

DOCUMENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

BELIZE

**PROGRAM TO SUPPORT THE HEALTH SECTOR TO CONTAIN AND
CONTROL CORONAVIRUS AND TO MITIGATE ITS EFFECT ON
SERVICE PROVISION IN BELIZE**

(BL-L1036)

PROJECT PROFILE

This document was prepared by the project team consisting of: Ana Mylena Aguilar, Team Leader (SPH/CME); Ian Mac Arthur, Alternate Team Leader (SPH/CBR); Matilde Neret, Isabel Delfs, and Lidia Bonilla (SCL/SPH); Brodrick Watson, and Christian Lunstedt Tapia (VPC/FMP); Astrid Salazar (CID/CBL); Daniel Fonseca (IFD/CMF); Esteban de Dobrynski (LEG/SGO); Soraya Senosier (VPS/ESG); and Aurelie Gilles (CID/CID)

Under the Access to Information Policy, this document is subject to Public Disclosure.

PROJECT PROFILE

BELIZE

I. BASIC DATA

Project Name:	Program to Support the Health Sector to Contain and Control Coronavirus and to Mitigate its Effect on Service Provision in Belize		
Project Number:	BL-L1036; BL-U0001		
Project Team:	Ana Mylena Aguilar, Team Leader (SPH/CME); Ian Mac Arthur, Alternate Team Leader (SPH/CBR); Matilde Neret, Isabel Delfs, and Lidia Bonilla (SCL/SPH); Brodrick Watson, and Christian Lunstedt Tapia (VPC/FMP); Astrid Salazar (CID/CBL); Daniel Fonseca (IFD/CMF); Esteban de Dobrynski (LEG/SGO); Soraya Senosier (VPS/ESG); and Aurelie Gilles (CID/CID). Belize		
Borrower/Sovereign Counter-Guarantor¹:	Ministry of Health (MoH)		
Executing Agency /Public Entity backed by the Sovereign Guarantee:	The Gavi Alliance (Gavi)		
Beneficiary of the Guarantee:			
Financial Plan:	IDB (OC):	US\$5,000,000.00	
	Investment	US\$2,862,740.00	
	Guarantee	US\$2,137,260.00	
	Total:	US\$5,000,000.00	
Safeguards:	Policies triggered:	OP-102, OP-703 (B1, B2, B3, B7, B17).	
	Classification:	C	

II. GENERAL JUSTIFICATION AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 **Background: COVID-19 pandemic.** On March 11th, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a pandemic of COVID-19, the disease caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus. As of November 20th, 2020, there have been more than 55 million confirmed cases, resulting in more than 1.3 million deaths.² Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has become one of the hardest hit regions, with more than 12 million confirmed cases and around 426,700 confirmed deaths. The number of accumulated cases and confirmed deaths in LAC is expected to continue growing, with estimates under different scenarios predicting more than half a million deaths by February 1st, 2021.³

¹ The references to Sovereign Counter-Guarantor, Public Entity backed by the Sovereign Guarantee, and Beneficiary of the Guarantee correspond to component 1 (BL-U0001 Sovereign Guarantee) whereas the references to Borrower, and Executing Agency correspond to component 2 (BL-L1036 Investment Loan).

² <https://www.iadb.org/es/coronavirus/situacion-actual-de-la-pandemia>.

³ The scenarios are the following: rapid vaccine rollout (571,275), universal masks (558,487), and mandate easing (579,142). However, the vaccine rollout is slower than expected. Therefore, it is possible that the estimates are a lower bound (<https://covid19.healthdata.org/global/latin-america-and-caribbean?view=total-deaths&tab=trend>).

