2025

Synopsis

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

20 YEARS OF TRACKING PROGRESS: TIME TO RECOMMIT TO ZERO HUNGER

October 2025

With chances for achieving Zero Hunger by 2030 slipping away, it is time to recommit and renew global action.

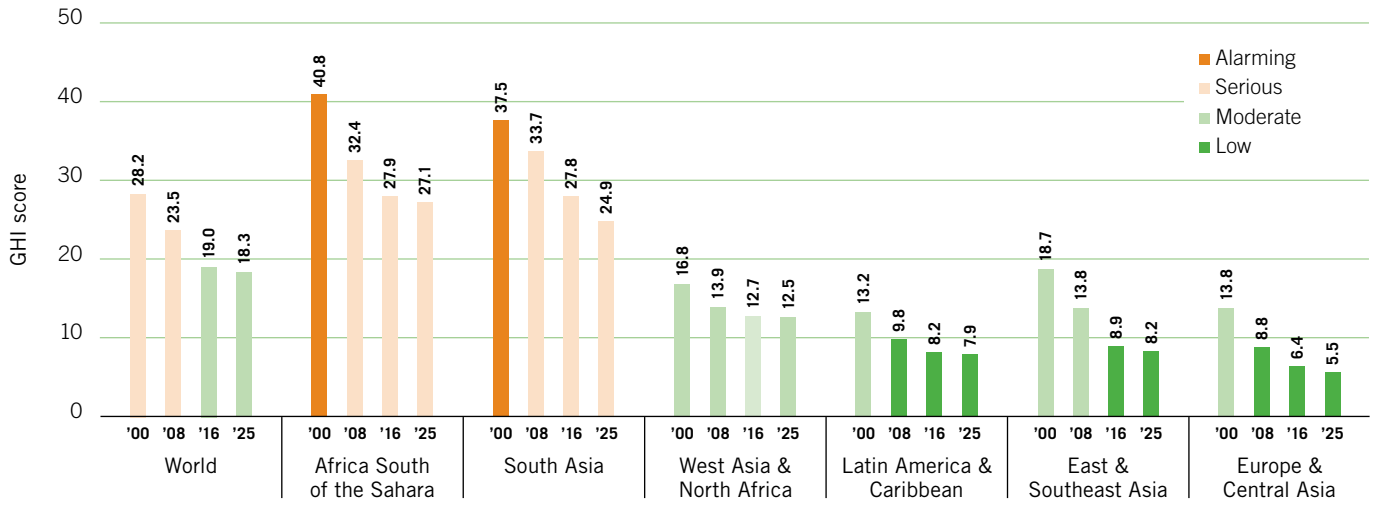
The 20th Global Hunger Index (GHI) arrives amid mounting concern over global food security, with crises worsening in several regions and progress toward Zero Hunger by 2030 having stalled since 2016. Across all four GHI indicators—undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality—levels remain far from international targets, undermining the human right to food and the well-being of millions worldwide.

Stalled progress is pushing the 2030 target of Zero Hunger out of reach. After a period of notable gains up to 2016, the world's Global Hunger Index score has barely shifted, with the global GHI score, remaining in the *moderate* category at 18.3 in 2025, being slightly down from 19.0 in 2016. The halt in progress reflects the growing impact of overlapping and accelerating crises, including armed conflicts, economic fragility, and political disengagement. The climate crisis, no longer episodic, has become a constant threat—2024 was the hottest year on record, and extreme weather events are increasingly devastating food systems. At the current pace, at least 56 countries will not reach *low* hunger—much less Zero Hunger—by 2030. If progress remains at the pace observed since 2016, low hunger at the global level may not be reached until 2137—more than a century away.

Hunger is *Serious* or *Alarming* in 42 Countries

The 2025 GHI scores show that hunger is considered *alarming* in 7 countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Madagascar, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen. In another 35 countries, hunger is designated as *serious*. Furthermore, many countries are slipping backward: in 27 countries with *low, moderate, serious,* or *alarming* 2025 GHI scores, hunger has increased since 2016. In

FIGURE 1 **GLOBAL AND REGIONAL 2000, 2008, 2016, AND 2025 GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX SCORES**



Source: Authors.

