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BELIZE

ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT **2022**

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT **GOALS**

BELIZE

**ANNUAL
RESULTS
REPORT
2022**



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FOREWORD

BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR



On behalf of the United Nations Country Team, I am pleased to present the 2022 report on the United Nations' achievements in supporting the Government and people of Belize. This implementation year is special for the UN Country Team in Belize since this is the first year of implementation of the new five-year UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF 2022 to 2026) and shows the progress made by the UN Belize across the four MSDCF strategic priority areas.

Belize, like the other MSDCF signatory countries, approved the Country Implementation Plan (CIP) 2022 to 2023 of the UN MSDCF under which a total of 15 UN agencies, funds and programmes contributed to its common objectives. The present report shows the results achieved, documents the operations, and also looks at the challenges faced by the UN in 2022.

This report highlights the results of UN collaboration with a wide range of development and implementation partners to turn the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into concrete outputs for women and girls, youth, and vulnerable people in Belize and under the overarching vision and strategic objectives of the #PlanBelize Medium-Term Development Strategy (MTDS 2022 to 2026). The Government of Belize launched the MTDS in January 2023 and the strategy will guide the implementation of projects and programs targeting poverty reduction, economic growth, citizen security, environmental protection, and anti-corruption.

The UN in Belize would like to express its gratitude for the generous support of development partners throughout 2022 that facilitated the implementation of the CIP. More than twenty (20) contributing partners to the UN in Belize, including the Green Climate Fund, the European Union, the Government of Japan among many others provided funding for the USD \$8.9 million expenditure of the 2022 UN CIP. Additionally, more than 70 implementing partners, including government ministries and departments, civil society organizations, academia and private sector actors worked with the UN to successfully realize the results outlined in this report.

Building on the progress made in 2022, the UN will continue implementing the two high impact joint programmes – the SDG Joint Programme for Sustainable Social Protection and the second phase of the 'Spotlight Initiative'. Additionally, the 2023 Belize CIP will include work on climate resilient agricultural systems, MSMEs access to funding and digital transformation support; development of Social Protection Strategy and definition a costed Social Protection Floor in Belize; introduction of an innovative payment mechanism for cash-based support for vulnerable persons in Belize; support for asylum seeker beneficiaries of the Amnesty Programme to receive permanent residence in Belize; among many other development interventions.

By working closely with the Government of Belize, our donors, and implementing partners, the UN will continue to support the realization of the SDGs while assisting the country 'Building Forward Better' and together in order to secure a more sustainable future.

Finally, I wish to express thanks to my colleagues in the UN Country Team and all staff of the UN in Belize for their committed work to the Government and the people of Belize. I am pleased to have served as the Resident Coordinator since 2019 and wish a successful and prosperous future for both the UN Country Team and the Government of Belize.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Birgit Gerstenberg'.

Ms. Birgit Gerstenberg
United Nations Resident Coordinator
Belize and El Salvador

LIST OF ACRONYMS

BFLA	Belize Family Life Association	NSO	National Statistical Office
CARICOM	Caribbean Community	OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
CIP	Country Implementation Plan	OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
CCA	Common Country Analysis	OPDs	Organizations of Persons with Disabilities
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019	PAHO/WHO	Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization
CPA	Country Poverty Assessment	PLHIV	Persons living with HIV
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	PWDs	Persons with disabilities
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	RIA	Rapid Integrated Assessment
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	SERP	Socioeconomic Response Plan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	SIB	Statistical Institute of Belize
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	SIDS	Small Island Developing States
GHG	Greenhouse gas	SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
GSDS	Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy	TES	Transforming Education Summit
HCFC	Hydrochlorofluorocarbons	UB	University of Belize
HFLE	Health and Family Life Education	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
HRW	Human Rights Watch	UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
ICT	Information and communications technology	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
IDP	Internally Displaced People	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
ILO	International Labour Organization	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
KHMH	Karl Heuser Memorial Hospital	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
LGBTQI	lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
LNOb	Leave no one behind	UN RCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
MPA	Marine Protected Area	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
MSDF	Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework	WFP	World Food Programme
MSME	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
NCDs	Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)		
NGO	Non-governmental organization		
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution		

The United Nations Country Team in Belize



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Key Development Partners



Government
of Belize



European
Union



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND



GLOBAL FUND FOR
CORAL REEFS



Government
of Norway



Government of
United States



Government
of Canada



Government
of Sweden



Government of
United Kingdom



Government
of Japan

Chapter 1 - Key Developments in Belize

1.1 National Context

During 2022, Belize experienced strong macroeconomic recovery rebounding from the COVID19 pandemic with a real Gross Domestic Product growth of 11.6 per cent during the first 3 quarters with an expected annual growth of 12.1 per cent and 3.0 per cent being projected for 2023. Growth recovery was led by the tertiary sector which expanded by 13 percent, through tourism and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sectors. The secondary sector expanded by 11.9 per cent. This positive growth led to unemployment declining from 10.2 per cent in 2021 to 5 per cent in 2022.

In early November 2022, Belize was impacted by category 1 Hurricane Lisa which waned the growth of the productive, social and infrastructure sectors. Preliminary assessment of loss and damage notes damage at USD \$65.5 million and losses of USD \$31.35 million amounting to an estimated USD \$96.85 million (4% of GDP) with recovery needs around US\$106 million.







The Climate Change Mitigation category of the Environment Performance Index (EPI) measures individual countries' progress to combat global climate change and is calculated using nine indicators including adjusted emission growth rates for four greenhouse gases (CO2, CH4, F-gases, and N2O). In 2022, Belize ranked 61st out of the 180 countries for Climate Change Mitigation and 13th in the Caribbean and Latin America.

In early 2023, the Government of Belize launched its Plan Belize Medium Term Development Strategy (MTDS 2022-2026), in which the government has reaffirmed its commitment to *"Improve education, awareness and capacities at national and local levels to prevent and mitigate effects of climate change and natural disasters and build resilience in the productive sectors of the country"*.

With respect to social resilience and inclusion in Belize, the rise in poverty and growing inequality among general and specific populations demonstrate a need for urgent action to prevent further marginalization of persons typically left behind. This indicative by a 2018 Gini Coefficient estimated at 0.49 which represents significant income inequality in Belize. The clear and consistent differences in the poverty levels among the districts, demonstrate that some populations and regions were already further behind.

In September 2022, the education sector rebounded as face-to-face teaching in schools returned. However, the 'State of Global Learning Poverty Report 2022' shows that Belize was one of the 10 countries with the highest school closure index. In order to cope with the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the UN partnered with the government in curriculum reform, digital transformation, safe school return and other solutions to strengthen the learning environment.

Key Development Trends in Belize

 Real GDP Growth 2021: 15.2% 2022: 12.1%	 Inflation Rate 2021: 4.9% 2022: 6.3%
 Unemployment 2021: 9.2% 2022: 5.0%	 Environment Performance Index (Climate Change) 2022: 61st out of the 180 countries (101 st in 2020)
 Total School Enrolment 2020/21: 101,224 2021/22: 98,219	 Cruise Ship and Overnight Arrivals Growth 2021: -39% (51%) 2022: 193% (69%)



Chapter 2 - UN support to Belize's National Development Priorities through the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UN MSDCF)

2.1 Overview of 2022 MSDCF Results

The new **UN MSDCF 2022 - 2026** is at the core of planning and implementation for UN development activities in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. The UN in the Caribbean seeks to collectively play a key role in contributing to the required structural changes towards achieving the *Agenda 2030* in the region, including Belize, across 4 strategic pillars:

PILLAR 1 – Economic Resilience and Shared Prosperity

PILLAR 2 – Equality, Well-being and Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)

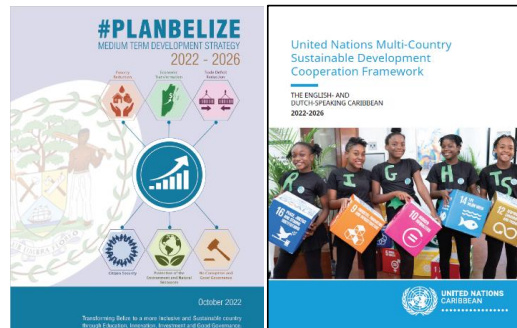
PILLAR 3 – Resilience to Climate Change and Sustainable Natural Resource Management

PILLAR 4 – Peace, Safety, Justice and Rule of Law

In Belize, a Country Implementation Plan (CIP) was developed to operationalize the four strategic pillars with support from UN inter-agency groups and the Government of Belize. **The CIP 2022 – 2023** reflects the planned programmatic actions for all UN agencies in Belize and was formulated to support and adhere to the national development direction as outlined in the Medium-Term Development Strategy (MTDS 2022 – 2026).

This Annual Country Results Report highlights the results, progress, and challenges for the 15 contributing UN agencies implementing the CIP in 2022.

The MTDS 2022 – 2026 outlines the country's national development vision and strategic objectives of the Government of Belize based on its assessment of the current and planned programmes and projects of ministries. The UNMSDCF is aligned to the MTDS timeline and contributes to its expected outcomes. The Government of Belize has made effort to align its MTDS to Agenda 2030 and ensuring it reflects Belize's commitment to advance towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



Overview of Key MSDCF Results in 2022

The United Nations Agencies in Belize collectively played a significant role in contributing Belize's national development, as evident in the following results:

Economic Resilience and Shared Prosperity


 **50,000 value chain actors** equipped with digital tools through UN Support


 **Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program:** Desk review and situational analysis completed


 **139 new green jobs (formal and informal)** created through UN support


Equality, Well-being and Leaving No One Behind


 **12,500 beneficiaries** for efforts to alleviate water shortage

 **900 migrant children (including those with disability)** and their families benefitted from humanitarian cash-based programme


 **\$192,250 USD in cash assistance** provided to assist people impacted by Hurricane Lisa


 **HIV 1,689 adults and children** receiving Antiretrovirals with UN support

 **152,934 persons** benefiting from strengthened food systems

 **Social Protection Policy:** Desk Review completed under the SDG Joint Programme

Resilience to Climate Change and Sustainable Natural Resource Management

 **6,461 persons affected by Hurricane Lisa** directly benefitted from cash assistance for nutritional needs


 **2 new gender responsive policies** related to climate change prepared and submitted for approval

 **145 persons** from Los Tambos and Santa Familia were trained in disaster risk management

Peace, Safety, Justice, and Rule of Law

 **220 tourism and agriculture stakeholders** trained in identifying and reporting cases of trafficking

 **1 NRHI model identified and developed** after conducting consultations with national stakeholders

 **58 childcare workers** were trained on the guide to care for migrant children

2.2 Global Partnerships

In June 2022, the Government of Belize through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise was supported by the UN for the development of the **Belize Food Systems Profile: Catalysing the Sustainable and Inclusive Transformation of Food Systems**. This was a direct lead-up to the Food System Summit held in 2021 and this profile is expected to advance national dialogue on food systems and feed into policies, plans and programmes to enable more resilient and sustainable food systems in Belize.

FOOD SYSTEMS PROFILE - BELIZE
Catalysing the sustainable and inclusive transformation of food systems



The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology was supported by UN for participation in the **Transforming Education Summit (TES)** in 2022. The summit was a unique opportunity to convene education leaders to recover, reimagine and revolutionize education.

The TES was convened with the objectives of garnering national and global commitments of transforming education, greater public engagement and strengthening implementation of SDG4 on Education.

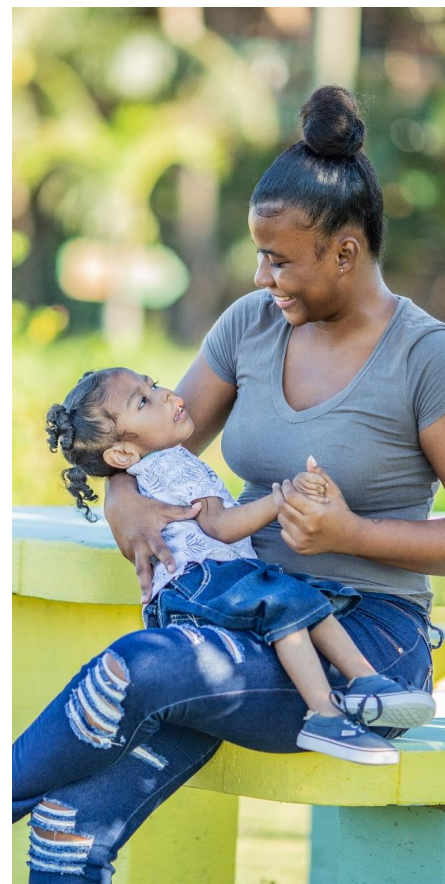
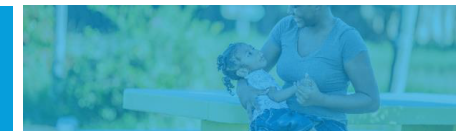


The **Spotlight Initiative in Belize**, through a partnership with the European Union and the UN - implemented by UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP - continued to contribute to ending family violence by strengthening policy and legislations that will guarantee increased protection of women and girls.

Key results achieved in 2022 included:

- In 2022, a first training along with pilot testing of the new *GBV Dashboard in FamCare* took place for the Ministry of Human Development (MHD).
- Engaged stakeholders on the *Legal Review of the Criminal Code* and provide training on the use of the system to input and interpret data.
- The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Human Development and the National Women's Commission, lobbied for the endorsement of the *National Gender Policy, Gender-based Violence Action Plan* and *National Social & Behaviour Change Communication Strategy*.

STORY: Support Safe Houses for Survivors of Gender Based Violence



Safe houses provide an important service to victims and survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and other forms of gender-based violence. The National Women's Commission (NWC) of Belize reported that there is an urgent need for sustained upkeep as safe houses aid survivors of gender-based violence when they are displaced and in need of a safe space for themselves and their children. Through the Spotlight Initiative, the UN was able to support the development and implementation of the standard operating procedures for the management of safe houses for survivors of family violence.

The NWC trained shelter staff, board members and volunteers on the SOPs. Staff, board, and volunteers of the three safe houses are knowledgeable of the SOPs and better equipped to deliver quality services

2.3 UN MSDCF Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs

OUTCOMES 1 & 2

Outcome 1: More productive and competitive business ecosystem designed to improve people's standards of living and well-being

Outcome 2: The Caribbean has fully transitioned to a more diversified and sustainable economy that supports inclusive and resilient economic growth

MSDCF Priority 1: Economic Resilience and Shared Prosperity

Relevant Plan Belize MTDS Goal:

6.2 Economic Transformation “The transformation of the Belizean economy is a monumental and long-term undertaking. It requires a unified effort between the public and private sectors and the social partners, which the government is committed to and prepared to inspire, lead, and facilitate.”

Relevant SDGs:



Contributing Agencies:

FAO | IOM | PAHO/WHO | UNCTAD | UNDP | UNICEF | UN WOMEN |

Outcome 1 – Productive and Competitive Business Ecosystem			
CIP Output Area	Available Resources (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Delivery Rate (%)
Alternative Financing for MSMEs	\$238,248	\$10,000	4%
Digital Transformation for SMEs	\$624,000	\$154,138	25%
Competition and Consumer Protection Laws	\$625,000	\$100,000	16%
Strengthened Fiscal Policies	\$10,000	\$8,000	80%
Climate Financing	\$85,000	\$0	0%
Policy Environment for Decent Work	\$125,000	\$0	0%
Inter-and-Intra Regional Value Chains	\$30,000	\$10,047	33%

Strengthening Fiscal Policies for Greater Equality

In line with UN priorities to strengthen the public finance for children (PF4C) and to ensure that children's needs are prioritized in the government budgets, the UN in Belize has invested in the capacity building of key government officials of social ministries. Government officials were supported to attend a training on "*Financing Social Protection and Key Social Sectors that Matter for Children*". The training sought to improve public sector awareness on social sector costing, equity in financing of services for children among other key areas that are important to develop and adopt a social protection strategy. The anticipated opportunity and challenge for achieving an enhanced allocation of public resources for children could be nurturing a new and evolving partnership and fostering systemic collaboration of MOF with social ministries in the country.

