

# 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 (tCO<sub>2</sub>eq)

Proportion of transport-related GHG emissions: approx. 10% (2019)

Exposure to climate change: HIGH

## 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 rising traffic accidents.

The MobiliseYourCity programme tailored for India aims to (1) support four pilot cities - Nagpur, Kochi, Aizawl and Ahmedabad - in reducing their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with urban transport by implementing sustainable urban mobility plans at the 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 to 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 levels". 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)

**Primary 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 of identifying strategic measures for its implementation, including institutional development, financing, and 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 the local level, MobiliseYourCity is providing support to four pilot cities - Nagpur, Kochi, Aizawl and Ahmedabad - in their endeavours to reduce GHG emissions in the urban transport sector by developing and implementing SUMPs.

## Status of implementation

**Project start:** 2018 Q3

**Project completion:** 2023 Q4

**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 the toolkit to develop Comprehensive Mobility Plans (CMP)
- MRV System Implementation

## Insights from practice: lessons learned from the technical assistance

The technical assistance under the MobiliseYourCity programme emphasised the need to build capacity at both national and local levels. Local capacity building, in particular, is crucial for ensuring effective and long-term implementation of CMPs.

### 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 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 has undergone updates and enhancements along the following lines:

- A self-assessment tool provides additional support to cities in identifying their current status and preparatory steps required before developing or improving a CMP.
- Climate change plays a more prominent role, such as serving as a guiding principle for prioritising measures and recommendations.
- Comprehensive Mobility Plans are 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 pandemic period, 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 in 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.

*Updated in December 2024*