



UNITED NATIONS
BELIZE

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2024

Annual Results Report

Building Resilience & Empowering Belizeans Together





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Raul Salazar

Resident Coordinator

United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator, Belize

FOREWORD

It is my great honour to present the **2024 UN Country Results Report (CRR) for Belize**, a testament to the transformative partnerships and collective resolve that continue to drive sustainable, inclusive development in this remarkable nation. This report reflects not just progress in numbers, but also stories of resilience, empowerment, and meaningful change shaped by the people of Belize, in collaboration with the United Nations and our development partners.

With a shared focus on leaving no one behind, we worked alongside government counterparts, civil society, youth leaders, and communities to accelerate Belize's national development priorities as outlined in the #PlanBelize National Medium-term Development Strategy (MTDS). Together, we supported groundbreaking reforms in social protection, strengthened national data and statistical systems, and delivered targeted support to thousands of families, farmers, migrants, women, and children across the country.

Among the most significant achievements was the rollout of Belize's first-ever Social Protection Strategy, backed by integrated cash transfer programmes that reached hundreds of vulnerable families with both financial support and access to health, nutrition, and education services. At the same time, we helped digitize over 25,000 immigration records, enabled universal birth registration for asylum seekers, and completed one of the largest household surveys through the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey

In the face of mounting climate threats, we mobilized action through disaster risk training for government officers, youth-led resilience initiatives, and the construction of new or retrofitted climate-resilient shelters and clinics. In the productive sector, rural households were equipped with climate-smart farming techniques to withstand changing weather patterns, while progress in the green economy included refrigerant phase-out systems, clean energy pilots, and integrated water management frameworks. These efforts reflect Belize's determination to meet its climate goals while building a more sustainable economy. Notably, 2024 also marked a turning point in the justice and human rights landscape. Through the PACE Justice Project and targeted anti-corruption initiatives, we supported institutional reforms that are increasing access to justice and reducing case backlogs.

In every district and across every pillar of our cooperation framework, the common thread has been partnership grounded in trust and a shared ambition with the government and people of Belize.

As we move forward, the United Nations in Belize remains steadfast in its commitment to accompany the Government and people of Belize in building a more just, resilient, and hopeful future for all. Together, we will continue to bridge divides, challenge inequality, and realize the promise of the 2030 Agenda, one community at a time.





H.E. Amalia Mai

Chief Executive Officer

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign
Trade, Government of Belize

FOREWORD

The UN Country Results Report (CRR) for 2024 demonstrates another year of meaningful collaboration between the Government of Belize and the United Nations System in Belize in advancing sustainable development and the well-being and livelihoods of those most in need.

This partnership remains central to our efforts to build a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Belize. The implementation of the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNMSDCF) 2022–2026, has reinforced the commitment to Belize’s national development priorities outlined in Plan Belize Medium-Term Development Strategy (MTDS) 2022–2026, while aligning with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2024, we successfully convened the Youth Dialogue, an important milestone in our collective preparation for the Summit of the Future. Young people are vital to shaping our development path to achieve the future they want, and the Youth Dialogue ensured their voices were not only heard but integrated into global discourse.

With joint support provided by the UN, Belize completed its second Voluntary National Review (VNR), which captures our country’s progress and challenges across all 17 SDGs. The review process reaffirmed our commitment to sustainable development and fostered a deeper sense of accountability and national ownership.

Another key achievement in 2024 was the formulation of Belize’s Social Protection Strategy and costed Social Protection Floor, developed in partnership with UNICEF, ILO, and WFP. This critical work provides a framework for protecting the most vulnerable members of our society and advancing social equity.

The establishment of an Oversight Committee for the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) was another major step forward in coordinating climate finance. It reflects our resolve to strategically mobilize and align resources with our development aspirations.

We also look forward to the upcoming pipeline initiatives, including the project on the establishment of a National Human Rights Institute (NHRI), to be implemented by UNDP and OHCHR, and joint engagement in the Strategic Alliance Conference convened by the International Cooperation Council (ICC).

These efforts reflect the strength of our partnership with the UN and the bold ambition of Belize for transformative development with integrity, inclusivity, and sustainability at its core. As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our shared vision to leave no one behind.

The Government of Belize remains committed to working hand-in-hand with the UN System to turn commitments into action, and aspirations into results.



United Nations
Country Team in
Belize



Key Development Partners of the UN System in 2024

In 2024, the government of Belize reinforced its role as a key development partner of the United Nations Country Team, reaffirming its commitment to advancing national sustainable development priorities. Throughout the year, UN agencies and government entities engaged in ongoing dialogue across multiple forums to align support with Belize’s strategic goals and its international development commitments.

The **Joint National Steering Committee (JNSC)** served as the central forum for policy dialogue and decision-making on critical aspects of the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF 2022 – 2026) and the Country Implementation Plan (CIP 2024 - 2025). This high-level committee brought together representatives from government, UN agencies, and other stakeholders to harmonize development objectives, foster policy coherence, and monitor progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The **Development Partners Network (DPN)**, chaired jointly by the UN Resident Coordinator and representatives from the U.S. Embassy, continued to be one of the primary platforms for engaging with development partners and coordinating international support in Belize. The DPN serves as a vital interface that connects bilateral and multilateral donors with government counterparts, ensuring that all external support is aligned with Belize’s national priorities. As part of its mandate, the UN has been instrumental in technical facilitation, strategic advising, and policy harmonization efforts within the DPN. The network hosted two active thematic working groups and a general assembly meeting in 2024 and the UNRCO spearheaded the development of a comprehensive data dashboard for the DPN, marking the first of its kind in Belize, which aims to significantly enhance real-time monitoring, transparency, and data-driven decision making among all partners.

Given the current global context, marked by evolving geopolitical conflicts, economic uncertainties, and global reduction of development aid, the establishment of a resilient financing and funding compact is essential. **The UNCT Funding Compact Dialogue** has emerged as a critical platform for mobilizing resources, fostering innovation, and accelerating impact across Belize. This dialogue not only galvanizes a diverse range of funding partners to fill existing gaps but also sparks creative financing solutions that drive strategic outcomes.



The United Nations Country Team in Belize partnered with the following bodies for the implementation and financing of the CIP 2024:



International Organizations and Funds



Governments and Embassies



National Partners



01 Key Development Trends in Belize



THE BELIZEAN POPULATION

The latest national census data report that Belize's population stands at around 397,483, with a youthful demographic profile—almost 50% of citizens are under the age of 25. This youthful demographic, while presenting unique challenges, also offers significant opportunities for human capital development. Urbanization has been on a steady rise, with around 45% of Belizeans now residing in urban areas.



Intercensal change



51% Women



49% Men



2022 Total Population:
397,483 persons



POVERTY REDUCTION

Recent data from the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) release in December 2024 indicate that Belize has made some inroads in reducing poverty. As of September 2024, the incidence of multidimensional poverty fell to 22.1% from 26.4% a year earlier, meaning that approximately 14,070 fewer individuals experienced multidimensional poverty. Key drivers behind these improvements include progress in critical areas such as improved sanitation and enhanced access to internet and ICT, and the dependency ratio. Despite these advances, challenges remain, particularly in districts such as Toledo which continue to record exceptionally high poverty rates, and households headed by individuals with no formal education or those from Maya communities experience the

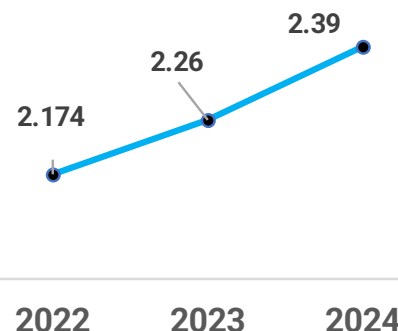
"While more Belizeans are gaining access to basic services and opportunities, a significant share of the population still grapples with overlapping deprivations shaped by geography, ethnicity, and education"



THE BELIZEAN ECONOMY

Despite ongoing global uncertainties, Belize's economy maintained a measure of stability throughout 2024. Data from the SIB show that, as the 2024 fiscal year ended, growth was modestly supported by the tertiary sector and several key industries within the secondary sector. For the 2024 fiscal year, Belize produced goods and services valued at US \$2.39 billion, an increase of 8.3 percent, or US \$183 million, compared to GDP recorded during the same period in 2023. These figures point to a cautious upward trend, even as underlying structural challenges continue to shape the country's broader economic outlook.

ANNUAL GDP GROWTH (US \$Billion)



THE BELIZEAN EXPORT MARKET

Belize's export market remains a critical engine of economic growth, with key products such as citrus fruits, sugar, banana and marine products forming the backbone of international trade. Merchandise exports for 2024 totalled US \$229.94 million, representing a 12.5% increase (US \$25.6 million) over the 2023 value of US \$204.3 million.

EXPORT COMPOSITION –2024 (US \$Million)



DEVELOPMENT AID TO BELIZE

Globally, development aid is experiencing a contraction. In 2024, eight major donor countries announced cuts totalling US \$17 billion in official development assistance (ODA), with further reductions anticipated in subsequent years. Major donors, including the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, and France, have signalled significant decreases in their aid budgets. This trend poses challenges for countries like Belize that depend on external funding for development initiatives. The current challenges underscore the need for a new funding compact that emphasizes diversification of funding sources and enhanced domestic resource mobilization.

Based on the data published by the Government of Belize through the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) in September 2024, the investment profile for external funding is as follows:

Sector	Total (\$BZ)	% of PSIP
Infrastructure	858,942,445	42%
Economic Services	672,538,316	33%
Social Protection	402,236,939	19%
Public Administration	132,872,246	6%
Total	2,066,589,946	100%



02

UN Development System Support to Belize's National Development Priorities through the MSDCF 2022 – 2026



2.1 UN Support to Belize's National Development Priorities through MSDCF 2022 – 2026

2.1 Overview of MSDCF Results

The UN is a dedicated partner in Belize's journey toward sustainable development. Through the UN MSDCF 2022 - 2026 and the annual Country Implementation Plan (CIP 2024), we bring together our collective expertise, resources and partnerships to back Belize's National Medium-term Development Strategy (MTDS). By working together with government bodies, civil society and local stakeholders, we continue to implement targeted interventions and roll out strategies that suit Belize's development context.

By aligning effort with existing national and sectoral plans, the UN helps build a business ecosystem that is more inclusive, competitive and resilient while strengthening institutions to promote decent work. Our coordinated approach supports Belize in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, fostering inclusive growth and tackling pressing challenges.

This Annual Country Results Report celebrates the milestones and lessons learned in 2024 across the 15 UN agencies driving the CIP forward, and reflects our shared commitment to a prosperous, equitable Belize—and a stronger Caribbean region.

2.2 UN MSDCF 2022 – 2026 Results by Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs



MSDCF Priority 1: Economic Resilience and Shared Prosperity

Relevant SDGs:



Total Expenditure – Pillar 1



797 households were surveyed for Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OoPE) analysis.



174 persons received livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions from UNHCR and partners (84 from Help for Progress, 90 from Humana).



US \$4.45 million (BZD 8.9 million) budgeted for the ILO PROSPER project implementation in Toledo.



3 Producer organizations (Pos) were supported through the IFAD/GCF financed Resilient Rural Belize Programme.



2024 – 2029 Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) completed and ready for implementation.



Advancing an Inclusive Business Ecosystem through Institutional Strengthening for Decent Work in Belize

In 2024, the UN Country Team in Belize, through collaborative efforts and targeted investments, supported the country's stride towards strengthening decent work and enhancing social services, all contributing to a more inclusive business ecosystem.

The Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) 2024-2029 was launched as a landmark initiative in a tripartite partnership aimed at strengthening rights and governance, inclusive labour markets, productivity, and enterprise and rural development.

Aligned with Plan Belize, the DWCP focuses on bolstering our labour market and fostering economic opportunities. It plays a crucial role in achieving our economic growth and poverty reduction objectives outlined in Belize's Medium Term Development Strategy

-Honourable John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize

In parallel, the UN also supported a critical Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OoPE) analysis, surveying 797 households to understand the financial burdens families face in accessing health and education services for their children. The study, validated through a national workshop, resulted in budget briefs for health and education. The findings are expected to help the government make informed decisions to provide free and quality health and education services for all children, ensuring equitable access.

The UN and its implementing partners, namely the 'Help for Progress' and 'Humana Belize' also delivered livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions through labour insertion programmes for refugees. The collective impact of these initiatives is creating a more supportive environment for businesses and individuals to thrive.

Due to unresolved concerns about migrant worker recruitment fees, collaborative discussions with the Ministry of Labour were convened in 2024. While The revised Labour Act was finalized as a cabinet paper, there is continued effort to ensure alignment of national policies with international standards for migrant workers.



Belize launches new Decent Work Country Programme

As the second DWCP for Belize, the Programme will be implemented from 2024 to 2029. It sets out the common commitment of the Government of Belize, workers' and employers' organizations, and the International Labour Organization (ILO) to promote decent work.

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System in Lucky Strike, San Lucas, and Yalbac Villages

The Ministry of Rural Transformation, together with the UN, successfully expanded access to clean, renewable energy in rural communities. Solar power systems were installed in 30 homes in San Lucas Village, 12 homes in Lucky Strike, and 21 homes in Yalbac Village, replacing traditional kerosene lamps with sustainable, off-grid solutions. With system capacities ranging from 50 to 850 watts, these installations provide not just reliable electricity, but also new opportunities for economic participation, improved living standards, and greater community resilience

UNHCR partner with Belize HUMANA People to People for Livelihood Interventions

The UN and implementing partners provided livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions for 174 persons in 2024. Information was shared by community members in rural communities about the Government of Belize's amnesty programme, a regularization process for asylum-seekers and migrants, with the hopes of helping others who qualify in applying.

Mobilizing Development Finance, Strengthening Food Systems & Accelerating the Belize's Green Energy Shift

The UN supported the design of an incentive program and groundbreaking 'Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)' schemes that channel direct incentives to rural and indigenous landowners who embrace eco-friendly farming and sustainable tourism, turning the stewardship of forests and wildlife into reliable income streams. In the wake of the wildfires in 2024, the UN supported the Toledo Cacao Growers Association for the implementation of the Cacao Industry Fire Recovery and Sustainability Project. This initiative aimed to restore and strengthen cacao farming in the Toledo and Cayo Districts.

On the ground, IFAD's support has kicked off a network of community-managed backyard gardens and critical road upgrades, starting with Valley of Peace, Trio and San Carlos. Three Producer Organizations (POs) received essential assets in 2024, laying the groundwork for vibrant micro-enterprises.

As farm fences go up and irrigation kits arrive, families are already reporting healthier harvests and steadier incomes. Full asset delivery and business-plan rollouts in 2025 will cement these gains, knitting food security seamlessly into the rural livelihoods.

Complementing these efforts, the UN partnered with the EU and launched two projects designed to promote inclusive socio-economic development of southern Belize, and to increase the capacities of Government Institutions responsible for integrated border control planning and management. The Participation, Ownership, and Sustainable Progress for Economic Resilience (PROSPER) project, a four-year initiative focused on the Toledo District, will empower rural and indigenous communities to foster entrepreneurship and local economic development.



Contributing to a Resilient Food Systems

- **30,000**

cacao seedlings (among other farming equipment) provided to local farmers in Cayo and Toledo.

- **us\$50,000**

direct support provided to the Toledo Cacao Growers Association for ensuring a more resilient and thriving cacao industry in the wake of severe wildfires.



2.2 UN MSDCF 2022 – 2026 Results by Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs

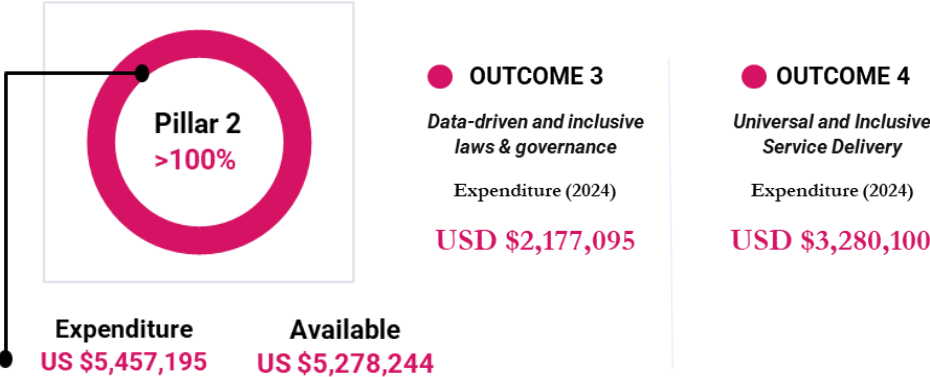


MSDCF Priority 2: Equality, Well-being, and Leaving No One Behind

Relevant SDGs:



Total Expenditure – Pillar 2



3,356 migrant beneficiaries received immigration-related information in their local languages, with three Mobile Hubs reaching 692 individuals.



5,544 households surveyed in MICS7, with a 88.1% household response rate. Prior to 2024, the last MICS was completed in 2015.



14,657 students across primary and secondary levels impacted by the social and behavior change (SBC) MoRE campaign.



400 healthcare providers trained under HEARTS Initiative.



5,000+ benefitting from the establishment of 13 Digital Connect Centres.



7,300 pregnant women screened for HIV/syphilis/hepatitis B.



Strengthening Data and Policy for Inclusive Governance and Advancing Equality in Belize

Belize’s Medium-Term Development Strategy (MTDS) places inclusive governance and social equity at its heart, recognizing that sound decision-making and equal opportunity underpin sustainable progress. By modernizing information systems, empowering communities with digital tools, embedding gender- and child-focused metrics into national planning, the UN’s efforts catalysed transparent institutions and a more participatory approach to national planning.

In late 2024, the UN partnered with the Ministry of Immigration and signed a landmark Implementing Partnership Agreement to establish Belize’s first dedicated Migration Statistical Unit. Two expert statisticians were onboarded, and essential hardware and software procurement processes were set in motion, laying the groundwork for real-time, reliable migration data.

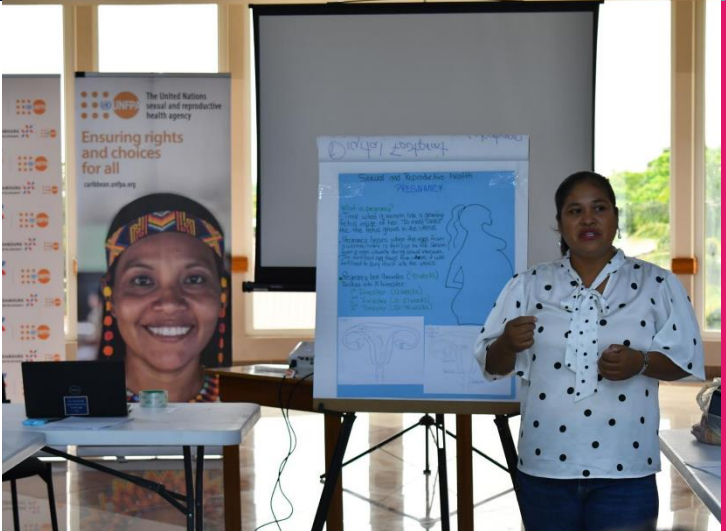
Concurrently, our commitment to enhancing the public health landscape was shown through the completed design of a Central Data Exchange Platform (CDEP) and Analytics Warehouse, embedding Belize’s new cancer registry and the ICD-11 classification into Belize’s Health Information system (BHIS). This integration links patient records across NHI, Ministry of Health and Wellness clinics, the Social Security Board and Civil Registry.

After nearly a decade without a national household survey, UN agencies jointly led the completion of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS7) across 5,568 households, achieving an 88.1% response rate (3,831 completed) by early December.

These fresh youth-and-child indicators will inform everything from education and nutrition policies to social protection and gender equality strategies. Building on the enhancement of child-friendly data, the UN also collaborated with the Ministry of Education and GIGA to yield six district-wide Child-friendly U-Spaces, launching firstly in Corozal and Orange Walk.

“
Now I can code and connect with peers nation-wide.
-Corozal U-Space Student
”

With UN support, a technical mission bolstered the Ministry of Health’s Reproductive Health Commodity Security (RHCS) system, ensuring continuous access to long-acting reversible contraceptives and family-planning supplies. Simultaneously, updates to the National Youth Development Policy for Belize will be finalized by Q1 2025, aligning youth empowerment with the newly revised SRH Policy and advancing Belize’s commitment to gender equality.



Filling Data Gaps with MICS7: A UNICEF–UNFPA Partnership

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS7) across **5,568 households**, achieving an **88.1% response rate** (3,831 completed) by early December 2024. Corozal, Orange Walk and Toledo Regions surpassed 85% completion.

