







STUNTING

**GROW
GREAT**

is a condition that arises from prolonged under-nutrition that affects a child's physical and brain development and robs them of reaching their full potential.

IMPACTS OF STUNTING

-  Stunting affects a child's brain development
-  Stunted children are less likely to finish school
-  Stunted children are more likely to live in poverty as adults
-  Stunted mothers are more likely to have stunted children
-  Stunted children are more likely to suffer from chronic diseases in adulthood
-  Stunting reduces our country's economic growth and productivity

STUNTING RATES FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS



WHAT CAUSES STUNTING?



BEFORE PREGNANCY

- Poor nutrition in women of child-bearing age



DURING PREGNANCY

- Smoking, drugs and alcohol
- Infections
- Maternal distress
- Teenage pregnancy
- High blood pressure
- Short birth spacing



AFTER BABY IS BORN

- Maternal distress
- Introduction of solids before 6 months
- Nutrient-poor diet
- Poor gut health
- Infections



Poverty, inequality, poor access to water and sanitation, gender inequity and food insecurity can also increase the risks of stunting.

THE IMPACT OF STUNTING AFFECTS ALL SOUTH AFRICANS EVEN THOUGH IT IS COMPLETELY PREVENTABLE!



THE FIRST 1000 DAYS of a child's life is the time from conception to two years of age. It is an opportunity to lay the foundation for a child's academic success, health and general well-being. **However, it is also a vulnerable time for stunting. Mothers and babies need good nutritious food, high quality healthcare and access to clean, healthy environments so that they can Grow Great.**

WHO IS GROW GREAT? *Grow Great is a national campaign that aims to mobilise South Africa to achieve zero stunting by 2030 through inspiring the public, mobilising stakeholders, supporting parents and empowering practitioners. Grow Great believes in a future where no child is denied the opportunity to reach their full potential as a result of stunting and poor early childhood development in the first 1000 days of life.*

EHLANZENI STUNTING SCORECARD

**GROW
GREAT**

The Grow Great Community Stunting Surveys aim to empower local communities, civil society and government leaders towards data-driven action that will reduce stunting by 2030.



429

children under 5 years were surveyed between February and May 2022

MPUMALANGA
Bushbuckridge,
Nkomazi,
Mbombela,
Thaba Chweu



STUNTING PREVALENCE IN EHLANZENI



2 in 10

children under 5 suffer from stunting (17%)



Children under 2 years old are more likely to be stunted than children 2-5 years



1%

Acute malnutrition



2%

Wasting



3%

Underweight



14%

Obese

COMMUNITY STUNTING PROFILE

HEALTH & NUTRITION



13%

children had low birth weight (<2.5kg)



64%

children had Vitamin A on track



66%

children had deworming on track



7%

children had adequate dietary diversity (>5 food groups in the last 24 hours)



23%

children were exclusively breastfed

SOCIAL PROTECTION



79%

access to safe drinking water



44%

access to adequate sanitation



75%

eligible children under one were receiving a Child Support Grant



91%

children had birth certificates



16%

access to early learning centres



R4378
Average household income per month



Mothers' average age
29
years



Children's average age
26
months



62% mothers completed Grade 12



4 Average persons per household



51% heads of household employed



51% **49%**
Child sex split

