BELIZE

Child Rights Monitoring: Reporting on Children and the SDGs in Belize
Table of Contents

Children and Clean Water in Belize
Children and Climate Action in the Caribbean
Children and Quality Education in Belize
Children and Good Health in Belize
Good Jobs and Employment in Belize
Children and Nutrition in Belize
Children and Life Below Water in Belize
Children and Poverty in Belize
Children and Gender Equality in Belize
Key messages

1. Clean, accessible water for all is an essential part of the world we want to live in. There is sufficient fresh water on the planet to achieve this. Due to bad economics or poor infrastructure, every year millions of people, most of them children, die from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene.

2. Water scarcity, poor water quality and inadequate sanitation negatively impact food security, livelihood choices and educational opportunities for poor families across the world. Drought afflicts some of the world’s poorest countries, worsening hunger and malnutrition.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: Clean water & sanitation – Targets for children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increase recycling and safe reuse globally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.6 By 2030, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where we stand in Belize (2015)¹

- 96.1% of Belizeans benefit from improved sources of drinking water²
- 93% of the population lives in households using improved sanitation facilities³
- 84% of households use improved sources of drinking water and improved sanitation facilities
- 75% and 44% of households in urban and rural areas, respectively, use bottled water for drinking
- Demand for water resources is broken down as follows: from agriculture (43.7%), industry (36.5%) and domestic/residential use (19.7%)
- Belize has 39 identifiable watersheds, 18 of them are classified as major ones
- Swamps cover 13.4% of mainland Belize; 29 lagoons have been identified
- Belize shares five major watersheds with Mexico and Guatemala
- The potable water supply for the town of Benque Viejo, Belize City and all the communities along the Belize River originates in Guatemala
- There are three water treatment facilities in three municipalities – Belmopan, Belize City and San Pedro:
  - The Belmopan City Treatment Plant serves approximately 7,900 households and treats approximately 200,000 gallons of water daily
  - The Belize City Treatment Plant serves approximately 37,500 households and treats approximately 1.5 million gallons of water daily
  - The San Pedro Treatment Plant serves approximately 3,400 consumers and treats about 160,000 gallons of water daily

Handwashing in Belize

Geographic regions

- 83.9% of households in Belize Southside⁴ have a specific place for handwashing, where soap or another cleansing agent is present
- 95.6% of households in Belize City have a specific place for handwashing, where soap or another cleansing agent is present
- 85% of East-Indian-headed⁵ households have an observed place in their household for handwashing, where soap or some other cleaning agent is present
- 89.5% of Creole-headed households have an observed place in their household for handwashing, where soap or some other cleaning agent is present

Disposal of faeces in Belize

- 8.4% of residents in Toledo District engage in open defecation
- Countrywide, 16% of children’s faeces are disposed of safely
- 78% of households dispose of children’s faeces by throwing them into the garbage
The national response to water preservation and opportunities for acceleration in Belize

The priority for Belize is to achieve SDG 6 with equity through child-sensitive policy and integrated service delivery. The following are some of the mechanisms and actions to achieve this goal:

- The Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS), Belize’s national development strategy, and the Children’s Agenda 2030 outline the national roadmap for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The framework spells out practical actions, areas for investment and accountabilities for children and adolescents across all sectors
- The National Adaptation Strategy addresses climate change in Belize’s water sector, which is defined as all freshwater sources in Belize
- The National Integrated Water Resources Authority Project addresses water consumption and preservation by implementing a tariff to moderate usage

Specific interventions to accelerate results in water preservation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry of Health</th>
<th>Ministry of Natural Resources</th>
<th>Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Drinking Water Policy (Draft)</td>
<td>Policy Water Conservation Policy</td>
<td>Policy Climate Change Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Drinking Water Quality Regulation (Draft)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Public Health Act</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Plan</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Health Sector Strategic Plan</td>
<td>Plan National Integrated Water Resources Authority Project (NIWRA)</td>
<td>Plan Green Climate Fund (GCF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Children’s Agenda 2030 (National Result Framework for Children and Adolescents)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Priorities in Service Delivery</strong></td>
<td><strong>Priorities in Service Delivery</strong></td>
<td><strong>Priorities in Service Delivery</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution of water purification tablets</td>
<td>Conservation and preservation of water and water sources in Belize (NIWRA)</td>
<td>The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) is accredited as a regional implementing entity by the Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The GCF is used to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change in the region, especially rising sea temperatures and water pollution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence Generation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Evidence Generation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Evidence Generation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Administrative database for water quality information</td>
<td>- Administrative data</td>
<td>Green Climate Fund (GCF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Belize Health Information System</td>
<td>- Belize Info (Ministry of Human Development)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capacity Building</strong></td>
<td><strong>Capacity Building</strong></td>
<td><strong>Capacity Building</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Community members trained on safe water</td>
<td>Dissemination of informative materials on water conservation and preservation to the general public</td>
<td>Community workers trained in project management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Dissemination of information on safe water storage, usage and water-borne diseases to rural communities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Awareness building and participation of children**

The Government of Belize has put in place several initiatives to ensure children and adolescent’s participation in national development. Each of these provides important platforms for continued engagement with children, as Belize moves forward with the monitoring of progress towards the SDGs. They include:

- The Department of Youth Services (Ministry of Education)
- The Ministry of Natural Resources (Hydrology Unit)
- The Sustainable and Child-Friendly Municipality Initiative led by the Ministry of Labour, Local Government and Rural Development, together with the Belize Mayors’ Association, which supports systematic child participation in the existing Children’s Advisory Bodies across all municipalities in Belize

**Financing for children**

The Government’s yearly budget is allocated to line ministries, however there is no direct budget line for children.

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**Resources**

- Belize Enterprise for Sustainable Technology, National Adaptation Strategy to Address Climate Change in the Water Sector in Belize, [http://infoagro.net/programas/Ambiente/pages/marcos/Regi%C3%B3n%20central/Belize/Nivel%20Nacional/2Estrategia%20de%20Adaptaci%C3%B3n%20para%20el%20Sector%20Agua.pdf], accessed 14 August 2017.

