### Country: Belize

### **COUNTRY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

### Reporting period: 2013-2017

### **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

UNDP Belize’s Country Programme was strategically linked to national development planning frameworks, namely the Horizon 2030: National Development Framework for Belize 2010-2030 and their complementarity to the MDGS with the aims of supporting the visions and priorities of the Government while remaining aligned to its overarching global goals of meeting the MDGS by 2015. The strategic focus of the Government was on democratic governance through a transparent and accountable government machinery, capable of improving citizen security and access to justice; education for life and lifelong learning; building a resilient economy for healthy citizens, with care for the natural environment. The implementation strategy remained based on downstream interventions and upstream policy advice and advocacy, taking fully into consideration the UNDP MDGs Breakthrough Strategy.

The CPD of 2013-17 identified four focus areas on addressing the needs of the Government and they are: **1) advancing human rights with equity, 2) promoting economic and social well-being, citizen security and justice, 3) environmental and natural resource management, disaster risk reduction and climate change mainstreamed into public policies and development processes and 4) democratic governance, capacity development, effectiveness and responsiveness enhanced.**

A consultation with government partners was held on the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP), which was designed to attain government agreement on specific projects and programmes based on the CPD priorities. The CPAP was approved by the government on December 31, 2013 by the Prime Minister of the country. This CPAP builds on the United Nations reform principles, especially simplification and harmonization which assisted on the develop a joint UN programme. The UNDP office has played a leading role in the development of this joint programming as well as other UN advocacy efforts.

The CO has contributed to positive change in all outcome areas and alignment to the government priorities. Citizen security emerged as a national development priority within Outcome 2 and UNDP’s participation in addressing the issue has positioned the organization as a trusted national partner in what is often deemed a ‘crowded space’. The CO’s work in citizen security is focused on the building of national capacities of various actors within the criminal justice system and on the support of the implementation of prevention programming for youth at risk of conflict with the law. The CO has also supported the capacitation of national entities for data collection and statistical analysis allowing greater understanding of the national crime profile and informing responsive policies and programmes. UNDP now considers its role of social protection measures targeting the reduction of social exclusion which is considered a root cause of crime expansion. UNDP is positioned to accompany and support the country as it moves towards addressing the issue of crime and violence within a more integrated vision encompassing a continuum of multi-sectorial and inter-agency initiatives, ranging from prevention to control to improving the administration of justice in order to address the growing human rights deficiencies. UNDP’s comparative advantage as lead in the support of coordination mechanisms which direct the works of national actors and the efforts of donor and sister UN agencies is key as improved coordination will enable an integrated approach that is best to effectively address the multifaceted and dynamic nature of crime and violence in Belize

Additionally, while UNDP sees the importance of supporting prevention of violence programmes and policies for youth, similar emphasis is to be placed on improving the quality of life of people in Belize. Support to effectively address and reduce gender-based violence is critical as defined Outcome 1. Taking into consideration the clear linkages between security, justice and equality, the UNDP CO is moving from a security approach of regime protection to the full adoption of a citizen-driven security approach consistent in the context of human development.

During the past cooperation period, UNDP’s work focused on the strengthening of the national health system with an important product of this work was the creation of a national Belize Health Information System (BHIS), which allows for the collection of disaggregated data informing policies, strategies and processes within the various national response mechanisms. This allowed the Ministry of Health to formulate the Belize Health Sector Strategic Plan 2014- 2024. This is a national vision of “efficient and equitable health services”, and calls on systematic application of current knowledge and future investments to generate new ideas to improve the health and well-being of the population. Through this intervention UNDP was able to change the mono-cultural health system that existed and led to unintentional inequities in health service provision. Additionally, UNDP Belize strengthened the national capacity for governance and coordination of the National HIV/AIDS Response through leading the new proposal development, technical support to the national AIDS commission on the governance of the national response to HIV/AIDS which remain a priority within national plans as the country continues to record high rates of HIV. In 2014, Belize registered the 3rd highest rate in the Caribbean region, and vulnerable and most at risk populations are beset by social, economic and environmental obstacles to access good health care. UNDP provided support to this area in light of the country’s challenge of the dearth in health care professionals. It enhanced the delivery of health care by improving the level of service delivery to rural communities which was consistent with the government’s medium-term health care goals as laid out in its Medium-Term Policy Framework and its priority of increasing access of the poor and marginalised to essential social services. The second comprised the Arima Poverty Profile Pilot which provided a poverty profile at the community level enabling the provision of data that would inform policies and the targeted allocation of resources.

