

India

Partner country

Status of the project: Ongoing technical assistance



Basic Information

Population: 1 352 642 280 (2018) | Growth rate: 1.1%

Percentage of urban population: 34% (2018)

Urban population growth rate: 2.3% (2018)

GDP per capita: USD 9,027

Percentage of the population living below the national poverty line: 21.9% (2011)

Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC): Unquantified transport related NDC

National GHG emissions per capita: 1.728 (tCO₂eq)

Context

Home to more than one out of every six inhabitants of the planet, India has the size and weight of a continent. Every city has its own transport system, and their level of development is heterogeneous. The steady economic growth in cities is counterbalanced by the insufficient planning of urban development and the subsequent mobility issues. Private modes of transport are growing rapidly at the expense of greener public and non-motorised transport, which are suffering from lack of investment in infrastructure. The consequences are road congestion, lack of parking space, deteriorating air quality in cities and increased number of traffic accidents.

A specific MobiliseYourCity programme for India aims at (1) supporting three pilot cities, Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad in their efforts to reduce their greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions related to urban transport by implementing sustainable urban mobility plans at local level and at (2) helping India at national level to improve their sustainable transport policy. The programme is implemented with the support of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Government of India at the national level, and the support of the pilot cities through their respective municipal corporations.

At the national level, the foremost tasks include linking urban transport policies to GHG emission reduction and developing a MRV structure to measure and report impact, in order to enable access to climate finance. The envisaged strategy and its operational documentation tools will contribute in achieving the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) outlined by the Government of India under the Paris Agreement, which ambitions "to reduce the emission intensity of its GDP by 33%-35% in 2030 compared to 2005 level". The strategy, known as "Climate Change Mitigation Strategy for Urban Transport (CCMSUT) in India and definition and preparation of an MRV system" is prepared with support of French Development Agency (AFD) and Urban Mass Transit Company Ltd. (PIU of MobiliseYourCity India Programme).

Support from the Partnership

Technical assistance: Elaboration of a climate change mitigation strategy for urban transport

Funded by: EU Asia Investment Facility (AIF)

Funding amount: EUR 490,000

Implemented by: AFD through the MobiliseYourCity India Project

Local counterpart: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)

Main purpose of the technical assistance:

Support India at the national level to improve their sustainable transport policy (policy-based strategy), notably by elaborating a Climate Change Mitigation Strategy (CCMS) that could be registered under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The improved sustainable transport policy shall include an updated vision for urban transport and the identification strategic measures for its implementation, such as institutional development, financing, capacity building among others.

Supported activities:

- At national level, MobiliseYourCity is assisting the Government of India (GoI), through the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, in improving their sustainable urban transport policy.
- Linking urban transport policies to GHG emissions reduction as part of the climate change mitigation agenda.
- At local level, MobiliseYourCity is providing support to three pilot cities - Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad - in their efforts to reduce GHG emissions in the urban transport sector by elaborating and implementing SUMP.

Status of implementation

Project start: 2018 Q3

Expected project completion: 2023

Completed outputs:

- First Project Steering committee meeting
- Climate Change Mitigation Strategy
- MRV system Inception
- 9 capacity building sessions conducted at the national level
- Improvement of toolkit to develop Comprehensive Mobility Plans (CMP)

Next expected outputs:

- MRV system implementation

NUMP key measures, leveraged financing and projected impact

Final NUMP deliverables and specific content will be published after official completion of the project.

Highlights in the past year

Improvement of India's toolkit to develop Comprehensive Mobility Plans (CMP)

Comprehensive Mobility Plans are India's strategic planning framework for local governments. They share similar characteristics to Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans, as their main purposes are to develop a long-term vision and goals for a city's urban mobility system, design a plan with urban mobility and land use measures and determination of the necessary steps for its implementation.

India's national government has a toolkit in place to guide cities in the development of CMPs. The toolkit, however, was outdated. With support from MobiliseYourCity, it is being updated and improved along the following lines:

- A self-assessment tool shall provide additional support to cities to identify the current status and preparatory steps needed before developing or improving a CMP.
- Climate change shall gain a more prominent role by acting, for instance, as guiding principle in the prioritisation of measures and recommendations.
- Comprehensive Mobility Plans shall be incorporated as statutory documents in Master Plans.

Focus on public transport system resilience, and non-motorised alternatives, as pandemic severely impacts profitability

Transportation is a fast-growing sector linked with infrastructure development, adoption of new technologies and innovative funding mechanisms. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has strongly reduced revenue and brought new operational and management challenges. Major issues affect collective transport in particular and are related to the decrease in attendance, volatile demand, additional costs of security and disinfection measures, or availability of staff.

Over the past year, knowledge and guidelines have been shared via webinars on how to approach the financial and operational challenges faced by public transport systems, for crisis management, but also in perspective of the post-covid recovery. Electric buses might be part of the response strategy, as they have lower operation costs and higher reliable, on top of the low emissions of GHG and air pollutants.

The stakeholders involved in MobiliseYourCity India have contributed significantly to knowledge development and sharing, and have held webinars and published guidelines on smart-mobility, non-motorised transport modes, the link between air quality and urban planning, tactical urbanism, multimodal integration, and many other topics. These contents are available online on the MobiliseYourCity knowledge platform.

Due to the limited availability of new or aggregated data, the factsheet has only marginally been updated in 2023.