

# GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2020

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## In News:

- India has been ranked at 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020.
- Country has the highest prevalence of 'wasted children'; even Bangladesh and Pakistan score better.

## Published By

- Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide.
- GHI scores are calculated each year to assess progress and setbacks in combating hunger.
- This report is released annually.

## Highlights

- **MORTALITY** : 5.3 million children died before their fifth birthdays, in many cases as a result of undernutrition.
- **UNDERNOURISHED** : Nearly 690 million people are undernourished
- **WASTING** : 47 million children suffer from wasting, a sign of acute undernutrition
- **STUNTING** : 144 million children suffer from stunting, a sign of chronic undernutrition
- **WORLDWIDE HUNGER** : Worldwide hunger is at a moderate level, according to the 2020 Global Hunger Index.
- **EMERGENCY** : According to 2020 GHI scores, 3 countries have alarming levels of hunger – Chad, Timor-Leste, and Madagascar.
- **HIGHEST UNDERNUTRITION** : Africa South of the Sahara and South Asia have the highest hunger and undernutrition levels among world regions, with 2020 GHI scores of 27.8 and 26.0.
- **ALARM**: Hunger is also considered to be alarming in 8 countries – Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros,

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen .

### **Indian Scenario:**

### **Overall Performance:**

- With a score of 27.2, India has a level of hunger that is “serious”.
- It ranks 94 out of 107 countries in the Index. In 2019, India’s rank was 102 out of 117 countries.

### **Comparison with Other Countries:**

- India features behind Nepal (73), Pakistan (88), Bangladesh (75), Indonesia (70) among others.
- Out of the total 107 countries, only 13 countries fare worse than India including countries like Rwanda (97), Nigeria (98), Afghanistan (99), Liberia (102), Mozambique (103), Chad (107) among others.

### **Performance on the Indicators:**

- Undernourishment: 14% of India’s population is undernourished (2017-19). It was 16.3% during 2011-13.
- Child Wasting: 17.3% (2015-19), it was 15.1% in 2010-14.
- Child Stunting: 34.7%, it has improved significantly, from 54% in 2000 to less than 35% now.
- Child Mortality: 3.7%, it was 5.2% in 2012.

## Where India stands

The Global Hunger Index score is computed using four indicators — undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality. A country's GHI score is classified by severity — low (green), moderate (yellow) and serious (red)



RANK	COUNTRY	2020 SCORE
1-17*	China	<5
64	Sri Lanka	16.3
73	Nepal	19.5
75	Bangladesh	20.4
78	Myanmar	20.9
88	Pakistan	24.6
94	India	27.2
99	Afghanistan	30.3

\*17 countries have scores of less than 5 and are collectively ranked 1-17

### GoI Some Initiatives

- **Eat Right India Movement:** An outreach activity organised by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for citizens to nudge them towards eating right.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana:** A centrally sponsored scheme executed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, is a maternity benefit programme being implemented in all districts of the country with effect from 1st January, 2017.
- **POSHAN Abhiyaan:** Launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2018, it targets to reduce stunting, undernutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls).
- **National Food Security Act, 2013:** The National Food Security Act, (NFSA) 2013 legally entitled up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.
- **Food Fortification:** Food Fortification or Food Enrichment is the addition of key vitamins and minerals such as iron, iodine, zinc, Vitamin A & D to staple foods such as rice, milk and salt to improve their nutritional content.
- **Mission Indradhanush:** It targets children under 2 years

of age and pregnant women for immunization against 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD).

- **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme:** Launched on 2nd October, 1975, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme offers a package of six services (Supplementary Nutrition, Pre-school non-formal education, Nutrition & health education, Immunization, Health check-up and Referral services) to children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers.