

2024

Synopsis

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

HOW GENDER JUSTICE CAN ADVANCE CLIMATE RESILIENCE
AND ZERO HUNGER

October 2024



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#GHI2024

Little Progress on Reducing Hunger amid Overlapping Crises

With the 2030 target date for achieving Zero Hunger fast approaching, the 2024 Global Hunger Index (GHI) makes it starkly clear that the world is far from meeting that critical goal. The realization of the right to adequate food is out of reach for billions of people. Progress in reducing all four GHI indicators—undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality—is falling short of internationally agreed targets. Many countries and territories are experiencing unprecedented levels of acute food insecurity, with potentially dire implications for their long-term development.

The Outlook Is Grim As Progress against Hunger Stagnates

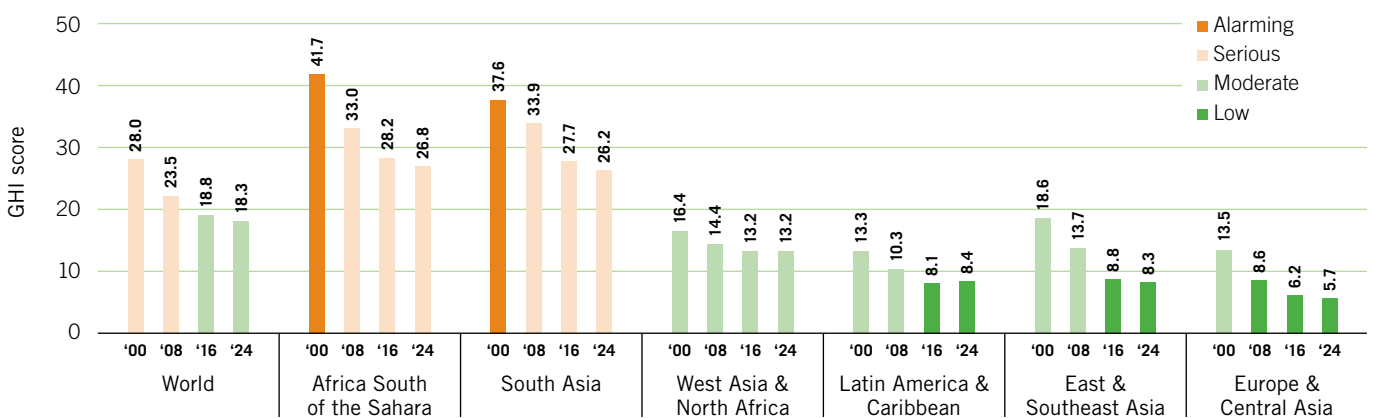
Over the past decade, worldwide progress against hunger has slowed to a troubling degree. The 2024 Global Hunger Index (GHI) score for the world is 18.3, considered *moderate*, down only slightly from the 2016 score of 18.8. This global score obscures wide variations in hunger by region. The situation is most severe in Africa South of the Sahara and South Asia, where hunger remains *serious*. Africa South of the Sahara’s high GHI score is driven by the highest undernourishment and child mortality rates of any region by far. In South Asia, *serious* hunger reflects rising undernourishment and persistently high

child undernutrition. The goal of Zero Hunger by 2030 now appears unreachable, and if progress remains at the pace observed since the 2016 global GHI score, the world will not reach even *low* hunger until 2160—more than 130 years from now.

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

Dozens of countries still experience a level of hunger that is much too high. The 2024 GHI scores and provisional designations show that hunger is considered *alarming* in 6 countries: Burundi, Chad, Madagascar, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen. In another 36 countries, hunger is designated as *serious*. Furthermore, many

FIGURE 1 GLOBAL AND REGIONAL 2000, 2008, 2016, AND 2024 GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX SCORES



Source: Authors.

Note: See Appendix A in the full report 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.

countries are slipping backward: in 22 countries with *moderate, serious, or alarming* 2024 GHI scores, hunger has actually increased since 2016. In 20 countries with *moderate, serious, or alarming* 2024 GHI scores, progress has largely stalled—their 2024 GHI scores have declined by less than 5 percent from their 2016 GHI scores. However, examples of progress and hope do exist amid crises and worrying trends. A small number of countries—including Bangladesh, Mozambique, Nepal, Somalia, and Togo—have made significant improvements in their GHI scores, even if hunger in these countries remains too high.

Multiple Crises Are Complicating the Effort to Reduce Hunger

The 2024 GHI results reflect a barrage of successive and overlapping challenges that have the most severe impacts on the world's

poorest countries and people. These challenges include large-scale armed conflicts, climate change indicators that are worsening faster than expected, high food prices, market disruptions, economic downturns, and debt crises in many low- and middle-income countries. More than 115 million people globally are subject to internal displacement or forced migration as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, or civil disorder, and many more have been displaced by weather-related disasters. The wars in Gaza and Sudan have led to exceptional food crises. Inequality between and within countries is on the rise. And while extreme poverty in middle-income countries has decreased, income inequality remains persistently high, and poverty in the poorest countries and countries affected by some form of state fragility, conflict, or violence is still worse than before the pandemic.

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 2024, data were assessed for the 136 countries that met the criteria for inclusion in the GHI, and GHI scores were calculated for 127 of those countries based on data from 2019 to 2023. The data used to calculate GHI scores come from published UN sources (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, 9 did not have sufficient data to allow for the calculation of a 2024 GHI score, but provisional designations of the severity of hunger were nevertheless assigned to 3 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).

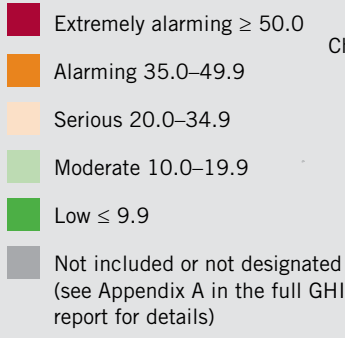
FIGURE 2 NUMBER OF COUNTRIES BY HUNGER LEVEL ACCORDING TO 2024 GHI SCORES



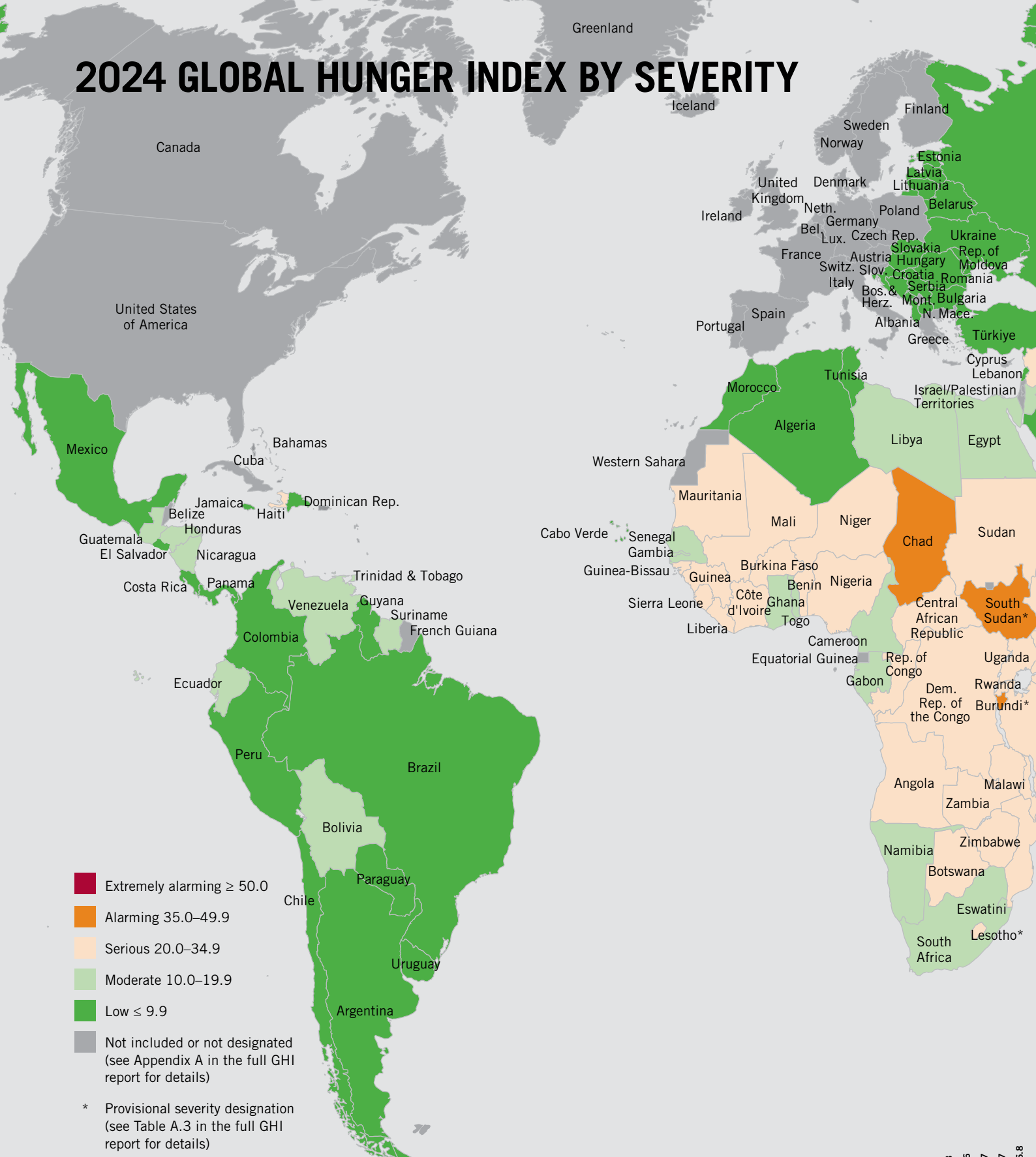
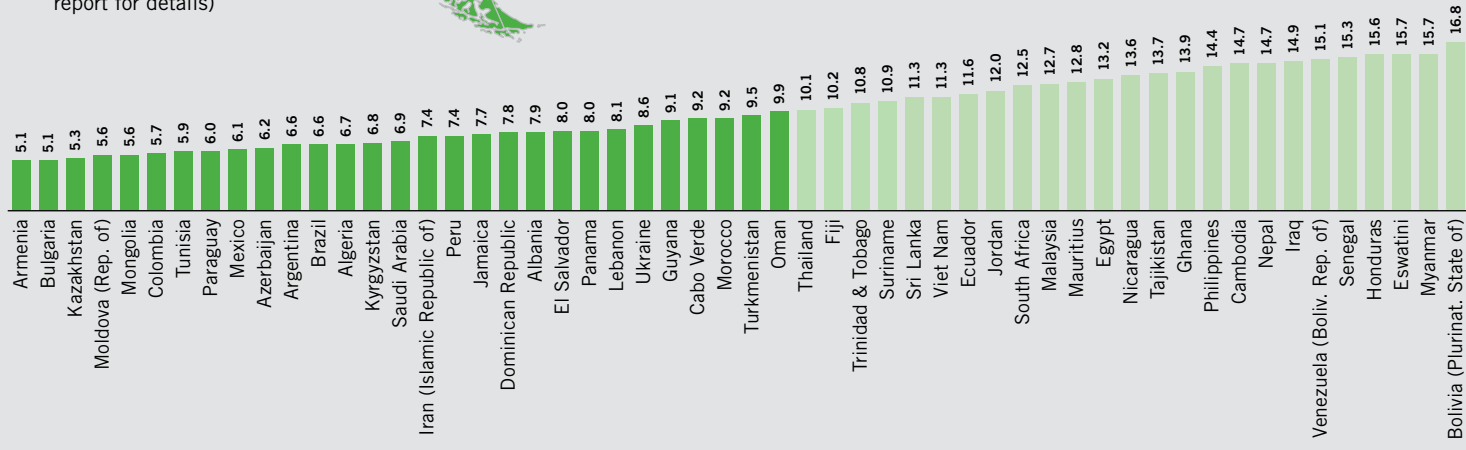
Source: Authors.

