

DOCUMENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

BELIZE

**SUPPORT FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF BELIZE'S MIGRATION MANAGEMENT THROUGH
IMPROVING MOI OPERATIONS, MIGRATION POLICY, AND MIGRANT DATA COLLECTION**

(BL-T1190)

PROJECT DOCUMENT

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BL-T1190		
PROJECT SUMMARY		
Operation Type:	Technical Cooperation	
Sector:	SOCIAL INVESTMENT	
Subsector:	MIGRATION & MIGRANTS	
TC Taxonomy:	Client Support	
Project Number under the Operational Support Taxonomy:	N/A	
Technical Responsible Unit:	SCL/MIG-Migration Unit	
Unit with Disbursement Responsibility (UDR):	CID/CBL-Country Office Belize	
Executing Agency:	Inter-American Development Bank	
PROJECT OBJECTIVE		
The main objective of this Technical Cooperation (TC) is to sustain the improvement of migration management in Belize.		
FINANCIAL INFORMATION		
Financing Type	Fund	Amount in US\$
TCN - Nonreimbursable	W2E - OC SDP Window 2 - Social Development	300,000
Total IDB Financing:		300,000
Counterpart Financing:		0
Total Project Budget:		300,000
Donors:	N/A	
Disbursement Period:	36 months	
Execution Period:	36 months	
ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION		
N/A		

I. JUSTIFICATION AND OBJECTIVE

- 1.1 Belize has continued to experience intra-regional migration flows. From 2019 to 2022, estimates indicate that Belize received over twelve thousand immigrants from other countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The level increased to over fifty thousand immigrants, presenting myriad challenges to the country's capacity to absorb and integrate them. The increase represents 2.8% of the population of Belize, with most immigrants coming from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.
- 1.2 With these populations settling in the country for the long term, the Government launched a new Amnesty Process in 2022. This action signified the Government's intention to promote irregular migrant's legal integration and resulted in 13,220 migrant applications for permanent residence. As at the end of July 2025 9,537 of these applications had been approved, with 1,200 of the approved applications pending payment.
- 1.3 In 2021, in support of the Amnesty and overall operations of the Ministry of Immigration (MOI), the Bank approved a Technical Cooperation BL-T1143(ATN/OC-19060-BL) which sought to enhance the MOI's data analytic capabilities through a Minimum Viable Product solution where dashboards are generated with data from the different departments of the MOI. Also emerging from BL-T1143 (ATN/OC-19060-BL), and in support of data for migration management, was the establishment of a working partnership with the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) which resulted in the Migration Report, Belize Census 2022.
- 1.4 Further, in 2023 the Bank approved Technical Cooperation BL-T1158 (ATN/OC-20258-BL) which seeks to benefit migrants and Belizean residents through the modernization of nationality and citizenship services with the aim of improving service access and efficiency. This TC is under implementation and continues to enhance the government's capacity to produce and analyze data related to migration to support project evaluation and decision-making in Belize.
- 1.5 The Technical Cooperation gathers lessons learned from various TCs¹ in the region that promote digital transformation and interoperability in public entities to improve the quality of services to the migrant population. Further, the TC builds on the products of BL-T1143 (ATN/OC-19060-BL) that have been used to improve MOI service delivery and data use. Indeed, the BI training delivered to the IT, and Nationality and Passports Departments was applied to build the first analytical dashboards which produce routine reports on the Amnesty process and core Ministry services. Moreover, the process mapping and baseline assessment are informing standard operating procedures and a phased digitalization roadmap, which is under implementation through BL-T1158 (ATN/OC-20258-BL) in which two consultancies are about to be implemented; A business analysis consultancy to perform a comprehensive business analysis of the existing processes, operations and workflows that support nationality services within the MOI, and a data warehouse consultancy to create an analytical data warehouse to support the

¹ BL-T1143, CH-T1287, RG-T3546, CO-T1649, EC-T1474, and PE-T1508.

analytical, reporting, and business intelligence needs of the MOI. TC1190 will build on the digital transformation advances made by (BL-T1143 (ATN/OC-19060-BL) and BL-T1158 (ATN/OC-20258-BL), whilst also strengthening the migration policy and data collection environments.

- 1.6 Moreover, the MOI continues to pursue the strengthening of its capacity to provide efficient and effective services to migrants through the digitalization of Nationality and Passport Department processes with the support of UN agencies and the Bank, whilst also being cognizant that a national migration policy, and increased communication capacities of border management staff will support advancing economic development and social cohesion.
- 1.7 **Request.** Representatives of the MOI, including the Minister of Immigration and the Chief Executive Officer, have identified the need for continued digitalization of Ministry processes, a national policy on migration, and communication capacity building of border management staff, all of which would contribute to more effective migration management in support of national development.
- 1.8 **Objective.** Support for Government of Belize's management of migration through consolidating the digitalization of immigration services, strengthening the migration policy environment, building Ministry of Immigration staff capacities, and advancing data collection on migrants.
- 1.9 Specific Objective 1: Strengthen Ministry of Immigration operations, through the consolidation of digitalized processes and the building of border management staff communication capacities.
- 1.10 Specific Objective 2: Strengthen policy, and regularization support, through the development of a comprehensive national migration policy and assistance in the completion of the amnesty regularization process.
- 1.11 **Specific Objective 3: Strengthen Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) migrant data collection capacities,** through the development of an additional module in the labor force survey.
- 1.12 **Expected Results:** Specific Objective 1: Strengthen Ministry of Immigration operations are expected to result in strengthened MOI operations through the completion of any outstanding digitalization processes coupled with increased communication capacities of border management staff that enable the balancing of national security and humanitarian concerns.

Specific Objective 2: Policy and Regularization Support is expected to result in a national migration policy and implementation strategy, the completion of the Amnesty Process, and facilitation of migrant regularization outside of any amnesty process.

Specific Objective 3: Strengthen Statistical Institute of Belize data collection capacities is expected to result in the timely collection of migrant labor force data through a labor force survey with a module that will collect migrant labor force data.
- 1.13 **Qualitative Outcomes:**

For specific objective 1, the qualitative outcome would result in more effective MOI operations through digitalized MOI processes and increased staff capacities. Further, the qualitative outcome for specific objective 2 is that national migration management, including regularization and integration, would be guided by a national migration policy. Finally, specific objective 3 would result in timely, accurate data on the migrant labor force which will contribute to the effective management of labor demands within the various employment sectors.

1.14 **Complementarity.** This TC provides continuity on the digitalization of MOI operations that commenced with BL-T1143 (ATN/OC-19060-BL) and continues through BL-T1158(ATN/OC-20258-BL). The fulfillment of all three TCs will support the completion of Ministry digitalization, migrant regularization, and their subsequent social and economic integration, contributing to the economic development and social cohesion of Belize.

1.15 The TC aligns with the Banks institutional strategy through the following areas of operational focus:

Institutional capacity: Developed through the digitalization of Ministry of Immigration processes and the building of border management staff capacities.

The rule of law and citizen security: Supported through the digitalization of Ministry of Immigration processes that strengthen migration management, governed by various pieces of legislation, and citizen security.

Sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructure: The digitalization of Ministry of Immigration processes affects a shift from paper-based to digital administration, providing a system that can be upgraded with technological advances with minimum disruptions to the effectiveness of Ministry operations. The digital interfaces shall be more inclusive through its provision of service access to remote, and Spanish speaking, populations.

Social protection and human capital development: The development and subsequent implementation of a national migration policy will facilitate migrants' social inclusion, labor market inclusion, and advance human capital development. The Country Strategy 2022-2025(GN-3086), has migration as a dialogue area, noting that the Bank '*will help the government design and implement policies and regulations to promote an efficient, orderly, and inclusive integration of migrants into the labor force, seizing their potential to contribute to productivity and growth.*' The outcomes of this TC reflect the lines of support the Country Strategy has enunciated within the migration dialogue area. Moreover, the CDI, 2025, contains a strategic priority area, 'An enabling environment for private sector-led growth' that has an associated strategic area of 'Improving labor market access and skills for youth and women'. Further, the Bank has five, soon to be six, loan operations encompassing water and sanitation, rural development, urban development, health and labor markets so the strengthening of migration digital services, data availability and national migration policy will contribute to advancing critical processes that migrants need for their social and economic integration including pathways to legal employment. Further, this TC is aligned with Priority Area 3 of W2E - OC SDP Window 2 - Social Development (GN281914) in that the TC supports the development of effective, efficient and transparent institutions, through strengthening MOI service delivery through digital transformation, and support to policy quality through migration policy development.

