

## Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security

### Why in news?

The Hunger Hotspots Outlook (2022-23) that was released recently has issued warnings on acute food insecurity.

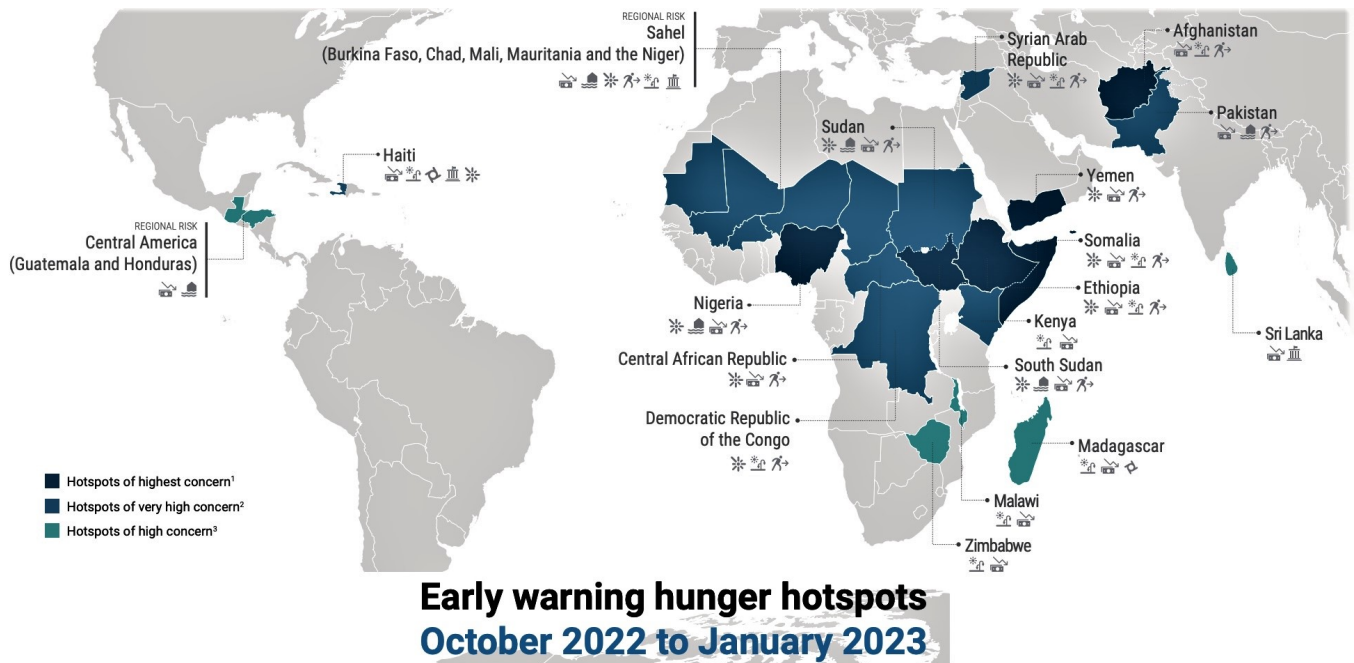
### What is the Hunger Hotspots Outlook?

*The United Nations' (UN) Hunger report defines hunger as "periods when populations are experiencing severe food insecurity."*

- The report is released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP).
- Hunger Hotspots are areas likely to see acute food insecurity increasing during the outlook period.
- They are selected through a consensus-based process involving WFP and FAO field and technical teams, alongside specialized analysts.
- The report is part of a series of analytical products produced under the **Global Network against Food Crises**.
- One in every 10 people in the world are suffering from chronic hunger.
- The report has warned that acute food insecurity is likely to deteriorate further in 19 countries (hunger hotspots) from October 2022 to January 2023.

*According to the [2022 Global Hunger Index](#), 44 countries are suffering with serious or alarming levels of hunger.*

- **Reasons for food insecurity** - Climate extremes such as floods, tropical storms and droughts remain critical drivers in many parts of the globe.
- Persistently high global prices of food, fuel and fertilizer linked to the crisis in Ukraine continue to drive high domestic prices.
- Limited access with insecurity, administrative and bureaucratic impediments, physical barriers to reach to people facing acute hunger, etc. adds to the issue.