The CO continues to supported Belize’s natural resource development pathway with the CO contributing to the adoption of a development pathway based on sustainable natural resource-based economic model. The present structure utilized in the country’s management of its natural resource base is characterized by the existence of legislative and regulatory frameworks as well as state/ none state partnership networks. National strategies support the effective and improved management of the environment and Belize’s natural capital, while enhancing Belize’s resilience to climate change and natural hazards. Notable accomplishments include the elaboration, endorsement and institutionalization of key pieces of a broader country sustainable development agenda including the country’s Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy, which for the first time explicitly considered poverty and environmental linkages within national medium and long term planning and policy making; the country’s first comprehensive policy and plan for climate change management which has initiated national discussions on the need to rethink the national disaster context of the country; as well as the restructuring of the national protected areas system. Also notable was support for the establishment of the National Climate Change Office and the National Integrated Water Management Authority.

Underpinning UNDP’s strategic thematic interventions is the organizations continued focus on capacity development. In 2013, with the assistance of capacity development experts from RBLAC, an assessment of the capacities of key national counterparts was undertaken. This study advised as to the need for consistent support not only to the development of national capacities, but to the maintenance of core capacities for the sustainable management of the countries natural heritage as well as the country’s new framework for sustainable development. This is a key consideration of further development planning as at present there exists a gap between the declared political ambition of the country and its practical implementation reality as the present state of the economy does not allow for excessive additional investments by the state. Coordination across national systems undergoing transformational reforms ensures non-fragmentation of processes and systems and reduces inefficiencies in investments.

It was further noted that the CO, with the support of UNDP Headquarters and the Regional Office, has the capacity to capitalize on the gains realized through the outcomes of the CPD, and firmly establish itself as a valued partner Government of Belize, civil society and donor agencies. This will provide the base for greater sustainability of outcomes and positive change, which will have a demonstrable impact on alignment with UNDP corporate goals and the well-being of the people of Belize.

### **II: Country Programme Performance Summary**

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| **Country information** | |  | | |
| **Country name: Belize** | | | | |
| **Current country programme period: 2013-2017** | | | | |
| **Outcomes** | | **Total Expenditure 2013-2017** | **Key Indicators of outcome** | **Progress made against key indicators** |
| **1. By 2017, a culture of human rights with equity is institutionalized at all levels.** | | USD 443,825 | 1. *Existence of an operational interministerial human rights group* 2. *Existence of disaggregated Information systems on labour and employment status.* | * *Technical Support within the National Aids Council to support human rights group within the LGBT community* * *program for enhancing community knowledge of rights, legal responsibilities and entitlements was implemented:* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  The CO’s main contribution to outputs under outcome 15 relates to provision of knowledge to marginalized population on their right and responsibilities. While these efforts account for much, the CO has done little work in the recent past, worked towards building national capacity on monitoring and reporting on the implementation of human rights nor supported civil monitoring of rights standards. This area remains important for the development of the people of Belize, however resource constraints, a lack of prioritization of this area in programming and limited staff capacity has limited UNDP’s work on human rights monitoring and reporting. While on this area, it is imperative that UNDP takes the lead in introducing this discussion into the public domain, human rights discussions are sensitive and often politicized in Belize. The ongoing constitutional challenge by the United Belize Advocacy Movement to overturn Section 53 of the Criminal Code, which outlaws carnal intercourse "against the order of nature" with "any person or animal" has of recent conflated all human rights with the rights of the LGBT community. Adverse public opinion on the need to uphold human rights makes prioritizing human rights issues an unpopular political decision. It is evident that human rights may not be priority for many of our national counterparts and thus being responsive to the country’s request for development assistance, which often does not have a strong rights based approach/components, often results in the CO neglecting this outcome  CP Outputs:  The indicative output(s) identified in the CP were: (a) Enhanced levels of awareness and application of human rights standards in policy-making; Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ role of monitoring reports and implementation of human rights recommendations strengthened fully functional and (b) Capacity assessment of productive sector; Strategic action Plans for the removal of identified gaps; Piloted engendered livelihood programmes.  Progress and Achievements:  UNDP’s support to democratic governance focused on creation and maintenance of capacities within public institutions, and opening of national spaces fostering inclusive participation. Actions were aimed at making the government more responsive and capable for service delivery. Programmatically, UNDP supported the development and strengthening of governance architecture and institutions for effective management of natural capital, and supported social auditing by citizens and civil society of local governance efforts. The 2013 RBLAC mission advised that capacity development in UNDP programming should consider a more holistic, system wide approach, one that supports current national plans and programmes as opposed to one-off training interventions. | | | | |
| **2. By 2017, public policies and development processes are mainstreamed with cross -cutting environmental, disaster risk reduction and climate change**  **dimensions.** | USD 5,513,567 | | 1. *Existence of integrated national frameworks/capacities for water, land use management, and CDM).* 2. *Existence of national climate office to mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation measures;* | 1. *National Policy on land use management enacted* 2. *Creation of a National Climate Change Office created* 3. *Establishment of a National Water Board Management Authority created* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  Capacity building for support to Land Management and Water Management has been enhanced through GEF funded environmental management projects, which have high level policy focus.  CP Outputs:  The indicative output(s) identified in the CP were: (a) Strengthened national capacities for effective planning & management of land and water resources; Comprehensive national SD strategy elaborated; (b) National and local capacities for CDM strengthened at local levels (capacities for self-assessment, early warning, mitigation planning); (c) Comprehensive National CC Policy elaborated; Sector adaptation strategies /plans supported; National framework for CC management defined and made operational.  Progress and Achievements:  The CO initiated works on the elaboration of a macro framework for sustainable development in the form of a National Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS), parallel works were also ongoing as Belize finalized the elaboration of the Modernization for Institutional Framework for the Coordination of National Protected Areas System, this new framework complements new legislation for the protected areas system in Belize. Belize’s GSDS represents an effective joint UN action and is supported by UNDP CO, UNDP RBLAC and UNDESA. It aims to serve as a guiding plan for the overall development for Belize for the period 2015-2018. It adopts an integrated, systemic approach based on the principles of sustainable development, and on three notable drivers that are common to successful developing countries: a proactive role for the state, tapping into global markets, and innovative social policy. Another Benchmark deliverable of 2014 was the drafting of the country’s first National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Plan. This document sets the stage for comprehensive climate change planning and management as it relates to national development processes and development within the countries contributing productive sectors. It contributes to the strengthening of climate change governance within the Belizean setting. UNDP was also very successful in its efforts to build national capacities for climate change monitoring, planning and management as approximately 120 individuals were exposed to various avenues of training and capacity building within the  reporting period. 