

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**

(BL-L1036)

AND

**SUPPORT TO THE FINANCING OF THE PURCHASE OF COVID-19 VACCINE
AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION**

(BL-U0001)

LOAN AND GUARANTEE PROPOSAL

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ABBREVIATIONS	
ACT	Access to COVID-19 Tools
AMC	Advanced Market Commitment
AOP	Annual Operating Plan
BHIS	Belize's Health Information System
CARPHA	Caribbean Public Health Agency
CEPI	Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations
COVAX	COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
EA	Executing Agency
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MoHW	Ministry of Health and Wellness
OAS	Organization of American States
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PMR	Progress Monitoring Report
POD	Proposal for operation development
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PPC	Project Procurement Committee
PPPMU	Policy, Planning and Project Management Unit
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SIR	Susceptible - Infectious - Recovered
SPF	Safeguard policy filter
SPRP	COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan
SSF	Safeguard screening form
UCC	Ultra Cold Chain
VIRAT	Vaccine Introduction Readiness Assessment Tool
WEF	World Economic Forum
WHO	World Health Organization

PROJECT SUMMARY
BELIZE
PROGRAM TO SUPPORT THE HEALTH SECTOR TO CONTAIN AND CONTROL CORONAVIRUS AND TO
MITIGATE ITS EFFECT ON SERVICE PROVISION (BL-L1036)
AND
SUPPORT TO THE FINANCING OF THE PURCHASE OF COVID-19 VACCINE AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION
(BL-U0001)

Investment Loan (BL-L1036)				
Financial Terms and Conditions				
Borrower:			Flexible Financing Facility ^(a)	
Belize			Amortization period:	Up to 25 years
Executing agency:			Disbursement period:	Up to 3 years
Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW)			Grace period:	5.5 years ^(b)
Source	Amount (US\$)	%	Interest rate:	LIBOR-based
			Credit fee:	(c)
IDB (Ordinary Capital):	2,862,740	100	Inspection and supervision fee:	(c)
			Weighted average life (WAL):	Up to 15.25 years
			Currency of approval:	U.S. dollars
Credit Guarantee for Investment Project (BL-U0001)				
Financial Terms and Conditions				
Guarantee Issuer:			Flexible Guarantee Instrument ^(d)	
Inter-American Development Bank			Maximum guarantee period:	Up to 25 years
Guaranteed Obligor and Counter Guarantor:			Original average-weighted life:	Up to 15.25 years
Belize				
Guaranteed Beneficiary:			Guarantee fee:	(d)
The Gavi Alliance				
Public Entity backed by the Sovereign Guarantee:			Stand-by fee:	(d) y (e)
Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW)				
Guaranteed Obligation:			Inspection and supervision fee:	(d)
Future payments due by Belize concerning the purchase of vaccines under the Committed Purchase Agreement entered into between the Government of Belize and the Gavi Alliance. ¹			Currency of approval:	U.S. dollars
Source	Amount (US\$)	%	Repayment period in case of payment of a claim:	Up to the remainder of the amortization period once a claim has been paid, as long as it does not exceed the original average weighted-life
IDB (Ordinary Capital):	2,137,260	100		
Project at a Glance				
Project objective/description: 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. The project objectives will be achieved through the financing of a specific investment loan operation (Loan Component) and a guarantee investment project operation (Guarantee Component) as described in this proposal.				

¹ See ¶1.11.

Special contractual conditions precedent to the first disbursement of the loan proceeds: The Borrower shall provide evidence to the satisfaction of the Bank of: (i) the approval by the MoHW of a National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan according to international guidelines and in terms previously agreed to with the Bank; (ii) the approval of Project Operations Manual in terms previously agreed to with the Bank, which should include, among others, the assignment of responsibilities within the Executing Agency, and the definition of the scope of work for the Project Steering Committee; and (iii) the assignment or hiring of the PPPMU's personnel responsible for managing the project, including a project coordinator, a financial specialist, a procurement specialist, and a health planner (see ¶3.5). See also Annex III for fiduciary conditions.

Special contractual conditions precedent to the issuance of the guarantee: Issuance of the guarantee will be subject to the fulfillment, to the satisfaction of the Bank, of the following conditions: (i) The Bank and the Guaranteed Beneficiary have negotiated and agreed upon the terms of a guarantee contract; and (ii) That a Counter Guarantee contract between the Bank and the Counter Guarantor has entered into effect in terms acceptable to the Bank (see ¶3.6).

Special contractual condition of execution: Prior to beginning the activities of the investment loan operation, the Borrower shall provide evidence to the satisfaction of the Bank that the Environmental and Social Management Plan has been updated based on the plan currently under implementation in project 3566/OC-BL-2; and shall begin implementation before the activities of the investment loan operation begin, and continue to be implemented during the disbursement period and its extensions (see ¶2.4, and [OEL#5](#)) (see ¶3.7).

Exceptions to Bank policies: None.

Strategic Alignment			
Challenges: ^(f)	SI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PI <input type="checkbox"/>	EI <input type="checkbox"/>
Crosscutting themes: ^(g)	GD <input type="checkbox"/>	CC <input type="checkbox"/>	IC <input type="checkbox"/>

^(a) Under the terms of the Flexible Financing Facility (document FN-655-1), the borrower has the option of requesting changes to the amortization schedule, as well as currency, interest rate, and commodity conversions. The Bank will take operational and risk management considerations into account when reviewing such requests.

^(b) Under the flexible repayment options of the Flexible Financing Facility, changes to the grace period are permitted, provided that they do not entail any extension of the original weighted average life of the loan or the last payment date as documented in the loan contract.

^(c) The credit fee and the inspection and supervision fee will be established periodically by the Board of Executive Directors as part of its review of the Bank's lending charges, in accordance with applicable policies.

^(d) The guarantee, stand-by, and inspection and supervision fees will be established periodically by the Board of Executive Directors as part of its review of the Bank's financial terms, in accordance with the corresponding policies.

^(e) The stand-by fee will be equal to the credit free for sovereign guaranteed loans and will be accrued from the effective date of the guarantee contract, calculated on the difference between the approved amount of the guarantee and its effective amount at any time.

^(f) SI (Social Inclusion and Equality); PI (Productivity and Innovation); and EI (Economic Integration).

^(g) GD (Gender Equality and Diversity); CC (Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability); and IC (Institutional Capacity and Rule of Law).

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS MONITORING

A. Background, problem to be addressed, and rationale

- 1.1 **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 SARS-Cov-2. As of February 2nd, 2021, there have been more than 103 million confirmed cases, resulting in more than 2.2 million deaths.² Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has become one of the hardest hit regions, having confirmed more than 19 million cases and around 599,283 deaths. The number of accumulated cases and deaths in LAC is expected to continue growing, with estimates under different scenarios predicting more than 772,000 deaths by May 1st, 2021.³
- 1.2 **Macroeconomic and social context.** The detrimental economic impacts of COVID-19 worldwide have been severe. IMF's projections for the LAC region indicate that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell 8.1% in 2020 and will grow by only 3.6% in 2021.⁴ The recovery in most of the countries in the LAC region will be slow, and the GDP will likely not reach pre-pandemic levels until 2023.⁵ Belize's economy was already in recession due to a drought and its effect on agriculture. The pandemic will only worsen its macroeconomic outlook: its tourism-dependent economy (39% of its GDP) is expected to contract by at least 16% in 2020 (expected -9% in the LAC region).⁶ The economic contraction is affecting fiscal indicators: estimates place Belize's overall balance at 9.7% of GDP for 2020 (compared to 0.5% in 2019) and its gross debt at 134.6% of GDP in 2020 (up from 105.1% in 2019).⁷ Moreover Belize's credit rating was downgraded amid concerns about an interest payment deferral or a distressed debt exchange. The social impact of the pandemic has been severe. The last poverty assessment in 2009 found that 41.3% of the population was poor and 15.8%, extremely poor, and the evolution of income per capita suggests that poverty has remained high since then. As the last poverty estimate is 10 years old, the IDB conducted a mapping of income poverty using satellite imagery that identified some improvements in income distribution associated with tourism activity.⁸ Hence, this trend is expected to be reversed in 2020 since the tourism sector has been the hardest hit by the pandemic, as evidenced by the 43% and 32% of the labor force that applied to Phases I and II of the Government's COVID-19 Unemployment Relief Program (URP).⁹

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

³ <https://covid19.healthdata.org/global/latin-america-and-caribbean?view=total-deaths&tab=trend>.

⁴ IMF. World Economic Outlook, October 2020 Edition. Emerging Market and Developing Economies: Real GDP, p.145

⁵ IMF. Regional Economic Outlook. Western Hemisphere. Pandemic Persistence Clouds the Recovery. P. 12.

⁶ World Economic Outlook, op. cit; p. 145

⁷ Regional Economic Outlook, op. cit; p. 32

⁸ Hersh et al., 2020. Mapping Poverty in Belize Using Satellite Features and Machine Learning. IDB Monograph 806. <http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0002345>

⁹ In September 2019 there were 170,458 persons held jobs. As of October 2020, Phase II of the URP had received 67,555 applicants while in Phase I, a total of 81,007 applications were received (between April 3rd and April 24th, 2020).

