



## Global Hunger Index

### Why in news?

\n\n

Global Hunger Index prepared by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide has been released recently.

\n\n

### What is the report based on?

\n\n

\n

- The report defines “hunger” by using four specific parameters –

\n

\n\n

\n

1. prevalence of undernourishment

\n

2. child stunting (low height compared to their age) < Age 5

\n

3. child wasting (low weight for their age) < Age 5

\n

4. Under-5 child mortality i.e who did not live to be five-years-old.

\n

\n\n

\n

- The higher the score of a country on the list, the lower it was ranked.

\n

\n\n

### What does the report say?

\n\n

- \n
- The world has made gradual, long-term progress in reducing overall hunger, but there is an **uneven progress**.
- \n
- GHI scores for South Asia and Africa south of the Sahara reflect **serious levels of hunger**.
- \n
- Areas of severe hunger and undernutrition stubbornly persist which reflects the human misery for millions.
- \n
- Since the number of forcibly displaced people is on the rise, and hunger is often both a cause and a consequence of displacement, co-ordinated actions needs to be taken by international community, national governments, and civil society.
- \n
- Around 124 million people suffer acute hunger in the world.
- \n
- About 151 million children are stunted and 51 million children are wasted across the globe.
- \n
- Hard-won gains are being further threatened by conflict, climate change, poor governance, and a host of other challenges.
- \n
- It further warned that at least 50 nations all over the globe were on a path to miss their SDG target of achieving low-levels of hunger by the year 2030.
- \n

\n\n

### **What is the case with India?**

\n\n

- \n
- India has been ranked at the 103rd position among 119 countries and is among the 45 countries that have "serious levels of hunger".
- \n

\n\n

- \n
- The proportion of undernourished population in India has come down from 18.2% to 14.8%.
- \n
- The prevalence of stunting in children below the age of five has gone down sharply from 54.2% to 38.4%.
- \n

- The Under-5 child mortality rate has declined from 9.2% to 4.3%.

\n

\n\n

\n

- India is ranked below many of its neighbouring countries, including China (25), Nepal (72), Myanmar (68), Sri Lanka (67) and Bangladesh (86).

\n

\n\n

## **What are the concerns?**

\n\n

\n

- India continues to stay in the “serious” category of the GHI.
- There are still way too many children suffering from stunting, which reflects chronic undernourishment.
- The biggest worry is the level of wasting in Indian children, which has actually gone up over these years from 17.1% to 21%.
- Wasting reflects acute malnutrition and the fact that it has gone up sharply in the past 5 to 10 years is a massive blot on India’s growth story.
- As the report claimed that children aged 0-5 months were at the most risk of child wasting, attention to birth outcomes and breastfeeding should be an important priority for India.
- There were numerous policy attempts were made both at the central and state levels such as hunger missions launched by Maharashtra to directly attack the problem of widespread hunger.
- This is also coincided with the rights-based approach where mid-day meals and nutrition of mothers were also improved.
- Thus the solution lies in adequately distributing nutritious food and health care services to children and lactating mothers.
- Though the government was working to achieve zero hunger by 2030, it focusses on higher farm output as a tool to achieve it.
- But, as various researchers have shown, child undernourishment does not go away by merely having more food grain output.

- \n
- It is the distribution, along with timely availability of food that matters.
- \n

\n\n

### **What does the report recommend?**

\n\n

- \n
- The international community should focus resources and attention on the regions of the world where the majority of displaced people are located.
- \n
- It should also provide stronger political and humanitarian support to internally displaced people.
- \n
- Prioritized actions to address the special vulnerabilities and challenges of women and girls should be taken.
- \n
- Certain long-term solutions, like strengthening the resilience of displaced populations by providing access to education and training, employment, healthcare, agricultural land, and markets have also been proposed.
- \n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: Business Standard**

\n



**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*  
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative