



**Together for Nutrition 2014**  
Working Across Sectors to Improve Nutrition in India

***The global evidence-base for what different sectors can do to contribute to undernutrition***

**Marie Ruel**

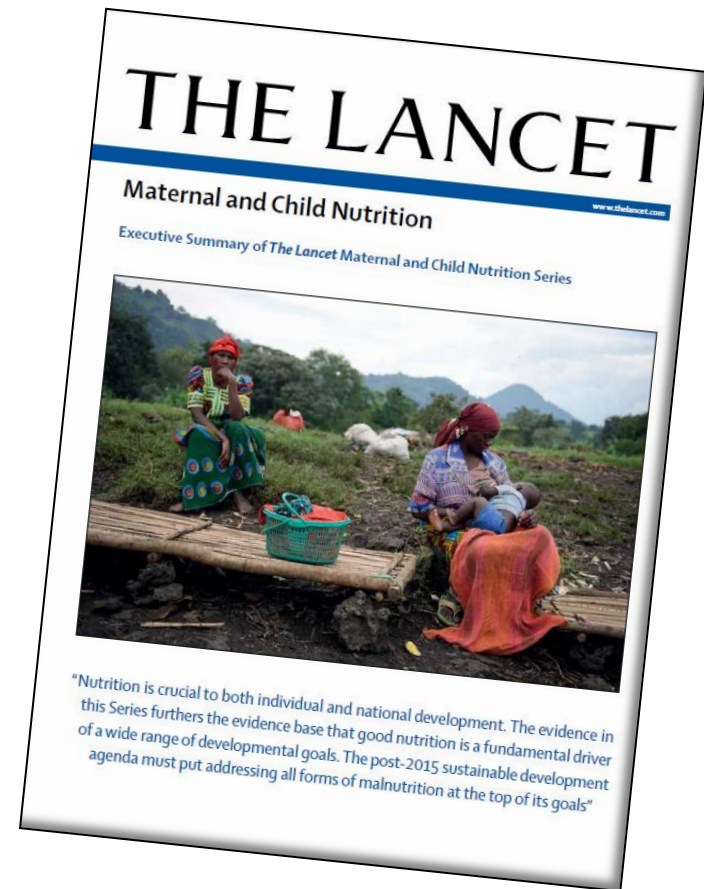
Director, Poverty, Health and Nutrition,  
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

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New Delhi, India



# Lancet 2013 - Nutrition: A Massive Unfinished Agenda

- 165M children stunted (1 in 5 children)
- Malnutrition is responsible for 45% of < 5 deaths (3.1M)
- Micronutrient deficiencies continue to be widespread, esp. in mothers and children
- Rapidly increasing overweight/obesity



2013 Series Executive Summary

# India's Stubborn Burden of Malnutrition

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## Children

- 48% children < 5 y are stunted (61M)
- India hosts ~30% of the world's stunted children
- 20% are wasted
- Has the highest number of LBW babies ~7.4 M/y
- 70% children anemic



## Mothers

- 33% Underweight (low BMI)
- Anemia: ~56%
- Overweight/obese: 15%

# India: Large Disparities

Stunting

By Wealth Quintile

By area of residence



# What to Do:

## Scale-up Nutrition-Specific Interventions

### Optimal maternal nutrition during pregnancy

- Maternal multiple micronutrient supplements to all
- Calcium supplementation to mothers at-risk of low intake<sup>3</sup>
- Maternal balanced energy protein supplements as needed
- Universal salt iodization

### Infant and young child feeding

- Promotion of early, exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months; continued breastfeeding until 24 months
- Appropriate complementary feeding education in food secure populations and additional complementary food supplements in food insecure populations

