

DOCUMENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

BELIZE

RESILIENT CITIES: STRENGTHENING CLIMATE READINESS IN BELIZE

(BL-T1212)

PROJECT DOCUMENT

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BELIZE RESILIENT CITIES: STRENGTHENING CLIMATE READINESS IN BELIZE BL-T1212		
PROJECT SUMMARY		
Operation Type:	Technical Cooperation	
Sector:	URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING	
Subsector:	SUSTAINABLE CITIES	
TC Taxonomy:	Client Support	
Project Number under the Operational Support Taxonomy:	N/A	
Technical Responsible Unit:	CSD/HUD-Housing & Urban Development	
Unit with Disbursement Responsibility (UDR):	CSD/HUD-Housing & Urban Development	
Executing Agency:	Inter-American Development Bank	
PROJECT OBJECTIVE		
The objective of this TC is to enhance climate resilience in four underserved Belizean municipalities—Corozal, Dangriga, Punta Gorda, and Benque Viejo—by operationalizing the National Land Use Policy (2025) at the local level and strengthening municipal capacity for climate-informed urban planning, governance, and early warning systems. Beyond its pilot scope, this TC contributes to Belize's broader national agenda on climate resilience and municipal governance by generating scalable, replicable tools, guidelines, and institutional frameworks aligned with the National Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan and the Belize Country Strategy 2026–2030 (Pillar i: Enhancing Institutional Capacity), supporting the decentralized implementation of national policy across the country.		
FINANCIAL INFORMATION		
Financing Type	Fund	Amount in US\$
TCN - Nonreimbursable	CCP - Compete Caribbean + Trust Fund	160,000
Total IDB Financing		160,000
Counterpart Financing		0
Total Project Budget		160,000
Donors:	N/A	
Disbursement Period:	24 months	
Execution Period:	24 months	
ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION		
N/A		

I. JUSTIFICATION AND OBJECTIVE

- 1.1 **Diagnostic.** Belize faces increasing climate-related threats, including flooding, erosion, and more frequent storms, which disproportionately affect smaller and underserved municipalities. Despite national climate and land-use policies, implementation at the municipal level remains limited due to capacity constraints, a lack of practical tools, and insufficient coordination between central and local authorities. Municipalities also lack operational early warning systems that reach vulnerable communities.
- 1.2 The Inter-American Development Bank's Housing and Urban Development Division (CSD/HUD) supports countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in strengthening urban planning systems, municipal governance, and local institutional capacity to promote resilient and inclusive urban development. Across the region, secondary cities and smaller municipalities face increasing climate-related pressures while often lacking the planning instruments, technical tools, and coordination mechanisms needed to translate national land-use and climate policies into local action effectively. Through loans, technical assistance, and knowledge products, HUD promotes integrated urban development approaches that improve land management, strengthen municipal institutions, and enhance climate resilience in vulnerable communities. Within this context, the proposed TC is consistent with the Housing and Urban Development Division's work in strengthening climate-informed spatial planning, municipal governance capacities, and preparedness mechanisms in underserved municipalities in Belize.
- 1.3 **Request.** In April 2025, the Government of Belize – through the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government formally requested the Bank's support following a call for proposals by Compete Caribbean+ under Pillar 2, "Enhancing government capabilities to support climate-smart and gender-responsive businesses", seeking to enhance municipal capacity to assess, manage, and respond to climate risks through data-driven decision-making and community engagement. The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour, and Local Government, aims to build municipalities' capacity to respond to climate change challenges, ensuring readiness and strengthening its capacity to support socio-economic resilience at the local level.
- 1.4 **Objective.** The objective of this Technical Cooperation (TC) is to enhance municipal resilience in four Belizean towns through strengthened planning systems, community-centered climate governance, and operational early warning mechanisms.
- 1.5 Key activities include the establishment of multisectoral municipal planning groups and the development and validation of gender-responsive, climate-resilient land use guidelines tailored to each of the four participating municipalities, as well as the production of illustrated, user-friendly guidance materials for builders and community stakeholders. Additional activities comprise capacity-building workshops for municipal staff focused on climate-informed spatial planning, risk assessment, and socially inclusive stakeholder engagement; facilitation of peer learning exchanges within Belize and across Caribbean countries; and development of training materials to institutionalize newly acquired knowledge.

This TC will also support the co-design and piloting of community-based early warning systems, including public outreach, community consultations, and the deployment of SMS- and app-based alert mechanisms, in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) and telecommunications providers.

