



COMPACT  
2025

# Bangladesh

Assessment of Food Security and  
Nutrition Situation

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Roundtable Discussion

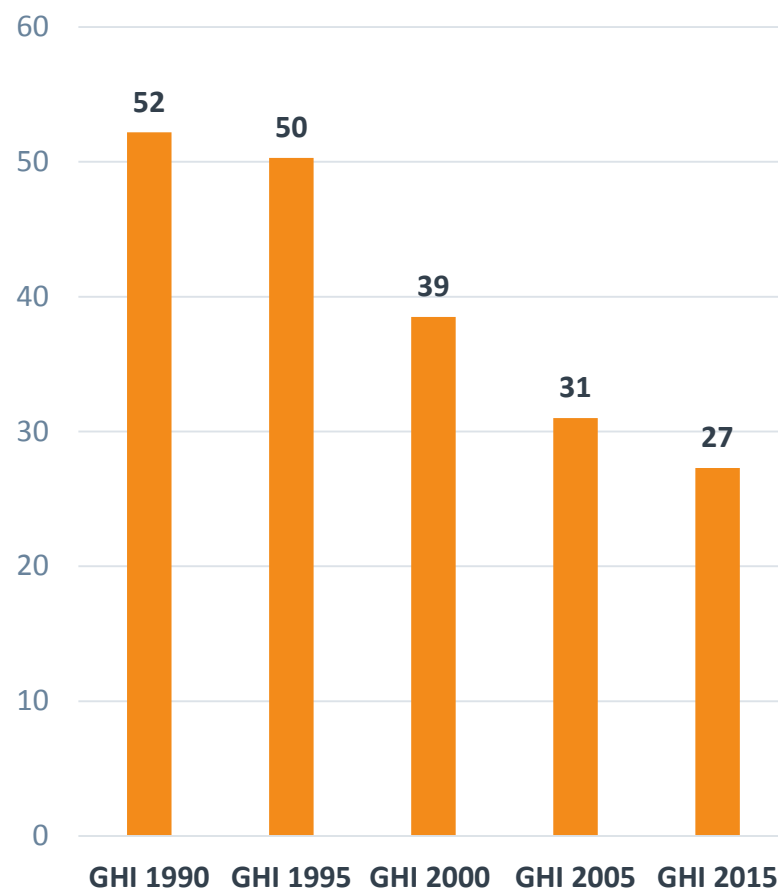
5 May 2016 | Dhaka



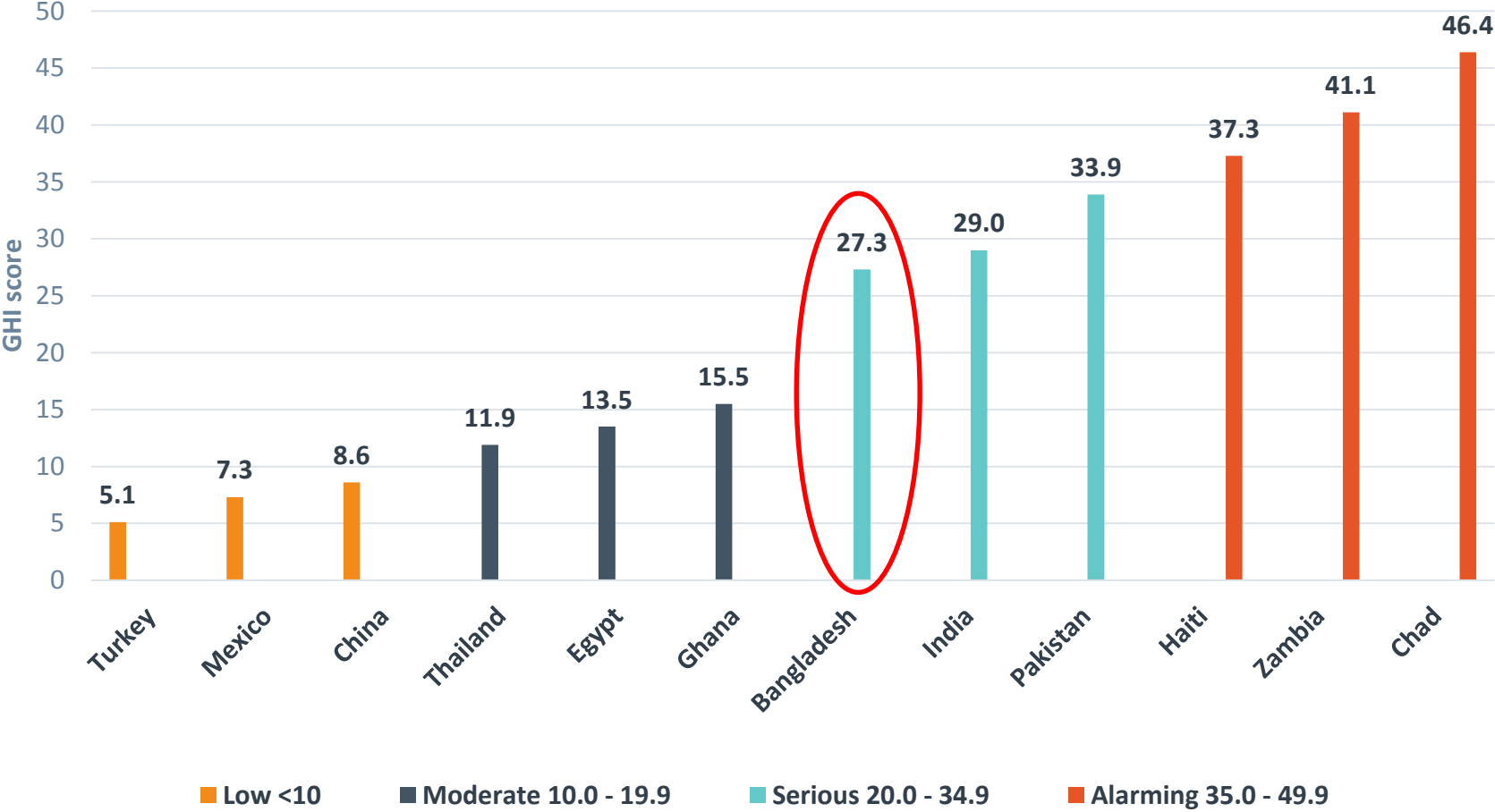
# Progress in reducing hunger, but more to be done

- Progress in 4 GHI components:
- **Undernourishment** fell from 32% to 16% (1990-2015)
  - Number of hungry people fell from 36 to 26 million in same period
- **Child wasting** fell from 18% to 14% (1992-2014)
- **Child stunting** fell from 63% to 36% (1992-2014)
- **Under-five mortality** fell from 14% to 4% (1992-2014)

Global Hunger Index Score: Bangladesh

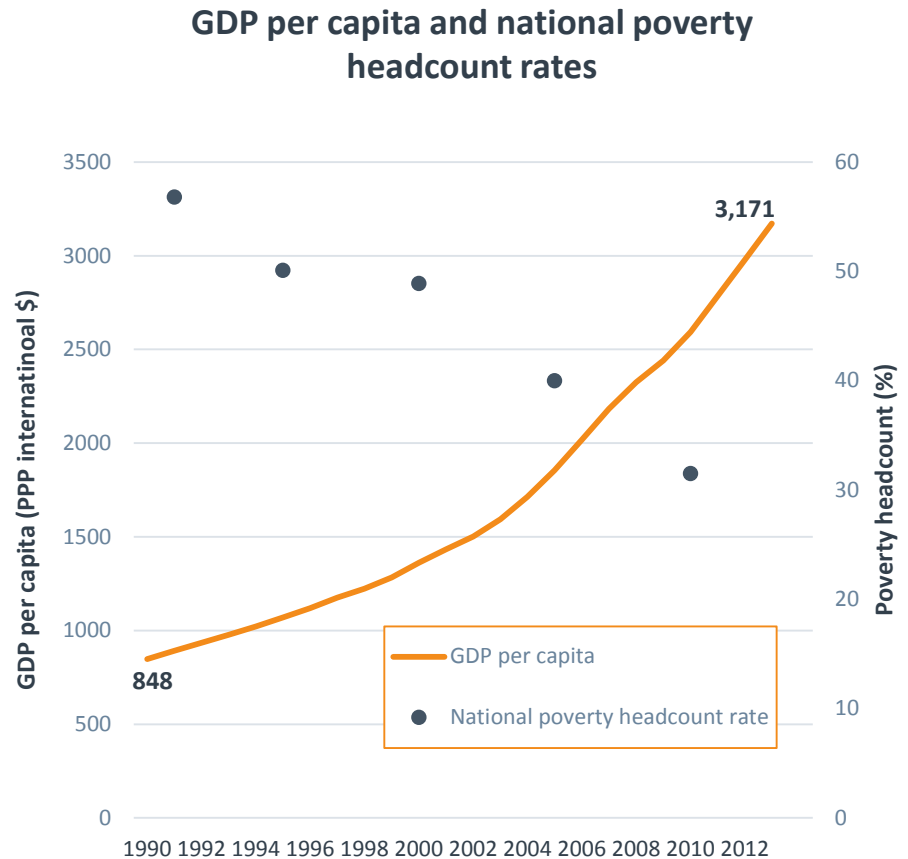


# 2015 Global Hunger Index by severity (selected countries): Despite progress, Bangladesh is in the “serious” category



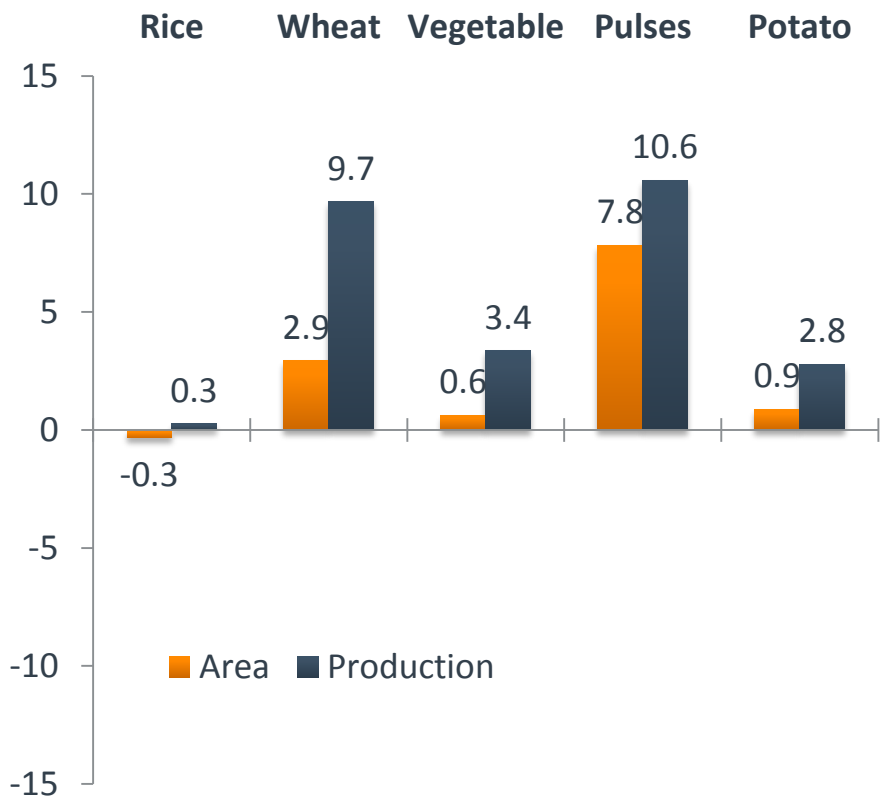
# Poverty persists despite strong economic growth