Integrating Health Data for Smarter Policies – Clinical Data Exchange Programme (CDEP)

By linking the Belize Health Information System (BHIS) with the Registration and Clinical Activity Web Application (RAWA), CDEP will enable real-time interoperability across all care providers, sharpen epidemiological profiling, bolster the national cancer registry, and meet international reporting standards.

Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

Through a cascade Training of Trainers model, **22 peer educators** from across the country are now equipped to deliver Comprehensive Sexuality Education, developed jointly with BFL. The programme aims to empower both in- and out-of-school adolescents with critical SRH knowledge, advocacy skills and dignified access to youth-friendly services.

Expanding Equitable Access to Quality, Shock-Responsive Health, Education, and Social Protection Services in Belize

In 2024, the United Nations Country Team in Belize made significant strides in expanding equitable access to quality, shock-responsive health, education, and social protection services, leaving no one behind. Inter-agency collaboration was paramount in addressing systemic inequalities and building resilience across the nation, with a focus on the most vulnerable populations, including migrants, women, children, and those in rural communities.

Our commitment to health sector strengthening was evident across various initiatives. The UN bolstered the healthcare system by enhancing the Integrated Healthcare Delivery Network methodology and promoting the HEARTS initiative, ultimately benefiting those accessing primary level facilities in all 4 Health Regions for hypertension and diabetes management. The UN also partnered with the Ministry of Health and Wellness for the completion and launch of Belize's National Suicide Prevention Plan 2024-2030, enabling the country to advance work at the community level to build the capacity of various stakeholders on the use of technical tools in the Mental Health GAP Action Program.

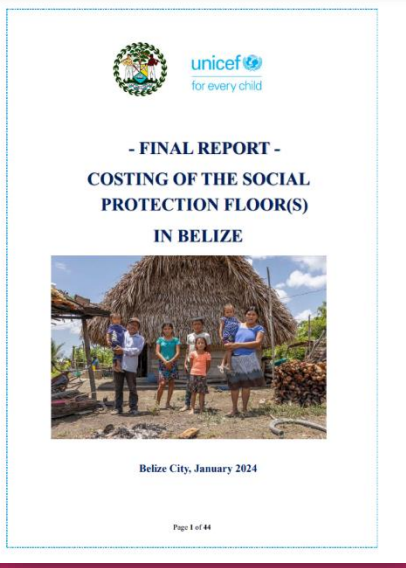
These efforts built on the work of the Ministry of Health and Wellness, who screened over 600 pregnant and postpartum mothers for mental health disorders in 100% of primary health care facilities in Belize and trained health workers in perinatal mental health. The UN also improved the quality of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling provided by health workers, improving the knowledge and skills of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months in providing appropriate feeding practices and trained community health workers. These collaborative interventions, supported by capacity

building and strengthened protocols, are improving health outcomes for Belizeans across the life cycle.

The education sector also received a significant boost through strategic investments in digital literacy and curriculum reform. The UN empowered elderly citizens with digital literacy skills, ensuring their inclusion in an increasingly digital society. Capacity building was also provided to young girls from marginalized communities in website development and graphic design, paving the way for economic empowerment.

With partners such as Think Equal and Giga, there were further enhancements to the education sector through the implementation of the national competency-based curriculum, reaching all children in primary and secondary schools, and established Child-friendly U-Spaces with digital connectivity across six districts. Further emphasizing the UN's commitment to leaving no one behind, the UN co-created the National Digital Transformation Agenda and an Investment Case for Connectivity with the Ministry of Education and Giga. As a result of these interventions, more young people are equipped with the skills and knowledge to thrive in the 21st century.

In collaboration with the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the Ministry of Education, the UN also helped establish Belize's first education coalition, the 'Belize Education Alliance', to drive collective action through the Local Education Group and advance regional goals such as foundational learning and digital transformation.



Expanding Social Protection Systems

Social protection systems were strengthened to become more responsive to shocks and inclusive of vulnerable populations. Through joint UN-GOB effort, Belize's first-ever **Social Protection Policy and Strategy** was finalized. Building on existing programs like BOOST, the joint Programme has contributed to the first-ever costing of the Social Protection Floor and facilitating extensive dialogues with various stakeholders, which sets out various options regarding the scope and cost of a social protection floor in Belize. In addition, the UN continued its support for the implementation of the **innovative Nutrition Responsive Cash Transfer Program**, reaching 457 families with children under five years old, as well as pregnant and lactating women, to provide them with 200 Belize dollars (US \$100) monthly, with at least 70 percent of the total transfer value allocated for nutritious food items.

The UN also infused a gender-sensitive lens into social protection programming, enhancing data collection on gender-related issues and empowering CSOs to work with men and boys to prevent GBV. In the justice sector, capacity-building initiatives have equipped doctors and police officers with the skills to handle sexual assault cases sensitively and effectively, improving the quality of victim care and ensuring stronger, evidence-based prosecutions.

To address the needs of specific vulnerable groups, the UN provided support to address risk factors for these populations. Psychosocial support was provided to migrants, returnees, refugees and asylum seekers. Support was also provided to beneficiaries with Civil Registration documents through the Vital Statistics Unit.

A total of 200 migrant children received scholarships through the IRM programme. Furthermore, beneficiaries in San Pedro Colombia received supplies in response to the Wildfire emergency in the Toledo district, and in response to the flooding caused by Tropical Storm Sara in 2024. Additionally, the UN worked with the Government of Belize to provide training to strengthen capacity on asylum and other legal status arrangements for government officers and supported persons with Cash-based Interventions (CBI) for documentation, multi-purpose cash grants for basic needs and shelter and housing in 2024. These targeted interventions are ensuring that even the most marginalized communities have access to essential services and opportunities.

2.2 UN MSDCF 2022 – 2026 Results by Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs



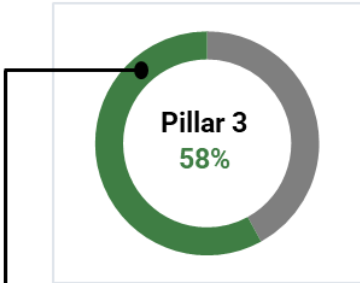
MSDCF Priority 3:

Resilience to Climate Change & Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Relevant SDGs



Total Expenditure – Pillar 3



Expenditure US \$4,368,281 Available US \$7,535,842

OUTCOME 5

Adaptive climate actions and disaster risk management

Expenditure (2024)

USD \$3,885,746

OUTCOME 6

Sustainable natural resource management

Expenditure (2024)

USD \$482,535



US \$100,000 contributed to top up the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) tropical cyclone and excessive rainfall policies.



218 rural households trained in climate resilience practices and strategies and basic agricultural production



US \$50,000 allocated for shelter improvements. 436 buildings listed as shelters. 245 usable & 162 needing improvement.



45 public officers from 11 government ministries received scholarships for postgraduate DRM program.



120 adolescents engaged in the first National Youth Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction.



17% decline in food insecurity levels, compared to 2023.



Strengthening Climate Resilience, Disaster Risk Management, and Food Security in Belize

From training hundreds of farmers in climate-smart practices and retrofitting health facilities with solar power, to pioneering disaster-risk credentials for government officers, topping up parametric insurance for rapid payouts, and constructing cyclone-resistant community shelters. Together, these high-impact actions laid the groundwork for a more secure, climate resilient and shock-responsive Belize.

Building resilience at the community level was a central focus for the UN in 2024, with interventions ranging from infrastructure improvements to capacity-building initiatives. Capacities were built withing rural households in climate-resilient agricultural practices, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to adapt to changing weather patterns. Construction was completed for two hurricane shelters in Santa Familia and Duck Run 3 and upgraded a school in Billy White, providing safe havens for communities during extreme weather events. These shelters were further enhanced with the donation of water storage and kitchen units.

“*Knowing we have a safe and reliable shelter right here in our community gives us peace of mind, especially during hurricane season*
-Santa Familia Resident”

The UN also worked to strengthen national systems for disaster risk management and preparedness. We partnered with Galen University to launch the Post-Graduate Diploma Program in Disaster Risk Management, providing full scholarships to 45 public

officers from various government ministries. In addition, three micro-credential courses were developed, including the UNICEF-CDEMA Regional Protocol for the Integrated Protection of Children and Adolescents in Emergency and Disaster Situations and Child Environmental Health.

Efforts to integrate climate change considerations into national planning and decision-making were significantly enhanced. UN support was provided for developing a national database structure, incorporating baseline data from the 2021 Census, to inform climate change policies and target interventions at the most at-risk populations.

Legislative support was also given for updating guidelines to enhance community and municipal-level disaster recovery efforts, ensuring that recovery processes are gender-sensitive and inclusive. This work was complemented by UN assistance in developing a comprehensive climate change and carbon market policy, including the integration of a blue carbon framework focused on the carbon sequestration potential of coastal and marine ecosystems.



Caribbean Food Security & Livelihoods Survey
REGIONAL SUMMARY REPORT | April 2024



Launch of the E-Bus Service and Charging Depot of the E-Mobility Pilot Project

E-Mobility Pilot Project launched its first electric bus service and charging depot, funded by the EU and delivered by the UN in partnership with the Government of Belize and Belize City Council. This collaboration showcases how innovation and international support can power a cleaner, low-carbon public transport system.

Communities in Western Belize receive new shelters ahead of Hurricane season

In western Belize, hurricane-resilient shelters were built in Santa Familia and Duck Run 3, while upgrades in Billy White brought existing facilities up to national standards. Supported by US\$2.6 million from the European Union, the project is a joint effort by the Government of Belize and IOM to strengthen community resilience, protect vulnerable populations, and reduce climate-related risks. Construction is also underway on a new polyclinic and shelter in Duck Run 1 to further enhance regional preparedness.

Caribbean Food Security & Livelihoods

Recognizing the importance of food security in building overall resilience, the UN and CARICOM launched the seventh round of the Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) survey, providing critical insights into regional and national food security dynamics. The survey reported a 17% decline in food insecurity levels compared to 2023, signalling that strategic interventions are beginning to yield results.

Advancing the Green Economy & Strengthening Natural Resource Management for a More Resilient Belize

The UN supported the promotion of biodiversity conservation through sustainable land and water management practices in areas used for agriculture, forestry, and other productive activities. The approach focuses on integrating biodiversity-friendly practices into production landscapes, such as agroforestry, sustainable agriculture, and conservation-friendly land-use planning.

To improve the effectiveness of integrated watershed management (IWM), the UN assisted in establishing a comprehensive national coordinating framework for integrated watershed management (IWM). This framework involved creating a collaborative platform where key stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, and other relevant parties, worked together to manage watersheds in a way that promoted the sustainable use of natural resources.

One of the primary ways the UN supported Belize in mitigating environmental degradation was by strengthening the country's system for controlling the import of harmful substances such as Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). The UN also promoted the recovery and recycling of refrigerants. To facilitate this, technical assistance and capacity-building support was provided to municipalities and communities to adopt better refrigerant management practices. Specifically, five vocational training institutes were equipped with leak detectors, swaging tools, welding kits, nitrogen pressure gauges, and recovery units.

Simultaneously, participatory riparian-forest rehabilitation and agroforestry trainings reached 218 rural households, equipping farmers with soil-conservation techniques that shield waterways from

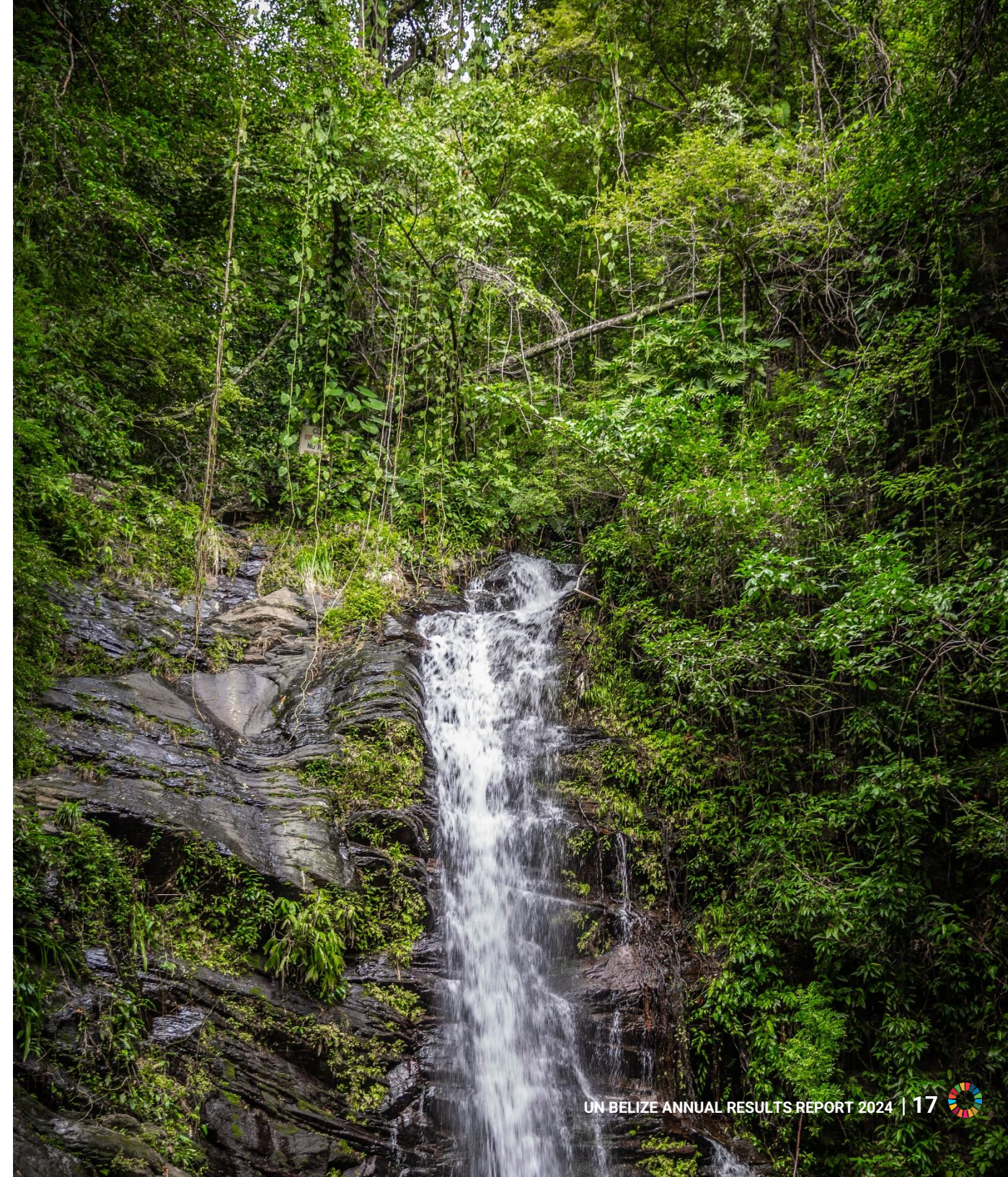
sedimentation and bolster food security under increasingly erratic weather.