- 1.3 **Interrupting the chain of transmission.** SARS-Cov-2 can be easily spread from person to person through respiratory secretions,¹⁰ 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, patient isolation, among others, are necessary to reduce the number of healthy people whom a patient can infect (known as the reproduction number) or, stated another way, the average number of new cases generated by a case over time, to a value below 1. These measures slow the spread of the virus and can help avoid a sudden spike in cases that would overwhelm the health system's capacity to care for patients.^{11,12,13,14} Specialized care is necessary for coronavirus patients. Given the significant economic and social costs associated with COVID-19, equitable access to safe and effective vaccines for the entire population, initially prioritizing groups most at risk of contagion (for example, health care workers) and death (for example, the elderly) due to supply limitations, would be one of the most powerful ways to reduce mortality and eventually slow transmission of the virus.¹⁵ Throughout 2020, scientists, pharmaceutical companies, and governments have been working at an unprecedented rate to deliver a vaccine against COVID-19 using multiple technological platforms. Although the efforts provide an optimistic outlook, one of the biggest challenges is that the world will need billions of vaccine doses – an unprecedented scale of production. Additionally, countries are developing operational plans for the deployment of the vaccines to prepare for the challenges regarding delivery, distribution and application.
- 1.4 **Belize contained the increase in COVID-19 cases between March and June 2020; then, a rapid spike of cases began in August.** The Government of Belize declared a State of Emergency on April 1st, 2020, seven days after the first case was identified, and enacted a complete closure of all borders and ports of entry (except cargo), as well as a night curfew and the closure of nonessential business. As a result, Belize accumulated only 18 cases by mid-April 2020,¹⁶ and there were no new cases until early June 2020, when controlled repatriation of Belizeans started. Belize remained as one of the countries with the lowest number of cases of COVID-19 until the end of July (only 57 cases). The new cases identified between June and July corresponded to repatriated Belizeans and border crossings. Likewise, when the lock-down measures and restriction of non-essential activities were lifted in June 2020, new cases started being reported in tourist destinations, and later, in the rest of the country. Community transmission in Belize, under WHO classification, began in August 2020.¹⁷

¹⁰ <https://www.who.int/es/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/q-a-coronaviruses>.

¹¹ 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.

¹² Day, T., A. Park, N. Madras, A. Gumel, J. Wu. When is quarantine a useful control strategy for emerging infectious diseases? *American Journal of Epidemiology* 2006; 163(5): 479–485. doi:10.1093/aje/kwj056.

¹³ Ferguson, N., D. Cummings, C. Fraser, J.C. Cajka, P.C. Cooley, D.S. Burke. Strategies for mitigating an influenza pandemic. *Nature* 2006; 442: 448–452. doi:10.1038/nature04795.

¹⁴ Dénes, A., A. Gumel. Modeling the impact of quarantine during an outbreak of Ebola virus disease. *Infectious Disease Modelling* 2019; 4:12–27. doi:10.1016/j.idm.2019.01.003.

¹⁵ Bartsch SM et al. 2020.

¹⁶ Belize Press Office. Update on COVID-19 Cases. April 13, 2020.

¹⁷ WHO. Weekly epidemiological update - November 17th, 2020. Available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update---17-november-2020> Accessed on November 20th, 2020.

- 1.5 **As a result of the second wave of cases, Government of Belize continued its adoption of social distancing and returned to strict prevention measures.** The spike in cases in August caused the airport re-opening, which was going to take place in August 2020, to be postponed to October of the same year. The country is since then experiencing a second wave of cases, which are increasing exponentially, and it has the highest rate of new cases per 10,000 inhabitants among the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)¹⁸ member states and the highest number of active COVID-19 cases among 20 other CARICOM nations.^{19,20} As of February 2nd, 2021, Belize had completed 70,993 tests, confirmed 11,945 cases and 302 deaths.²¹ In December of 2020, Government of Belize declared a Nationwide Curfew, the mandatory use of masks, social distancing, and the continued application of protocols on social gatherings. In addition, every person who arrives in Belize shall comply with a series of requirements prior to arrival at the airport, which include testing and the use of a digital contact tracing application.²²
- 1.6 **Early in the pandemic, the Government of Belize identified several areas of vulnerability in the health system in the context of the pandemic and requested the restructuring of an IDB loan to address them.** The main areas needing attention included the following: (i) shortages of equipment and supplies for COVID-19 testing in the national laboratory system; (ii) inadequate facilities for case surveillance at point of entry; (iii) critical gaps in availability of nurses, medical officers, lab technicians and other personnel; (iv) lack of sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical equipment including ventilators, patient monitors, portable x-rays and ultrasounds; (v) potential disruption of care for critical groups (women of reproductive age, chronic disease patients, and victims of gender violence) due to increased demand from COVID-19 patients; and, (vi) low capacity to properly manage medical waste. As a result, the Government of Belize requested the Bank's support to restructure the "Sustainable Tourism Program II" (3566/OC-BL) and reorient resources totaling US\$6.2 million 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)²³. Through this operation, approved on June 4th, 2020, the country's capacity to detect cases was improved by strengthening the country's testing capacity, reflected by an increased in the cumulative number of tests from 452 tests per 100,000 inhabitants in June 2020 to 14,430 in January 2021. The operation also increased health services' capacity to maintain continuity of care for essential groups while absorbing the burden of increasing numbers of COVID-19 patients. For instance, through

¹⁸ CARPHA Situation report no. 117. December 10th, 2020. <https://carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus/CARPHA-Situation-Reports-for-COVID-19>.

¹⁹ The 20 nations of CARICOM are: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos Islands. The member states of CARPHA additionally include Aruba, BES Islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba), Curacao, Sint Maarten.

²⁰ CARICOM: COVID-19 Dashboard. Accessed on December 17th, 2020. <https://infogram.com/1p3mqdeyw3kzpj0gv052y96d3sdm9p9zyd>.

²¹ MoHW. Belize COVID-19 Cumulative Report. Data for January 26th, 2021 and IDB COVID-19 Situation update. January 26, 2021.

²² Belize Tourism Board. COVID-19 Update. <https://www.belize-tourism-board.org/news-and-gallery/belize-covid-19-update/>. Accessed on January 6th, 2021.

²³ In addition, the Bank is supporting Belize to ensuring minimum levels of quality of life for vulnerable persons amid the crisis caused by COVID-19 through the operation "Support to Safety Nets for Vulnerable Populations affected by Corona virus in Belize" (5056/OC-BL)", approved on June 12, 2020.

3566/OC- BL-2 more than five dozen temporary health workers have been hired and trained and the number of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds was doubled.

- 1.7 **In addition to these actions, the Government of Belize aims to get access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines to more effectively interrupt the chain of transmission and fight the pandemic.** Worldwide, as of January 8th, 2021 there are 63 vaccine candidates in the clinical trial phase. Of these, 18 are in Phase 3 or Phase 2/3, and three have been already authorized by one or more Stringent Regulatory Authorities (SRA).²⁴ However, countries with small market power like Belize face challenges to access COVID-19 vaccines. To address this problem, the 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)²⁵ and the WHO, launched the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX).²⁶
- 1.8 **COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX).** COVAX is one of four pillars of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator launched in April 2020 and will be operational for an initial period of up to 3 years to enable supply under the Commitment Agreements.²⁷ 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, including Belize, and 92 are using the Advanced Market Commitment (AMC) arrangement.²⁸ Eight of the nine vaccine candidates from the COVAX portfolio are in advanced human clinical trials, and several have shown high rates of efficacy. To date, COVAX has signed agreements, memorandums of understanding or pronouncements of intent with AstraZeneca / Oxford, Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) and Sanofi / GSK for a total of at least 870 million doses, (apart from an agreement with the Serum Institute of India, with production license from NOVAVAX and AstraZeneca, for large quantities of doses for countries under the subsidized regime). The selection of vaccines²⁹ 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

²⁴ A stringent regulatory authority or SRA is an international respected regulatory body that has been prequalified by WHO to conduct pharmaceuticals regulatory review processes. For a detailed definition, please refer to: <https://www.who.int/medicines/regulation/sras/en/>

²⁵ CEPI is a global partnership between public, private, philanthropic, and civil society organizations which aims at accelerating the development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases and enable equitable access to these vaccines for people during outbreaks.

²⁶ <https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/covax-explained>.

²⁷ The ACT-Accelerator is organized into four pillars of work: diagnostics, treatment, vaccines and health system strengthening <https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/about>

²⁸ The AMC-eligible economies access to the vaccines will be largely subsidized funded through Official Development Assistance (ODA), as opposed to self-financing countries as Belize, that will pay upfront the cost and delivery of the vaccine. AMC- countries are those with Gross National Income (GNI) per capita under US\$ 4,000 or/and are World Bank International Development Association (IDA)-eligible economies. As per World Bank's data, Belize is not an IDA eligible country. Its GNI per capita (constant LCU) was US\$ 6,664 in 2019.

²⁹ Vaccines procured under the COVAX Facility will be required to be prequalified (PQ) by the World Health Organization (WHO), following WHO target product profile for COVID-19 vaccines and recommendations by WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) or, on an exceptional basis, at a minimum, licensure/authorization from a Stringent Regulatory Authority (SRA). If acceptable to the receiving country, Emergency Use Listing (EUL) by the WHO may be used. For the list of SRAs, please see: (<https://www.who.int/medicines/regulation/sras/en/>).

supplying around two billion doses globally by the end of 2021. At the end of January 2021, COVAX sent a communication to participating countries, including Belize, specifying a tentative number of AstraZeneca doses to be received in the first two quarters of 2021. This first allocation will still be partial and lower in terms of the total commitment doses agreed between the parties.