- 2.2 **Macroeconomic and social context.** According to IMF estimates for 2020, Belize's tourism-dependent economy will contract by at least 16% and the overall fiscal deficit will widen from 3.9% to 9.7% of GDP.^{4,5} Standard and Poor's and Moody's has downgraded Belize's credit rating, amid concerns about an interest payment deferral or a distressed debt exchange.⁶ As a result of the deterioration on the macroeconomic situation, there have been significant detrimental socioeconomic effects. Belize's last poverty assessment in 2009 found that 41.3% of the population lived at or below the poverty line, while 15.8% were classified as extremely poor. The evolution of income per capita suggests that poverty has remained high since then. The lack of updated information on poverty creates a challenge to measure the social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2.3 **COVID-19 pressure on the health care system.** In many countries, a rapid increase in cases has been compromising health care systems' capacity to respond to the pandemic and maintain essential care for people with other conditions. Based on WHO classification, Belize was ranked as having "medium" capacity to manage a public health event such as the pandemic. Therefore, to strengthen the health system to respond to the additional demands associated with COVID-19 patients, Belize requested the Bank's support to reformulate the "Sustainable Tourism Program II" (3566/OC-BL) to finance the "Immediate Public Health Response to Contain and Control the Coronavirus and Mitigate its Impact on Service Delivery in Belize" (3566/OC-BL-2). The reformulation liberated funds totaling US\$6.2 million to finance activities and inputs to improve detection and monitoring of cases, interrupt the chain of transmission of the disease, and improve the capacity of service provision in health care facilities.
- 2.4 **Interrupting the chain of transmission.** COVID-19 can be easily spread from person to person through respiratory secretions⁷, and direct contact. For this reason, interrupting the chain of transmission is crucial. Public health measures, such as mask wearing, social distancing, frequent hand washing, among others, are critical to reduce the speed of virus transmission, pressures on the health system's capacity to care for patients, and morbimortality from SARS-Cov-2.⁸ At the same time, access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines will most likely become the most powerful instrument to reduce severe illness and mortality from COVID-19 and interrupt the chain of transmission.⁹ One of the biggest challenges related to COVID-19 vaccines is that the world will need billions of doses – an unseen scale of production. Additionally, countries need to prepare for the deployment of COVID-19 vaccines to ensure rapid administration once the doses are available.

⁴ See Belize and the IMF. At a Glance, 2020 Projected Real GDP (% Change): <https://www.imf.org/en/Countries/BLZ> (accessed on November 20th, 2020).

⁵ IMF. World Economic Outlook Database. General government net lending/borrowing (accessed on December 1st, 2020) Available at: <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/weo-database/2020/October>.

⁶ Standard and Poor's downgraded Belize's credit rating from B-(stable) to CCC (negative) on April 16th, 2020, while Moody's downgraded its credit rating from B4(stable) to Caa1(negative) on May 12th, 2020.

⁷ <https://www.who.int/es/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/q-a-coronaviruses>.

⁸ Hellewell, J., S. Abbott, A. Gimma, N.I. Bosse, C.I. Jarvis, T.W. Russell, et al. Feasibility of controlling COVID-19 outbreaks by isolation of cases and contacts. *Lancet* 2020; 8(4): 488–496. [doi:10.1016/S2214-109X\(20\)30074-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30074-7).

⁹ Bartsch SM et al. 2020.

- 2.5 **Challenges and progress.** Belize was one of the countries with the lowest number of cases of COVID-19 until the end of July (only 57 cases), because of the early measures established by the Government. From mid-April until June 7th, 2020, the country remained with zero new cases. Community transmission in Belize, under WHO classification, however, began in August 2020. Since then, the cases have increased exponentially and currently Belize ranks as the first country with the highest rate of new cases per 10,000 of inhabitants among the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) member states¹⁰ and in active COVID-19 cases among 20 other CARICOM nations.¹¹ As of November 20th, 2020, Belize had completed 27,963 tests and confirmed 5,018 cases. The positivity rate of the past two weeks reached 28% of the tests done, a very high number.¹² There are 2,743 recovered cases, meaning that 43.3% remain active; and 102 deaths, which indicate a fatality rate of 2%.¹³
- 2.6 In March 2020, the Prime Minister issued a series of mitigation decrees that included curfews, suspension of non-essential activities, and border closures. Belize was also one of the first countries, in February 2020, to prepare a response plan together with the PAHO/WHO, involving social distancing measures and contact tracing activities for imported cases. In October 2020, the international airport was reopened for leisure travel.¹⁴ The government mandated the use of face masks and social distancing measures in public spaces, among other initiatives.¹⁵ Through the IDB reformulation of the tourism loan (3566/OC-BL-2), the following actions were supported: increased screening capacity at three border points; enhanced testing coverage; and strengthening of the health care system through the provision of medical equipment, protective personal equipment, and training.
- 2.7 **Vaccines purchase.** Worldwide, as of December 2020, there are 47 vaccine candidates in the clinical trial phase. Of these, 10 are in Phase III, and four have reported successful preliminary results with more than 60% efficacy.¹⁶ However, countries with small market power like Belize face challenges to access COVID-19 vaccines. To address this problem, Gavi Alliance, a global public private partnership established to increase access to immunization in low -and lower-middle income countries, along with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and the World Health Organization (WHO), launched the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX).¹⁷ COVAX is one of three

¹⁰ CARPHA Situation report no. 117. December 10th, 2020. Available at: <https://carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus/CARPHA-Situation-Reports-for-COVID-19> .

¹¹ CARICOM: COVID-19 Dashboard. Accessed on December 17th, 2020. Available at: <https://infogram.com/1p3mqdeyw3kzpbj0gv052y96d3sdrm9p9zyd>

¹² Calculations based on number of tests and positive cases reported by the Director of Health Services between November 8th, 2020 and November 22nd, 2020.

¹³ Statistical Institute of Belize. COVID-19 By the Numbers. Available at: <http://sib.org.bz/covid-19/by-the-numbers/> .Accessed on November 20th, 2020.

¹⁴ Belize Tourism Board. COVID-19 Update. <https://www.belizeboard.org/news-and-gallery/belize-covid-19-update/> . Accessed on November 25th, 2020

¹⁵ For example, a "Tourism Gold Standard Program" was put in place, seeking to enhance the tourism industry's health and safety standards by adapting new behaviors and procedures to ensure both employees and travelers.

¹⁶ Science. After dosing mix-up, latest [COVID-19 vaccine success comes with big question mark](#). November 25th, 2020.

¹⁷ <https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/covax-explained>.

pillars of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator¹⁸ launched in April 2020. The facility creates a mechanism to pool resources and procure vaccines, thereby encouraging manufacturers to increase production capacity and reserve it for participating countries. As of December 3rd, 2020, COVAX had 189 confirmed and eligible country participants, of which 95 are fully self-financing and 92 are using the Advanced Market Commitment (AMC) arrangement.¹⁹ Eight of the nine candidates from the COVAX portfolio are in advanced human clinical trials, and several have shown high rates of efficacy. The selection of vaccines is done across different technology platforms (nucleic acid, viral vector, protein based, inactivated), manufacturing locations and production capacity to maximize the chance of achieving the COVAX objective of supplying around two billion doses globally by the end of 2021.

