



Country card

**India**





# General data of the country

## a. General Data

Country <sup>1</sup>	India	Neighbouring country (Bangladesh)	France
Population	1.380.004.385	164.689.383	67.391.582
IHDI	0.65	0.63	0.90
Maternal mortality	145	173	8
Gender Development Index	0.820	0.904	0.987
Population under HCR mandate	195.891	906.645	368,352
INFORM index	5.4	5.8	2.2
Fragile State Index	75.31	85.7	30.48
GINI Index	35.7	32.4	31.6
Public Social Protection	2.7	1.7	31.7

## 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. 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. It is home to the world's second-largest population (1.3 billion people), mostly settled along the Ganges river basin, a fertile land that extends across the northern Himalayan border. 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

<sup>1</sup> [https://hinside.hi.org/intranet/jcms/pl1\\_2540344/fr/2020-update-country-indicators-2ndary-data/-/donnees-secondaires-mises-a-jour](https://hinside.hi.org/intranet/jcms/pl1_2540344/fr/2020-update-country-indicators-2ndary-data/-/donnees-secondaires-mises-a-jour)



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

India is considered one of the fastest growing economies in the world. However, it continues to face socio-economic challenges. 21.9 % of its population lives below poverty line<sup>2</sup> 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 regards to his neighbours Pakistan and China. Relations between India and China have also 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. Despite several military-level talks, tensions continue. Territorial disputes over the Kashmir region leads to tension between India and Pakistan, 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.



# HI Team and intervention areas

The HI India program has 5 staff members





# Summary of HI presence in the country

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:

**Prevention and 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 Organization. Different sub committees are formed to collect the field level evidences on people accessing different schemes and entitlements on rehabilitation

**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 Disaster Risk Management (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 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) intervention through DIPECHO funding mechanism of ECHO 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), HI developed good links with state governments, local and international NGOs working on Disaster Risk Management and with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities.

**HI remains a key member of Sphere India and** as such regular participates in coordination meetings and joint activities.

**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 aiming 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.