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1 All data on clean water & sanitation in Belize are drawn from the 2015 MICS5 Survey.
2 Improved sources of drinking water are defined as those using any of the following types of supply: piped water (into dwelling, compound, yard or plot, to neighbour, public tap/standpipe), tube well/borehole, protected well, protected spring, and rainwater collection (source: MICS5).
3 Improved sanitation facilities include flush or pour flush to a piped sewer system, septic tank, or pit latrine; ventilated improved pit latrine, pit latrine with slab, and use of a composting toilet (source: MICS5).
4 Belize Southside refers to the side of Belize City south of the river that cuts through the city, and is a particularly disadvantaged area.
5 East Indians are one of the seven main ethnic groups in Belize, in addition to Creole, Mestizo, Maya, Garifuna, Chinese and Mennonites.

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**United Nations Children’s Fund, UNICEF**

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Key messages

1. People are experiencing the significant impacts of climate change, which include changing weather patterns, rising sea levels and more extreme weather events.

2. Greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are driving climate change and continue to rise. They are now at their highest levels in history. Without action, the world’s average surface temperature is projected to rise over the 21st century. The poorest and most vulnerable people are being affected the most.

3. Affordable, scalable solutions are now available to enable countries to leapfrog to cleaner, more resilient economies. The pace of change is quickening as more people are turning to renewable energy and a range of other measures that will reduce emissions and increase adaptation efforts.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13: Climate action – Targets for children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.3 Improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly USD$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where we stand in Belize (2015)

- Under the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago implemented the Green Climate Fund (GCF), a mechanism aimed at combatting climate change and mitigating its impact on the Caribbean economies.
- In Belize, the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) is responsible for the preservation of life and property countrywide.
- The Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) has climate change projection and climate visualization tools at sub-regional levels. The information collected by the CDKN has been applied to real-life situations in St Lucia, Jamaica, Belize, Cuba and Barbados.
- Belize is located south of Mexico and east of Guatemala; this puts the country inside of the Caribbean Hurricane Belt.
- An increase in sea water temperature has exacerbated coral bleaching in the Belize Barrier Reef. Coral bleaching destroys coral, which is important for the protection against erosion, natural disasters and inclement weather. In terms of marine life, warmer temperatures destroy the habitats of marine species and reduce their food supply. This forces them to seek new habitats, which in turn adversely affects the livelihoods of local fisherfolk.

Climate change across the Caribbean

Geographic regions

- The CDKN has funded three projects: The Caribbean Weather Impacts Group (CARWIG), The Global Islands’ Vulnerability Research, Adaptation Policy Development Project (GIVRAPD) and The Caribbean Research Call.
- The CARWIG has generated climate change data that are locally relevant to help decision makers evaluate climate change and its impact across a range of timescales.
- Globally, 2005 was the warmest year on record and 2007 tied for the second warmest (source: GISS, 2008).
- The increase in global surface temperature to date is approximately 0.74°C, based on the 100-year linear trend, 1906-2005 (source: IPCC, 2007).

The effects of climate change on the Caribbean economy

- In 2014 tourism’s total contribution to the Caribbean economy amounted to US$51.9 billion (14.6% of total GDP) and to 2,231,500 jobs (13% of employment) – including industries supporting, and dependent on, tourism.
- 94% of tourist accommodation facilities and 79% of tourist attraction facilities in Belize are located at lower coastal elevation.
The national response to climate change and opportunities for acceleration in Belize and the Caribbean

The priority for Belize and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is to achieve SDG 13 with equity through child-sensitive policy and integrated service delivery. The following are some of the mechanisms and actions to achieve this goal:

- The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) provides Belizeans with pertinent information and updates regarding storm strength, size and location. It also provides hurricane tips and emergency preparedness plans for families to follow during the hurricane season.
- The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) aims to unify the Caribbean Community with the goal of mitigating climate change and its effects in their member states.
- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a global financial mechanism implemented regionally by the CCCCC. Funds are used to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change in the region.

Specific interventions to accelerate results in the fight against climate change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)</th>
<th>National Emergency Management Organization</th>
<th>Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Climate Change Policy</td>
<td>Policy Climate Change Policy</td>
<td>Policy Belize Education Sector Strategy Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Green Climate Fund (GCF)</td>
<td>Plan Emergency Family Plan</td>
<td>Plan Children’s Agenda 2030 (National Result Framework for Children and Adolescents)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Priorities in Service Delivery**
- The CCCCC is the first regionally accredited organization that acts a conduit for Caribbean countries.
- The CCCCC collects funds from the small island nations of the Caribbean to use in the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- The GCF is used to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change in the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence Generation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Climate Fund (GCF)</td>
<td>Emergency Management System</td>
<td>Educational Management Information System</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capacity Building</th>
<th>Capacity Building</th>
<th>Capacity Building</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Workers trained in Project Management</td>
<td>Community Workers trained in Disaster Management</td>
<td>Climate change/environment included in the primary school curriculum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Awareness building and participation of children
Together with other governments in the Caribbean the Government of Belize has put in place several initiatives to ensure children and adolescent’s participation in national development. Each of these provides important platforms for continued engagement with children, as Belize moves forward with the monitoring of progress towards the SDGs. They include:

- The Department of Youth Services (Ministry of Education)
- The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO)
- The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)
- The Sustainable and Child-Friendly Municipality Initiative led by the Ministry of Labour, Local Government and Rural Development, together with the Belize Mayors’ Association, which supports systematic child participation in the existing Children’s Advisory Bodies across all municipalities in Belize

Financing for children
In Belize, the Government’s yearly budget is allocated to line ministries, however there is no direct budget line for children.

