

Food Security Across Asia

A secure food supply is:

Sufficient

Enough quality food is available to all individuals, groups, and populations

Accessible

Economic, legal, political, social, or other conditions don't interfere with access to food

Usable

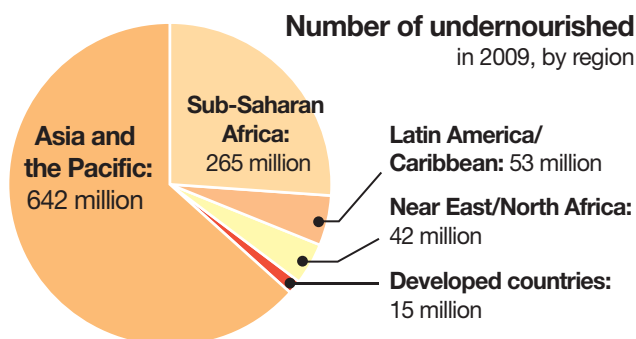
Conditions including sanitation and health care allow good nutrition from available food

Dependable

Food remains available and accessible at all times, including during unusual events

A Worldwide Problem

Almost two-thirds of the world's 1.02 billion undernourished live in Asia and the Pacific.



Price Spikes Threaten Food Security

The price of food directly affects food security. The 2007–2008 food price crisis drove the poor to desperate measures. Though a rapid decline in prices brought relief, steep increases have returned.

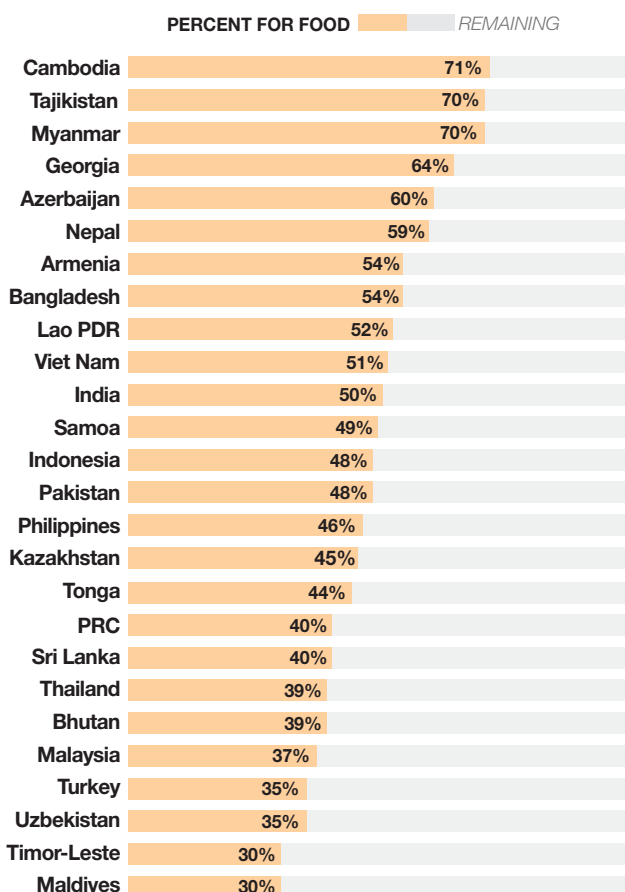
Food Price Index 1992–1994 = 100



Family Expenditure on Food

In many developing nations in Asia, food is the majority of household consumption. These figures predate the 2007–2008 food price crisis, which saw prices increase by more than 60% in less than a year and a half.

Food-consumption portion of total household consumption expenditure; includes goods bought or otherwise acquired and excludes non-consumption items. Most recent data.



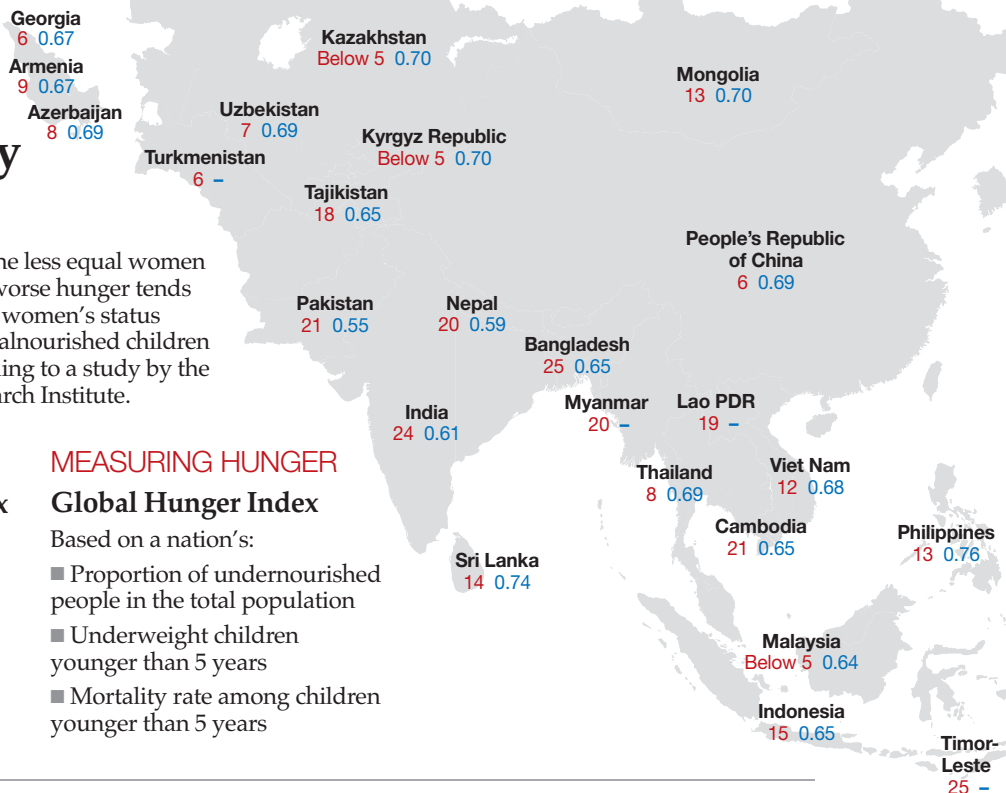
Sources: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; FAOSTAT; 2009 Global Hunger Index Report

KEY TO MAP

RED: Global Hunger Index
BLUE: Global Gender Gap Index

Gender Equality and Hunger

In Asia and across the world, the less equal women are with men in a country, the worse hunger tends to be. In South Asia, equalizing women's status would reduce the number of malnourished children by more than 13 million, according to a study by the International Food Policy Research Institute.



MEASURING EQUALITY

Global Gender Gap Index

Assesses equality between women and men in a nation, based on comparisons of:

- Educational attainment
- Economic participation
- Political empowerment
- Health and survival

MEASURING HUNGER

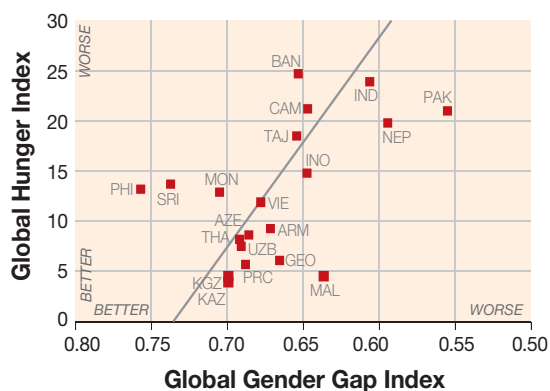
Global Hunger Index

Based on a nation's:

- Proportion of undernourished people in the total population
- Underweight children younger than 5 years
- Mortality rate among children younger than 5 years

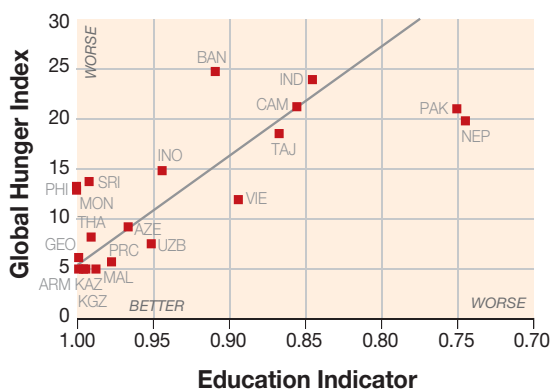
Gender Gap and Hunger

Plotting the Global Gender Gap Index and the Global Hunger Index reveals the correlation between equality and hunger. *Asian nations with data for both indices*



Women's Education and Hunger

Of the four indicators of gender equality, educational attainment has the strongest correlation with hunger.



KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

- ARM Armenia
- AZE Azerbaijan
- BAN Bangladesh
- CAM Cambodia
- PRC People's Republic of China
- GEO Georgia
- IND India
- INO Indonesia
- LAO Lao People's Republic
- PDR Democratic Republic
- KAZ Kazakhstan
- KGZ Kyrgyz Republic
- MAL Malaysia
- MON Mongolia
- NEP Nepal
- PAK Pakistan
- PHI Philippines
- SRI Sri Lanka
- TAJ Tajikistan
- THA Thailand
- UZB Uzbekistan
- VIE Viet Nam

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