- Lower-middle income country with strong GDP growth
  - 6.3% average growth from 2005-2015
- Poverty greatly reduced, but 31.5% live below national poverty line (2010)
- Majority of poor live in rural areas, where poverty and hunger are highest



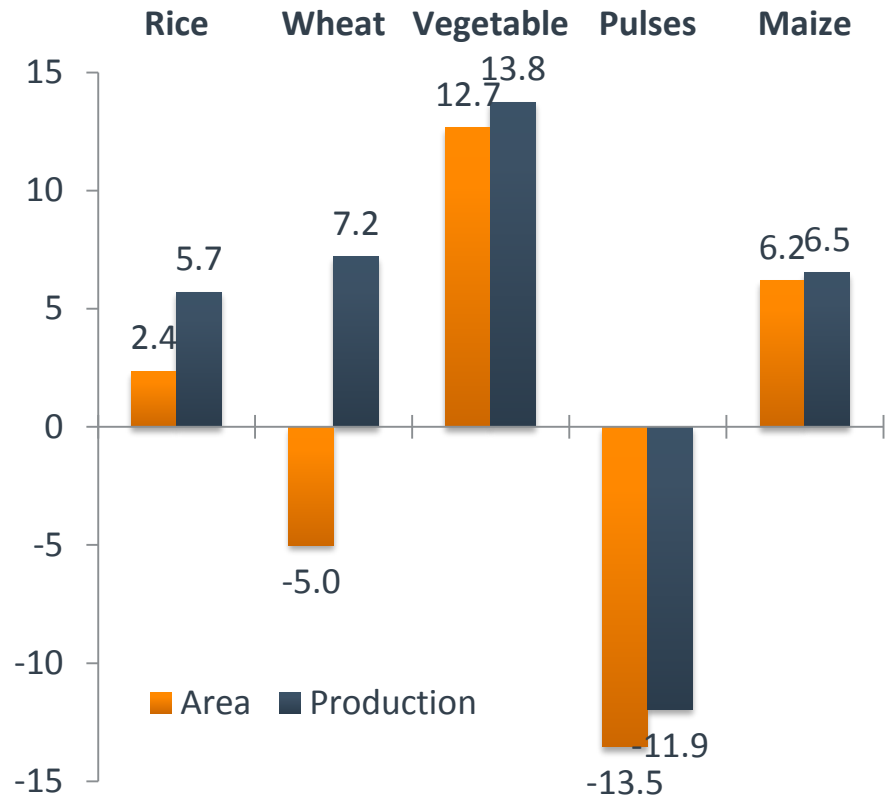
# Crop production and area growth rates

Annual growth rates, last five years (%)



Rice and wheat: From 2010-11 to 2014-15  
 Vegetable and pulses: From 2009-10 to 2013-14

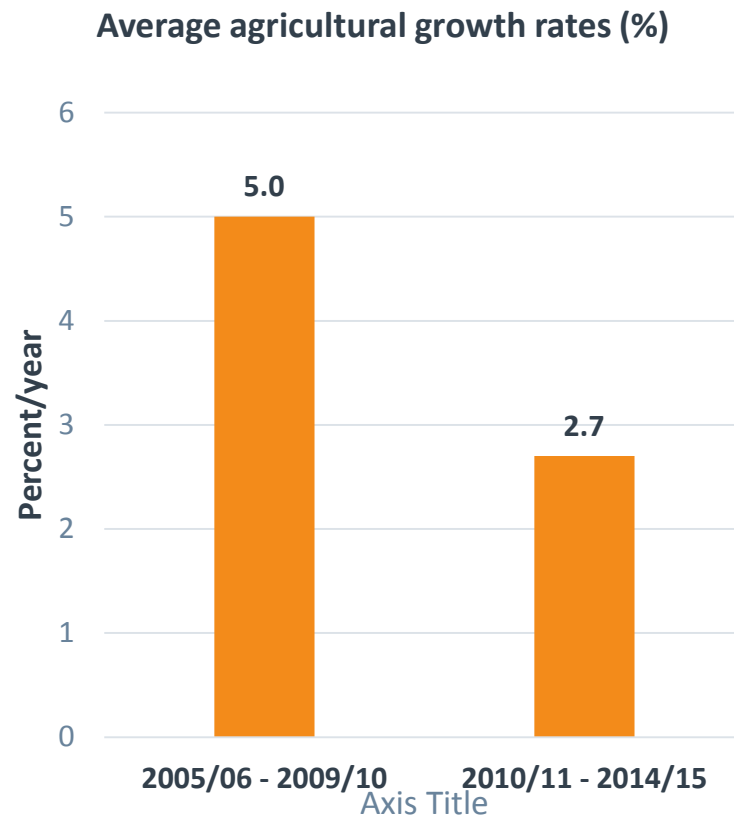
Annual growth rates, five years before then (%)



