
BELIZE

Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027

1. The overall lines of the EU international cooperation in Belize

Although a small country with a population of 407,234 (2021), Belize has a strategic interest due to its special position as a member of both the Caribbean forum (CARIFORUM) and the Central American Integration System (SICA), bringing opportunities for building bridges between the Caribbean and Central American countries. Belize faces many development challenges including being vulnerable to external shocks, such as natural disasters. The Belize government's ability to address these challenges is constrained by high debt levels and limited fiscal space. A long-term territorial dispute with Guatemala has negatively impacted relations between both countries and held back the development of the border region. Guatemala maintains a claim on over one third of Belize's territory and recognised its neighbour only in 1991. In 2008, it was agreed to refer the territorial issue to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), subject to positive outcomes in referenda. The decision was confirmed by referenda in both countries and the case was lodged before the ICJ, where it is in its initial stage. Submissions by both parties are expected in 2022.

1.1 Basis for programming

Belize's long-term development is guided by the Horizon 2030: National Development Framework for Belize 2010-2030 that prioritizes democratic governance for effective public administration and sustainable development, education, economic resilience and a healthy citizenry and environment and is the basis of this MIP. In 2017, Belize participated in the voluntary national review (VNR) and prioritised two goals: Gender Equality (SDG 5) and Life Below Water (SDG 14). The VNR also states that "existing processes for data collection, interpretation, standardisation, management and dissemination are inadequate to properly monitor and evaluate the SDGs".

Building on Horizon 2030, "The Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS), 2016-2019" sets priority actions in the medium term and loosely links them with the relevant SDGs. The GSDS implementation was coordinated by the Ministry of Economic Development (MED), in line with five inter-ministerial Technical Committees. Although sector plans should be consistent with the GSDS and linked to the national budget, there is apparent relation between GSDS implementation and related resource allocation. Further worsened by the severe impacts of the COVID pandemic, Belize's difficult economic conditions and subsequent budget cuts could pose significant challenges for the achievement of Horizon 2030. Notably, the GSDS ended in 2019 and, following general elections in November 2020, the new government is expected to redesign the overall policy framework, the next medium term development plan, aligning the new GoB's *#PlanBelize*. Also, there are already indications that accountability and delivery to the public are significant commitments of the new administration which would have positive impacts on future policy dialogue, coordination and partnerships with its external donors.

Belize represents a valuable partner for the EU in its aim to expand cooperation and build stronger partnerships with the LAC region since the country is a member of both regional bodies, CARICOM and SICA, and offers an interesting position as a bridge between the Caribbean and Central America. The actions further described in this MIP will allow the EU to accompany Belize's integration within Central America on a basis of a green development model and encourage Belize's trade and economic integration into the Northern Triangle, in particular with Guatemala, empowering thus the EU's image throughout the region. Even more so, given that after Brexit, no EU MS has a permanent representation in Belize.

Through the MIP, Belize and the European Union align with several EU policy objectives, most importantly:

- The Green Deal pillars are common priorities for Belize, the Caribbean and the European Union. Sustainable Cities, infrastructures, environment and natural resources protection, disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation are aspects that will be considered under Priority Area 1, providing continuity to the past MIP, which contributed substantially to Green Deal pillars under both focal areas: Health and Energy.
- Priority Area 2 is closely associated to EU policies on decent jobs, growth and investment by contributing to the reactivation of Belize's Partial Scope Trade Agreement with Guatemala, to expand trade by removing barriers and promoting investment, identifying potential projects and providing funding which could include EU guarantees to mobilise private investment.
- The GAP III and human rights priorities for Belize will benefit from the strong advocacy of the National Women's Commission which is the strategic policy advisory body to the government on issues affecting gender equality, equity and women's empowerment.
- The EU Council conclusions on indigenous peoples address discrimination and inequalities based on indigenous origin or identity. Priority Area 1 puts emphasis on equal participation of Mayan and Garifuna communities in the proposed development initiative, revitalisation of indigenous knowledge, and design of tailor-made economic opportunities.

1.2. Status of Joint Programming

There is no joint programming for Belize and, in past years, no meaningful dialogue on cooperation matters, leaving the country little engaged with the international cooperation agenda. At the moment, no EU MS has a permanent representation in Belize. The efforts initiated in 2018 by the United Nations system and the European Union to establish a donor coordination mechanism were not taken up by the Government, mainly due to its limited institutional capacity. New opportunities for strengthened donor coordination are being explored.

