

DIARRHEAL DISEASE & MALNUTRITION ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED

It takes more than food to overcome malnutrition.

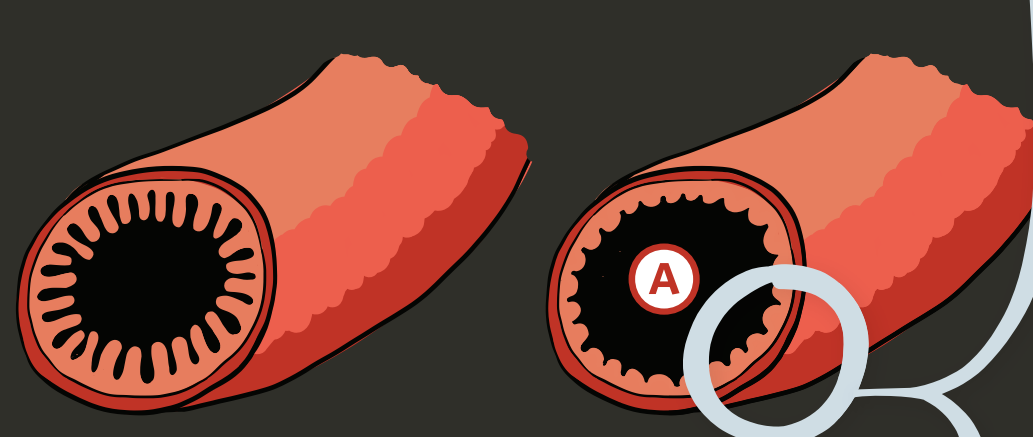
Kids in poor communities ingest dangerous pathogens every day due to unsafe drinking water and limited sanitation and hygiene.

Intestinal bugs that cause diarrhea or even lurk without symptoms can lead to long-term gut damage.

This long-term gut damage is called **environmental enteropathy (EE)**, and it has serious health and developmental consequences.

EE's effect on intestinal health

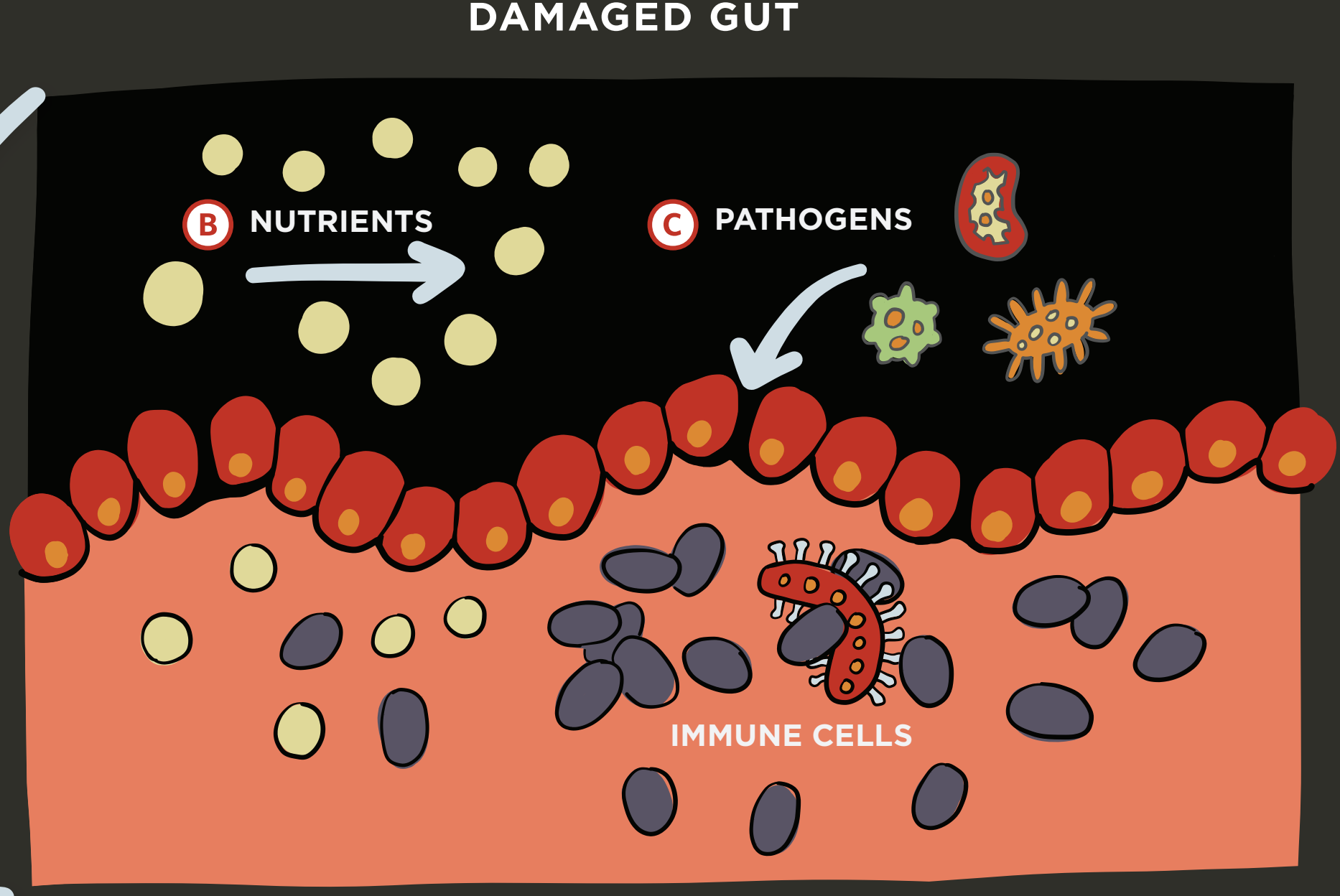
EE impacts the villi that line the small intestine to absorb nutrients.



