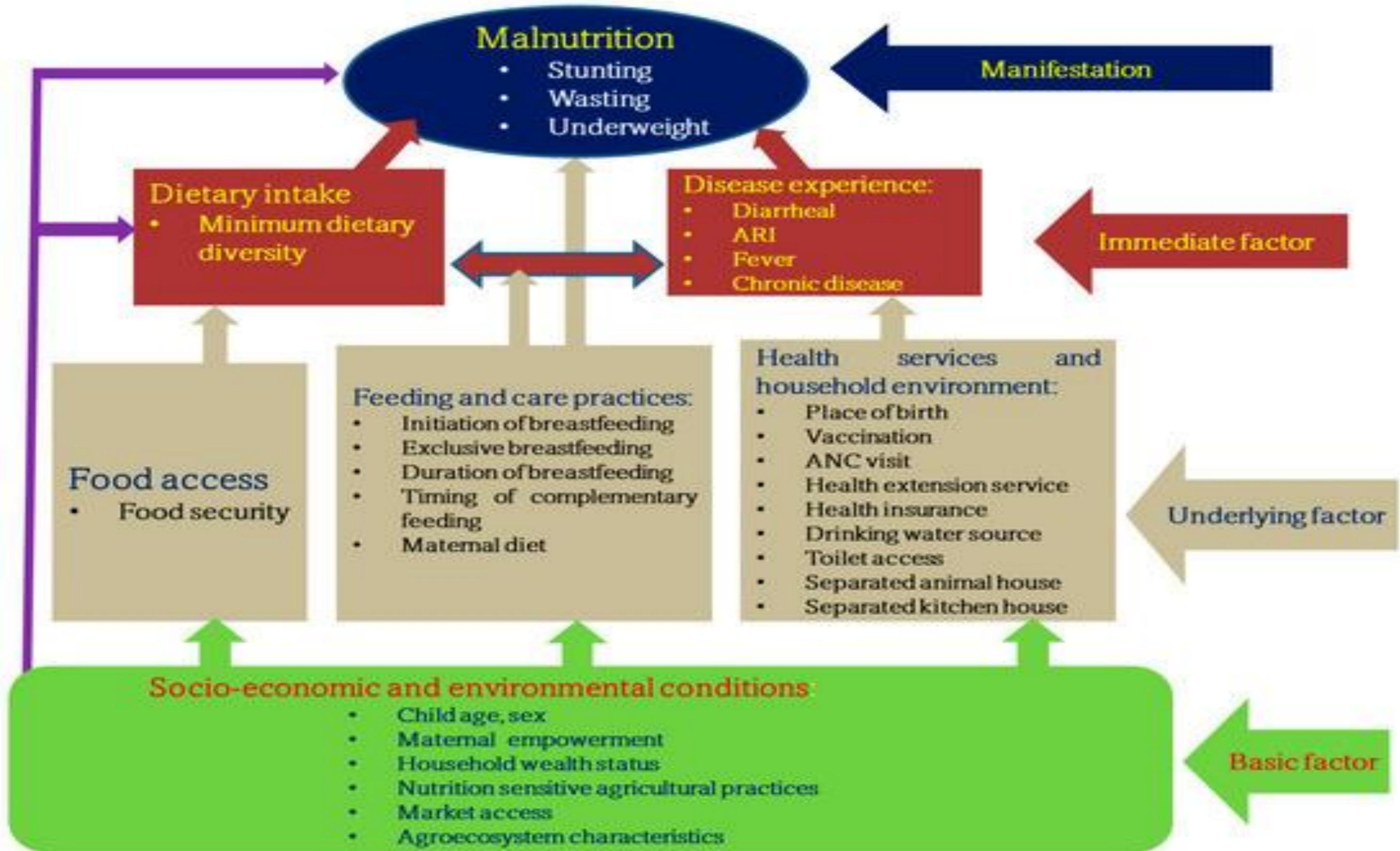


- Evidence reveal that social determinants have a significant impact on nutritional status of populations.
- The **social determinants of health (SDH)** are non-medical factors that have a major influence on our health. They are social and economic factors that shape the conditions in which we live, learn, work and play. These factors influence a person's opportunity to be healthy, their risk of illness, health behaviours, and healthy life expectancy.
- Addressing the social determinants of health is an important part of primary prevention and increasing population impact, i.e. 'upstream prevention'.

