Eritrea could not be included in the 2018 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.

Data from Eritrea are extremely limited, with the latest child nutrition data from 2010 showing the stunting rate to be excessively high, at 52.0 percent, and the wasting rate to be 15.3 percent.

Undernutrition in Eritrea is related to the challenges of food production that result from limited arable land, water shortages, and frequent droughts. Severe poverty also curtails people’s ability to buy food (UNICEF 2015a).

As of December 2018, over half a million refugees were displaced from Eritrea, making it one of the 10 largest refugee-producing countries in the world (UNHCR 2019e).

A peace agreement signed between Eritrea and Ethiopia in 2018 officially ended hostilities that had been ongoing between the two countries since 1998, creating the possibility for economic and social reforms (Otieno 2018).
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.

Trend for Indicator Values - Eritrea