United Nations Children's Fund
Executive Board
First regular session 2022
8–11 February 2022
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Country programme document

Belize

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Belize is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $4,250,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $10,310,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2022 to 2026.

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* E/ICEF/2022/1.

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Programme rationale

1.   Belize is a Central American and Caribbean country, classified as a lower-middle-income economy, with a population of 419,199, over 42 per cent of whom are children.

2.   Belize is challenged with high levels of vulnerability and poverty, 60 per cent of which occur among children aged 0 to14 years. Poverty in rural areas is twice the level of that in urban areas due to the lower education levels of heads of households, the lower participation of women in the paid labour market and the larger proportion of ethnic minorities in the population, among other factors.

3.   The socioeconomic impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic exacerbated the fragility of the Belizean economy. In 2020, the gross domestic product (GDP) contracted by an estimated 15.5 per cent, falling to a level below the average of 7.9 per cent in the Caribbean.

4.   Belize is extremely vulnerable to climate change and climate-related hazards, which present an ongoing and future risk that threatens most sectors of the economy. The risk poses a direct threat to coastal population centres, where over 50 per cent of the population resides. Belize already faces hurricanes, flooding, sea-level rise, ocean warming, coastal erosion, coral bleaching, drought, and changes in weather patterns, with impacts expected to intensify given climate change projections. In 2020, the country experienced several natural disasters, including hurricanes Nana, Eta and Iota. These brought unprecedented flooding, impacting over 30,000 individuals, and losses estimated at $80 million. In 2019, Belize suffered a drought-induced crop loss estimated at $50 million. The climate crisis is a child rights crisis, and UNICEF supports the meaningful inclusion of children and youth in national and global forums and decision-making bodies regarding climate change.

5.   Crime and violence are two of the greatest threats to peace. The use of guns by gangs has created an epidemic of violence, which compromises the quality of life for residents, exposes youth and children to trauma, and kills or injures hundreds of people annually. In the period 2009 to 2020, the average annual murder rate (per 100,000 people) was 34.3 in 2009, with a peak of 42.55 in 2012 and a low of 24.3 in 2020. On average, 90 per cent of the victims are male. More than 80 per cent of murders are gang-related and primarily take place in "hotspots" for gang activity. Belize consistently ranks among the top 10 most violent countries in the world.

6.   Girls and boys experience high levels of violence and frequent and multiple forms of physical, emotional and verbal abuse. In 2018, three quarters of all sexual violence cases were among girls aged 10 to19 years. Pervasive domestic violence continues to be one of the gravest manifestations of gender inequality. Violence is also a factor in the increasing number of migrants, who often escape not only violence but also lack of opportunity (including education) in their own countries. They come mainly from El Salvador (58 per cent), Guatemala (19 per cent) and Honduras (23 per cent) (2016). A little over half of them are women, and over a quarter are children.

7.   Several main barriers and bottlenecks contribute to the immediate and underlying causes of violence against children: social norms that accept and promote the use of violence in homes and communities; laws permitting parents to punish their children; lack of parental knowledge and support to adopt alternative discipline; and the prevalence of substance abuse and lack of positive coping mechanisms.

8.   Despite the recent development of the Child Justice Action Plan, 2020–2025, Belize continues to lag on promoting appropriate approaches to children in conflict and in contact with the law. Children are sometimes unable to access fair and equitable

justice because they lack legal support, adequate information and coordinated and standardized services.

9.   The prevalence of child marriage and early union practices are a major concern, with 1 in 5 girls (20.8 per cent) and 1 in 10 boys (10.7 per cent) aged 15 to 19 years married or in a union.

10.   From a multidimensional perspective, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted essential services that secure the education, health and protection of children and adolescents, and this has particularly affected the most vulnerable of them. Poverty among children, adolescents and their families is expected to rise substantially, due to job loss, loss of livelihood and reduction of income. Since 42 per cent of people are under the age of 18 as of 2021, and approximately 22 per cent of them are adolescents, thousands of children and adolescents, including children with disability or those living in climate-sensitive areas, are at risk of being adversely affected.

11.   Despite progress made in reducing child morbidity and mortality, health indicators are declining. Overburdened health systems strain to keep children healthy and well nourished. The country's high poverty rate and increasing inequality make it difficult for low-income, vulnerable populations to procure food. Many families have resorted to unhealthy nutritional practices based on affordability, with consequent deterioration of food security. Unhealthy diets and insufficient physical activity have caused an increase in non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, including among children.

12.   Mental health disorders and overweight are the leading causes of non-communicable diseases among adolescent boys and girls. From 2008 to 2017, some 56 adolescents aged 10 to 14 years, and 276 adolescents aged 15 to 19 years attempted suicide. These represent 36 per cent of attempted suicides among all age groups.