Resources

United Nations Children’s Fund, UNICEF

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YouTube: www.youtube.com/unicefbelize
The Sustainable Development Goals: Children and Quality Education in Belize

Key messages
1. Without quality education, all the other Sustainable Development Goals will prove difficult to achieve.
2. Access to quality education is not only a goal in itself, but a fundamental building block to creating a better world of sustainable peace, prosperity and development.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4: Quality education – Targets for children

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning
The new SDG Targets aim to improve the quality of education globally by 2030

- 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.
- 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.
- 4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.
- 4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.
- 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.
- 4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.
- 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.
Where we stand in Belize (2015)

- Literacy rate is 97% among women and 95% among men
- Adult literacy rate is 90% in urban areas and 89% in rural areas
- The net attendance for students in primary school is 95.7%
- 44% of children aged 0-59 months live in households where at least 3 children’s books are present
- Three in four children in the 0-23 months age group do not have access to three or more children’s books
- Two-thirds of children aged 0-59 months have two or more types of playthings in their homes
- 53% of children aged 36-59 months are developmentally on track in literacy and numeracy
- 97% of children aged 36-59 months are developmentally on track physically
- 77% of children aged 36-59 months are developmentally on track in the socio-emotional domain
- 93% of children aged 36-59 months are developmentally on track with learning
- 57.4% of male students are currently attending secondary school
- 86.3% of students complete primary school
- 83.1% of students transition to secondary school

Disparities in education in Belize

Geographic regions
- In Toledo District, 38% of children who are in First Grade attended pre-school the previous year
- In Belize Southside, 91.8% of children who are in First Grade attended pre-school the previous year
- In Cayo District, 37% of children aged 36-59 months receive early childhood education
- The net attendance for primary school students in Corozal District is 87.4%
- Stann Creek District has the highest primary school net attendance (98.4%)
- Maya-headed households reported the lowest literacy rates for both women and men (86.6% and 89.1% respectively)
- Garifuna-headed households reported the highest literacy rates for both women and men (97.9% and 97.5% respectively)
- Gender parity in primary school is 1.0
- Gender parity in secondary school is 1.1

Sex
- Literacy rate is 93% for women and 91% for men
- 24% of fathers are involved in four or more activities with their child, compared to 68% of mothers

Age
- 93% of women aged 15-19 years are literate

The national response to quality education and opportunities for acceleration in Belize

The priority for Belize is to achieve SDG 4 with equity through child-sensitive policy and integrated service delivery. The following are some of the mechanisms and actions to achieve this goal:
• An Interagency ECD task force was established in 2014 and serves as the primary mechanism for the coordination for coordination of action related to human development and education
• The Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS), Belize’s national development strategy, and the National Result Framework for Children and Adolescents 2017-2030 (NRFCA) outline the national roadmap for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The framework spells out practical actions, areas for investment and accountabilities for children and adolescents across all sectors
• The Government of Belize has recently adopted a national policy on Early Childhood Development (ECD). Improving early childhood development through enhanced care and nutrition is a critical part of this policy
• The Ministry of Education has developed the Belize Education Sector Strategy (BESS), an integrated system designed to implement policies aimed at improving the access, quality and governance of education in Belize

Specific interventions to accelerate results in education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry of Health</th>
<th>Ministry of Human Development</th>
<th>Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy</strong> ECD Policy</td>
<td><strong>Policy</strong> ECD Policy</td>
<td><strong>Policy</strong> Education Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plan</strong></td>
<td><strong>Plan</strong></td>
<td><strong>Plan</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Health Sector Strategic Plan</td>
<td>- Children's Agenda 2030</td>
<td>- Belize Education Sector Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Children's Agenda 2030 (National Result Framework for Children and Adolescents)</td>
<td>- (National Result Framework for Children and Adolescents)</td>
<td>- Children's Agenda 2030 (National Result Framework for Children and Adolescents)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priorities in Service Delivery</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Iron, folic acid and multivitamins distributed to females aged 10-49 years</td>
<td>- Conditional Cash Transfer Programme – Building Opportunities for Our Social Transformation (BOOST)</td>
<td>- Secondary School Subsidy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Delivery of fortified food to pregnant women and children at risk or undernourished</td>
<td>- “The Pantry” The programme provides a basic food basket at a subsidized cost to poor families in Toledo, Cayo and Belize City</td>
<td>- Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) Tuition Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Nutritional education to women during preconception, prenatal and postnatal care</td>
<td></td>
<td>- District Education Centres (DECs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence Generation</strong> Belize Health Information System</td>
<td><strong>Evidence Generation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Evidence Generation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- FAMCare: national case management system</td>
<td>- Education Management Information System</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Single Information System for Beneficiaries: social registry to inform inter-sectoral planning and monitoring</td>
<td>- Early Warning System</td>
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<td>- BelizInfo: data dissemination platform</td>
<td>- Out-of-School Study</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>- OpenEMIS information management tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capacity Building</strong> Community Health Workers trained in Health Education and Early Childhood Development</td>
<td><strong>Capacity Building</strong> Community Health Workers trained in Early Childhood Development</td>
<td><strong>Capacity Building</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Teachers, parents and children trained in the drafting, operationalizing and monitoring of School Improvements Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Convention on the Rights of the Child included in the primary school curriculum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Awareness building and participation of children

The Government of Belize has put in place several initiatives to ensure children and adolescent’s participation in national development. Each of these provides important platforms for continued engagement with children, as Belize moves forward with the monitoring of progress towards the SDGs. They include:

- The Department of Youth Services (Ministry of Education)
- The Youth and Community Transformation Project (Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation)
- The Sustainable and Child-Friendly Municipality Initiative led by the Ministry of Labour, Local Government and Rural Development, together with the Belize Mayors’ Association, which supports systematic child participation in the existing Children’s Advisory Bodies across all municipalities in Belize

Financing for children

The Government’s yearly budget is allocated to line ministries, however there is no direct budget line for children.