- 1.9 **Vaccine implementation logistics.** Belize has an adequate public health infrastructure and has successfully delivered vaccines through its expanded immunization program (currently includes 12 vaccines), as demonstrated by its high immunization rates. However, introducing a novel COVID-19 vaccine will require support for the COVID-19 vaccination preparedness planning activities³⁰. One of MoHW's main concerns regarding the COVID-19 vaccine is the cold chain capacity at urban and rural facilities. A list of needed cold chain equipment has been determined for the national vaccine storage facility and by district and health facility. According to the preliminary COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan prepared by MoHW, 95% of a total of 44 primary care health facilities in the public health sector have cold chain capacity installed for the management of vaccines but require equipment upscaling; 81.8% (36) do not have access to a back up generator should they experience power failure; 100% have limited vaccine carriers or similar insulated containers; but not all have cold boxes to respond in case of power failure or to transport large quantities of vaccines from one location to another. The national vaccine storage facility located in Belmopan has two walk-in coolers for the storage of vaccines at +2°C - +8°C.³¹ 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 audiovisuals), training of health care workers (public, private, and non-governmental organization). Strengthening supply chain management of the vaccine and its supplies, as well as the registration, status tracking, and adverse effects will be essential for the vaccines implementation in Belize.
- 1.10 **Rationale.** Belize developed and updated its COVID-19 operation plan with PAHO's support, and it is consistent with the nine pillars of WHO's COVID-19 Operational Planning Guidelines to Support Country Preparedness and Response ([OEL#2](#)). The plan is placing new emphasis on action to prevent and contain transmission of the illness, of which assuring access to COVID-19 vaccines is key. The MoHW, with PAHO's technical assistance, is currently preparing a National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan 2021/2022.³²

³⁰ 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 minus 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.

³¹ Belize will not require at this moment to update its cold chain capacity as the vaccines purchased under the COVAX mechanism are not from manufacturers using mRNA technology platforms that require cold chain equipment to maintain vaccines below minus 80 °C (Ultra Cold Chain - UCC).

³² MoHW is using WHO's Interim guidance to prepare the COVID-19 deployment plan. The elaboration of the plan considers the WHO-SAGE values framework for the allocation and prioritization of COVID-19 vaccination. Also, the National Vaccination Program uses PAHO's revolving fund to procure the roster of its vaccines and follow WHO protocols.

- 1.11 On September 18th, 2020, the Government of Belize signed a Committed Purchase Agreement with the Gavi Alliance to join COVAX, through which it will have access to 238,800 COVID-19 vaccine doses, which is estimated to cover 30% of the population (about 119,400 people), considering that each person will require two doses of the vaccine. The cost of the signed Committed Purchase Agreement is US\$2,519,340, with an indicative cost of US\$10.55 per dose. The Government of Belize covered the initial payment (the downpayment) of US\$382,080 with IDB financing under 3566/OC-BL-2.³³ Under the Committed Purchase Agreement, Belize is required to provide a financial guarantee to the Gavi Alliance for up to US\$2,137,260 which represents the amount due in terms of future payment obligations for the balance of the agreement. Due to the Gavi Alliance's risk considerations,³⁴ the guarantee must be issued on behalf of Belize by an international entity with an investment grade risk qualification, reason for which the Government of Belize has requested Bank's support to process a guarantee operation for the indicated amount.
- 1.12 **Implementation of COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan.** The MoHW is identifying gaps and needs through the COVID-19 Vaccine Introduction Readiness Assessment Tool (VIRAT) provided by PAHO. The execution of the plan will require resources to address the identified gaps (¶1.9), and the Government of Belize has requested the Bank to provide investment financing for this purpose, in addition to the guarantee required for the vaccine purchase. The proposed prioritized population, based on the scenarios of community transmission, and the availability of vaccine supply as per WHO-SAGE values framework for the allocation and prioritization of the COVID-19 vaccination and the WHO-SAGE Roadmap for Prioritizing Population Groups for vaccines against COVID-19,³⁵ will be comprised of health care workers, civil servants in contact with the public, population aged 60+ years, and those with underlying conditions (such as chronic diseases).³⁶ The Maternal and Child Health Unit of the MoHW is responsible for the National COVID- 19 Vaccine Deployment Plan preparation.³⁷
- 1.13 Since the Bank is already supporting Belize's efforts to slow transmission of the virus and strengthen the health system's capacity to manage COVID-19 patients through the project for the "Immediate Public Health Response to Contain and Control the Coronavirus and Mitigate its Impact on Service Delivery in Belize" (3566/OC-BL-2) (¶1.6), which included the down payment to the COVAX Facility, additional financing through the present guarantee and investment loan operation will allow the Bank to

³³ On October 2nd, 2020, the government requested the second modification of Loan Contract 3566/OC-BL to permit the financing of the down payment. Direct contracting of Gavi Alliance as a procurement agent for the acquisition of 238,800 doses of vaccines, and the subsequent financing of the down payment required under the Committed Purchase Agreement for US\$382,080, was justified according to: a) Gavi Alliance acts as a contracting agent; b) the special procurement measures identified in document GN-2996 and approved by the Bank's Board of Executive Directors through Resolution 28/20; and c) the procurement provisions indicated in subsections (c) and (e) of paragraph 3.7 of the Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works Financed by the IDB (GN-2349-15).

³⁴ The Gavi Alliance required a financial instrument through which they could be able to trigger payment, therefore an investment loan from the Bank to Belize could not fulfil this objective.

³⁵ https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/334299/WHO-2019-nCoV-SAGE_Framework-Allocation_and_prioritization-2020.1-eng.pdf?ua=1, and <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/who-sage-roadmap-for-prioritizing-uses-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-the-context-of-limited-supply>.

³⁶ Including equitable attention to indigenous/ethnic identity and gender.

³⁷ The MoHW may need to establish a special team to supervise the COVID vaccine roll-out.

deliver a comprehensive package of assistance, ensuring vaccine acquisition³⁸ and deployment.

- 1.14 **The Bank's experience and lessons learned.** This health operation will benefit from lessons learned from the Bank's health portfolio in Belize, including the Mesoamerica Health Initiative (in its three rounds: GRT/HE-13134-BL; GRT/HE-13135-BL; GRT/HE-14756-BL; GRT/HE-14757-BL; GRT/HE-16712-BL; GRT/HE-16713-BL, respectively), in which consecutive operations have progressively improved reproductive and child health indicators in two of the four regions in the country, with vaccination constituting an area subject to strengthening. These operations have been executed with the support of the Maternal and Child Health Unit, in charge of the National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment plan. The Bank is also financing the Immediate Public Health Response to Contain and Control the Coronavirus and Mitigate its Impact on Service Delivery in Belize (3566/OC-BL-2), which is complementary to this operation, and whose experience guided the design of this operation, specifically in identifying the need to strengthen the Project Execution Unit (PEU)'s capacity by including a procurement specialist and communication specialist to facilitate project implementation. Several of these operations, in addition to Technical Cooperation for Improving the Efficiency of the Public Health Expenditure (ATN/OC-16194-BL), contributed to strengthening the MoHW's monitoring capacity of health indicators and the use of Belize's Health Information System (BHIS).³⁹
- 1.15 **Coordination with other multilaterals and/or donor agencies and partners.** Belize developed its COVID-19 operation plan with PAHO's support, and it is consistent with the nine pillars of WHO's COVID-19 Operational Planning Guidelines to Support Country Preparedness and Response. The IDB's response through 3566/OC-BL-2 is in line with these intervention pillars, ensuring a coordinated effort with other donors supporting MoHW. In preparation for the COVID-19 vaccination, the Government of Belize is working closely with PAHO and UNICEF in the preparation of the National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan. Up to date, the plan is well advanced and approval of the draft is expected by the end of January. In addition, the MoHW has finalized the assessment of gaps regarding cold chain equipment and vaccines supplies through the WHO's Cold Chain Assessment Tool and the Vaccine Introduction Readiness Assessment Tool (VIRAT-VRAF 2.0).⁴⁰ Finally, the IDB has been in regular communication with PAHO, the CEPI, and Gavi Alliance in coordinating the proposed activities with the COVAX Facility.
- 1.16 **Strategic alignment.** The operation is consistent with the Second Update to the Institutional Strategy (AB-3190-2), and it is aligned with the Social Inclusion and Equality development challenge as the proposed interventions guarantee fair and equitable access to a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines. Likewise, it will

³⁸ Vaccination acquisition through IDB Financing is contingent on the fulfillment of determined technical criteria. Please refer to optional electronic link ([OEL #6](#)).

³⁹ Currently, there are two regional TCs approved with the objective to support beneficiary countries, Belize one of them, in their health response for COVID-19. These are ATN/JF-17990-RG, ATN/JF-17991-RG, Operational Support to the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and Dominican Republic (COMISCA), and ATN/JF-17980-RG, Support to Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) for Coordinated COVID-19 Response in the Caribbean. These TC will complement the proposed health activities by providing technical assistance in updating protocols, as well as procuring selected supplies for health facilities.