1.3. Priority Areas of the EU's Cooperation with Belize

Priority Area 1 of the MIP will promote green growth and sustainable socio-economic development among the southern districts of Belize through sustainable management of natural resources that coherently links environmental preservation, rural transformation, income generation and inclusion of indigenous communities into the social fabric. It aims at unblocking the economic potential of Belize' southern districts by providing technical assistance and financial resources for public and private investment. Importantly, these districts are home to the Mayan and Garifuna indigenous people who are not well connected to the national development and suffer from high poverty rates and lack of basic services. Furthermore, climate change affects the livelihoods of these communities. Belize is committed since August 2021 to attain the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement. The NDC includes a number of mitigation and adaptation actions, where international support is required. The actions foreseen under this priority areas are in line with Belize's foreseen climate measures, with particular emphasis on enhancing resilience.

The Mayan and the Garifuna indigenous peoples comprise 17.4% of Belize's population, the vast majority living in the targeted region, and are among the poorest in the country. The intervention will improve the socio-economic situation of these communities, providing access to basic services and land rights and discover indigenous knowledge for employment and job creation through diversification and inclusive, self-reliant, and economically viable enterprises. Given the present

circumstances and potentials, the targeted areas require an inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary framework for implementing an inclusive, sustainable and resilient development approach. The intervention aims to protect and preserve the still intact ecosystems and all actions promoting economic activities, job creation and public investments (e.g. roads, basic services, etc.) will be designed with a minimum of possible environmental impact.

Priority Area 2 will focus on trade and economic integration of Belize into the Northern Triangle, in particular with Guatemala, considering that regional economic integration significantly contributes to growth rates and employment opportunities. Following 2019 general elections, both countries agreed to re-vitalise the Belize-Guatemala Joint Commission and advancing the Partial Scope Trade Agreement aiming at concrete progress for the inhabitants of both countries. The action will provide technical and financial assistance to the various mandates of the Joint Commission promoting cross-border trade and also assisting the design of efficient border management and contributing to migration control.

Both priorities present potential for mutually reinforcing the generation and increase of employment opportunities for the southern region of Belize. While the reactivation of the Partial Scope Trade Agreement and the work of the Belize – Guatemala Joint Commission (PA-2) will provide updated trade regulations and investment for more trade between both countries, the private sector of the southern region (PA-1) could benefit from such initiatives, including community-led production for small scale cross-border flows. By supporting a comprehensive development plan for the southern region (PA-1), including incubation for micro, small and medium-size entrepreneurship, the management plans for national parks (PA-2), most of them located in the targeted districts, could contribute for identifying such business opportunities.

The MIP presents good opportunities to link bilateral actions with various regional initiatives under CARICOM (Caribbean region) and SICA (Central America), considering Belize's membership in both organizations.

1.4. Justification and context

Due to its small population of 400.000 habitants in a wide territory of around 20.000 km², Belize constitutes a "green spot" in a densely populated region. Belize is rich in biodiversity and natural resources, but highly vulnerable to climate change-induced floods, droughts, hurricanes and rising sea levels. From a green deal perspective, there are two main elements that have a critical impact on the Caribbean Small Island Developing States to which belong Belize: (i) global warming (increase in temperature, leading to climate variability and unpredictable weather patterns) and (ii) unsustainable consumption patterns (increased solid waste generation, unsustainable fisheries, agricultural practices, etc.).

Belize is heavily depended on imports as the country imported more than double the value of its exports in 2017 (USD 907 million vs USD 404 million). Belize' main exports are sugar and citrus, bananas marine products as well as crude petroleum while its main import includes refined petroleum, machinery and transport equipment. The most probable sources of external shocks for Belize's economy may come from significant increases of oil price, economic slowdown in trade partners and adverse weather conditions. The national trade policy aims at fostering a competitive economy for inclusive socio-economic development. It seeks to build and strengthen multilateral, regional and bilateral trade relations and enhancing market access and entry. Further, Belize is signatory of the EU-Central America Association Agreement and of the EU Economic Partnership Agreement.

Migration dynamics in Central America have changed dramatically over the past decade putting more pressure on the porous borders / Adjacency Zone of Belize. Weak border controls make Belize a hotspot along regional trafficking routes used by transnational criminal organizations involved in drug smuggling and human trafficking, with an impact on rising insecurity levels in Belize. Control of Belize' green and blue borders is complex since the main parts are constituted by national parks (2), forest reserves (4), maritime reserves (3), and wildlife sanctuaries (3).