2014 also saw the institutionalization of the National Integrated Water Resource Management Authority, and the finalization of initial ground water assessments which will contribute to the country’s elaboration of its Water Master Plan. UNDP supported the works of the National Emergency Management Organization in which the vulnerabilities/ risks were assessed for some 50 plus communities. The information gathered currently supports national disaster preparedness planning. 15 of the country’s most vulnerable communities were included in the assessment and local capacities developed within these communities for disaster planning management. NEMO was also provided IT and communication equipment facilitating decentralized operations management including effective decentralization of national databases.  Underperformance was reported as it related to the delivery of UNDP CO work programme for rural development, particularly the resilience of rural water systems. The Absorptive capacity of national counterparts represented the key reason for portfolio underperformance as well as limitation in the availability of national expert consultants to support the programme. The tolerances of participating national entities were significantly strained as they attempted to include programmed work into existing work programmes. A capacity assessment of the Department of Rural Development (UNDP’s primary national Counterpart) indicates inadequate staffing as well as inefficiencies in programme execution. Lags in some cases were also exacerbated by perceived cumbersome UNDP recruitment and procurement processes | | | | |
| **3. By 2017, a culture of human rights with equity is institutionalized at all levels.** | USD3,074,198 | | 1. *HIV prevalence in young people age 15-24.* 2. *Number of water boards with performance-based evaluation* | 1. *Targeted groups were met and surpassed* 2. *Performance completed and identified systems upgraded,* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  UNDP Belize through the implementation of Round 9 had reached 9,188 youth young people ages 11-20 years with life skill based HIV/AIDS education in secondary education setting. The programme had also provided low literacy materials and awareness sessions to 1,262 out of school youth ages 11-24 years.348 MSM reached and 275 FSW were reached with HIV prevention services. 649 adults and children living with HIV received care and support services outside health facilities during 2014, 270 orphan and vulnerable children 0-17 years received free basic external support in caring for the child (BOOST cash conditional transfer for children to stay in school). Support to the national M&E system continues in form of trainings, coaching sessions and availing strategic information through the national Knowledge attitude and Behavior survey and the routine monitoring data. The costing of the national AIDS strategy and the planned programme review will support the National AIDS Commission in the governance of the response. Being the principal recipient of the Global Fund, UNDP Belize had enabled the country to achieve and maintain an excellent performing project at an A1. An institutional assessment of water governance in Belize was conducted in 2014 to identify areas for strength in rural water governance and to address some of the inherent bottlenecks in the delivery of services by water boards. The assessment also contributed to the institutionalization of the National Integrated Water Resources Authority. Under the GCCA project, the maintenance plans of the water boards were supported through the provision Retrofitted water systems and provided capacity building for management of water sources for 15 communities in 2014. The CO also supported in the provision of water catchment systems and rehabilitation of existing water  systems for 2 and 4 communities respectively  CP Outputs:  The indicative output(s) identified in the CP were: (a) coverage of high-impact preventive and outreach interventions increased and (b) Strengthen institutional capacity of the Ministry of Health to coordinate access to improved rural water supply and sanitation services.  Progress and Achievements:  The indicator that had the lowest performance of 81% was the indicator: Number of adults and children living with HIV who receive care and support services outside health facilities during the reporting period (Target 800 PLHIV) Result649 PLHIV reached with care and support services (81% achievement). While the performance is acceptable, it did not achieve the target of 100%. The main reason for this underperformance is due to that one of the sub recipients did not implement in the second semester of 2014 due to some internal challenges that the NGO was experiencing. The Ministry of Health, through its VCT Clinic in Belize City attempted to fill in this gap, but only managed to do so partially. For 2015, we will have to strategize with MOH and the Ministry of Human Development and Social Transformation to avoid this underperformance.  for 2015 | | | | |