Digital Transformation for SMEs

In 2022, the UN in Belize also supported the government and targeted micro and small enterprise groups in adopting digital solutions for improved delivery of basic services and expansion of livelihood opportunities. In collaboration with BELTRAIDE, seven (7) Digital Connect Centres in rural areas were able to receive equipment and digital accessories via the *Virtual Knowledge Centre*. This intervention improves MSMEs access to educational material within their respective village or towns. In partnership with MPUELE, the UN is also activating the '*Digital Transformation Project*' to install an additional seven (7) Digital Connect centres to offer MSMEs the opportunity to use the Business to Business (B2B) services through the *E-Kyash Platform* where they are able to sell their products and showcase them globally.

Using a value chain development approach, the '*Digital Agriculture*' project will seek to support the Government of



50,000 value chain actors equipped with digital tools to support efforts to develop competitive and resilient agro enterprises



2 digital solutions supporting MSMEs and livelihood with UN support

Target: 6 (by 2024)



20 external stakeholders increased capacity in small business incubation methodologies, with support from the UN

Belize to implement a strategy to digitize services and processes to enable the agri-food system to improve agricultural, cooperative and agritourism services for the most vulnerable groups. The '*Inclusive and Resilient Agro-enterprises*' project has already sought to provide incubation training as well as GIS/information related training to stakeholders in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

Climate Financing

The UN is supporting the National Climate Change Office with brokering access to additional climate finances in an effort to advance the nationally determined contributions and implementation of low emission development strategies. In 2022, the process was initiated to access finance under the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) which supports the decarbonization sector in Belize. Under the GEF *Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency*, the UN is finalizing support to strengthen the government climate change monitoring, validation, and reporting (MVR) mechanisms. Additionally, support is also being provided for initiation of Belize's 5th National Communication to the UNFCCC.

Inter-and-Intra Regional Value Chains

The UN in Belize is supporting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration and the Ministry of Labour for the establishment of a Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program. In 2022, a desk review was completed along with the initiation of a situational analysis for the strengthening of the temporary employment permit system. For the finalization and establishment of the program, the UN continues to advocate for continued dialogue with the two ministries and identification of experts in the programme area.



3 new climate action programmes (mitigation and adaptation) resourced

Target: 5 (by 2024)



4 policies or strategies being strengthened with assistance from the UN (National Agriculture Sector Policy, Seed Policy, Indigenous Lands Policy, Backyard Poultry Surveillance Protocol)


Outcome 2 – Diversified and Inclusive Macroeconomy			
CIP Output Area	Available Resources (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Delivery Rate (%)
Improved Export Capacity	\$3,816,250	\$70,000	2%
Economic Integration and Diversification	\$205,000	\$0	0%
Economic Resilience of SMEs	\$430,560	\$195,578	45%

Improved Export Capacity

National capacities of public and private sector organizations have been strengthened to increase investments in agro enterprises. Through the use of Training of Trainers workshops, actors from the government have greater capacity to understand and apply the incubation methodology across rural, urban, and peri-urban communities. Through the ‘*Inclusive and Resilient Enterprises*’ project, incubation training was piloted to trainers and trainees in 2022 to finalize the incubation methodology that is specific to the needs of the Belizean landscape and incorporates the needs of agricultural entrepreneurs.


Economic Integration and Diversification

The UN supported capacity development initiatives and fostered cultural exchanges for the production of quality, globally competitive, cultural goods, and services. Belize benefitted from multi-country interventions, implemented by the UN, that included the delivery of audio-visual training for creatives and delivery of a grant proposal training for persons in the creative industry. These actions enabled cultural and creative professionals from Caribbean Small Island Development States (SIDS) to strengthen their skills to better leverage financing opportunities.



139 new green jobs (formal and informal) and livelihood opportunities supported through UN support

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5 face-to-face and online events developed on women's creativity

11 courses on cultural and creative industries management were implemented with support from the University of West Indies

The Government and natural resource managers were also supported to better apply sustainable financing solutions for the use of marine resources and terrestrial ecosystems. The UN is currently in the coordinating process of advancing the crowd financing framework for conservation within marine and terrestrial spaces.

Economic Resilience of SMEs

In 2022, the UN supported refugees with labour insertion programmes and livelihood initiatives. Refugees and asylum seekers received access to technical and vocational skills training and certification. Additional refugees and asylum seekers were provided with entrepreneurship training and material to assist with starting up their own small business. These individuals also received follow up support and guidance on their business operations from partners through monitoring visits.

Under the SDG Joint Programme, the UN is also assisting the government with strengthening local inclusive economic development (LIED) and livelihoods in targeted municipalities, through a gender and youth sensitive value chain. In 2022, the selection process of value chains commenced for the identification of two (2) strategic value chains for economic growth and employment creation with a focus on the inclusion of women, youth, indigenous persons, and other vulnerable groups.

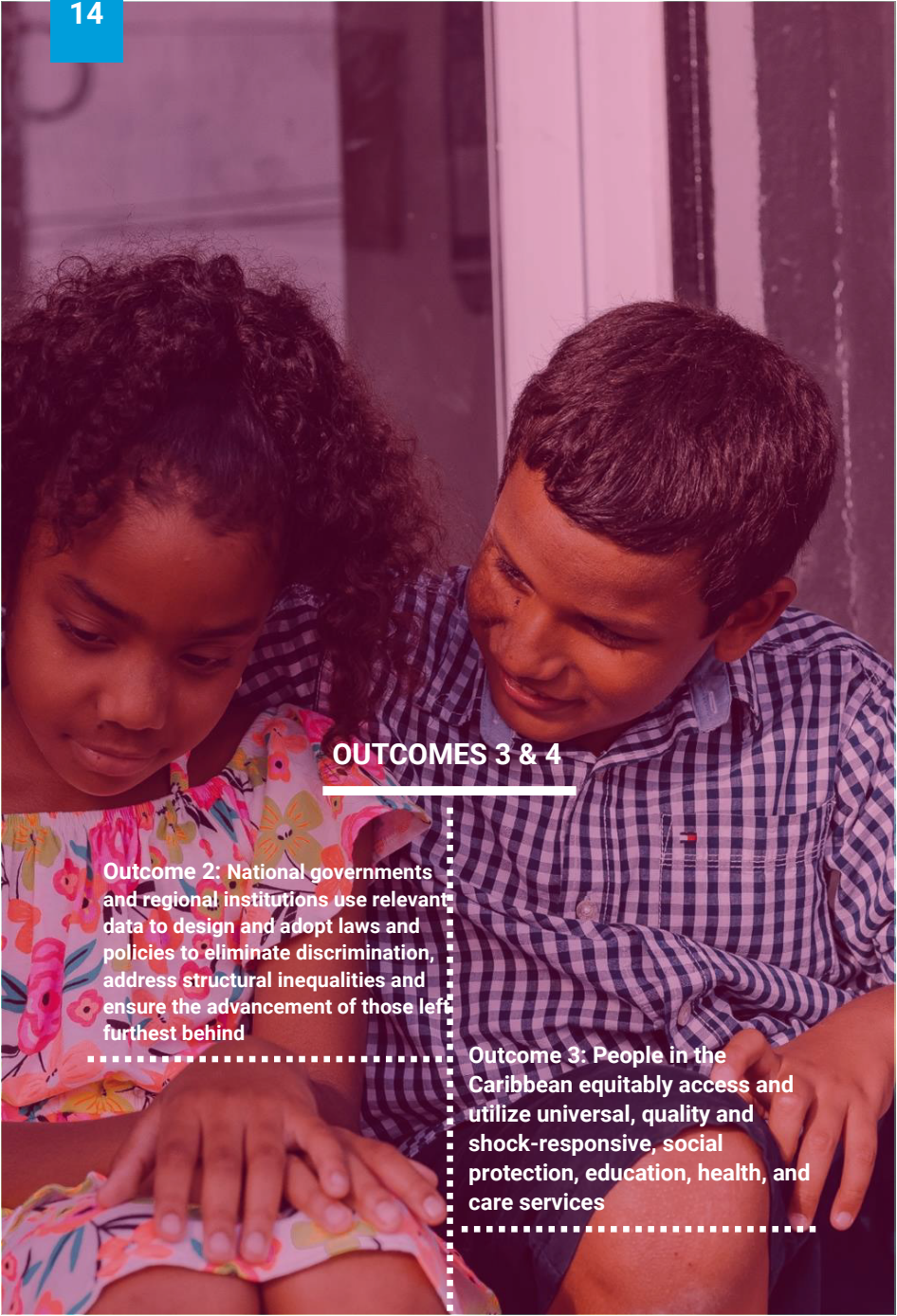
Value chain actors were also equipped with technical and managerial capacities and digital tools to develop competitive and resilient agro-enterprises and agricultural value chains. In 2022, the incubation training coupled with introductory GIS trainings were delivered to support capacity building among value chain actors.

513 refugees and asylum seekers with access to technical and vocational skills training and certification



100 refugees and asylum seekers were provided with entrepreneurship training to support their self-reliance and improve their access to basic needs

104 refugees and asylum seekers were supported with materials to assist them in starting up their own small business.



OUTCOMES 3 & 4

Outcome 2: National governments and regional institutions use relevant data to design and adopt laws and policies to eliminate discrimination, address structural inequalities and ensure the advancement of those left furthest behind

Outcome 3: People in the Caribbean equitably access and utilize universal, quality and shock-responsive, social protection, education, health, and care services

MSDCF Priority 2:
Equality, Well-being and Leaving No One Behind

Relevant Plan Belize MTDS Goal:

6.1 Poverty Reduction “The government will enable and assist those without resources and opportunities to rise above poverty by ensuring they have access to enough healthy foods, relevant education, timely healthcare, land ownership, decent housing, and social protection when they are unable to provide for themselves.”

Relevant SDGs:



Contributing Agencies:

FAO | IFAD | IOM | ILO | PAHO/WHO | UNDP | UNFPA | UNESCO | UNHCR | UNICEF | UN WOMEN | WFP |

Outcome 3 – Data and Laws for Inclusion			
CIP Output Area	Available Resources (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Delivery Rate (%)
SDG data related to structural inequalities	\$2,037,485	\$678,533	33%
Real-time reporting on the SDGs and human rights treaties	\$118,000	\$97,519	83%
Strengthened Accountability frameworks for social services	\$511,151	\$443,000	87%
Strengthened Governance frameworks for social services	\$636,579	\$387,546	61%

SDG data related to Structural Inequalities

In support of the *Amnesty Programme* led by the government, the UN was able to host several mobile migrant hubs in an effort to enhance the Information Right Management mechanisms to ensure sustainability of post-arrival assistance and information for migrant beneficiaries.


In 2022, an “*Analysis of Monetary and Multidimensional Child Poverty in Belize in the Context of COVID-19 and Way Forward*” was completed in collaboration with the government and other stakeholders. This study aims to inform the government’s action in making transformative shifts necessary to address the significant increase in poverty, especially for children in rural areas.

The UN also commissioned a legislative review of Sexual & Reproductive (SRH) policies across the region to support national governments in informing decision on SRH and to facilitate the strengthening of laws, policies & plans. Belize was one of several countries in the English & Dutch Speaking Caribbean that benefited from the review.


Real-time reporting on the SDGs and Human Rights

Technical support was provided to the Statistical Unit in the Immigration Department of the Government of Belize with the development of a data dashboard for the Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS). The system is a user-friendly border management information system developed with UN support.


Belize will also benefit from the UN-elaborated knowledge product “*Toward a more Inclusive Post-COVID-19 Recovery: A Tool to further the Caribbean policy agenda*” formulated for SIDS in the Caribbean. It presents a model that can be used to develop more inclusive and equitable policies and was socialized at the 2022 CLACSO Conference in Mexico to make the Caribbean realities more visible across the Latin America and Caribbean Region.




1 national case management system improved for TiP data collection, analysis, and use
Target: **2 (2023)**




18 mobile hubs were hosted to support the 2022 Amnesty Programme which assisted 4,500 migrant persons



32,922 permanent resident files scanned and uploaded to the immigration information system,



256 asylum-seekers for whom status determination procedures are conducted



4-year ArcGIS software license procured to support SIB with data capture for Belize's census and other surveys

To address some of the critical gaps identified in the Global Gender Index Report, the UN engaged in a comprehensive gender programme review and strategy formulation to contribute to addressing the root causes of gender inequality and support national gender-transformative efforts.

Strengthened Accountability Frameworks


The UN in Belize continued the implementation of the national multisectoral WASH sectoral plan as WASH in emergencies training was conducted in 2022 with National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO). Water tanks were distributed in migrant communities including Bella Vista School and San Juan Community to support the alleviation of water shortage and provide access to safe water in times of emergency.

Technical support was also provided to the Ministry of Health and Wellness for the continued integration and implementation of the adolescent health strategy in health centres. In 2022, the UN provided preparatory support for the incorporation of the Standard and Norms in the health facilities and the development of coordination tools to support the integration process.


Strengthened Governance Frameworks

The Government’s Department of Nationality and Passport was supported for the continued inclusion of digitized Permanent Residency in the Immigration Information System. From October 2021 to August 2022, permanent resident files were continuously digitized into the system to improve access.


The UN also collaborated with the Ministry of Immigration in strengthening the refugee status determination and asylum process in Belize, providing training for staff members from the Refugee Department and the Refugee Eligibility Committee on international refugee law and protection best practices.




25 national emergency officers trained in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in national emergency



500 teachers and 85 administrators received capacity building on Hand Hygiene for All



12,500 residents (8,457 residents & 3,955 students) for efforts to alleviate water shortage in times of emergency.



900 migrant children (including those with disability) and their families benefitted from the implementation of the pilot humanitarian cash-based programme

Outcome 4 – Service Delivery for Inclusion			
CIP Output Area	Available Resources (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Delivery Rate (%)
Improved response to social vulnerabilities and shocks	\$273,239	\$488,333	100%
Improved access to social protection for marginalized people	\$740,962	\$448,150	60%
Access to comprehensive education & learning	\$304,221	\$2,167,221	100%
Access to comprehensive health services	\$2,901,950	\$130,000	4%
Social sector recovery from environmental and socioeconomic shocks	\$591,500	\$487,488	82%


Response to Social Vulnerabilities and Shocks

In partnership with the Ministry of Human Development, Families, and Indigenous Affairs (MHDFIPA), the UN provided technical and advisory support to enhance the operational plan for the Relief and Supplies Management Committee (RSMC) of NEMO to include various modalities of assistance (including cash). The RSMC’s updated operational plan was endorsed by NEMO prior to the hurricane season and tested during Hurricane Lisa.

In response to Hurricane Lisa, the UN provided financial and technical assistance to the MHDFIPA to strengthen its capacity to execute a cash transfer programme using a digital payment system to assist impacted families. Vulnerable persons received cash transfers or top of in-kind support from the ministry through *DigiWallet*.


Access to Comprehensive Education

The UN partnership continues for the creation of safe space, psychosocial support services and education recovery. With UN support, RESTORE Belize procured full digital assessment A-Z licenses for eight (8) schools in migrant communities. This allowed for greater focus on remedial interventions and literacy skills building among primary and secondary school students.




152,934

persons benefiting from strengthened systems to deliver food, voucher, and cash assistance



26

NEMO and MHD participants received face-to-face shock-responsive social protection training in Belize



400+

Dignity Kits positioned with NEMO to support the humanitarian response in support of women and girls

Technical and financial support was also provided to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science & Technology (MoECST) in the in the national curriculum reform process from preschool to secondary, with a focus on social emotional learning in the early grades. The UN is currently supporting the first ever monitoring of and support to the Curriculum implementation: *The transition school year 2022-2023 project*.

Investment in Early Childhood Development also continued with the national roll-out of Care for Child Development which is an evidence-based approach for community-based parenting and a best practice in Belize.


Access to Comprehensive Health Services

Belize will benefit from a model Reproductive Health (RH) Commodity Security Strategy developed to provide Caribbean countries with a strategic and operational roadmap to improve availability of life-saving maternal-neonatal commodities and reproductive health supplies. The implementation of the strategy should provide structure for moving beyond the emergency mode of responding to stock outs, towards more resilient health systems and more sustainable approaches for ensuring availability and use of RH and Maternal, New-born, Neonatal (MNN) commodities

Improved Access to Social Protection


The UN provided cash-based interventions (CBI) to vulnerable persons of concern, including a transition to livelihood security. In 2022, refugees and asylum seekers were provided with CBI to access food, temporary shelter, health treatment, and support for retrieval of documentation.