⁴⁰ The VIRAT/VRAF 2.0 Tool was developed by WHO, UNICEF, and the World Bank.

contribute to the Corporate Results Framework 2020-2023 (GN-2727-12) through the indicator of beneficiaries receiving health services. In addition, the intervention is consistent with the Health and Nutrition Sector Framework Document (GN-2735-7) through its support for 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 Belize's National COVID-19 Response Plan, the Draft Belize COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan 2021/2022, and the COVID-19 Surveillance Guidelines.

B. Objectives, components, and cost

- 1.17 **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.
- 1.18 **Component 1 – Guarantee - (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 COVID-19 vaccines. Specifically, it will finance, through the issuance of a sovereign guarantee for up to US\$2,137,260 (See ¶1.11), the purchase of the committed doses of COVID-19 vaccines (channeled through 'Gavi' Alliance's COVAX Facility as a procurement agency). The vaccines should be sufficient to cover around 30% of the population of Belize, prioritized according to risk group according to the National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan.⁴¹
- 1.19 **Component 2 – Investment Loan - (BL-L1036). Facilitating vaccine accessibility (US\$2,732,228).** This component will finance investments for the National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan involving activities to strengthen logistics of conservation (storage⁴² and cold chain management), distribution and deployment of vaccines (transportation and application), and it will support facility readiness, stock tracking, and vaccination registry. In addition, it will include the development and execution of a public information campaign regarding the vaccine and its benefits in order to encourage demand among the population.
- 1.20 **Subcomponent 2.1. Strengthening vaccine logistics, supply chain management, and application.** This subcomponent will provide funding to purchase required inputs to ensure vaccine delivery to health service sites and vaccine administration to individuals, which include the following: logistical items and tools (stock tracking and monitoring system, and vaccination cards); shipping, handling, insurance of vaccines and customs brokerage; cold chain equipment (including walk-in coolers, refrigerators, iceline freezers, generators⁴³, cold boxes, ice packs, thermos, thermometers, etc.); temporary health workers; training

⁴¹ Belize has a relatively high percentage of young population (46% of the country's population are under 19 years of age), therefore, vaccination of 30% (the operation's target) will cover in fact around 55% of the adult population.

⁴² Does not include construction works or physical infrastructure such as warehouses or other kinds of buildings for storage.

⁴³ Refers to 7 90 Amps 20KW generators and 29 Single Phase (20-30 amps, 12kw, single phase) and the cement platform where they will be placed or installed. Preference will be given to energy efficient and low-emissions models of generators that are currently available in the market and are cost-effective.

materials for health workers, transportation (vehicles, maintenance costs); and medical supplies depending on vaccine technology (syringes, vaccine carriers, vaccine carriers thermometers, safety boxes, cotton, and alcohol), PPE; biohazardous waste disposal bags, and containers for needles.

- 1.21 **Subcomponent 2.2. Promoting vaccine take-up.** Resources from this subcomponent will be used to prepare and implement a communication campaign for the general public regarding COVID-19 and the vaccination effort (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. It will finance the design of educational materials, the broadcast of messages on television, radio and other media, as well as the hiring of a communication specialist.
- 1.22 **Project administration, evaluation, and auditing (US\$130,512).** The Policy, Planning and Project Management Unit (PPPMU) team, responsible for project implementation, will be strengthened with a procurement specialist consultant, a communication specialist, and the hiring of six drivers for the vaccine operational activities. In addition, this component will finance the project evaluation activities and the required external auditing costs.
- 1.23 **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 lower transmission. The main expected outcome is to increase the number of people from priority groups which receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Also, users of public health services will benefit from the strengthening of the MoHW's institutional capacity in terms of logistics and supply chain management.

C. Key results indicators

- 1.24 **Expected outcomes.** The objective of this project is to help reduce the morbidity and mortality caused by COVID-19 and to mitigate other indirect impacts of the pandemic on health. The main outcomes will be an increase in the percentage of health personnel and people in prioritized groups (elderly and chronic disease patients) who have been vaccinated against COVID-19.
- 1.25 **Economic viability.** A cost-benefit analysis was prepared for the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine. The analysis took into account the potential impact of implementing a vaccination program on COVID-19's mortality and morbidity rates under a treatment scenario where a fraction of the total population is vaccinated with a counterfactual scenario in absence of this intervention. Scenarios were simulated using a basic SIR (Susceptible - Infectious - Recovered) model modified to allow for vaccinated individuals' identification, with evidence-based conservative parameters and assumptions available in published articles on COVID-19 or similar epidemics. The costs associated with vaccines include both purchasing and distributing the COVID-19 vaccines, with expected prices based on information from Gavi Alliance and distribution costs from WHO information on earlier immunization programs in low- and middle-income countries. Under the base case scenario for treatment, the

cost-benefit analysis attains a Net Present Value of US\$81.4 million, while the Benefit:Cost ratio is 15.66. Being considerably higher than one, it suggests that the intervention is economically beneficial.⁴⁴ (OEL#1).

II. FINANCING STRUCTURE AND MAIN RISKS

A. Financing instruments

- 2.1 The proposed project will be financed through an investment loan and a guarantee for investment project operation for a total amount of US\$5 million between both instruments (BL-L1036 and BL-U0001 respectively) from resources of the Bank's Ordinary Capital. The Credit Guarantee for Investment Project (BL-U0001) consists of a guarantee of the payment obligation of the amount due by Belize under the Committed Purchase Agreement in terms of future payment obligations for the purchase of the vaccines of up to US\$2,137,260 to be issued for a term of up to 25 years and an original average weighted life of up to 15.25 years. The proposed guarantee is aligned with the principles established in the Flexible Guarantee Instrument Policy Applicable to Sovereign Guaranteed Operations (GN-2729-2) (the "Guarantee Policy") and its operating guidelines (GN-2729-4), in that, among others: (i) it is a guarantee with a sovereign counter-guarantee in support of an investment project; (ii) it is issued on behalf of an eligible beneficiary country; and (iii) the financial conditions of the guarantee and sovereign counter-guarantee are in line with the financial parameters established in the Guarantee Policy. The availability period for the Bank to issue the guarantee will be 12 months from the effective date of the sovereign counter-guarantee agreement between Belize and the Bank. In the case of BL-L1036, the operation consists of a specific investment loan for an amount of up to US\$2,862,740, including administration, evaluation, and auditing costs. The disbursement period of the loan will be up to three years.⁴⁵

Table 2.1. Estimated project costs (US\$ thousands)

Components	BL-U0001	BL-L1036	Total	%
Component 1. Ensuring timely vaccine availability	2,137	0	2,137	43
Component 2. Facilitating vaccine accessibility	0	2,732	2,732	55
Subcomponent 2.1. Strengthening vaccine logistics and supply chain management, and application	0	2,554	2,554	51
Subcomponent 2.2. Promoting vaccine take-up	0	178	178	4
Project administration, evaluation, and auditing	0	131	131	3
Total	2,137	2,863	5,000	100

⁴⁴ When this analysis was conducted, efficacy rates of 58% were considered likely. However, Phase 3 trials are showing much higher efficacy rates than expected-some higher than 90%. Adjusting this assumption upward toward the newly revealed efficacy rates would raise the cost-benefit ratio.

⁴⁵ The COVAX Facility is planned to be operational for an initial period of up to three years to enable supply under the Commitment Agreements. In that regard, the disbursement period is aligned with COVAX facility's terms and conditions.

Table 2.2 Disbursement schedule – Component 2 (US\$ thousands)

	Year 1	Year2	Year 3	Total
IDB	1,322	1,304	136	2,863
%	46%	46%	8%	100%

2.2 Terms and conditions of the Guarantee. The proposed guarantee will have the following characteristics: (i) will be guaranteeing a payment obligation (credit risk) for investment projects for an amount of up to US\$2,137,260, equivalent to 100% of the project costs; (ii) will guarantee the payment obligation of the Government of Belize under the Committed Purchase Agreement it signed with Gavi Alliance; (iii) will be issued in favor of Gavi Alliance, acting as manager for COVAX; and (iv) will 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 the vaccines. The guarantee allows for Belize to fulfill the requirements related to the future payment obligation of the Committed Purchase Agreement (¶1.11), which would not be possible without the proposed operation. The guarantee has been designed to provide financial additionality in case the country is not able to obtain its own financing to face the future payment obligations under the Committed Purchase Agreement terms and, in the event of a paid claim, provides an extended period for Belize to repay the Bank over a longer period similar to that of a loan.

2.3 Terms and conditions of the Counter Guarantee. The Guarantee to Gavi Alliance will be backed by a sovereign counter-guarantee of Belize, by virtue of which, in the event that the Bank is required to make a disbursement under the Guarantee, the amount disbursed by the Bank will be reimbursed by Belize. The terms and conditions of said reimbursement will be similar to those of an investment loan between the Bank and Belize. As of the date of payment by the Bank, the total amount to be reimbursed will accrue interest at the same rate applicable to sovereign guaranteed loans with resources from the Bank's ordinary capital and will be subject to the other applicable policies. The Bank and Belize may agree on a flexible amortization profile, within the parameters established by the Bank in the Flexible Financing Facility (FN-655-1). The repayment term will be limited by the original weighted average life of the guarantee, and the total repayment must be completed within the remaining average weighted life.