II. COMPONENTS

- 2.1 **Component 1** objective is to strengthen the Ministry of Immigration (MOI) operations through the consolidation of digitalized processes and the building of staff capacities. The main activities are described below:
- 2.2 Assessment of the status of process digitalization within the MOI and the completion of any unfinished processes achieved through engagement of a consultancy firm over a period of 14 months. Outputs would be the number of diagnostics and assessments completed, and the number of incomplete digitalized processes completed.
- 2.3 Assessment of border management staff communication needs, achieved through engagement of a consultant over a period of 6 months, resulting in the output of a border management staff communication needs assessment report. Training of border management staff to bridge communication gaps identified in the needs assessment would be delivered through the outputs of training workshops to border management staff.
- 2.4 The expected results for this component are as follows: (i) MOI operations strengthened through advances of digitalization, and (ii) enhanced staff communication capacities.
- 2.5 **Component 2** objective is to strengthen national migration policy, and regularization support, through the development of a comprehensive national migration policy and assistance in the completion of the Amnesty regularization process, and the support of migrant regularization outside of any amnesty process. The main activities are described below:
- 2.6 Engagement of a consultant over a period of 12 months to undertake a situation analysis and thereafter use this analysis as a foundation in the writing of a National Migration Policy and Implementation Strategy.
- 2.7 Engagement of a consultancy firm over a period of 36 months would result in the establishment, and subsequent implementation of a multisectoral mechanism that would facilitate the qualification of all approved amnesty applications for PR card allocation through ensuring the fulfilment of all documentation required, including a security bond.
- 2.8 The expected results for this component is a achieve a coordinated migration management across government agencies to support national development goals whilst upholding migrant human rights National migration policy written and migrant regularization supported.
- 2.9 **Component 3** objective is to strengthen the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) data migrant collection capacities, through the development of an additional module in the labor force survey (LFS). The main activities are described below:

- 2.10 Develop and pilot a migrant labor force data module that would be subsequently incorporated into the LFS. The new LFS, implemented by the SIB on a semi-annual basis, would reflect the output of timely migrant specific labor force data.
- 2.11 The expected result for this component is a biannual implementation of the LFS with a migrant data capture module captured through timely migrant labor force data.
- 2.12 **Beneficiaries.** The main beneficiaries of the project are MOI staff; users of MOI services including migrants; government of Belize Ministries and partner agencies and migrant population

III. BUDGET

- 3 Total Project Budget. The fund that finances this operation is W2E - OC SDP Window 2 - Social Development, with the total funding amounting to \$300,000.00

Components	Fund Code Source 1	Total
Component 1: Strengthen the Ministry of Immigration (MOI) operations	W2E	130,000
Component 2: Strengthen national migration policy, and regularization support	W2E	120,000
Component 3: Strengthen the SIB Migrant Data Collection Capacity	W2E	50,000
Total	0	300,000

IV. EXECUTION STRUCTURE

- 4.1 The IDB, through the Social Sector Unit (SCL/MIG) will execute the TC. The Government of Belize has requested that the IDB execute the TC given that the Bank has implemented BL-T1143 (ATN/OC-19060) and is implementing BL-T1158 (ATN/OC-20258-BL) and TC1190 complements the work of the two aforementioned TCs. The TC will be executed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), based on a request by the beneficiaries, 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 Unit of Migration (SCL/MIG). Moreover, the partnership between the MOI and the Bank has positively evolved as a result of Bank's the implementation of two technical cooperations, BL-T1143 (ATN/OC-19060) and BL-T1158 (ATN/OC-20258-BL), since 2022. The MOI recognizes that the Banks procurement system and access to subject expertise is an asset in the implementation of the technical

cooperations. Further, the Bank has developed important work with migration offices in the region and international - 7 - organizations focused on migration, hence, the Bank is well placed to coordinate all activities to be financed by this TC and to serve as the executing agency.

- 4.2 **Procurement.** All procurement to be executed under this Technical Cooperation have 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.
- 4.3 **Execution and Disbursement Period.** The Project will be executed over a period of 36 months with all funds disbursed prior to the end of this period. The executing agency of the TC, the Bank will be responsible for: (i) coordinating the actors involved in the activities; (ii) identifying the studies and technical work necessary to carry out the TC; (iii) selecting and contracting consultants to provide the necessary services; (iv) supervising the consulting services to which the beneficiary provides technical inputs; and (v) managing the execution and provision of consulting services.
- 4.4 **Financial Management.** This section should incorporate Financial Management Policy and audit arrangements should also be specified, including the foreign exchange rate that will apply in respect of expenses incurred in local currency, and the frequency and timing of the financial reports that are required, based on risk. If an audit is required, frequency and type of audits, and whether these will be carried out by an independent audit firm or governmental entity.
- 4.5 **Monitoring, Reporting, and Supervision.** This TC will be supervised by the Sector Specialist in the Migration Unit responsible for execution.

V. POTENTIAL RISKS

- 5.1 No major risks are expected from this project. The Team will communicate and work closely with the Ministry of Immigration regarding the activities and consultants hired to carry out project activities.
- 5.2 The identification of migrants who have been approved for permanent residency but are yet to pay for the permanent residency card could present challenges in terms of locating and or contacting those in rural areas. To mitigate this risk, a multi-agency strategy will be developed which will include actors working with rural migrant populations. This action will contribute to ensuring the location of all migrants in this category.

VI. EXCEPTIONS TO BANK POLICIES

- 6.1 There are no exceptions to Bank policy.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

- 7.1 This Technical Cooperation 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).
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REQUIRED ANNEXES:

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