

 Early Warning System

WB-P505190

Bihar Water Security and Irrigation Modernization Project



Quick Facts

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Countries               | India   |
| Specific Location       | Bihar   |
| Financial Institutions  | World Bank (WB)   |
| Status                  | Proposed  |
| Bank Risk Rating        | A   |
| Voting Date             | 2025-09-09  |
| Borrower                | Government of India - Water Resources Department (WRD), Government of Bihar |
| Sectors                 | Agriculture and Forestry, Law and Government, Water and Sanitation          |
| Investment Type(s)      | Loan  |
| Investment Amount (USD) | \$ 386.31 million   |
| Project Cost (USD)      | \$ 551.87 million   |



### Project Description

According to the Bank's website, the objective of this project is to improve irrigation services and enhance flood resilience in Bihar.

The Government of Bihar (GoB) has approached the World Bank to help strengthen water resources management, where water-related natural disasters and irrigation converge. The proposed Bihar Water Security and Irrigation Modernization Project (BWSIMP, the Project) will help address the aforementioned challenges through investments (in infrastructure and non-structural measures) and institution strengthening. Specifically, the Project will focus on improving water governance through stronger stakeholder partnership and enhanced institutional capacity, ensuring that learning can be established and scaled up across the entire state.



### Early Warning System Project Analysis

Environmental risks and impacts: There are no protected areas near the project footprint. However, important aquatic life, e.g., Gangetic Dolphins and turtles, are observed in rivers under consideration and Government of India studies identify River Kosi as a “Critical Area” for dolphins. However, given the nature of interventions in canal modernization, no significant changes in river flows are envisaged that can impact dolphin habitat. This aspect will be further studied during preparation, and suitable measures designed. The key risks during the construction include (i) Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) issues due to waterside works; (ii) likely impacts on ecology and habitats - both aquatic and riparian; (iii) management of desilted material from canals; and (iv) pressure on natural resources (expectedly boulder pitching, or gabion wall works), vi) health risk to construction workers, e.g. malaria and Kala azar. Other issues during construction, like dust and noise, delays in obtaining regulatory permits, and slippages in compliance conditions are local and moderate and can be mitigated through good construction practices and effective monitoring. The environmental risks for the project are Substantial.

Social risks and impacts: The risks include (i) physical and economic resettlement of non-title holders along select structures identified for renovation; (ii) temporary negative impacts to communities (including community health and safety or access issues) due to civil works; (iii) labor influx and management of labor working conditions, including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/ Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH); (iv) exclusion of vulnerable (scheduled castes; other backward classes; small, marginal, landless farmers and women) under PIM (Participatory Irrigation Management) and or in WUAs (Water User Associations). Creation of new irrigation structures, private land acquisition and impact on tribal communities is not envisaged. The social risk rating is Substantial.



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### Investment Description

- World Bank (WB)

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development: US\$ 386.31 million

Borrower/Recipient: US\$ 165.56 million



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## Contact Information

### World Bank

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### Borrower/Client/Recipient

India

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### Implementing Agencies

Water Resources Department (WRD), Government of Bihar

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### ACCESS TO INFORMATION

To submit an information request for project information, you will have to create an account to access the Access to Information request form. You can learn more about this process at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/access-to-information/request-submission>

### ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM OF THE WORLD BANK

The World Bank Inspection Panel is the independent complaint mechanism and fact-finding body for people who believe they are likely to be, or have been, adversely affected by a World Bank-financed project. If you submit a complaint to the Inspection Panel, they may investigate to assess whether the World Bank is following its own policies and procedures for preventing harm to people or the environment. You can contact the Inspection Panel or submit a complaint by emailing [ipanel@worldbank.org](mailto:ipanel@worldbank.org). Information on how to file a complaint and a complaint request form are available at: <https://www.inspectionpanel.org/how-to-file-complaint>



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### Bank Documents

- [Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary \(ESRS\) - Bihar Water Security and Irrigation Moderni](#)
- [Concept Project Information Document \(PID\) \(English\)](#)
- [India - SOUTH ASIA- P505190- Bihar Water Security and Irrigation Modernization Project - Procurement](#)
- [South Asia - SOUTH ASIA- P505190- Bihar Water Security and Irrigation Modernization Project - Procur](#)