| **4. By 2017, democratic governance, capacity development, effectiveness and responsiveness are enhanced.** | USD 343,400 | | 1. *Number of institutions with budgeted*   *workplans to implement RESTORE Belize.*   1. *Number of laws developed and*   *presented to national assembly that promote transparency* | * *Budgets for Restore Belize completed for 2014-2018* * *One main draft law proposing strengthens the rule of law* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  The UNDP contribution identified in the CP was to support the establishment of Restore Belize, the need to strengthen citizen security and access to justice. UNDP was able to establish the unit and support the works within the at risk communities.  CP Outputs:  The indicative output(s) identified in the CP were: (a) Access to justice, rule of law and security institutions as well as civil society capacities to reduce citizen insecurity and vulnerabilities and enhance access to justice strengthened; (b) Strengthened national capacities for effective implementation of UNCAC POA and consistency in national reporting  Progress and Achievements:  UNDP made advances towards those outcomes (CP outcome 4&7). In 2014 UNDP provided support to the development of the Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS) for Belize 2015-2018 which adopts an integrated, systemic approach based on the principles of sustainable development, and on proactive role for the state, tapping into global markets, and innovative social policy. UNDP strengthened the Belize Youth Social Audit Network (BYSAN). A more operational structure was developed with an executive body. BYSAN also developed platforms for its advocacy and plans for areas for audit. In 2014 BYSAN team collected data from nine municipalities mapping their capacities for the implementation of services geared towards fast tracking relevant MDG achievement in the respective municipalities which had informed the Local Government Capacity Assessment Report UNDP coordinated the Public Administration Donor group and a consolidated Public Service Capacity Development Strategy with the aim to holistically address the issues that constrain service delivery and responsiveness in the Public Sector in key line ministries was developed. In 2014, the capacity of at least 45 senior public servants from respective MDG line ministries was strengthened in results based management and monitoring and evaluation. This capacity building effort ties into the support provided by UNDP to the government in the development of the national midterm planning strategy 2015-2018. In partnership with UNICEF the CO has also strengthened responsive governance at the local level and has assessed the capacity of local government in an  effort to increase their level and ability to deliver basic services particularly in MDG services to local populations. All nine municipalities nationally, have accepted to work to improve services for the development of their respective municipalities. Seventy (70) National Women’s Leaders from indigenous groups and CSOs were prepared in advocacy for political participation and provided with tools for women desirous of running for political office in campaigning, campaign financing and the electoral system of Belize with the aim of increasing the number of women who are elected and seat at representative positions within the governance structure of Belize. The project supported nine of these women to run for the upcoming municipal councils. One women is currently vying to be mayor and seven women running for House of Representative.  Summary of evaluation findings and lessons learned  Based on individual project evaluations carried out, recommendations will be taken on-board and project re-adjusted (where applicable), piloted and/or replicated to accommodate the recommendations and increase the CO’s value added to the country’s development. UNDP has been strategic in its focus and programme implementation.  The achievements of the CO represent significant breakthroughs in the country’s development, which can be built upon. They have been reinforced by high level policy dialogues initiatives which enhanced UNDP’s profile and credibility.  Effective governance enables sustainability of UNDP programming during the past cooperation period, UNDP’s support to democratic governance focused on creation and maintenance of capacities within public institutions, and opening of national spaces fostering inclusive participation. Actions were aimed at making the government more responsive and capable for service delivery. Programmatically, UNDP supported the development and strengthening of governance architecture and institutions for effective management of natural capital, and supported social auditing by citizens and civil society of local governance efforts UNDP’s support in the areas of readying both the procuring entities and the Office of the Procurement Regulator will go a long way in strengthen Government’s architecture and efficiency in the implementation of procurement reform.  The role of this project in strengthening, transparency and accountability within government entities represents a solid entry point for UNDP. These initiatives are both fully in alignment with UNDP Strategic Plan.  A key lesson learnt over the last cooperation period was that HIV prevention services needed to more effectively address the basic psychological factors underlying observable underlying observable behavior by groups of men and women at risk; there is a need for a comprehensive package of prevention services which addresses social determinants of the disease. A programme evaluation also identified a need for interventions to focus on the TB-HIV co-infections that have so far received scant response in country programming. Recommendations indicate the need to create enablers for affected populations to realize their rights. | | | | |

III. Country Programme Resources

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| **Focus Area** | **Programme Expenditure ($) 2013 – 2017** | | | **% of Total** |
|  | Regular (TRAC) | Other | Total |  |
| HIV AIDS | 0 | 3,074,198 | 3,074,198 | 32.79% |
| Democratic Governance | 0 | 443,825 | 443,825 | 4.73% |
| Energy and Environment | 56,137 | 5,457,430 | 5,513,567 | 27.81% |
| Poverty | 231,037 | 112,363 | 343,400 | 58.81% |
| Total | 287,174 | 9,087,816 | 9,374,990 | 100% |

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| **Data sources: (please indicate the main sources from which data were obtained for this report.)** |
| 1. Belize and United Nations Country Team, **United Nations Development Assistance Framework: 2013-2017** 2. Belize Budget Presentation December 2015 3. UNDP Belize, **Office Programme Documents**: 4. Country Programme Document for Belize 2013-2017 5. Belize – Integrated Work Plan 2013 6. Belize – Integrated Work Plan 2015 7. Belize- ROAR 2013 8. Belize - ROAR 2014 |