



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Global Hunger Index

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Why is in news? Measurement of over 7 Crore children shows wasting at about one-third of that used in Global Hunger Index

India has been **ranked 111th out of 125 countries** in the Global Hunger Index-2023, a **stark decline from its 107th position in 2022**.

The index highlights a concerning statistic – **India reports the world's highest child wasting rate** at a staggering 18.7 percent.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development yet again questioned the GHI and called it a **“flawed measure of hunger that doesn't reflect India's true position”**.

It said that data recorded on its Poshan Tracker portal showed child wasting prevalence of 7.2% among a total of 7.24 crore under-five-year-olds whose data was captured, whereas the GHI used a value of 18.7% for child wasting. The latter, however, comes from the National Family Health Survey 5, which is reported in the global repository, set up to ensure harmonised child nutrition estimates.

Findings:

India's score of 28.7 in the Global Hunger Index-2023 places it in the **“serious” category**, according to the report.

India's **child wasting rate** stands at an alarming 18.7 percent, **signaling acute undernutrition**.

The **rate of undernourishment** in India is reported at 16.6 percent, further highlighting the gravity of the issue.

Under-five mortality in India is recorded at 3.1 percent.

The report underscores a significant concern, with 58.1 percent of women aged 15 to 24 in India being **affected by anaemia**.

India's neighbouring countries, including Pakistan (102nd), Bangladesh (81st), Nepal (69th), and Sri Lanka (60th), have performed comparatively better in the index.

Afghanistan, Haiti and 12 sub-Saharan countries performed worse than India on the GHI.

About:

It is jointly published **annually** by **Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe**.

It measures hunger on a 100-point scale, with 0 as the best (no hunger) and 100 as the worst score.

It comprehensively **measures and tracks hunger globally, regionally, and at the country level**.

It aims to trigger action to reduce hunger worldwide.

Kamaraj IAS Academy

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4 key indicators:

Undernourishment (reflects inadequate food availability): Share of the population that is undernourished.

Child Wasting (reflects acute undernutrition): Share of children under five with low weight for their height.

Child Stunting (reflects chronic undernutrition): Share of children under five with low height for their age.

Child Mortality (reflects inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environment): Mortality rate of children under five.