A HEALTHY VILLI

B BLUNTED VILLI

DAMAGED GUT



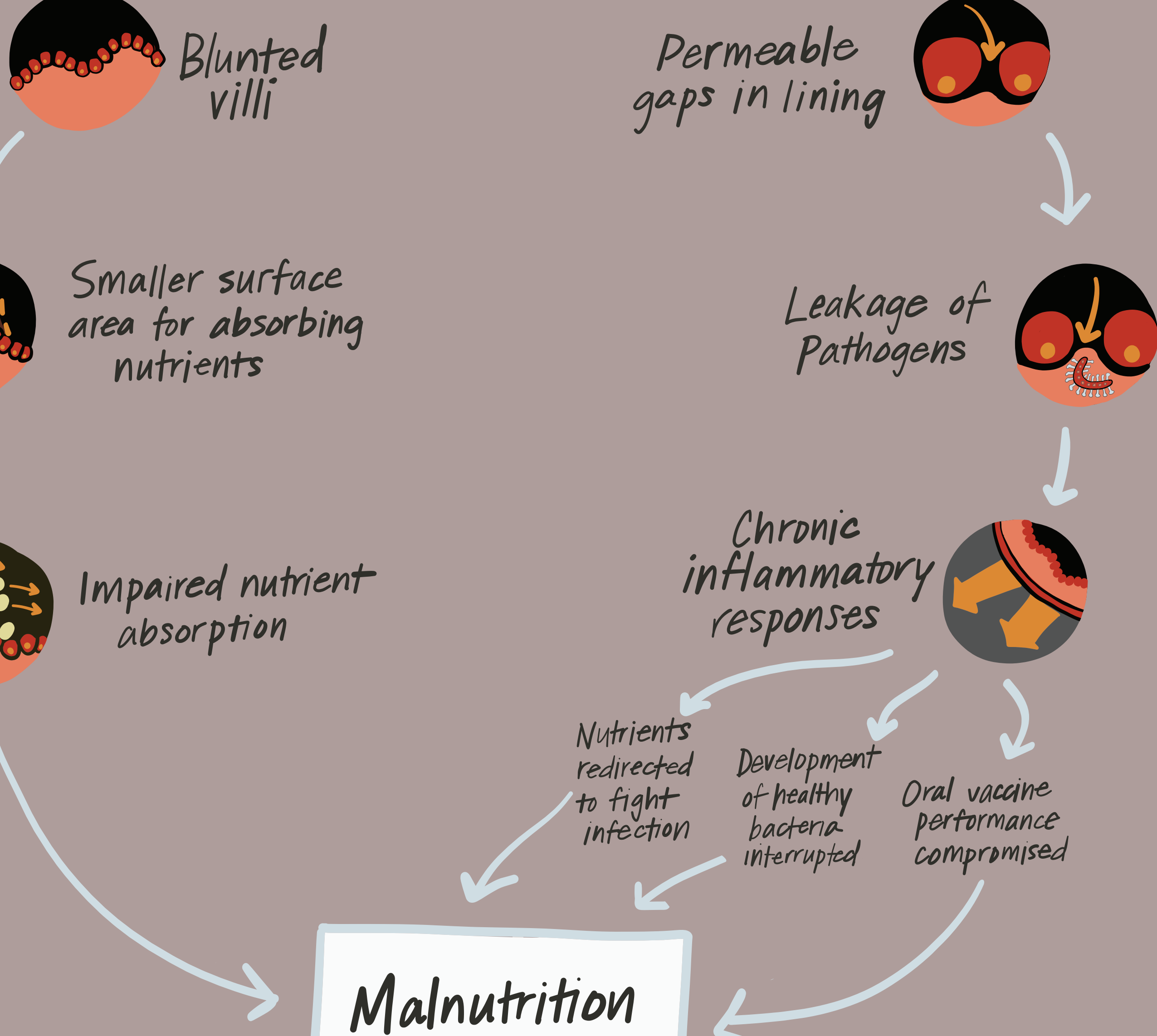
A EE FLATTENS INTESTINAL VILLI AND PREVENTS OPTIMAL NUTRIENT ABSORPTION.

B UNABSORBED BY THE DAMAGED GUT LINING, SOME NUTRIENTS PASS OUT OF THE BODY.

C PATHOGENS LEAK THROUGH THE GUT LINING, TRIGGERING AN IMMUNE RESPONSE THAT DIVERTS NUTRIENTS FROM FUELING GROWTH TO FIGHTING INFECTIONS.