The border dispute between Belize and Guatemala affects around 50% of the country's terrestrial and maritime territories. Despite being deeply divided on the issue, Belizeans voted on May 8, 2019 to settle the issue at the International Court of Justice and the eventual settlement will define the future of Belize. The century-long border dispute caused an encapsulation of the country on its western and southern borders. The new government reactivated the Joint Commission with Guatemala which works, among other matters, on restarting the Partial Scope Trade Agreement. Priority Area 2 will assist the Joint Commission in its different tasks, concentrating on trade facilitation, border management and migration. Potential for a multi-country approach jointly with EU Delegations of the Northern Triangle, in particular Guatemala, is to be explored.

The two priority areas of this MIP have a strong transformation potential and will deepen the integration of Belize with Central America. On the one hand, the first priority supports a prominently green development model of Belize' south-western region which can protect and preserve the still intact ecosystems. On the other hand, the second priority promotes Belize's bilateral and regional integration, focusing on important aspects of deepening bilateral relations between Belize and Guatemala.

The MIP builds on experiences and lessons learnt from 2019 EU peace-building measures in the Adjacency Zone implemented through the Organisation of American States and Civil Society Organisations, in particular the need to promote the inclusion of civil society and indigenous communities in the activities. Belize's constitution recognizes the role of civil society as pivotal in the country's pursuit of development, however, CSOs have a limited role and low institutional capacities to effectively contribute to the implementation of policies. MIP priorities will promote the involvement and participation of CSO and indigenous groups, both for the elaboration and implementation of relevant development and management plans, including capacity building.

Synergies with other EU programmes operating in the regional area will be sought where relevant, such as for the INTERREG programme financed under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

1.5. Duration of the MIP

The duration of this MIP is 7 years, with a financial allocation for the initial period 2021-2024. A review is foreseen in 2024, which will provide the necessary flexibility to adjust to new contexts. Additional ad hoc reviews will be possible where and when needed.

2. EU support per priority area and proposals of Team Europe Initiatives

2.1. Priority area 1: Green growth and sustainable socio-economic development

Description: The territorial focus of this intervention is a very high priority region for #PlanBelize. The Mayan and the Garifuna indigenous peoples comprise 17.4% of Belize's population, the vast

majority living in remote areas, and are among the poorest in the country. Given the present circumstances and potentials, the targeted areas require an inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary framework for implementing an inclusive, sustainable and resilient development approach. The intervention has a prominent green component as it aims to promote a model that protects and preserves the still intact ecosystems of the several forest reserves, marine reserves, and wildlife sanctuaries at Belize's border region. All future actions under the MIP for promoting economic activities, decent job creation and public investments (e.g. roads, basic services, etc.) will be designed with a minimum of possible environmental impact, taking into account digital support to green transition, where applicable. The actions will improve the socio-economic situation of the indigenous Mayan and Garifuna communities, providing access to basic services and land rights, and apply relevant indigenous knowledge for employment and job creation through diversification and inclusive, self-reliant and economically viable enterprises, including actions to address discrimination across the labour market in Belize, particularly affecting women, indigenous people, and people with disabilities in line with ILO Conventions C100 and C111.

Related SDGs:

SDG 1: No poverty

SDG 2: No hunger, food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture

SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation

SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth

SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities

SDG 13: Climate action

SDG 15: Sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems

Indicative sectors (DAC codes): 160 Other Social Infrastructure; 310 Agriculture, Forestry, Fishery; 410 Environmental Protection.

Civil society: Although civil society (including social partners) and non-state actors are present in the southern districts of Belize, their political relevance and institutional capacities are to be further developed. CSOs have the potential to trigger regional development through their wide-ranging economic initiatives, including trans-border commerce. In particular, some 35 Mayan communities are organised in regional committees and maintain contacts with similar groupings in neighbouring countries. Their strengthening and inclusion into regional development plans would play a vital role for this priority- area. CSOs have varying levels of competence to challenge the status quo especially in male dominated environments which do not adequately promote the rights of women and children. EU support to CSOs working in Mayan communities has already succeeded in challenging the structural inequalities between men and women by securing women's representation and participation in decision making on one community council. Deepening such actions by providing CSO support under this sector can facilitate the achievement of the GAP III priorities for Belize. Furthermore, it is in the EU interests to strengthen the role of social partners, and to ensure their active participation in line with the ILO Convention 144 on Tripartite Consultation.