- 2.8 On September 18th, 2020, Belize signed a Commitment Agreement with Gavi Alliance to join COVAX, through which it will have access to 238,800 doses, which is estimated to cover 30% of the population (about 120,000 people), considering that each person will require two doses of the vaccine. The total cost of the signed purchase agreement is US\$2,519,340, with an indicative cost of US\$10.55 per dose. Belize covered the initial payment of US\$382,080 with IDB financing under 3566/OC-BL-2,²⁰ and is required to provide a guarantee for up to US\$2,137,260 related to future payment obligations for the balance of the agreement. Due to Gavi Alliance's risk considerations, the guarantee must be from an international entity with an investment grade risk qualification, reason for which the Belize has requested Bank's support to process a guarantee operation for the total amount of the future payment obligation.
- 2.9 **Vaccine implementation logistics.** One of MoH's main concerns regarding the COVID-19 vaccine is the limited storage capacity at urban and rural facilities. The extent by which the cold chain capacity will need to be strengthened will ultimately depend on the amount of vaccine doses that will be purchased from manufacturers using mRNA technology platforms that require cold chain equipment to maintain vaccines below -80 °C (ultra cold chain - UCC). Specialized UCC solutions can be installed, but alternative solutions and delivery models are also being assessed that will require, for example, the depolyment of vaccine containers and shippers with dry ice. Incorporating the COVID-19 vaccine into the routine immunization program will demand additional funds to cover, among other items, extra vaccines syringes, thermometers, thermos, safety boxes, biologicals, cold chain equipment, a communication plan (printing, airing of audio-visuals), training of health care workers (public, private and NGO), training of Community Health Workers, and double cab vehicles for outreach sessions.
- 2.10 The MoH with PAHO's technical assistance is preparing a National Vaccination and Deployment COVID-19 Vaccine Plan 2021/2022²¹. The proposed prioritized

¹⁸ The ACT Accelerator is a ground-breaking global collaboration to accelerate the development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines.

¹⁹ AMC incentivize pharmaceuticals to develop and produce suitable vaccines, guaranteeing sustainable prices by purchasing large quantities at established prices once a vaccine is licensed.

²⁰ On October 2nd, 2020, the government requested the additional modification of Loan Contract 3566/OC-BL to permit the financing of the down payment.

²¹ MoH is using WHO's Interim guidance to prepare the COVID-19 deployment plan. Also, the National Vaccination Program uses the revolving funds to procure the roster of its vaccines and follow WHO protocols.

population will be comprised of healthcare workers, civil servants in contact with the public, population aged 60+ years, those with underlining conditions (such as chronic diseases) and pregnant women. The Maternal and Child Health Unit of the MoH is responsible for the COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan preparation.²² The MoH is identifying gaps and needs through the COVID-19 Vaccine Introduction Readiness Assessment Tool (VIRAT) provided by PAHO.

- 2.11 **Objectives.** The general development objective of this project is to contribute to the reduction of the morbidity and mortality caused by COVID-19 and to mitigate other indirect impacts of the pandemic. The specific development objective is to support the efforts to interrupt the transmission chain of the illness.
- 2.12 **Beneficiaries.** The direct beneficiaries will be the members of the priority population groups for the first immunizations under COVAX, corresponding to 119,400 people (30% of the population), and indirect beneficiaries will be other residents and visitors to Belize who may experience lower chances of infection from the virus due to interruption of the transmission chain. The main expected outcome is to increase the number of people from priority groups with a COVID-19 vaccine. Also, the strengthening of institutional capacity in terms of logistics and supply chain management.
- 2.13 **Component 1 (BL-U0001). Ensuring timely vaccine availability (US\$2,137,260).** This component will finance support for interventions to contain the transmission of the virus by increasing and facilitating access to vaccines. Specifically, it will finance through the issuance of a sovereign guarantee, the committed doses of COVID-19 vaccines through the advance market commitments to purchase vaccine (channeled through Gavi Alliance's COVAX Facility as a procurement agency).
- 2.14 **Component 2 (BL-L1036). Strengthening vaccine logistics and supply chain management (US\$2,862,740).** This component will finance investments for the national COVID-19 vaccine implementation plan involving activities to strengthen logistics of conservation (storage and cold chain management) and distribution and deployment of vaccines (transportation and application). Required inputs include personnel, equipment (refrigerators, thermos, thermometers, etc.), transportation, and medical supplies depending on vaccine technology (syringes, alcohol, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), biohazardous waste disposal boxes and containers for needles, infectious waste boxes and bags). It will also finance communication campaigns for the public regarding COVID-19 (general information, risks and benefits of vaccines, actions being implemented, locations to obtain health care or vaccines, prevention and treatment measures, etc.), as well as behavior change strategies to promote demand for vaccination and adoption of measures to interrupt transmission.
- 2.15 **Strategic Alignment.** The intervention is consistent with the Second Update to the Institutional Strategy (AB-3190-2) and it is aligned with the Social Inclusion and Equality development challenges as the proposed interventions guarantee fair and equitable access to a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine. Likewise, it will contribute to the Corporate Results Framework 2020-2023 (GN-2727-12) through

