Early Warning System

WB-P517399

Syria Financial Sector Modernization Project

Quick Facts

Countries	Syria
Financial Institutions	World Bank (WB)
Status	Approved
Bank Risk Rating	B
Voting Date	2026-08-06
Borrower	Government of Syria - Central Bank of Syria
Sectors	Finance, Industry and Trade, Law and Government
Investment Type(s)	Grant
Investment Amount (USD)	$ 100.00 million
Project Cost (USD)	$ 100.00 million

Project Description

According to the Bank’s website, the objective of this project is to strengthen foundational systems and institutional capacity for financial sector modernization in Syria.

The Project will support investments in modern foundational financial sector systems and the institutional capacity needed to support financial system's rehabilitation and modernization. It will finance payment and financial market infrastructure, CBS operational systems, supervisory and financial integrity tools, banking sector asset quality reviews, foundational credit reporting infrastructure, and related cyber-resilience arrangements. Targeted regulatory, operational, and institutional strengthening will support the gradual restoration of core financial sector functions. Implementation will be phased and modular, with hands-on support and sequencing based on readiness and operating conditions.

Early Warning System Project Analysis

The Syria Financial Sector Rehabilitation Project is a nationwide, systems-based operation implemented in a fragile and conflict-affected context. It focuses on modernizing financial sector infrastructure and strengthening institutional capacity. The Project does not involve large-scale civil works, land acquisition, resettlement, or direct community-level interventions. All physical activities are limited to minor IT installations, equipment upgrades, and limited interior fit out works within existing institutional facilities, primarily at the Central Bank of Syria and related entities. Environmental risks are assessed as **Low**, reflecting the limited scale and non-invasive nature of Project activities. Potential environmental impacts are expected to be minimal, site-specific, and fully reversible, primarily associated with minor installation works, occupational health and safety considerations, and the generation and management of electronic waste from obsolete equipment. The Project does not involve activities that could affect biodiversity, natural habitats, cultural heritage, or natural resources, nor does it generate significant emissions or pollution. Environmental risks related to resource efficiency – particularly energy use of IT infrastructure – are limited and will be managed through good international industry practice and proportionate mitigation measures.

Social risk is assessed as **Moderate**, driven primarily by the FCV context, institutional capacity constraints, and the sector-wide nature of Project interventions rather than by direct physical impacts. Key social risks include labor and working conditions for project workers, including consultants and contracted personnel; data protection, confidentiality, and cybersecurity risks associated with modernization of financial systems; and challenges related to stakeholder trust and transparency during the phased rollout of new systems. Additional considerations include potential transitional impacts such as temporary service disruptions, user adaptation challenges, and risks of uneven access to improved financial services, particularly for users who may face documentation, mobility, or digital-access constraints. SEA/SH risks are assessed as Low, given the absence of labor influx, community-level activities, or direct interaction between project workers and vulnerable populations.

Investment Description

- World Bank (WB)

Total Project Cost: US$ 100.00 million

IDA Grant: US$ 100.00 million

Contact Information

CONTACT POINT - World Bank

Task Team Leader: Andrius Skarnulis
Title: Senior Financial Sector Economist
Email: askarnulis@worldbank.org

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

- Appraisal Project Information Document (PID)
- Concept Project Information Document (PID)
- Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) - Syria Financial Sector Modernization Project - P51
- Initial Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS) - Syria Financial Sector Rehabilitation Proje
- Readiness Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS) - Syria Financial Sector Modernization Proj
- Record of Approval on an Absence of Objection Basis on August 6, 2026 (English)
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) - Syria Financial Sector Modernization Project - P517399
- Syrian Arab Republic - Financial Sector Modernization Project