

Global Hunger Index—Asia Fact Sheet

19 South, East, and Southeast Asian countries ranked in the report

Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, Pakistan, North Korea, and India have the highest Global Hunger Index scores in Asia

For more information, please contact:

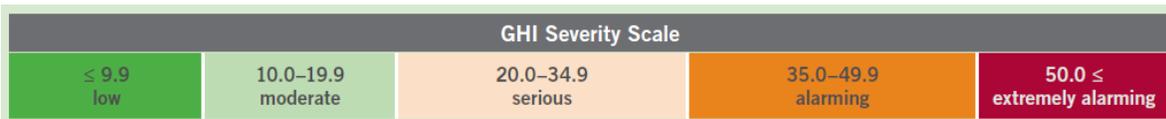
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Key Findings and Trends

Scores among the 118 countries in the report varied widely. Scores of 9.9 or lower denote low hunger; scores between 35.0 and 49.9 denote alarming hunger. This year no countries hit the threshold of 50, which signifies extremely alarming hunger levels. Yet, it is impossible to know exactly how severe hunger is in some of the world’s poorest countries that lack data to determine GHI scores.



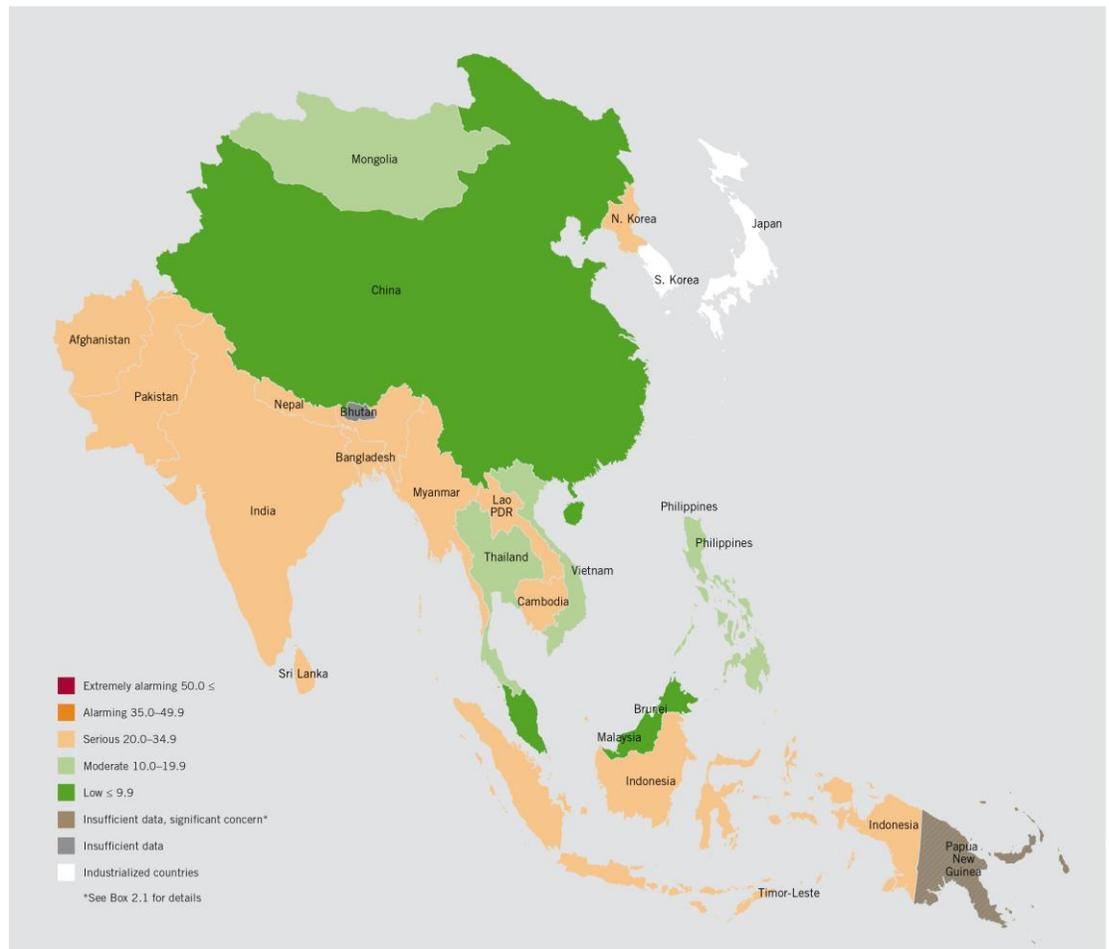
2016 GHI Scores in Asia

The countries in Asia with the lowest hunger levels are: China, Fiji, Malaysia, Thailand, and Mongolia.

The countries in Asia with the highest hunger levels are: Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, Pakistan, North Korea, and India.

No country in the region has an “alarming” or “extremely alarming” rating, although with a 2016 GHI score of 34.8, Afghanistan is very close to the alarming category.

Seven countries worldwide are considered “alarming,” zero are considered “extremely alarming.”



- Regional GHI scores:
 - Africa South of the Sahara: 30.1
 - South Asia: 29.0
 - East & Southeast Asia: 12.8
 - Near East & North Africa: 11.7
 - Eastern Europe & Commonwealth of Independent States: 8.3
 - Latin America & Caribbean: 7.8
- Tremendous progress has been made toward eliminating global hunger. The level of hunger in developing countries has fallen by 29 percent since 2000.
 - The 2016 GHI score for the developing world is 21.3, which is still considered “serious.”
 - Twenty-two countries around the world—including China, Cambodia and Vietnam—reduced their hunger scores by 50 percent or more relative to their 2000 GHI scores.
 - Globally, 70 countries made considerable progress with scores that dropped by between 25.0 percent and 49.9 percent relative to the 2000 GHI scores.
 - Despite the progress made, levels of hunger remain “serious” or “alarming” in 50 of the 118 countries with GHI scores.
- South Asia's GHI score is closely tied to that of India, where three-quarters of the South Asian population lives.
- If Africa south of the Sahara and South Asia were to reduce their hunger levels between now and 2030 at their current pace, they would still have moderate to serious levels of hunger—falling far short of the goal to reach Zero Hunger by 2030.

Global Hunger Index Background

The 2016 Global Hunger Index (GHI) is calculated for 118 countries for which data are available for four indicators:

- the percentage of the population that is undernourished,
- the percentage of children under age five who suffer from wasting (low weight for height),
- the percentage of children under age five who suffer from stunting (low height for age), and
- the percentage of children who die before the age of five (child mortality).

How do you interpret a GHI score?

An increase in a country's GHI score indicates that the hunger situation is worsening, while a decrease in the score indicates improvement in the country's hunger situation.

Could GHI scores be calculated for all countries?

No, due to missing or unavailable data, GHI scores could not be calculated for all countries, including Bhutan and Papua New Guinea in Asia. Papua New Guinea is considered to be a significant cause for concern, in part because approximately half of children under age 5 are stunted, meaning they have low height for their ages which reflects chronic undernutrition. After Burundi, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste have the highest child stunting levels of all the countries in the report.

More information can be found at: <http://www.ifpri.org/topic/global-hunger-index>