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

In 2016/2017 Somalia experienced a severe drought that brought the country to the brink of famine. Consequently, households in some parts of the country still have smaller livestock herds and lower food security (FEWS NET 2017a, 2019b).

A delayed start to the rainy season in April and May 2019 has resulted in another drought and is predicted to negatively impact agricultural production and food security later this year, putting up to 2.2 million people in crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity by September.

Armed conflict in parts of the country also disrupts access to food (FEWS NET 2019b). Over 2.6 million people of a total population of about 15 million are internally displaced in the country owing to conflict, flooding, drought, and food insecurity (IDMC 2019b; UN DESA 2019).

Somalia’s child mortality rate, at 12.7 percent, is the highest among all the countries included in this report.

ABOUT THE GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

The Global Hunger Index is a peer-reviewed annual report, jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels. GHI scores are calculated each year to assess progress and setbacks in combating hunger. The GHI is designed to raise awareness and understanding of the struggle against hunger, provide a way to compare levels of hunger between countries and regions, and call attention to those areas of the world where hunger levels are highest and where the need for additional efforts to eliminate hunger is greatest. This country profile is based on data and information from the Global Hunger Index 2019.

For more information please see the Global Hunger Index 2019 at www.globalhungerindex.org

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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.