Note: These tallies reflect the 127 countries for which GHI scores were calculated based on data from 2019–2023 and the 3 countries that were assigned GHI designations on a provisional basis (1 as *serious* and 2 as *alarming*).

2024 GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX BY SEVERITY



* Provisional severity designation (see Table A.3 in the full GHI report for details)





Source: Authors.

Note: For the 2024 GHI, data on the proportion of undernourished are for 2021–2023; data on child stunting and wasting are for the latest year in the period 2019–2023 for which data are available; and data on child mortality are for 2022. 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 in the full report 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 the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV).

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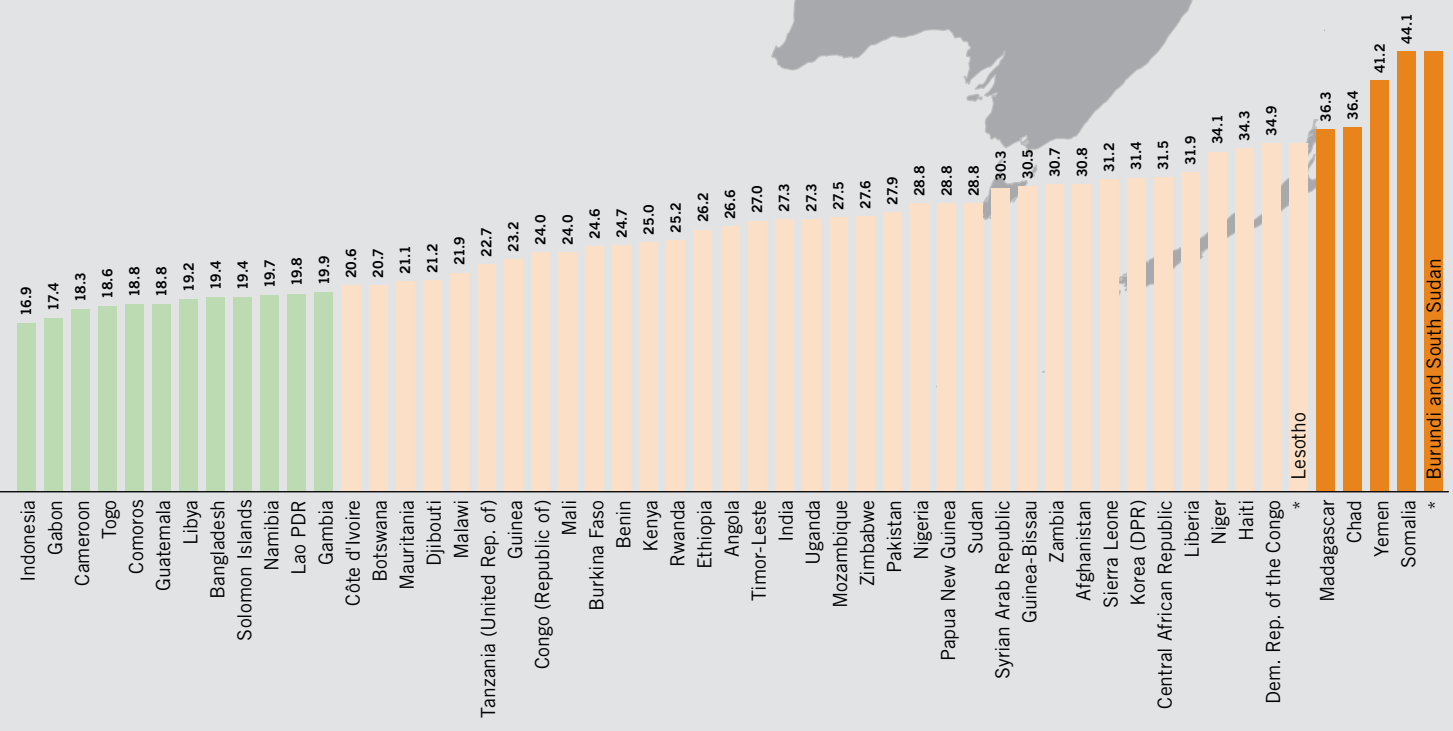


TABLE 1.1 GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX SCORES BY 2024 GHI RANK

Note: As always, rankings and index scores from this table cannot be accurately compared to rankings and index scores from previous reports (see Appendix A in the full report).

Rank ¹	Country	2000	2008	2016	2024	Rank ¹	Country	2000	2008	2016	2024
2024 GHI scores less than 5, collectively ranked 1–22. ²	Belarus	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	71	Venezuela (Boliv. Rep. of)	14.3	8.7	14.4	15.1
	Bosnia & Herzegovina	9.4	6.4	< 5	< 5	72	Senegal	34.3	22.1	16.1	15.3
	Chile	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	73	Honduras	21.5	18.7	13.9	15.6
	China	13.4	7.2	< 5	< 5	74	Eswatini	24.8	24.9	19.6	15.7
	Costa Rica	6.6	< 5	< 5	< 5	74	Myanmar	40.2	29.9	17.1	15.7
	Croatia	5.5	< 5	< 5	< 5	76	Bolivia (Plurinat. State of)	27.0	21.2	14.3	16.8
	Estonia	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	77	Indonesia	25.7	28.2	18.3	16.9
	Georgia	12.0	6.6	5.4	< 5	78	Gabon	21.0	19.2	16.7	17.4
	Hungary	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	79	Cameroon	36.0	29.0	20.8	18.3
	Kuwait	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	80	Togo	38.2	28.2	24.4	18.6
	Latvia	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	81	Comoros	38.1	28.9	21.3	18.8
	Lithuania	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	81	Guatemala	28.5	24.0	20.1	18.8
	Montenegro	—	5.7	< 5	< 5	83	Libya	14.2	12.9	19.3	19.2
	North Macedonia	7.6	5.3	5.1	< 5	84	Bangladesh	33.8	30.6	24.7	19.4
	Romania	7.9	5.7	5.0	< 5	84	Solomon Islands	20.4	18.2	21.7	19.4
	Russian Federation	10.4	5.9	5.4	< 5	86	Namibia	26.5	27.5	20.6	19.7
	Serbia	—	5.9	< 5	< 5	87	Lao PDR	44.2	30.3	21.2	19.8
	Slovakia	6.0	< 5	< 5	< 5	88	Gambia	29.0	23.1	17.8	19.9
Türkiye	11.4	6.5	5.4	< 5	89	Côte d'Ivoire	33.1	35.2	21.5	20.6	
United Arab Emirates	5.1	6.3	< 5	< 5	90	Botswana	27.5	26.3	21.4	20.7	
Uruguay	7.6	5.3	< 5	< 5	91	Mauritania	30.4	18.8	22.3	21.1	
Uzbekistan	24.3	13.2	5.9	< 5	92	Djibouti	44.2	33.9	24.0	21.2	
23	Armenia	19.2	11.7	6.4	5.1	93	Malawi	43.0	28.1	22.8	21.9
23	Bulgaria	8.9	7.8	7.5	5.1	94	Tanzania (United Rep. of)	40.5	29.7	25.0	22.7
25	Kazakhstan	11.2	11.1	5.6	5.3	95	Guinea	40.1	31.5	28.2	23.2
26	Moldova (Rep. of)	17.6	14.7	6.1	5.6	96	Congo (Republic of)	34.9	32.2	26.8	24.0
26	Mongolia	29.7	16.7	7.5	5.6	96	Mali	41.9	31.8	24.7	24.0
28	Colombia	10.8	10.1	7.2	5.7	98	Burkina Faso	44.9	33.7	25.6	24.6
29	Tunisia	10.1	7.4	6.1	5.9	99	Benin	33.7	26.9	23.6	24.7
30	Paraguay	11.5	7.5	5.0	6.0	100	Kenya	36.3	29.0	24.0	25.0
31	Mexico	10.1	9.7	6.6	6.1	101	Rwanda	49.6	36.4	28.6	25.2
32	Azerbaijan	25.0	15.0	8.1	6.2	102	Ethiopia	53.4	37.8	26.2	26.2
33	Argentina	6.6	5.4	5.2	6.6	103	Angola	63.8	42.7	25.9	26.6
33	Brazil	11.7	6.7	5.5	6.6	104	Timor-Leste	—	44.8	29.4	27.0
35	Algeria	14.5	11.0	8.5	6.7	105	India	38.4	35.2	29.3	27.3
36	Kyrgyzstan	17.2	12.9	8.6	6.8	105	Uganda	36.1	28.5	30.3	27.3
37	Saudi Arabia	12.7	10.8	9.4	6.9	107	Mozambique	48.3	35.6	38.5	27.5
38	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	13.7	9.1	8.0	7.4	108	Zimbabwe	35.3	29.9	28.5	27.6
38	Peru	21.1	13.7	7.6	7.4	109	Pakistan	36.6	31.4	24.6	27.9
40	Jamaica	8.4	8.5	9.0	7.7	110	Nigeria	39.5	30.7	30.6	28.8
41	Dominican Republic	15.0	13.8	8.3	7.8	110	Papua New Guinea	33.7	32.8	30.0	28.8
42	Albania	16.0	15.5	6.2	7.9	110	Sudan	—	—	28.3	28.8
43	El Salvador	14.5	11.7	9.4	8.0	113	Syrian Arab Republic	13.9	16.9	25.9	30.3
43	Panama	18.7	12.7	8.1	8.0	114	Guinea-Bissau	37.6	29.6	30.2	30.5
45	Lebanon	10.2	9.1	7.5	8.1	115	Zambia	53.1	41.3	32.6	30.7
46	Ukraine	13.0	6.9	7.2	8.6	116	Afghanistan	49.6	35.7	27.1	30.8
47	Guyana	17.0	14.9	10.7	9.1	117	Sierra Leone	57.2	45.2	32.8	31.2
48	Cabo Verde	14.7	11.7	11.3	9.2	118	Korea (DPR)	43.7	30.5	26.2	31.4
48	Morocco	15.5	11.7	8.7	9.2	119	Central African Republic	48.0	43.5	32.6	31.5
50	Turkmenistan	20.2	14.4	10.5	9.5	120	Liberia	48.0	36.6	32.3	31.9
51	Oman	15.2	11.5	11.9	9.9	121	Niger	53.1	39.6	32.8	34.1
52	Thailand	18.9	12.2	9.5	10.1	122	Haiti	39.8	39.8	30.0	34.3
53	Fiji	9.6	8.8	10.6	10.2	123	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	47.2	41.2	36.2	34.9
54	Trinidad & Tobago	10.8	10.6	8.6	10.8	*	Lesotho	—	—	—	20–34.9*
55	Suriname	14.8	10.6	11.0	10.9	124	Madagascar	42.3	36.6	33.2	36.3
56	Sri Lanka	21.7	17.6	15.0	11.3	125	Chad	50.5	44.8	38.8	36.4
56	Viet Nam	26.1	20.1	14.4	11.3	126	Yemen	41.6	36.8	39.6	41.2
58	Ecuador	19.3	17.8	11.8	11.6	127	Somalia	63.3	59.0	49.8	44.1
59	Jordan	10.5	7.5	7.8	12.0	*	Burundi and South Sudan	—	—	—	35–49.9*
60	South Africa	18.0	16.9	14.0	12.5						
61	Malaysia	15.4	13.7	13.4	12.7						
62	Mauritius	15.4	13.9	13.4	12.8						
63	Egypt	16.1	16.8	15.4	13.2						
64	Nicaragua	21.7	17.1	14.0	13.6						
65	Tajikistan	39.9	28.1	16.0	13.7						
66	Ghana	28.5	22.2	16.7	13.9						
67	Philippines	24.9	18.9	17.9	14.4						
68	Cambodia	41.3	24.9	18.9	14.7						
68	Nepal	37.1	29.2	21.2	14.7						
70	Iraq	22.9	19.8	14.3	14.9						