Note: See Appendix A for data sources. The regional and global GHI scores are calculated using regional and global aggregates for each indicator and the formula described in Appendix A. The regional and global aggregates for each indicator are calculated as population-weighted averages, using the indicator values reported in Appendix B. For countries lacking undernourishment data, provisional estimates provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) were used to calculate aggregates only but are not reported in Appendix B. Appendix D shows which countries are included in each region.

several critical contexts, including Burundi, DPR Korea, the occupied Palestinian territories, Sudan, and Yemen, data gaps prevent the calculation of full 2025 GHI scores, obscuring the true extent of hunger. Available indicators, however, point to deteriorating conditions and suggest that the reality is more alarming than the current figures reveal. As systems to measure and respond to hunger are dismantled or weakened, a dangerous feedback loop is created, where invisible needs attract no assistance.

Conflict remains the most destructive force driving hunger. Armed violence fueled 20 food crises affecting nearly 140 million people in the past year. The wars in Gaza and Sudan illustrate how conflict devastates both livelihoods and lifelines: global famine-level food insecurity, concentrated largely in those two settings, more than doubled between 2023 and 2024. Massive destruction will lead to long-lasting threats to food security. Humanitarian assistance has dropped sharply, while military spending has surged—an inversion of priorities that undermines the global hunger response. As funding declines, assistance is increasingly limited to only the most acute cases, leaving many without support.

There are stark regional disparities: Hunger remains serious in both Africa South of the Sahara and South Asia, while modest global improvement in undernourishment largely reflects gains in parts of South and Southeast Asia and Latin America. At the country level, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, Togo and Uganda have registered the most notable progress in reducing hunger since 2016. These and other examples show that targeted policies and sustained investments can reduce hunger. Yet the gains remain fragile, underscoring the need for sound policies that promote sustained support, early-warning systems, climate resilience, and food systems transformation to protect and build on success.

BOX 1.1 ABOUT THE GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX SCORES

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool for comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger at global, regional, and national levels over recent years and decades. GHI scores are calculated based on a formula combining four indicators that together capture the multidimensional nature of hunger:

Undernourishment: the share of the population that is undernourished, reflecting insufficient caloric intake

Child wasting: the share of children under the age of five who are wasted (low weight-for-height), reflecting *acute* undernutrition

Child stunting: the share of children under the age of five who are stunted (low height-for-age), reflecting *chronic* undernutrition

Child mortality: the mortality rate of children under the age of five

In 2025, data were assessed for the 136 countries that met the criteria for inclusion in the GHI, and GHI scores were calculated for 123 of those countries based on data from 2020 to 2024. The data used to calculate GHI scores come from published UN sources (the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation), the World Bank, and the Demographic and Health Surveys Program. Of the 136 countries assessed, 13 did not have sufficient data to allow for the calculation of a 2025 GHI score, but provisional designations of the severity of hunger were nevertheless assigned to 7 of those countries based on other published data. For the remaining 6 countries, data were insufficient to allow for either the calculation of a GHI score or the assignment of a provisional designation.

The GHI categorizes and ranks countries on a 100-point scale: values of less than 10.0 reflect *low* hunger; values from 10.0 to 19.9 reflect *moderate* hunger; values from 20.0 to 34.9 indicate *serious* hunger; values from 35.0 to 49.9 are *alarming;* and values of 50.0 or more are *extremely alarming* (Figure 2).

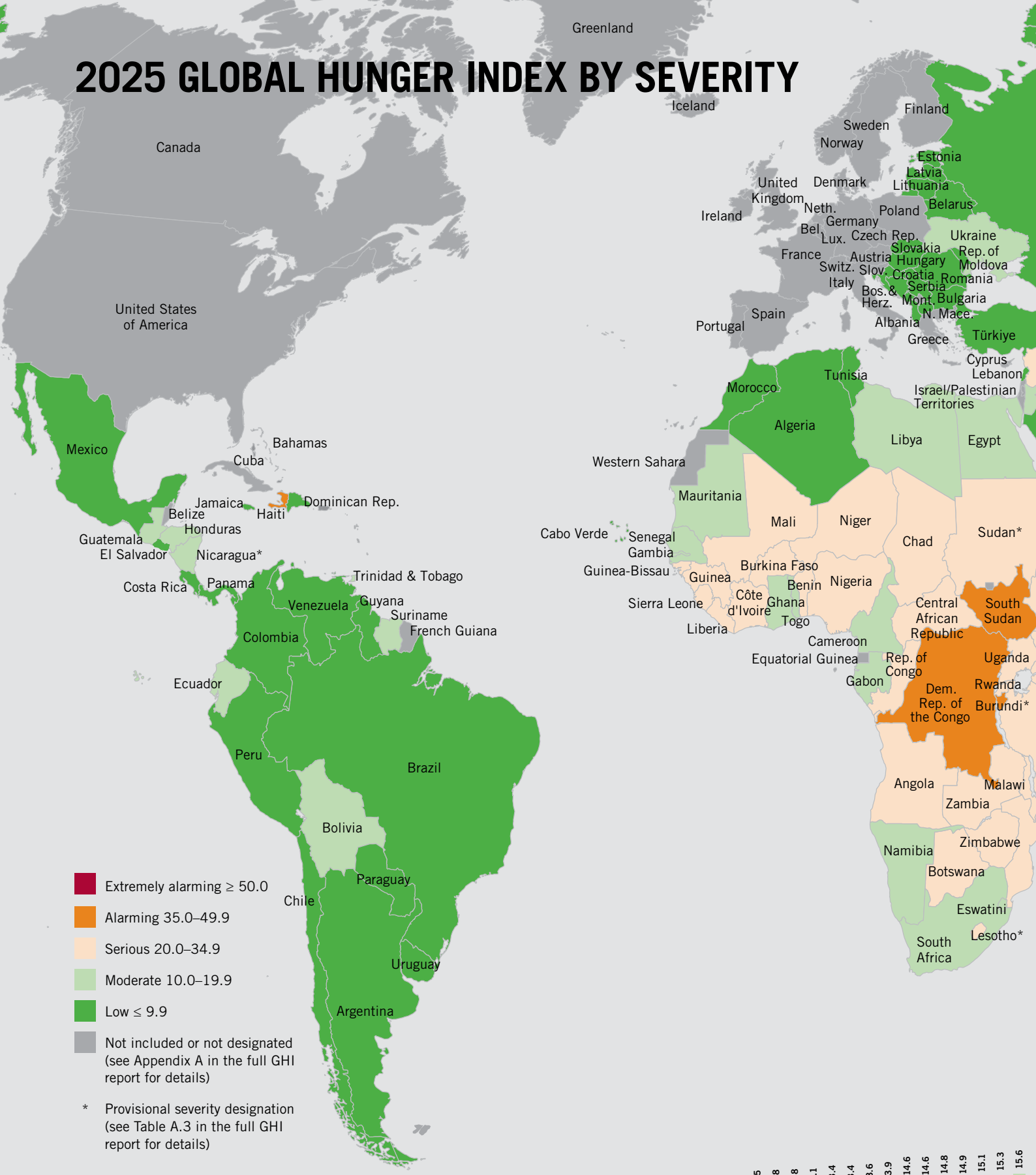
FIGURE 2 **NUMBER OF COUNTRIES BY HUNGER LEVEL ACCORDING TO 2025 GHI SCORES**

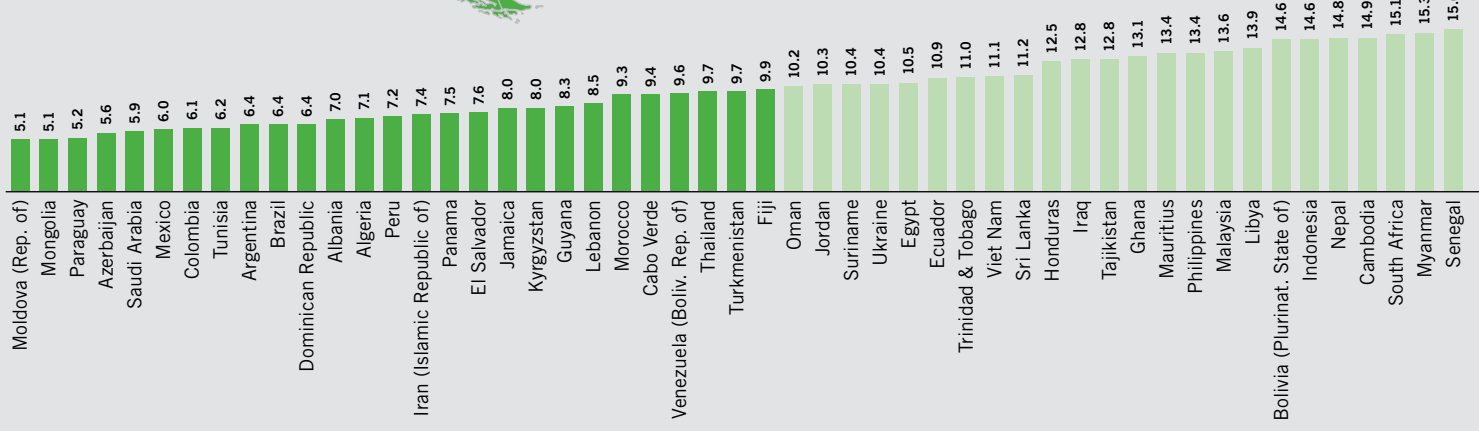
GHI Severity of Hunger Scale				
≤ 9.9 Low 52 countries	10.0–19.9 Moderate 36 countries	20.0–34.9 Serious 35 countries	35.0–49.9 Alarming 7 countries	≥ 50.0 Extremely alarming 0 countries

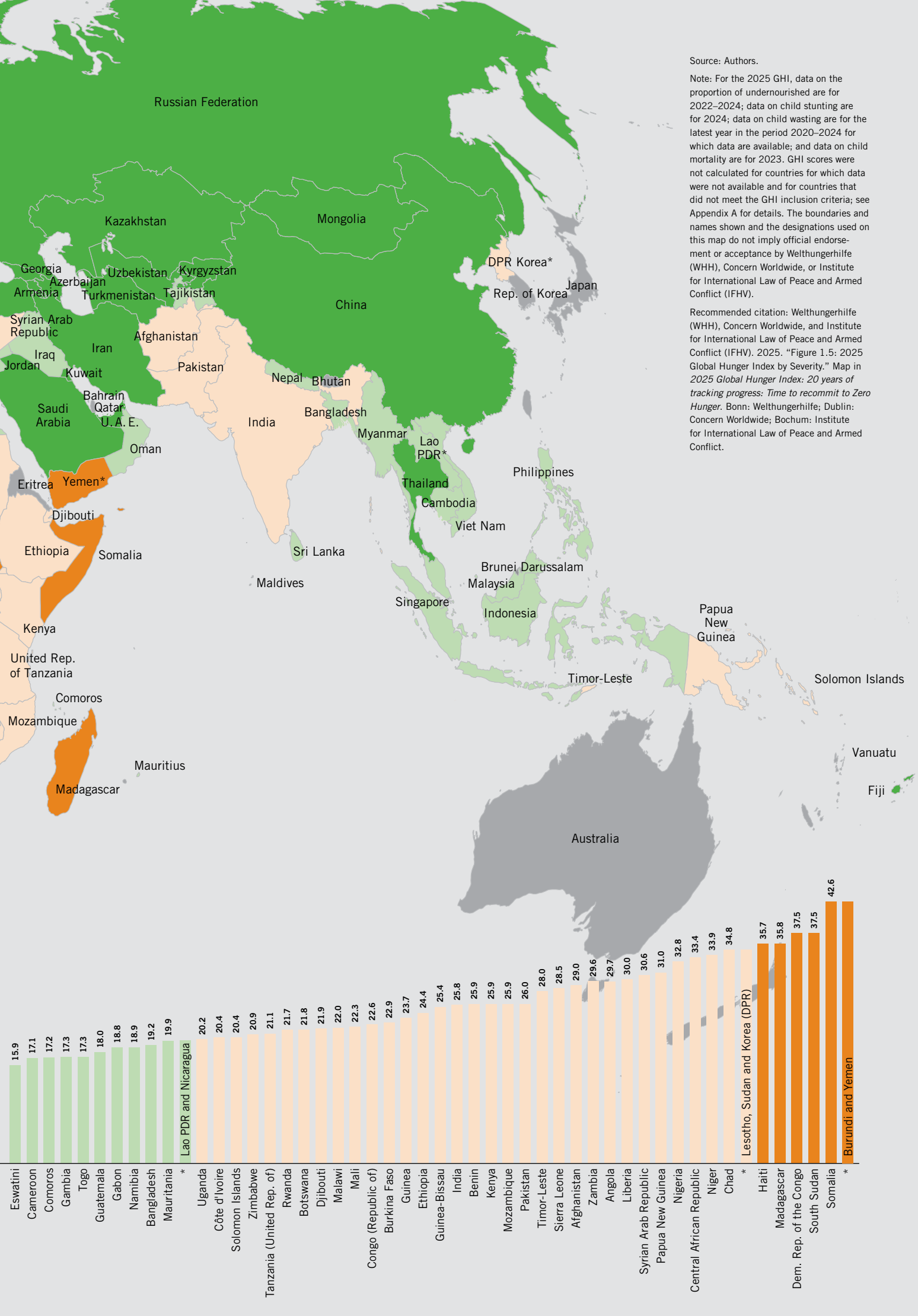
Source: Authors.

Note: These tallies reflect the 123 countries for which GHI scores were calculated based on data from 2020-2024 and the 7 countries that were assigned GHI designations on a provisional basis (2 as *moderate,* 3 as *serious,* and 2 as *alarming*).

2025 GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX BY SEVERITY







Source: Authors.

Note: For the 2025 GHI, data on the proportion of undernourished are for 2022–2024; data on child stunting are for 2024; data on child wasting are for the latest year in the period 2020–2024 for which data are available; and data on child mortality are for 2023. GHI scores were not calculated for countries for which data were not available and for countries that did not meet the GHI inclusion criteria; see Appendix A for details. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Concern Worldwide, or Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV).

Recommended citation: Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Concern Worldwide, and Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV). 2025. "Figure 1.5: 2025 Global Hunger Index by Severity." Map in *2025 Global Hunger Index: 20 years of tracking progress: Time to recommit to Zero Hunger.* Bonn: Welthungerhilfe; Dublin: Concern Worldwide; Bochum: Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict.

TABLE 1.1 GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX SCORES BY 2025 GHI RANK

Note: Rankings and index scores from this table cannot be accurately compared to rankings and index scores from previous reports (see Appendix A).

Rank[1]	Country	2000	2008	2016	2025
22025 GHI scores less than 5 collectively ranked 1-25.[2]	Armenia	20.3	10.8	6.7	<5
	Belarus	<5	<5	<5	<5
	Bosnia & Herzegovina	9.5	6.1	5.0	<5
	Bulgaria	8.6	8.1	7.3	<5
	Chile	<5	<5	<5	<5
	China	13.8	7.3	<5	<5
	Costa Rica	5.9	<5	<5	<5
	Croatia	7.1	<5	<5	<5
	Estonia	<5	<5	<5	<5
	Georgia	11.8	8.0	5.7	<5
	Hungary	<5	<5	<5	<5
	Kazakhstan	12.0	10.2	5.7	<5
	Kuwait	<5	<5	<5	<5
	Latvia	5.3	<5	<5	<5
	Lithuania	5.0	<5	<5	<5
	Montenegro	—	5.8	<5	<5
	North Macedonia	7.4	5.5	<5	<5
	Romania	8.1	6.0	<5	<5
	Russian Federation	10.6	6.0	5.5	<5
	Serbia	—	5.3	<5	<5
	Slovakia	5.3	<5	<5	<5
	Türkiye	14.8	6.9	<5	<5
	United Arab Emirates	<5	<5	<5	<5
	Uruguay	7.9	<5	<5	<5
	Uzbekistan	25.7	12.7	5.7	<5
26	Moldova (Rep. of)	18.1	15.0	5.8	5.1
26	Mongolia	29.5	17.3	8.0	5.1
28	Paraguay	12.8	8.3	5.2	5.2
29	Azerbaijan	25.2	14.1	8.1	5.6
30	Saudi Arabia	10.1	8.5	6.6	5.9
31	Mexico	9.8	9.2	7.1	6.0
32	Colombia	10.7	10.3	7.1	6.1
33	Tunisia	9.1	7.6	6.1	6.2
34	Argentina	6.5	5.2	5.3	6.4
34	Brazil	11.6	6.3	5.4	6.4
34	Dominican Republic	15.2	12.8	8.6	6.4
37	Albania	15.3	15.3	6.7	7.0
38	Algeria	14.1	10.8	8.0	7.1
39	Peru	21.1	12.9	8.0	7.2
40	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	12.4	9.5	8.3	7.4
41	Panama	17.3	12.3	9.2	7.5
42	El Salvador	13.6	11.6	8.9	7.6
43	Jamaica	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.0
43	Kyrgyzstan	18.4	12.2	8.9	8.0
45	Guyana	17.0	15.3	10.7	8.3
46	Lebanon	11.1	8.3	7.1	8.5
47	Morocco	15.6	11.5	8.6	9.3
48	Cabo Verde	16.2	13.1	11.5	9.4
49	Venezuela (Boliv. Rep. of)	14.3	8.7	14.2	9.6
50	Thailand	17.5	12.3	10.4	9.7
50	Turkmenistan	19.9	14.3	10.2	9.7
52	Fiji	9.2	10.2	10.6	9.9
53	Oman	16.2	10.2	12.0	10.2
54	Jordan	10.2	7.6	7.7	10.3
55	Suriname	14.9	10.4	10.8	10.4
55	Ukraine	12.8	10.0	9.7	10.4
57	Egypt	16.4	15.5	14.5	10.5
58	Ecuador	19.1	14.6	11.3	10.9
59	Trinidad & Tobago	11.2	11.0	9.7	11.0
60	Viet Nam	25.7	19.7	14.1	11.1
61	Sri Lanka	22.1	17.6	14.1	11.2
62	Honduras	21.7	15.9	13.1	12.5
63	Iraq	22.9	19.2	14.7	12.8
63	Tajikistan	39.3	26.9	15.3	12.8
65	Ghana	29.0	21.5	16.5	13.1
66	Mauritius	15.3	13.2	12.8	13.4
66	Philippines	23.9	21.4	17.7	13.4
68	Malaysia	15.1	13.9	13.4	13.6
69	Libya	11.9	14.8	16.3	13.9
70	Bolivia (Plurinat. State of)	27.0	20.9	14.0	14.6
70	Indonesia	25.0	27.8	18.2	14.6
72	Nepal	37.0	28.5	20.6	14.8
73	Cambodia	39.8	24.7	17.7	14.9
74	South Africa	17.1	16.4	12.9	15.1
75	Myanmar	41.5	28.3	16.8	15.3
76	Senegal	32.5	20.9	16.8	15.6
77	Eswatini	23.9	25.8	18.9	15.9
78	Cameroon	36.8	26.9	20.4	17.1
79	Comoros	35.7	25.7	20.5	17.2
80	Gambia	29.5	23.3	18.8	17.3
80	Togo	37.6	27.7	24.7	17.3
82	Guatemala	29.0	23.8	20.8	18.0
83	Gabon	19.8	18.4	16.1	18.8
84	Namibia	26.6	27.1	22.0	18.9
85	Bangladesh	34.6	32.5	24.4	19.2
86	Mauritania	31.3	20.1	21.2	19.9
*	Lao PDR	—	—	—	10–19.9*
*	Nicaragua	21.4	17.1	13.1	10–19.9*
87	Uganda	36.0	28.6	29.1	20.2
88	Côte d'Ivoire	32.8	33.2	22.3	20.4
88	Solomon Islands	18.9	18.8	21.8	20.4
90	Zimbabwe	35.5	29.6	27.2	20.9
91	Tanzania (United Rep. of)	40.3	29.4	24.7	21.1
92	Rwanda	49.7	36.4	28.2	21.7
93	Botswana	29.9	27.2	22.5	21.8
94	Djibouti	44.8	32.8	24.6	21.9
95	Malawi	43.3	28.5	23.1	22.0
96	Mali	40.3	31.3	24.7	22.3
97	Congo (Republic of)	35.1	32.2	26.6	22.6
98	Burkina Faso	44.5	34.4	25.4	22.9
99	Guinea	36.8	31.9	28.4	23.7
100	Ethiopia	53.0	37.5	26.1	24.4
101	Guinea-Bissau	37.6	30.4	26.6	25.4
102	India	38.1	34.6	29.3	25.8
103	Benin	32.2	25.5	23.8	25.9
103	Kenya	35.7	28.7	23.1	25.9
103	Mozambique	46.8	32.7	36.4	25.9
106	Pakistan	36.2	32.3	25.4	26.0
107	Timor-Leste	—	42.2	30.5	28.0
108	Sierra Leone	57.8	41.1	32.4	28.5
109	Afghanistan	49.6	32.7	28.0	29.0
110	Zambia	51.2	41.4	31.7	29.6
111	Angola	63.8	35.3	25.7	29.7
112	Liberia	47.7	36.8	32.9	30.0
113	Syrian Arab Republic	14.8	17.0	23.7	30.6
114	Papua New Guinea	31.3	32.8	31.9	31.0
115	Nigeria	38.2	32.3	29.9	32.8
116	Central African Republic	46.8	41.9	36.0	33.4
117	Niger	52.7	39.0	33.3	33.9
118	Chad	49.6	43.8	38.5	34.8
*	Lesotho	—	—	—	20–34.9*
*	Sudan	—	—	27.5	20–34.9*
*	Korea (DPR)	43.8	30.8	27.6	20–34.9*
119	Haiti	40.2	37.2	29.9	35.7
120	Madagascar	42.0	36.6	35.0	35.8
121	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	46.1	39.5	36.4	37.5
121	South Sudan	—	—	—	37.5
123	Somalia	64.3	60.5	49.4	42.6
*	Burundi and Yemen	—	—	—	35–49.9*

= low = moderate = serious = alarming = extremely alarming

Note: For the 2025 GHI report, data were assessed for 136 countries. Of these, there were sufficient data to calculate 2025 GHI scores for and rank 123 countries (by way of comparison, 127 countries were ranked in the 2024 report).

[1] Ranked according to 2025 GHI scores. Countries that have identical 2025 scores are given the same ranking (for example, Moldova and Mongolia are both ranked 26th).

