



General Data of the Country

a. General Data

Country	India
Capital	New Delhi
Population	1,339.2 Million inhabitants
Per Capita Income	\$8,483 (GDP per capita PPP)
HDI	0.640 (Rank 130)-Medium ¹
Life expectancy at birth years*	68.8 years
Human Development Index	130 out of 189
Gender Development Index	0.841 ²
GINI Index	33.9 (2013)
International contributions for mine action	India has not signed or ratified the Mine Ban Treaty or the Convention on cluster munitions (Oslo)

*UNDP: 2018 human development report. <http://censusindia.gov.in/>

b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities (CRPD)	Ratified 01/10/2007
Convention on cluster munitions (Oslo)	Not joined
Mine ban treaty (Ottawa)	Not joined

c. Geopolitical analysis

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. Its large geographic size and population, coupled with weaker peripheral nations on much of its boundaries, have allowed India to become the dominant force in South Asia. 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. India's primary geographic challenge comes from a lack of strong internal boundaries.

Modern-day India was formed from several princely states that were once independent, annexed and reorganised several times by dynasties over a long period of time. India's northwest border opened the doors for Greek, Persian, and Mongols invasion, culminating in the Mughal Empire, which united much of the subcontinent prior to British conquest. The northwestern border still poses national security risks, due to ongoing disputes with Pakistan.³

¹ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/IHDI>

² <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GDI>

³ <https://www.stratfor.com/region/south-asia/india>

India is also facing issues with regards to his neighbours India and Pakistan is a good example. There are recurrent tensions across the border. India and Pakistan have been to war three times since 1947, and skirmish repeatedly happened along the Line of Control in Kashmir. This culminated in major tensions early 2019. India accuses Pakistan of destabilizing Kashmir and Pakistan accuses India of the same in Baluchistan. The recent decision of the Indian Government to cancel the special status of Jammu & Kashmir could majorly increase tensions.

Naxalite Violence (Maoist insurgency) is widespread: out of 29 Indian states, 20 are currently affected by the armed conflict even though the insurgency seems to be getting less strong.

In the last years, many incursions by China into Arunachal Pradesh were reported. Even though the incursions happen mostly in remote area, where the border is not clearly and bilaterally defined, a risk is existing in this area.

Besides, the situation in general in the North East (i.e. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim) is very volatile. Civilian unrests and cross border incursions by Chinese and Myanmar army result in tension.

d. Socio-economic analysis

India is the second most populous country and the largest democracy in the world and considered one of the fastest growing economies. Despite the economic growth seen in recent years, India continues to face socio-economic challenges. 21.9 % of its population lives below poverty⁴ and 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.).

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. A risk of escalation of violence really exists, particularly between the Hindu and Muslim communities as demonstrated by the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots in Uttar Pradesh or the event in Gujarat in 2002.

Another society issue is the violence against women. Since the death in 2012 of an Indian student victim of a gang rape in Delhi, laws have been reinforced to punish more severely the aggressors but it has not necessarily prevented horrible crimes to happen.

Presence of HI 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:

- **Health 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, J&K and Chhattisgarh)
- **Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness**- To ensure that people with disabilities and other vulnerable persons are systematically taken into account. (Gujarat Earthquake, Floods in J&K, Odisha and Bihar)

⁴ Suresh Tendulkar Committee report on Poverty for Niti Ayog

- **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.

The above actions were financially supported by various donors- BMZ, Canadian Auto Workers (CAW), MoFA Lux, DFID, EU and ECHO. The bulk of the support was mostly from the European Union.

2014, following a detailed risk assessment done for HI LO in India, several and serious violations and non-compliance issues arising from HI mode of operation in India were identified. Majority of the recommendations from the report were then addressed. In 2015, HI India registered in India as a Trust by the name “Standing Tall”. This change was done in order to be able to continue direct implementation of projects and tap local funding available in India as international aid was shrinking. However, the trust never really took off, despite several rounds of discussions and the visit of Mr. Jacques Tassi, then President HI. While no further progress was made with regards to the Trust; in 2017 - 2018, Kiran Village and Foundation – an organisation based in Varanasi, run by Sangeetha a Swiss national, approached HI to explore possibilities of a merger between Kiran Village and HI. After a year of very close and intense discussions and investment made by HI (exposure visit, capacity building of Kiran Village staff) - Kiran Village backed out from the proposed merger.

HI has secured two projects starting from 2019, from the foundation of 2 French companies (Michelin and PSA). The India program is now part of the INNESKA region comprised of Nepal, India and Sri Lanka. As of now, the region structure and set up are in process of being designed.

Projects Overview

Project title	Sector of intervention	(Main) ongoing donors	Funding period
Promoting the Employment of People with Disabilities through Inclusive International Business Ventures	Livelihood/Employment	Michelin Foundation	January 2019 to December 2020
“Together for Safer Roads in the State of Tamil Nadu, India’ with financial support from PSA Foundation	Road Safety	PSA Foundation	June 2019 - December 2020



HI team in india

HI India operates with 4 staff members which includes an expat staff, the Regional Director, based in Nepal. HI maintains a country office in New Delhi. 2 technical staff are working from field locations in Odisha and Chennai.

India



Overview of ongoing projects

Sector	Objective of projects in the sector	Main activities	Beneficiaries (2019)	Final beneficiaries (2020)	Partners	Location
 Inclusion	To promote employment of people with disabilities by piloting, consolidating & promoting approaches, tools, experiences and good practices on inclusive employment in Asia, in particular.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To determine the current level of inclusion within Michelin Chennai Site office across the different departments/shops through a disability inclusion organisational assessments 2) Trainings and awareness sessions 3) Provide coaching and mentoring to key employees (this may include people with disabilities) of Michelin India Pvt Ltd on recruiting, retaining, career enhancement work place modification for people with disabilities 	To be finalised in coherence with Global project		Michelin India	Therovoy Kandigai, Chennai, Delhi
 Road safety	To Reduce Incidence of Road Crashes in Chennai by undertaking risk reduction strategies targeted at Children and youth in the region.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Safety Audits & undertaking Small Scale mitigation measures 2) Implementing road safety modules to students in the target schools 3) Promoting Road safety rules in internal policies of schools 4) Organising Awareness sessions on safe school zones, Conducting a survey on risky behaviour 5) Building capacities for local CSO/NGOs on awareness campaign cycle management 6) Organising awareness actions with stakeholders around road safety for teens 	1500 Children and Youth from Primary and Secondary Schools in Chennai	200,000 Youth and Teenagers reached through Mass Media including social media	ATSWA Trust	Chennai, Metropolitan Area India