Through the implementation of the Joint SDG Fund Programme on *“Building a resilient Belize through universal, adaptive, and sustainable social protection”* the UN continues to lead the support to government in the definition and establishment of National Social Protection Strategy and Action Plan. In 2022, the UN was able to provide technical support in defining the minimum social protection floor. A desk review of the existing social protection policies and programmes was completed to inform the development of the costed minimum social protection floor.




\$192,250

(USD) in cash assistance was provided to assist vulnerable people impacted by Hurricane Lisa.



1,600


students in migrant communities reached with meaningful literacy interventions



1,689

people and children living with HIV currently receiving Antiretrovirals with UN support

Target: 2000 (By 2023)



1

desk review of the existing social protection policies and programmes was completed.

Target: Existence of Social Protection Policy (By 2024)

MSDCF Priority 3: Climate Change Resilience and Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Relevant Plan Belize MTDS Goal:

6.5 Protection of The Environment and Natural Resources “As the country transitions to Green and Blue Economies, sustaining and improving the health of Belize’s natural resources and biodiversity is paramount as it provides the substrate for such initiatives. We can achieve this improvement while supporting local communities as partners and custodians of the natural capital for future generations.”

Relevant SDGs:



Contributing Agencies:

FAO | IFAD | IOM | PAHO/WHO | UNEP | UNESCO | UNICEF | UNDP | UN WOMEN | WFP |

OUTCOMES 5 & 6

Outcome 5: Caribbean people, communities, and institutions enhance their adaptive capacity for inclusive, gender responsive DRM and climate change adaptation and mitigation

Outcome 6: Caribbean countries manage natural resources and ecosystems to strengthen their resilience and enhance the resilience and prosperity of the people and communities that depend on them.

Outcome 5 – Disaster Risk Management

CIP Output Area	Available Resources (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Delivery Rate (%)
Support for policies and programmes on disaster risk management	\$345,000	\$37,000	11%
Reduction of vulnerabilities to natural disasters	\$1,856,740	\$538,188	29%
Access to green technologies	\$1,338,248	\$350,000	26%
Multi-sector adaptation, mitigation and DRR Solutions	\$167,463	\$174,867	100%
Access to disaster and climate risk financing	\$35,000	\$35,000	100%

Reduction of Vulnerabilities to Natural Hazards

The UN continued its efforts to provide capacity development in disaster risk management for community members in rural, migrant communities. In 2022, persons in Los Tambos and Santa Familia Village were trained in disaster risk management. Additionally, plans and designs were approved by the Technical Advisory Committee for strengthening schools for disaster resilience in rural communities with internally displaced persons.

Belize also benefitted from the work of the UN in the Caribbean as a team of regional experts were engaged to undertake the needed study of CARICOM Member States for the elaboration of the Caribbean Plan of Action for Disaster Resilience and Recovery of the Culture Sector. The study aims to strengthen the conservation of properties inscribed in the *UNESCO World Heritage List*.

With support from the UN, the first disaster risk financing facility (for hurricanes and excessive rainfall), including direct cash assistance, to affected populations was signed by the Government of Belize in June 2022 covering year 2022-2023. The Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF SPC) for tropical cyclone and excessive rainfall policies was topped up by US\$100,000 to provide GOB with an additional instrument and source of financing to directly support families affected by recurring shocks.

The National Climate Change Office launched its enhanced National Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) System for Climate Change. This online platform is utilized in the tracking of national NDC and climate change progress indicators and provides storage of Greenhouse Gas information supporting national modeling, planning and reporting processes. The UN, as a part of Belize's Climate Change Alliance, was integral to the platform's development and hosting.



35 persons
from Los Tambos
and Santa Familia
were trained in
disaster risk
management



2 new gender
responsive policies,
strategies, plans,
guidelines related
to climate change
adaption and
mitigation, and
DRM prepared and
submitted for
approval

Target: 8 (by 2026)



1 new climate
action
programme(s)
(mitigation and
adaptation)
resourced with UN
support

Target: 5 (by 2023)

Access to Green Technologies

The UN sought to undertake assessments of existing storage and distribution arrangements in the Agri-food sector in an effort to support the Government of Belize in the application of technical instruments that may help to strengthen risk management, transportation, storage, and distribution arrangements of farmers.

In 2022, the UN in collaboration with GOB launched the project '*Towards Low Carbon Transport: Piloting e-mobility within Belize's Public Transport System*'. The project supports the implementation of Belize's updated Nationally Determined Contributions and the country's Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS); and represents the country's first effort to promote electric mobility within Belize's Public Transport Network.

Multi-sector Adaptation, Mitigation and DRR Solutions

In partnership with the CARICOM Secretariat, the UN in the Caribbean carried out a Food Security and Livelihoods Survey on the state of food security, livelihoods and access to markets related to COVID-19 and the global food price crisis. A regional report was produced in December 2022 and included an analysis of cost-of-living impacts on farming and fishing livelihoods. A country-specific for Belize will be produced in first quarter of 2023.

Additionally, focus group discussions were held with specific vulnerable groups in Belize, namely, indigenous communities (Maya and Garifuna), farmers in Toledo and Stann Creek Districts, and representatives of people with disabilities. The goal of the discussions was to gather information on the impacts of the ongoing food and energy crises on livelihoods. A Country Report was produced at the end of 2022 which highlights the spending trends on food and other essential needs, and the overall well-being of these specific vulnerable groups.



40 individuals
(Garifuna and
Maya
Communities)
participated in
the focus group
discussions to
gather
information on
the impacts of
the ongoing food
and energy crises



6,461
persons affected
by Hurricane Lisa
directly benefitted
from cash
assistance to meet
immediate
nutritional and
other essential
needs



\$4.71k
(USD) in assets and
infrastructure
handed over to
national
stakeholders as a
result of UN
support

Outcome 6 – Sustainable Natural Resource Management

CIP Output Area	Available Resources (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Delivery Rate (%)
Improved waster management and transition to green circular economy	\$640,000	\$24,000	4%
Sustainable management of natural resources	\$851,248	\$666,071	78%
Alignment of sustainable agriculture and tourism with sustainable consumption	\$350,000	\$254,276	73%

Improved Waste Management

Under the direction of Belize's Department of Environment, members of Belize's Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Sector were trained as well as equipped with tools necessary to support the country's transition to the use of HCFC and HFC alternatives. UN support was key for the realization of the national deadline to suspend the importation of all HCFC-based equipment by December 2022. The UN also supported GoB in the drafting of a Cabinet paper for the ratification of the Kigali agreement and the elaboration of a corresponding National Cooling Plan. Both processes contribute to the creation of an enabling environment for refrigeration management in country.

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

The UN in the Caribbean developed a 'regional Sandwatch' initiative aiming at reinforcing regional capacity on environmental resilience and monitoring involving citizens, youth, and local communities. As a part of this initiative, Belize was a part of the Regional Forum on Marine Spatial Planning held in December 2023. Additionally, the *Ocean Regional Scientific Plan 2023-2030* was developed and to be finalized in the IOCARIBE session. This Regional Plan is significant for Belize as it will guide the ocean-related activities of the Caribbean, including the implementation of the Ocean Decade until 2030.



2 new positive response actions adopted for the maintenance of environmental and ecosystem integrity

Target: 15 (By 2026)



38 sector actors empowered as trainers to support the delivery of a refrigerant management module associated with the workplan of the national Ozone Unit.

The Mangroves Plus project preparation grant was effectively executed and provided key insights for the development of a larger scale project geared towards ecosystem conservation and indigenous communities. The UN continues to support ongoing trainings on coastal ecosystems, climate change adaptation and the improvement of lives, livelihoods, and communities through the adoption of innovative practices.

As a part of its 2022 work programming schedule, the UN supported the National Biodiversity Office of the Ministry of Sustainable Development in engaging both marine and terrestrial protected areas managers for capacity development sessions in business planning for protected areas management. A key feature of the planned event was the launch/ full roll out of the '*Biodiversity Investment Impact Tracking Tool (BIITT)*'. The BIITT is a national tool modelled to support resource managers and national authorities in the tracking of investments within the national protected areas system as well as supports modelling and analysis to guide strategic investments.