- 1.6 **Complementarity.** This TC addresses clear institutional gaps by supporting the decentralized implementation of the National Land Use Policy (2025), strengthening municipal technical capacity for climate-informed spatial planning, and establishing community-based early warning systems in partnership with NEMO and telecommunications partners.
- 1.7 **Strategic Alignment.** This TC aligns with Belize's NDCs, Belize's National Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan, the Compete Caribbean+ priorities for climate-smart, gender-responsive governance, and the IDB Group Institutional Strategy 2024–2030 (GN-3159-12), particularly its climate action pillar. This TC aligns with the Resilience and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) pillar of ONE Caribbean, the IDB Group's regional strategy for sustainable development (GN-3201-5). By strengthening and modernizing Belize's infrastructure, it advances ONE Caribbean's objective of improving access to resilient infrastructure and services in the wider Caribbean. Additionally, this TC aligns with the Belize Country Strategy 2026–2030 (GN-3320), specifically Pillar (i): Enhancing Institutional Capacity, which focuses on improving government efficiency and service delivery. The proposed TC contributes to this pillar by strengthening municipal governance and planning systems, supporting climate-informed spatial planning, and improving coordination mechanisms for climate risk management, thereby enhancing institutional capacity for resilient and sustainable development at the local level in Belize.
- 1.8 Additionally, this TC also aligns with the Compete Caribbean+ Trust Fund (CC+) priorities as it supports climate governance to create an enabling environment for a more resilient private sector through targeted capacity building, and it facilitates the development of climate-resilient infrastructure. This TC is aligned with the objectives and corresponding results matrix of the CC+ Pillar 2 Call, which seeks to enhance Government Capabilities to Support Climate-Smart and Gender-Responsive Businesses.

II. COMPONENTS

- 2.1 **Component 1 — Operationalizing the National Land Use Policy at the Local Level (US\$70,000).** This component supports the operationalization of Belize’s National Land Use Policy at the local level through the establishment of multisectoral planning groups in four participating municipalities—Corozal, Dangriga, Punta Gorda, and Benqu Viejo. The structure and functioning of these groups will be defined in coordination with local authorities and will include representatives from municipal councils, relevant national agencies, and local stakeholders, with an emphasis on inclusive participation. Activities focus on identifying priority areas for implementation, developing climate resilient and gender responsive land-use guidelines, supporting stakeholder consultations, and producing practical tools to facilitate their application. The component will be implemented over 12 months by a consulting firm following a phased approach that begins with diagnostic work and the establishment of planning groups and progresses to guideline development and validation with national authorities prior to final delivery. Consulting services will support all technical activities under this component.
- 2.2 **Component 2 — Capacity Building for Municipal Governments (US\$40,000).** This component strengthens the capacity of local governments to incorporate climate-informed planning and gender-responsive climate risk assessment into decision-making through targeted technical support. Activities include training sessions on climate-informed planning, risk and hazard assessment, and stakeholder engagement, alongside the development of tailored training materials and guidance tools adapted to the Belizean context. Peer learning exchanges across Belize and selected Caribbean cities will complement these efforts by facilitating knowledge-sharing and practical experience. Participation will prioritize technical staff from participating in municipalities and will be delivered through a combination of virtual and in-person formats, as appropriate. The component will be implemented over nine months by a consulting firm and will include training needs assessment, delivery of training activities, peer exchanges, and preparation of a consolidated training toolkit to support continued application. Deliverables will be contractually defined and linked to milestones, through consulting services to support the design and delivery of all activities under this component.
- 2.3 **Component 3 — Piloting Community-Based Early Warning Systems (US\$50,000).** This component supports the co-design and testing of community-based early warning system pilots in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), local authorities, and telecommunications providers, including SMS- and mobile-based solutions. Activities include consultations with vulnerable communities to identify communication needs, development and testing of early warning protocols, public awareness campaigns, and community engagement initiatives aimed at strengthening preparedness. The pilots will be implemented over a six-month period by a specialized consulting firm running concurrently with the other components, delivering operational systems, outreach materials, and an evaluation report assessing performance and scalability. Deliverables will be defined and linked to contractual milestones, with

digital communication tools integrated into the pilots in line with relevant IDB guidance, and consulting services supporting their design, delivery, and evaluation