B. Environmental and social risks

2.4 In accordance with Directive B.3 of the Bank's Environmental and Safeguard Compliance Policy (OP-703), the Operation associated with Component 1 (BL- U0001) and the Operation associated with Component 2 (BL-L1036) are classified as Category "C" because they will cause minor negative environmental and social impacts, mainly generation of some additional medical waste.⁴⁶ The vaccine will be administered to prioritized groups including health care professionals, elderly and chronic disease patients according to WHO/PAHO Guidelines without discrimination. There may be some risk of exclusion explicitly or

⁴⁶ Both operations/components are Category C since both are clearly defined as well as their potential environmental and social impact; therefore they can be screened and classified (ex-ante impact classification is feasible).

implicitly, that must be reviewed within the framework of the prioritization criteria considered in the vaccination plan. In addition, the criteria should be applied in a fair, transparent, inclusive and responsible manner according to WHO-SAGE values framework for the allocation and prioritization of COVID-19 vaccination (see ¶1.12). This effort will be supported by an operational evaluation of the implementation of the National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan. Since there may be some biohazardous waste generated as a result of the administering of the vaccine, an Environmental and Social Management Plan will be in implementation before the activities of the investment loan Operation begin and throughout the period of disbursement and extensions of the Operation, that will include minimum standards for management of medical waste (See ¶3.7).

C. Fiduciary risks

- 2.5 A recent fiduciary risk assessment indicated that risks in financial and procurement management are considered medium-low (Annex III). The risk assessment took into account the Bank's experience collaborating with the Policy, Planning and Project Management Unit (PPPMU) within MoHW 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. Table 2.3 summarizes the key fiduciary risks and the mitigating actions:

Table 2.3 Fiduciary Risks and Mitigation Actions

Fiduciary risk	Mitigation action
Possible delays in procurement due to disruption and high demand of the global, regional and national supply chain for key goods or items (classified as medium-high).	(i) Aggregate demand (i.e. PAHO); (ii) Use simplified procurement methods when adequate, like direct contracting or price comparison; (iii) Identify new suppliers in the international market; (iv) Hire and/or appoint personnel for the PEU, including a Procurement Specialist, in accordance with a Terms of Reference previously agreed upon with the Bank; (v) Provide training to the PEU regarding procurement policies and methods.
Possible errors in financial reporting due to lack of an internal audit system and a weak national external audit system (classified as medium-high).	Hire an independent external auditor to audit the financial statements. These financial statements will be presented in accordance with the policies and procedures established by the Bank.

D. Other key risks and issues

- 2.6 **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. Three development risks were identified; the first risk, classified as high relates to: (i) If the National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan is not complemented with a detailed planning of the operative logistics with anticipated procurement of required inputs, a shortage of key supplies or human resources could take place (including transportation, cold chains, specialized personnel, among others), which could diminish the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign. To mitigate this risk, Belize is simplifying the regulatory procedures for the vaccine (i.e., the MoHW relies on the WHO mechanisms for prequalification of vaccines and the surveillance of the quality and safety). Similarly, Belize is conducting a gaps analysis for required equipment and inputs with technical assistance from PAHO and is formulating a

corresponding procurement plan for these items. The second risk, classified as medium-high refers to the case (ii) if the National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan does not include a prioritization framework agreed upon all relevant parties, including clear selection criteria, and operational guidelines for deployment, and the supervision of the implementation of the prioritization guidelines is weak, the allocation of vaccines might not be targeted or allocated efficiently. To mitigate this risk, the MoHW with technical assistance from PAHO will prepare the key components for the prioritization framework based on international guidelines, and COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan.

- 2.7 The third risk, classified as medium-high, is associated with border closings and disruption of global air transportation, which could also impact delivery times and costs of supplies for the country. This risk has been accentuated by the recent appearance of potentially more contagious variants of the virus in different parts of the world, which could trigger the adoption of travel restrictions. To mitigate this risk, the Government of Belize will rely on PAHO or another specialized agency which will be contracted to conduct the necessary procurement processes for the required medical equipment and supplies, and for the services of shipping, handling, insurance, and customs brokerage.
- 2.8 **Sustainability.** The interventions financed under the project follow WHO recommendations for the containment, management, and treatment of epidemics/pandemics due to infectious diseases such as COVID-19, including the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines. Belize's vaccination strategy will be guided by a National COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan, as detailed in ¶1.12, and reflected in the special contractual conditions in ¶3.5. In this way, the project will enable Belize to strengthen its overall vaccination capacity, in particular the cold chain equipment, monitoring, and risk communication to move in the medium term to cover an even larger percentage of the population with COVID-19 vaccines, than the 30% considered under the COVAX mechanism. Additionally, the containment and resolution of health challenges is considered a prerequisite for sustainable economic and social recovery in the medium and long term.

III. IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

A. Summary of implementation arrangements

- 3.1 In the case of the investment loan (BL-L1036), the borrower will be Belize. In the case of the guarantee operation (BL-U0001), the guaranteed obligor will be Belize, and the guaranteed beneficiary will be Gavi Alliance. Based upon the Committed Purchase Agreement, the Government of Belize assumed a future payment obligation of up to US \$2,137,260 with Gavi Alliance, in its capacity as COVAX administrator, for the purchase of up to 238,800 doses of vaccines. In accordance with the Committed Purchase Agreement, said payment obligation must be backed by a guarantee, such as the one in the proposed guarantee component.
- 3.2 **Executing agency.** The executing agency will be the Ministry of Health. The MoHW, through its PPPMU will implement the project activities for the investment loan. The PPPMU will include a full-time project coordinator, financial specialist, procurement specialist, and a health planner. The Maternal and Child Health Unit of the MoHW

will be responsible for supervising the technical aspects of the COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan implementation.

- 3.3 **Execution and administration.** The responsibilities of the PPPMU include: (i) Annual Operating Plan (AOP) preparation and implementation; (ii) financial administration, accounting, and preparation of budgets and disbursement requests; (iii) annual procurement plan preparation and procurement of goods and services; (iv) preparation of technical reports and financial statements; (v) monitoring progress of all activities; (vi) selection and hiring of the external audit firm and implementation of recommendations; (vii) hiring of consultants to conduct external evaluations; and (viii) serving as liaison to the Bank.
- 3.4 **Interagency coordination.** A Project Steering Committee (PSC) has been established to provide policy and strategic direction for the execution of the immediate health response project (3566/OC-BL-2), and it will perform the same functions with the present project, in particular activities for the investment loan. The PSC has representatives from the MoHW, the Ministry of Economic Development and Ministry of Finance. The overall objective of the PSC is to monitor progress of the project execution plan and provide direction to the PPPMU when reports may signal extraordinary challenges for its implementation. The PSC also assesses any significant changes to the execution plan and any major risks that threaten the completion of activities to ensure adequate mitigative actions are carried-out and that the projects deliver expected results.
- 3.5 **Special contractual conditions precedent to the first disbursement of the loan proceeds: the Borrower shall provide evidence to the satisfaction of the Bank of:**(i) the approval by the MoHW of a National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan according to international guidelines and in terms previously agreed to with the Bank; (ii) the approval of a Project Operations Manual, in terms previously agreed to with the Bank, which should include, among others, the assignment of responsibilities within the Executing Agency, and the definition of the scope of work for the Project Steering Committee; and (iii) the assignment or hiring of the PPPMU's personnel responsible for managing the project, including a project coordinator, a financial specialist, a procurement specialist, and a health planner. These conditions will ensure that the project has in place the necessary organizational and operational elements for proper implementation and mitigate fiduciary risks.
- 3.6 **Special contractual conditions precedent to the issuance of the guarantee: Issuance of the guarantee will be subject to the fulfillment, to the satisfaction of the Bank, of the following conditions:** (i) The Bank and the Guaranteed Beneficiary have negotiated and agreed upon the terms of a guarantee contract; and (ii) That a Counter Guarantee contract between the Bank and the Counter Guarantor has entered into effect in terms acceptable to the Bank. These conditions are required to issue the guarantee following the principles of due diligence and compliance with the Guarantee Policy, as well as to ensure due compliance with the project's operational aspects and to mitigate fiduciary risks for the Bank.
- 3.7 **Special contractual condition of execution: Prior to beginning the activities of the investment loan operation, the Borrower shall provide evidence to the**

satisfaction of the Bank that the Environmental and Social Management Plan has been updated based on the plan currently under implementation in project 3566/OC-BL-2; and shall begin implementation before the activities of the investment loan operation begin, and continue to be implemented during the disbursement period and its extensions (see ¶2.4, and [OEL#5](#))". This is to ensure that the minor environmental impacts and risks related to the administering of the vaccine that will produce some biohazardous waste are properly managed.

- 3.8 **Retroactive financing.** The Bank may retroactively finance up to US\$560,918 (20% of the loan amount) in eligible expenditures made by the borrower on or after January 5th, 2021 (the Project Profile approval date) for COVID-19 vaccines supplies (syringes, thermometer, thermos, safety boxes, alcohol), cold chain equipment, and PPE (gloves, masks), provided that procurement requirements substantially similar to those of the loan contract were met. Such expenditures must have been made on or after January 5th, 2021, but under no circumstances will expenses incurred more than 18 months before the loan approval date be included.
- 3.9 **Procurement.** Procurement financed in whole or in part with proceeds from the loan will be undertaken in accordance with the Policies for the Procurement of Works and Goods Financed by the IDB (document GN-2349-15) ("the Procurement Policies") and the Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants Financed by the IDB (document GN-2350-15) ("the Consultant Policies"). The procurement plan (see [REL#2](#)) lists the procurement items for the project. In addition, and as per the Guarantee Policy, the guarantee operation will follow the Bank's procurement policies. Such policies require that goods, works and services financed by the guaranteed loan will be procured with due attention to economy and efficiency principles and that such procedures cause the project to be carried out diligently and efficiently. Said goods, works and services must comply with three aspects: (i) be of a satisfactory quality and compatible with the balance of the project objectives; (ii) be delivered and completed in a timely fashion; and (iii) be priced so as not to affect adversely the economic and financial viability of the project.
- 3.10 **Special procurement measures.** Pursuant to the IDB Group's Governance Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Outbreak (document GN-2996 ¶4.2 and Resolution DE-28/20), the following special measures will apply to the investment loan operation: (i) goods whose origin is from non-Bank member countries may be eligible for procurement; and suppliers, contractors, consultants or service providers from non-Bank member countries will be able to participate in the selection procedures; (ii) the procurement policies of the Procurement Agents and specialized agencies can be used when they are hired as such by the Borrower or, as the case may be, by the Executing Agency; and (iii) consolidated contracting on an international level, as well as procurement by adhering to existing contracts of the Borrower, may be used as procurement methods in addition to those described in the Procurement Policies and the Consultant Policies .
- 3.11 **Direct contracting.** Direct contracting of PAHO is proposed for medical supplies, and for the service of: shipping, handling, insurance of vaccines, and customs broker. The selection of PAHO is based on its capabilities in procurement and supply management, as it purchases a wide array of products and services and has a vendor network. Direct contracting is justified according to 3.7 (e) of the Bank's

Procurement Policy (GN-2349-15), that allows direct contracting in exemptional cases for example emergency situations (COVID-19 pandemic).

- 3.12 **Disbursements.** Disbursements of the investment loan will be made primarily through advances of funds based on liquidity needs, and supporting justification for advances will be provided pursuant to the provisions of the Financial Management Guidelines for IDB-financed Projects (document OP-273-12) and the Loan Contract. They will be determined based on payment needs, following the provisions of the Financial Management Guidelines for IDB-financed Projects (document OP-273-12) and the Fiduciary Arrangements and Requirements (Annex III).
- 3.13 **Guarantee trigger events.** As the Guarantee will be unconditional and irrevocable, the IDB will pay Gavi Alliance upon its claim request, as agreed in the guarantee contract in case Belize does not meet its future payment obligation under the Committed Purchase Agreement terms. Due to the nature of the guaranteed investment, the guarantee could be called multiple times, but in no case will the amount to be paid by the Bank under the guarantee contract exceed US\$2,137,260.
- 3.14 **Audit.** Throughout the loan disbursement period, the executing agency will submit to the Bank the project's annual audited financial statements for the investment loan within 120 days after the close of the fiscal year. The audit will be conducted by a Bank-eligible independent audit firm. The audit's scope and related considerations will be governed by the Financial Management Guidelines (document OP-273-12) and the Guide for Financial Reports and Management of External Audit. Audit costs will be financed with project resources.

B. Summary of arrangements for monitoring results

- 3.15 **Monitoring.** The executing agency will be responsible for implementing the monitoring and evaluation plan. In light of the crisis, the main monitoring tools for this project will be the results matrix and the procurement plan. The main sources for monitoring impact, outcome, and output indicators will be the service delivery records from the health system and the epidemiological data for local, regional, and national monitoring. The executing agency will prepare multiyear and annual execution plans once the emergency situation has stabilized. The main reporting tool will be the progress monitoring report (PMR), which will use the project's annual and semiannual reports as its main sources of information.
- 3.16 **Evaluation.** Given the nature of this operation, the evaluation will assess the project's contribution to its specific development objectives to support the efforts to interrupt the transmission chain of the illness through the vaccination of priority population groups. Whenever feasible, the evaluation will also analyze the contributions to the final general objectives of reducing the morbidity and mortality caused by COVID-19, as well as their social and economic repercussions. To that end, a "before and after" analysis will be conducted, using information from available time series on the following indicators: "Number of doses of COVID-19 vaccines procured", "Percentage of health personnel who have been vaccinated against COVID-19", and "Percentage of people in vulnerable groups (elderly and chronic disease patients) who have been vaccinated against COVID-19". For the purpose of attributing the observed results to the project intervention, the quantitative analysis will be supplemented with a review of the theory of change supported by relevant

evidence of the effectiveness of similar interventions in comparable contexts. Wherever feasible and appropriate, the evaluation will also take into account epidemiological evidence and models, as well as qualitative evidence and impact analyses.

Development Effectiveness Matrix		
Summary BL-L1036 - BL-U0001		
I. Corporate and Country Priorities		
1. IDB Group Strategic Priorities and CRF Indicators		
Development Challenges & Cross-cutting Themes	-Social Inclusion and Equality	
CRF Level 2 Indicators: IDB Group Contributions to Development Results	-Beneficiaries receiving health services (#)	
2. Country Development Objectives		
Country Strategy Results Matrix		
Country Program Results Matrix		The intervention is not included in the 2021 Operational Program.
Relevance of this project to country development challenges (If not aligned to country strategy or country program)		The operation is aligned with Belize's National COVID-19 Response Plan, the preliminary Belize COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan 2021/2022, and the COVID-19 Surveillance Guidelines. Please refer to paragraph1.16 of the POD document for further details.
II. Development Outcomes - Evaluability		Evaluable
3. Evidence-based Assessment & Solution		9.6
3.1 Program Diagnosis		3.0
3.2 Proposed Interventions or Solutions		3.6
3.3 Results Matrix Quality		3.0
4. Ex ante Economic Analysis		10.0
4.1 Program has an ERR/NPV, or key outcomes identified for CEA		3.0
4.2 Identified and Quantified Benefits and Costs		3.0
4.3 Reasonable Assumptions		1.0
4.4 Sensitivity Analysis		2.0
4.5 Consistency with results matrix		1.0
5. Monitoring and Evaluation		8.5
5.1 Monitoring Mechanisms		2.5
5.2 Evaluation Plan		6.0
III. Risks & Mitigation Monitoring Matrix		
Overall risks rate = magnitude of risks*likelihood		Low
Identified risks have been rated for magnitude and likelihood		Yes
Mitigation measures have been identified for major risks		Yes
Mitigation measures have indicators for tracking their implementation		Yes
Environmental & social risk classification		C
IV. IDB's Role - Additionality		
The project relies on the use of country systems		
Fiduciary (VPC/FMP Criteria)	Yes	Financial Management: Budget, Treasury.
Non-Fiduciary	Yes	Monitoring and Evaluation National System.
The IDB's involvement promotes additional improvements of the intended beneficiaries and/or public sector entity in the following dimensions:		
Additional (to project preparation) technical assistance was provided to the public sector entity prior to approval to increase the likelihood of success of the project	Yes	

Note: (*) Indicates contribution to the corresponding CRF's Country Development Results Indicator.

The proposal presents a program for USD5,000,000 to be financed by an investment loan of USD2,862,740 (BL-L1036 and a sovereign guarantee operation (credit guarantee for investment projects) for an amount up to USD2,137,260 (BL-U0001). The program is part of the Bank's operational response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Immediate Public Health Response to contain and control Coronavirus and mitigate its effect on provision of services. The general objective of the program is to contribute to reduce COVID-19 morbidity and mortality. The specific objective is to support efforts to interrupt the transmission chain of the disease.

The proposal presents a solid diagnosis of the problem, as well as a review of international evidence. The proposed solutions are an appropriate response to the problems identified in the proposal and its contributing factors. The results matrix is consistent with the vertical logic of the project, presenting adequate indicators at the level of outcomes and impacts. The outcome indicators are appropriately defined to measure the achievements of the project's specific objective. The impact indicators reflect the contribution to the final health -number of COVID-19 deaths and number of confirmed COVID-19 cases.

The economic evaluation considers the impact of the vaccination campaign in the reduction of the effective reproduction of the virus, and as a result, a reduction in COVID-19 morbidity and mortality rates from the use of the vaccines. The counterfactual scenario considers the absence of vaccines. The cost/benefit ratio is 15.66 suggesting an economic beneficial set of interventions.

The monitoring and evaluation plan proposes an evaluation of the contribution of the project in reducing the chain of transmission of the disease. If feasible, a reflective analysis of the outcome and impact indicators included in the result matrix, complemented by a review of the theory of change, and an updated review of international evidence. The monitoring and evaluation activities will be carried out by the Ministry of Health in coordination with the Bank.