### Micronutrient supplementation in children at risk

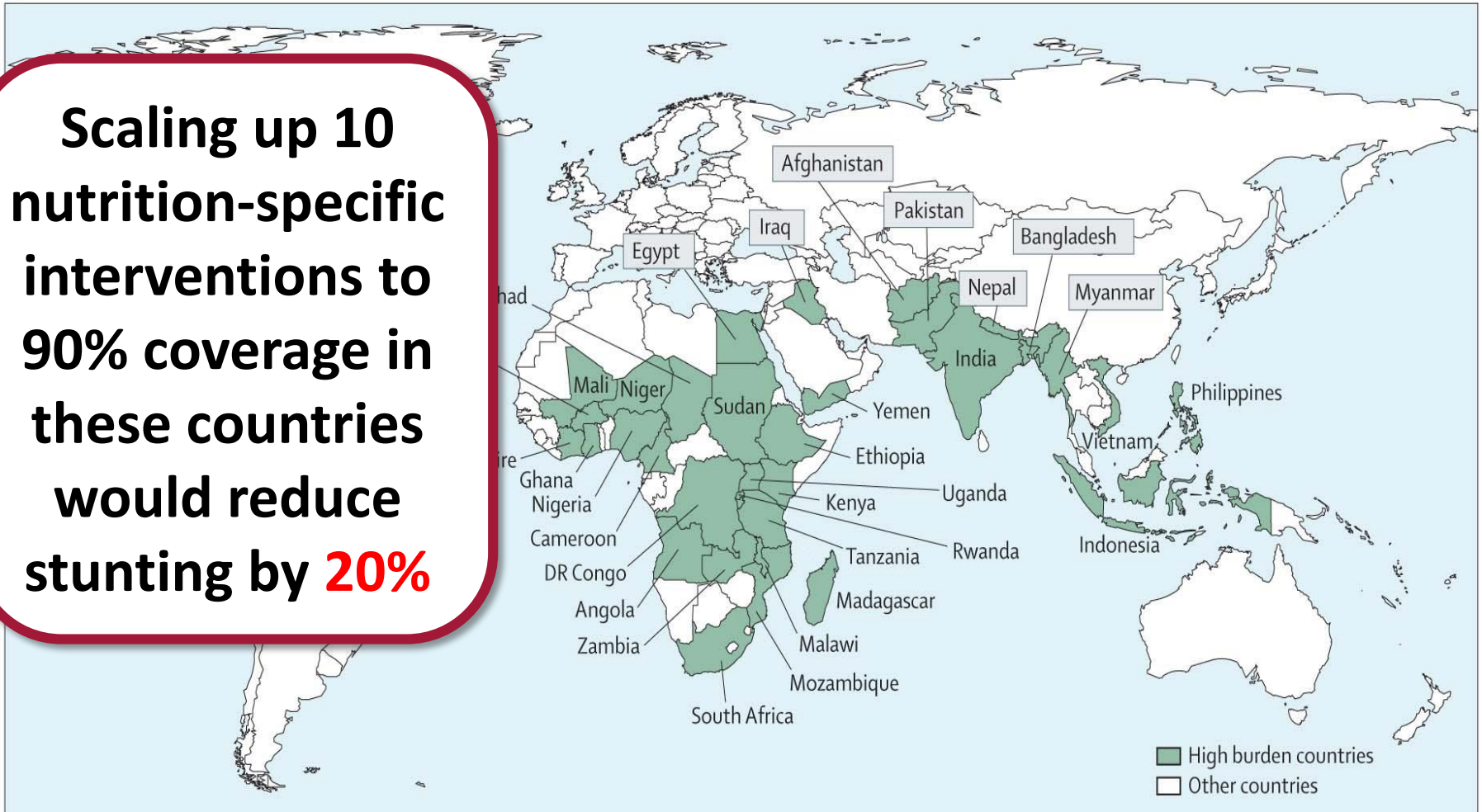
- Vitamin A supplementation between 6-59 months age
- Preventive zinc supplements between 12-59 months of age

### Management of acute malnutrition

- Supplementary feeding for moderate acute malnutrition
- Management of severe acute malnutrition

# 34 Countries Account for 90% of Global Burden of Malnutrition

Scaling up 10 nutrition-specific interventions to 90% coverage in these countries would reduce stunting by **20%**



# We need complementary actions:

- **nutrition-sensitive programs and policies from a variety of sectors**
- **an enabling environment for nutrition**

**to help accelerate progress in improving nutrition**



# What Does Nutrition-Sensitive Mean?

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- ✓ **Address critical underlying determinants** of undernutrition: poverty; food insecurity; women's low social status, education, empowerment; poor care and feeding practices; lack of access to health, water, sanitation
  - ✓ Include nutrition **goals and nutrition actions and interventions**
  - ✓ Can be leveraged to serve as **delivery platforms** for scale-up of nutrition-specific interventions
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# Examples of Potentially Nutrition-Sensitive Sectors