²² The MoH may need to establish a special team to supervise the COVID vaccine roll-out.

the indicator of beneficiaries receiving health services. In addition, the intervention is consistent with the Health and Nutrition Sector Framework Document (GN-2735-7) by supporting the strengthening of service delivery, including the provision of biological inputs necessary for immunization services. This program is consistent with the Proposal for the IDB Group's Governance Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Outbreak (document GN-2996). The operation is also aligned with both Belize's National COVID-19 Response Plan, the Belize National Vaccination and Deployment COVID-19 Vaccine Plan 2021/2022, and the COVID-19 Surveillance Guidelines.

III. TECHNICAL ISSUES AND SECTOR KNOWLEDGE

- 3.1 The operation is unique in its integration of investment and guarantee components to support COVID-19 vaccine acquisition, deployment, and application in priority sectors of the population.
- 3.2 To support the efforts to interrupt the transmission chain of the illness by increasing and facilitating access to vaccines, Belize has requested the Bank the issuance of a sovereign guarantee. Subject to approval from the Bank's authorities, the guarantee proposed here will be developed in alignment with the principles of the Flexible Guarantee Instrument Policy for Sovereign Guaranteed Operations (GN-2729-2) ("Guarantee Policy") and its operating guidelines (GN-2729-4).
- 3.3 The guarantee is expected to: (i) guarantee the payment obligation of Belize under the committed purchase agreement it signed with Gavi Alliance; (ii) support an underlying investment project as described in the preceding paragraphs; (iii) count with the counter guarantee from Belize; (iv) be for an amount of up to US\$2,137,260 and framed under the financial parameters of the Guarantee Policy; and (v) be issued for a period of up to 25 years, which is expected to exceed the original period of three years for COVAX, but is justified to provide flexibility in case of any unexpected issue in the supply of vaccines and to provide financial additionality in case the country is not able to obtain its own financing and, in case of a paid claim, to provide an extended period for Belize to repay the Bank over a period similar to that of a loan.
- 3.4 The Financial Guarantee template contract shared by Gavi Alliance that would be signed by the Bank and Gavi, once the parties have agreed upon its content and the Board of Executive Directors of the Bank has approved the operation, is currently under review by the Bank. Issues arising from this review will be shared with Gavi in due time so that they can be negotiated and agreed upon as appropriate.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS AND FIDUCIARY SCREENING

- 4.1 In accordance with Directive B.3 of the Bank's Environmental and Safeguard Compliance Policy (OP-703), the operation is classified as Category "C" because it is estimated that it will not cause negative environmental and social impacts. The program will not finance any physical infrastructure component, so no associated environmental or social impacts and risks are anticipated.

- 4.2 A recent fiduciary risk assessment, for the loan operation 3566/OC-BL-2, indicated that risks in financial and procurement management of the immediate health response activities are considered medium-low. The risk assessment took into account the Bank's experience collaborating with the Policy, Planning and Project Management Unit (PPPMU) within MoH for the last eight consecutive years in its execution of several IGRs and TCs projects well as the state of public financial management in Belize.

