

# STREET VENDORS IN BIHAR

A Situational Analysis of Livelihoods, Governance and Challenges

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS



2,06,195

Estimated  
Street Vendors  
across 49 towns



49

Towns  
Covered  
Across Bihar



~47%

Vendors with  
Certificates of  
Vending (CoV)



92,186

Vendors under  
PM SVANidhi  
Scheme



70% | 30%

Gender  
Distribution  
(Male | Female)

## CRITICAL GAPS & CHALLENGES



33 out of 49 towns  
have NO vending zones



In many cases, vendors do  
**NOT receive prior notice**  
before eviction



**Instances of arbitrary**  
evictions are reported  
across towns



Uneven functioning of  
**Town Vending Committees**  
across towns

## KEY INSIGHT



Street vending remains a major  
source of livelihood across Bihar,  
but implementation of policy  
provisions remains uneven  
across towns.



## POST-PANDEMIC CONTEXT

Field-level observations suggest that  
vendors continue to experience **uneven**  
**recovery** and **income instability** in the  
post-pandemic period.



Strengthening institutions, improving access to schemes,  
creating vending zones, and ensuring protection from  
arbitrary eviction are critical for advancing the rights and  
livelihoods of street vendors in Bihar.



# WHY THIS STUDY MATTERS

Understanding street vendors. Strengthening livelihoods. Building inclusive cities.



## 1. STREET VENDING = CRITICAL URBAN LIVELIHOOD

Street vending is a major source of livelihood across urban Bihar, supporting a large informal workforce.



## 2. BACKBONE OF URBAN ECONOMY

- Provides affordable goods and services
- Supports daily urban consumption
- Sustains local market systems



## 3. POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY CONTEXT

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted vendor livelihoods, and recovery remains uneven across towns.



## 4. POLICY EXISTS, BUT IMPLEMENTATION VARIES

- Legal and institutional frameworks exist
- Outcomes vary significantly across towns



## 5. NEED FOR GROUND-LEVEL EVIDENCE

Existing data is fragmented. This study provides a consolidated, field-based understanding.



## 6. WHY THIS REPORT IS IMPORTANT

- Identifies implementation gaps
- Highlights institutional performance
- Supports evidence-based policy decisions



This study brings ground realities to the forefront to support informed, inclusive, and evidence-based policy decisions.

## COVERAGE OF THE STUDY

**49**  
TOWNS  
COVERED



**LARGE STREET  
VENDOR  
POPULATION**



## POLICY VS REALITY: THE GAP

### POLICY INTENT



Recognition for all eligible street vendors



Constitution of TVCs and TLFs



Planning and development of vending zones



Protection from arbitrary eviction and harassment

### GROUND REALITY



Significant proportion of vendors remain without CoV



Uneven functioning of institutions



Vending zones declared but limited in implementation



Arbitrary evictions and lack of prior notice common

**VS**



# KEY FINDINGS – PAGE 1

## STREET VENDORS: SCALE AND COMPOSITION



**2,06,195**

Total Street Vendors



**~4,200**

Average vendors per town

### GENDER DISTRIBUTION

**70%**  
Male



**30%**  
Female



Gender disparity remains significant across towns.

### CATEGORY OF VENDING (Top Categories)



Vegetables



45%



Fruits



18%



Food  
(Cooked &  
Processed)



15%



Others  
(Fishery, Garments,  
Cosmetics, Household  
items, etc.)



22%



Street vending is concentrated in essential goods and daily consumption categories.



### KEY INSIGHT

Street vending in Bihar is large in scale and concentrated in essential goods categories, with a persistent gender gap.

# KEY FINDINGS – PAGE 2

## INSTITUTIONS, SCHEMES, INFRASTRUCTURE & ENFORCEMENT

### 1. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS



Town Vending Committees (TVCs) exist in most towns, but face challenges:



Irregular meetings



Limited participation



Lack of transparency



Weak follow-up on decisions




~90%

towns have Town Level Federations (TLFs)



Institutional presence is high, but effectiveness varies across towns.