Social Protection



Water and Sanitation



Health



Agriculture

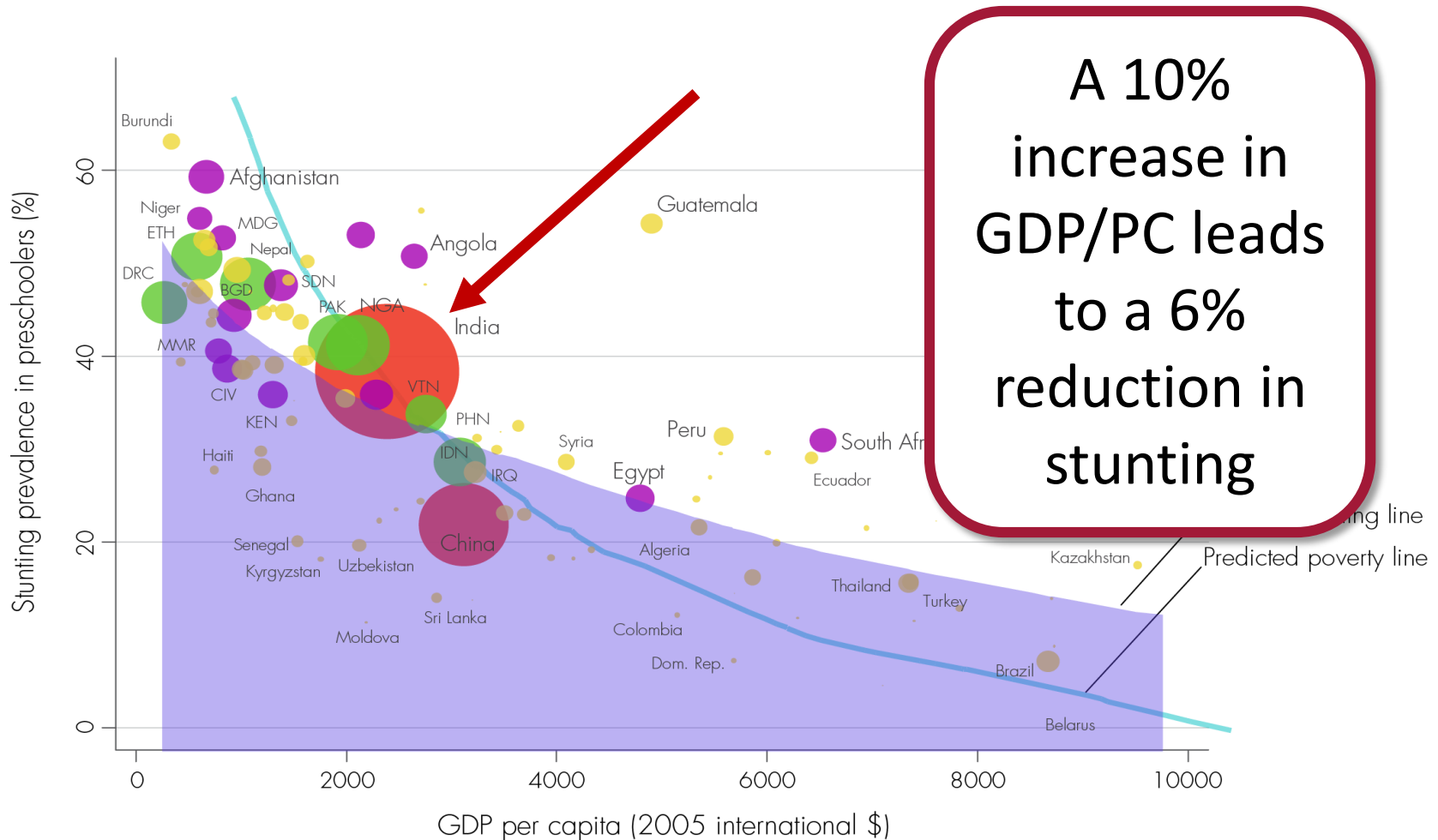


Gender

# WHAT ARE THE MAIN PATHWAYS OF IMPACT OF NUTRITION-SENSITIVE PROGRAMS ON NUTRITION?

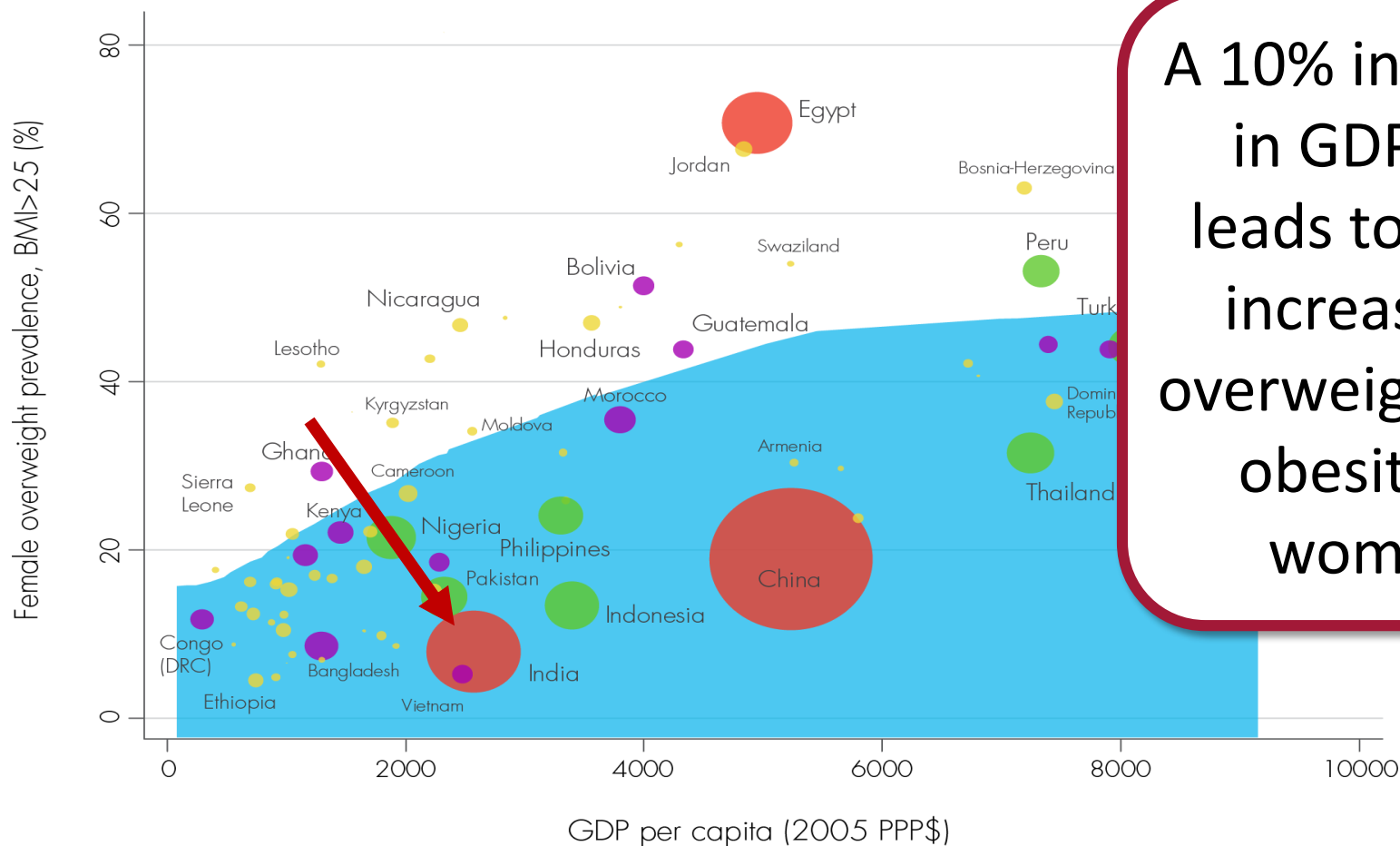
# Income Growth Can Improve Nutrition But Other Inputs Are necessary