[2] The 25 countries with 2025 GHI scores of less than 5 are not assigned individual ranks, but rather are collectively ranked 1-25. Differences between their scores are minimal.

— = Data are not available or not presented. Some countries did not exist in their present borders in the given year or reference period.

* For 13 countries, individual scores could not be calculated and ranks could not be determined owing to lack of data. Where possible, these countries were provisionally designated by severity: 2 as *moderate*, 3 as *serious*, and 2 as *alarming*. For 6 countries, provisional designations could not be established (see Table A.3 in Appendix A).

TWO DECADES OF POLITICAL PATHWAYS: EVOLVING PRIORITIES AND SHIFTING FOCUS TO OVERCOME HUNGER

The 20th Global Hunger Index (GHI) looks back on two decades of lessons in the fight against hunger, tracing how ideas and priorities have shifted over time. A review of past policy recommendations shows how strategies have evolved from productivity-focused agriculture to rights-based, inclusive, and resilience-driven approaches.

Key priorities have included strengthening governance, equity, food systems transformation, rural livelihoods, multisectoral strategies, and coordinated, accountable development financing. Emphasis has grown on the need for data, anticipatory risk management, and local empowerment, especially for women and vulnerable populations. The GHI recommendations have consistently underscored that solutions exist, but hunger persists due to gaps in sustained political will, policy financing, and implementation, which prioritize equity and locally-led action, supported by by strong local leadership.

Insights on Progress and Challenges Ahead

In this years' GHI edition, leading experts and policymakers reflect on today's food security and nutrition challenges, discuss the role of tracking progress in the fight against hunger, and share vital insights for the road ahead.

Twenty years after the publication of the first GHI, Joachim von Braun, Vice Chair of Welthungerhilfe's Board of Directors and former Director of the Center for Development Research (ZEF) at the University of Bonn, recalls the pivotal decision to develop a tool for tracking hunger on a country-by-country basis. "A key strength of the GHI lies in its foundation of rigorous research, its clear and multidimensional concept of hunger, its reliance on official data, its global scope, and its ability to be updated annually," says Joachim von Braun.

Carolina Trivelli, former Minister of Development and Social Inclusion of Peru, highlights: "The GHI becomes especially impactful when viewed over time. While a single year's index offers a snapshot of the current situation, a multiyear perspective allows us to trace the origins of today's outcomes and place them within a broader context. In this way, the GHI transforms from a picture into a movie—showing not just where we are, but where we came from."

For Nitya Rao, Professor of Gender and Development at the University of East Anglia, the global hunger picture is mixed. She notes that overall progress in fighting hunger and malnutrition has stalled since 2016, yet examples from Cambodia, Cameroon, Nepal and Togo prove meaningful improvement is possible. She identifies conflict, climate change, market shocks, and inequality as persistent barriers, stressing that gender equality and justice — across three dimensions: recognition, redistribution and representation—remain essential for transformative change.

Systems thinking is a recurring theme across expert contributions. Dan Smith, Director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), underscores the two-way link between conflict and hunger, and the possibility to begin breaking this vicious cycle, even in the midst of ongoing violence, through peace-oriented food system interventions. Tom Arnold, former CEO of Concern Worldwide, champions nutrition as a central concept and states: "We must consider malnutrition in all its forms—undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight, and obesity—through an integrated lens." Kaosar Afsana, Professor at the BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health stresses that fighting hunger requires a systems approach beyond the food system: "Fair wages, affordable health care, quality education, and strong social protection, in addition to the enforcement of existing nutrition-sensitive policies, are all essential to ensure that people can access safe, nutritious, and affordable food and build resilience."

Essential Steps towards Zero Hunger

Klaus von Grebmer, Research Fellow Emeritus and Strategic Adviser at the International Food Policy Research Institute, notes that progress in the fight against hunger is strongest when top leaders take a personal interest and demand regular updates. Wendy Geza, Systems and Policy Researcher at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, highlights the "implementation gap," calling for policies to be translated into concrete, monitored local actions, supported by platforms that enable collaboration and accountability.

Sisay Sinamo Boltena, SUN Focal Person at the Ministry of Health in Ethiopia, describes the Seqota Declaration's high-level political ownership, multisectoral action, and gender mainstreaming amongst other keyfactors to end child stunting by 2030. The declaration is one of Ethiopia's most successful initiatives in the fight against malnutrition. In Liberia, Macdonald Metzger, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Administration Office of the Vice President, describes a multisectoral strategy addressing both acute and chronic malnutrition. He emphasizes Liberia's inclusive approach that focuses on strong local partnerships, public awareness, and community engagement so interventions are grounded in local realities.

