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Global Hunger Index-2019

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In the recently released **Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report-2019**, India was ranked at **102nd position** out of **117** countries.

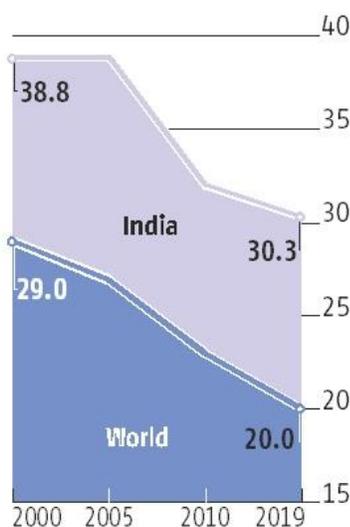
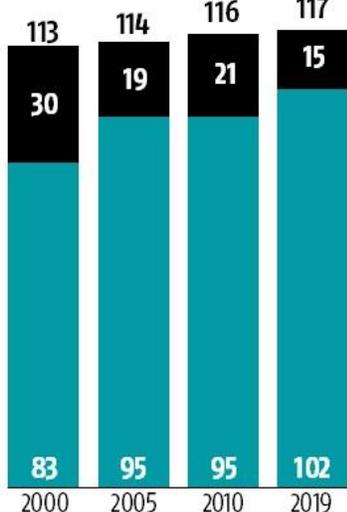
- The report is an **annual publication** that is jointly prepared by the **Concern Worldwide** (an Irish agency) and the **Welt Hunger Hilfe** (a German organization).
- The report is based on **four GHI indicators** namely, undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality.

HOW THE COUNTRY FARED

India struggles to eradicate hunger

Improvement slows

■ India's rank ■ Countries behind India



Note: The reference periods for different indicators are different due to data availability
Source: Concern Worldwide, Welt Hunger Hilfe

Key Findings

- India's rank has slipped from 95th position (in 2010) to 102nd (in 2019). Over a longer-term duration, the fall in India's rank is sharper, i.e, from 83rd out of 113 countries in 2000 to 102nd out of 117 in 2019.

- According to the report, India's child wasting rate was extremely high at **20.8%** - the **highest** for any country.
 - Child wasting refers to the share of children under the age of five who are wasted, i.e, they have **low weight with respect to their height**, reflecting acute undernutrition.
 - The share of wasting among children in India marked a steep rise from 16.5% in the 2008-2012 to 20.8% in 2014-2018.
 - According to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), child wasting is a strong predictor of mortality among children (under 5 yrs. of age).
- India has **demonstrated an improvement** in other indicators that includes, under-5 mortality rate, prevalence of stunting among children, and prevalence of undernourishment owing to inadequate food.
- The report also took note of **open defecation** in India as an impacting factor for health. It pointed out that as of 2015–2016, 90% of Indian households used an improved drinking water source while 39% of households had no sanitation facilities.
Open defecation jeopardizes the population's health and severely impacts children's growth and their ability to absorb nutrients.

Source: BS