



India



**INITIAL ACTIONS**

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 and has gone on to develop public health services and disability-related projects in the region.

**SITUATION**

Located in South Asia, India is an emerging world power with a flourishing economy. However, 30% of its population still lives below the poverty line and major economic and social disparities exist between its different states.<sup>1</sup> Some states are particularly strongly affected by situations of internal conflict and natural disasters.

The official estimates of people with disabilities in India, put the figure around 2.21% of the population at the beginning of the new millennium.<sup>2</sup>

However estimates vary, the World Bank Report mentioned that the population of people living with disabilities is between 5 and 8 % (around 55 to 90 million individuals) of the Indian population.<sup>3</sup> The poorest segments of the population are the worst affected due to their limited access to care, education and employment. They are victims of discrimination and exclusion of care systems. For these populations, disability only serves to fuel poverty and social exclusion. The key factors contributing to the rise in the number of people with disabilities in India are mainly a poor diet<sup>4</sup>, disadvantaged living and working conditions, limited access to health care, a lack of sanitation and hygiene, a restricted access to information, and the presence of internal conflicts in some areas. The risk of early forms of disability and do not have access to adequate health care is enhanced in the communities, especially in rural areas of central and eastern states. In addition, there is, in India, many forms of discrimination and social exclusion, particularly with regard to people from lower castes, tribal areas and/or rural remote. People with disabilities are victims of double discrimination<sup>5</sup> and are not informed about available social support systems. Moreover, women, little valued, are facing of injustice situation in services and employment access. Natural disasters such as drought, hurricanes, flooding and landslides are a constant and acute threat in India, with the poorest states worst affected. The most vulnerable populations are the

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**KEY DATA**

Human development index (HDI)**	131/188 classified countries HDI value: 0.624
Gross National Income per capita ** (PPA\$)	5,663 \$
Surface area**	3,287,260 sq.km
Population*	1.311.050.527
Life expectancy***	68 years
Sex ratio****	940 females /1000 males

\*\*\* UNSD 2015

\*\*\*\* <http://censusindia.gov.in/>

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

\* <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL>Data 2015>

\*\* <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/IND>

<sup>1</sup> Report of the expert group to review the methodology for measurement of poverty, Government of India Planning Commission (June, 2014)

[http://planningcommission.nic.in/reports/genrep/pov\\_rep0707.pdf](http://planningcommission.nic.in/reports/genrep/pov_rep0707.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> C-Series, Table C-20, Census of India 2001 and 2011 <http://censusindia.gov.in/>

<sup>3</sup> People with Disabilities in India: From Commitments to Outcomes, World Bank (July 2009)

<sup>4</sup> Reduce the number of malnourished children is a real challenge in India. According to the source UN Millennium Development Goals Report 2014, the situation of malnourished children has evolved from 53.5% of children in 1990 to 46% in 2005. It is estimated that malnutrition could decline by 2015, reaching 40% percentage that remains far from the expected outcome (28.6%)