Each year, GHI scores cannot be calculated for some countries because data for one or more of the indicators used in the GHI formula are unavailable. In 2020, more countries than normal have incomplete data, owing in part to the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, 25 countries that meet the criteria for inclusion in the GHI had insufficient data to allow for calculation of a 2020 GHI score.

To address this gap and give a preliminary picture of hunger in the countries with missing data, this year’s report includes provisional designations of the severity of hunger.

The hunger situation in Zimbabwe is provisionally categorized as serious.
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.