13.   Despite 96 per cent access to safe water, disparities exist, especially in rural areas. Proper sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools are grossly inadequate, particularly for girls. Over 20 per cent of schools report an unreliable water supply and 25 per cent use untreated water. Only 30 per cent of schools meet the internationally accepted standard of one toilet per 25 girls, and only 33 per cent meet the standard of one toilet per 50 boys. Only 13 per cent of schools provide bathroom access to children with physical disabilities.

14.   In Belize, 8 per cent of children do not complete primary school, and 31 per cent do not complete secondary school. In 2015, some 9.5 per cent of children of lower-secondary-school age were out of school. Children with lower levels of education are more at risk of lifelong poverty, lower life expectancy and poorer health outcomes. The COVID-19 pandemic was particularly disruptive to learning. More than 108,000 children and young people were affected by school closures.

15.   Girls and boys have limited access to quality inclusive education due to inconsistent quality standards, which compromise learning outcomes and school retention. Relative wealth status, geographical location and ethnicity are among the factors that influence school participation and exclusion.

16.   Significant gains have been made in teacher training, with 86 per cent of primary school teachers adequately trained. However, only 11 per cent of teachers at the early childhood level are trained. The remaining 89 per cent lack skills and competencies to effectively deliver the preschool and lower-primary curriculum. Lack of training is even more prevalent in the rural areas, with a larger population of indigenous boys and girls.

17. The country's geographical location requires a climate-smart educational system that includes strategies for continuous learning in times of shocks and emergencies.

18. The legislative and policy framework that supports the social protection system is limited and not comprehensive. Despite a growing poverty rate, social protection remains low, especially for children. In 2018, only 43 per cent of the population received social protection benefits. Only 4 per cent of children aged 0 to 14 years were covered by the Building Opportunities for Our Social Transformation social protection programme, widely known as BOOST. Only 11 per cent (20,000) of all children were covered by a social protection programme. Young children are the most impacted: fewer than 10 per cent of them aged 0 to 4 years had access to the National Health Insurance in 2018.

19. Despite strong efforts by the Government to respond to natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, there is limited integration of shock-responsiveness mechanisms into the national social protection system. This contributes to delays in the identification of beneficiaries, challenges to the design and implementation of emergency and humanitarian cash transfer programmes and constraints to making benefits sustainable. The insufficient and inefficient allocation of resources often has a negative impact on nutrition, health, education, early childhood development (ECD), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection and social protection across the life cycle. Public investment for children is not highly visible or understood, and as a result, it is difficult to gauge the quality of expenditure and to identify priority areas.

20. The Horizon 2030 National Development Framework for Belize, 2010–2030, was developed through an inclusive national consensus-building process including public and private sector entities and civil society organizations. Its priorities align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and has two main development pillars: education for development and democratic governance. The Belize Medium-Term Development Priorities, 2022–2025, outline six strategic goals: poverty reduction (including social protection), economic transformation and growth, reducing the trade deficit, citizen security, protection of the environment and stopping corruption.

21. While some noticeable progress has been achieved for the country's sustainable development agenda, particularly on Sustainable Development Goals 2 to 7 as well as 14, which are on track, the COVID-19 pandemic hobbled the achievement of other Goals. These include Goal 1, on poverty, Goal 3, on health, and Goal 4, on education. UNICEF will collaborate with United Nations and other partners to accelerate the achievement of the Goals that are off track. Goals achievement has not been sufficiently mainstreamed into the national budget structure or costed at the national or subnational levels, though it is referenced in the national development plan. It is critical to do this.

22. The following lessons learned from the previous country programme of cooperation contributed to the design of the country programme of cooperation, 2022–2026:

(a) Considering the diminished fiscal space and resources, the private sector is a critical partner for driving economic transformation through innovation and public-private partnerships that address employment and reduce inequalities in rural agrarian communities;

(b) Positive parenting, which includes co-responsibility and addressing cultural and social gender biases, is key for the development of children and adolescents, and will require multisectoral programming and capacity-building;

(c)   UNICEF will continue to utilize multisectoral programming that provides an alternative platform to deliver services at scale and more cost-effectively, as this approach has strengthened the technical capacities of the Government and key stakeholders, who often collaborate in more than one area, such as parenting, ECD, nutrition and WASH.

23.   Strong partnerships for development are needed for Belize to address development challenges, recover from the pandemic's economic and social devastation, and limit any potential reversal in sustainable development progress.

Programme priorities and partnerships

24.   The development of the country programme of cooperation, 2022–2026 is based on the most recent situation analysis, the common country analysis and the outcomes of a series of strategic consultations led by the UNICEF Belize Country Office in 2021. It builds upon lessons learned from the previous programme cycle and considers the emerging concerns and the planning frameworks of both UNICEF and the Government of Belize. Programme outcomes are aligned with the country's long-term development agenda, known as Horizon 2030, the National Children's Agenda and the Medium-Term Development Priorities. UNICEF will work with government authorities, other United Nations agencies, civil society organizations, international financial institutions, development partners, including Canada, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America as well as the European Union, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and will engage with regional partners, including the Central American Integration System and the Caribbean Community to strengthen capacities, mobilize resources, form strategic partnerships and leverage its global network to help Belize to fulfil its commitments to children and adolescents.