Prevalence of stunting in children aged 0-5 years and GDP per person



# Income Growth Can Also Have Unintended Consequences on Risks of Overweight and Obesity

Prevalence of women overweight or obese (BMI > 25) and GDP per person, for low-income and middle-income countries



A 10% increase in GDP/PC leads to a 7% increase in overweight and obesity in women

# Women's Empowerment is Critical for Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition

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Women's empowerment is associated with **better use of resources and positive practices** that foster child health and nutrition and household food security

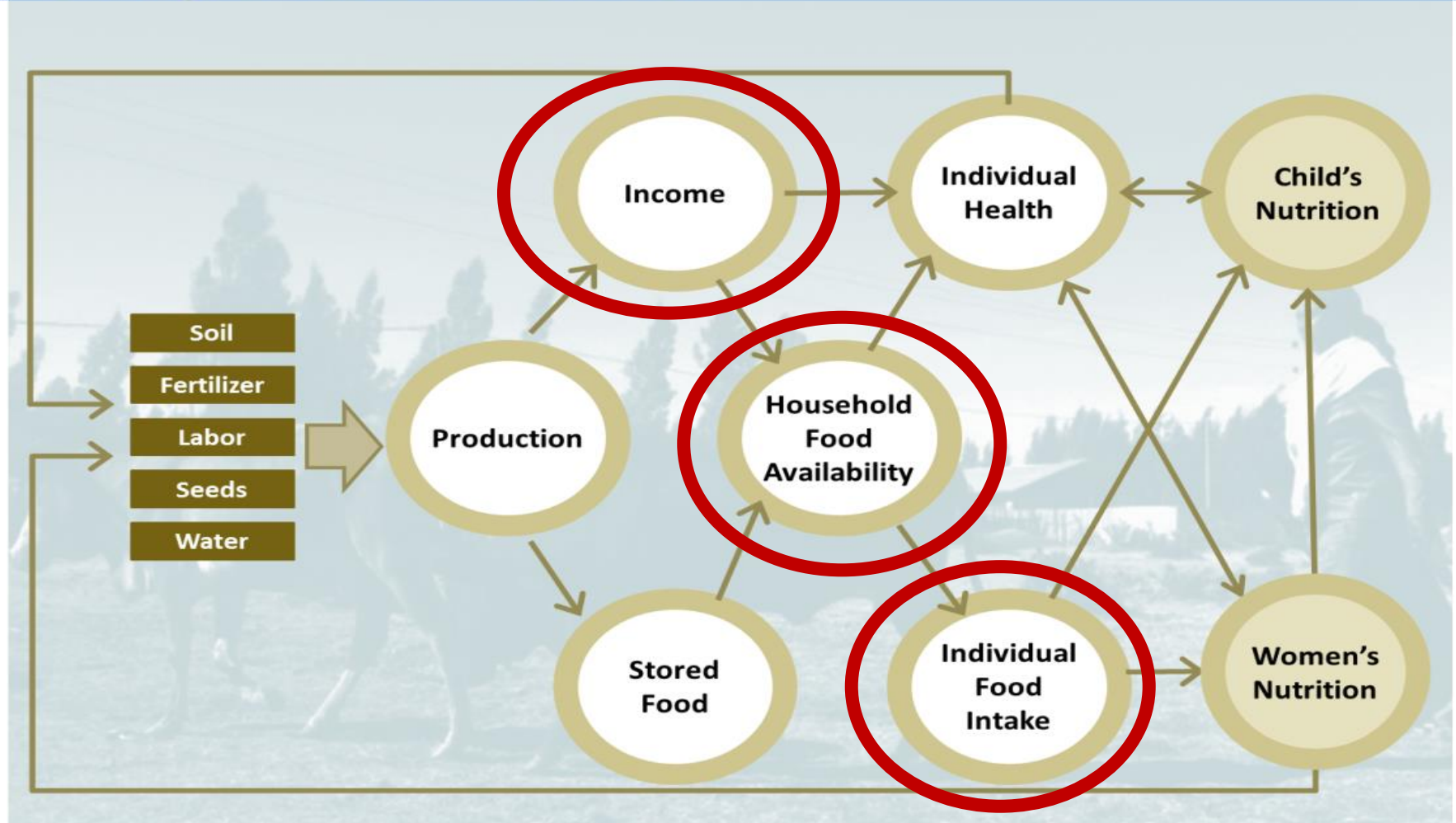


**Positive impacts** of well-targeted and designed cash transfers and agricultural programs on measures of women's empowerment and maternal and child nutrition