Resources


1 Quote by Peter Thomson, President of the UN General Assembly (September 2016-2017).
2 All data on the educational status of children in Belize are drawn from the 2015 MICS5 Survey.
3 Belize Southside refers to the side of Belize City south of the river that cuts through the city, and is a particularly disadvantaged area.
4 The Maya are one of the seven main ethnic groups in Belize, in addition to Creole, Mestizo, Garifuna, East Indians, Chinese and Mennonites.
The Sustainable Development Goals: Children and Good Health in Belize

Key messages

1. Health and well-being act as both an outcome of, and a determinant for, development. Child and maternal mortality are among the most important indicators of progress in addressing inequities in health outcomes and access.
2. Strengthening health systems – including emergency preparedness, response and resilience – requires a robust health information system that includes the most marginalized and provides timely and comprehensive data to inform action.
3. Integrated, multi-sectoral policies and programmes are essential to improving health outcomes. Resilient and healthy communities are built when sectors and partners work jointly to assess data, budget accordingly and deploy resources to address the underlying causes of health challenges.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3: Good health and well-being — Targets for children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where we stand in Belize (2015)¹

- 56% of deaths in infancy occur during the first 28 days of a child's life
- 40% of girls and 44% of boys aged 15-19 years have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS
- About 1 in 10 girls aged 15-19 years has had a birth
- 65% of adolescents reported using a condom during their last sexual intercourse
- 39% of girls aged 15-19 years, married or in union, currently use a method of contraception
- 96% of the population uses an improved source of drinking water
- 93% of the population lives in households using improved sanitation facilities
- 84% of household population uses improved drinking water sources and improved sanitation facilities
- Stools are disposed of safely for only 16% of children
- 78% of stools are thrown into garbage

Disparities in health for children in Belize

Geographic regions
- Adolescent fertility in Corozal District: 104/1,000
- Adolescent fertility in Stann Creek District: 101/1,000
- Women currently married or in union reported using a contraceptive as follows: 72% in Corozal District; 58% in Orange Walk District; 56% in Belize City (excluding Belize Southside); 51% in Belize Southside; 41% in Cayo District; 47% in Stann Creek District; and 31% in Toledo District
- 100% of births in Belize Southside are delivered by a skilled attendant
- 90% of births in Toledo District are delivered by a skilled attendant
- In 94% of live births, both the mother and the newborn receive a health check following birth
- Stools are disposed of safely for 20% of children in rural areas and for 12% in urban areas

Sex
- Under-five mortality for mothers younger than age 20 is 15 per 1,000 live births

Age
- 39% of women aged 15-19 years, married or in union, currently use a method of contraception

The national response to good health and well-being opportunities for acceleration in Belize

The priority for Belize is to achieve SDG 3 with equity through child-sensitive policy and integrated service delivery. The following are some of the mechanisms and actions to achieve this goal:

- An Interagency ECD task force was established in 2014 and serves as the primary mechanism for the coordination of action related to nutrition, health and protection of children aged 0-8 years
- The Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS), Belize’s national development strategy, and the National Result Framework for Children and Adolescents 2017-2030 (NRFCA) outline the national roadmap for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The framework spells out practical actions, areas for investment and accountabilities for children and adolescents across all sectors
• The Government of Belize has recently adopted a national policy on Early Childhood Development (ECD). Improving early childhood development through enhanced care and nutrition is a critical part of this policy; its implementation is supported through inter-sectoral collaboration in planning, skills development and service delivery.

• The Ministry of Health has developed the Belize Nutrition Surveillance System (BNSS), an integrated system designed to provide data on existing nutrition interventions at two levels: biological impact and process indicators.

### Specific interventions to accelerate results in health

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<td>- BelizeInfo: data dissemination platform</td>
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<td>- Belize Health Information System</td>
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<td>- Family Health Survey</td>
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<td><strong>Capacity Building</strong></td>
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<td>Capacity Building Teachers, parents and children trained in the drafting, operationalizing and monitoring of School Improvements Plans</td>
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**Financing for children**
The Government’s yearly budget is allocated to line ministries, however there is no direct budget line for children.

**Resources**

1 All data on the health status of children in Belize are drawn from the 2015 MICS Survey.
2 Belize Southside refers to the side of Belize City south of the river that cuts through the city, and is a particularly disadvantaged area.

**United Nations Children’s Fund, UNICEF**

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YouTube: www.youtube.com/unicefbelize
The Sustainable Development Goals: Good Jobs and Economic Growth in Belize

Key messages
1. Roughly half the world’s population still lives on the equivalent of about US$2 a day. And, in too many places, having a job doesn’t guarantee the ability to escape from poverty. This slow and uneven progress requires us to rethink and retool our economic and social policies aimed at eradicating poverty.
2. A continued lack of decent work opportunities, insufficient investments and under-consumption lead to an erosion of the basic social contract underlying democratic societies: that all must share in progress. The creation of quality jobs will remain a major challenge for almost all economies well beyond 2017.
3. Sustainable economic growth will require societies to create the conditions that allow people to have quality jobs that stimulate the economy while not harming the environment. Job opportunities and decent working conditions are also required for the whole working-age population.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8: Good jobs and economic growth – Targets for children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDG 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 percent gross domestic product in the least developed countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**8.8** Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious environments

**8.9** By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

**8.10** Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services to all

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**Where we stand in Belize**

- The annual growth rate of GDP per capita was 0.8% between 2011 and 2015
- The annual growth rate of GDP was 4.1% between 2011 and 2015
- The labour force participation rate is 64.3%
- There are approximately 7,485 people aged 14-24 years who are unemployed
- Tourism contributes approximately 15% to Belize’s GDP
- Tourism directly contributes approximately 18,000 jobs to Belizeans
- There are 5,188 children employed in Belize

**Disparities in unemployment and child labour activities**

**Geographic regions**

- In Belize District, the unemployment rate is 10.9%
- In Toledo District, the unemployment rate is 3.9%
- Belize District has the lowest children’s employment rate (3.0%)
- Corozal District has the highest children’s employment rate (9.1%)

**Sex**

- 4.8% of Belizean males are unemployed
- 15.6% of Belizean females are unemployed

**Age**

- 33.68% of the workforce are aged 14-24 years
- 12.43% of the workforce are aged 45-54 years

---

**The national response to unemployment alleviation and opportunities for acceleration in Belize**

The priority for Belize is to achieve SDG 8 with equity through child-sensitive policy and integrated service delivery. The following are some of the mechanisms and actions to achieve this goal:

- The Belize Trade and Infrastructure Development Service (Beltraide) is the official national agency for the promotion of tools and investments in Belize. It operates under the Ministry of Economic Development and consists of four units, which work towards creating employment opportunities, improving the quality of the workforce and establishing new markets for Belizean products. These units are BTEC, BelizeINVEST, EXPORTBelize, SBDCBelize
- The Belize Training & Employment Centre (BTEC) seeks to improve the employability skills of Belizeans and to foster an inclusive environment where participants, staff and the community show respect for diversity
- BelizeINVEST provides tailored services to local and foreign investors who want to conduct business in Belize and utilize investments to create job opportunities for Belizeans
- EXPORTBelize provides services aimed at preparing businesses to export products regionally and internationally
- The Small Business Development Centre Belize (SBDCBelize) aims to prepare micro, small and medium enterprises to better compete in the local, regional and international trade markets

### Specific interventions to accelerate results in employment

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Policy</td>
<td>- Belize Labour Act</td>
<td>- Belize Education Act</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Belize Shops Act</td>
<td>- Education Policy</td>
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<td>- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) (Prohibition) Act</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Belize International Labour Organization Conventions Act</td>
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<td>- Families and Children Act</td>
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<td>Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Belize National Entrepreneurship Strategy</td>
<td>- Children's Agenda 2030 (National Result Framework for Children and Adolescents)</td>
<td>- Vocational education</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Belize MSME Policy and Strategy Report</td>
<td>- Municipal Strategic Plans</td>
<td>- Special education for people with disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priority in Service Delivery</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Increase the flow of capital to MSMEs</td>
<td>- Belize Rural Finance Programme</td>
<td>- Employment training &amp; educational services</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Promote market access and competitiveness of MSMEs</td>
<td>- Inspection services of all work places</td>
<td>- Gateway Youth Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Enable MSMEs to access resources (human, technological and financial) needed to respond to economic opportunities</td>
<td>- Labour advice to the public, workers and employers</td>
<td>- National Resource Center for Inclusive Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Receive and settle labour complaints</td>
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<td>- Institute for Technical and Vocational Education &amp; Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Enforcement of labour legislations</td>
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<td>- Government bookstores (nine municipalities)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Provide public employment services (e.g. employers and employees matching)</td>
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<td>- Secondary School Subsidy</td>
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<td>- Vetting of temporary employment permits</td>
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<td>- Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) Tuition Grant</td>
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<td>Evidence Generation</td>
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<td>- Belize Central Bank Annual Report</td>
<td>- Labour Force Survey</td>
<td>- Early Warning System</td>
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<td>- Balance of Payment Survey</td>
<td>- Child Activity Survey</td>
<td>- Educational Management Information System</td>
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<td>- Economic indicators</td>
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<td>- Out-of-School Study</td>
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<td>- General statistics</td>
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<td>Business and entrepreneurial skills training of MSM owners and managers</td>
<td>- Skills training for women and girls by the Women's Department</td>
<td>Job training and internship programmes in secondary and tertiary education</td>
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<td>- Mock interviews for job training in schools</td>
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- The Sustainable and Child-Friendly Municipality Initiative led by the Ministry of Labour, Local Government and Rural Development, together with the Belize Mayors’ Association, which supports systematic child participation in the existing Children’s Advisory Bodies across all municipalities in Belize
- Beltraide (BTEC, BelizeINVEST, EXPORTBelize and SBDCBelize)

Financing for children
The Government’s yearly budget is allocated to line ministries, however there is no direct budget line for children.

Resources

1 All data on the employment rate and economic status of Belize are drawn from the 2017 Labour Force Survey.
2 All data on child labour activities in Belize are drawn from the 2013 National Child Activity Survey. All children aged 5-17 years engaged in economic activities are considered to be working children.
Key messages
1. Without action on nutrition, not only will SDG 2 not be achieved, but all SDGs will falter – from health, education and gender equality to poverty and peace
2. Nutrition systems and service delivery must promote integrated, multi-sectoral policies, programmes and interventions beyond the nutrition sector to ensure that gains in nutrition and other sectors are sustained over the long term
3. Data on nutrition must be strengthened and better disaggregated to enhance decentralized level planning and targeting of programmes, in order to achieve efficiency, equity and sustained impact

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: Zero hunger — Targets for children

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

Where we stand in Belize (2015)
- Almost 5% of children under the age of 5 are moderately or severely underweight
• Less than 1% are severely underweight
• 15% are moderately stunted or too short for their age
• 2% are moderately wasted or too thin for their height
• 7% of children are overweight or too heavy for their height

Disparities in nutrition for children in Belize

Geographic region
• 35% of children in Toledo District are likely to be stunted
• Almost 7% of children in Belize Southside are more likely to be underweight
• 3% of children in both Stann Creek District and Belize Southside are wasted
• Belize District and Belize Southside have the highest percentage of overweight children (11% and 9%, respectively)

Sex
• Boys (0-4 years) appear to be slightly more likely to be underweight, stunted and wasted than girls of the same age

Age
• The period of transition from breastfeeding to solid foods is critical. A higher percentage of children aged 12-23 months are undernourished (underweight, stunted and wasted) than children in younger and older age groups

Ethnicity
• 35% stunting and 5% severe stunting are observed among children in Maya-headed households
• 15% of children in Garifuna-headed households are overweight

The national response to nutrition and opportunities for acceleration in Belize
The priority for Belize is to achieve SDG 2 with equity through child-sensitive policy and integrated service delivery. The following are some of the mechanisms and actions to achieve this goal:

• An Interagency ECD task force was established in 2014 and serves as the primary mechanism for the coordination of any action related to nutrition
• The Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS), Belize’s national development strategy, and the National Result Framework for Children and Adolescents 2017-2030 (NRFCA) outline the national roadmap for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The framework spells out practical actions, areas for investment and accountabilities for children and adolescents across all sectors
• The Government of Belize has recently adopted a national policy on Early Childhood Development (ECD). Improving early childhood development through enhanced care and nutrition is a critical part of this policy; its implementation is supported through inter-sectoral collaboration in planning, skills development and service delivery
### Specific interventions to accelerate results in nutrition

