INDIA
COUNTRY PROFILE

India is emerging as a leading global power and a key U.S. ally in advancing a free, open and secure Indo-Pacific region. Leveraging India's strong private sector, the United States is bolstering India's rise as a leader and supports its development assistance to other countries, including Afghanistan, where we share economic and humanitarian interests.

USAID's peer-to-peer partnership with India is helping to stabilize the region and foster enhanced regional connectivity. We are building on India's development successes to-date, mobilizing domestic resources to effectively respond to regional challenges and bolster India's role as a regional and global leader.

OUR WORK

The U.S.-India development relationship spans more than 70 years. During that time, USAID has helped India overcome some of its most pressing development challenges, including acute food insecurity. Today, USAID works with the Government of India, the private sector and civil society to identify, pilot and scale up cost-effective innovations and best practices to further boost India's development. Leveraging domestic resources—including from India's robust private sector—we aim to help India better respond to its lingering development challenges with global repercussions like health and improved management of vital natural resources.

HEALTH

High rates of child and maternal death, widespread malnutrition, and a high TB and HIV burden threaten the lives and productivity of India's expanding population. USAID leverages Indian resources to strengthen the reach, affordability and quality of health care services. Over the past 15 years, USAID has helped India save 7 million lives through TB interventions. Exacerbating India's health challenges, access to clean water and functioning toilets escapes about 40 percent of the population—making India home to the world's highest number of diarrhea-related deaths in children under 5. Since 2014, more than 1,000 cities have been declared open defecation-free, reducing the potential for health hazards.

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Owing to high levels of greenhouse gas and other toxic emissions, India is home to nine of the world's ten most polluted cities. In 2017, about 1.2 million people in India died from air pollution. Between 2015 and 2018, our partnership has helped improve access to modern, clean energy for more than 1.8 million people across nine states, reducing the amount of toxins in the air. Importantly, India is taking a leading role in sustaining these gains, launching a flourishing Green Bond market which is allowing investors to focus their funds in activities linked to clean energy and resilience.

PROMOTING REGIONAL STABILITY

India plays a critical role in promoting regional stability, including with Afghanistan. Increased trade, cross-border trainings and India's increased capacity to provide foreign assistance are helping to stabilize and spur economic growth in the region. In 2018, for example, USAID sponsored the second annual India-Afghanistan trade and investment show, which doubled the total value of deals negotiated compared to its inaugural year, strengthening businesses and improving people-to-people ties.

From 2014 to 2018, USAID's efforts and local investments helped to build more than three million toilets, improving hygiene for millions.

PHOTO CREDIT: PRASHANTH VISHWANATHAN

With USAID support, India revised its guidelines on power trade in 2018, increasing the use of Indian power lines in the region.

PHOTO CREDIT: PACE-D/USAID

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