

Global Hunger Index 2022

Why in News?

India slipped six positions on the **Global Hunger Index 2022** to take **107th position** out of **121 countries** ranked.

About Global Hunger Index (GHI)

- It is an **annual report** jointly published by two European NGOs, **Concern Worldwide** and **Welthungerhilfe**.
- It was first published in 2006. It is published **every October**. The **2022 edition** marks the **17th edition** of the **GHI**.
- **Objective:** To comprehensively **measure and track hunger** at global, regional, and national levels.

Key highlights

Global scenario:

- Global progress against hunger has **largely stagnated in recent years**, according to the 2022 GHI.
- The 2022 GHI score for the world is considered **“moderate”**, but 18.2 in 2022 is only a **slight improvement from 19.1 in 2014**.
- **Overlapping crises:** The situation is likely to worsen in the face of the current overlapping global crises—**conflict, climate change, and the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic**—all of which are powerful **drivers of hunger**.
- **Most vulnerable regions:** **Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia** are the regions with the highest hunger levels, and are most vulnerable to future shocks and crises.

Indian Scenario:

- **India’s Rank:** India has fallen to the **107th position** in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022, out of 121 countries, from its 2021 position of 101st.
- **India’s GHI Score:**
 - With a score of 29.1, India has a level of hunger that is **serious**.
 - India has been ranked **behind all south Asian countries** except the war-torn Afghanistan.
- **Child Wasting:**
 - India’s child wasting rate (low weight for height), at **19.3%**, is worse than the levels recorded in 2014 (15.1%) and even 2000 (17.15%).
 - It is the **highest for any country** in the world and drives up the region’s average owing to **India’s large population**.
- **Undernourishment:**
 - Prevalence of undernourishment has also risen in the country from 14.6% in 2018-2020 to **16.3% in 2019-2021**.
 - This translates into **224.3 million people in India** considered **undernourished** out of the total 828 million people undernourished globally.
- **Child Stunting:**
 - India has **shown improvement** in child stunting. It has declined from 38.7% to 35.5% between 2014 and 2022.
- **Child mortality:**
 - Child mortality has **also dropped from 4.6% to 3.3% between 2014 and 2022**.

FROM ALARMING TO SERIOUS: GHI; MISINFORMATION: GOVT



File
Index suffers from serious methodological issues: ministry

IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Sri Lanka	64
Nepal	81
Bangladesh	84
Pakistan	99
Afghanistan	109

94 India in 2020
101 India in 2021

2015 GHI methodology changed to include data on child stunting/wasting, and to standardise the values.

“This change caused a major shift in GHI scores, and the GHI Severity Scale was modified to reflect this shift. In GHI reports published since 2015, almost all countries have had much higher GHI scores compared with their scores in reports published in 2014 and earlier. This does not necessarily mean their hunger levels rose in 2015 – the higher scores merely reflect the revision of the methodology.”

GHI REPORT

GOVT HITS BACK

“Three out of four indicators used for calculation of the index are related to health of children and cannot be

representative of the entire population. The fourth and most important indicator estimate of Proportion of

Undernourished population is based on an opinion poll conducted on a very small sample size of 3000.”

Recommendations:

- **Inclusive governance and accountability of the government:**
 - Governments must **respect, protect, and fulfill the right to food**. It must be part of **national law** and supported by **mechanisms** for **redressing grievances**.
 - All stakeholders must contribute to holding **governments accountable**.
- **Citizen participation:**
 - **Communities, civil society organizations, small producers, farmers, and indigenous groups** must be included in efforts to **govern access to nutritious food**.
- **Addressing immediate needs and transforming food systems:**
 - The international community needs to **mobilize greater public support**, increase **investment**, and find **diverse sources of funding** to meet **escalating humanitarian needs**.
 - **Governments and development partners** must make use of **early warning systems** and **flexible contingency funds** to anticipate **shocks** to food supply.

Methodology of GHI

- Each country's GHI score is calculated based on a **formula that combines four indicators**:
 - **Undernourishment**: the share of the population with **insufficient caloric intake**.
 - **Child stunting**: the share of children under age five who have **low height for their age**, reflecting **chronic undernutrition**.
 - **Child wasting**: the share of children under age five who have **low weight for their height**, reflecting **acute undernutrition**.
 - **Child mortality**: the share of children who die before their fifth birthday, partly reflecting the **fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments**.

