



INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

sustainable solutions for ending hunger and poverty

Supported by the CGIAR



Growth is Good, but is not Enough to Improve Nutrition

Olivier Ecker, Clemens Breisinger, Karl Pauw

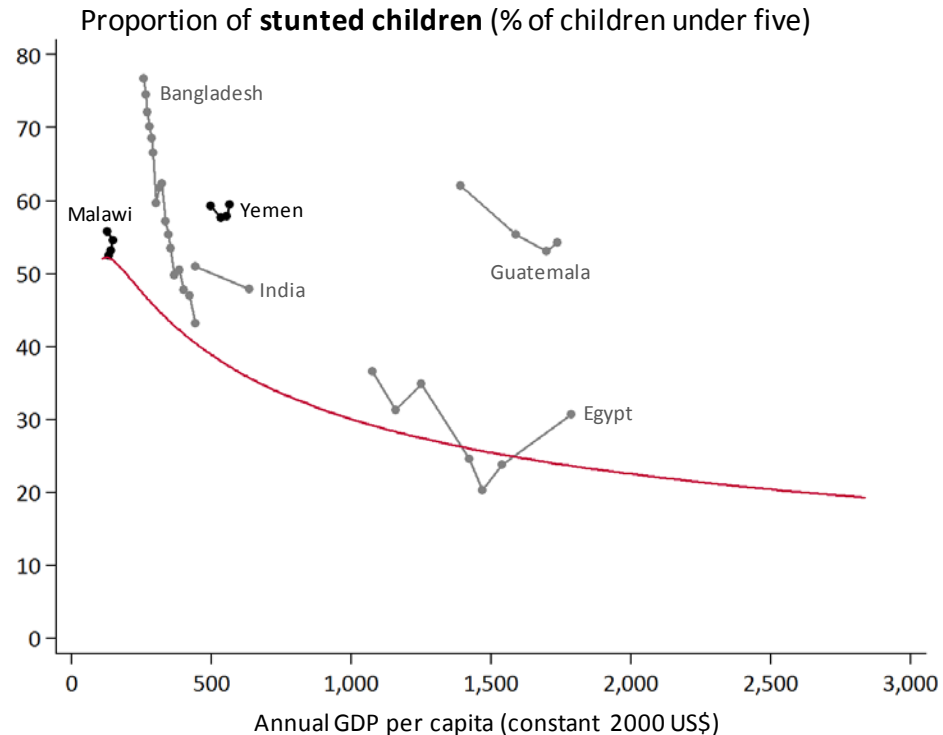
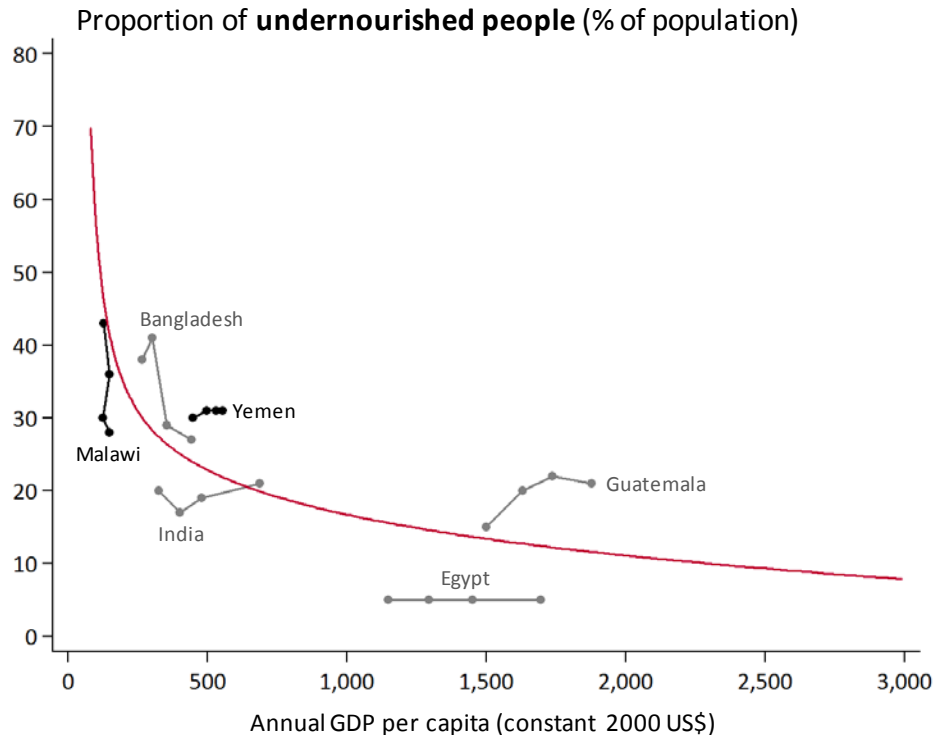
*Development Strategy and Governance Division
International Food Policy Research Institute*