INDICATIVE RESULTS MATRIX

Project Objective	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.
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EXPECTED IMPACT

Indicators	Unit of measurement	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Expected year for achievement	Target	Means of verification	Observations
General development objective: contribute to the reduction of the morbidity and mortality caused by COVID-19 and to mitigate indirect impacts of the pandemic.							
Number of deaths from COVID-19	Number	212	2020	2023	787	Epi data /BHIS/ SIB	Baseline as of 16 th of December 2020. The SIR model estimates a reduction of deaths with vaccine of 78% (3,605)*. *To be confirmed with Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW).
Confirmed cases of COVID-19	Number	9,672	2020	2023	42,000	Epi data / BHIS/ SIB	Baseline as of 16 th of December 2020. The SIR model estimates a reduction of cases with vaccine of 78% (192,000)*. *To be confirmed with MoHW.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Indicators	Unit of measurement	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	2021	2022	2023	End of Project	Means of verification	Observations
Specific development objective 1: Supporting initiatives to break the chain of transmission of the illness									
1.1 Percentage of health personnel who have been vaccinated against COVID-19	Percentage	0	2020	100	0	0	100	BHIS or Vaccination Monitoring System	Public and private medical personnel (3,537) = 7,781 doses. *two doses per person + 10% wastage.
1.2 Percentage of people in vulnerable groups (elderly and chronic disease patients) who have been vaccinated against COVID-19	Percentage	0	2020	40	30	25	95	BHIS or Vaccination Monitoring System	Elderly 60+ (26,249) = 57,747 doses. Chronic disease patients (38,285) = 84,227 doses.
1.3 COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan developed	Plan	0	2020	1	0	0	1	Plan approved by the MoHW	This plan outlines the strategy for distributing COVID-19 vaccine including a potential phased structure for the distribution of vaccine doses by prioritized group and district level, following PAHO's guidelines.

OUPUTS

Outputs	Unit of measurement	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	2021	2022	2023	End of project	Means of verification	Observations
Component 1 (BL-U0001): Ensuring timely vaccine availability									
1.1. Number of doses of COVID-19 vaccines procured	Number	238, 800	2020	95,520	95,520	47,760	238,800	Reports of the progress of the Covid-19 vaccination program of the MoHW	
Component 2 (BL-L1036): Facilitating vaccine accessibility									
2.1 Number of doses of COVID-19 vaccines delivered	Number	238, 800	2020	95,520	95,520	47,760	238,800	Reports of the progress of the Covid-19	The indicator refers to the number of doses delivered at a

Outputs	Unit of measurement	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	2021	2022	2023	End of project	Means of verification	Observations
								vaccination program of the MoHW	port of entry. (associated costs are for shipment, handling, insurance of vaccines and customs brokerage).
2.2. Number of health facilities with functional cold chain for COVID-19 vaccine	Number	0	2020	30	14	0	44	Reports of the progress of the Covid-19 vaccination program of the MoHW	Health facilities (health centers and hospitals) with functional cold chain includes: iceline freezers, refrigerators, cold boxes, and generators.
2.3. COVID-19 Supply chain management system developed	Number	0	2020	1	0	0	1	Supply chain system	This corresponds to the supply chain tracking system (bar code).
2.4. COVID-19 vaccine monitoring tools strengthened	Number	0	2020	1	0	0	1	Standard operating procedures of the Covid-19 vaccine monitoring tools	This corresponds to the monitoring system of the vaccine application (registration and status, tracking of adverse effects).
2.5. COVID-19 temporary health workers hired	Number	0	2020	15	0	0	15	Standard operating procedures of the Covid-19 vaccine monitoring tools	Number of temporary healthcare workers hired to support vaccination.
2.6. Districts with continued COVID-19 supplies and personnel trained	Number	0	2020	6	6	6	6	MoHW Reports	COVID-19 supplies for each district will include: syringes, thermometers, vaccine carriers, safety boxes, waste management

Outputs	Unit of measurement	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	2021	2022	2023	End of project	Means of verification	Observations
									supplies, PPE, and vaccination cards. It will also include training for health personnel. These supplies will be provided to each district based on need every year to ensure continuity of vaccine delivery.
2.7. Districts with vehicles for transportation and delivery of COVID-19 vaccine	Number	0	2020	6	0	0	6	Invoice	This includes one vehicle per district for vaccines transportation and delivery.
2.8. Risk communication and community engagement plan implementation	Number	0	2020	1	1	1	1	Document issued by the MoHW following the risk communication plan implementation or progress	This includes yearly activities to promote vaccination take-up, including media ads and the hiring of a communication specialist.

Country: Belize	Division: SPH	Operation No.: BL-L1036; BL-U0001	Year: 2021
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FIDUCIARY AGREEMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS

Executing Agency (EA): Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW)

Operation Name: Program to Support the Health Sector to Contain and Control Coronavirus and to Mitigate its Effect on Service Provision in Belize (BL-L1036); and Support to the Financing of the Purchase of COVID-19 Vaccine and its Implementation (BL-U0001).

I. Fiduciary Context of Executing Agency

1. Use of country system in the operation (Any system or subsystem that is subsequently approved may be applicable to the operation, in accordance with the terms of the Bank's validation).

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Budget	<input type="checkbox"/> Reports	<input type="checkbox"/> Information System	<input type="checkbox"/> National Competitive Bidding (NCB)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treasury	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal audit	<input type="checkbox"/> Shopping	<input type="checkbox"/> Others
<input type="checkbox"/> Accounting	<input type="checkbox"/> External Control	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Consultants	<input type="checkbox"/> Others

2. Fiduciary execution mechanism

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Particularities of the fiduciary execution	<p>Taking into account the Bank's experience working with the MoHW (EA) and the Policy, Planning, and Project Management Unit (PPPMU), that will act as Project Executing Unit (PEU), in the execution of Bank-financed projects, as well of its knowledge of the national fiduciary systems, fiduciary risks in financial and procurement management are considered medium / low. The EA and PEU have been working with the Bank in executing investment grants and TCs since 2011 when the first phase of the Salud Mesoamerica 2015 Initiative was approved. The EA and PEU are currently executing one (1) TC and two (2) investment grants. The project will capitalize on fiduciary capacity developed over the last nine (9) consecutive years executing Bank financed projects.</p> <p>Specialized will conduct the procurement processes in accordance with their own procurement procedures; universal eligibility will apply.</p>
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3. Fiduciary Capacity

Fiduciary Capacity of the EA	The assessment of the executing agency's fiduciary capacity is medium-low.
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4. Fiduciary risks and risk response

Area (Financial Management / Procurement)	Risk	Risk level	Risk response
Financial Management	Possible errors in financial reporting due to lack of weak national internal and external audit systems	Medium-high	Hire of an independent external audit firm to conduct annual audit in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Bank
Procurement Management	Possible delays in procurement due to disruption and high demand of the global, regional, and national supply chain for key goods or items.	Medium-high	(i) Aggregate demand (i.e., PAHO); (ii) Use simplified procurement methods when adequate, like direct contracting or price comparison; (iii) Identify new suppliers in the international market; (iv) Hire and/or appoint personnel for the PEU, including a Procurement Specialist, in accordance with a Terms of Reference previously agreed upon with the Bank; and (v) Provide training to the PEU regarding procurement policies and methods.

5. Policies and Guides applicable to operation:

The procurement processes financed in full or in part by Bank resources will be conducted in accordance with the Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works Financed by the IDB (GN-2349-15) and the Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants Financed by the IDB (GN-2350-15), or those in effect at the time of project execution.

It will also apply the principles set forth in GN-2729-2, "Policy for a Flexible Guarantee Instrument for Sovereign Guaranteed Operations", and GN-2729-4, "Guarantee Instrument for Sovereign Guaranteed Operations. Operational Guidelines"

The financial management will be conducted in accordance with the Operational Guideline OP-273-12.

6. Exceptions to Policies and Rules:

N/A

II. Aspects to be considered in the Special Conditions of the Loan Agreement

Special conditions precedent to first disbursement: Appointment of (i) financial specialist, and (ii) procurement specialist.
Exchange Rate applicable to justify expenses made in a currency different from the one of the operation. For purposes of Article 4.10 of the General Conditions of the Loan Contract, the Borrower has agreed that the applicable exchange rate will be that indicated in paragraph (b) (ii) of the Article. As such, the agreed exchange rate will be the exchange rate as published in the Central Bank of Belize on the effective date on which the Borrower, the Executing Agency or any other person or legal entity whom the power to incur expenditures has been vested makes the related payments to the contractor, the supplier, or beneficiary.

Type of Audit: Audit of Financial Statement Prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks.