- 2.4 **Expected Results.** Implementation of the three components is expected to strengthen municipal climate governance and improve local capacity to plan for and respond to climate risks. Specifically, this TC will enable four municipalities—Corozal, Dangriga, Punta Gorda, and Benque Viejo—to adopt climate resilient land-use guidelines that align with the National Land Use Policy (2025) and are supported by well-functioning multistakeholder planning groups. Municipal staff will benefit from enhanced technical skills in gender-responsive climate-informed spatial planning, risk assessment, and community engagement, contributing to more consistent and evidence-based decision-making.
- 2.5 In addition, the pilot community-based early warning systems will improve risk communication and preparedness, particularly for vulnerable populations, by facilitating timely SMS and app-based alerts through collaboration with NEMO and telecom providers. Collectively, this TC is expected to contribute to more resilient and gender-responsive urban development practices, greater institutional coordination, and strengthen community awareness and responsiveness to climate-related hazards. Additionally, this TC is expected to generate positive spillovers for the private sector by fostering a more predictable, climate-responsive regulatory environment that reduces operational disruptions and supports business continuity. Clear, climate-resilient land use guidelines and improved gender-sensitive municipal planning capacity will enable private developers, builders, and service providers to operate with greater clarity and lower compliance uncertainty. The piloted early warning systems will also enhance preparedness and reduce climate-related losses for firms, particularly Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) that are highly sensitive to weather disruptions. By strengthening governance, gender equity and local resilience, the project will ultimately contribute to a more stable and conducive environment for investment and private sector participation in climate-smart urban development.
- 2.6 **Beneficiaries.** The primary beneficiaries of this TC will be the residents and local governments of the four target municipalities—Corozal, Dangriga, Punta Gorda, and Benque Viejo—which collectively represent some of Belize's most climate-vulnerable populations. Municipal authorities will benefit directly from enhanced technical capacity, improved planning tools, and clearer governance frameworks to integrate climate resilience into land use and urban management decisions. Local communities, particularly women, youth, and other vulnerable groups, will benefit from more inclusive planning processes, improved climate-responsive infrastructure, and strengthened early warning systems to ensure timely and accessible risk information. National counterparts, including the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government, the Ministry of Natural Resources, and NEMO, will also benefit through strengthened coordination mechanisms, better-informed local decision-making, and the piloting of scalable tools that support broader national resilience efforts. Collectively, this TC will contribute to more climate-resilient municipalities and enhanced community preparedness in vulnerable yet underserved areas of Belize. The private sector will benefit from this TC through clearer, climate-resilient land-use guidelines and improved gender-sensitive municipal planning processes, thereby reducing uncertainty for businesses engaged in urban growth and infrastructure activities.

Strengthened early warning systems will also enhance business continuity and risk preparedness, particularly for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) that are highly vulnerable to climate-related disruptions. By fostering more predictable regulatory environments, and gender-responsive, and inclusive community-level resilience, the project will contribute to a more enabling ecosystem for private sector investment, innovation, and participation in climate-smart urban development.

III. BUDGET

- 3.1 The indicative budget of this TC is US\$160,000.00, entirely financed by the Compete Caribbean Trust Fund (CCP). This TC budget is presented in the following table:

Indicative Budget in US\$

Components	CCP (US\$)
Operationalizing the National Land Use Policy at the Local Level	70,000
Capacity Building for Municipal Governments	40,000
Piloting Community-Based Early Warning Systems	50,000
Total	160,000

IV. EXECUTION STRUCTURE

- 4.1 **Execution structure and arrangements.** This TC will be executed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), based on a request by the beneficiary (Annex I) and the CC+ donors, in accordance with the Bank's Technical Cooperation Policy (GN-2470-2) and the Procedures for the Processing of Technical Cooperation Operations and Related Matters (OP-619-4), through the Urban Development and Housing Division (CSD/HUD) and the CC+ Facility Coordination Unit (FCU).
- 4.2 This execution mechanism is justified based on the limited institutional and technical capacity currently available within the participating municipalities to procure, coordinate, and supervise the specialized consulting services required under this TC. The Bank's experience with the preparation and development of the operational and technical instruments proposed will facilitate the coordination and management of this TC. Upon request from the Beneficiary, the bank will execute this TC through the recruitment and supervision of consultants to support the implementation of project activities. In this sense, the Bank will be responsible for: (i) identifying the technical work necessary to structure the project; (ii) selecting and hiring firms and consultants to provide the necessary services; and (iii) managing the execution and delivery of consulting services. The Bank will only contract consulting services of intellectual nature in accordance with the Annex II of the Technical Cooperation Guidelines (OP-619-4), thereby mitigating

implementation and fiduciary risks associated with the execution of the operation. The selection and contracting of individual consultants will follow HRD's Complementary Workforce Employees (CWE) regulations (AM-650).