Major risks/ mitigation measures:

The proposed interventions will produce its full transformational potential for Belize only after the definitive ICJ ruling which could make it difficult to maintain "momentum" of the EU support. Consequently, adequate communication channels on appropriate political levels should be established throughout the entire process of change and transformation. The generally weak public administration and low level of decentralization in Belize could hinder the process of identifying

and implementing the programmed actions. When specifying the support via the Cooperation Facility, adequate instruments need to be selected to strengthen the different levels of public administration involved.

2.1.1 Specific objectives related to the priority area 1

Specific Objective A: *Socio-economic development of the southern districts of Belize fostered by promoting a green model of development.*

Specific Objective B: *Good governance practices and territorial approach strengthened at the village and district levels.*

Specific Objective C: *Indigenous communities' culture and sustainable development strengthened*

2.1.2. Expected results per specific objective

Expected Result A.1: Rural transformation plan for southern Belize agreed with local stakeholders and formally adopted.

Expected Result A.2: Access to basic services for rural communities substantially improved.

Expected Result A.3: Employment and income generation improved for well-being among all inhabitants of the southern districts.

Expected Result B.1: Development planning and implementation processes done at local level and incorporate green models of development.

Expected Result B.2: Infrastructure needs identified, designed and tendered.

Expected Result B.3: Technological innovation and digitization of services improved.

Expected Result C.1: Centre of excellence for indigenous culture, knowledge and traditional land use systems established, focussing on indigenous women and youth leaders.

Expected Result C.2: Indigenous entrepreneurship promoted via incubation of micro, small and medium-size enterprises for cultural, rural and eco-tourism, forests and non-timber products, food sovereignty, innovative fishing techniques and added value to fish products.

2.1.3. Indicators (including baseline and targets), per expected result

A.1: *Status of rural transformation plan for southern districts of Belize.

A.2: *Number of people directly benefiting from the EU supported interventions that aim to reduce social and economic inequality

* Number of individuals with access to improved drinking water source and/or sanitation facility in rural communities of southern districts.

*Total lengths (kms) of improved transportation infrastructure supported: a) secondary and tertiary rural roads (connecting rural communities of southern districts to main road network).

* Number of rural schools refurbished under SMART concept.

A.3: * Number of (a) jobs, (b) green jobs supported/sustained by the EU

B.1: * Number of dialogue platforms for exchange of relevant information between local, district and national level, including information on environmental protection.

* Number of indigenous and vulnerable groups attending these meetings.

B.2: * Status of GPS based map of public infrastructure.

* Number of needs assessment (per district and sector), including pre-designs and budgets.

* Status of public investment plan for local, district and national level.

B.3: * Number of unique users accessing website for technical innovation online and consulted.

* Number of municipalities that offer services through the digital platform.

C.1: * Status of the centre.

* Status of compilation of knowledge in digital format.

- * Number of grassroots civil society organisations benefitting from (or reached by) EU support
- C.2: * Number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land.
- * Number of promotion programmes designed for small scale / family level enterprises for targeted sectors.
- * Number of credits approved and made available for indigenous entrepreneurs with assistance and training facilities.

2.2. Priority area 2: Regional integration and border management

Description: Based on the Special Agreement of December 2014, both countries agreed recently to re-vitalise the Belize-Guatemala Joint Commission and advancing the Partial Scope Trade Agreement. The initiatives and arrangements of the Joint Commission have substantial impact on both countries, improving bilateral relations in the forefront of the resolving the border dispute and producing concrete progresses for the inhabitants of both countries, particularly in the border regions. The intervention will provide technical and financial assistance to the various mandates of the Joint Commission. Concrete actions would focus on promoting cross border trade, designing efficient border management and contributing to migration control.

Related SDGs:

SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth
 SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities
 SDG 15: Protection of terrestrial ecosystems
 SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

Indicative sectors (DAC Codes): 150 Government & Civil Society; 330 Trade policies and regulations; 410 Environmental Protection.

Civil society: The long-standing border dispute has generated uncertainty and mistrust among inhabitants and organisations of the border regions, it will be important to connect the civil society organizations (CSOs) to the initiatives of the Joint Commission to facilitate the inclusion of whole communities thus adopting a ‘leave no-one behind’ human rights approach to this priority. CSOs that address the issues faced by illegal migrant populations, trafficking of persons and enhance gender equality through trade, will be targeted for support under the GAP III priorities for Belize.

