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### **In Orissa, every 11th child dies before age 5**

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Oct. 25: Orissa is one of the most inhospitable places in the country to live in, at least for the children. Every 11th child dies in the state before reaching the age of five, according to the Food Security Atlas of Rural Orissa.

The UN World Food Programme and Institute for Human Development published the Food Security Atlas (FSA), which was released here on Saturday by planning commission member professor Abhijit Sen, reveals that under-five mortality in Orissa is 91 per cent per 1,000 live births.

Kandhamal, which is presently in news for conflicts, reports the highest 187 under-five mortality.

"Forty-six per cent children under three in the state are underweight, 40 per cent are stunted while 20 per cent children are wasted. Two third of children suffer from mild to severe anaemia," says the FSA. The high rate of child mortality and poor health is attributed to the poverty. More than 15 million people live below the official poverty line, constituting 47 per cent of the state's rural population.

More than 50 lakh people suffer from calorie undernourishment. Protein consumption in the state is as low as 48 gram which compares poorly with the national average of 57 gram, points out the FSA.

People in the tribal dominated Koraput, Nowrangpur, Rayagada and Malkangiri districts have the lowest access to food. They spend Rs 250 per person per month on consumption, which is below the national expenditure level.

The poor female literacy (less than 20 per cent) adds to food insecurity, it mentions. The document has recommended for enhancement of agricultural productivity through watershed development and improved irrigation, developments of livelihoods of hill-forest based population, improvement of rural connectivity, women empowerment through literacy and land rights and mechanism for effective implementation of health programmes like the Integrated Child Development. Besides, it has also recommended shortening the chain intermediaries in food supply system.