- 4.3 The project counterpart will be led by the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government, which will oversee policy development, stakeholder coordination, and alignment with national priorities. The Ministry will provide technical oversight and co-financing in-kind through staff and office resources. Local agencies may contribute sector-specific expertise.
- 4.4 Participating municipalities (Corozal, Dangriga, Punta Gorda, and Benque Viejo) will support implementation by facilitating local coordination, nominating technical staff for training, supporting stakeholder engagement processes, and contributing to the application of land use guidelines and early warning system pilots.
- 4.5 The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) and telecommunications providers will provide technical inputs and coordination for the design and deployment of early warning systems, including support for communication protocols and system testing.
- 4.6 To strengthen coordination and ensure effective follow-up, the IDB will convene regular biweekly coordination meetings with the Ministry, participating municipalities, NEMO, and other relevant stakeholders to review progress, address implementation challenges, and ensure alignment across components. Progress will be tracked against defined deliverables and contractual milestones for each consultancy, reinforcing accountability and timely delivery of outputs.
- 4.7 **Procurement.** All procurement to be executed under this TC has been included in the Procurement Plan (Annex IV) and will be hired in compliance with the applicable Bank policies and regulations as follows: (a) Hiring of individual consultants, as established in the regulation on Complementary Workforce (AM-650) and (b) Contracting of services provided by consulting firms in accordance with the Corporate procurement Policy (GN-2303-33) and its Guidelines. CSD/HUD will be responsible for: (i) preparing the Request for Proposal for the studies and technical work necessary to structure the project; (ii) selecting and hiring consultants to provide the necessary services; and (iii) managing the execution and delivery of consulting services.
- 4.8 **Execution and Disbursement Period.** The disbursement period is 24 months, starting in June 2026 and ending in June 2028. The Bank will act as the Executing Agency for this TC, ensuring responsibility for technical oversight, procurement, and delivery of outputs in accordance with IDB policies and procedures.
- 4.9 **Monitoring, Reporting, and Supervision.** This TC will be monitored and supervised by the Team Leader assigned by the Bank's Urban Development and Housing Division (CSD/HUD) with support from the CC+ Facility Coordination Unit (FCU). The Bank will coordinate the execution of consultancy services outlined in the procurement plan and hold monthly meetings to identify issues or potential risks, provide feedback, and ensure alignment with the broader goals of this TC.

V. POTENTIAL RISKS

- 5.1 **Operational Risks.** Operationally, delays in stakeholder consultations are a high-likelihood, medium-impact risk, particularly given the need for broad engagement across communities. To mitigate this, the project will employ hybrid engagement tools - combining virtual and in-person consultations - and prioritize early engagement with critical stakeholder groups. Another operational risk is the potential lack of technical expertise, with medium likelihood and impact. This will be mitigated through additional support from Compete Caribbean resources to support project implementation. Potential limitations in telecommunications coverage or coordination challenges during the deployment of the early warning system pilots represent additional operational risks. This risk will be mitigated through early collaboration with telecommunications providers and NEMO, testing communication protocols and using multiple communication channels to ensure reliable dissemination of alerts.
- 5.2 **Leadership and Political Risks:** A shift in government priorities represents a medium-likelihood, high-impact risk that could affect project continuity. To mitigate this, project goals will be embedded in cross-party agreements and aligned with long-term national strategies.
- 5.3 **Intellectual Property.** Any knowledge products generated within the framework of this TC will be the property of the Bank and may be made available to the public under a Creative Commons license. However, upon the beneficiary's request, the intellectual property of said products may also be licensed and/or transferred to the beneficiary through specific agreements.

VI. EXCEPTIONS TO BANK POLICIES

- 6.1 An exception to AM-650 and GN-2303-33 policies has been granted by the Board of Executive Directors (GN-2851-3), so that procurements from non-IDB member countries may be eligible in the procurement processes for activities to be financed from the CC+ Facility Coordination Unit (FCU) , provided that the donors of the Facility recognize the country of origin or nationality of such providers as eligible.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

- 7.1 This TC is not intended to finance pre-feasibility or feasibility studies of specific investment projects or environmental and social studies associated with them; therefore, this TC does not have applicable requirements of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF).

REQUIRED ANNEXES:

- Annex I: Request from Client
- Annex II: Results Matrix
- Annex III: Terms of Reference

- Annex IV: Procurement Plan
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