Rice and wheat: From 2005-06 to 2009-10  
 Vegetable and pulses: From 2004-05 to 2008-09

# Agricultural growth has slowed down

- Agricultural growth has declined mainly due to decreased growth in rice production.
- Fish production has increased rapidly, at an average annual growth rate of 5.5% over 5 years from 2007/08 to 2013 (share in ag GDP reached 25% in 2013/14).
- livestock subsector experienced a growth rate of 3%, and share in agricultural GDP was 12% in 2013/14.



Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Various years

# Agricultural wages increased sharply

- Real Agricultural wages have increased sharply in the recent past. In June 2008, agricultural laborers could buy 4.5 kg of rice from a day's wage. Rice wage increased to 9 kg of rice in June 2014.
- Agricultural wage laborers are among the poorest in rural Bangladesh; increase of real wages has boosted their earnings, improved their food security, and helped them escape poverty.
- Rural agricultural labor is no longer abundant, so policies should focus on ways to improve productivity in the wake of rising labor costs.
- Mechanization, accelerating the adoption of modern agricultural technologies for improving crop yields, and improving labor productivity may ease farmers' burden.

Source: IFPRI-PRSSP research

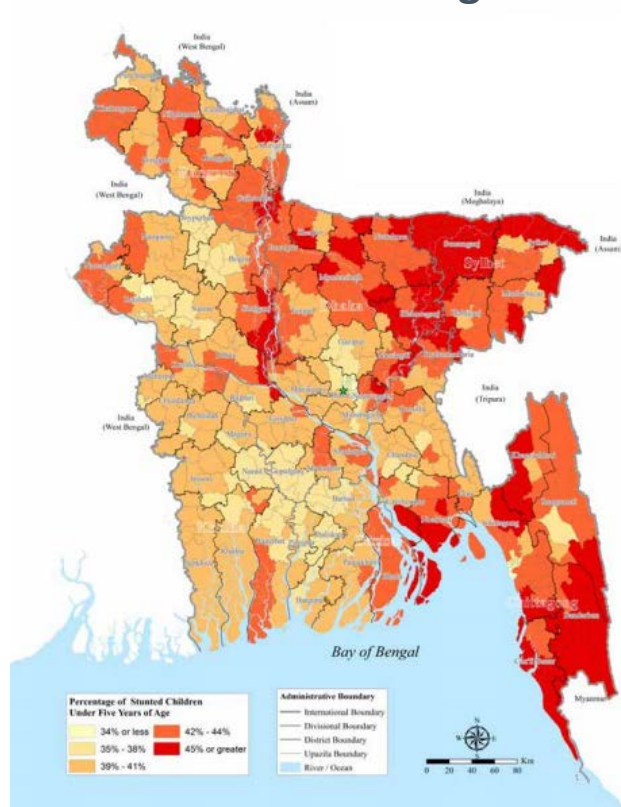
# Selected determinates of nutrition

- **Diet diversity: Rice-dominated diets**
  - Average proportion of calories from rice: 70% (2013)
- **Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH):** Increased coverage from 1990 to 2015
  - Safe drinking water: 68% to 87%
  - Improved sanitation coverage: 50% to 89%
- **Women empowerment** is shown to improve nutrition, food security

