



# FACTSHEET: 2022 GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

## Transformation of Food Systems and Local Governance

*Up to 828 million people in the world are undernourished, with 193 million suffering from acute hunger. We live in a toxic mix of conflicts, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Millions of people are exposed to extreme food price shocks. We are facing the third global food price crisis within 15 years. The effects of the war in Ukraine, is turning a crisis into a catastrophe. The goal to end hunger by 2030, adopted by the international community in the Agenda2030, has moved far out of reach. This situation makes it more obvious than ever that our current food systems—from sowing, harvesting, processing, and transportation to equipment, funding, sales, and consumption—are inadequate to address the current challenges. There is urgent need for the international community to respond to the ongoing humanitarian crises as they continue to escalate. However, they must not lose sight of the long-term transformation of food systems. Various communities are meeting these challenges in innovative ways. Citizens are using a range of tools to shape how food systems are governed and to claim their right to food by holding decision makers accountable and improving local governance. Which is the way in which actors work together at the local level when it comes to making decisions, providing services, and distributing goods and resources.*

*The Global Hunger Index (GHI) measures hunger throughout the world. This annual reference report analyzes the available data at global, regional, and national levels. It is published by Welthungerhilfe together with its Alliance2015 partner Concern Worldwide. The 2022 report is the 17th report in this series.*

### What is the Global Hunger Index?

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool for measure the multidimensional nature of hunger. GHI scores create a comprehensive picture of global hunger by combining the following four indicators:

- Undernourishment:** the share of the population whose caloric intake is insufficient
- Child stunting:** the share of children under the age of five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition
- Child wasting:** the share of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition
- Child mortality:** the share of children who die before their fifth birthday, reflecting in part the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and an unhealthy environments.

Based on the values of these four indicators, a GHI score is calculated on a 100-point scale reflecting the severity of hunger, with 0 (no hunger) being the best possible score, and 100 being the worst. Each country's GHI score is classified by severity starting from *low* to *moderate*, *serious*, *alarming*, or *extremely alarming*.

**Data from 136 countries** was evaluated for the 2022 GHI. 121 of these countries had reliable data available for all four indicators between 2017 and 2021, allowing GHI scores and ranks to be generated. For 15 countries data sets were incomplete. Eight of these countries were provisionally designated based on the data available. For seven countries, provisional designation could not be established due to a lack of data. The 2022 GHI is based on data sourced from several UN- and other multilateral agencies. Undernourishment was assessed based on data for 2019 to 2021, and child mortality rates represent data for 2020. For the other two indicators, wasting and stunting, the latest available

data cover the period from 2017 to 2021. For purposes of reference, the report also provides the GHI scores for the years 2000, 2007, and 2014, permitting a long-term analysis of developments. However, **the various annual reports cannot be directly compared to each other** because the data are continuously being updated, the countries included vary from year to year, and the ranking system has been adjusted in the past.

## Key GHI Results for 2022

**A Grim Outlook.** The overlapping crises around the world are exposing the weaknesses of our food systems. The war in Ukraine has further increased food and energy prices, laying bare structural inequalities and the fragile food security situation. At this rate, **the international community will not be able to fully end hunger in the world by 2030.** Without a major shift, an estimated **46 countries will not be able to achieve a low hunger level by 2030.** There are already 44 countries with hunger levels of *serious* (35 countries) or *alarming* (9 countries). 20 countries with categories of *moderate*, *serious*, or *alarming*, the GHI scores for 2022 are higher than in 2014, the most recent reference year for the 2022 scores. It is worth noting that this is also true for countries where hunger is not generally a major problem. In light of these figures, the international community it is predicted to **not even achieve the GHI score of low in the world by 2030.** In the reference year of 2014, the GHI score for the world was 19.1; in 2022, it is 18.2, meaning that global hunger has barely decreased and remains categorized as *moderate*. On the positive side, some progress is being made in 32 countries whose GHI scores are at least 50 percent lower than in 2000; however, the pace of these changes is too slow.

