Growth is Good, but is not Enough to Improve Nutrition

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The Dis(Connection) of Growth to Nutrition

- Growth is generally good for nutrition, but some countries have seen nutrition deteriorate despite growth.

- *In what way and to what extent does growth contribute to nutrition outcomes, and how can policies be designed to better leverage growth for nutrition improvements?*

Proportion of **undernourished people** (% of population)

Proportion of **stunted children** (% of children under five)
Complementary Case Studies

Yemen

- Oil-based economy with a small agricultural sector
- Extremely widespread child malnutrition

Malawi

- Agriculture-based economy with limited diversity
- High risk of chronic micronutrient malnutrition

Policy simulations: Agr. vs. non-agr. growth; staple-based agr. growth vs. broad-based agr. growth
Results and Policy Implications (1)

- Growth leads to reduced calorie deficiency.
- Depending on a country’s economic structure and the characteristics of the malnourished population, agriculture or non-agricultural growth can be better for improving nutrition.
- The role of growth in improving nutrition shifts during the development process: At early stages of development, agricultural growth is critical, then economic diversification gains in importance.
Neither agricultural growth nor non-agricultural growth is sufficient to improve child nutrition and reduce micronutrient malnutrition.

Any policy reform needs to be accompanied by strategic investments and targeted programs to tackle child malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies effectively.

Investments in the health and education sectors, nutrition and health information and education campaigns, and programs focused on child and maternal health and nutrition are needed.