The UN also assisted Belize in developing a national framework for Loss and Damage (L&D), focusing on the specific vulnerabilities and risks the country faces due to climate change. The framework aimed to identify, assess, and address the losses and damages resulting from climate-related events, helping Belize better understand how climate impacts affect its communities and facilitating the integration of these considerations into national development plans and climate policies.

In partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources, the UN hosted a technical exchange to improve the sustainable management of Belize's aquifer system. The exchange focused on the Yucatan-Candelaria-Hondo Transboundary Aquifer System, bringing together governmental, scientific, and civil society stakeholders from the country and Guatemala and Mexico to deepen understanding and enhance management strategies for this vital water resource.

UN support to the Department of Environment's Ozone Unit secured the satisfactory completion of HCFC Phase X in December 2024, with Phase XI on track for mid-2025. Belize is also preparing its First and Second Biennial Transparency Reports, combined with its Fifth National Communication under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement. These steps are expected to sharpen the country's climate-policy framework and unlock access to green finance.

The UN in Belize will continue to support the country's transition towards a green economy and sustainable natural resource management.



2.2 UN MSDCF 2022 – 2026 Results by Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs



MSDCF Priority 4: Peace, Safety, Justice and Rule of Law

Relevant SDGs:



Total Expenditure – Pillar 4



2,222 persons were reached with messages on SRH, GBV, and positive social norms across 6 districts.



US \$13.2 million funded for the PACE Justice Project (across 8 Caribbean countries including Belize)



42% of children in conflict with the law were diverted through the Police and Courts, representing a 30% increase from 2023 (12%) in children diverted.



600+ frontline practitioners expected to receive training using the Helping Adolescents Thrive (HAT) methodology and the Measurement of Mental Health among Adolescents at Population Level (MMAP).



1,000 children, adolescents, adult parents, and caregivers impacted by the gender-transformative parenting program.



Strengthening the Justice System and Social Cohesion to Build a Safer, More Inclusive Belize

The UN deepened its commitment to justice and social unity through a web of reforms, dialogues, and capacity-building efforts anchored in human rights and good governance. From empowering women parliamentarians to shaping a Good Governance Agenda, training frontline officers in anti-corruption and human trafficking, to safeguarding children.

Promoting good governance, transparency, and accountability were central to strengthening the justice system in Belize. The CARS! Grant was launched in 2024 to empower public officers, registered CSOs, media houses, and tertiary institutions in anti-corruption, fraud, and citizen engagement. The grant supported the development of a National Good Governance Agenda and enabled the University of Belize to co-design anti-corruption research.

Technical support was provided to the Office of the Ombudsman, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to advance the institutionalization of a National Human Rights Institute (NHRI). Recognizing the importance of civic engagement, the UN also supported the Parliament of Belize in enhancing its ability to serve citizens through a 5-year strategic plan, resource mobilization efforts, and public education campaigns.

Continuing its support for the office of the Ombudsman, the UN convened multi-stakeholder

review panels to scrutinize nine years of States of Emergency. The Special Report, Gaps in the Implementation of the State of Emergency, was tabled in Parliament, charting reforms to align future emergency measures with human-rights obligations.

Concurrently, Belize has responded to UPR and CEDAW recommendations with support from the UN, showcasing its resolve to uphold treaty commitments and foster legal compliance. To complement this effort, the UN also convened the CEDAW–Beijing+30 forum during 16 Days of Activism, gathering parliamentarians, civil society and gender experts to deepen understanding of women’s rights standards and forge alliances against discrimination and violence. Additional capacity building initiatives were offered in comprehensive sexuality education, nurturing peer-educators to reach young people, and fortifying GBV referral networks with technical actors sizing up consolidated response protocols



UN Supports Belize Parliamentary Forum, Linking CEDAW to Gender Equality Goal

The Women’s Parliamentary Caucus, a subset of Belize’s National Assembly, convened a national forum on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 2024. Held amid troubling statistics that show at least three women in Belize report violence daily. The forum underscored the urgent need for stronger legislative action and political will to address gender-based violence and systemic discrimination.

The PACE Justice Project to Reduce Case Backlog in the Criminal Justice System

UN Belize, with EU backing, has teamed up with the Judiciary, the Ministry of Human Development and Home Affairs to launch the PACE Justice Project. Belize is one of eight Caribbean nations tackling criminal-case backlogs through digital case management, gender-sensitive capacity building and streamlined judicial procedures.

Annual Anti-Corruption Conference

The Good Governance Unit, in partnership with the UN and the U.S. Embassy, convened its second annual Anti-Corruption Conference in 2024, emphasizing national approaches to combating corruption. This year’s forum spotlighted local experts who provided in-depth analysis on critical topics, including anti-money laundering, open contracting and procurement, and the roles of the Ombudsman and national human rights mechanisms.



“Empowering Community and Civil Society Leadership to Challenge Harmful Norms and Build Safer, More Inclusive Societies in Belize”

Leadership Rooted in Community

In 2024, the United Nations in Belize focused on empowering community and civil society leadership, recognizing their vital role in challenging harmful norms and fostering safer, more inclusive societies. Through targeted capacity-building initiatives, strategic partnerships, and advocacy efforts, the UN agencies supported community leaders, civil society organizations (CSOs), and youth advocates in promoting gender equality, protecting human rights, and building resilience against various forms of discrimination and violence.

The UN focused on enhancing the capacity of government entities and civil society organizations to address discriminatory gender and social norms that perpetuate GBV and undermine Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). The UN supported the establishment of four satellite Youth

Advisory Group to support the Leave No One Behind: Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy project, engaging young people in project implementation and advocacy.

Recognizing the importance of positive parenting, strategic focus was also given to address parenting through a convergent, gender-transformative parenting program, impacting children, adolescents, adult parents, and caregivers. This program incorporates mental health, life skills, and nutrition, and aims to transform gender norms and inequalities, promote gender equality in parenting practices, and actively involve both mothers and fathers.

