

## TC ABSTRACT

### I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	BELIZE/CID - Isthmus & DR
▪ TC Name:	Support to the Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development Program
▪ TC Number:	BL-T1168
▪ Team Leader/Members:	SOULIER FAURE, MARTIN NICOLAS (CSD/HUD) Team Leader; SAMAYOA JUAREZ, JORGE OMAR (CSD/RND) Alternate Team Leader; AVILA, FRANCY DIANELA (CSD/HUD); PEREZ MORENO SILVIA (CSD/HUD); RIVERO, RUTHANN RACHEL (CID/CBL); WATSON, BRODRICK RAYLANDO (VPC/FMP); LUNSTEDT TAPIA, CHRISTIAN (VPC/FMP); DE BARROS TORRES, GABRIEL (CSD/HUD)
▪ Taxonomy:	Operational Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development Program - BL-L1046
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	07 Nov 2023
▪ Beneficiary:	Government of Belize
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$500,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	CSD/HUD - Housing & Urban Development
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	CSD/HUD - Housing & Urban Development
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Second Update to the Institutional Strategy 2020-2023:	Social inclusion and equality; Productivity and innovation; Institutional capacity and rule of law; Environmental sustainability; Gender equality and diversity

### II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 This Technical Cooperation (TC) aims to support the implementation of the Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development Program (BL-1046) by elaborating pre-investment studies for its eligible projects.
- 2.2 **Context.** The main populated towns in northern Belize are Orange Walk (OW), Corozal, and San Pedro (Ambergris Caye Island), with urban populations of 14,600, 10,000, and 15,500 inhabitants, respectively. These municipalities face several interconnected challenges as they strive to progress towards a holistic sustainable development path: (i) urban services deficits; (ii) lack of economic diversification; (iii) vulnerability to natural risks and climate change; and (iv) social inequality. The absence of adequate planning and local capacity is related to these challenges. To address these challenges, the Government of Belize asked for IDB's assistance to design the program mentioned above ([BL-L1046](#)) to support the sustainable urban development of municipalities of northern Belize. The specific objectives of the operation are (i) to improve access to urban services; (ii) to support local economic growth; and (iii) to facilitate the social and economic integration of migrant populations, women, and people with disabilities.
- 2.3 To achieve these objectives, the program BL-1046 is structured into three components: (i) Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development; (ii) Sustainable Urban

Investments; and (iii) Project Administration, Management, and Audit. Component I aims to strengthen municipal capacities by elaborating plans and adopting digital tools to enforce urban regulations and guide urban development and specific activities to integrate the migrant population. Component II will finance multisectoral sustainable infrastructural investments in vulnerable neighborhoods and prioritize urban areas. The program BL-1046 is a Multiple Works operation as it will finance groups of similar projects (a sample of which is defined). The municipalities already prioritized specific projects, amounting to more than 50% of the program's total cost. The readiness of these projects varies between prefeasibility and feasibility. The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment (MFEDI) will act as the Executing Agency and be responsible for the Program. The implementation unit will be the Central Executing Unit (CEU) within the Ministry of Economic Development (MED). One of the medium-high level risks identified is the lack of experience of the CEU implementing infrastructure and multiple works programs, which could cause delays in the implementation.

- 2.4 **Justification.** This TC will provide resources and expertise to complement the efforts to be taken under Component I, to ensure the readiness of projects to implement under Component II, and to mitigate identified implementation risks. For these reasons, the Government of Belize asked to prepare a new TC to elaborate on the required pre-investment studies.
- 2.5 **Strategic Alignment.** This TC is consistent with the Second Update of the Institutional Strategy 2020-2023 (AB-3190-2) under the development challenges of: (i) Social Inclusion and Equality, by supporting the Government in the elaboration of pre-investment studies of projects to implement in vulnerable neighborhoods and integrate migrants with host communities; and (ii) Productivity and Innovation, by elaborating pre-investment studies of projects to contribute to local economy improvement. This operation also aligns with the cross-cutting issues of: (i) Institutional Capacity and Rule of Law, by strengthening the quality of projects to implement; (ii) Climate change and Environmental Sustainability, by including climate change considerations to prioritize pre-investment studies; and (iii) Gender Equality and Diversity, by including activities to integrate women and people with disabilities in pre-investment studies.

### III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I. Development of Pre-investment Studies (US\$460,000).** This component will hire consulting services from individuals and firms to support the elaboration of pre-investment studies of projects eligible for financing from the [BL-L1046](#) operation.
- 3.2 **Component II. Coordination (US\$40,000).** This component will hire individual consultancy services to facilitate coordinating activities (involving key stakeholders, reviewing intermediate and final deliverables, etc.) to support the elaboration and validation of pre-investment studies.

### IV. Budget

#### Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Total Funding
Development of Pre-investment Studies	US\$460,000.00	US\$460,000.00
Coordination	US\$40,000.00	US\$40,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>US\$500,000.00</b>	<b>US\$500,000.00</b>

## **V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure**

- 5.1 At the beneficiary's request and in accordance with Appendix 10 of the Operational Guidelines for Technical Cooperation Products (GN-2629-1), the Bank will be the Executing Agency.
- 5.2 Given its expertise in the technical aspects to be addressed and the knowledge of the requirements of pre-investment studies to be funded by the IDB, the Housing and Urban Development Division (CSD/HUD) will supervise the technical supervision and administration. TC activities will be coordinated with the CEU and the stakeholders designated by the beneficiary. CSD/HUD will act as the Unit of Disbursement Responsibility (UDR) and oversee the procurement processes.

## **VI. Project Risks and Issues**

- 6.1 One main risk identified is the institutional weakness or lack of commitment from key stakeholders (such as ministries and utilities) to participate in developing the pre-investment studies and be empowered for future implementation. The coordination component aimed to encourage the participation of technical personnel, civil servants, and relevant interest groups to mitigate the identified risk. The Bank's close engagement with high-level government officials will also be required to mitigate this risk.

## **VII. Environmental and Social Aspects**

- 7.1 This Technical Cooperation is intended to finance pre-feasibility or feasibility studies of specific investment projects and the environmental and social studies associated with them; therefore, the terms of reference and products of this TC will be consistent with the applicable requirements of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF).