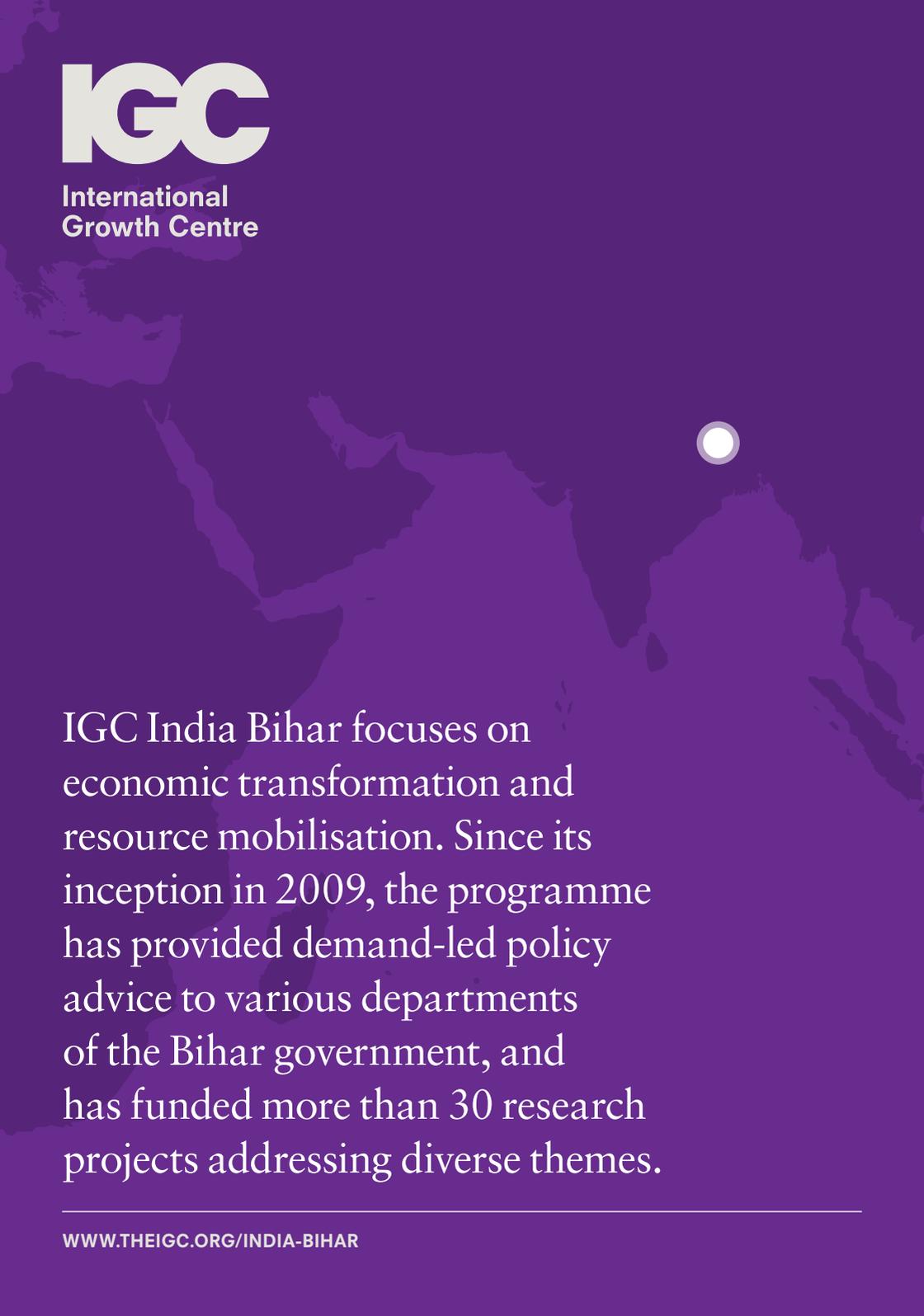




International
Growth Centre

A dark purple background featuring a faint, light purple map of India. A small white circle with a dark purple outline is positioned over the state of Bihar, indicating the focus of the program.

IGC India Bihar focuses on economic transformation and resource mobilisation. Since its inception in 2009, the programme has provided demand-led policy advice to various departments of the Bihar government, and has funded more than 30 research projects addressing diverse themes.

