



Existing rates of: **Wasting:** 17.3% **Stunting:** 34.7% **Proportion of population underweight:** 33.4%

Source: Government of India (NNS, 2017)

## Strong Performance

- The Government encourages varied agricultural research and extension services, and local farmer organisations are involved in setting policy priorities. The extension system is effective and properly reaches out to poor farmers. Government policies, strategies and mechanisms seek to ensure gender equity in access to extension services. This has been the case for an extended period.
- Relative to other HANCI countries, India's medium/long term national development policy (Strategy for New India @ 75) assigns strong importance to nutrition.
- India has devised a National Nutrition Policy/Strategy.
- Policymakers in India benefit from regular nutrition surveys that are statistically representative at national level. The last survey was published in 2015-2016.
- The Government has fully enshrined the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes into domestic law.
- In India, constitutional protection of the right to social security is strong.

## Areas for improvement

- In India, the law does not give women economic rights equal to men. Men and women have equal legal access to agricultural land, but this is not effectively enforced and discriminatory practices against women continue, increasing their vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.
- Even though India has developed a National Nutrition Policy/Strategy and clear time-bound nutrition targets, a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism is still lacking.
- The Government of India does not promote complementary feeding practices and has achieved two high doses of vitamin A supplementation for only 56% of children in 2018.
- Weak access to improved sanitation facilities (48.4% in 2016) obstructs better hunger and nutrition outcomes.

## Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	HRCI Rank of 45
 Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending <sup>1</sup>	5.3%	2016	23rd
 Public spending on health as share of total public spending <sup>2</sup>	3.4%	2017	38th
<b>Policies</b>			
 Access to land (security of tenure) <sup>3</sup>	Moderate	2019	Joint 31st
 Access to agricultural research and extension services <sup>3</sup>	Very Strong	2019	Joint 6th
 Civil registration system — coverage of live births	79.7%	2015-16	14th
 Functioning of social protection systems <sup>3</sup>	Moderate	2018	Joint 6th
<b>Laws</b>			
 Level of constitutional protection of the right to food <sup>3</sup>	Moderate	2017	Joint 10th
 Equality of women's access to agricultural land (property rights) <sup>4</sup>	In Law, not in Practice	2019	Joint 3rd
 Equality of women's economic rights <sup>4</sup>	Not in Law	2019	Joint 16th
 Constitution recognises the right to social security (yes/no)	Yes	2018	Joint 1st

<sup>1</sup> No benchmark<sup>2</sup> No benchmark<sup>3</sup> Possible scores are:  Very weak/Weak  Moderate  Strong/Very strong<sup>4</sup> Possible scores are:  Not in Law  In Law, Not in Practice  In Law & Practice

## Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	NCI Rank of 45
 Separate budget for nutrition (no/sectoral only/yes)	Sectoral only	2019	Joint 24th
<b>Policies</b>			
 Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children	56%	2018	30th
 Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)	No	2018	Joint 43rd
 Population with access to an improved water source	89.9%	2016	14th
 Population with access to improved sanitation	48.4%	2016	18th
 Health care visits for pregnant women	79.3%	2015-2016	38th
 Nutrition features in national development policy <sup>1</sup>	Strong	2018-2022	9th
 National nutrition policy/strategy (yes/no)	Yes	2019	Joint 1st
 Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)	No	2019	Joint 42nd
 Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)	Yes	2019	Joint 1st
 National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)	Yes	2015-2016	Joint 1st
<b>Laws</b>			
 ICMSB <sup>^</sup> enshrined in domestic law <sup>2</sup>	Fully Enshrined	2019	Joint 1st

<sup>1</sup> Possible scores are:  Weak  Moderate  Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries)<sup>2</sup> Possible scores are:  Not enshrined in law  Few/Many aspects enshrined  Fully enshrined<sup>^</sup> International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes