

## Level Of Stunting in Rwanda (2015-2020)

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### Rwanda Demographic & Health Indicators Between 2015 and 2020

#### Achievements and Priority Issues

##### Trends in Nutritional Status of Children

*(Rwanda DHS 2000 – DHS 2019/20)*

- **Percent of Children Under 5 Years of Age**
  - **Stunted (Too Short for Age):** 1.5 percentage points per year
    - 2000: 48%
    - 2005: 33%
- **Underweight (Too Thin for Age):**
  - 2000: 20%
  - 2010: 18%

#### Key Findings:

- An average reduction of 1.2 percentage points in stunting was observed annually from 2005 to 2020, though the rate of reduction has slowed down.

#### Prevalence of Stunting Among Children Under Five by Age Group (2015-2020)

- Overall, stunting decreased from 37.9% in 2015 to 33.1% in 2020.
- Significant reductions were observed in:
  - Children aged 12-17 months: 8.8 percentage points
  - Children aged 18-23 months: 10.4 percentage points
- Increased prevalence in children under 6 months and 6-8 months.
- 16.2% of children under 6 months were stunted.
- Stunting peaked at 40.4% in children aged 24-35 months.

#### Provincial Trends

- The Northern Province showed a slight increase in stunting prevalence.
- Highest prevalence in Western and Northern Provinces.
- Significant reductions occurred in Southern (7.8 percentage points), Eastern, and Western Provinces.

#### Gender Disparities

- Higher stunting rates in boys compared to girls.
- Greater reduction in stunting among boys (5.7 percentage points).

### **Birth Interval and Size at Birth**

- Greater stunting reduction in children born more than 48 months apart (5.6 percentage points).
- Smaller birth sizes are linked to higher stunting rates.

### **Maternal Factors**

- Children of mothers with lower BMI showed higher stunting rates.
- Significant reduction in stunting among children born to mothers with lower BMI (11 percentage points).

### **Socioeconomic Factors**

- Higher stunting rates in rural areas.
  - Children from poorer families are more likely to be stunted.
  - Significant reduction among children in the highest wealth quintile (10.2 percentage points).
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