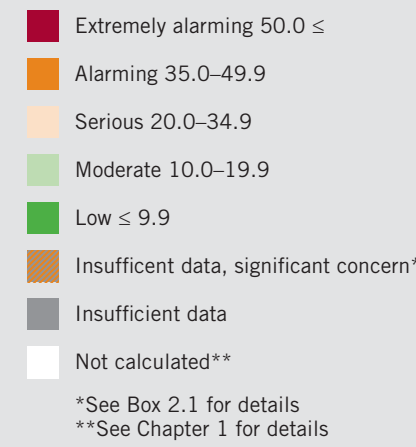


# 2017 GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX BY SEVERITY

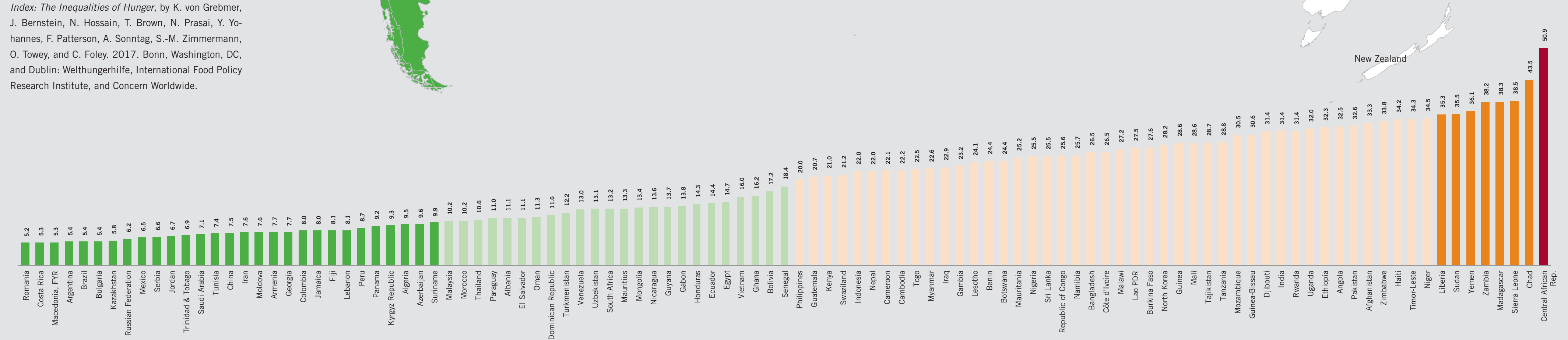


Source: Authors.

Note: For the 2017 GHI, data on the proportion of undernourished are for 2014–2016; data on child stunting and wasting are for the latest year in the period 2012–2016 for which data are available; and data on child mortality are for 2015. GHI scores were not calculated for countries for which data were not available and for certain countries with small populations.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Welthungerhilfe (WHH), or Concern Worldwide.

Recommended citation: “Figure 2.5: 2017 Global Hunger Index by Severity.” Map in *2017 Global Hunger Index: The Inequalities of Hunger*, by K. von Grebmer, J. Bernstein, N. Hossain, T. Brown, N. Prasai, Y. Yohannes, F. Patterson, A. Sonntag, S.-M. Zimmermann, O. Towey, and C. Foley. 2017. Bonn, Washington, DC, and Dublin: Welthungerhilfe, International Food Policy Research Institute, and Concern Worldwide.



# CONCEPT OF THE GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is based on four component indicators:

- **UNDERNOURISHMENT:** the proportion of undernourished people as a percentage of the population (reflecting the share of the population with insufficient caloric intake);
- **CHILD WASTING:** the proportion of children younger than age five who suffer from wasting (low weight-for-height, reflecting acute undernutrition);
- **CHILD STUNTING:** the proportion of children younger than age five who are stunted (low height-for-age, reflecting chronic undernutrition); and
- **CHILD MORTALITY:** the mortality rate of children younger than age five (partially reflecting the fatal synergy of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments).

Combining the proportion of undernourished in the population with the indicators relating to children under age five ensures that both the food supply situation of the population as a whole and the effects of inadequate nutrition on a physiologically very vulnerable group are captured. Children's nutritional status deserves particular attention because a deficiency of nutrients places them at high risk of physical and mental impairment and death. For many children in developing countries who die from infectious diseases, the indirect cause of death is a weakened immune system due to a lack of dietary energy, vitamins, and minerals. Since the first three indicators—the proportion of undernourished

and the prevalence of wasting and stunting in children—do not capture premature death as the most tragic consequence of hunger, the under-five mortality rate is also included.

The Global Hunger Index goes beyond dietary energy availability to reflect the multidimensional causes and manifestations of hunger. Inequitable resource allocations between households and within households are also taken into consideration since the latter affect the physical well-being of children. Sufficient food availability at the household level does not guarantee that all members benefit from it in equal measure. The GHI varies between the best possible score of 0 and the worst possible score of 100. Higher scores indicate greater hunger—the lower the score, the better the country's situation. GHI scores at or above 20 are considered serious; scores at or above 35 are alarming; and scores at or above 50 are extremely alarming.

The GHI is calculated for countries where data on all four component indicators are available and measuring hunger is most relevant. Most higher-income countries are not included because the indicators used to calculate the GHI are best suited to reflect the hunger and nutrition circumstances in low- and middle-income countries, and because much of these data are not collected regularly for higher-income countries. In addition, GHI scores are not calculated for certain countries with small populations nor for certain nonindependent entities or territories.

For more information, visit [www.globalhungerindex.org](http://www.globalhungerindex.org).

