

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	BELIZE/CID - Isthmus & DR
▪ TC Name:	Skills to Access the Green Economy through TVET in Belize and the Caribbean
▪ TC Number:	BL-T1131
▪ Team Leader/Members:	NASLUND-HADLEY, EMMA INGRID (SCL/EDU) Team Leader; LEVY FERRE, ALBERTO (INE/ENE) Alternate Team Leader; SALAZAR, ASTRID DANIELLE (CID/CBL); BLASCO, IVANA (SCL/EDU); PAREDES, JUAN ROBERTO (INE/ENE); HOKONOHARA, KENJI (SCL/EDU); ESCALA, VICTOR H. (VPC/FMP); WATSON, BRODRICK RAYLANDO (VPC/FMP); PRADA PATINO, MARIA FERNANDA (SCL/EDU)
▪ Taxonomy:	Client Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	10 Jun 2020
▪ Beneficiary:	Ministry of Education Youth Sports and Culture (MOEYSC)
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$600,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$80,000.00 (In Kind)
▪ Disbursement period:	36 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	SCL/EDU - Education
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	SCL - Social Sector
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	Yes
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Social inclusion and equality ; Gender equality

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The objective of the proposed Technical Cooperation is to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture to close the skills gap in renewable energies in Belize by upgrading traditional TVET from the current basic trades training to offering advanced training in this area. The specific objectives are to: (i) create and pilot a renewable energy program at the Belize City ITVET; and (ii) promote Belize as a regional laboratory for innovation in training methodologies for renewable energy professionals in the English-speaking Caribbean.
- 2.2 The countries of the English-speaking Caribbean are highly committed to mitigating climate change (CARICOM, 2013). As part of this strategy, countries are looking to increase the share of electricity generated from renewable energy sources, which could additionally have positive effects on economic growth. The IMF estimates that if the share of electricity generated from renewable energy sources was expanded to reach national targets, this would lower electricity costs and increase long-term GDP growth by 1% in most countries (IMF, 2016). However, the expansion of renewable energies is limited by a lack of qualified professionals in the region. English-speaking Caribbean countries would need about 2,700 renewable energy professionals on average per year to fulfill their current national renewable energy targets and almost 18,000 to fully switch their energy mix to renewable energies. While some institutions

in the region have developed renewable energy courses to partially cover this labor market demand, these initiatives are not systematized. Belize shares the region's commitment to mitigate climate change (MESTPU, 2012) and has pledged to have 85% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030 (CCREEE, 2018). To this end, the Government of Belize has decided to invest in renewable energy Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). In doing so, the aim is to shift from a focus on basic trades TVET to preparation for quality jobs with career development opportunities. The proposed technical cooperation will develop an innovative strategy to close the skills gap in renewable energies in Belize. This will be a major leapfrog from the current TVET in the country that offers basic trades training to a modern system that provides advanced training and responds to skill needs. The renewable energy TVET training will remain embedded within the Belizean public education system, as part of the course offerings of the Belize City ITVET and will be complemented by a knowledge-sharing platform and community of practice. The Government's aspiration is that Belize will become a regional laboratory for innovation in training for renewable energy professionals in the English-speaking Caribbean. Belize's small population makes it the perfect country to develop scalable, adaptable and easily transferable renewable energy courses for other countries in the region, closing the skills gap in these other countries as well. This project will benefit from the participation of the main installer of small-scale renewable energy in Belize, ProSolar, as a private sector partner. ProSolar will contribute by ensuring the relevance of the TVET course and through its connections with major renewable energy-related companies such as Tesla.

Strategic alignment. This project is well-aligned with the IDB Group's Updated Institutional Strategy 2020-2023 (GN-2933-1). Particularly with one of its overarching objectives: fostering sustainable growth, as well as with the strategic goal of promoting development through the private sector and the priority of responding to climate change and promoting renewable energy. It is also aligned with Belize's IDB Group Country Strategy Update 2020-2021 (GN-2746-3), as it relates to climate change mitigation. This project additionally fosters STEAM skills in the English-speaking Caribbean, which is a priority within the Bank's Sector Framework Document for Education and Early Childhood Development (GN-2708-5).

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Development and piloting of renewable energy course** . Resources from this component will be used to finance the development and piloting of a renewable energy course in Belize City's ITVET, which will become part of its course offerings. This component will also finance the training and tutoring of teachers. The component will promote the participation of women as they are underrepresented in STEM professions in Belize.
- 3.2 **Component II: Evaluation and student tracking** . This component will finance a rigorous qualitative evaluation. Although the scale of the pilot will not allow for a Randomized Controlled Trial, to increase the rigor of the qualitative evaluation, the project team proposes to randomly allocate students between Belize City's ITVET Electronics course and the new Renewable Energy course
- 3.3 **Component III: Knowledge-sharing platform and labor market relationship** . This component will finance the design and launch of a knowledge-sharing platform and the creation of a community of practice for educators, professionals, academic experts and students, including digital and in-person events. The platform will work as an information repository and will be used to disseminate training and educational events. Additionally, this component will finance the selection of industry-relevant certifications for renewable energy course graduates

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Development and piloting of renewable energy course	US\$300,000.00	US\$80,000.00	US\$380,000.00
Evaluation and student tracking	US\$150,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$150,000.00
Knowledge-sharing platform and labor market relationship	US\$150,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$150,000.00
Total	US\$600,000.00	US\$80,000.00	US\$680,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The IDB through SCL/EDU will execute the proposed operation. The contracting of consultants or consulting services will be carried out in accordance with the Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants Financed by the Bank (GN 2350-9).
- 5.2 The Ministry of Education Youth Sports and Culture (MOEYSC) has requested that the IDB execute the operation based on its long trajectory of support of TVET education in the region.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 The TC consists of technical cooperation consultancy services, which limits the risk of serious implementation challenges. The strong commitment of the GOB with the education sector, makes the project team confident that the proposed TC design is feasible. Although the TC itself has no major implementation challenges, the sustainability of any investment in education is contingent on the successful transfer of capacities to local stakeholders.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

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