# AGRICULTURE

# Pathways of Impact of Agriculture

Income; Food Security; Dietary Intake



# Women At the Center of Ag-Nutrition Linkages

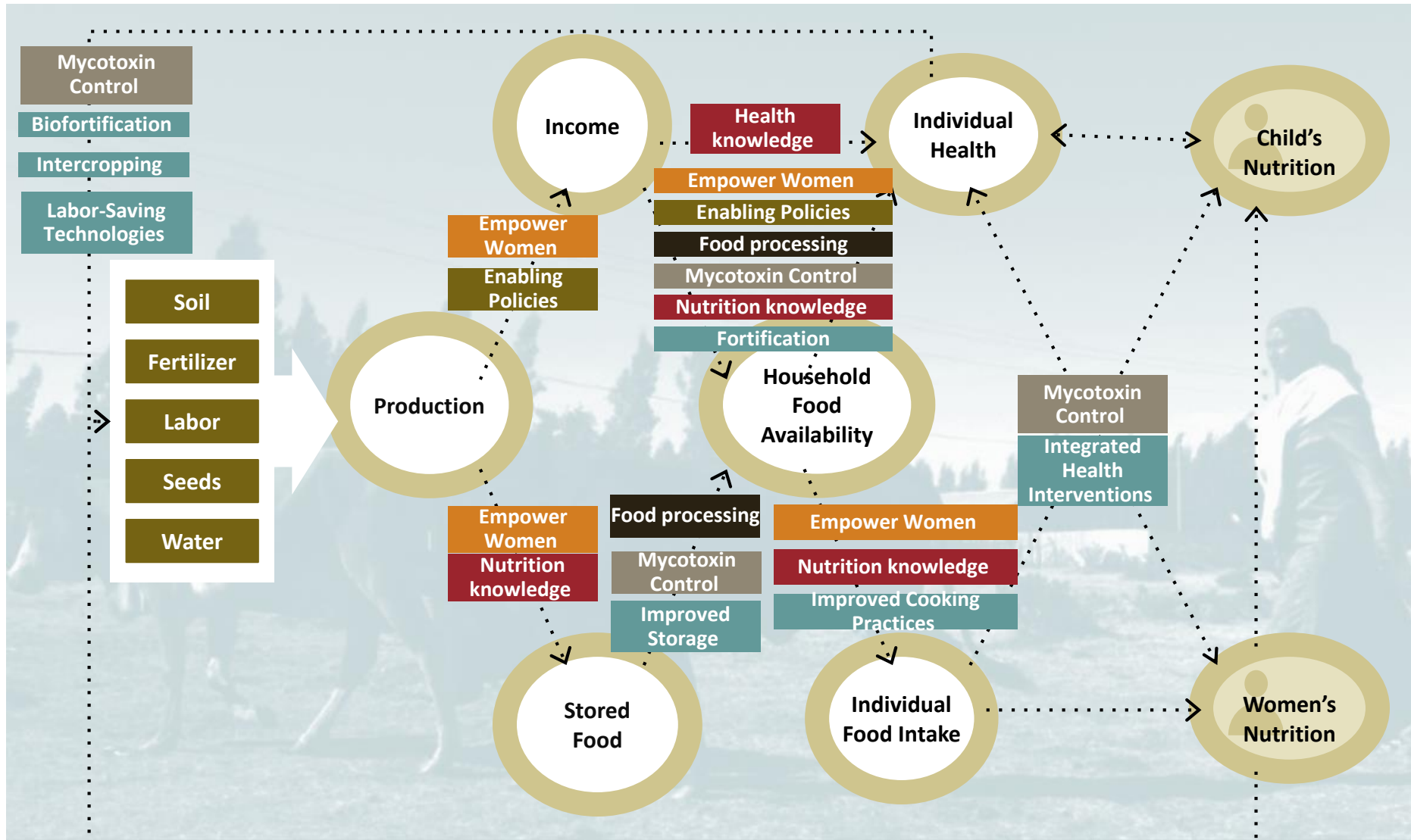
The critical role of women's empowerment, time, health, nutrition



Source: Sundberg and Birx;  
BMGF Learning Session; January 2014



# Making Agriculture More Gender- and Nutrition-sensitive



Source: Sundberg and Birx;  
BMGF Learning Session; January 2014

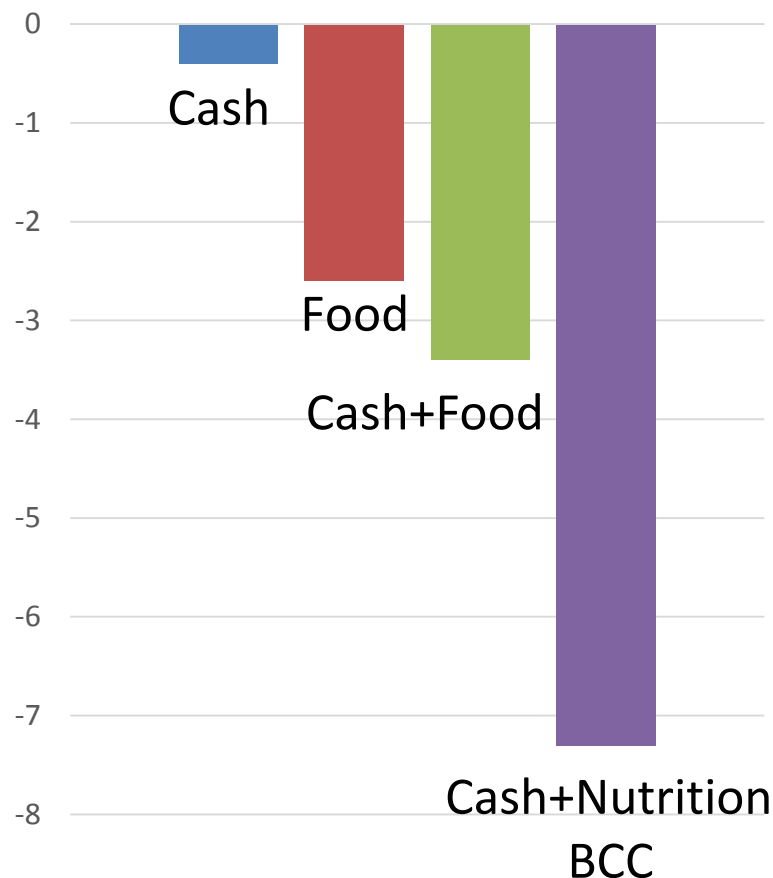
# SOCIAL SAFETY NETS

# Social Safety Nets

- Provide transfers to a billion poor people worldwide
- Often well-targeted, high-coverage of poor
- Impacts on poverty, food security, women's empowerment, use of services
- Limited impact on nutrition so far