25.   The outcomes contribute to furthering child rights, supporting national priorities as stipulated in Horizon 2030[1] and the National Medium-Term Strategic Priorities, and to supporting all four strategic priority areas of the United Nations Multi-country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNMSDCF), emphasizing pillars 2, 3 and 4. The programme is also aligned with four of the eight UNMSDCF outcomes (see annex).

26.   The country programme has three components: (a) every child, including adolescents, is protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices; (b) every child, including adolescents, learns and acquires skills for the future; (c) every child including adolescents, survives and thrives, with access to nutritious diets, quality primary health care, nurturing practices and essential supplies and has access to inclusive social protection and lives free from poverty. All programme components are aligned with the UNICEF Strategic Plan Goal Areas. Cross-cutting issues, such as gender equality, climate change and disaster risk reduction, are embedded in programme design and focus on the most disadvantaged, girls and boys; those living with disabilities; those living in crime hotspots; children affected by emergencies; child migrants; and children living in poverty and/or children living with other socioeconomic disadvantages, and their families. Support for individual and social change will be strengthened through communication for development as a cross-cutting strategy to promote positive social norms and inclusive community engagement.

27.   The country programme is aimed at achieving equitable outcomes – for children of all families – that address policy, systems and access to and demand for climate-smart and gender-responsive services. It is aimed at helping Belize to recover from

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[1] Protection from violence, safety and justice; the National Children's Agenda 2030.

the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerate results for children while building resilience to further shocks and addressing development deficits. The following are key strategies:

(a) Systems strengthening will enable government counterparts to effectively plan and implement programmes and develop evidence-based policies, strategies, plans, budgets and targeted technical assistance that focus on strategic engagement necessary to ensure cross-sectoral collaboration with key partners, including those in line ministries, and sectors such as health, justice, climate change, social protection and education;

(b) Gender-transformative programming is aimed at increasing the protection, safety, opportunities and empowerment of pre-pubescent and adolescent girls and transforming gender stereotypes and norms during the planning, design and implementation of interventions, thereby empowering girls and women while fostering dialogue and engaging men and boys, allowing them to rethink issues related to masculinity, parenting practices and violence;

(c) Social and behavioural change strategies address a range of constraints, including social expectations and influences, and factors that define cultural and social norms regarding gender equality, violence, and early unions, aiming also to reduce stigma around mental health issues and addressing risky and unhealthy behaviours;

(d) A multisectoral approach to mitigate, prevent and respond to gender-based violence will require coordination among education, health, emergency response and partnerships, to strengthen capacities of the social workforce and ensure gender- and age-appropriate services, to use communication for development strategies to address the harmful norms that lead to tolerance of gender-based violence, including its intergenerational transfer and low access of survivors to quality services;

(e) Data, research, evaluation and knowledge management for more evidence-based policies, programming and decision-making will inform the strategic direction of the country programme, including work with key external partners;

(f) Partnerships and engagement, using the convening power of UNICEF to engage a wide range of government and non-government partners (including the private sector), will enhance communication and advocacy at the global, national and community levels to improve effectiveness in service delivery and achieve accelerated results for children at scale;

(g) Technology for development in education supports digital transformation, adolescents' participation and elements of the survive and thrive outcome, with business for results aiming for private sector engagement on education and reaching vulnerable groups.

Every child lives free from violence

28. UNICEF will use an approach that addresses the protection risks of girls and boys while investing in strengthening child protection systems and promoting positive social and behavioural change. This is in line with government priorities as outlined in the National Agenda for Children and the Medium-Term Development Priorities. The programme also has linkages to Plan Belize, particularly the "safe society" pillar. The programme component outcomes are also aligned with goal 3 of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

29. The planned outcome is that, by 2026, girls and boys in Belize are better protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, and early unions and have better access to justice, including in emergencies. To achieve this, UNICEF will aim to:

(a)   Strengthen the capacities of legal and judicial authorities and services to improve services and response for children, in line with national and international standards;

(b)   Work with communities and caregivers to generate positive social and gender norms and raise awareness on sexual exploitation and abuse as well as monitor implementation of the road map to end child marriage and early unions and ensure that an adequate and responsive reporting and assistance mechanism is in place;

(c)   Improve access to safe and victim-centred services for child and women victims of violence while building capacities of child protection workers and civil society networks to engage in the national child protection response, and strengthen the response services available for migrant families.

