

India

Partner country

Status of the project: Completed 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 possesses the size and weight of a continent. Each city has its own transport system, yet their development levels vary. While cities experience steady economic growth, it is juxtaposed with inadequate urban planning, leading to mobility issues. Private modes of transportation are growing rapidly, overshadowing greener public and non-motorised transport options, which suffer from insufficient infrastructure investment. The repercussions include road congestion, a scarcity of parking space, declining air quality in urban areas, and a rising number of traffic accidents.

The MobiliseYourCity programme tailored for India aims to (1) support three pilot cities - Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad - in reducing their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with urban transport by implementing sustainable urban mobility plans at local level and (2) aid India in improving its sustainable transport policy at the national level. The programme is facilitated with the support of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Government of India at the national level, and with the backing of the pilot cities through their respective municipal corporations.

At the national level, the primary objectives include aligning urban transport policies with GHG emission reduction goals and establishing a Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) framework to measure and report impacts, thereby facilitating access to climate finance. The envisaged strategy and its operational documentation tools will contribute into achieving the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) outlined by the Government of India under the Paris Agreement, which aims "to reduce the emission intensity of its GDP by 33%-35% by 2030 compared to 2005 level". This strategy, referred to as the "Climate Change Mitigation Strategy for Urban Transport (CCMSUT) in India and the definition and preparation of an MRV system" is being developed with the support of the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Urban Mass Transit Company Ltd. (PIU of the 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:

Supporting India at the national level to improve its sustainable transport policy (policy-based strategy), notably by developing a Climate Change Mitigation Strategy (CCMS) that could be submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

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

Supported activities:

- At the 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.
- Connecting 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 endeavors to reduce GHG emissions in the urban transport sector by developing and implementing SUMP.

Status of implementation

Project start: 2018 Q3

Expected project completion: 2023 Q4

Completed outputs:

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

Highlights in the past year

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

Comprehensive Mobility Plans serve as India's strategic planning framework for local governments. They bear resemblance characteristics to Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans, aiming to establish a long-term vision and goals for a city's urban mobility system, design a plan integrating urban mobility and land use measures, and determine the necessary steps for implementation.

India's national government has a toolkit in place to guide cities in the development of CMPs. However, the toolkit was outdated. With support from MobiliseYourCity, it is undergoing updates and enhancements along the following lines:

- A self-assessment tool will provide additional support to cities into identifying their current status and preparatory steps required before developing or improving a CMP.
- Climate change will play a more prominent role, such as serving as a principle in prioritising measures and recommendations.
- Comprehensive Mobility Plans will be integrated as statutory documents in Master Plans.

Emphasis on the resilience of the public transport system, and non-motorised alternatives due to the severe impact of the pandemic on profitability

Transportation is a rapidly evolving sector linked with infrastructure development, the adoption of new technologies, and innovative funding mechanisms. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has strongly reduced revenue and introduced new operational and management challenges. Collective transport, in particular, faces major issues related to decreased ridership, volatile demand, additional costs of security and disinfection measures, and staff availability.

Over the past year, knowledge and guidelines have been disseminated through webinars on addressing the financial and operational challenges faced by public transport systems, both for crisis management and anticipation of post-Covid recovery. Electric buses might be part of the response strategy due to their lower operation costs, increased reliability and low emissions of GHGs and air pollutants.

Stakeholders involved in MobiliseYourCity India have made substantial contributions to knowledge development and sharing, organising webinars and publishing guidelines on smart-mobility, non-motorised transport modes, the connection between air quality and urban planning, tactical urbanism, multimodal integration, and various 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 2024.