



Severe Malnutrition Among Children

Source: [TH](#)

A recent study found the prevalence of 'zero-food children' in India at **19.3%**, drawing attention to extreme food deprivation among children.

- **Zero-food children** refers to infants aged **six months to 23 months** who have not consumed **any substantial food for a period of 24 hours**.
- The study also ranks **India** as having the **third highest percentage of zero-food children**, above only **Guinea (21.8%)** and **Mali (20.5%)**.
 - Uttar Pradesh stands out as a significant hotspot for this crisis, with a high percentage of **'zero-food children.'**
- According to the [Global Hunger Index 2023](#), India topped the list of countries with the highest child-wasting rate in the world, at **18.7%**.
 - Also, According to the [National Family Health Survey 5](#), 35.5% of children under age five years are stunted in India.

Read more: [Combating Malnutrition in India](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/severe-malnutrition-among-children>