Since 2011 Libya has undergone a period of unrest, including ongoing conflict between rival groups over control of the country.

As of December 2018, approximately 1.1 million people in Libya were in need of humanitarian assistance, including 270,000 internally displaced people (IDPs), IDP returnees, refugees, and asylum seekers—all groups particularly vulnerable to food insecurity (UNHCR 2019a; FAO GIEWS 2019).

Food insecurity in Libya is driven primarily by people’s inability to access food rather than a lack of food availability. However, instability has led some farmers to abandon agricultural activities, while others report that the conflict has limited their ability to obtain inputs and decreased their productivity (FAO GIEWS 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.