In 2022, the Belize Livestock Association, in partnership with the Ministry of Sustainable Development, received support from the UN for the roll out of an innovative programme for the greening of the livestock sector in Belize. Pilot farmers were able to increase the potential for livestock intensification while reducing methane emissions by modifying the type and amount of feed consumed and manure handling system.

The UN also partnered with the Ministry of Rural Transformation in investing in the elaboration of the Belize Rural Economic Development Strategy (BREDS). The new BREDS will serve as GoB strategic guidance document for the empowerment of rural peoples for the attainment of sustainable and resilient rural development.



108 participants from Caribbean SIDS engaged in Regional Forum on Marine Spatial Planning. 15 Caribbean countries participated in the forum, including Belize.



155 livestock small holders have been engaged, and within greening programme contributing to the restoration of 3000+ hectares of degraded pastures



1250 persons received support through the GEF Small Grants programme for the promotion of green Jobs and livelihoods in the agriculture and



OUTCOMES 7 & 8

Outcome 7: Regional and national laws, policies, systems, and institutions improve access to justice and promote peace, social cohesion, and security.

Outcome 8: People in the Caribbean and communities actively contribute to and benefit from building and maintaining safer, fairer, more inclusive, and equitable societies

MSDCF Priority 4:
Peace, Security, Justice, and Rule of Law

Relevant Plan Belize MTDS Goal:

6.6 No Corruption and Good Governance “The government aims to operate more sustainably to deliver quality services in the delivery of Medium-Term Development Strategy (MTDS 2022 – 2026). Henceforth, the government must restore meritocracy and strengthen leadership and management to provide effective and efficient services to the people.”

Relevant SDGs:



Contributing Agencies:

FAO | ILO | IOM | IFAD | PAHO/WHO | UNESCO | UNICEF | UNDP | UNHCR | UN WOMEN |

Outcome 7 – Laws, Policies and Systems for Peace and Security			
CIP Output Area	Available Resources (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Delivery Rate (%)
Capacity for human rights-based governance	\$2,665,154	\$777,796	29%
Shock-responsive and gender sensitive social protection systems	\$145,000	\$25,525	18%
Application of the rule of law to address human rights violations	\$105,745	\$30,075	28%

Capacity for Human Rights-based Governance

The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, received technical assistance from an international specialist to draft the NHRI model for Belize. Through a highly participatory consultative process, recommendation was made for a model approach which includes the strengthening of the Office of the Ombudsman, ultimately granting the office an explicit human rights mandate.

In 2022, the UN also continued its efforts in improving access to legal assistance for people of concern (POC) through Human Rights advocacy. Asylum seekers received legal assistance, including those in detention and those seeking to appeal decisions made by the Refugee Department.

A Technical Working Group was set up to review and propose amendments to the Refugees Act. This process included a review of the relevant sections of the Immigration Act and development of New Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Belize Refugees Department.

The UN also supported the strengthening of the national machinery for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) which will ensure that the country continues to build institutional capacity and strong leadership to advance the GEWE agenda, including the implementation of strategic actions to strengthen CSO engagement in the national response to VAWG.

Juvenile Justice and Access to Justice

The UN supported the implementation of the National Child Justice Action Plan 2020-2025 through advocacy efforts for increasing the age of criminal responsibility from 12-14 years. This would mandate diversion for children arrested for minor crimes and making provisions for free legal aid for children.



256 refugees and asylum-seekers received legal assistance

Target: 250 (completed)



58 childcare workers were trained on the guide to care for migrant children



1183 children benefitted from UN efforts to improve justice for children.

Through 6 child friendly police stations, 2 family courts, and training of 75 social workers.



351,655 persons reached with key messages on GBV prevention and response, in line with the behaviour change communication

Advocacy efforts were also made for family-based alternatives to institutional care, including for migrant children. The UN in Belize supported implementation of the government-endorsed protocol to support unaccompanied and accompanied migrant and refugee children. services included psychosocial support and access to legal aid.

In an effort to advance implementation of the National Child Marriage and Early Unions (CMEU) Roadmap, the Belize Council of Churches, and the National Evangelical Association of Belize together with UN developed an advocacy agenda to support the prevention of harmful practices including CMEU.

With funds from the Spotlight Initiative, joint dialogues and trainings were held with the objective of strengthening the capabilities of CSOs that provide social services and streamline their support into the national child protection response system.

Support for the Reform of Migration Legislation and Policy

The UN provided technical support for legislative reforms on the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act and CSEC (Prohibition) Act. In 2022, the final draft of the replacement Bill was completed and shared with the A-TIPs council for review and approval. This draft was approved by the Ministry of Human Development.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Immigration also supported by the UN for the preparation of a National Migration Policy. However, actions on this intervention are delayed as government seek the appropriate institutional mechanisms for coordinating the development of the policy. Preliminary assessments are planned prior to the formulation of the Migration Policy.



45 individuals (mostly survivors of gender-based violence) received mental health and psychosocial support.

16 asylum-seekers who were survivors of gender-based violence received resilience-building support session led by UN-sponsored psychologist



1 NRHI model identified and developed after conducting four (4) highly participatory consultations with national stakeholders)

Outcome 8 – Social Change and Community Engagement for Peace and Security

CIP Output Area	Available Resources (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Delivery Rate (%)
National capacities to use human rights mechanisms for equality	\$119,515	\$56,547	47%
Quality prevention and response mechanisms to end violence	\$45,000	\$49,172	109%

National Capacities to use Human Rights Mechanisms

The UN continued its effort in providing technical assistance to integrate the rights of marginalized groups in program and project interventions. In 2022, CSOs participated in capacity building sessions to improve their access to funding resources and spaces to operationalize country level activities. Representatives of Organizations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) also participated in training on Article 33 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

As a specialized training, the UN offered government officials and stakeholders a Migration Management Diploma on how to best manage international migration. In 2022, stakeholders graduated, inclusive of immigration officers, police officers, customs officers and CSOs. An additional thirty-five (35) stakeholders are currently enrolled in courses to complete the diploma. National capacities were also strengthened in private sector as tourism and agriculture stakeholders were also trained on how to identify and report on cases of trafficking.

Building on the ‘comprehensive framework for strengthening the social workforce’ developed by UN, and in partnership with the Government, a national supervision framework for social workers and nineteen (19) modules for onboarding social workers were developed in 2022.



2 CSO/CBO

personnel benefited from capacity building initiatives for strategic advocacy/ communication on discriminatory laws

Target: 10 (by 2023)



235

Government officials and stakeholders trained on how to best manage international migration and respond to the needs of migrants

Target: 115 (completed)

With support from the UN, the National Child Justice Steering Committee also continued rolling out the ‘Child Protection and Gender modules in the security forces’ training and judicial education curricula. In 2022, public officials benefitted from the roll-out of the training programme geared towards diverting children in conflict with the law away from formal judicial proceedings to community-based support.

Quality Prevention and Response to End Violence

In 2022, senior officials in the Belize Police Department participated in a sensitization session on the integration of human rights as a standard component of officer training. Police recruits and training officers also received training on the application of human rights standards and principles in policing. To support their ability to implement the practices during interaction with the public, the National Police Training Academy was supported with manuals on non-lethal use of force by law enforcement officers.

The UN engaged with CSOs to deliver child protection services focusing on increasing their awareness of child protection legislations, knowledge to effectively respond and support children and women experiencing or at risk for violence and strengthening of Government and CSO partnership.

In partnership with the Child Justice Steering Committee, the UN implemented modules on child protection and gender equality to build the capacity of judicial officers including judges, magistrates, police, prosecutors, and lawyers to respond to violence, abuse and exploitation of children who come in conflict and contact with the law as both victims and alleged perpetrators. There was a continued roll out of the child protection and gender modules for police officers institutionalized in the national training academy.



200 public officials benefitted from the roll-out of Child Protection and Gender modules in the security forces training



165 law

enforcement personnel/ police officers benefitted from capacity building initiatives on the application of human rights in policing

Target: 150 (completed)



220 tourism and agriculture stakeholders

trained in how to define, identify and report suspected cases of trafficking.

