

# 2014 GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX BY SEVERITY



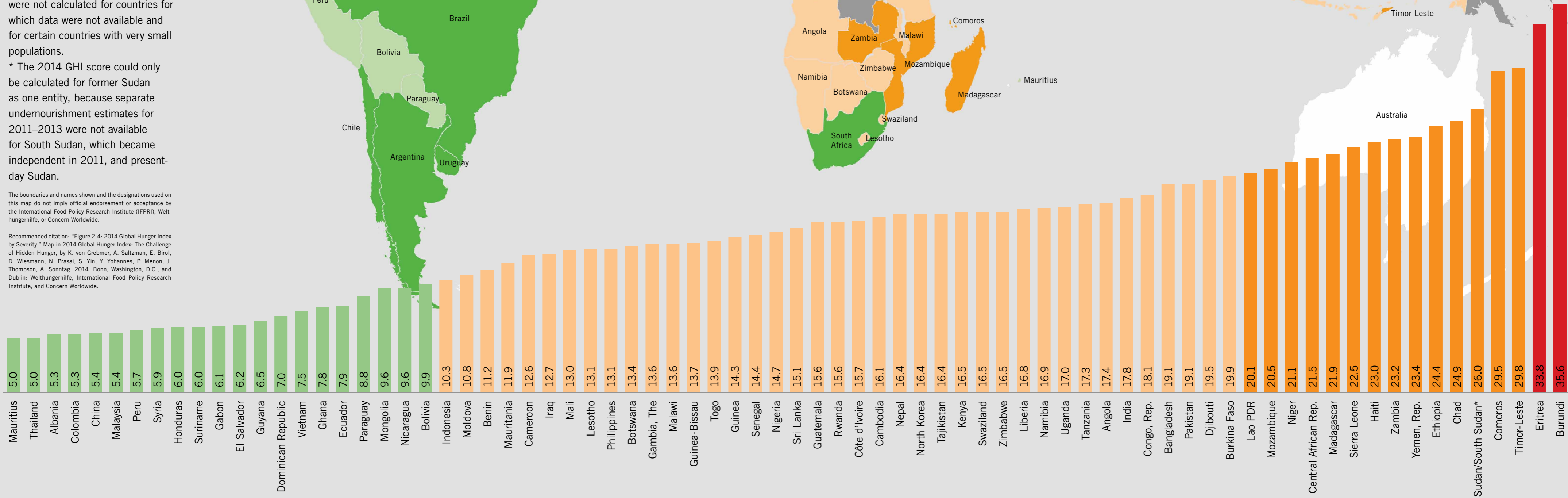
- Extremely alarming 30.0 ≤
- Alarming 20.0–29.9
- Serious 10.0–19.9
- Moderate 5.0–9.9
- Low ≤ 4.9
- No data
- Industrialized country

Note: For the 2014 GHI, data on the proportion of undernourished are for 2011–2013, data on child underweight are for the latest year in the period 2009–2013 for which data are available, and data on child mortality are for 2012. GHI scores were not calculated for countries for which data were not available and for certain countries with very small populations.

\* The 2014 GHI score could only be calculated for former Sudan as one entity, because separate undernourishment estimates for 2011–2013 were not available for South Sudan, which became independent in 2011, and present-day Sudan.

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, or Concern Worldwide.

Recommended citation: "Figure 2.4: 2014 Global Hunger Index by Severity." Map in 2014 Global Hunger Index: The Challenge of Hidden Hunger, by K. von Grebmer, A. Saltzman, E. Birlo, D. Wiesmann, N. Prasai, S. Yin, Y. Yohannes, P. Menon, J. Thompson, A. Sonntag. 2014. Bonn, Washington, D.C., 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 three equally weighted indicators:

- **Undernourishment:** the proportion of undernourished people as a percentage of the population (reflecting the share of the population with insufficient caloric intake);
- **Child underweight:** the proportion of children younger than age five who are underweight (that is, have low weight for their age, reflecting wasting, stunted growth, or both), which is one indicator of child undernutrition; and
- **Child mortality:** the mortality rate of children younger than age five (partially reflecting the fatal synergy of inadequate food intake and unhealthy environments).

Combining the proportion of undernourished in the population with the two indicators relating to children under 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 two indicators – the proportion of undernourished and the prevalence of underweight in children – do not reveal 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 above 10 are considered serious, scores greater than 20 are "alarming," and scores exceeding 30 are "extremely alarming."

The calculation of GHI scores is restricted to countries where measuring hunger is considered most relevant. Some higher-income countries are not included because hunger has been largely overcome in these countries and overnutrition is a greater problem than a lack of food.

For more information, visit [www.welthungerhilfe.de](http://www.welthungerhilfe.de), [www.ifpri.org](http://www.ifpri.org), and [www.concern.net](http://www.concern.net)