

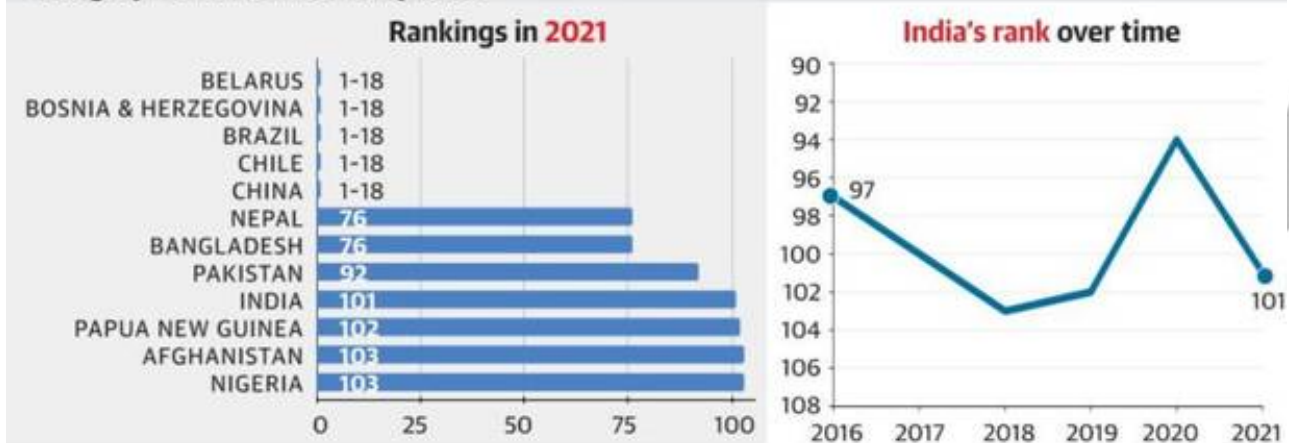


# Global Hunger Index 2021

## Why in News

India has **slipped to 101<sup>st</sup> position in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021** of 116 countries, from its **2020 position of 94<sup>th</sup>**.

// **Alarming levels** | The Global Hunger Index (GHI) tracks hunger and malnutrition across countries using four indicators - undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality. Based on this, GHI determines hunger on a 100-point scale, where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst. In 2021, India was classified in the "serious category" on the GHI severity scale



## Key Points

### ▪ 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:
  - **Undernourishment:** Share of the population with insufficient caloric intake.
  - **Child Wasting:** Share of children under age five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition.
  - **Child Stunting:** Share of children under age five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition.
  - **Child Mortality:** The mortality rate of children under the age of five.
- **Scoring:**

- Based on the values of the four indicators, the GHI determines hunger on a 100-point scale where **0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.**
- Each country's GHI score is classified by severity, from low to extremely alarming.
- **Data Collection:**
  - 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 \(UN IGME\).](#)
  - Child wasting and stunting data are drawn from the joint database of [UNICEF](#), the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) and the [World Bank](#), among others.
- **Global Scenario:**
  - **The fight against hunger is dangerously off track.**
    - Based on current GHI projections, the world as a whole - and 47 countries in particular - will fail to achieve a low level of hunger by 2030.
  - **Food security is under assault on multiple fronts.**
    - Worsening conflict, weather extremes associated with global climate change, and the economic and health challenges associated with the Covid-19 pandemic are all driving hunger.
  - **After decades of decline, the global prevalence of undernourishment - a component of the Global Hunger Index - is increasing.**
    - This shift may be a leading indicator of reversals in other measures of hunger.
  - **Inequality** - between regions, countries, districts, and communities - is pervasive and, left unchecked, will keep the world from achieving the [Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\)](#) mandate to "leave no one behind".
  - **Africa, South of the Sahara and South Asia are the world regions where hunger levels are highest.** Hunger in both regions is considered serious.
- **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.
- **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 following 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 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 Yojana \(PMGKAY\)](#) and [Atmanirbhar Bharat Scheme \(ANBS\)](#).

### Some Related Initiatives by India

- **[Eat Right India Movement](#)**: An outreach activity organised by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for citizens to nudge them towards eating right.
- **[POSHAN Abhiyan](#)**: Launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2018, it targets to reduce stunting, undernutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls).
- **[Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana](#)**: A centrally sponsored scheme executed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, is a maternity benefit programme being implemented in all districts of the country with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2017.
- **[Food Fortification](#)**: Food Fortification or Food Enrichment is the addition of key vitamins and minerals such as iron, iodine, zinc, Vitamin A & D to staple foods such as rice, milk and salt to improve their nutritional content.
- **[National Food Security Act, 2013](#)**: It legally entitled up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.
- **[Mission Indradhanush](#)**: It targets children under 2 years of age and pregnant women for immunization against 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD).
- **[Integrated Child Development Services \(ICDS\) Scheme](#)**: Launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1975, the ICDS Scheme offers a package of six services (Supplementary Nutrition, Pre-school non-formal education, Nutrition & health education, Immunization, Health check-up and Referral services) to children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

**[Source: TH](#)**

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