2020 Conference: Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health

February 10-12, 2011; New Delhi, India

The Dis(Con)nection) 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?*



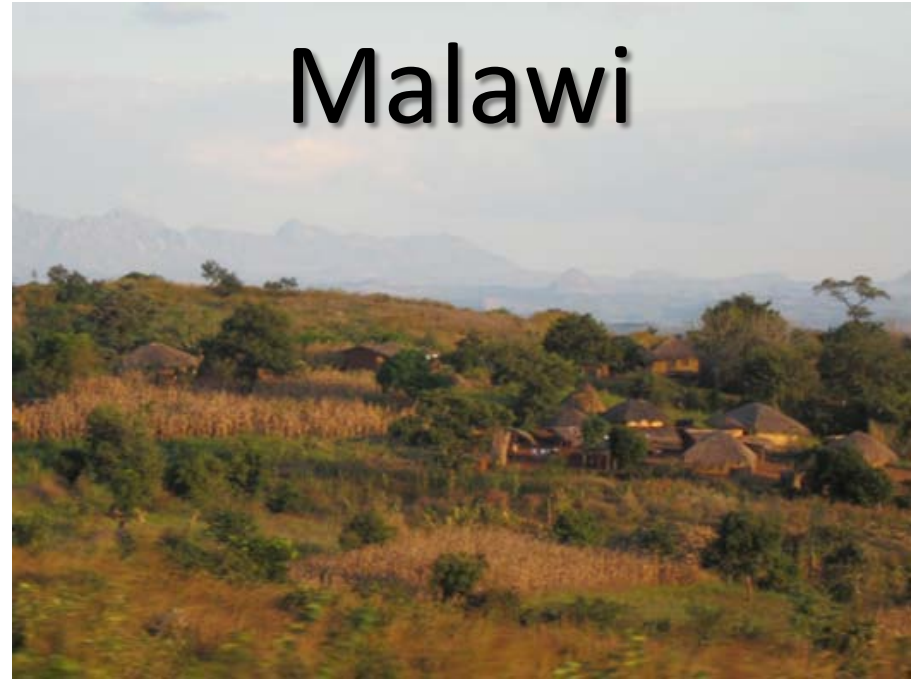
Complementary Case Studies

Yemen



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

Malawi

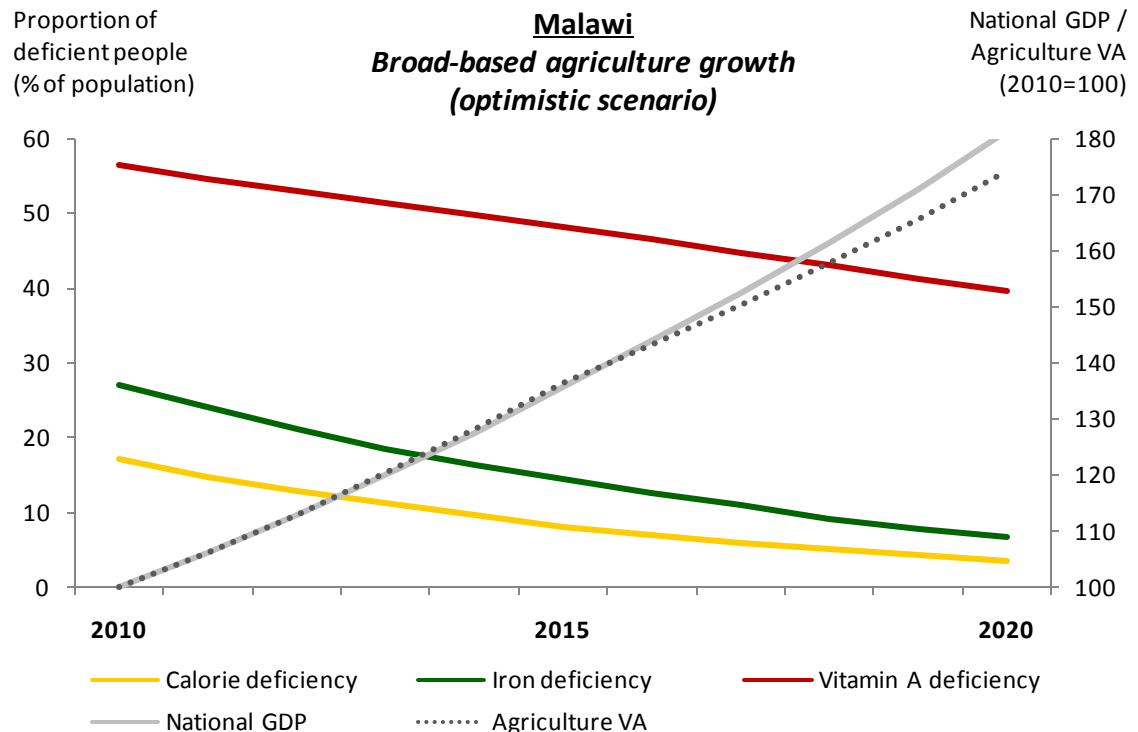


- Agriculture-based economy with limited diversity
- High risk of chronic micronutrient malnutrition

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.



Results and Policy Implications (2)

- 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.

