

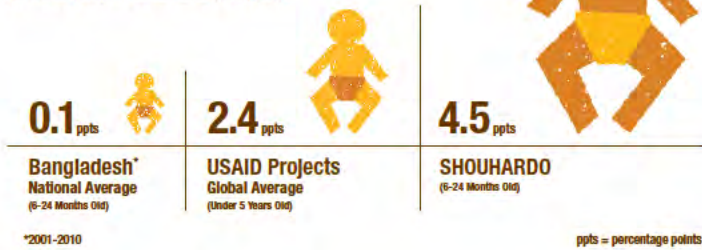
Reaching New Heights

Funded by USAID and implemented by CARE, the \$126 million SHOUHARDO project was designed to fight poverty and improve nutrition among more than 2 million of Bangladesh's poorest people. Direct nutrition-focused interventions such as child feeding were combined with indirect interventions — most notably the empowerment of women and girls — to produce great impact, including an unusually large reduction in child stunting.

To see the full report go to: www.care-international.org

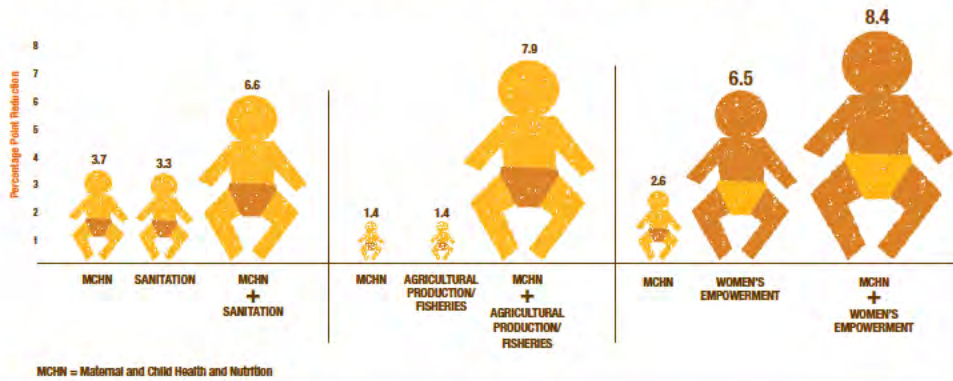
What: Big Increase in Healthier, Taller Children

The number of children considered "stunted," a measure of malnutrition, fell 28 percent under SHOUHARDO. Put another way, 56.1 percent of children were stunted in February 2006, while just 40.4 percent were stunted by November 2009. The annual stunting reduction of 4.5 percentage points (ppts) dwarfed the national average during that period (0.1 ppts) and was nearly double the average USAID project of its kind (2.4 ppts).



Why: Women's Empowerment

Using a statistical method called "propensity score matching," researchers found that women's empowerment led to greater reductions in stunting than any other intervention. While this method could not determine the exact reduction attributable to each intervention, it does serve as a tool to assess the relative impact of each one. It also revealed the effectiveness of combining interventions.



How: Substantial Gains in Women's Decision-Making Power

The percentage of women reporting that they participate in various types of decisions rose sharply in several categories during the course of SHOUHARDO. The program promoted female entrepreneurship, encouraged greater participation by mothers in their children's education and supported the creation of women's groups to confront early marriage, violence against women and limits on their mobility.