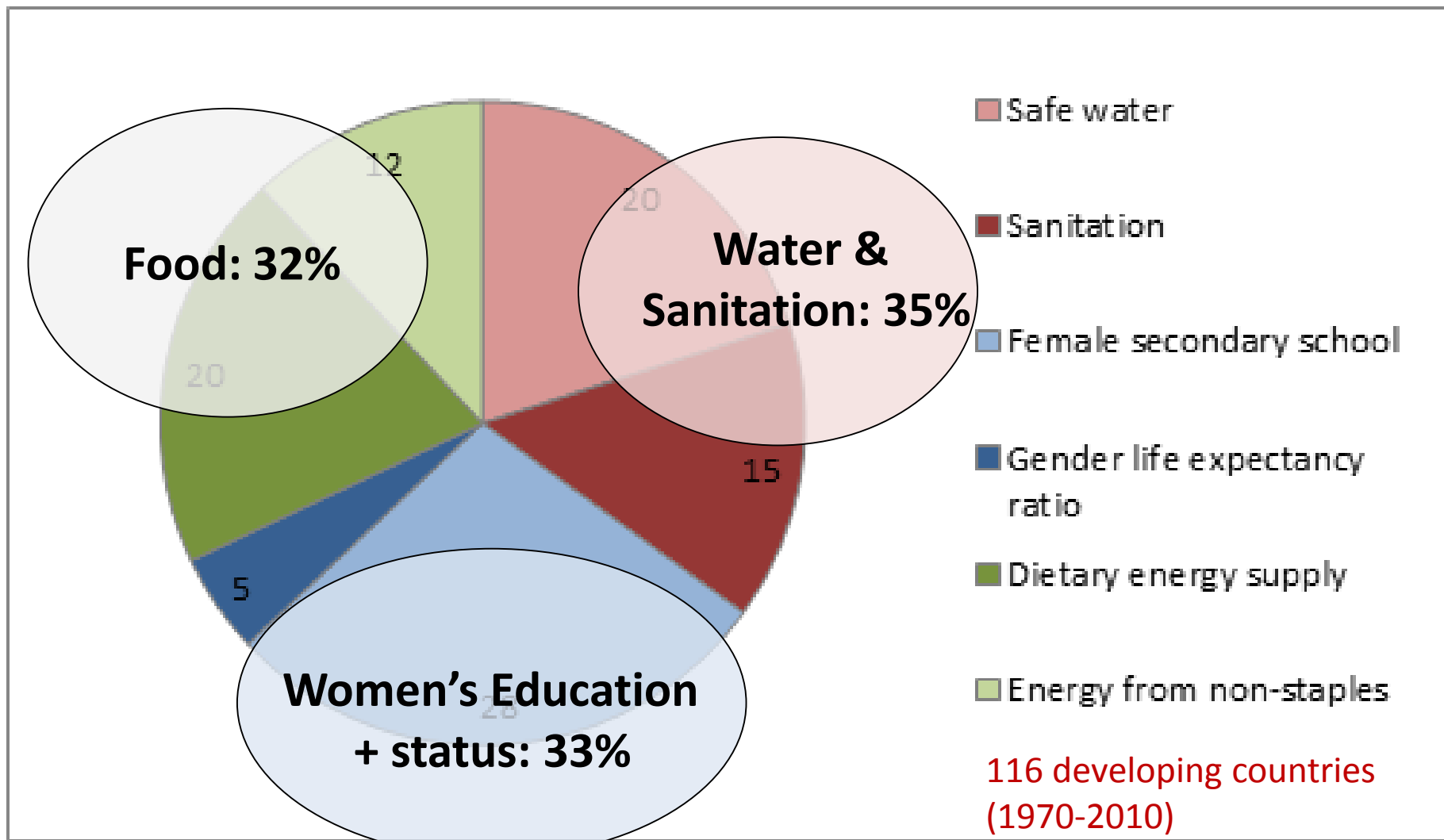
## Bangladesh WFP program

(Stunting reductions (pp) compared to control)