III. Agreements and Requirements for Procurement Execution

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bidding Documents	For procurement of Works, Goods and Services Different of Consulting executed in accordance with the Procurement Policies (document GN-2349-15), subject to ICB, the Bank's Standard Bidding Documents (SBDs) or those agreed between EA and the Bank will be used for the particular procurement. Likewise, the selection and contracting of Consulting Services will be carried out in accordance with the Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants (document GN-2350-15) and the Standard Request for Proposals (SRP) issued by the Bank or agreed between the EA and the Bank will be used for the particular selection. The revision of the technical specifications, as well as the terms of reference of the procurements during the preparation of selection processes, is the responsibility of the sectorial specialist of the project. This technical review can be ex-ante and is independent of the procurement review method.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Complementary Procurement Support	Yes, if necessary.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Direct Contracting and Single Source Selection	<p>Regarding Component 2, pursuant to the IDB Group's Governance Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Outbreak (GN-2996) ¶4.2 and Resolution DE-28/20), will apply the following special measures to the Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works Financed by the IDB (GN-2349-15) and the Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants Financed by the IDB (GN-2350-15), for the immediate response in the public health area:</p> <p>(i) extending Bank eligibility to non-member countries.</p> <p>(ii) contracting and/or acknowledging agreements with procurement agents and specialized agencies acting in such capacity, as well as accepting the use of their own procurement policies and rules on prohibited practices.</p> <p>(iii) consolidated procurement at the international level as well as procurement through existing adhesion agreements with the borrower.</p> <p>Direct contracting of PAHO is proposed for medical supplies, and for the service of shipping, handling, insurance of vaccines, and customs broker. The selection of PAHO is based on its capabilities in procurement and supply management, as it purchases a wide array of products and services and has a vendor network. Direct contracting is justified according to ¶3.7 (e) of the Bank's Procurement Policy (GN2349-15), that allows direct contracting in exemptional cases for example emergency situations (COVID-19 pandemic).</p> <p>The purpose of component 1 of the operation is to ensure the future payment that the Government of Belize must do to GAVI Alliance, as procurement agent for the acquisition of COVID-19 vaccines agreed through the "Commitment Purchase Arrangement" of September 18, 2020, under the COVAX Facility.</p>

		<p>The direct contracting of GAVI Alliance and the down payment for the acquisition of 238,800 doses of vaccines under the Amendment No. 2 of Loan Contract 3566/OC-BL, was justified according to: a) Gavi Alliance acts as a contracting agent; b) the special procurement measures identified in document GN-2996 and approved by the Bank's Board of Executive Directors through Resolution 28/20; and c) the procurement provisions indicated in subsections (c) and (e) of ¶3.7 of the Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works Financed by the IDB (GN-2349-15).</p> <p>The guarantee will adhere to the Bank's procurement and contracting policies as provided for in 3.37 of document GN-2729-4. In this regard, the guarantee covers the risk of non-payment of the direct contracting of GAVI Alliance.</p>						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Recurrent Expenses	<p>The recurrent expenses required to put the project into operation approved by the Project Team Leader, which are financed, will be made following the executing agency's administrative procedures. Such procedures will be reviewed and accepted by the Bank, provided that they do not violate the principles of value for money, economy, efficiency, equality, transparency and integrity. The expected recurrent expenses are the hiring of Drivers. (See Guidelines for the treatment of recurring expenses and GN 2331-5 Expense Eligibility Policy and updates.)</p>						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Advanced Contracting Retroactive financing	<p>The Bank may retroactively finance from the resources of the loan, up to the sum of US\$560,918 (20% of the proposed investment loan amount), eligible expenses incurred by the Borrower prior to the date of approval of the loan [COVID-19 vaccines supplies (syringes, thermometer, thermos, safety boxes, alcohol), Cold chain equipment, and PPE (gloves, masks)] provided that requirements shall be in accordance with those set out in the loan contract. Such expenses must have been incurred on or after January 5th, 2021, but under no circumstances will expenses incurred more than 18 months before the loan approval date be included. (See GN-2349-15, GN-2350-15 y I(a) Policy on Cost Recognition, Retroactive Financing and Early Acquisition (GN-2259-1).)</p>						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Procurement supervision	<p>The method of supervision shall be ex ante to the procurement processes executed by the EA.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Works</th><th>Goods/Services</th><th>Consulting Services</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0</td><td>4,409,488</td><td>30,000 Firms 496,000 Singles</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Works	Goods/Services	Consulting Services	0	4,409,488	30,000 Firms 496,000 Singles
Works	Goods/Services	Consulting Services						
0	4,409,488	30,000 Firms 496,000 Singles						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Records and Archives	<p>Records and files will be managed in accordance with the terms of the loan contract.</p>						

Main Acquisitions

Description of the procurement	Selection Method	New Procedures/ Tools	Estimated Date	Estimated Amount US\$
Goods				
COVID-19 Vaccines	Direct Contracting		September 18 th , 2020	2,137,260
Cold chain equipment	International Competitive Bidding		July 31 st , 2021	686,800
Vaccine's transportation (vehicles)	National/International Competitive Bidding		May 31 st , 2021	210,000
Works				
Non-consulting services				
Shipping, handling, insurance of vaccines, and customs broker	Direct Contracting		April 30 th , 2021	630,835
Communication campaign to promote demand for vaccination (design educational materials, printing educational materials, airing of promotional, translation of materials)	National Competitive Bidding		April 30 th , 2021	150,000
Logistics (facility readiness, stock tracking, and vaccination cards)	International Competitive Bidding		July 31 st , 2021	250,000
Monitoring vaccination system (tracking application, side-effects, ID)	International Competitive Bidding		July 31 st , 2021	235,000
Consulting Firms				
Final Evaluation (qualitative and quantitative)	Consultants Qualifications Selection		December 31 st , 2022	20,000
Individuals				
Temporary health workers (Less than 6 months contracts)	Single Source Selection		April 30 th , 2021	432,000

To access the procurement plan, click here [link](#).

IV. Agreements and Requirements for Financial Management

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Programming and Budget	The budget preparation process begins each year with the budget call whereby the Ministry of Finance distributes a circular outlining the timeline and required forms to be completed by each ministry, department, and agency, including the MoHW. The Borrower has committed to allocate for each fiscal year of the project execution adequate budget allocation for the smooth execution of the project. No issues related to budget allocation is therefore anticipated during the execution of the project.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Treasury and Disbursement Management	Before the first disbursement, a special account will be designated to receive and disburse the loan resources. In accordance with the norms of the Government of Belize, the designated bank account will be established at the Central Bank of Belize. For local payments, the Executing Agency will make payments from the Consolidated Revenue Fund Account and this account will be reimbursed, periodically, with the resources from the designated account, upon the approval of the Bank of the Justification of the Advance of Funds. Local payments will be processed through the national financial management system, SmartStream. Foreign currency payments will be disbursed directly from the special account at the Central Bank or through a direct payment request submitted to the Bank for the Bank to make payment on the Government's behalf to its client.

		<p>It is expected that the project will follow the normal disbursement arrangement and the Advance of Funds methodology will be mainly used for the project. The Advance of Funds when used, will be based on the true liquidity needs of the project for a period not exceeding six months. Subsequent advances may be disbursed once 80% of the total accumulated balance pending justification has been submitted and accepted by the Bank.</p> <p>The exchange rate to be used in the transaction will be effective exchange rate on the date of payment of the expense in the local currency. The project planning, including financial planning, will generally follow the calendar year.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accounting, information systems and reporting	<p>Accounting and reporting of the Executing Agency will be facilitated through SmartStream which is the Government's national financial management system, in accordance with cash-basis international public-sector accounting standards (cash-IPSAS). It is expected that the accounting and reporting system of the project will, on a cash basis: (i) facilitate the recording and classification of all financial transactions according to source of funding and categories of investment; and (ii) provide information related to, planned versus actual financial execution of the project, commitments made under the project, the financial plan for a six-month period, financial statements, performance reports and any other reports that may be required from time to time by the Borrower and/or the Bank. The use of an off-the-shelf accounting system i.e., QuickBooks will used to facilitate accounting and reporting of the loan resources.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	External control: external financial audit and project reports	<p>Given the capacity constraints of the Office of the Auditor General, an eligible private audit firm will be hired to conduct the annual and final financial statement audits of the project. The Borrower and the Executing Agency, as agreed with the Bank, will select, and contract the services of an eligible auditor, in accordance with the agreed Terms of Reference.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project Financial Supervision	<p>The financial supervision plan of the project will focus on: (i) activities related to the implementation and follow-up of arrangements and systems being implemented for the fiduciary management of the project; (ii) follow-up on the implementation status of risk mitigating measures; and (iii) capacity building of PEU personnel in the Bank's procedures and requirements. Advance of Funds disbursements will be reviewed on an ex-post basis.</p>

DOCUMENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

PROPOSED RESOLUTION DE-___/21

Belize. Loan ___/OC-BL to Belize
Program to Support the Health Sector to Contain and Control Coronavirus
and to Mitigate its Effect on Service Provision

The Board of Executive Directors

RESOLVES:

That the President of the Bank, or such representative as he shall designate, is authorized, in the name and on behalf of the Bank, to enter into such contract or contracts as may be necessary with Belize, as Borrower, for the purpose of granting it a financing to cooperate in the execution of a Program to Support the Health Sector to Contain and Control Coronavirus and to Mitigate its Effect on Service Provision. Such financing will be for the amount of up to US\$2,862,740 from the resources of the Bank's Ordinary Capital, and will be subject to the Financial Terms and Conditions and the Special Contractual Conditions of the Project Summary of the Loan Proposal.

(Adopted on ___ 2021)

DOCUMENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

PROPOSED RESOLUTION DE-___/21

Belize. Guarantee ___/OC-BL. Support to the Financing of the Purchase of
COVID-19 Vaccine and its Implementation

The Board of Executive Directors

RESOLVES:

That the President of the Bank, or such representative as he shall designate, is authorized, in the name and on behalf of the Bank, to enter into such contracts as may be necessary for the purpose of granting a credit guarantee to support the financing and implementation of the program "Support to the Financing of the Purchase of COVID-19 Vaccine and its Implementation", which will have Belize as counter-guarantor. The credit guarantee may be granted for the amount of up to US\$2,137,260 chargeable to the resources of the Bank's Ordinary Capital, on terms substantially as set forth in the Project Summary of the Guarantee Proposal.

(Adopted on ___ 2021)