V. OTHER ISSUES

- 5.1 **Other risks.** In general, COVID-19 vaccines represent a global innovation since the disease is new and these goods currently do not exist on the market. The development risks of the operation include: (i) non-existence or delay in the availability of the product in the market, due to not having enough vaccine suppliers participating in the COVAX facility that pass the strict filters for regulatory approval by the respective regulatory bodies at the national and international level; and (ii) potential shortage of key supplies or personnel required for the intensive immunization campaign, including means of transportation, required cold chains, and specialized personnel, among others. In general, countries are moving to simplify and expedite the regulatory procedures and are exploring multiple options regarding potential logistical constraints (for example, using installed capacity in private sector transport and cold chain for perishable materials). Additionally, Belize is conducting a gaps analysis for required equipment and inputs and is formulating a corresponding procurement plan for these items.
- 5.2 **Executing arrangements.** The program will be executed by the MoH through the PPPMU. The arrangement will ensure proper implementation, since the PPPMU has wide experience on IDB projects execution, such as the restructured loan 3566/OC-BL-2 for the Immediate Public Health Response to Coronavirus, and previous programs in the health sector (Mesoamerican Health Initiative Belize -Third Individual Operation - GRT/HE-16712-BL, GRT/HE-16713-BL; and Belize - Regional Malaria Elimination Initiative (RMEI) in Mesoamerica and Dominican Republic - GRT/MM-17257-BL, GRT/MM-17258-BL). In addition, there is the possibility to provide technical support for logistics and supply change management. Finally, it is anticipated that some expenses will be financed retroactively.

VI. RESOURCES AND TIMETABLE

- 6.1 Annex V details the preparation schedule for the operation. It is estimated that the Proposal for Operation Development (POD) will be distributed on January 13th, 2021; the Operational Policies Committee (OPC) will validate the Draft Loan Proposal on February 12th, 2021; and that the Board of Directors will consider the program on March 31st, 2021. The estimated cost for preparation is US\$80,000, an amount that will be used to finance four consultancies.

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Safeguard Policy Filter Report

Operation Information

Operation		
BL-L1036 Program to Support the Health Sector to Contain and Control Coronavirus and to Mitigate its Effect in Service Provision in Belize		
Environmental and Social Impact Category	High Risk Rating	
C		
Country	Executing Agency	
BELIZE	BH-MOH - MINISTRY OF HEALTH	
Organizational Unit	IDB Sector/Subsector	
Social Protection & Health	HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING	
Team Leader	ESG Primary Team Member	
ANA MYLENA AGUILAR RIVERA		
Type of Operation	Original IDB Amount	% Disbursed
Loan Operation	\$5,000,000	0.000 %
Assessment Date	Author	
3 Dec 2020	sorayas	
Operation Cycle Stage	Completion Date	
ERM (Estimated)	18 Dec 2020	
QRR (Estimated)	22 Jan 2021	
Board Approval (Estimated)		
Safeguard Performance Rating		
Rationale		



Safeguard Policy Filter Report

Potential Safeguard Policy Items

[No potential issues identified]

Safeguard Policy Items Identified

B.1 Bank Policies (Access to Information Policy– OP-102)

The Bank will make the relevant project documents available to the public.

B.2 Country Laws and Regulations

The operation is expected to be in compliance with laws and regulations of the country regarding specific women's rights, the environment, gender and indigenous peoples (including national obligations established under ratified multilateral environmental agreements).

B.3 Screening and Classification

The operation (including [associated facilities](#)) is screened and classified according to its potential environmental impacts.

B.7 Supervision and Compliance

The Bank is expected to monitor the executing agency/borrower's compliance with all safeguard requirements stipulated in the loan agreement and project operating or credit regulations.

B.17. Procurement

Suitable safeguard provisions for the procurement of goods and services in Bank financed operations may be incorporated into project-specific loan agreements, operating regulations and bidding documents, as appropriate, to ensure environmentally responsible procurement.

Recommended Actions

Operation has triggered 1 or more Policy Directives; please refer to appropriate Directive(s). Complete Project Classification Tool. Submit Safeguard Policy Filter Report, PP (or equivalent) and Safeguard Screening Form to ESR.