When the gut's complex ecosystem is disrupted, health and development suffer.

Damaged gut structure & function



Malnutrition

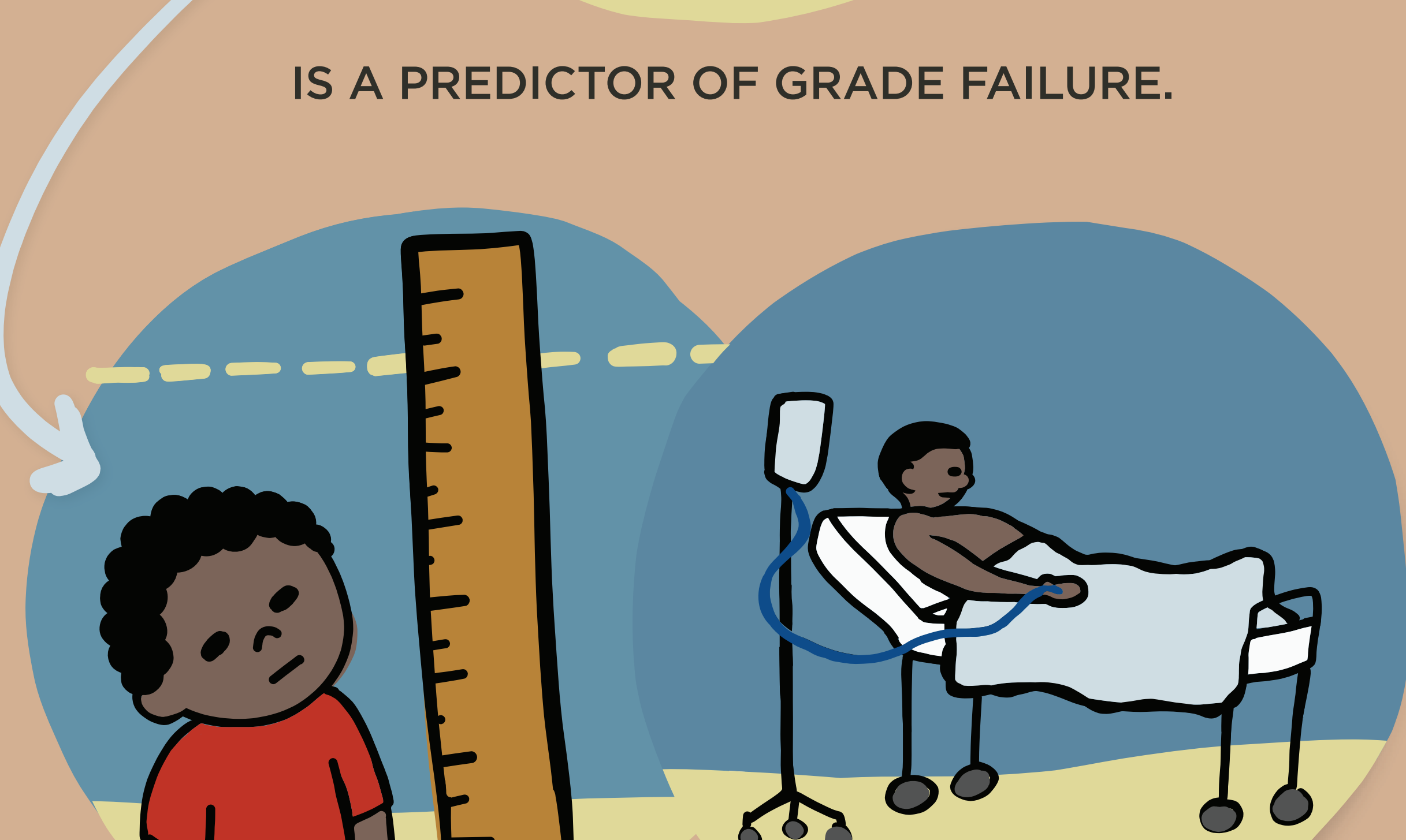
Malnourished kids don't grow properly.

When children are malnourished, their bones and brains do not get the nutrients they need for healthy growth. The resulting physical and cognitive stunting cannot be undone, with devastating setbacks for future development.

STUNTING:



IS A PREDICTOR OF GRADE FAILURE.



INHIBITS GROWTH AND INCREASES CHANCES OF DEVELOPING CHRONIC DISEASES LATER IN LIFE.



LEADS TO DIMINISHED INCOME-EARNING CAPACITY AND PRODUCTIVITY.

Integrating WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) and nutrition can achieve greater impact against diarrheal disease.

Help us advocate for a combined approach.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT



DefeatDD.org #DefeatDD

Primary sources

UNICEF. *Improving Child Nutrition: The Achievable Imperative for Global Progress*. New York, NY: UNICEF; 2013.
 Humphrey JH, Mbuya MNN. Preventing environmental enteric dysfunction through improved water, sanitation and hygiene: an opportunity for stunting reduction in developing countries. *Maternal & Child Nutrition*. 2016;12(Suppl. 1):106-120.

