The Democratic Republic of Congo could not be included in the 2019 Global Hunger Index because of lack of data, but there is cause for significant concern.

In the DRC 42.7 percent of children under age five are stunted, 8.1 percent are wasted, and 9.1 percent do not live to the age of five.

The DRC has been beset by ongoing conflict and far-reaching poverty in recent decades. These factors, along with the deterioration of infrastructure and productive assets, high food prices, and a decline in agricultural production, have worsened food security.

As of December 2018, about 3.1 million people were internally displaced and more than 800,000 refugees from the DRC had fled to neighboring countries. More than 500,000 refugees, mainly from Burundi, Central African Republic, and South Sudan, had come to the DRC as of February 2019.

According to the latest data, 13 million people in the DRC—approximately a quarter of the population—face crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity. In North Kivu province, food insecurity is compounded by the current Ebola outbreak, resulting in a spiraling confluence of hunger and disease for the affected families (Norwegian Refugee Council 2019).
The GHI score incorporates four component indicators: undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting, and child mortality. Using this combination of indicators to measure hunger offers several advantages.

The indicators included in the GHI formula reflect caloric deficiencies as well as poor nutrition. The undernourishment indicator captures the nutrition situation of the population as a whole, while the indicators specific to children reflect the nutrition status within a particularly vulnerable subset of the population for whom a lack of dietary energy, protein, and/or micronutrients (essential vitamins and minerals) leads to a high risk of illness, poor physical and cognitive development, and death.

The inclusion of both child wasting and child stunting allows the GHI to document both acute and chronic undernutrition. By combining multiple indicators, the index reduces the effects of random measurement errors.