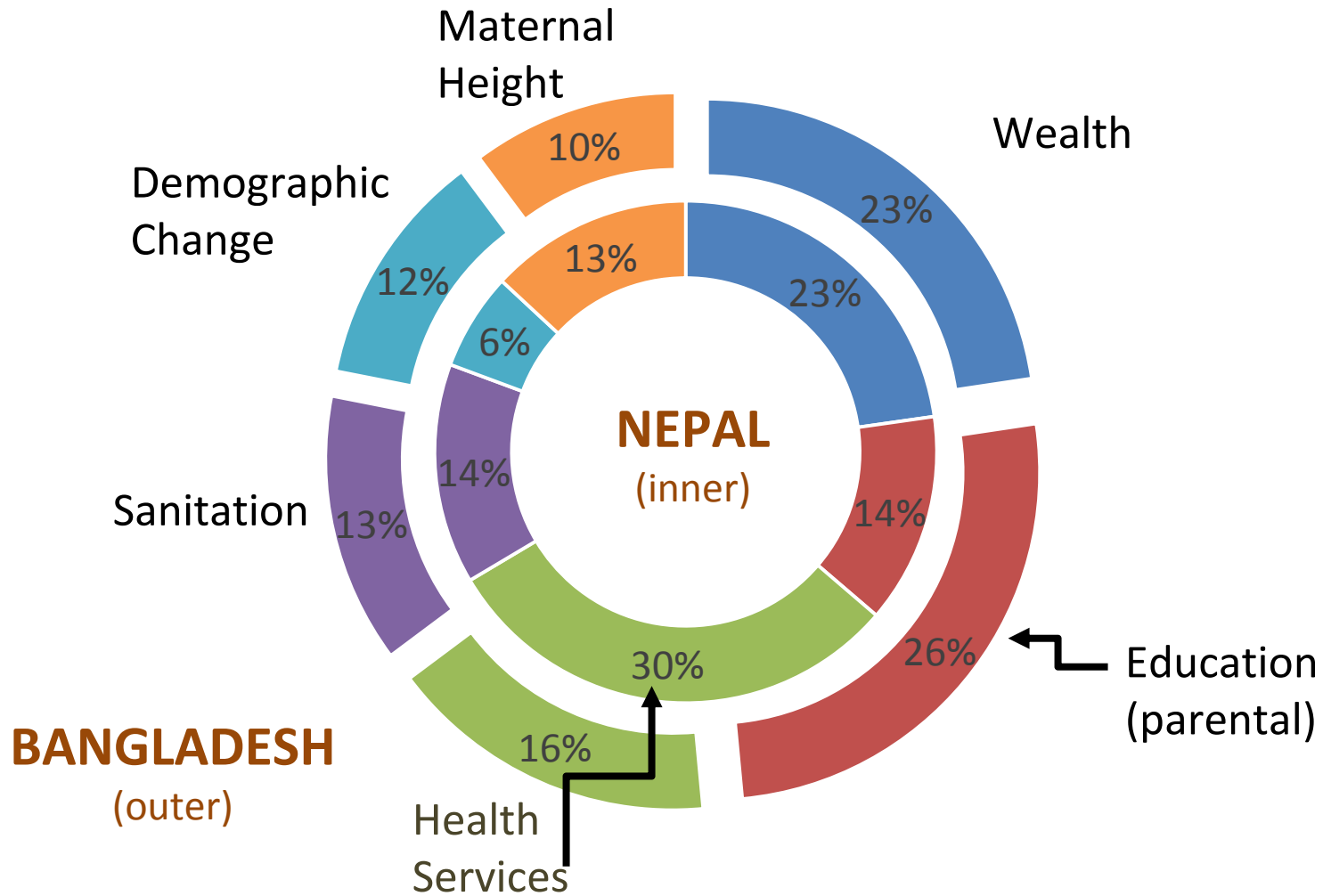
# WHY DO WE NEED MULTIPLE SECTORS TO IMPROVE NUTRITION?