Major risks/ mitigation measures: The proposed interventions will produce its full transformational potential for Belize only after the definitive ICJ ruling which could make it difficult to maintain “momentum” of the EU support. Consequently, adequate communication channels on appropriate political levels should be established throughout the entire process of change and transformation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration is representing Belize at the Joint Commission and counts on excellent expertise, high professionalism and good institutional capacities. When specifying the actions under this priority area, e.g. through the Cooperation Facility, adequate instruments need to be selected to complement the ministry’s strengths and expertise.

2.2.1. Specific objectives related to the priority area 2

Specific Objective A: *Security at the terrestrial and maritime borders increased.*

Specific Objective B: *Regulatory framework for enhanced commercial and industrial integration elaborated and regional trade increased.*

2.2.2 Expected results per specific objective

- Expected Result A.1: Border management plan developed, including aspects of environmental protection, security and migration.
- Expected Result A.2: Infrastructure needs identified and designed, including financial structure for flagship investments.
- Expected Result A.3: Management of national parks (2), forest (4) and maritime (3) reserves and wildlife sanctuaries (3) improved to reduce illicit activities occurring along the Belizean border.
- Expected Result A.4: Technical aspects for future demarcation of Adjacency Zone prepared.
- Expected Result B.1: Potential for Belize' trade integration with Guatemala and Northern Triangle countries identified.
- Expected Result B.2: Regulatory framework for Partial Scope Trade Agreement elaborated to enhance commercial and industrial integration.
- Expected Result B.3: Institutional capacities of stakeholders strengthened for advancing the Partial Scope Trade Agreement.

2.2.3. Indicators (including baseline and targets), per expected result

- A.1: * Status of task force / focal points from corresponding public entities, security forces and law enforcement agencies established under senior management leadership of MFA.
* Number of studies, reports, maps and other data and information compiled, including from external sources, and legal / institutional constraints resolved for starting design of plan.
* Status of national, bilateral and international agreements / conditions / laws and other binding frameworks including international security and migration standards / policies.
* Status of border management plan
* Number of state institutions and non-state actors supported on security, border management, countering violent extremism, conflict prevention, protection of civilian population and HHRR
- A.2: * Number of final designs presented.
* Number of financing proposals presented.
- A.3: * Status of physical and digital inventory of parks/reserves documentation established under central management, including detailed maps, threats identified and quantified, and needs assessment elaborated with budget for public investment.
* Number of management plans revised / updated/approved/implemented, including for protected areas.
- A.4: * Status of equipment and training of corresponding public entity for topographic works.
* Status of provision of cartographic material for border area
* Status of technical criteria for future demarcation according to agreements under Joint Commission.
- B.1: * Number of sectoral, bilateral and regional trade studies.
* Number of project proposals for trade improvements presented.
- B.2: * Number of processes related to partner country practices on trade, investment and business which have been influenced (EURF level 2).
* Percentage of monetary increase of commercial flows from Belize to neighbouring countries.
- B.3: * Status of equipment and training of corresponding public entities.

- * Number of trade related bilateral meetings.
- * Number of webinars for private entrepreneurs and business associations to inform of new potential and respective trade regulations.

2.2.4. Possible use of blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+

Currently the solvency of the public finances of Belize is fragile and there is little possibility for the Government in the midterm to enter into bigger investments financed out of loans. The provision of financial guarantees and blending mechanism might become a viable option for Belize to access to loans from International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is the only IFI with a well-equipped on the ground representation in Belize, whereas World Bank is operating from a regional office. EFSD+ could entail larger infrastructure projects for international transport connection to Guatemala (Jalacte road, Sarstoon river), as well as trade and migration facilities at existent and future border posts.

2.3. Proposals of country/multi-country/regional Team Europe Initiatives

A Team Europe initiative regarding Regional Integration and Border Management in Belize, in line with the proposed priority area was envisaged, however, it has not been endorsed due to lack of financial engagement of other EU partners, and consequently, abandoned.

2.4 Sub-regional and multi-country dimension

In the Caribbean, EU action for the next 7 years will be framed by three mutually reinforcing Partnerships on: 1) Green Deal; 2) Economic resilience and trade; and 3) Governance, security and human development. The EU engagement in the country cannot lose sight of the importance of the articulation of bilateral, multi-country and sub-regional actions within these Partnerships. To that extent, multi-country approaches that allow to build on political opportunities and economies of scale could be promoted and supported from bilateral allocations.

With regards to Central America, the EU-Central America Association Agreement remains a meaningful overarching instrument in our political, cooperation and trade partnership. Pending its full ratification, this applies also to the existing Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement. Cooperation in the framework of the sub-regional context will be considered to address shared challenges and challenges of a cross border nature, focusing on the processes with the greatest potential to deliver on the SDGs through a multi-country approach that allow for a greater impact and success back at each country level. This is pertinent for instance in areas such as economic integration and recovery, inclusive development, climate change and security.

2.5. Support to investments under the EFSD+

Subject to confirmation during the implementation phase, it is expected that an indicative amount of up to 28% of the resources of this MIP may be used to provision EFSD+ guarantees and to finance bilateral and regional blending operations to which the country will be eligible. From this indicative amount about one third would be dedicated to EFSD+ provisioning, representing 2 million euros for 2021-2024 under both priority areas.

Sustainable finance represents a real potential in the region and will help accelerate financial flows towards green, inclusive and resilient transitions.

3. Support measures

3.2. Measures in favour of civil society

The decade-long border conflict with Guatemala left deep traces in the political sensitivity of the entire Belizean population. An eventual juridical decision or political agreement will not change easily the perception of threat and danger or invert an image which was built up over long times by public communication, private interests and social groups. In this context, preparing Belize society for the eventual ruling of the ICJ and, most importantly, after a possible arbitration will require a substantial engagement of civil society organisations. Possible CSO activities should be complementary with similar actions of regional or thematic programmes.

3.3. Cooperation facility

A cooperation facility may be foreseen in the programming through a specific allocation. It is to be used for:

- supporting capacity development and institutional building, including through technical assistance and exchange of public expertise, such as TAIEX and Twinning¹. These instruments would support Belize public administrations with regard to facilitating the sharing of EU best practices through workshops, expert missions and study visits.
- supporting policy dialogues: events, conferences, studies, fellowships, exchange platforms to support sector dialogues leading to policy reforms and engagement with governments and other stakeholders.
- actions may also support the participation of the country in EU Programmes and cooperation with EU Agencies, where relevant.
- financing communication including strategic communication and fight against disinformation and visibility actions on EU cooperation and public diplomacy specific interventions to promote EU policies as well as its multilateral agenda in the partner country.
- supporting the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the Union's cooperation, including via technical assistance.

Such a facility is not considered as a sector and can therefore be programmed in addition to the proposed priority area. It may not be used neither for financing small projects in additional areas, nor for actions related to cross cutting issues.

Tentative Financial Overview

Although the duration of this MIP is seven years, the indicative allocations for Belize and for each of the priority areas and support measures laid down in the table below are provided for

¹ TAIEX and Twinning arrangements can be used in all NDICI countries, but not necessarily through cooperation facilities.

the 2021-2024 period only. The indicative allocations for 2025-2027, as well as the possible modification of other substantial elements of this MIP, will be subject to a decision by the EU. This decision should be preceded by a review of the implementation of this MIP, which should include a dialogue with the authorities and other stakeholders of Belize.

MIP BELIZE	<i>million €</i>	<i>% of total</i>
Priority area 1: Green growth and sustainable socio-economic development	8.5	50%
Priority area 2: Regional integration and border management	6.0	35%
Support measures	2.5	15%
TOTAL for initial period	17.0	100%

Attachments:

1. Intervention framework
2. Donor matrix

Attachment 1: Intervention Framework²

Priority area 1: Green growth and sustainable socio-economic development

Specific objective A: Socio-economic development of the southern districts of Belize fostered by promoting a green model of development		
Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets & means of verification³
A.1 Rural transformation plan for Belize's south agreed with local stakeholders and formally adopted.	Status of rural transformation plan for southern districts of Belize.	<u>Baseline:</u> No plan <u>Target:</u> Plan including budget provisions for public investment adopted by corresponding ministries.

² Under the cooperation facility and other coordination mechanisms with GoB, arrangements will be sought to produce timely updated baselines and complementary information regarding the identified targets. The means of verification for most indicators will be "M&E systems of EU-funded interventions".

³ Baseline and targets will be updated by the end of 2022 and the updated MIP will be communicated to INTPA through an official note from HoD.