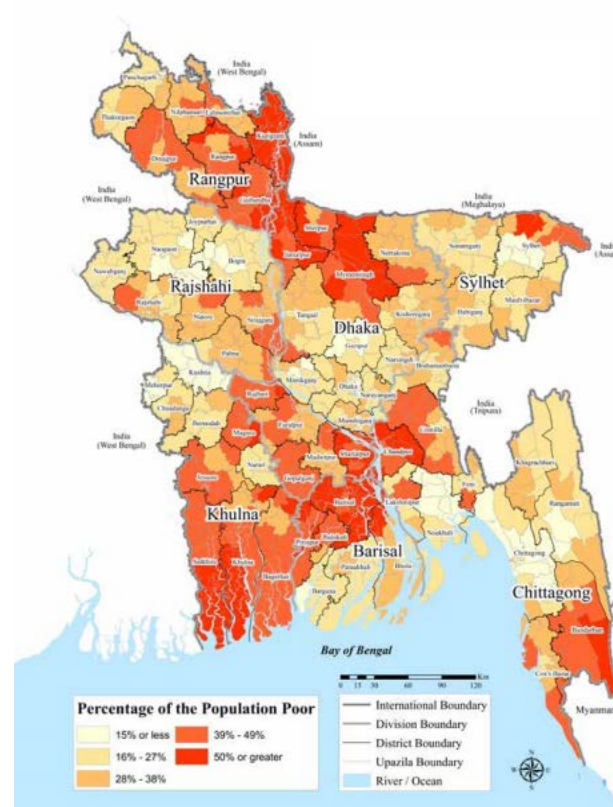


# Stunting prevalence varies by region

Child stunting



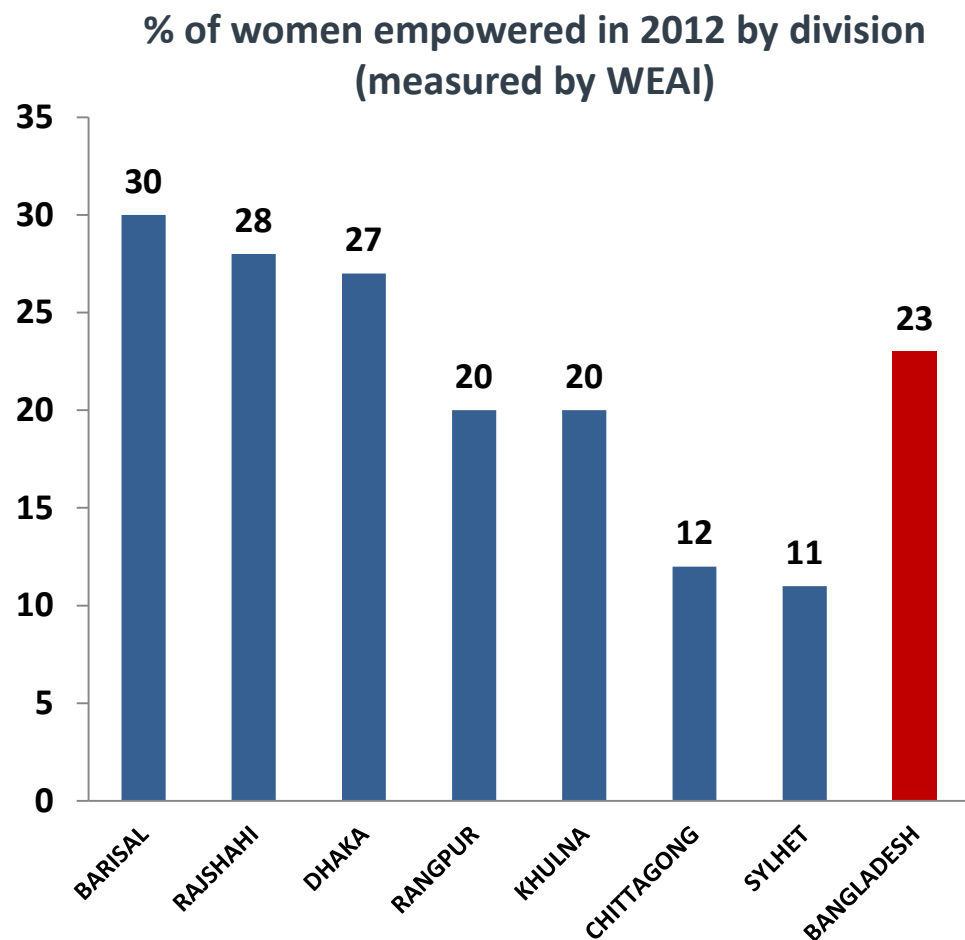
Poverty



A paradox: stunting is highest in regions of lowest poverty, and vice versa

# Paradox is partly explained by regional difference in women's empowerment

- Sylhet division: lowest women's empowerment, second highest income
- Barisal division: highest women's empowerment, second lowest income



# Do empowered Bangladeshi women break poverty and hunger trap?

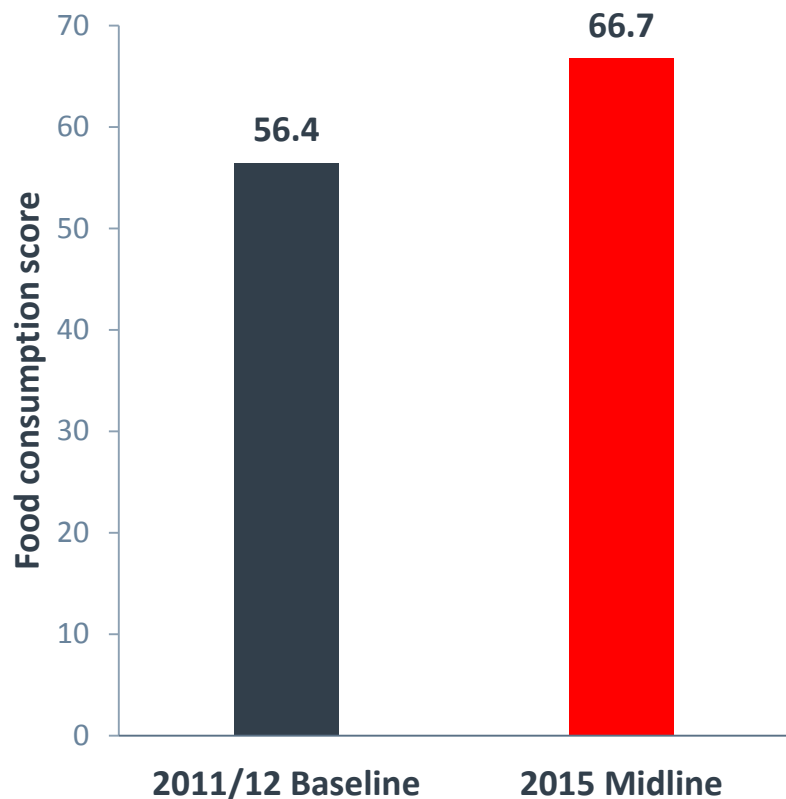
Using two rounds of Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey (BIHS) panel survey data (2011-2015), IFPRI research results show that, an increase in women's empowerment in agriculture (measured by Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) scores) helps:

- people move out of poverty;
  - increase farmers' income;
  - improve household, child, and maternal dietary diversity; and
  - increase agricultural diversity.
- *Results also show that increased agricultural diversity improves household dietary diversity.*

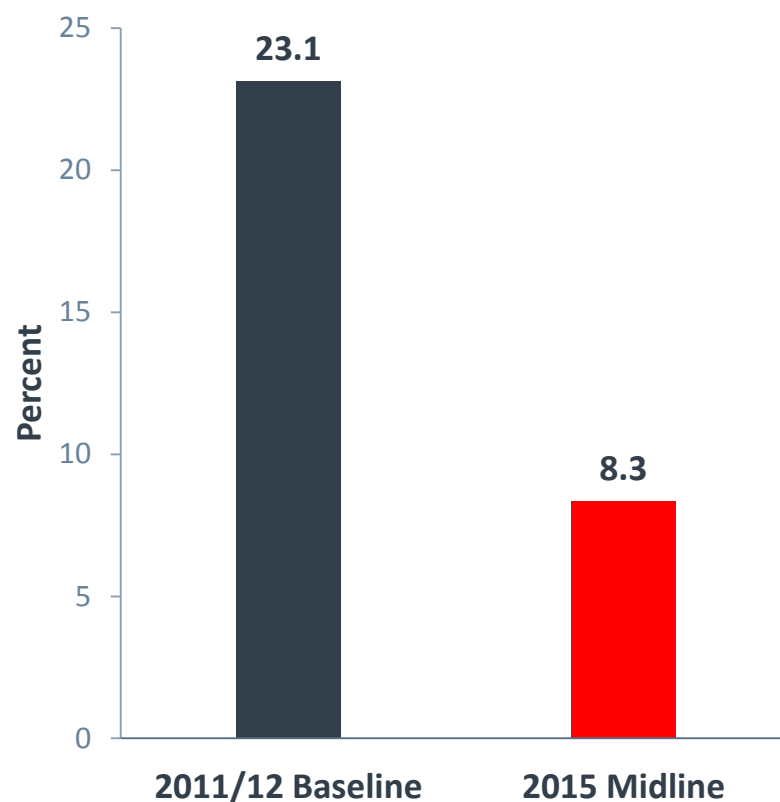
# Household diet quality improved

(using WFP's Food Consumption Score: 0-112)