### 2. SCHEME ACCESS: THE GAP

CATEGORY	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL VENDORS
 Total Vendors (Estimated)	2,06,195	100%
 Certificates of Vending (CoV) Issued	97,747	47%
 PM SVANidhi Loans Accessed	92,186	45%



Less than half of the estimated vendors have Certificates of Vending (CoV) and access to PM SVANidhi loans.

### 3. VENDING ZONES: LIMITED COVERAGE & UTILIZATION

33

TOWNS

have NO vending zones



16

TOWNS

have declared vending zones



Most declared zones are not utilized effectively due to:

- Poor location
- Lack of space
- Inadequate infrastructure



Infrastructure for vending remains a major gap, affecting income security and sustainability.

### 4. ENFORCEMENT REALITY

#### ENFORCEMENT PRACTICES



Majority vendors do NOT receive prior notice before eviction



Arbitrary evictions are widely reported



Fines imposed are mostly ₹1000 or more

#### IMPACT ON VENDORS



Loss of goods, income and livelihood



High stress and uncertainty



Lack of procedural safeguards and grievance redressal



Enforcement remains inconsistent, often lacking transparency and procedural safeguards.

### WHAT THESE FINDINGS TELL US



Large vendor base with significant livelihood dependence



Institutions exist but effectiveness is uneven



Recognition and financial inclusion remain incomplete



Poor infrastructure limits orderly vending



Enforcement gaps impact livelihoods and rights



Findings show a clear gap between policy provisions and ground-level implementation. Addressing these gaps is essential for inclusive and resilient urban growth in Bihar.



# CASE STUDY SNAPSHOT

## Ground Realities Across Towns



Implementation of street vending institutions, schemes, and provisions varies across towns. The following snapshots highlight different implementation realities.

### GAYA

#### Strong Implementation



#### Functional Institutions

TVCs and TLFs are active with regular meetings.



#### Higher Scheme Access

Relatively higher CoV coverage and better access to PM SVANidhi loans.



#### Vending Zones Utilized

Declared vending zones are being used and managed better.



#### Better Enforcement Practices

Prior notice before eviction is more commonly followed; fewer reports of harassment.



#### INSIGHT:

Demonstrates that effective implementation is achievable with strong institutions.

### JEHANABAD

#### Transitional Model



#### Partial Institutional Presence

TVCs exist, but meetings are irregular and participation is limited.



#### Moderate Scheme Access

Some vendors have CoV and access to PM SVANidhi loans, but coverage is partial.



#### Limited Zone Management

Some vending zones are declared, but infrastructure and basic facilities are inadequate.



#### Inconsistent Enforcement

Prior notice is sometimes given; cases of arbitrary evictions reported.



#### INSIGHT:

Represents towns where systems exist but require strengthening.

### BHAGALPUR

#### Implementation Gaps



#### Weak Institutional Functioning

TVCs/ TLFs are inactive or meet irregularly with very low participation.



#### Low Scheme Coverage

Low CoV coverage and limited access to PM SVANidhi loans.



#### Poor Zone Infrastructure

Many towns have no vending zones; where declared, they lack basic infrastructure.



#### Enforcement Challenges

Arbitrary evictions are common; prior notice rarely provided; harassment widely reported.



#### INSIGHT:

Highlights significant gaps between policy provisions and ground realities.



### KEY TAKEAWAY

Variation across towns reflects differences in institutional capacity, governance, infrastructure availability, and enforcement practices. Addressing these differences is essential for effective and inclusive implementation.



# KEY CHALLENGES IN STREET VENDING

## CORE ISSUES IDENTIFIED ACROSS TOWNS



The study reveals persistent challenges across institutions, schemes, infrastructure and enforcement that hinder effective implementation of street vending provisions.