The most common social determinants that affect our health, include:

- Income and social status
- Education and literacy
- Employment and working conditions
- Childhood experiences
- Physical environments
- Social supports and coping skills
- Healthy behaviours
- Access to health services
- Biology and genetics
- Gender
- Race/Racism
- Culture



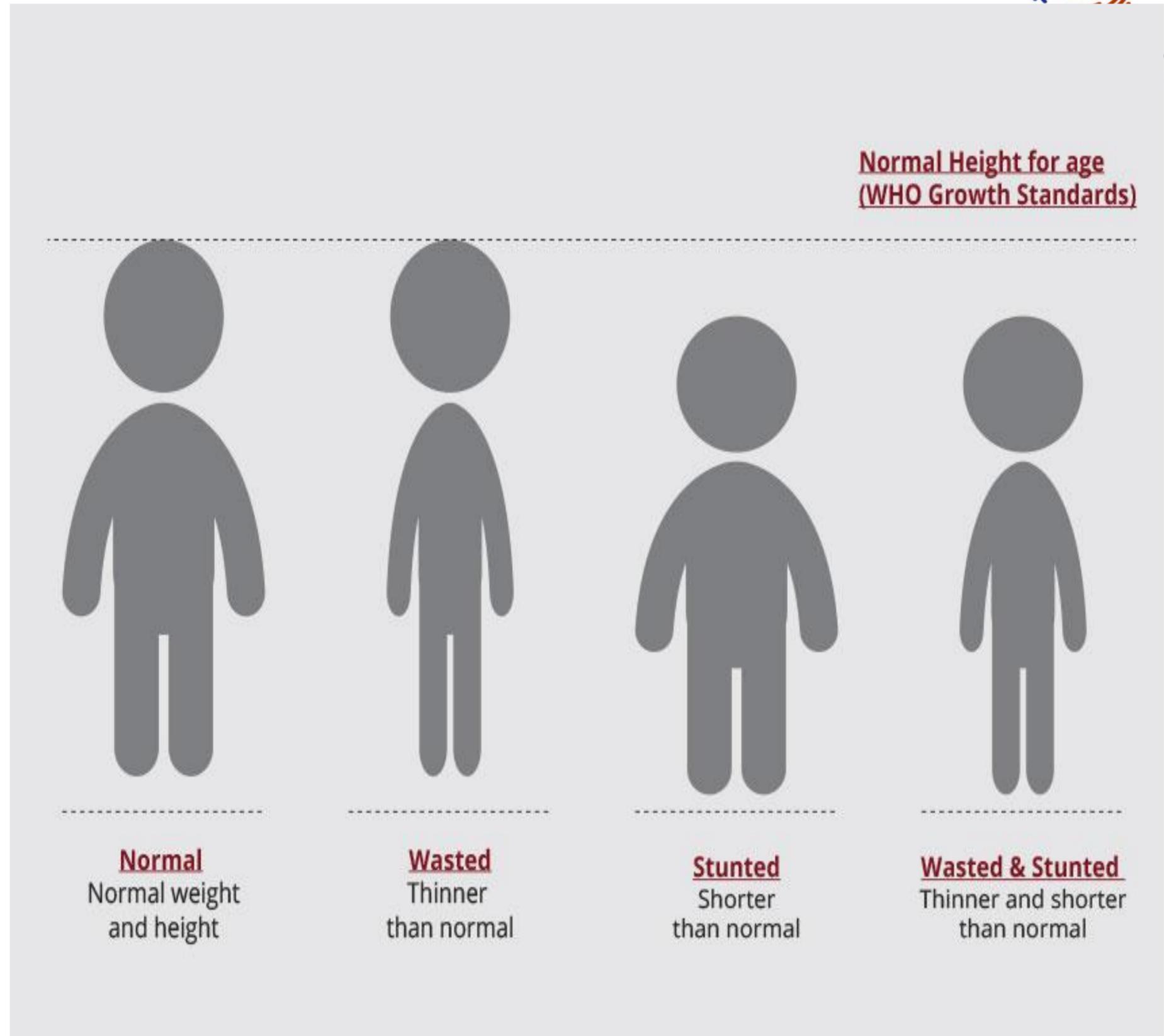




National Department of Health



Malnutrition is the broad term for a lack of adequate nutrients, while **stunting** is a specific, chronic form of malnutrition **where a child's height is low for their age.**





Feature	MALNUTRITION	STUNTING
Definition	A condition where the body doesn't receive or absorb enough nutrients to meet its needs.	A condition where a child's height is significantly below the average for their age.
Scope	A broad category that includes various deficiencies, such as undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.	A specific outcome of chronic malnutrition, poor nutrition, repeated infections, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation.
Timeframe	Can be acute or chronic.	Typically results from chronic (long-term) nutritional deficiencies.
Key Indicator	Often associated with weight loss, weakness, and fatigue, but can also be associated with being overweight if it's due to poor quality food.	Primarily measured by height-for-age.
Cause	A lack of nutrients from a poor diet or problems absorbing them.	Chronic nutritional deficiencies, particularly during the first 1,000 days of a child's life