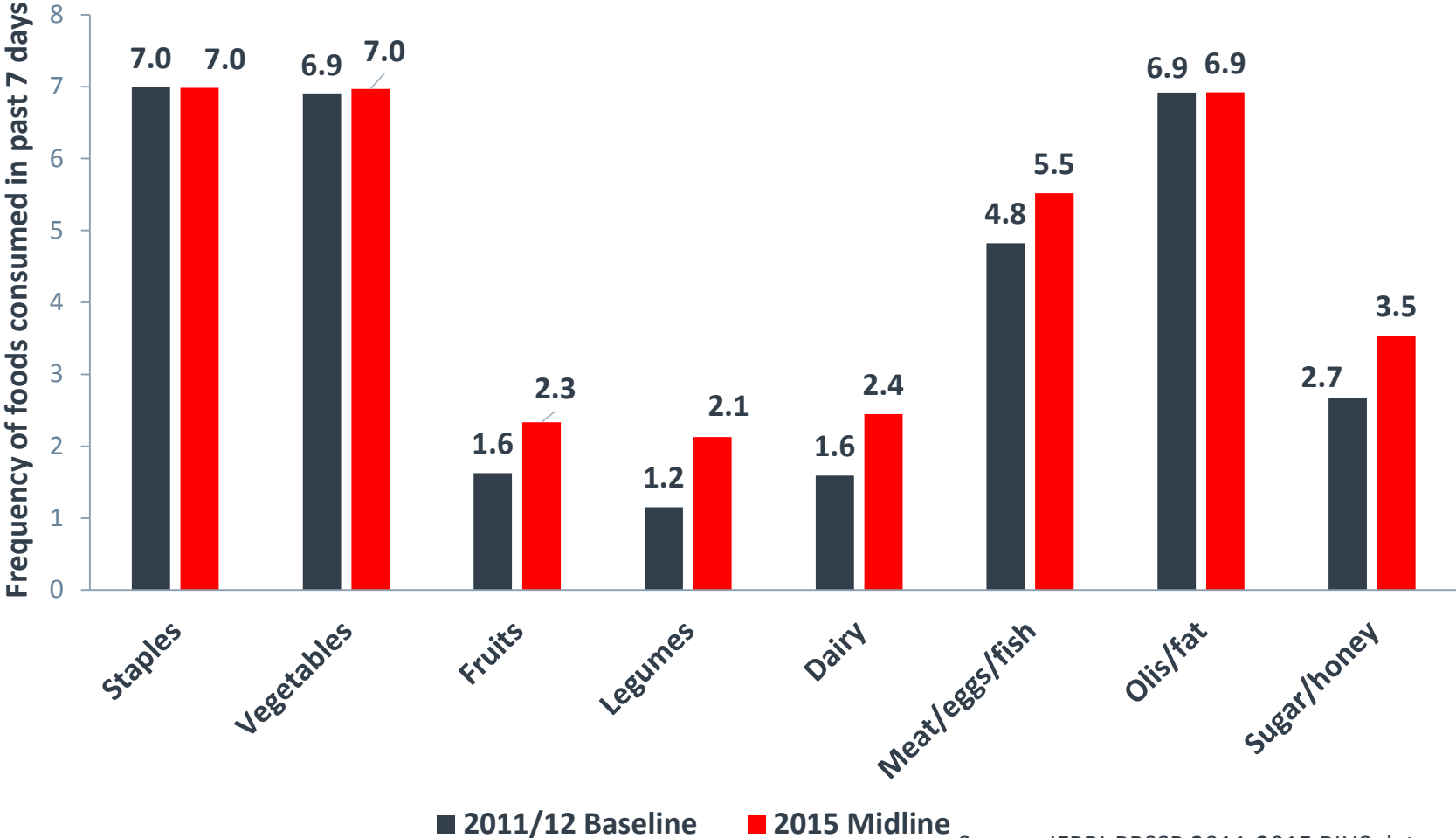
**Average FCS score**



**Percentage of households with low FCS (<42)**

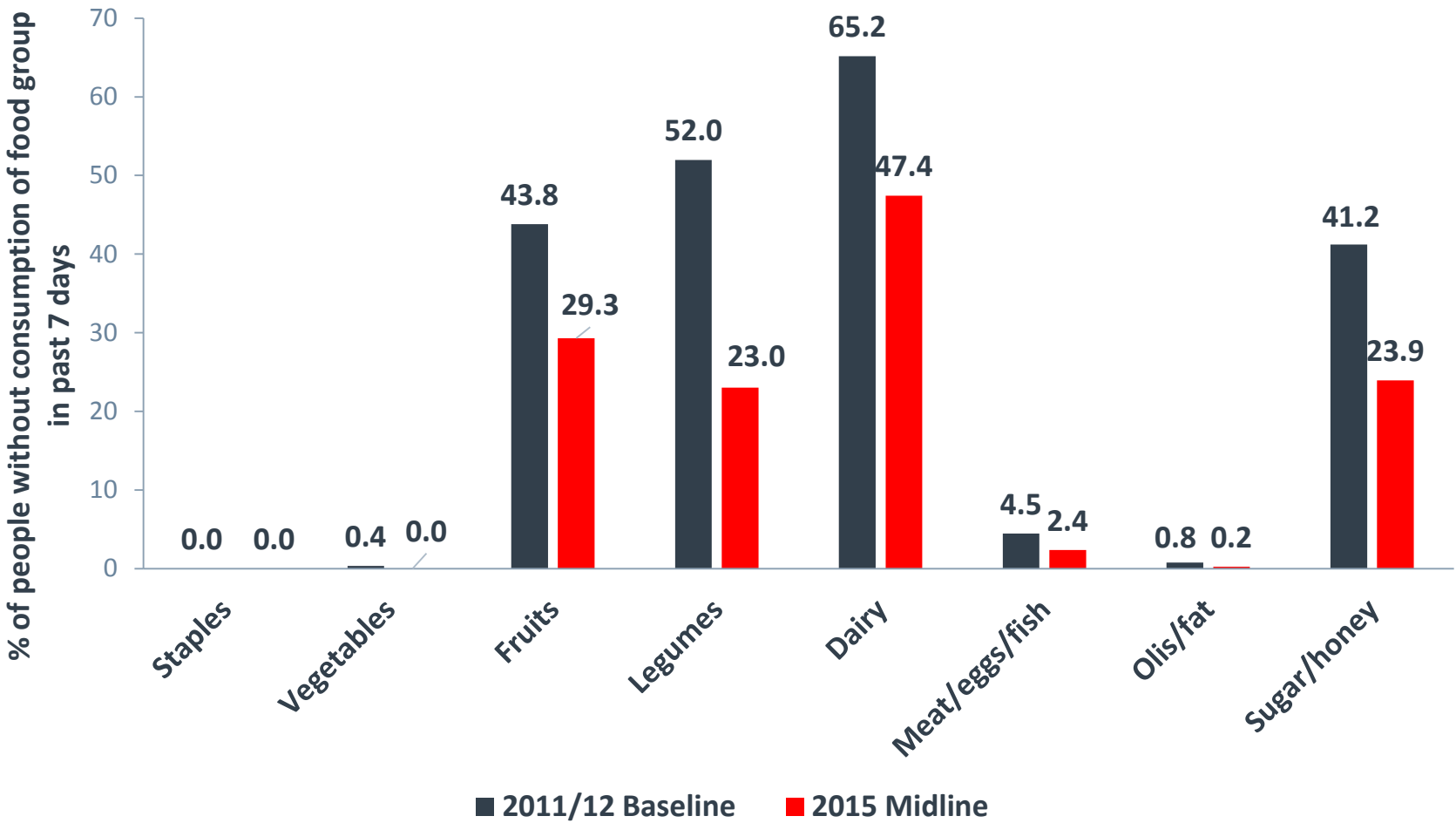


# Frequency of food groups consumed in past 7 days increased



Source: IFPRI-PRSSP 2011-2015 BIHS data 13

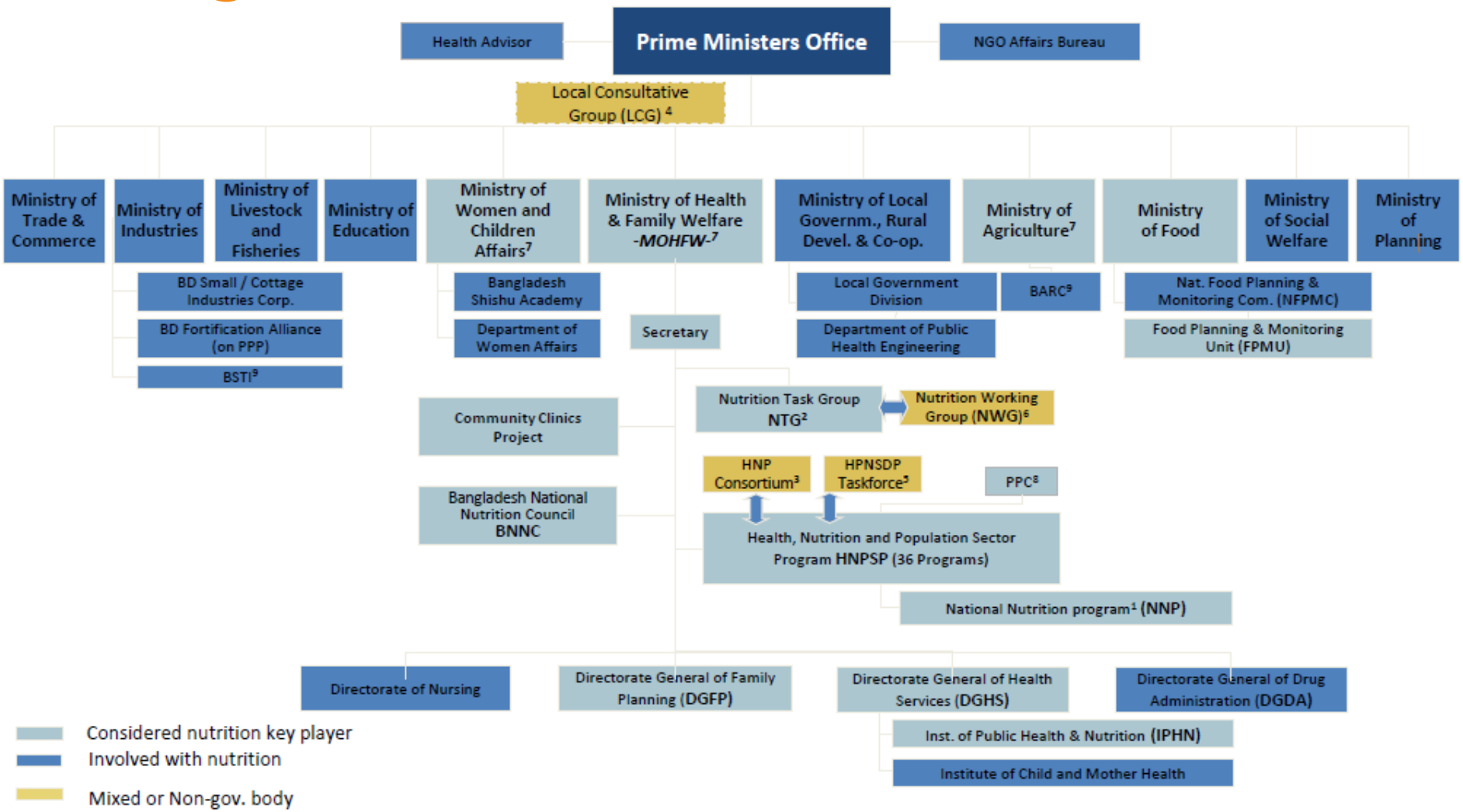
# Proportion of people who did not consume the food group in past 7 days



# National frameworks and plans for food security and nutrition

Strategy/Plan	Relation to food security, nutrition
<b>Vision 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aims to eliminate food deficiency and attain self-sufficiency in food production</li> <li>• Includes some nutritional targets/goals (e.g. drinking water, diet diversity)</li> </ul>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centers on economic growth and poverty reduction</li> <li>• Food security and nutrition strategies in line with National Food Policy</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Plan for Health, Population, Nutrition Sector Development Programme (2011-2016)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets policy intentions regarding health, population, and nutrition services</li> <li>• Strategies include coordination of activities across sectors</li> </ul>

# Architecture of nutrition governance in Bangladesh





# Selected policy gaps

- Examining and improving key policies driving diet diversity and quality
- Leveraging agriculture for growth, reduced poverty, and better nutrition and health
- Developing a national monitoring and evaluation system to guide policy formation and implementation
- Enhancing multisectoral approach through nutrition mainstreaming in all relevant sectors

# Selected implementation gaps

- Improving coverage of key nutrition programs (e.g. micronutrient supplementation)
- Improving coordination across sectors, stakeholders, AND levels of government
- Engaging with media and civil society to improve awareness, accountability

# Selected knowledge gaps

- Building productive and resilient agriculture and food systems
  - E.g. Adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change
- Accelerating progress in nutrition
  - E.g. Sustaining progress in reducing stunting (3 percentage points drop from 2013-14)
- Nutrition, health, and social protection
  - E.g. Addressing short and long-term shocks while boosting productivity and nutrition

In summary

# Challenges and opportunities

## Strengths

- Strong and sustained economic growth
- Government commitment to evidence-based policymaking
- Highly suitable for investment, e.g. in biofortification interventions

## Weaknesses

- Unfavorable land tenure arrangements
- Low level of women's empowerment
- Weak access to improved WASH

## Opportunities

- Momentum from MDGs/SDGs and commitment from DPs
- Strong set of NGOs
- Huge potential for rural nonfarm sector

## Threats

- Natural disasters and climate change
- Population growth/changing demographics
- Rising land constraints