

Global Hunger Index - UPSC Notes

The Hunger Index is a statistical tool that is used to describe the state of the hunger situation in a country. We'll discuss the Global Hunger Index 2019 Report that was featured in the recent news. It is important for the [IAS Exam](#), from both an economics and a polity point of view.

The topics of Indian Polity and Economics are the major segments of the [UPSC Syllabus](#) for UPSC Prelims as well as Mains. Being dynamic subjects that can be interlinked with multiple issues from the [Current Affairs](#), they are a significant part of the UPSC Preparation.

What is the Global Hunger Index?

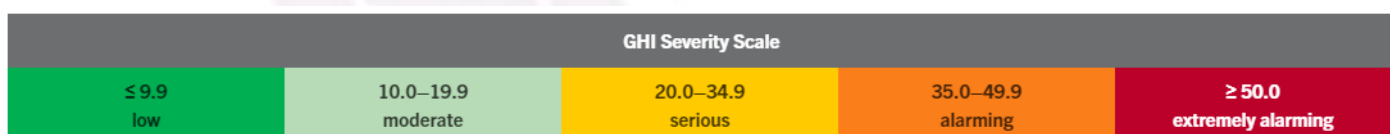
The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a multidimensional statistical tool that measures the progress and failures in the fight against hunger on a global level and is used to describe the state of countries' hunger situation.

GHI is released by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) based in Washington in association with Concern Worldwide of Ireland and Welthungerhilfe (a German non-profit organization).

Global Hunger Index Scoring

GHI ranks countries on a 100 point scale, 0 representing zero/no hunger. The GHI scores are based on four indicators. Taken together, the component indicators reflect deficiencies in calories as well as in micronutrients. Thus, the GHI reflects both aspects of hunger (undernutrition and malnutrition).

1. **UNDERNOURISHMENT**: the share of the population whose caloric intake is insufficient.
2. **CHILD STUNTING**: the share of children under the age of five who have low height for their age.
3. **CHILD WASTING**: the share of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height.
4. **CHILD MORTALITY**: the mortality rate of children under the age of five (a reflection of the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments).



Global Hunger Index 2019

The Global Hunger Index 2019 report mentioned a rise of 37 million in the number of hungry people as compared to 2015.

Furthermore, the hunger level in multiple countries still hasn't reduced or has got higher than 2010 and approximately 45 countries are set to fail to achieve 'low' levels of hunger by 2030.

Global Hunger Index 2019 India

In the 2019 Global Hunger Index, India ranks 102nd out of 117 qualifying countries.

With a score of 30.3, India suffers from a level of hunger that is serious.



- For the year 2019, India has ranked 102nd amongst the 117 that were mapped for the Global Hunger Index.
- With a score of 30.3 on the Hunger Index Scale, India is one of the 47 countries categorized with “Serious” levels of Hunger.
- Compared to the 2018 GHI report where India was ranked 103rd amongst the 119 countries that were mapped, the situation hasn’t improved in the country.

Why is India ranked Serious on the Global Hunger Index?

The Global Hunger Index 2019 report also mentioned that the Child Wasting rate in the country was extremely high at 20.8% which is higher than all other countries.

- The share of wasting among children in India marked a steep rise from 16.5% in the 2008-2012 period to 20.8% in 2014-2018.
- According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund ([UNICEF](#)), child wasting is a strong predictor of mortality among children (under 5 years of age).

India and Other Countries on the Global Hunger Index

- Among the [BRICS](#) grouping, India is ranked the worst, with China at 25 and a score of just 6.5.
- India is behind every other country amongst the South Asian countries.
- Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan (in that order) are all ahead of India.