Professor Anjan Mukherji

Country Director, IGC India-Bihar



The IGC Bihar Programme was started in 2009 to provide a platform for the state's policymakers to engage with world-class researchers, and through this collaboration, generate practical, rigorous research that would aid better policy formulation.

During the last few years, the India-Bihar Programme has produced a significant and vast body of work, and conducted dissemination workshops and events to meet the need for independent, policy-oriented academic research in Bihar. Research projects have been completed in the areas of Finance, Education, Health, Water resources, Disaster Management, Agriculture and many others.

In addition, the team has worked on evaluation of important policies such as MGNREGA Diwas and IPMS. The programme is thus well aligned with the needs of the Bihar Government and is in constant engagement with senior officials such as Ministers and Secretaries.

HISTORY OF THE PROGRAMME

The IGC Bihar Country Programme started with a Growth Day Workshop on December 17, 2009. Subsequently, the openness of policy stakeholders to evaluation and experimentation has only sustained and enhanced that interest. The IGC Bihar programme is built upon the close relationship with its local host institute, the Patna-based Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI). Since 1991, ADRI has been producing cutting-edge research on literacy, vocational training, economic policy, and public finance, and is held in very high regard on issues related to Bihar.

Drawing on ADRI's local expertise, the IGC has developed close links with policymakers, local researchers and the larger civil society in Bihar. Also, the Bihar programme has actively worked to establish a relationship



with a wide network of researchers from across the world. All of these initiatives have aided in generating significant interest about Bihar within the research community, which is reflected in the ever-increasing number of research proposals that the Bihar programme receives.



IGC Bihar's research covers a diverse set of themes; we have completed many and some are on-going; some of these are outlined below:



Education/ Cash Transfers

The IGC ran two research projects that rigorously evaluated various aspects of the state's flagship Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana (Chief Minister's Cycling Scheme for Girls). The studies found that the scheme has been very effective in boosting secondary school enrolment for girls across the state, and unlike most other large-scale subsidy programs, the rate of leakage from the scheme is very low-almost 93% of the surveyed beneficiaries reported receiving the right amount of money that they were entitled to.



Disaster Management

Given the flood-prone situation of Bihar, the IGC has invested in commissioning studies that evaluate the state's current flood-management techniques, and suggest institutional modifications that can be undertaken to minimise the negative impact of flooding.



Expanding Access to Energy

IGC Bihar is supporting the state's ongoing initiatives to substantially expand access to electricity in the state. The IGC is working closely with the Bihar Energy department to assist in rigorously designing and evaluating various methods to boost revenue generation, and facilitate electricity distribution reforms. Another ongoing IGC project looks at whether incomes of street vendors can be boosted by providing them solar lanterns.



Nutrition

The IGC conducted an evaluation of Bihar's Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), which found that over half of the allocated budget for providing supplementary nutrition was being lost to leakages, and that child nutritional health was abysmally low (43% of surveyed children were underweight). In a follow-up, ongoing project, the IGC is now assisting the government in designing strong, IT-driven monitoring mechanisms so that some of these leakages can be reduced.

IGC LOCATIONS

The IGC operates 15 programmes in 14 partner countries throughout Africa and South Asia. Country offices allow the IGC to be distinctive among international research initiatives in sustaining long-term policy engagement, and helping to ensure our work can be demand-led; they facilitate our work with partners, and deepen sensitivity to the political economy of policymaking.



01 Bangladesh, 02 Ethiopia, 03 Ghana, 04 India (Bihar), 05 India (Central), 06 Liberia, 07 Mozambique, 08 Myanmar, 09 Pakistan, 10 Rwanda, 11 Sierra Leone, 12 South Sudan, 13 Tanzania, 14 Uganda, 15 Zambia

CONTACT THE TEAM



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The International Growth Centre (IGC) aims to promote sustainable growth in developing countries by providing demand-led policy advice based on frontier research. The IGC directs a global network of world-leading researchers and in-country teams in Africa and South Asia and works closely with partner governments to generate high quality research and policy advice on key growth challenges. Based at LSE and in partnership with the University of Oxford, the IGC is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

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