In Nepal, the Right to Food is enshrined in the country's constitution. Bimala Rai Paudyal, Nepal's former Minister of Foreign Affairs and member of the National Planning Commission, describes how this legal recognition has led to the creation of various social protection programs and hunger reduction strategies, including the Safer Motherhood and Child Program.

Mendy Ndlovu, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for Transformative Agricultural & Food Systems at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, calls for deliberate climate action, youth leadership, Indigenous knowledge, and inclusive governance to build resilient agrifood systems. She emphasizes that while tracking progress is vital for awareness and accountability, it must be paired with targeted, context-specific action to address structural inequalities and close the gap between policy and practice—essential steps to achieving Zero Hunger.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations highlight that nutrition and food systems policies should be guided by human rights, international law, and the principles of equity, justice, and policy coherence.

1 Leave No One Behind: Act Urgently on Hunger and Build Resilient Food Systems

→ **Secure political leadership for sustainable food systems transformation.** Governments at all levels must commit to building inclusive, resilient, sustainable and peace-oriented food systems that address all forms of malnutrition and involve the full scope of those food systems, from production to disposal, and their social, economic, and environmental impacts. This approach includes legally recognizing the right to food, ensuring accountability, promoting food sovereignty, and ensuring the full participation of women and youth in governance and decision-making.

→ **Promote sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural development as a long-term solution to food insecurity.** This requires investing in food systems that adopt appropriate, innovative technologies, draw on local knowledge, secure land and water rights, and prioritize ecosystem restoration—with active collaboration between governments, civil society, academia, the private sector, and communities to build inclusive and sustainable value chains. Responsible political leadership is essential to ensure these efforts are protected and not undermined.

→ **Ensure adequate, flexible, and accountable financing from diversified sources,** including humanitarian, development, climate finance, domestic mobilization, and private sector sources. Donors must meet existing commitments, reverse assistance cuts, and prioritize the reduction of hunger across all major funding frameworks, including the upcoming European Union Multiannual Financial Framework. From now until 2030, all stakeholders must prioritize financing and operationalizing existing hunger and nutrition strategies, with clear timelines and accountability mechanisms.

2 Strengthen National-Level Political Commitment and Prioritize Localized Implementation

→ **Promote high-level ownership and institutionalize responsibility.** Heads of state and governments must champion initiatives to eradicate hunger and designate specific offices or individuals to be accountable for overseeing hunger policies and reporting on progress. Evidence from the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement and the Committee on World Food Security highlights the importance of high-level leadership and institutional accountability. Both stress the need for national and international structures that unite sectors like health, agriculture, education, and finance, led with clear government mandates, to coordinate efforts to end hunger.

→ **Establish inclusive accountability mechanisms.** Policies and plans must be informed by those who depend on them and who will experience their outcomes—positive and negative. Joint planning and review platforms—spaces where government, civil society, and other stakeholders can assess progress, identify gaps, and agree on corrective actions—have proven to be effective. Stakeholders in this joint work must value and rely on data as a foundation for accountability and action. Actions are needed to strengthen national and local capacities to collect, analyze, and communicate high-quality, disaggregated data.

→ **Empower local governance.** Local authorities should be equipped with dedicated budgets, tailored operational guidelines, and sustained capacity building on implementing context-specific solutions to hunger. Civil society organizations must be actively and meaningfully engaged as key partners in both elaborating and implementing development strategies.

3 Break the Cycle of Conflict and Hunger

→ **Prevent and mitigate the impact of conflict on hunger.** Conflict remains the primary driver of global hunger. The impacts of conflict on food systems—lost livelihoods, protracted displacement, and destruction of land, food systems, ecosystems, and communities—last for generations. Governments, intergovernmental organisations, and humanitarian actors must prioritize and invest in risk-informed, proactive approaches that protect lives and livelihoods before conditions reach catastrophic levels. Stakeholders must engage communities to address the recurring drivers and consequences of conflict that undermine sustainable food security.

→ **Uphold international law and hold perpetrators accountable for using hunger as a weapon of war.** Hunger and starvation are being deliberately weaponized. Recognition of this fact is essential at the highest political levels. Ignoring its use, even in the face of evidence, normalizes it. United Nations member states and relevant intergovernmental bodies must ensure that such crimes are independently investigated and prosecuted and that UN Resolution 2417, condemning the starving of civilians as a method of war, is fully implemented.

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The editorial deadline for this publication was September 5, 2025. The deadlines for the data used in the calculation of GHI scores were earlier.

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