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Global Hunger Index 2025 — GHI

27 March 2026

SUBJECTS COVERED

ECONOMY

SOCIAL ISSUES

CURATED & WRITTEN BY



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ISSUING BODY	FREQUENCY	INDIA'S RANK
Concern Worldwide & Welthungerhilfe	Annual	102 / 123 +3
TOP PERFORMER		
25 countries with GHI < 5 (collectively ranked 1-25)		

KEY FINDINGS

- India GHI score: 25.8 (Serious category)
- India child wasting rate: 18.7% — second highest globally
- India child stunting rate: 32.9%
- India prevalence of undernourishment: 12.0% (172 million people)
- India under-five mortality rate: 2.8%
- Global GHI score: 18.3, only marginally improved from 19.0 in 2016
- 7 countries with alarming GHI scores: Burundi, DRC, Haiti, Madagascar, Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen

ABOUT THE INDEX

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a peer-reviewed annual publication jointly prepared by the Irish humanitarian organisation **Concern Worldwide** and the German aid agency **Welthungerhilfe**, with technical support from FAO, UNICEF, WHO, and IFPRI. First published in 2006, the GHI measures and tracks hunger at global, regional, and country levels.

Methodology

The GHI is a composite index calculated using **four indicators**:

INDICATOR	WEIGHT	DATA SOURCE
Undernourishment (% of population)	1/3	FAO
Child wasting (% under 5 with low weight-for-height)	1/6	UNICEF / WHO / World Bank
Child stunting (% under 5 with low height-for-age)	1/6	UNICEF / WHO / World Bank
Under-five mortality rate	1/3	UN IGME

Score interpretation: 0 = no hunger; 100 = worst. Scores are classified as:

SCORE RANGE	SEVERITY
0–9.9	Low
10–19.9	Moderate
20–34.9	Serious
35–49.9	Alarming
50+	Extremely Alarming

INDIA'S PERFORMANCE

India ranks **102nd out of 123 countries** with a GHI score of **25.8**, placing it in the **Serious** hunger category. This is an improvement from 105th rank (score 27.3) in 2024.

Component-wise Breakdown

INDICATOR	INDIA'S VALUE	SIGNIFICANCE
Undernourishment	12.0% (172 million people)	13.5 million more than in 2016
Child wasting	18.7%	Second highest in the world
Child stunting	32.9%	Affects nearly 1 in 3 children
Under-five mortality	2.8%	Has shown improvement over the years

Historical Trend

YEAR	GHI SCORE	CATEGORY
2000	38.1	Alarming
2008	34.6	Serious
2016	29.3	Serious
2024	27.3	Serious
2025	25.8	Serious

Regional / BRICS Comparison

COUNTRY	GHI RANK (2025)	GHI SCORE	CATEGORY
China	< 5 (Low)	—	Low
Brazil	< 5 (Low)	—	Low
South Africa	62	13.1	Moderate
India	102	25.8	Serious
Pakistan	109	28.4	Serious
Bangladesh	84	17.8	Moderate
Nepal	69	14.1	Moderate
Sri Lanka	51	11.7	Moderate

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF LATEST EDITION

- Global progress toward Zero Hunger (SDG 2) has stagnated — at the current pace, 58 countries will not achieve low hunger levels by 2030
- India's child wasting rate (18.7%) is the **second worst globally**, indicating acute malnutrition crisis
- Despite ranking improvement, India still has 172 million undernourished people — the highest absolute number globally
- Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, Togo, and Uganda registered the most notable progress in reducing hunger since 2016
- Seven countries have alarming GHI scores: Burundi, DRC, Haiti, Madagascar, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen

- 25 countries with GHI scores below 5 are collectively ranked 1-25, reflecting near-elimination of hunger

INDIA'S GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

India has consistently questioned the GHI methodology, particularly the use of FAO's Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) phone survey and the disproportionate weight given to child wasting, arguing that these do not accurately capture India's large-scale food distribution programmes like the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

UPSC RELEVANCE

GHI indicators and their weights, India's rank, issuing bodies, hunger severity categories **Mains GS-2:** Government schemes for food security (NFSA, PMGKAY, ICDS, POSHAN Abhiyaan), child malnutrition interventions **Mains GS-3:** Food security, PDS reform, agricultural productivity, nutrition-sensitive agriculture **Interview:** "Why does India rank poorly on GHI despite being a major food producer?" — discuss paradox of surplus production with distribution failures

RELATED TERMS

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