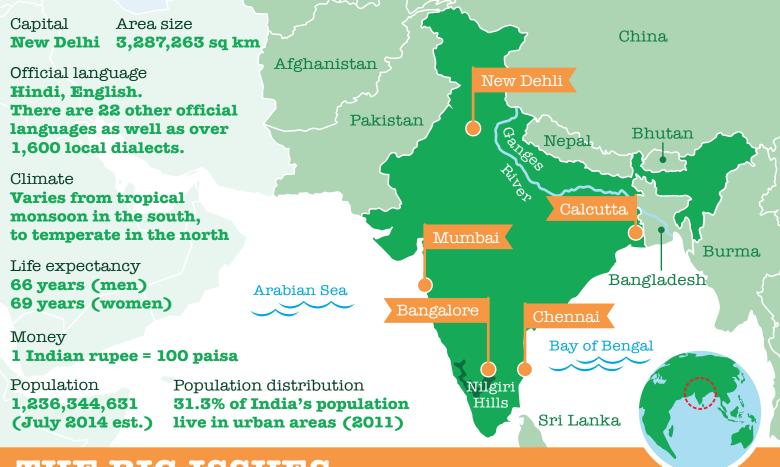# INDIA

A land of contrasts, India is home to the world's highest mountain range, tropical beaches, jungles and deserts. Its varied climate supports about 65,000 animal species and it is the only country in the world with both lions and tigers. Its people are just as diverse; a huge range of languages are spoken and many different religions are practised. There is also a big divide between the rich and poor. Many rural areas suffer from high levels of poverty and in big cities poverty exists side by side with extreme wealth.

Capital
New Delhi

Area size
3,287,263 sq km

Official language
Hindi, English.
There are 22 other official languages as well as over 1,600 local dialects.

Climate
Varies from tropical monsoon in the south, to temperate in the north

Life expectancy
66 years (men)
69 years (women)

Money
1 Indian rupee = 100 paisa

Population
1,236,344,631 (July 2014 est.)

Population distribution
31.3% of India's population live in urban areas (2011)

China
Afghanistan
Pakistan
New Dehli
Ganges River
Nepal
Bhutan
Calcutta
Mumbai
Burma
Bangladesh
Arabian Sea
Bangalore
Chennai
Bay of Bengal
Nilgiri Hills
Sri Lanka

THE BIG ISSUES

Young People
5.6% of children die before they reach their 5th birthday.

Education
Only **59%** of boys and **49%** of girls attend secondary school.

Women's Rights
47% of girls are married before their 18th birthday.

Land & Food
43% of the population are underweight.

Poverty
33% of people live in poverty.

ActionAid in India
India was the first country ActionAid worked in and we now help over one million people there. We work with poor and marginalised people; mainly Dalits ('untouchables' in the Indian caste system), tribal people, women, children, homeless and disabled people. For more information visit: **http://www.actionaid.org.uk/where-we-work/india**

Sources from top to bottom, left to right. 1. https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html I 2. Country profiles, UN Data (accessed 2014, data from 2012) I 3. The State of the World's Children, UNICEF (2014) I 4. The State of the World's Children, UNICEF (2014) I 5. The State of the World's Children, UNICEF (2014) I 6. The State of the World's Children, UNICEF (2014)