## How to meet the promise of ending hunger by 2030?

*The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2 targets to end hunger by 2030.*

### Better production

- During 2021-22, India recorded \$49.6 billion in total agriculture exports, a 20% increase from 2020-21.
- However, recent climate shocks have raised concerns about India's wheat and rice production over the next year.
- **Need for increased production**
- India is a primary exporter of agriculture and allied products, marine products, plantations, and textile and allied products.
- India is a provider of humanitarian food aid, notably to Afghanistan, during the crisis in Ukraine.
- By 2030, India's population is expected to rise to 1.5 billion.

### Better nutrition

- The World Food Day (October 16) is a reminder to 'Leave No One Behind'.
- The upcoming G20 presidency for India provides an opportunity to bring food and nutrition security to the very centre of a resilient and equitable future.

### Better environment

- The degradation of soil by excessive use of chemicals, non-judicious water use, and declining nutritional value of food products need urgent attention.
- Millets have received renewed attention as crops that are good for nutrition, health, and the planet.

## Better life

- The path to a better life resides in transforming food systems, making them more resilient and sustainable.

## What steps are taken to ensure food and nutrition security?

*Somalia is the world's hungriest country as of 2022.*

- **Schemes for improved food production**
  - Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana- Promotes organic farming
  - Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana- Focuses on more crops per drop for improved water use
  - Soil Health Management- Fosters Integrated Nutrient Management under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture.
- **Schemes for improving food access**- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Yojana (PM POSHAN Scheme) and take-home rations.
- **Schemes for ensuring nutrition security**- It includes National Food Security Act, 2013 that anchors Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), PM POSHAN scheme (earlier known as Mid-Day Meals scheme) and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

*An International Monetary Fund paper asserted that extreme poverty was maintained below 1% in 2020 due to Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).*

## References

1. <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/food-day-as-a-reminder-to-leave-no-one-behind/article66017453.ece>
2. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/hunger-hotspots-fao-wfp-early-warnings-acute-food-insecurity-october-2022-january-2023-outlook>
3. <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/global-report-on-food-crises-acute-food-insecurity-hits-new-highs/en#:~:text=The%20Global%20Report%20on%20Food,international%20humanitarian%20and%20development%20partners.>
4. <https://www.trocaire.org/news/world-food-day-2022-how-can-we-help-solve-hunger-in-the-world/>

## Quick facts

## The Global Report on Food Crises

- It is the flagship publication of the Global Network and is facilitated by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN).
- The Report is the result of a consensus-based analytical process involving 17 international humanitarian and development partners.

## The Global Network

- It was founded by the European Union, FAO and WFP in 2016.
- It is an alliance of humanitarian and development actors working together to prevent, prepare for and respond to food crises and support the Sustainable Development Goal to End Hunger (SDG 2).

## Millets

- Millets are climate-smart crops that
  - Are drought-resistant
  - Are hardier than other cereals
  - Are more resilient to changes in climate
  - Grow in infertile soil
  - Require less water to cultivate (as much as 70% less than rice)
  - Require less energy to process (around 40% less than wheat)
  - Require fewer inputs
  - Can revive soil health
  - Ensures that agrobiodiversity is preserved
- It includes Ragi, Jowar ,Bajra and Minor millets (Proso millet, foxtail millet, little millet, barnyard millet and kodo millet)
- **India is the world's leading producer of millets**, producing around 41% of total production in 2020.
- India has led the global conversation on reviving millet production at the United Nations General Assembly, where it appealed to declare **2023 as the International Year of Millets**.
- To enhance the area, production and productivity of millets, the government is implementing a **Sub-Mission on Nutri-Cereals (Millets)** as a part of the National Food Security Mission.
- The International Fund for Agricultural Development's (IFAD's) Tejaswini programme with Government of Madhya Pradesh showed that growing millets meant a nearly 10 times increase in income.