■ = low ■ = moderate ■ = serious ■ = alarming ■ = extremely alarming

Note: For the 2024 GHI report, data were assessed for 136 countries. Out of these, there were sufficient data to calculate 2024 GHI scores for and rank 127 countries (by way of comparison, 125 countries were ranked in the 2023 report).

¹ Ranked according to 2024 GHI scores. Countries that have identical 2024 scores are given the same ranking (for example, Armenia and Bulgaria are both ranked 23rd).

² The 22 countries with 2024 GHI scores of less than 5 are not assigned individual ranks, but rather are collectively ranked 1–22. 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 9 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: 1 as *serious* and 2 as *alarming*. For 6 countries, provisional designations could not be established (see Table A.3 in Appendix A in the full report).

GENDER JUSTICE, CLIMATE RESILIENCE, AND FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

Guest essay by **Nitya Rao** (University of East Anglia), **Siera Vercillo** (Wageningen University), and **Gertrude Dzifa Torvikey** (University of Ghana)

Gender inequality, food insecurity, and climate change converge to place households, communities, and countries under extreme stress. Gender is intertwined with climate and food security challenges in ways that respective policies and interventions often ignore. Women and girls are typically hardest hit by food insecurity and malnutrition. They also suffer disproportionately from the effects of weather extremes and climate emergencies. Various forms of discrimination—formal and informal, systemic and individual—block them from the resources and opportunities they need to take effective action for the well-being of themselves and others, and to contribute to transformative change across food systems and for climate resilience.

Gender Inequality in Food Systems and Nutrition Is Severe—and Climate Change Is Making It Worse

Despite decades of galvanizing rhetoric about the need to ensure equal rights and opportunities for men and women, severe gender inequality persists. Among the undernourished, women consistently remain the most food insecure. The gap in food security between men and women is as high as 19 percentage points in some countries, and the situation for women is especially severe in countries affected by conflict. Women who are poor, rural, migrants, refugees, or engaged in informal employment are even more vulnerable. Food systems more broadly also discriminate against women. Agri-food policy approaches and finance policies often fail to respond to the underlying power relations between men and women, such as discriminatory norms, labor burdens, and land inheritance regimes, yet they rely on women's unpaid farm labor and caregiving to sustain an unjust food system. At the same time, climate change has disproportionate impacts on women. Heat waves and floods widen the gap not only between the poor and nonpoor but also between male- and female-headed households. Women farmers often lack timely agricultural extension information and adequate capital to recover from shocks. To cope with the impacts of climate change, they face increasing work burdens, including the need to travel farther to fetch water. They are forced to take on multiple livelihoods, worsening their time poverty, with implications for food and nutrition security.

Gender Justice Is a Cornerstone to Achieving Climate Resilience and Food and Nutrition Security

Gender justice—that is, equity between people in all spheres of life—is critical to a just world and to achieving climate and food justice. It consists of three interconnected dimensions: recognition, redistribution, and representation.

Recognition entails transforming gender discriminatory norms by acknowledging that different groups of people have different needs, vulnerabilities, and opportunities and that their physical location and

social position can intersect to intensify injustices. Exercising recognition means changing how households, communities, and the wider culture view gender roles and capacities. Such initiatives can trigger transformative changes at the micro level, contributing to both food and nutrition security and climate resilience.

Redistribution involves directing resources and opportunities to redress gender inequalities. Women are typically held responsible for household food security, yet they often lack access to household, community, and wider resources. Redistributive justice, which entails ensuring women's access to and control over critical productive resources, can challenge inequitable power dynamics and, in turn, create an enabling environment for food and nutrition security.

Representation refers to closing the gender gap in women's participation in politics and decision-making at multiple levels. Experiences in some countries suggest that women's leadership and political participation can push policies toward gender equity. Yet without critical feminist, gender-justice approaches to climate resilience and food security that address intersecting social factors, there is a risk that even those policies and interventions that seek to benefit women can deepen their work burdens or trigger backlash.

Implications for Policy and Programming

Achieving gender justice requires change at the various scales and levels at which gender relations operate. These range from individuals to entire systems, and from formal conditions like legal rights and material resource claims to more informal social and cultural norms that often conflict with relationships of respect and dignity.

