

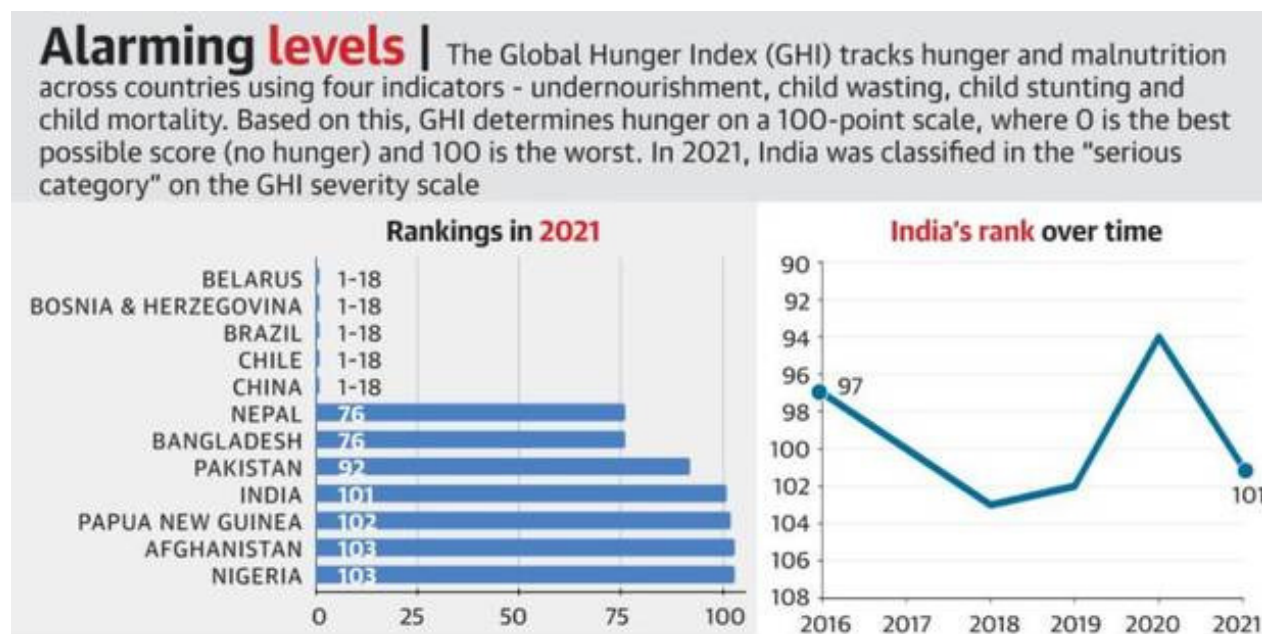
# Global Hunger Index 2021 - Key takeaways

## Relevant to CSR Team

18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### Introduction

India plummeted to 101st place out of 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021, falling from 94th place in 2020. According to the Global Hunger Index assessment, India's hunger level is "serious," which is an improvement over its performance in 2000, when hunger levels were "alarming." India has slipped to 101st position in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021 of 116 countries, from its 2020 position of 94th. According to the report, India's performance has dropped only because of malnutrition, which the government has addressed.



### About the Global Hunger Index

- **Annual Report:** Jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe. It was first produced in 2006. It is published every October. The 2021 edition marks the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the GHI.

- **Aim:** To comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels.
- **Calculation:** It is calculated on the basis of four indicators:
  1. **Undernourishment:** Share of the population with insufficient caloric intake.
  2. **Child Wasting:** Share of children under age five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition.
  3. **Child Stunting:** Share of children under age five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition.
  4. **Child Mortality:** The mortality rate of children under the age of five.
- **Data Collection:**
  - i. Undernourishment data are provided by the **Food and Agriculture Organisation** and child mortality data are sourced from the **UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME)**.
  - ii. Child wasting and stunting data are drawn from the joint database of **UNICEF**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **World Bank**, among others.

## Indian Scenario

- Since 2000, India has made substantial progress, but there are still areas of concern, particularly regarding child nutrition.
- India's **GHI score has decreased** from a 2000 GHI score of 38.8 points - considered alarming - to a 2021 GHI score of 27.5 - considered serious.
- The **proportion of undernourished** in the population and the **under-five child mortality rate** are now at relatively low levels.
- While **child stunting** has seen a **significant decrease** - from 54.2% in 1998-1999 to 34.7% in 2016-2018 - it is **still considered very high**.
- At **17.3%**, India has the **highest child wasting rate of all countries** covered in the GHI. This rate is **slightly higher than it was in 1998-1999**, when it was 17.1%.

- According to the Index, **only 15 countries fare worse than India.**
- India was also **behind most of the neighbouring countries.** Pakistan was placed at 92, Nepal and Bangladesh at 76 and Sri Lanka at 65.

## Ranking of other nations

- Nepal (76), Bangladesh (76), Myanmar (71) and Pakistan (92), all of India's neighbours, have been classified as having "alarming" levels of hunger. However, when it comes to hunger indices, they have all outperformed India.
- Only 15 countries performed worse than India this year: Papua New Guinea (102), Afghanistan (103), Nigeria (103), Congo (105), Mozambique (106), Sierra Leone (106), Timor-Leste (108), Haiti (109), Liberia (110), Madagascar (111), Democratic Republic of Congo (112), Chad (113), Central African Republic (114), Yemen (115), and Somalia (116).
- With a GHI score of less than five, 18 countries, including China, Brazil, and Kuwait, are at the top of the GHI ranking.

## Government of India Stand

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has **criticised the report** claiming that the methodology used by FAO is **unscientific.**
- According to the Government, the **Global Hunger Index Report 2021** and **FAO report on 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021'** have completely ignored the facts:
- They have based their assessment on the results of a **'four question'** opinion poll, which was **conducted telephonically by Gallup.**

- The scientific measurement of undernourishment would **require measurement of weight and Height**, whereas the methodology involved here is based on a **Gallup poll, based on a pure telephonic estimate of the population**. The government claims that the index failed to take into account the effort undertaken to feed people during the pandemic. This is because the poll did not inquire if the respondent received government food assistance.
- The report completely **disregards Government's massive effort** to ensure food security of the entire population during the Covid period such as **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (PMGKAY)** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat Scheme (ANBS)**.

## **Publisher's Reaction**

Welthungerhilfe alleges that the FAO's telephone-based opinion indicator was not used in the GHI. The index employed the FAO's undernourishment indicator, which is calculated using each country's Food Balance Sheet. The Food Balance Sheet depicts a comprehensive view of a country's food supply pattern during a certain time period. It displays the sources of supply and usage for each food item, i.e. each primary commodity and a number of processed commodities potentially available for human consumption.