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<td>- Deworming and vitamin A mega dose administered to children in primary schools</td>
<td>- &quot;The Pantry&quot; - The programme provides a basic food basket at a subsidized cost to poor families in Toledo, Cayo and Belize City</td>
<td>- School gardening programme as part of long-term community behaviour change and sustainability strategy</td>
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<td>- 7 public sector hospitals certified as baby-friendly, 1 private sector hospital initiating the certification process</td>
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<td>- Reactivated Food and Nutrition Security Commission to address nutrition and food security projects at national level</td>
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<td>- Delivery of fortified food to pregnant women and children at risk or undernourished</td>
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<td>- Expanding feeding programme to 4 schools in Toledo in 2017, including gardening and cooking instructors to guide parents</td>
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<td>Standard operating manual for feeding programmes in schools</td>
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<td>- Cooks, children and teachers trained in nutrition, handwashing practices and Acute Respiratory Infections (ARIs)</td>
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Financing for children
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Resources

1 All data on the nutritional status of children in Belize are drawn from the 2015 MICS5 Survey.
2 Belize Southside refers to the side of Belize City south of the river that cuts through the city, and is a particularly disadvantaged area.
3 The Maya are one of the seven main ethnic groups in Belize, in addition to Creole, Mestizo, Garifuna, East Indians, Chinese and Mennonites.

United Nations Children’s Fund, UNICEF

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Twitter: https://twitter.com/unicefbelize
YouTube: www.youtube.com/unicefbelize
The Sustainable Development Goals: Children and Life Below Water in Belize

Key messages
1. Protecting the planet is a matter of equity and the degradation of life below water has an impact on the well-being of children
2. The awareness and participation of children and young people in preserving the planet, including the protection of oceans, will be instrumental in achieving the SDGs, as well as preparing the future generation to inherit the agenda’s legacy

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: Life below water — Targets for children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.1 <strong>By 2025,</strong> prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.2 <strong>By 2020,</strong> sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.4 <strong>By 2020,</strong> effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.5 <strong>By 2020,</strong> conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.6 <strong>By 2020,</strong> prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.7 <strong>By 2030,</strong> increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where we stand in Belize (2015)

Belize’s Barrier Reef Reserve System
- Is a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Is the longest barrier reef in the Western Hemisphere (280 km/174 miles)
- Extends from the northern to the southern border of the country
- Consists of 3 offshore atolls, numerous patch reefs, complex mazes of faro reefs, fringing reefs, and large offshore mangrove cayes.
- Includes 13 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

The World Heritage Site consists of seven protected areas
- Bacalar Chico National Park and Marine Reserve
- Blue Hole Natural Monument
- Half Moon Caye Natural Monument
- Glover’s Reef Marine Reserve
- South Water Caye Marine Reserve
- Laughing Bird Caye National Park
- Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve

Marine diversity of Belize
- At least 61 coral species
- 343 marine invertebrate species
- Over 500 species of fish
- 45 hydroids
- 350 molluscs
- At least 70 species of ascidians, including an endemic species

Threatened or endangered species
- Staghorn coral (Acropora cervicornis)
- Elkhorn coral (Acropora palmata)
- 3 species of marine turtles: hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata); loggerhead (Caretta caretta) and green turtles (Chelonia mydas)
- The American crocodile (Crocodylus acutus)
- 2 species of dolphins: bottlenose (Tursiops truncatus) and rough-toothed (Steno bredanensis)
- Caribbean reef shark (Carcharhinus perezi)
- Nurse shark (Ginglymostoma cirratum)
- Bull sharks (Carcharhinus leucas)
- Southern stingray (Dasyatis americana)
- Seabirds are key to maintaining a healthy marine ecosystem
- The great hammerhead shark (Sphyrna mokarran)
- Goliath grouper (Epinephelus itajara)
- Nassau grouper (Epinephelus striatus)
- The West Indian manatee (Trichechus manatus manatus)

Human impact on marine ecology
- 957,975 cruise passengers arrived in Belize in 2015
- Over 2,500 registered fishermen
- 40% of Belizeans live and work in coastal areas
- Mangroves contribute between 10% and 35% to the stability of the shoreline
- Every year 14%-27% of manatee deaths are due to watercraft collision
- 484,891 lb of lobster were exported in 2014 (US$15.2 million in revenue)
- Anchors, pollution from ports (including oil spills) and the dumping of waste damage coral reefs
- Coral is bleaching
The national response to life below water and opportunities for acceleration in Belize

The priority for Belize is to achieve SDG 14 with equity through child-sensitive policy and integrated service delivery. The following are some of the mechanisms and actions to achieve this goal:

- The Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS), Belize’s national development strategy, and the National Result Framework for Children and Adolescents 2017-2030 (NRFCA) outline the national roadmap for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The framework spells out practical actions, areas for investment and accountabilities for children and adolescents across all sectors.

- The Coastal Zone Management Unit in the Fisheries Department is taking a multi-sectoral approach to coastal resources management. Governmental and non-governmental organizations work together to ensure the sustainability of Belize’s marine life.

Specific interventions to accelerate results in life below water

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multi-sectoral management approach</th>
<th>Co-managers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Legislation**                   | - Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Environment and Sustainable Development  
- Belize Fisheries Department  
- Department of the Environment  
- Belize National Spawning Aggregations Working Committee  
- Community Management of Protected Areas for Conservation  
- Toledo Institute of Development and Environment  
- Oceana  
- Southern Environmental Association  
- Belize Coral Reef Monitoring Network  
- National Manatee Working Group  
- Belize Audubon Society  
- Friends of Nature  
- Toledo Association for Sustainable Tourism and Empowerment  
- Green Reef Environment Institute  
- Forest and Marine Reserves Association of Caye Caulker  
- Tri-National Alliance of Non-Governmental Organization  
- The Nature Conservancy  
- University of Mississippi Consortium  
- Oceanic Society  
- Wildlife Conservation Society  
- Smithsonian Institute  
- Belize-Mexico Alliance |
| **Policy**                         | - National Protected Areas Policy  
- Belize Cruise Tourism Policy |
| **Plan**                           | - National Protected Areas Policy and System Plan  
- National Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Plan  
- Conservation Zoning Scheme  
- Belize National Biodiversity Strategy |
| **Evidence Generation**            | - Environmental Impact Assessment  
- Habitat Risk Assessment  
- Rapid Ecological Assessment  
- National Coral Reef Monitoring Network  
- Management Information System for Tourism  
- Coral Bleaching Database  
- Belize Lionfish Response & Management Plan  
- Belize Country Report  
- Coral Reef Monitoring Programme  
- Water Quality Monitoring Programme |
| **Capacity Building**              | - UB Environmental Research Institute  
- Environmental education programmes |
**Awareness building and participation of children**