A.2 Access to basic services for rural communities substantially improved.	Number of people directly benefiting from the new EU supported interventions that aim to reduce social and economic inequality (EURF level 2).	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Targets:</u> Stann Creek, Toledo: 7 000
	Number of individuals with access to improved drinking water source and/or sanitation facility in rural communities of southern districts (EURF level 2).	<u>Baseline:</u> Stann Creek, Toledo <u>No. of households (piped into dwelling)</u> 58,570 (11714 households) (source: SIB Population and housing census 2010). ⁴ Target: + 3500 individuals
	Total lengths (kms) of improved transportation infrastructure supported: a) secondary and tertiary rural roads (connecting rural communities of southern districts to main road network). (EURF level 2)	Baseline: 0 Target: 50 km
	Number of rural schools refurbished under SMART concept.	Baseline: 62 schools Target: 10 refurbished schools
A.3 Employment and income generation improved for well-being among all inhabitants of the southern districts.	Number of (a) jobs, (b) green jobs supported/sustained by the EU (EURF level 2).	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Targets:</u> 1000 (50% green)
Specific objective B: Good governance practices and territorial approach strengthened at the village and district levels.		
Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets & means of verification

⁴ A new census is under development but delayed due to COVID-19

<p>B.1 Development planning and implementation processes done at local level and incorporate green models of development</p>	<p>Number of dialogue platforms for exchange of relevant information between local, district and national level, including information on environmental protection.</p> <p>Number of indigenous and vulnerable groups attending these meetings.</p>	<p><u>Baseline:</u> Participation is occasional and not regulated <u>Targets:</u> At least 3 annual meetings for each district with senior level participation; meeting notes and findings / decisions adequately communicated.</p> <p>Target will be confirmed once groups are identified and invited.</p>
<p>B.2 Infrastructure needs identified, designed and tendered.</p>	<p>Status of GPS based map of public infrastructure.</p> <p>Number of needs assessment (per district and sector), including pre-designs and budget estimates.</p> <p>Status of public investment plan between local, district and national level.</p>	<p><u>Baseline:</u> No data or needs assessments available, no designs <u>Targets:</u> Map done in 2022.</p> <p>Three assessments done in 2022.</p> <p>Plan agreed in 2023.</p>
<p>B.3 Technological innovation and digitization of services improved.</p>	<p>Number of unique users accessing website for technical innovation online and consulted.</p> <p>Number of municipalities that offer services through the digital platform</p>	<p><u>Baseline:</u> Some initiatives start in 2021 <u>Targets:</u> 100 unique users/week.</p> <p>Two municipalities</p>
<p>Specific objective C: Indigenous communities’ culture and sustainable development strengthened.</p>		
<p>Expected Results</p>	<p>Indicators</p>	<p>Baseline & targets &</p>

C.1 Centre of excellence for indigenous culture, knowledge and traditional land use systems established, focussing on indigenous women and youth leaders.	Status of the centre	<u>Baseline:</u> Zero <u>Targets:</u> Design finalised in 2023 and operations start in 2023.
	Status of compilation of knowledge in digital format	Knowledge base organised in 2023 and available in 2023
	Number of grassroots civil society organisations benefitting from (or reached by) EU support (EURF level 2)	Target to confirm at the moment of creation of the AD.
C.2 Indigenous entrepreneurship promoted via incubation of micro, small and medium-size enterprises for cultural, rural and eco-tourism, forests and non-timber products, food sovereignty, innovative fishing techniques and added value to fish products.	Number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land (EURF level 2).	<u>Baseline:</u> Zero <u>Targets:</u> Target to confirm at the moment of creation of the AD.
	Number of promotion programmes for small scale / family level designed for targeted sectors.	3 programmes ready in 2023 for three sectors.
	Number of credits approved and made available for indigenous entrepreneurs with assistance and training facilities.	100 operations started in 2023.

Priority area 2: Regional integration and border management

Specific objective A: Security at the terrestrial and maritime borders increased.		
Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets & means of verification
A.1 Border management plan developed, including aspects of environmental protection, security and migration	Status of task force / focal points from corresponding public entities, security forces and law enforcement agencies established under senior management leadership of MFA.	<u>Baseline:</u> Several plans available but dispersed <u>Targets:</u> Task force constituted by end 2022.
	Number of studies, reports, maps and other data and information compiled, including from external sources, and legal / institutional constraints resolved for starting design of plan.	Complementary studies (5), reports (5), maps (3) finalised and presented to task force by end 2023.
	Status of national, bilateral and international agreements / conditions / laws and other binding frameworks including	Agreements (5) and standards (3) analysed and presented to task force by end 2023.