### 1

#### INSTITUTIONAL GAPS



- Irregular TVC meetings and weak coordination
- Limited participation of vendors in decision-making
- Lack of transparency in processes and records
- Weak follow-up and monitoring of decisions



**INSIGHT:** Institutional presence exists, but effectiveness remains uneven across towns.

### 2

#### LIMITED ACCESS TO RECOGNITION & SCHEMES



- Less than half of vendors have Certificate of Vending (CoV)
- Uneven and limited access to PM SVANidhi loans
- Low awareness about schemes and benefits
- Many vendors remain outside formal systems and support



**INSIGHT:** A large section of vendors remains outside recognition and financial support systems.

### 3

#### INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIT



- 33 towns do not have any declared vending zones
- Poorly designed, underutilized or non-functional zones
- Lack of basic facilities (water, sanitation, waste management, storage)
- Inadequate space leading to congestion and conflicts



**INSIGHT:** Infrastructure gaps directly affect livelihood security, dignity and sustainability of vending.

### 4

#### ENFORCEMENT & PROTECTION ISSUES



- Majority of vendors do not receive prior notice before eviction
- Arbitrary evictions are common and widely reported
- Fines are often high and imposed without due process
- Weak grievance redressal and lack of legal aid support



**INSIGHT:** Enforcement often lacks procedural safeguards, leading to insecurity and rights violations.



#### KEY TAKEAWAY

These challenges reflect a gap between policy provisions and their implementation on the ground. Addressing them is essential for inclusive and effective street vending systems in Bihar.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

## STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS AND ACCESS



Based on the findings, the following recommendations aim to strengthen institutions, improve access to schemes and promote inclusion of all vendors.

1

### STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS



- Ensure regular TVC meetings with proper documentation and follow-up
- Increase participation of vendor representatives in decision-making
- Strengthen coordination and convergence across departments
- Build capacity of Town Level Federations (TLFs) to enhance their effectiveness



#### KEY TAKEAWAY

Strong institutions, with accountability and participation, are critical for effective implementation.

2

### IMPROVING ACCESS TO SCHEMES



- Expand outreach and awareness for PM SVANidhi and other schemes
- Simplify application processes and reduce documentation burden
- Ensure timely processing and disbursement of benefits
- Improve coordination with banks and financial institutions



#### KEY TAKEAWAY

Greater access to schemes can enhance financial inclusion and support vendors in addressing income instability and recovery challenges.

3

### ENHANCING INCLUSION (WOMEN VENDORS)



- Undertake targeted outreach to identify and support women vendors
- Provide facilitation support for access to recognition and schemes
- Address mobility, safety, and infrastructure concerns faced by women vendors
- Promote women's leadership within TVCs and TLFs



#### KEY TAKEAWAY

Inclusion of women vendors is essential for equitable urban development and stronger communities.



Implementing these measures will strengthen systems, expand access, and ensure inclusive and effective street vending governance.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

## ENSURING LIVELIHOOD SECURITY AND PROTECTION



The following actions focus on strengthening infrastructure, addressing livelihood challenges and ensuring protection for street vendors across towns.

### 4 DEVELOPMENT OF VENDING ZONES



- Identify, notify and demarcate vending zones in all towns
- Ensure proper planning based on footfall, accessibility and local demand
- Provide basic infrastructure and facilities (water, sanitation, waste management, storage, lighting, seating)
- Improve maintenance and utilization of existing vending zones



#### KEY TAKEAWAY

Well-planned and functional vending zones provide dignity, stability and a conducive environment for both vendors and the public.

### 5 ADDRESSING LIVELIHOOD CHALLENGES



- Promote skill development and vocational training opportunities
- Strengthen financial literacy and business development support
- Facilitate access to affordable credit and working capital
- Support vendors in diversification and value addition
- Strengthen vendor resilience in the context of economic disruptions



#### KEY TAKEAWAY

Building capabilities and financial resilience helps vendors sustain livelihoods and grow their enterprises in a changing economic landscape.

### 6 STRENGTHENING PROTECTION MECHANISMS



- Ensure prior notice and due process before any eviction
- Standardize enforcement procedures and build capacity of enforcement staff
- Reduce arbitrary fines and ensure proportionality
- Strengthen grievance redressal mechanisms at town level
- Increase awareness of legal rights and entitlements among vendors



#### KEY TAKEAWAY

Fair, transparent and accountable enforcement ensures protection of livelihoods and builds trust between vendors and authorities.



Strengthening implementation, improving inclusion, and ensuring livelihood protection are essential for building inclusive and resilient urban economies in Bihar.



Stronger Institutions



Greater Inclusion



Better Infrastructure



Livelihood Protection



Resilient Cities