The Government of Belize has put in place several initiatives to ensure children and adolescent’s participation in national development. Each of these provides important platforms for continued engagement with children, as Belize moves forward with the monitoring of progress towards the SDGs. They include:

- The Department of Youth Services (Ministry of Education)
- The Youth and Community Transformation Project (Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation)
- The Sustainable and Child-Friendly Municipality Initiative led by the Ministry of Labour, Local Government and Rural Development, together with the Belize Mayors’ Association, which supports systematic child participation in the existing Children’s Advisory Bodies across all municipalities in Belize

**Financing for children**

The Government’s yearly budget is allocated to line ministries, however there is no direct budget line for children.

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**Resources**


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1 All data on the status of oceans in Belize are drawn from the following documents: Belize Country Report – Coral Reef Ecology (2002) and Too Precious to Drill: The Marine Biodiversity of Belize (2016).
Key messages

1. For the first time, there is a global goal (SDG 1) to end extreme poverty, including for children, and have the proportion of children living in poverty in all its dimensions
2. Child poverty is a challenge
3. Children growing up in poverty face an uncertain and challenging future, and the consequences of widespread child poverty are growing deficits that cannot be overcome later, creating and sustaining poverty for generations to come
4. Ending child poverty is essential for achieving economic growth and sustainable and equitable development

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1: No poverty — Targets for children

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
The new SDG Targets aim to end poverty in all its forms, everywhere by 2030

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.1 Eradicate extreme poverty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| 1.2 Reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children living in poverty in all its dimension according to national definitions |
| 1.3 Implement national appropriate social protection systems and measures of all, and achieve substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable |
Where we stand in Belize (2015)

- Monetary poverty level is 41.3%
- 58% of children live in multidimensional poverty, and 32% in extreme poverty
- 1 in 3 people (33.5%) lives below the poverty line
- 16% of population is classified as indigent (defined as lacking sufficient money to afford a basic food basket)
- Rural Belizeans are almost twice as likely to be poor as urban Belizeans

Disparities in poverty for children in Belize

Geographic region

- Children living in the Cayo District suffer the greatest rates of deprivation (80%)
- Major deprivations include adequate housing (42%), drinking water (19%) and information (16%)
- Corozal District shows an increase in the poverty rate and Toledo District, despite improvements, continues to be the poorest district in the country

The national response to poverty and opportunities for acceleration in Belize

The priority for Belize is to achieve SDG 1 with equity through child-sensitive policy and integrated service delivery. The following are some of the mechanisms and actions to achieve this goal:

- An Interagency ECD task force was established in 2014 and serves as the primary mechanism for the coordination of action related to poverty alleviation
- The Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS), Belize’s national development strategy, and the National Result Framework for Children and Adolescents 2017-2030 (NRFCA) outline the national roadmap for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The framework spells out practical actions, areas for investment and accountabilities for children and adolescents across all sectors
- The Comprehensive Review of Belize’s Social Protection System with Policy Recommendations for System Strengthening provides the Government of Belize with a complete assessment of, and recommendations for, the policies, programmes and administrative arrangements of the country’s social protection system
- The Government of Belize is aligning the Monitoring Framework for Belize’s Growth and Development Strategy with the SDGs
- The Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) is developing a methodology to calculate the Multiple Dimensional Poverty Index using its Labour Force Survey, providing the Government with poverty data twice a year
- The Government of Belize will carry out the Living Standards and Measurement Survey (LSMS) in 2018. The data will provide up-to-date information on the poverty situation in Belize
## Specific interventions to accelerate results in poverty eradication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry of Health</th>
<th>Ministry of Human Development</th>
<th>Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture</th>
<th>Social Security Board</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plan</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Health Sector Strategic Plan</td>
<td>- National Result Framework for Children and Adolescents</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Conditional Cash Transfer Programme – Building Opportunities for Our Social Transformation (BOOST)</td>
<td>- “The Pantry”</td>
<td>- Education Subsidy</td>
<td>- Non-contributory Pension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- This programme provides a basic food basket at a subsidized cost to poor families in Toledo District, Cayo District and Belize City</td>
<td></td>
<td>- CXC Subsidy</td>
<td>- Contributory Pension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Service Delivery Programmes</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Health Education and Community Participation Bureau</td>
<td>- Roving Caregivers</td>
<td>- Adult and Continuing Education (ACE) Programme</td>
<td>National Health Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>- BZE Tuberculosis (TB)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Maternal and Child Health</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence Generation</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Evidence Generation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize Health Information System</td>
<td>- FAMCare: national case management system</td>
<td>- Educational Management Information System</td>
<td>Registration and Clinical Web Application (RAWA)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Single Information System for Beneficiaries</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- BelizeInfo</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Awareness building and participation of children

The Government of Belize has put in place several initiatives to ensure children and adolescent’s participation in national development. Each of these provides important platforms for continued engagement with children, as Belize moves forward with the monitoring of progress towards the SDGs. They include:

- The Department of Youth Services (Ministry of Education)
• The Youth and Community Transformation Project (Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation)
• The Sustainable and Child-Friendly Municipality Initiative led by the Ministry of Labour, Local Government and Rural Development, together with the Belize Mayors' Association, supports systematic child participation in the existing Children's Advisory Bodies across all municipalities in Belize

Financing for children
The Government's yearly budget is allocated to line ministries, however there is no direct budget line for children.