	<p>international security and migration standards / policies.</p> <p>Status of border management plan</p> <p>Number of state institutions and non-state actors supported on security, border management, countering violent extremism, conflict prevention, protection of civilian population and HHRR</p>	<p>Plan approved by corresponding public bodies in 2024 and presented for adoption</p> <p>State institutions: 4 NSA: 3</p>
<p>A.2 Infrastructure needs identified and designed, including financial structure for flagship investments.</p>	<p>Number of final designs presented.</p> <p>Number of financing proposals presented.</p>	<p><u>Baseline:</u> Zero</p> <p><u>Targets:</u> Three final designs presented in 2023</p> <p>Two financing proposals in 2024</p>
<p>A.3 Management of national parks (2), forest (4) and maritime (3) reserves and wildlife sanctuaries (3) improved to reduce illicit activities occurring along the Belizean border.</p>	<p>Status of physical and digital inventory of parks / reserves documentation established under central management, including detailed maps, threats identified and quantified, and needs assessment elaborated with budget for public investment.</p> <p>Number of management plans revised / updated and approved.</p>	<p><u>Baseline:</u> Several documents and plans available but dispersed and outdated.</p> <p><u>Targets:</u> Inventory of physical and digital inventory of parks / reserves, completed, including detailed maps, threats identified, quantified, and needs assessment elaborated</p> <p>Six management plans approved through corresponding formal procedure by 2024.</p>
<p>A.4 Technical aspects for future demarcation of Adjacency Zone prepared.</p>	<p>Status of equipment and training of corresponding public entity for topographic works</p> <p>Status of provision of cartographic material for border area</p> <p>Status of technical criteria for future demarcation according to agreements under Joint Commission.</p>	<p><u>Baseline:</u> Belize Defence Force and MFA material</p> <p><u>Targets:</u> Training completed and equipment delivered by end of 2024</p> <p>Identified in scope and quality and acquired by end of 2024</p> <p>Established by end of 2024</p>

Specific objective B: Regulatory framework for enhanced commercial and industrial integration elaborated and regional trade increased		industrial integration
Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets & means of verification
B.1 Potential for Belize' trade integration with Guatemala and Northern Triangle countries identified.	<p>Number of countries supported by the EU to strengthen investment climate</p> <p>Number of sectoral, bilateral and regional trade studies.</p> <p>Number of project proposals for trade improvements presented.</p>	<p><u>Baseline:</u> Zero</p> <p><u>Targets:</u> Two (BEL / GUA) by 2024 Four (BEL, HON, GUA, SAL) by 2027</p> <p>Three by 2023</p> <p>Five by 2025</p>
B.2 Regulatory framework for Partial Scope Trade Agreement elaborated to enhance commercial and industrial integration.	<p>Number of processes related to partner country practices on trade, investment and business which have been influenced (EURF level 2).</p> <p>Percentage of monetary increase of commercial flows from Belize to neighbouring countries.</p>	<p><u>Baseline:</u> 0 processes</p> <p><u>Targets:</u> Three processes</p> <p>Global net increase of 50 percent between 2025 and 2027 Source MFA&FT and proper reporting of Partial Scope Trade Agreement</p>
B.3 Institutional capacities of stakeholders strengthened for advancing the Partial Scope Trade Agreement.	<p>Status of equipment and training of corresponding public entities.</p> <p>Number of trade related bilateral meetings.</p> <p>Number of webinars for private entrepreneurs and business associations to inform of new potential and respective trade regulations.</p>	<p><u>Baseline:</u> Zero</p> <p><u>Targets:</u> Equipment delivered and operational and training provided by end of 2024</p> <p>Two annual meetings as from 2024.</p> <p>2 annual webinars as from 2024</p>

Attachment 2: Donor matrix showing the current indicative allocations per sector in Belize

Donor	MIP 2021 - 2027 BELIZE	Amount	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Green growth and sustainable socio-economic development									
EU	Support to Health Sector Reform Programme (20% of total)	EUR 2 M							
EU	Support to Belize Sustainable Energy Roadmap (20% of total)	EUR 3 M							
IADB	Support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in response to COVID-19 crisis	USD 15 M							
IADB	Support to safety nets for vulnerable populations affected by coronavirus in Belize	USD 12 M							
WB	Strengthen Agriculture and Food Security in Belize	USD 8 M							
WB	Social protection response to the COVID-19 emergency	USD 12.4 M							
Regional integration and border management									
US	Improve Border Security structures	not known							

Notes:

Belize has no established donor coordination mechanism nor an elaborated donor matrix; UN Resident Coordinator's Office (Salvador) re-started initiative for donor coordination in May 2021. Listed EU programmes under former EDF 11 framework are countrywide and contribution to EU Priority Areas is estimated. Listed IADB / WB programmes are concessional loans (re-orientated due to COVID) Belize benefits from regional programmes (e.g. CAN, EU, UK, US) of which concrete contributions cannot be precised.