66 out of 220 stakeholders were additionally trained in labour law, inclusive of child labour



Joint Declaration of Intent (DOI) with National Assembly of Belize

In December 2022, a Joint Declaration of Intent (DOI) was signed between UN Resident Coordinator, on behalf of the UN Country Team, and the National Assembly of Belize in an effort to strengthen the partnership of the UN in Belize at the with the National Assembly. The new partnership, led by the Resident Coordinator, aims to make UN expertise more accessible to law makers for accelerating delivery on the SDGs and Agenda 2030 in Belize. The signing followed a series of joint events in 2022 including the handing over of UN Human Rights Handbooks for parliamentarians in April 2022 and delivery of masterclasses for parliamentarians on the specific themes of: (i) Human Rights and Development in June 2022, and (ii) Gender and Gender Responsive Budgeting by UN in Belize in November 2022. A work programme for 2023 will be developed to continue advancing the UN's partnership with the National Assembly.

India-UN Development Partnership Fund

Implementation also continued in 2022 for the USD \$1 million funded project between the Governments of India and Belize to support the resilience of national health systems in response to COVID-19. The project entails a partnership between the UN Country Team, the Government of Belize, and the United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). It facilitated the purchase of critical medical equipment including patient monitors, incubators, patient and delivery beds, and an EKG machine to support COVID-19 mitigation efforts. A project visibility event was also held with key Government stakeholders and partners on 31 August 2022.

Key Results from the First Joint National Steering Committee Meeting under MSDCF 2022 – 2026 and CIP 2022 – 2023

The first Joint National Steering Committee meeting under new Cooperation Framework was held between the UN in Belize and Government of Belize on 24 November 2022. The meeting provided a strategic space for the UN Country Team to discuss key topics with the Government, including data to support evidence-based policies for leaving no one behind (LNOB), digitalization and E-Governance, as well as financing the SDGs within the context of the Government's MTDS 2022-2026. During the session, there was an introduction to the Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Strategy for the UNMSDCF, as well as an introduction to INFFs. Follow-up meetings are planned for 2023 to discuss the roadmap ahead for the INFF, resource mobilization and UN support for other key thematic areas.



24 November 2022 - (Joint National Steering Committee Meeting Group Photograph – MFA, Belmopan)

2.4 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

Government of Belize Inaugural Development Partners Forum

In May 2022, the UN participated in the Inaugural Development Partners Forum organized by the Ministry of Economic Development. During the event, development partners, including the UN, were able to share priority areas of work in determining any points of collaboration and coordination. The UNMSDCF priority areas of work were presented in the session along with potential areas of collaboration and greater coordination. The session was convened in the context of the MTDS 2022-2026. At the event, the UN presented the MSDCF 2022-2026 and the Country Implementation Plan (CIP) 2022-2023. Development partners present at the exchange included: CABI, CDB, CDF, EU, IDB, IFAD, MCC, and World Bank.

Support to Hurricane Lisa Response and Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)

On 2 November 2022, Hurricane Lisa made landfall southwest of Belize City as a category 1 storm with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph (140 km/h). The National Emergency Management Organization estimated that close to 39% of the population, approximately 172,000 persons, were affected by the storm. At the request of the Government of Belize, a scoping mission took place from 12 to 16 December 2022 to agree on the development of a Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). The mission was led by a national team being supported by international partners including the EU, IDB, World Bank and the UNCT with the technical facilitation of UNDP. The joint approach ensured a comprehensive multi-sectoral assessment in determining the estimated damage, loss, and recovery costs. Preliminary PDNA findings show that the social sector accounts for the largest damage at US \$33.5 million, with Housing being the hardest hit.

Acceleration of Joint Programmes between Agencies, Funds and Programmes.

2022 also witnessed the acceleration of several key milestones under active joint programmes. With some delays due to Hurricane Lisa, among other factors, implementation continues to be accelerated three (3) active UN joint programmes including:

Belize Spotlight Initiative

RUNOs: UNDP, UNICEF, and UNFPA

Funded by: EU and UN

Total Budget: USD \$3.5 million (EU) USD \$893,595 (UN)

Duration: Jan. 2020 – Sept. 2023

Strengthening Belize's Evidence Base and Systems for Crisis Response

RUNOs: WFP, UNICEF, FAO, and UNESCO

Funded by: Joint SDG Fund – Development Emergency Modality (DEM) Response to the Global Crisis on Food, Energy, Finance

Total Budget: USD \$302,477

Duration: Jun. 2022 – Mar. 2023

Building a Resilient Belize through Universal, Adaptive and Sustainable Social Protection

RUNOs: UNICEF, WFP, and ILO

Funded by: Joint SDG Fund

Total Budget: USD \$990,400

Duration: Jan. 2022 – Dec. 2023

2.5 Reflections on our 'Promise to Leave No One Behind'

The UN in Belize played a critical role in the formulation and implementation of important initiatives which were undertaken by the government to reduce the social, economic, and geographic exclusion of the most impacted. A brief reflection on the work of UN Belize in 2022 to increase the attention of the government, service providers and civil society partners.



Legal Identity

The Vital Statistics Unit of the Government of Belize and the UN collaborated for the launch of a **campaign for birth registration**. This campaign targeted individuals and households in need of basic messages regarding birth registration, access to food and hygiene supplies.



Shock-responsive Social Protection

The UN partnered with the Government of Belize and the private sector (DigiWallet) to assist Belizean households heavily impacted by Hurricane Lisa in November 2022. The **Hurricane Lisa Relief Assistance Program** supported food and essential needs of a total of 2,184 vulnerable families in the most affected areas using an innovative digital payment system to deliver emergency assistance in a fast and secure way.



National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)

The UN supported Belize to formally develop a model for a **National Human Rights Institution** in response to the recommendations of the last UPR cycle. This model proposes expanding the capacity and operations of the Office of the Ombudsman to carry out a mandate for the promotion and protection of human rights.



Food Security and Nutrition

In partnership with CDEMA, the UN continued its regional **Food Security & Livelihoods Impact survey**. A country report was produced for Belize which shows that an estimated 190,000 Belizeans were food insecure at the time of the survey in 2022 and that nearly 61% experienced disruptions in their livelihoods.

2.6 Results of the UN Working more and better together

Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, the United Nations continued to strengthen its partnerships with the Government of Belize, development partners, and the people of Belize to support delivery of programmes, technical support and strengthening of the policy environment.

The development of the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF 2022 – 2026) reinforced the collaboration between Government of Belize and United Nations through an extensive consultative process which included joint identification of outputs aligned with National Medium Term Development Strategy (MTDS 2022 – 2026).

The UN Country Implementation Plan 2022 - 2023, endorsed by the Ministry of Economic Development and Investment, provided the framework for internal and external collaboration and resource mobilization for the UN in Belize. The CIP 2022 – 2023 is supported by an inter-agency *Programme Management Team (PMT)*, and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Group. Both mechanisms are established and functioning to strengthen the coordination through joint planning and M&E.

The governance of the UNMSDCF spans across the region through the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) and Regional Programme Management Team (RPMT). These structures were established to ease resource burdens,

prevent duplication, where possible, and provide a space for multi-country solutions and dialogue on MSDCF implementation challenges.

Through the Business Operations Strategy 2021–2025, UN Belize achieved total cost avoidance of 76.13 thousand USD by the end of 2022, as reported in the BOS Annual Report. The largest cost avoidances came from the management of common premises, hygiene services and supplies, and recruitment services. The BOS is expected to continue enhancing the efficiencies and effectiveness of the UN Belize.

In 2022, the UN in the Caribbean initiated and completed a configuration exercise for the MSDCF 2022 – 2026. The exercise seeks to provide a high-level overview of UN Development System (UNDS) in the Caribbean technical, financial, and operational capacity to achieve the four priority areas and the eight outcomes of the cooperation framework. Initial findings demonstrate that the UN System in the Caribbean comprises 23 specialized agencies, funds and programmes spanning across 22 countries and territories. There are five Resident Coordinators and six RCOs supporting six UNCTs (three of these are 'multi-country') and each UNCT has an accompanying RCO.