Resources

1 All data on multidimensional poverty are drawn from the 2015 MICS5 Survey.
2 The estimates of multidimensional child poverty presented here are based on the measurement of children's access to six economic and social rights: access to adequate nutrition, clean drinking water, sanitation, adequate housing, education and information.
Key messages

1. Give adolescent girls all the opportunities they deserve as they mature to adulthood by 2030
2. Multiple critical vulnerabilities converge in adolescents and must be better addressed through more deliberate and structured investment and monitoring in adolescents: adolescent pregnancy, sexual violence, nutrition and anaemia, mental health, HIV, puberty and menstrual hygiene education
3. Increased investment in the timely collection, analysis and use of disaggregated data through national systems will help to identify marginalized groups and adjust programmes to their needs
4. The economic return on investing in girls and women is high and drives a diversity of social and economic development outcomes. Improved reporting on expenditures and programmes that have direct and indirect impacts will enhance strategic planning and improve gender equality

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5: Gender Equality — Targets for children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>5.1</strong> End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5.2</strong> Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5.3</strong> Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5.6</strong> Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where we stand in Belize (2015)

- About 1 in 10 girls aged 15-19 years has had a birth
- 44% of boys and 40% of girls aged 15-19 years have comprehensive knowledge of HIV transmission
- 53% of adolescents aged 15-19 years know all the three means of how HIV can be transmitted from mother to child
- 11% of boys and 10% of girls express an accepting attitude towards people living with HIV in their community
- 37% of adolescents have had sex
- 9.3% of adolescents have had sex with a man 10 years older or more
- 65% of adolescents reported using a condom during their last sexual intercourse
- 39% of girls aged 15-19 years, married or in union, currently use a method of contraception
- 6.8% of children aged 10-14 years have experienced severe physical punishment
- 1 in 20 women and men feels that a husband/partner is justified in hitting or beating his wife

Disparities in gender equality for children in Belize

Geographic regions
- Adolescent birth rates in Corozal District: 104/1,000
- Adolescent birth rates in Stann Creek District: 101/1,000

Level of education
- Adolescent birth rate is 134/1,000 for girls with primary school education and lower
- There are more girls than boys in primary school in urban areas (0.99) and more boys than girls in rural areas (1.01)

Sex
- 85% of girls and 80% of boys aged 36-59 months are developmentally on track
- 65% of boys and 62% of girls who are currently attending the first grade of primary school attended pre-school the year before
- At the primary level, girls account for 44% of the out-of-school population
- At the secondary level, girls account for 51% of the out-of-school population
- Among the poorest quintile (54%), girls compose the majority of out-of-school population at the secondary school level
- 93% women and 91% of men aged 15-24 years are literate
- 46% of women and 47% of men have comprehensive knowledge of HIV transmission

The national response to gender equality and opportunities for acceleration in Belize

The priority for Belize is to achieve SDG 5 with equity through child-sensitive policy and integrated service delivery. The following are some of the mechanisms and actions to achieve this goal:

- An Interagency ECD task force was established in 2014 and serves as the primary mechanism for the coordination of any action related to gender equality
- The Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS), Belize’s national development strategy, and
the National Result Framework for Children and Adolescents 2017-2030 (NRFCA) outline the national roadmap for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The framework spells out practical actions, areas for investment and accountabilities for children and adolescents across all sectors

- The National Committee for Families and Children, the National Women's Commission and the Women’s Department all promote gender equality as part of their work
- The National Gender Policy was revised in 2013
- The Belize Country Gender Assessment was published in 2016 by the Caribbean Development Bank to address the systemic socio-cultural, economic and political disadvantages faced by women and men
- Belize has several acts to ensure gender equality and the protection of children from all forms of violence, such as the Families and Children Act, Education Act, Social Services Act, Social Security Act, Public Health Act, Domestic Violence Act, Trafficking in Persons Act, Domestic Violence Act, Crime Control and Criminal Justice Act, Summary Jurisdiction Act, International Child Abduction Act, Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act, Labour Act, and the Criminal Code

### Specific interventions to accelerate results in gender equality

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy</strong></td>
<td>Gender Policy</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Plan** | - Health Sector Strategic Plan  
- National Result Framework for Children and Adolescents | - National Gender-Based Violence Action Plan  
- National Result Framework for Children | - Ministry of Education's Strategic Plan  
- National Result Framework for Children and Adolescents |
| **Priorities in Service Delivery** | - Iron, folic acid and multivitamins distributed to females aged 10-49 years, pregnant women and postnatal mums  
- Delivery of fortified food to pregnant women and children at risk or undernourished  
- Nutritional education to women during preconception, prenatal and postnatal care | - Conditional Cash Transfer Programme – Building Opportunities for Our Social Transformation (BOOST)  
- “The Pantry” This programme provides a basic food basket at a subsidized cost to poor families in Toledo District, Cayo District and Belize City | - Secondary School Finance Reform Initiative  
- Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) Subsidy |
| **Evidence Generation and Routine Data Systems** | **Evidence Generation** | **Evidence Generation** |
| Belize Health Information System | - FAMCare: national case management system  
- Single Information System for Beneficiaries: social registry to inform inter-sectoral planning and monitoring  
- BelizInfo: data dissemination platform  
- GenderInfo: national gender-related database serving as the primary monitoring tool that tracks the progress on the implementation of the National Gender Policy  
- 2010 Population and Housing Census (a module was included on the role of women in Belize) | - Out-of-School Study  
- Early Warning System  
- Educational Management Information System |
| **Capacity Building** | **Capacity Building** | **Capacity Building** |
| Health personnel trained in adolescent health and gender-based violence | - Health Educators trained in Early Childhood Development  
- National consultation for Belize’s report on the Elimination of All form of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)  
- Women in Politics Project (WIP) | - Convention on the Rights of the Child included in the primary school curriculum  
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) included in the social work programme at the University of Belize |
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**Financing for children**
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**Resources**

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1 All data on the gender equality status of children in Belize are drawn from the 2015 MICS5 Survey.

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