BANGLADESH
Child Stunting and Overweight
Key figures and trends

MAY 2025

STUNTING

Progress towards World Health Assembly (WHA) Global Nutrition **stunting target.**

- Prevalence of stunting among children under five years old has fallen from *very high* to *high* since 2012.
- Rates in Bangladesh are better than the UN regional average for Southern Asia.
- Despite strong progress, Bangladesh is slightly off-track to meet the WHA target for child stunting, with a **gap of 0.9** between projection and target.

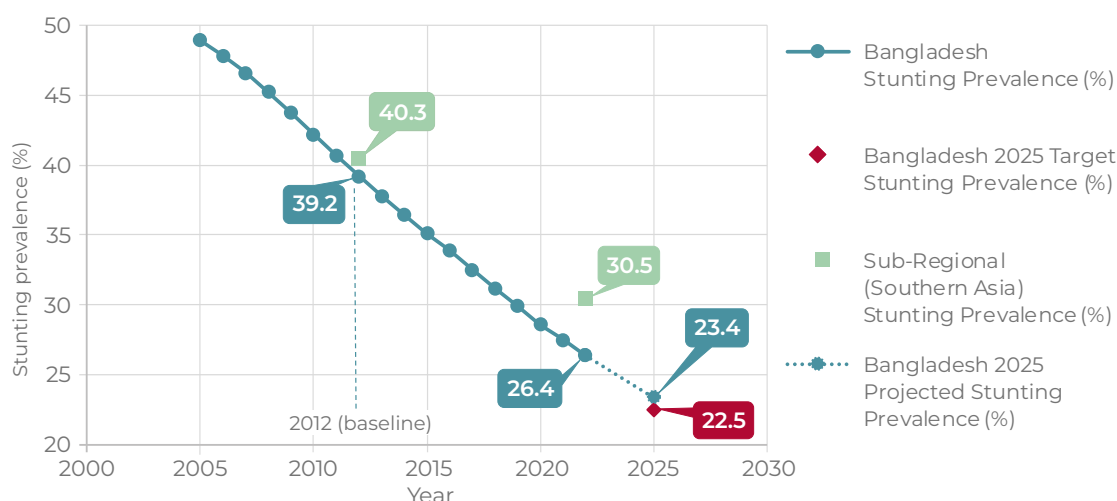**Figure 1:** Under-five stunting prevalence, Bangladesh, 2005-2022 and projected to 2025

Table 1: Under-five (U5) Stunting Data Profile, Bangladesh

Key Indicator	Value
Baseline Prevalence 2012 (%)	39.2
Baseline U5 Population 2012 (millions)	16.1
Baseline Stunting Burden 2012 (millions)	6.3
Current Prevalence 2022 (%)	26.4
Current U5 Population 2022 (millions)	16.3
Decadal U5 Population Growth Rate 2012-2022 (%)	1.2
Current AARR* (2012-2022)	3.9
Projected Prevalence 2025 (%)	23.4
Target Stunting Burden 2025 (millions)	3.8
Projected U5 Population 2025 (millions)	16.8
Target Prevalence 2025 (%)	22.5
Required AARR (2012-25)	4.3
Classification of Progress	Off track – some progress

*AARR = Average Annual Rate of Reduction

OVERWEIGHT

Progress towards World Health Assembly (WHA) Global Nutrition **overweight target.**

- Prevalence of overweight among children under five years old, while still very *low* in Bangladesh, has risen since 2012.

- Rates in Bangladesh remain below the regional average for Southern Asia.

- Bangladesh is slightly off-track to meet the WHA target for child overweight, with a **gap of 0.4** between projection and target.

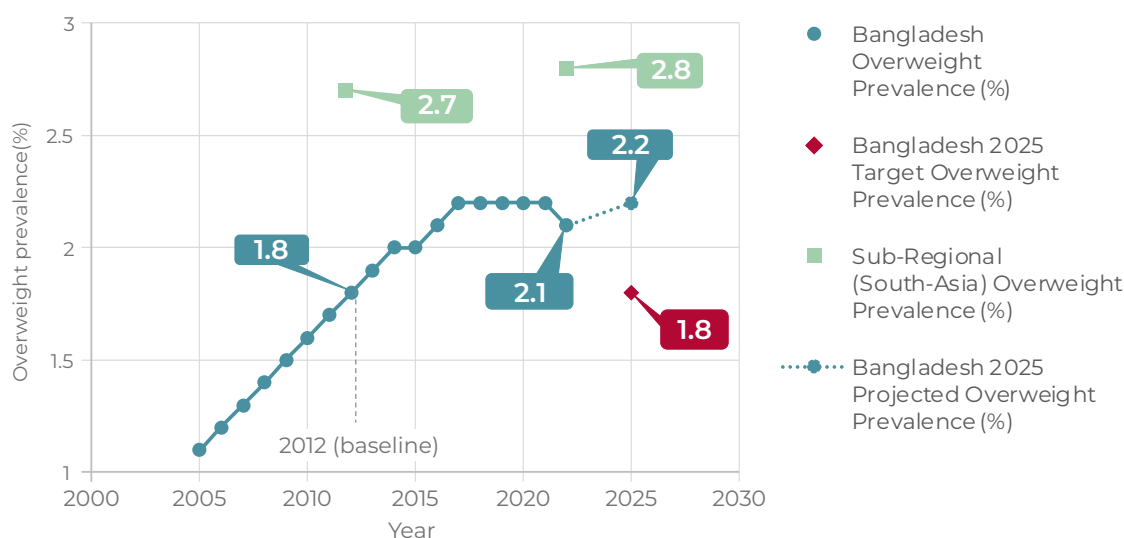**Figure 2:** Under-five overweight prevalence, Bangladesh, 2005-2022 and projected to 2025

Table 2: Under-five (U5) Overweight Data Profile, Bangladesh

Key Indicator	Value
Baseline Prevalence 2012 (%)	1.8
Current Prevalence 2022 (%)	2.1
Current AARR* (2012-2022)	-1.7
Projected Prevalence 2025 (%)	2.2
Target Prevalence 2025 (%)	1.8
Required AARR (2012-25)	0.0
Classification of Progress	Off track

*AARR = Average Annual Rate of Reduction

Data sources: Joint Malnutrition Estimates for stunting and overweight prevalences. Population from United Nations World Population Prospects. Classifications of progress are aligned with UNICEF methodology and determined by current AARR thresholds.

For more detail please see: Aggarwal, A, and Mishra NR. Progress on Selected World Health Assembly Nutrition Targets in Twelve Countries. Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). Working Paper #52. Geneva, Switzerland, 2025. DOI: https://doi.org/10.36072/wp.52

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