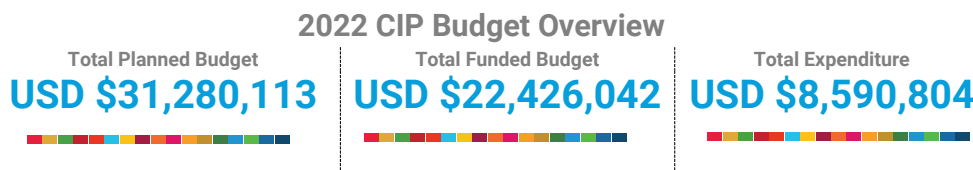
According to the Configuration Report, the total required budget for the implementation of CIPs (2022 – 2023) in the Caribbean is USD \$340.9 million. Of this, 57 per cent is already available to

In 2022, the UN in Belize began its self-assessment of gender mainstreaming capacities and practices through conducting of a System Wide Action Plan (SWAP) for Gender Equality Scorecard Assessment. The UN-SWAP measures extent of integration of gender in UN analyses, joint work plans, joint programming, resource mobilization and capacity development efforts. With completion of the UNCT-SWAP on gender, the UN will be better positioned to address existing gaps across all agencies since the SWAP is equivalent to entity-specific accountability framework.

The Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network is an UN inter-agency mechanism that continued its work to review and analyse the effectiveness, impact, and progress on measures to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse. In 2022, UN Belize was able to expand its training of its Implementing Partners (IPs) and strengthen guidance to IPs on how to access the institutions that can assist with and respond to allegations and complaints related to PSEA. The UNCT also developed a checklist of minimum PSEA actions among UN agencies.



2.7 Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization



The total planned budget for 2022 was estimated at US\$31.3 million, of which US\$22.4 million was available for implementation. The total expenditure across all pillars was estimated at US\$8.6 million. It is worth noting that this figure does not fully capture the actual values and full footprint of the UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes in Belize. The full funding framework for the UN Country Implementation Plan 2022 also takes into account the resources provided by sub-regional UN offices such as UNEP, UNFPA, UN WOMEN and UNESCO. The results of these multi-country or sub-regional interventions are monitored in the [UN INFO platform](#) and relevant country results are captured within this report.

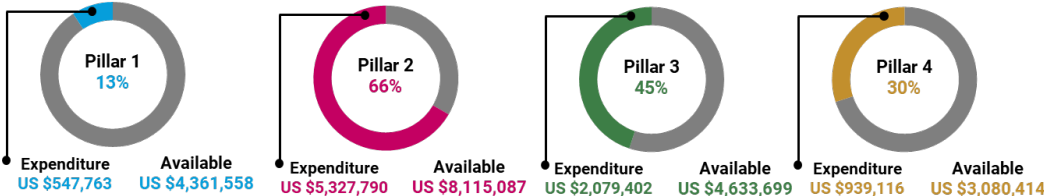
While the funding resources for the MSDCF 2022 - 2026 continue to make a significant impact on the lives of the Belizean people, some critical priorities continue to be left unfunded, which limits UN agencies, funds, and programmes' ability to provide comprehensive development and humanitarian response. Overall, the analysis of the funding framework by strategic pillar indicates that most of the available UN funding (31 per cent) in 2022 was under *UNMSDCF strategic pillar 2: Equity, Well-being and Leaving No One Behind*, particularly in the areas of social protection, access to health and addressing inequalities.

Major Donors in Belize CIP 2022

Green Climate Fund	USD\$ 4.1m
European Union	USD\$ 1.9m
Government of Japan	USD\$ 1.8m
Global Environment Facility	USD\$ 1.4m
IFAD	USD\$ 1.3m

Agency	Available Resources (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Delivery Rate (%)
FAO	\$694,998	\$219,000	32%
IFAD	\$2,290,500	N/A ¹	N/A
ILO	\$230,000	\$32,973	14%
IOM	\$942,589	\$378,632	40%
OHCHR	\$18,000	\$18,000	100%
PAHO/WHO	\$368,200	\$1,075,973	100%
UN WOMEN	\$60,000	N/A	N/A
UNICEF	\$5,551,023	\$3,451,374	62%
UNDP	\$4,621,999	\$2,778,721	60%
UNESCO	\$146,520	\$71,865	49%
UNEP ²	\$610,000	\$10,000	2%
UNFPA ³	\$4,369,000	\$183,774	4%
UNHCR	\$974,819	\$733,664	75%
WFP	\$1,332,394	\$924,575	69%
UNCTAD	\$214,000	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	\$22,426,042	\$9,676,777	45%*

*Delivery rate across all strategic pillars in 2022 including available sub-regional funding and funding that became available after launch of CIP 2022 - 2023.



In terms of UN agencies delivery across the four (4) strategic pillars of the MSDCF, some key interventions that are included in the Country Implementation Plan 2022 – 2023 are scheduled for implementation in 2023. However, the current expenditure data captured in UNINFO indicates that programme delivery was strongest in the area of Equity, Well-being and Leaving No One Behind followed by Climate Change Resilience.

¹ N/A – Data not available from agencies
² Activities under regional IDP implementation
³ Planned funding for Subregion provided with national expenditure

Chapter 3 – UN IN BELIZE KEY FOCUS AREAS FOR 2023

Strategic Financing and Partnerships

Under the leadership of the RC, the UNCT will formulate a joint Resource Mobilization and Partnership Strategy in an effort to enhance resources and funding opportunities from key partners including government, private sector, and development partners for the advancement of The SDGs. As part of the financial landscape exercise, The UNCT has initiated dialogue with the government for the development of an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) to advance the SDGs and Agenda 2030.

Joint Coordination and Implementation

In 2023, the UNCT will seek to improve the implementation of its programmes through strengthened collaboration among UN agencies. The UNCT has identified areas of convergence and synergies and continues to dialogue on potential opportunities for joint programming.

Leaving No One behind, Human Rights-Based Approach, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

The UNCT will continue the implementation of its 2023 PSEA work plan on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, with a particular focus on training public service officers, private sector actors, academia, UN agencies and CSOs. Capacity building initiatives are also planned in the areas of disability inclusion, child protection and gender in the security forces. The expansion of education services will make use of innovative approaches to reverse the effects of COVID-19 by strengthening distance and online learning, whilst supporting creative opportunities to fast-track learning opportunities for those children left behind.

The UN has also initiated a comprehensive gender programme review to address the root causes of gender inequality.

MSDCF 2022 – 2026 Implementation

The development interventions to be implemented in 2023 are outlined in the CIP 2022–2023. The update to the CIP in 2023 will reflect the full extent of UN agencies, funds, and programme interventions under the respective strategic outcomes and to ensure coherence with the strategic objectives of the National MTDS. The UN in Belize continues its support to GOB through the implementation of the strategic priorities of the MSDCF including:

Economic Resilience

- Operationalizing a **robust seasonal workers program** to promote ethical recruitment in line commitments under the Placencia Accord.
- Enhance **digital agriculture and its opportunities** for advancing resilient growth across agricultural communities
- Application of **conservation easements and incentives systems** that support resource management
- Training on **entrepreneurship and value chain development**

Social Equity

- Completion of the **employment insurance assessment and the actuarial valuation** to inform the social protection strategy.
- Strengthening the interoperability of **Gender Based Violence Surveillance Systems** to report, collect and analyse GBV data
- Support integration of the **minimum initial service package (MISP)** for reproductive health in emergencies into national emergency plans

- Support the Government in development of **Social Protection Strategy and define a costed Social Protection Floor** for all.
- Establishment of a **separate location for irregular migrant women and children** in partnership with the Ministry of Human Development

Climate Change Resilience

- Improvement of **payment processes within Belize's social protection system** so support can be easily deployed for disaster response
- Improved **conservation of terrestrial and coastal resources** as well as building the adaptive capacities and readiness of farmers and fisherfolk
- An integrated planning mechanism to ensure that **adequate and sustainable financing systems** for social protection
- Strengthen **climate smart resilient schools and communities** for emergency preparedness and response

Peace, Justice, and Rule of Law

- Adoption by Refugees Department of the **new Standard Operating Procedures on Reception, Registration, Documentation** and Refugee Status Determination in Belize.
- Continued work and advocacy to amend the **TIP (Prohibition) Act and CSEC (Prohibition) Act**, and legislative reforms on immigration.
- Implementation of the EU-funded 'Improving Access to Justice' Project aimed to provide **legal aid for marginalized groups, provide support for the DNA act** and other anticorruption legislation, and investment in DNA machinery to improve forensic evidence, and digitization of criminal records



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