At the level of government action, various international and inter-governmental bodies have developed guidelines to help point the way toward gender equality in both food systems transformation and climate action. The guidelines recommend that governments use affirmative action to draw women into leadership and managerial positions, support women's rights organizations and networks, empower women through education, and support their land tenure and use rights. These guidelines can inform a number of processes that are already underway to address climate change and food systems transformation, such as the national food systems transformation pathways.

Deep-seated gender norms and the unequal power relations they signify are not easy to change. Nonetheless, gender justice holds the promise of transformative change. We can take hope from and build on the many interventions and examples from across the globe that seek to achieve sustainable and equitable outcomes by simultaneously addressing the challenges to gender, food, and climate justice.

Note: The views expressed in the guest essay are those of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Concern Worldwide, or the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV).

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1 Strengthen accountability to international law and the enforceability of the right to adequate food.

- States need to **uphold and expand their legal obligations** to eliminate gender discrimination, ensure the right to food, and alleviate hunger, including during disasters and conflicts, based on the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Food and related guidance.
- States must **formalize the right to food** in concrete laws and regulations, accompanied by transparent monitoring and robust accountability mechanisms. Food and nutrition security analysis should include the perspectives and experiences of affected communities, and hunger early warning systems should be directly linked to prompt political action and automatic funding for relief. Citizens, civil society, and national human rights institutions must be supported so they can advocate for the right to food.
- Governments, multilateral organizations, and civil society organizations must strengthen capacities and systems to document, investigate, and report the use of starvation as a weapon of war. Stakeholders with an influence on parties to conflicts need to **promote compliance with human rights, humanitarian, and criminal law**, and support judicial efforts against perpetrators. UN Resolution 2417 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict must be fully operationalized and rigorously implemented.

2 Promote gender-transformative approaches to food systems and climate policies and programs.

- To formulate effective, context-sensitive policies and programs that avoid adverse effects, policymakers and practitioners must **recognize** how food systems and climate resilience are influenced by **diverse needs and vulnerabilities and complex socioeconomic factors** such as gendered power dynamics and divisions of labor.
- All climate and food systems policy processes and initiatives must ensure the **representation and leadership of women and marginalized groups** and draw on their expertise in managing natural resources. Governments need to establish inclusive, participatory governance structures with adequate decision-making power and budgets at all levels, from local citizens' councils to the global Committee on World Food Security.

→ Policymakers must **integrate gender considerations into legal frameworks and policy design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation**. For example, they should update their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and national food systems pathways to focus on equity, inclusivity, and rights-based approaches. Recommended measures include gender budgeting and social and gender audits.

3 Make investments that integrate and promote gender, climate, and food justice.

- Governments must **redistribute public resources to redress structural inequalities** and enable gender-equitable access. For example, public investments in care, education, health, and rural development should be used to address discriminatory norms and promote equitable distribution of labor within households and communities. Commitments to maternal, infant, and child health must be strengthened through, for example, the extension of the World Health Assembly targets and the upcoming Nutrition for Growth Summit.
- Development partners and governments should **harmonize policies across sectors** and coordinate relevant ministries. For example, governments need to invest in and promote food systems that produce affordable, nutritious, climate-resilient foods, reduce women's time poverty, improve their socioeconomic status, and increase their agency. Agricultural support should focus on climate mitigation and gender-transformative, locally led adaptation.
- International financial institutions, governments, and creditors urgently need to **address the worsening debt crisis and lack of fiscal space** in low- and middle-income countries. Debt restructuring, debt relief, and credit enhancements must be linked to investments in realizing the right to food, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and fulfilling the Paris Agreement.
- Essential **responses to shocks and crises should not come at the expense of impactful long-term investments**. Donor countries should make good on their commitments to increase development funding to at least 0.7 percent of GDP. The donor community should also provide climate support in the form of grants to empower affected communities, especially women, youth, and Indigenous peoples, to implement local climate actions. Within the recently created Loss and Damage Fund, a small-grant window with simplified procedures should be established for these groups.

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The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Concern Worldwide, or the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.

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