# Contribution of Different Sectors to Improving Nutrition Globally



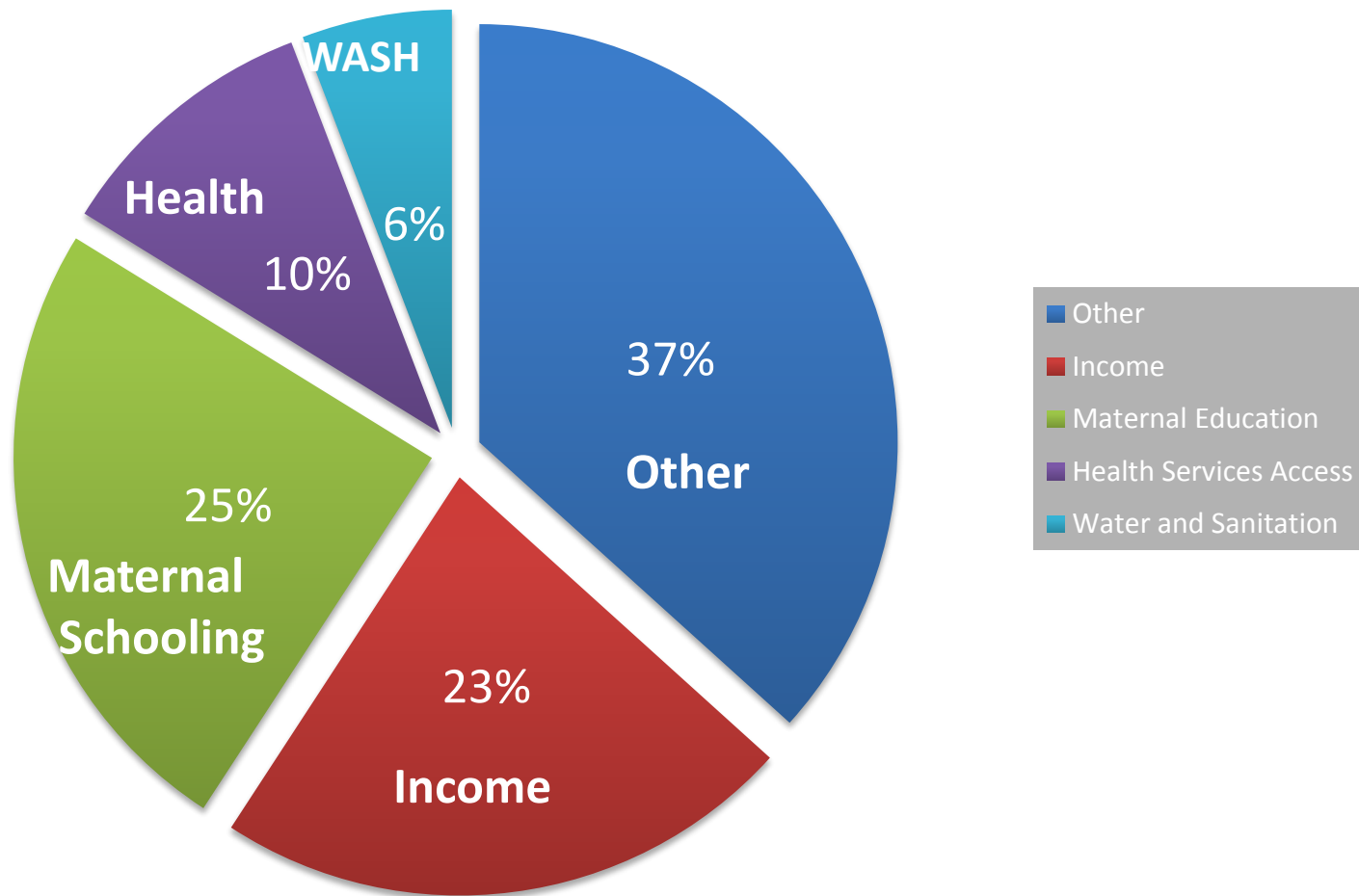
Source: Smith and Haddad, 2013

# Bangladesh/Nepal: Drivers of Stunting Reductions (1997-2011)

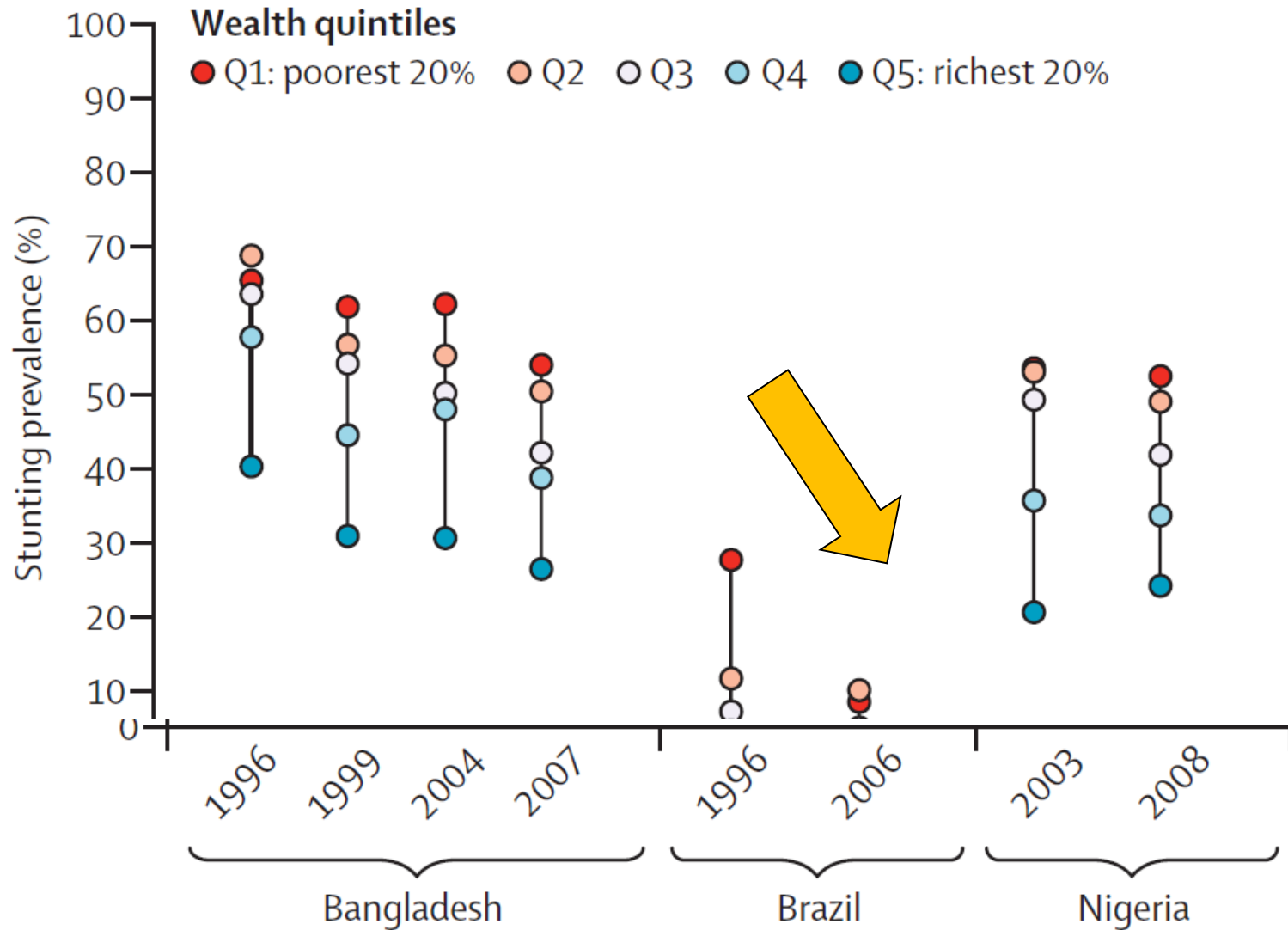


Source: Headey et al. 2014

# Brazil: Drivers of Reductions in Stunting over 3 Decades (1976-2006) – from 37% to 7%



# Need to Reduce Inequalities





# Conclusions

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- Nutrition is a multi-faceted, multi-causal problem that requires **multi-sectoral solutions**
- **Scaling-up nutrition-specific interventions** is necessary but not sufficient
- To achieve greater and faster improvements in nutrition, we need to **leverage multiple sectors** and make them more nutrition- and gender-sensitive
- Need to **reduce inequalities** – better targeting and coverage of the poor – focus on all their basic needs
- Focus on PREVENTION – girls throughout the lifecycle, children during first 2 y)