**Severe setbacks.** The worst hunger scores are found in South Asia and Africa South of the Sahara, where progress towards ending hunger is already stagnating. **The situation overall is categorized as serious.** South Asia has the world's highest rates of stunting and wasting among children. It is the region with the highest GHI scores in the world. In Africa South of the Sahara, the rates of undernourishment and child mortality are higher than in any other region. Violent conflicts are among the primary causes for food insecurity here, exacerbated by a high poverty rate and dependency on natural resources. Agriculture, fishing, and livestock farming are disrupted by climate variability and changes, with fatal consequences. People in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia are suffering from one of the worst droughts in 40 years; by June 2022, the number of people facing acute hunger in these three countries had risen to 18.4 million—about as many people as live in New York City and London combined.

**Hunger is alarming in five countries:** Central African Republic, Chad, DR Congo, Madagascar, and Yemen. Another four countries are in the same category (due to incomplete data as provisional designations): Burundi, Somalia, South Sudan, and Syria. Parts of Somalia are at high risk of a dramatic development; by July 2023, around 1.8 million children under five years (54.5 percent of all children in the country) could be affected by acute malnutrition (IPC, Sept. 2022). **Yemen is the country with the highest GHI score, at 45.1, which places it into the category of alarming.** Violent conflicts and dependency on

food imports are having a severely detrimental impact on people's food security. In the Central African Republic, which has the second-highest GHI score, at 44.0, violence and displacement are the main causes of hunger. Developments in West Asia and North Africa are also disquieting. This world regions have the highest hunger levels after South Asia and Africa South of the Sahara, falling under the *moderate* category with a score of 11.4. Since 2010, the undernourishment rate in this region has risen from 6.1 percent to 8.6 percent, which is the highest it has been since 2001. In Latin America and the Caribbean also face a problematic trend: Although overall hunger levels are still *low*, the undernourishment rate rose from 5.3 percent to 8.6 percent between 2014 and 2021.

## Local and Inclusive: Securing the Right to Food

Citizens in many countries address the gaps in our food systems with innovative ideas for improving local collaboration and holding decision makers accountable. This includes multistakeholder platforms to support each other with awareness and claiming of rights, monitoring government services by comparing and evaluating available data, and influencing local politics by providing information on the nutrition situation. These interactions between citizens and the government create spaces to transform food systems as experiences are shared with decision makers and voices are mobilized. This can be seen in the example of Niger, where organizations of the Alliance2015 network—Concern Worldwide, ACTED, and Welthungerhilfe—are funding an initiative that connects community members, local authorities, and humanitarian stakeholders as well as Alliance2015 members so that they can work together in various places to evaluate needs, coordinate activities, and share knowledge. In addition to directly improving the food security, this approach also makes it possible to create a resilient and sustainable food system by working together.

## Policy Recommendations

The right to food should be enshrined in national law and reinforced through complaint response mechanisms. Governments must promote an inclusive coordination of food and nutrition-relevant strategies at all levels. Planning and budgeting procedures should take into account existing power imbalances and prioritize the voices of the most vulnerable groups. This requires citizens to clearly understand their rights and the relevant processes in food systems and to have access to data and information. Responsibility for food security should be delegated to lower administrative units, and more local resources should be made available. Significantly greater funding is needed to meet the urgent need for humanitarian assistance and to transform food systems to be more resilient to shocks.

## What Welthungerhilfe Is Doing

For 60 years, Welthungerhilfe has been working with people to achieve a self-determined life free of hunger. Since its inception, it has provided funding of EUR 4.46 billion for 10,895 overseas projects in 70 countries.

Learn more about the projects at:

[www.welthungerhilfe.org](http://www.welthungerhilfe.org)

Access the Global Hunger Index and download a variety of documents in several languages at:

[www.globalhungerindex.org](http://www.globalhungerindex.org)

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