



Country card

India



HI Team and intervention areas

HI India has 6 staff members.



General data of the country

a. General Data



Country ¹	India	Bangladesh	France
Population	1417173173	166.303.494	67.499.343
IHDI	0,475	0.63	0.90
Maternal mortality	103	215	4
Gender Development Index	0,849	0.904	0.987
Population under HCR mandate	208220	2.012.646	580.898
INFORM index	5.3	5.8	2.3
Fragile State Index	74,1	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
Ban Treaty Mine	Not joined
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Not joined
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Ratified on 01/10/2007

c. Geopolitical analysis

India is the seventh largest country in the world, covering an area of 3.3 million sq km. Bordered by oceans on three sides and the Himalayan Mountain range to the north, India is home to the world's second largest population, with 1.3 billion people (2011 census) spread across the peninsular nation from the foothills of the Himalayas to the tropical south. But according to UN projections, based on a variety of factors including census data and birth and death rates, India now has a population of 1.4 billion, surpassing China for the first time. Its population is expected to reach 1.7 billion by 2050. India's population is concentrated along the Ganges River basin, a densely populated strip of fertile land that stretches across the northern Himalayan border. More than half the population is under 30, and less than a quarter is 45 or older. Life expectancy is 71 for men and 73 for women. India has considerable social and cultural diversity. For example, it is home to more than two thousand ethnic groups. This leads to a significant number of sectarian and/or communal problems; riots are common and somewhat unpredictable. Minor incidents are exaggerated by radical sections of the communities who are keen to exploit small and relatively innocuous events.

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

India has territorial disputes with many of its neighbours. In the last 70 years, it has only been able to resolve its border issues with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The undermarketed borders with Myanmar, Bhutan and, more recently Bhutan, and more recently with China, Pakistan and Nepal, have often led to tensions.

Relations between India and China have deteriorated in 2021. The two world powers are at loggerheads along their disputed border in the Himalayan region. The two nations are also competing to build infrastructure along the border, also known as the Line of Actual Control. There seems to be no end to border disputes with China and Pakistan, often resulting in major military and diplomatic standoffs.

Despite several rounds of military-level talks, tensions remain. Territorial disputes over the Kashmir region cause tensions between India and Pakistan, and exchanges of fire across the disputed border, known as the Line of Control, are a regular occurrence. Sometimes it escalates to war. With the change of situation in Afghanistan in late 2021, religious tensions and border issues may escalate further soon.

The Indian government says the country's economy remains on track to grow by 7 per cent or more this year. or more this year, more than double global growth forecasts that have been by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, rising energy prices and a slowdown in China. China. It also continues to face socio-economic challenges. 21.9% of its population lives below the poverty line² and if the country is to be lower-middle



income country according to the World Bank, India had the largest number of poor people in the world in 2012 using a revised methodology for measuring poverty, reflecting its massive population.

As the COVID 19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown wreaked havoc on the economy and livelihoods, an additional and livelihoods, an additional 230 million Indians were pushed into poverty over the past year, according to a report by Azim Premji University, the poverty rate rose by 15% in the past year. and the urban poverty rate rose by 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 a day or less in day or less in purchasing power parity) has more than doubled from 60 million to 134 million.

Summary of HI presence in the country

HI has completed three decades of strong presence in India and successfully implement more than 20 projects in 10 states of the country and 2 regional projects managed in Delhi.

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

HI India programme worked in the following intervention areas:

- **Health, Prevention and Rehabilitation:**

Mainstream disability into the public health system; on primary prevention, early identification and intervention of disability, assistive technology, etc. (in the states of Pondicherry, Gujarat, Odisha, New Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir and Chhattisgarh). For instance, regarding road accidents, which is one of the priority areas for the Government of India. Road safety is a key factor in reducing disability due to road accidents. According to World Health Organization (WHO), 300,000 people die in road traffic crashes every year. Approximately half of these deaths are among vulnerable road users - drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. These data reflect that road safety is a major concern to save people from disability and its consequences (livelihood, economy etc).

HI remains a member of the Indian Forum on Rehabilitation for all (IFRA). The main objective of this network is to lobby the Government of India to improve the quality and coverage of rehabilitation services



in the country and to advocate the need to propose a resolution on rehabilitation to the World Health Organisation. Various sub-committees are being formed to collect field level evidence on people's access to various rehabilitation schemes and entitlements.

- **Emergency Response and Disaster Risk Reduction:**

Ensure that persons with disabilities and other vulnerable persons are systematically considered. (Gujarat earthquake, floods in Jammu & Kashmir, Odisha and Bihar). HI has implemented response and recovery projects such as the tsunami response in 2004 and the flood response in Bihar and cyclone Aila between 2007 and 2009. Through these interventions, HI established itself as a Disaster Risk Reduction main actor with technical expertise in disability inclusive processes and tools.

HI remains a key member of Sphere India, START Fund and as such regularly participates in coordination meetings and joint activities. HI is always recognised as an exclusive partner under the Disability stream. HI has acted as an active knowledge partner and provided pro bono support to many INGOs/UN agencies for the benefit of persons with disabilities in the country or region. HI is also considered a key partner of the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), a premier unit of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

- **Social and economic inclusion:**

Promote equal opportunities and participation of persons with disabilities, especially in employment. HI works on opening up private sector employment opportunities for people with disabilities (Technical Assistance to MICHELIN). HI also supports some to identify 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.

A new project to support civil society is about to be implemented in 2024.