

 Early Warning System

WB-P508383

Building Resilient Digital Infrastructure for Growth - BRIDGE



Quick Facts

Countries	Nigeria
Financial Institutions	World Bank (WB)
Status	Approved
Bank Risk Rating	A
Voting Date	2025-10-06
Borrower	Government of Nigeria - Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy
Sectors	Communications, Infrastructure, Law and Government
Investment Type(s)	Loan
Investment Amount (USD)	\$ 500.00 million
Project Cost (USD)	\$ 1,600.00 million



Project Description

According to the Bank's website, the objective of this project is to expand inclusive use of high quality and climate resilient broadband internet in selected unserved and underserved areas of Nigeria.

The BRIDGE project directly supports Nigeria's broadband strategy and digital transformation agenda by expanding access to high-quality, climate-resilient broadband infrastructure in underserved areas. With a total budget of US\$1.6 billion--including US\$500 million in IDA financing and US\$1.1 billion in expected private capital--it will establish a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to deploy 90,000 km of open-access fiber. Public funds will support feasibility studies, transaction advisory, SPV setup, and equity contributions. The network will be energy-efficient, climate-adaptive, and powered by renewable energy where needed. BRIDGE is designed to address structural market failures that have left much of Nigeria without reliable broadband access. It targets areas where private sector investment has not been viable, using catalytic public financing to unlock new infrastructure development and crowd in commercial capital.

The project includes two components.

Component 1: Resilient Digital Infrastructure will finance the rollout of backbone and middle-mile fiber networks, crowding in private investment through the SPV. It will fund preparatory studies, transaction advisory, and equity issuance, enabling a phased, demand-responsive deployment of 90,000 km of open-access, climate-resilient fiber. The SPV will offer wholesale services to ISPs under transparent, non-discriminatory terms, with a strong emphasis on commercial viability, environmental standards, and energy efficiency. The fiber network will replace microwave backhaul, reducing emissions and improving reliability, and will be co-located with renewable energy investments where grid access is limited.

Component 2: Project Management and Implementation Support will finance a dedicated Project Implementation Unit (PIU) within the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation & Digital Economy (FMCIDE). The PIU will oversee procurement, safeguards, financial management, and monitoring and evaluation activities. The component will also support citizen engagement, including grievance redress, and ensure quality assurance and audit functions are maintained throughout implementation.



Early Warning System Project Analysis

The project environmental and social risks are rated as **Substantial**. The environmental risk is rated as substantial because of the following reasons: (i) the project will support minor civil works (construction of trenching, duct installation, and aerial fiber deployment works) and some of the project's targeted areas are anticipated to be in rural regions, whose locations are not known at this stage; (ii) concerns with weak institutional capacity and the limited experience and capacities that the Federal Ministry of Communication, Innovation and Digital Economy (FMCIDE) may have including concerns around weak enforcement of national legislation that exist; (iii) concerns around Community Health and Safety as a result of construction. Also, potential OHS risks associated with fiber optic cables, include the risk of injury from sharp glass shards, eye damage from invisible light, and exposure to harmful chemicals; (iv) the issue on Cultural Heritage and potential chance finds due to the construction of trenching, duct installation, and aerial fiber deployment works; (v) risk of waste and e-waste management; and (vi) other risks are linked to the numerous actors which will be participating in the project and environmental management and supervision can be diluted. The social risks for the project are anticipated around the following: (i) enforcement of government right-of-way (ROW) and possible temporary impacts on shops and restrictions to assets during construction phase particularly in congested urban areas.; (ii) adverse impacts to the community due to materials movement, project workers and security personnel; and (iv) challenges with stakeholder engagement given the geographical coverage and range of institutional stakeholders involved.



Investment Description

- World Bank (WB)

Total Project Cost: US\$ 1,600.00 million

IDA Credit: US\$ 500.00 million



Contact Information

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

The Federal Republic of Nigeria

Implementing Agencies

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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. Information on how to file a complaint and a complaint request form are available at: <https://www.inspectionpanel.org/how-to-file-complaint>



Bank Documents

- Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) Building Resilient Digital Infrastructure for Growth - BRIDGE (P508383) - Procurement Plan (English)
- - - P508383- - Procurement Plan (English)
- - - P508383- - Procurement Plan (English)
- Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS) - Building Resilient Digital Infrastructure
- Appraisal Project Information Document (PID)
- Climate Finance Assessment (P508383)
- Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS) - Building Resilient Digital Infrastructure f
- Concept Project Information Document (PID) (English)
- Disclosable Version of the ISR - Building Resilient Digital Infrastructure for Growth - BRIDGE - P50
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- Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) - Building Resilient Digital Infrastructure for Grow
- Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) Building Resilient Digital Infrastructure for Growth
- Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) Building Resilient Digital Infrastructure for G
- Nigeria - Building Resilient Digital Infrastructure for Growth Project
- Nigeria - WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA- P508383- Building Resilient Digital Infrastructure for Growth
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- Nigeria - WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA- P508383- Building Resilient Digital Infrastructure for Growth
- Official Documents- Disbursement and Financial Information Letter for Credit 7926-NG.pdf
- Official Documents- Financing Agreement for Credit 7926-NG.pdf
- Resettlement Framework Building Resilient Digital Infrastructure for Growth - BRIDGE (P508383)
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) - Building Resilient Digital Infrastructure for Growth - BRIDGE -

Media

- World Bank Approves New Financing to Enhance Nigeria's Digital Infrastructure and Health Security