



Country card
India





HI Team and intervention areas

The HI India program has 4 staff members



Remove "state of Odisha" - because it is not at the right place.
-add the city: **Bhubaneswar** in the state of Odisha (its near the coast) to show that we have staff here.



General data of the country

a. General Data

Country ¹	India	Neighboring country (Bangladesh)	France
Population	1.393.409.033	166.303.494	67.499.343
IHDI	0.65	0.63	0.90
Maternal mortality	143	215	4
Gender Development Index	0.820	0.904	0.987
Population under HCR mandate	245.935	2.012.646	580.898
INFORM index	5.2	5.8	2.3
Fragile State Index	75.3	84.5	30.9
GINI Index	35.7	32.4	32.4
Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%)	24.4		100

¹ https://hinside.hi.org/intranet/jcms/pl1_2540344/fr/2020-update-country-indicators-2ndary-data/-donnees-secondaires-mises-a-jour



b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	Not joined
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Not joined
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Ratified 01/10/2007

c. Geopolitical analysis

1. Socio-cultural/demographics elements

India is the seventh largest country in the world covering an area of 3.3 million sq.km. It is surrounded on three sides by oceans and on the North by the Himalayan Mountain range Home to the world's second-largest population, India's 1.3 billion people are spread out across the peninsular nation, from the foothills of the Himalayas to the tropical south. India's population core is settled along the Ganges river basin, a densely populated swath of fertile land that extends across the northern Himalayan border. More than half the population is under age 30 and less than one-fourth is age 45 or older. Life expectancy is about 68 for men and 70 for women. India shows considerable diversity on social and cultural parameters. For example it is home to more than two thousand ethnic groups. This leads to a substantial number of sectarian and/or communal problems; riots are fairly common and somewhat unpredictable. Small events are exaggerated by radical sections of the communities, eager to take advantage of small and fairly innocuous events.

2. Political Scenario

In May 2019, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was re-elected with a broad mandate for a second five-year term. His political campaign focused on job creation and infrastructure investment while tackling corruption and promoting Hindu nationalism. The ruling coalition is expected to stay in power until the end of its term in 2024.

3. Economic Elements

The Indian government says the country's economy remains on track to grow by 7 percent or more this year, more than double the projections for global growth, which has been weighed down by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, rising energy prices and Covid lockdowns in China. . Moreover, it continues to face socio-economic challenges. 21.9 % of its population lives below poverty line² and, if the country is categorised as a low middle-income country, according to the World Bank, India accounted for the world's largest number of poor people in 2012 using revised methodology to measure poverty, reflecting its massive population. As the COVID 19 pandemic and the eventual lockdown wreaked havoc on the economy and livelihoods, around additional 230 million Indians have been pushed into poverty in the past one year, according to a report by Azim Premji University (poverty rate has risen by 15 %



and the urban poverty rate was up nearly 20 %). The Pew Research Center, using World Bank data, has estimated that the number of poor people in India (with an income of \$2 per day or less in purchasing power parity) has more than doubled from 60 million to 134 million in just a year, due to the pandemic-induced recession.

4. Conflicts

- **Conflicts with neighbouring countries**

India is facing issues with regard to its neighbours Pakistan and China. Relations between India and China have been worsening in 2021. The two world powers are facing off against each other along their disputed border in the Himalayan region. The two nations are also competing to build infrastructure along the border, which is also known as the Line of Actual Control. There seems no end to boundary disputes with China and Pakistan, which often turn into major military and diplomatic standoffs. To resolve boundary issues with China, special representatives of both countries have so far held 22

rounds of negotiations since 2003. Despite several military-level talks, tensions continue. Territorial disputes over the Kashmir region lead to tension between India and Pakistan, and exchange fire across the contested border, known as the Line of Control, is a regular phenomenon. Sometime it escalates leading to war situation. With the change of situation in Afghanistan in late 2021, religious tension and border issues may further escalate in near future. India faces territorial issues with many of its neighbours.

Over the past 70 years, it has succeeded to resolve its boundary issues only with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The un-demarcated boundaries with Myanmar, Bhutan and lately with China, Pakistan and Nepal have often flared up into tensions.

Summary of HI presence in the country

HI has completed **3 decades** of its strong presence in the India and successfully implemented more than 20 projects in country and 2 Regional projects managed through India SAARC office based in Delhi. The Projects were funded by various donors including EU, ECHO, MOFA-LUX, German Cooperation, DFID, CAW/Unifor, PSA Foundation, Michelin Foundation etc.

HI launched its first operation in India in 1988, providing technical support to a community-based rehabilitation centre in Pondicherry, southern India. After launching an emergency response to the Gujarat earthquake in 2001, the organisation developed a more permanent structure in India.

HI India programme has been working on the following broad areas:



1. Health, Prevention, and Rehabilitation:

Rehabilitation– To mainstream disability in public health system; on primary prevention, early identification and intervention of disabilities, assistive technologies, etc. (in states of Pondicherry, Gujarat, Odisha, New Delhi, Jammu&Kashmir and Chhattisgarh).

For now, HI is part of IFRA (**INDIAN FORUM ON REHABILITATION FOR ALL**), an informal network and HI is part of it. This network is mainly to influence Government of India to improve the quality of rehabilitation services in the country and to increase its coverage and to advocate the need for proposing a resolution on rehabilitation to **World Health Organisation**.

2. Road accidents

Road Safety is a key factor in reducing disability resulting from road accidents. Road traffic fatalities and injuries are a growing public health concern in India. According to the WHO, 300,000 people die each year in road accidents. About half of these deaths are among vulnerable road users - motorists, pedestrians and cyclists; the road death rate in India is 22.6 deaths per 100,000 people; Permanent disability due to a road accident: 2%. The data reflects, road safety is a major concern to prevent people from the disability and after effects (livelihood, economy etc)

3. Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness

To ensure that people with disabilities and other vulnerable persons are systematically taken into account. (Gujarat Earthquake, Floods in Jammu & Kashmir, Odisha and Bihar). HI started its work in India in the DRM sector in 2001 with the Gujarat earthquake response. Subsequently, HI has implemented response and recovery projects such as the Tsunami response in 2004 and Flood response in Bihar and cyclone Aila between 2007 and 2009. HI implemented its first standalone DRR intervention from 2009 to 2012 in Odisha and West Bengal. The experiences from the DIPECHO projects in India laid the foundation for HI's presence in South Asia in DRR. Through these interventions, HI established itself as a DRR actor with technical expertise on disability inclusive processes and tools. In the states of intervention (Odisha, J&K, Bihar and Gujarat),

4. Social and Economic Inclusion

To promote equal opportunity and participation of people with disabilities, particularly in employment. Currently, HI is working on opening up private sector employment opportunities for people with disabilities (**Technical Assistance to MICHELIN**). HI is supporting IDEA and SAKSHAM, for a Divyangjan Aspiration Study. The study is aimed at identifying the aspirations of a representative cross-section of persons with disabilities aged 15–40 years in terms of their career choices, expected remuneration, and preferred job location.