Additional Comments

[No additional comments]



Safeguard Screening Form

Operation Information

Operation		
BL-L1036 Program to Support the Health Sector to Contain and Control Coronavirus and to Mitigate its Effect in Service Provision in Belize		
Environmental and Social Impact Category	High Risk Rating	
C		
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3 Dec 2020	sorayas	
Operation Cycle Stage	Completion Date	
ERM (Estimated)	18 Dec 2020	
QRR (Estimated)	22 Jan 2021	
Board Approval (Estimated)		
Safeguard Performance Rating		
Rationale		

Operation Classification Summary

Overriden Rating	Overriden Justification
Comments	



Safeguard Screening Form

Conditions / Recommendations

No environmental assessment studies or consultations are required for Category "C" operations.

Some Category "C" operations may require specific safeguard or monitoring requirements (Policy Directive B.3). Where relevant, these operations will establish safeguard, or monitoring requirements to address environmental and other risks (social, disaster, cultural, health and safety etc.)

The Project Team must send the PP (or equivalent) containing the Environmental and Social Strategy (the requirements for an ESS are described in the Environment Policy Guideline: Directive B.3) as well as the Safeguard Policy Filter and Safeguard Screening Form Reports.

Summary of Impacts / Risks and Potential Solutions

Disaster Risk Summary

Disaster Risk Level

Low

Disaster / Recommendations

No specific disaster risk management measures are required.

Disaster Summary

Details

The project is classified as low disaster risk because the occurrence of the hazard event does not impact in the achievement of project outcomes.

Actions

Operation has triggered 1 or more Policy Directives; please refer to appropriate Directive(s). Complete Project Classification Tool. Submit Safeguard Policy Filter Report, PP (or equivalent) and Safeguard Screening Form to ESR.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARD STRATEGY (ESS)

- This operation does not foresee the financing of any physical infrastructure.
- The program is not expected to cause negative environmental or social impacts. It should have positive impacts since the direct beneficiaries pertaining to the population groups prioritized for the first round of immunizations under COVAX, corresponding to 120,000 persons (30% of the population), should experience decreased morbidity and mortality from COVID-19.
- Consequently, in accordance with Directive B.3 of the Bank's Environmental and Safeguard Compliance Policy (OP-703), the operation is classified as Category "C", as no associated environmental or social impacts and risks are anticipated.

INDEX OF COMPLETED AND PROPOSED SECTOR WORK

Topic	Description	Date	Reference and Links
International literature on vaccine logistics	Mathematical modeling indicates that factors relating to vaccine implementation contribute more to program success than the clinical effectiveness of the vaccine itself.	Available	Paltiel, A., Schwartz, J., Zheng, A. and Waensky, R. (2020). Clinical outcomes of a COVID-19 vaccine: implementation over efficacy . Health Affairs.
	Considerations regarding vaccine manufacturing, distribution, and administration.	Available	Hosangadi, D., Warmbrod, K. L., Martin, E. K., Adalja, A., Cicero, A., Inglesby, T., Watson, C., Watson, M., & Connell, N. (2020). Enabling emergency mass vaccination: Innovations in manufacturing and administration during a pandemic. <i>Vaccine</i> , 38(26), 4167–4169. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2020.04.037
Health services response to pandemic in Belize	Comprehensive health sector response plan to COVID-19, with health services guidelines/protocols.	Available	Ministry of Health. (2020). Interim National COVID-19 Response Plan. Belmopan: Government of Belize.
	Analysis and planning of human resource needs for hospital services in context of COVID-19.	Available	Ministry of Health and PAHO. (2020). Hospital capacity progressive expansions tool in response to COVID-19. Belize National Estimate. Belmopan: Government of Belize.
Technical inputs for COVID-19 vaccine acquisition and deployment in Belize	Costing analysis for COVID-19 vaccination logistics needs using PAHO VIRAT tool.	January 2021	
	Assessment of the current situation of logistics and needs determination regarding transportation and cold chain for vaccine distribution	February 2021	

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