Progress was also made in monitoring the implementation of the roadmap to end child

marriage and early unions (CMEU). The revised Marriage Act, passed in 2024, raised the legal marriage age from 16 to 18 years.

The UN supported the Institute for Social and Cultural Research (NICH-ISCR) to engage healing practitioners to collaborate on the integration of traditional, complementary, and allopathic medicine. The conference engaged participants from all six districts of Belize and enabled increased recognition of the importance of holistic health approaches and the need for policy frameworks that support the integration of traditional healing methods into national health systems.

At the heart of this progress was the resounding impact of youth engagement and media development. Over 700 young people, educators, and

community leaders participated in the Generation Gender programme, jointly supported by UN agencies. Through training sessions, creative expression, and social media campaigns, youth became powerful agents of change, advocating for gender equality and respectful relationships.

The UN continued to confront gender-based violence through powerful storytelling. Their “Voices of Survivors” campaign provided a platform for real stories that challenged stigma and silence. These stories not only catalysed empathy but also encouraged other survivors to come forward.

By nurturing civil society leadership and placing young people at the forefront of change, Belize is fostering a future where harmful norms are challenged, and all individuals feel safe, seen, and empowered.



2.3 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

In 2024, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Belize deepened its partnerships across sectors to drive inclusive development and amplify the voices of those often left behind. At the heart of this momentum was the **National Youth Dialogue on the Summit of the Future**, which brought together over 100 youth, policymakers, and UN representatives. With student panellists from all major universities, the event sparked intergenerational discussions on sustainable development, digital cooperation, and youth inclusion, directly informing Belize's statement at the global Summit.

To strengthen coordination and resource mobilization, the UN co-established the **Belize Development Partners Network (BDPN)**. The network comprises of Belize's main development partners including the EU, IDB, CDB, World Bank etc. The network has already developed a data dashboard that has mapped \$1.25 billion in development investments across 192 projects. This complements the Government's growing leadership in international cooperation through its Strategic Alliance Conference and newly formed International Cooperation Council (ICC).

In a landmark move, the UN formalized a partnership through a **joint Declaration of Intent (DOI)** with the country's four major higher education institutions, leveraging research, innovation, and youth engagement to accelerate SDG progress. This collaboration is already bearing fruit, supporting initiatives such as the Youth Dialogue, UN Volunteer opportunities, and academic research tied to national development goals.

The year also marked the launch of Belize's **Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)** process, with lead support from UNDP. With a US \$1.645 billion NDC financing gap in sight, the government prioritized climate finance and social protection as core INFF pillars, aligned with ongoing efforts by UNICEF, ILO, and WFP to develop a costed national social protection strategy.

Furthering South-South cooperation, Belize secured US \$1 million in funding from the **India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Fund** for a solar electrification project, complemented by an additional US \$250,000 from the Joint SDG Fund to integrate clean energy with water and sanitation services in underserved rural communities.



2024



2.4 Results of Working More and Better Together: UN Coherence and Efficiency

Thematic Working Groups

In 2024, the UN Country Team in Belize advanced its collaboration through strengthened coordination mechanisms and efficient operations that aligned with national priorities. Thematic working groups played a central role in this effort. **The UN Communications Group (UNCG)** was reactivated and developed the UNCT Joint Communications Strategy with support from UNIC Caribbean. The **Operations Management Team (OMT)** improved service coordination across agencies and migrated reporting to the new UNFO platform. **The Programme Management Team (PMT)** launched a Gender Technical Group to drive progress on the UNCT SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard, while **the PSEA Network** developed its 2025 work plan and conducted internal capacity-building to uphold protection standards.

UN CIP 2024 - 2025 Implementation

The UN **Country Implementation Plan (CIP) 2024 – 2025**, endorsed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, provided the framework for internal and external collaboration and resource mobilization for the UN in Belize. The CIP 2024 – 2025 encompasses the entirety of the UN's programmatic footprint in Belize, it includes joint programming efforts among UN agencies, continued resource mobilization from a diverse set of development partners, and its support for partnership strengthening among the UN, government, civil society, and the private sector. This collaborative approach fosters coherence between national priorities and international development frameworks, paving the way for a more effective and impactful partnership.

UN Efficiency Agenda

Overall UN operation in Belize is categorized as small-scale, with annual expenditures under US \$40 million and where a network of ten UN entities maintains a country presence. Demonstrating a commitment to operational excellence, eight of these entities actively participate in the **Business Operations Strategy (BOS)**. In 2024, these agencies continued to unlock considerable operational efficiencies by leveraging enhanced synergies and coordination in common services. The benefits realized through this collaborative approach surged by 10% to USD 417,300. Furthermore, cost avoidance strategies remained remarkably effective while estimated cost avoidance climbed to USD 419,000 in 2024. The establishment of a shared UN House in Belmopan proved instrumental in surpassing the ambitious cost-saving targets set for 2023, underscoring the value of strategic co-location.

Joint Programming

Joint programming also accelerated with three major multi-agency initiatives underway:

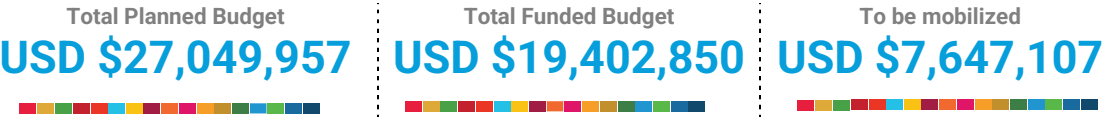
The KOICA-funded **“Enabling of Belize’s National Statistical System” Programme** is a USD 3.4 million programme that aims to strengthen the National Statistical System (NSS) Infrastructure and Capacity including specific data nodes (Agriculture, Climate, Justice, among others). It is led by UNDP with UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO and WFP. **The “NDC Solar project”** (USD \$250K, 2024–2025), is led by UNDP and UNICEF, and supports rural electrification in three villages while promoting WASH services and youth climate leadership. Finally, the **“B-RISS project”** (US \$250K, 2025–2026), piloted by UN Women and UNDRR, introduces inclusive, resilient urban spaces in two municipalities using global frameworks like iRIS and MCR2030.





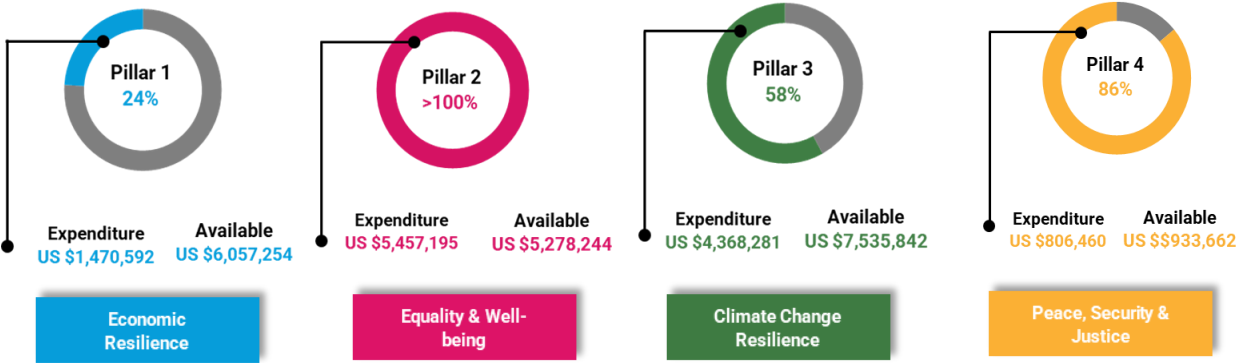
2.5 Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

2024 UN Belize CIP Budget Overview

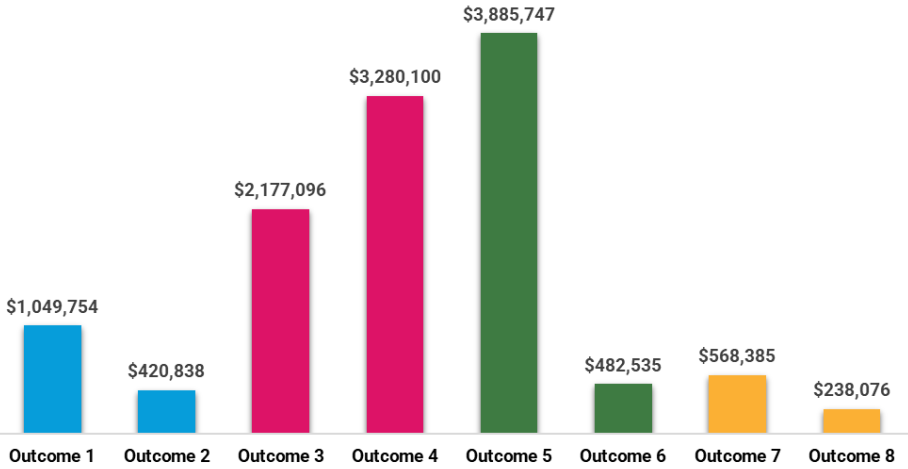


Agency	Available Resources (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Delivery Rate (%)
FAO	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A*
IFAD	\$3,917,000.00	\$83,771.00	2%
ILO	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
IOM	\$1,403,644.00	\$1,288,272.50	92%
OHCHR	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
PAHO/WHO**	\$2,257,264.00	\$2,792,582.18	>100%
UN WOMEN	\$0.00	\$2,767.00	>100%
UNICEF	\$2,397,500.00	\$2,884,795.00	>100%
UNDP	\$6,420,000.00	\$3,471,731.56	54%
UNESCO	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
UNEP	\$1,519,080.00	\$212,535.00	14%
UNFPA	\$280,060.13	\$67,212.00	24%
UNHCR	\$623,454.70	\$547,864.27	88%
WFP	\$972,000.00	\$751,000.00	77%
UNDRR	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
TOTAL	\$19,805,002.83	\$12,102,530.51	61%

*N/A: Financial / expenditure data not provided or available.
** More than 90% of the funding reflected in the financial figures is from PAHO, with the remainder from WHO.



The total expenditure across all four MSDCF pillars by all UN agencies, funds and programmes operating in Belize was estimated at **USD \$12.1 million**, which represents a 12% increase in expenditure compared to the reported value in 2023. However, it is worth noting that this figure does not fully capture the value and full footprint of the UN agencies in Belize. The full funding framework of the Country Implementation Plan (CIP) for 2024 also takes into account the technical and financial resources provided by sub-regional and regional UN offices. The results of the multi-country offices and regional interventions are monitored in the [UN INFO platform](#) and relevant country results are captured within this report.



Expenditure by MSDCF Outcome Area in 2024 (USD)



03

The Road Ahead: UN Focus and Priorities for 2025



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UN IN BELIZE KEY FOCUS AREAS FOR 2025

● Universal and Inclusive Service Delivery

Support advocacy efforts for the Cabinet's approval of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) policy.

Review and updating of the Mental Health Act and capacity building for the media on suicide reporting.

Supporting beneficiaries' with attaining legal identity.

● Adaptive Climate Actions & Disaster Management

Continued implementation and monitoring of the Pilot E-mobility Project.

Formulation of Food Security and Livelihood Report 2025.

Introduce a Disaster Risk Management (DRM) course on the Ministry of Public Service's Moodle platform.

Continued partnership with the EU and the Ministry of Health in retrofitting health care facilities to be more climate-resilient.

● Peaceful, just and secure society

Continued implementation and monitoring of the PACE Justice Programme.

Continued capacity development support to the Women's Parliamentary Caucus.



● Active citizen and community engagement

Finalize Sexual & Reproductive Health Policy and strengthened National Youth Development Policy to integrate SRH component.

Support the review and update of the Child Marriage & Early Union (CMEU) Roadmap, including the development of an implementation plan.

● Sustainable natural resource management

Support to the National Ozone Unit continues in 2025 and beyond with additional project tranches still in the pipeline.

Under the NDC-SOLAR initiative, six 1kW solar system designs to be installed.

Delivery of 4 water supply system designs.

● Data-driven and inclusive laws & governance

Implementation of the KOICA project is expected to reach its peak in 2025 with completion of National Statistical System Bill & expansion of the BNSS nodes.

Production of several critical reports and analyses, including the MICS7 report and MICSLink, the Situation Analysis of Children with Disabilities etc.

Improved surveillance and laboratory capacity to enhance early detection, response, and preparedness for epidemics.

● A Thriving Micro-economy

Staff recruitment & implementation of EU-funded PROSPER Project in the Toledo District.

Deliver and complete Matching grant funds for 15 Producer Organizations.

Installation 72 emergency power backups will be set up in rural communities.

● Diversified and inclusive macro-economy

Implementation of the Decent Work Country Programme.

Continued dialogue with the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government to activate Seasonal Workers Programme.



LIST OF ACRONYMS

BFLA	Belize Family Life Association
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CIP	Country Implementation Plan
CCA	Common Country Analysis
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CPA	Country Poverty Assessment
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GSDS	Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy
HCFC	Hydrochlorofluorocarbons
HFLE	Health and Family Life Education
HRW	Human Rights Watch
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ICT	Information and communications technology
IDP	Internally Displaced People
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KHMH	Karl Heuser Memorial Hospital
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LGBTQI	lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex
LNOB	Leave no one behind
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSDCF	Multi-country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
MSME	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises
NCDs	Non-communicable diseases
NGO	Non-governmental organization

NSO	National Statistical Office
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OPDs	Organizations of Persons with Disabilities
PAHO/WHO	Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization
PLHIV	Persons living with HIV
PWDs	Persons with disabilities
RIA	Rapid Integrated Assessment
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SERP	Socioeconomic Response Plan
SIB	Statistical Institute of Belize
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
TES	Transforming Education Summit
UB	University of Belize
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UN RCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WFP	World Food Programme
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene





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UN Belize Annual Country Results Report 2024



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