

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	BELIZE/CID - Isthmus & DR
▪ TC Name:	Data and knowledge generation on gender and diversity issues in Belize
▪ TC Number:	BL-T1164
▪ Team Leader/Members:	US ALVAREZ, HUGO AMADOR (SCL/GDI) Team Leader; LUGO MORENO, MONICA BIBIANA (LEG/SGO); ANDREA BELTRAN ROSAS (SCL/GDI)
▪ Taxonomy:	Research and Dissemination
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	10 Mar 2023
▪ Beneficiary:	Belize
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$150,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	36 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	SCL/GDI - Gender and Diversity
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	CID/CBL - Country Office Belize
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Gender equality; Diversity

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The objectives of this Technical Cooperation (TC) are (i) to provide support to public agencies, including but not limited to the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB), to improve their methodologies used to gather data on gender and diversity according to international standards; and (ii) to generate knowledge products on key gender and diversity issues that can be used as inputs for IDB operations as well as for policy dialogue purposes.
- 2.2 Belize faces important challenges in terms of diversity and gender equality issues. A study financed by the IDB in 2018 concluded that poverty in Belize was around 52%; the poorest districts were Corozal and Toledo. Poverty was concentrated in rural areas and affects the Maya with poverty rates at 77%.
- 2.3 Despite some progress, challenges remain in data and knowledge generation in terms of gender issues. The last census available in Belize dates from 2010. The 2020 census was postponed until 2022 because of the restrictions derived from the COVID-19 pandemic. It was carried out between May and July 2022 and the data is still not available. However, this source could be of great importance in terms of understanding socioeconomic changes as well as those related to gender and diversity (G&D) gaps. Although most administrative records gather data on gender, there are still many data gaps. According to a 2020 UN Women report on the progress of SDGs for Belize, only 36.9% of the indicators from a gender perspective were available. Data gaps were identified in areas such as unpaid care, domestic work, gender poverty, physical and sexual harassment.

- 2.4 Data on ethnicity is also scant in administrative records. Census and households' surveys have collected data on ethnicity in the last years. However, data on ethnicity is not always gathered in administrative records. For example, health administrative records do not include data on ethnicity. The same happens with records of Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation in terms of beneficiaries of the programs. According to a 2017 IFAD report on indigenous people, there were a lack a data in terms on mortality rates or access to credit. This could be attributed to a lack of awareness on the importance to gather this type of data or lack of understanding on how to do it according to international best-practices.
- 2.5 Besides the lack of data, there is also an important challenge in generating knowledge on critical areas related to G&D. On the side of gender, some of the issues that need more attention are, for example, determinants of women labor participation, access to assets (including land and credit) and determinants of adolescent pregnancy. In terms of diversity, key issues are bilingual education (particularly Mayan language teaching as a transition to English), and health needs for diverse populations (particularly for indigenous people and Afro-descendants who have maintained their own health practices). A better understanding of these topics, among others, can inform better the design of programs and public policies that support G&D in the country.
- 2.6 This TC will be focused on the priority areas identified by the IDB Group Country Strategy 2022-2025 particularly in pillars B (Private sector productivity and sustainable growth, with a focus on Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises) and C (Human capital), and it is aligned to the IDBG Second Update to the Institutional Strategy (UIS, AB-3190-2) goal of social inclusion and equality and its institutional cross-cutting theme of gender and diversity. Additionally, the TC responds to the Supplemental Document to the IDBG's response to the Barranquilla Resolution that emphasizes on the IDB Group Work to Address Gender and Diversity Equity, which identifies the need to expand the IDB's technical expertise and financial resources dedicated to the production of disaggregated data and knowledge products.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Technical assistance to improve data gathering on gender and diversity.** It will be financed: technical assistance to Statistical Institute of Belize, the Ministry of Human Development, Family and Indigenous Peoples Affairs and key line ministries interested in improving its data collection in aspects related to G&D disaggregation. Expected result: 5 public agencies with disaggregated data on G&D in census, surveys or administrative data.
- 3.2 **Component II: Knowledge generation on gender and diversity issues.** It will be financed: the production and dissemination of analytical work aimed at sharing best practices and knowledge on G&D topics that were prioritized by the IDB Group Country Strategy with Belize. Expected result: 3 knowledge products are disseminated and used as input for the design of IDB operations in Belize.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Technical assistance to improve data gathering on gender and diversity	US\$50,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$50,000.00
Knowledge generation on gender and diversity issues	US\$100,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$100,000.00
Total	US\$150,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$150,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 This TC will be executed by the Bank through the Division of Gender and Diversity (SCL/GDI).
- 5.2 It was established that the Bank will execute this TC due to the nature of the activities proposed. The Bank will carry out the contracting of consultants and the procurement services as required by the project following the policies described in the documents AM-650 and GN-2765-1. Monitoring activities will be carried out periodically during project execution.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 Risks are mainly associated with low engagement of the different stakeholders (line ministries). To mitigate them, the team will invest in engaging potential counterparts at early stages as well as during the execution of all the activities proposed.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

- 7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is "undefined".