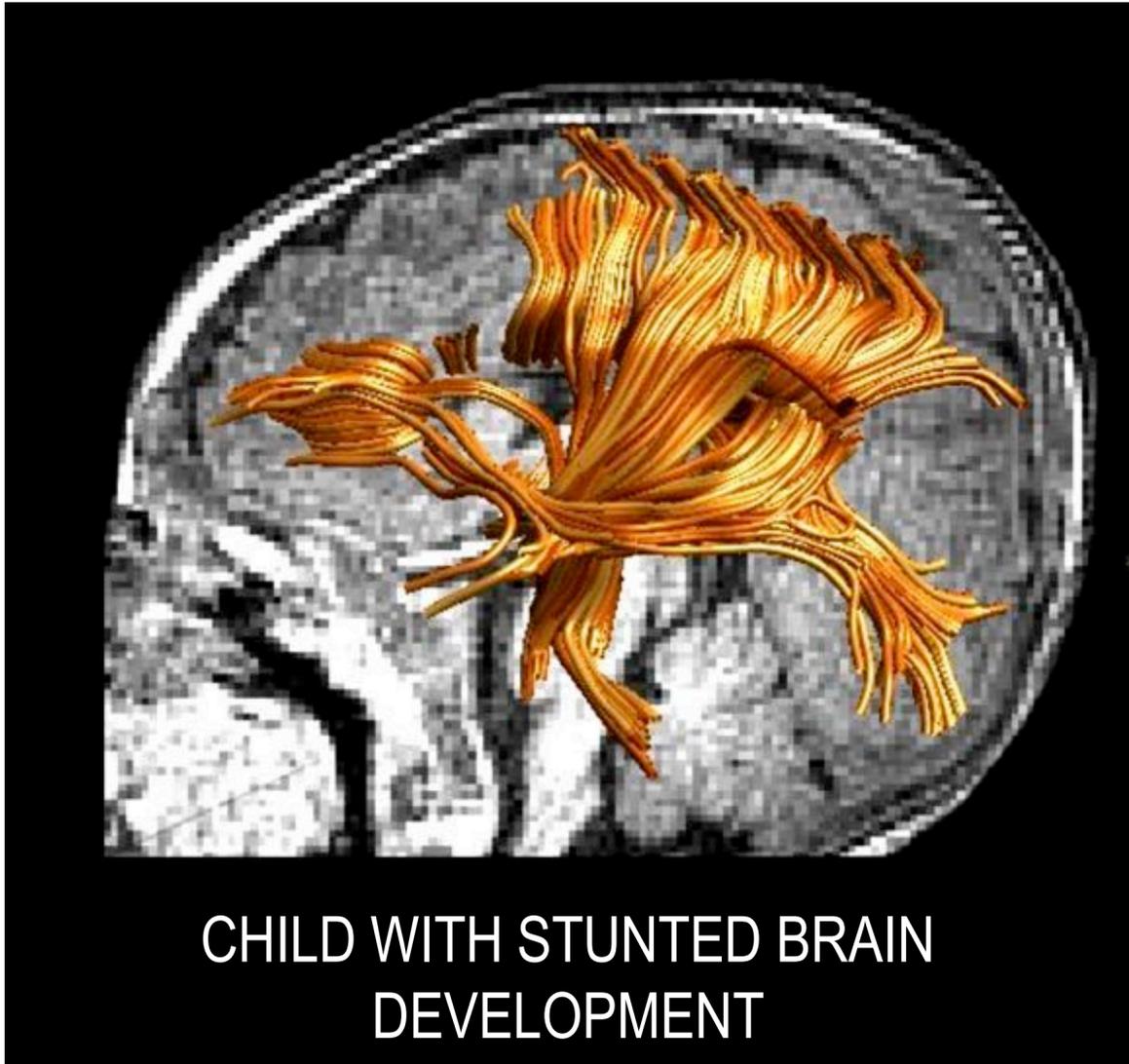
First 1,000 days of life

- **First 1,000 days refers to the period from conception to 2 years of life**
- **Most of the growth faltering that leads to stunting occurs between the ages 3-24 months**



Behaviors that influence stunting among children include maternal health and diet during pregnancy, infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices, and prevention and treatment of infections

FIRST 1000 DAYS



IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

IMPACT OF ADDRESSING STUNTING



Early nutrition programs can increase school completion by one year



Early nutrition programs can raise adult wages by 5-50%



Children who escape stunting are 33% more likely to escape poverty as adults



Reductions in stunting can increase GDP by 4-11% in Asia & Africa

Thank you!

CNSP - focusing on rural primary health care & achieving Government objective: providing service and behavioural change communications within one hour of reach of our rural majority population!!