30.   UNICEF and partners will create dialogue and raise awareness on gender inequalities. Child marriage prevention and response will be guided by the National Road Map to End Child Marriage and Early Unions in Belize and will require multisectoral coordination among education, health, social protection and child protection sections. It is essential to promote adolescent engagement around girls' empowerment and transforming harmful norms and practices related to masculinity and gender into positive ones. With the United Nations Population Fund, UNICEF will build partnerships and leverage additional resources and co-investments to prevent and respond to child marriage. UNICEF will work with the National Commission for Families and Children to develop draft legislation, using its convening power to bring together parliamentarians, children and caregivers to discuss changes required to strengthen the legal framework.

Every child learns

31.   The programme component outcomes address the specific deprivations regarding education – with a strong focus on climate-smart education – and contribute to Goal 2 of the UNICEF strategic plan, 2022–2025. The outcomes complement the goal of Belize to promote quality learning. UNICEF will work towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4 on quality education and contributes to the achievement of Goals 1 to 3, 5 and 13.

32.   Proposed solutions accord with the three key areas of the UNICEF global education plan: access, learning skills and continued learning during emergencies.

33.   The broad strategic outcome is that, by 2026, all girls, boys and adolescents have increased access to quality and innovative climate-smart education with improved learning outcomes, leading to skills development. This will be achieved through three areas of focus:

(a)   Strengthening national frameworks, policies and plans to increase access to quality, equitable, climate-smart and inclusive education from early childhood to secondary-school level through advocacy, technical assistance, as well as increasing public knowledge, promoting positive attitudes and behaviour change among caregivers and service providers, a strategy that includes promoting a holistic approach to ECD and education within the nurturing-care framework, including health, nutrition, WASH, early education, child protection and social protection, while assessing learning gaps caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and planning for remedial education to tackle the school closure-related learning loss;

(b)   Supporting government institutions to increase the provision of equal opportunities and climate-smart and adequate conditions for at-risk children and adolescents to enable them to complete their education;

(c)   Strengthening the capacities of key stakeholders to design and deliver innovative, climate-smart and relevant education services for continuous learning, including in emergencies, while continuing to use and expand on innovative ways of

delivering teaching and learning to all children (via digital learning solutions, connectivity, appropriate devices and affordable data and content) through skills development around technology-based and hybrid pedagogical approaches, with this focus also developing the WASH in schools strategy, prioritizing education financing and mobilizing domestic resources – particularly for digital learning platforms – and building the capacities of teachers and students through remedial and extracurricular learning sessions.

34.   UNICEF will support the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Human Development, Families, and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, and relevant non-governmental and community-based organizations, including indigenous organizations, in identifying and addressing inequities and building capacities and knowledge for the full implementation of education policies and services, including for children with disabilities and their families. A framework for engaging and integrating the business sector into the programme cycle will be utilized to support child rights and leverage the sector as a change agent among target audiences.

Every child survives, thrives and lives free from all forms of poverty

35.   The programme component is aimed at addressing the needs of all children through equitable, gender-transformative, rights-based approaches grounded in the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and aligns with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The component will contribute to the achievement of a wide range of Sustainable Development Goals, including 1 to 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 16 and 17.

36.   The programme component will pursue a vision in which children in Belize, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from an equitable, inclusive, high-quality and resilient health and social protection system across the continuum of care, including in humanitarian situations. There are four major areas of focus:

    (a) Reducing malnutrition, mental health issues and preventable childhood illnesses through support to and the strengthening of national frameworks, policies and standards as well as the capacity-building of primary health care and early childhood service providers, and strengthening the governance framework of the WASH sector as well as scaling up human capacities for antenatal and postnatal care and nutrition counselling, aided by the establishment of a national nutrition-specific coordination mechanism;

    (b) Strengthening evidence-informed approaches to increasing demand for quality and climate-smart health and nutrition services and improved care practices for children and adolescents, parents and caregivers through participation and empowerment, guidance, improving strategic information and innovation capacities, promoting peer-to-peer counselling and designing communication and behavioural change strategies;

    (c) Improving social protection coverage to deliver evidence-based and harmonized equitable, responsive and shock-responsive safety nets, including in humanitarian situations, with strategies including enhancing data collection, analysis and monitoring on child rights, technical assistance to the development of the National Social Protection Strategy, development of key partnerships and alliances, conducting studies on multidimensional poverty of children, policy dialogue and discussions on the adoption of national measurement of multidimensional poverty;

    (d) Enhancing public resource allocation and efficiency in key social policy sectors for children and adolescents through technical guidance and inputs to budget

analysis, costing exercises and development of a methodology to track and monitor public spending in priority social sectors.

37. UNICEF will work with the Ministry of Health and Wellness as well as maternal and child health and nutrition units to strengthen primary health care, follow-up on the implementation of the national health strategy for adolescents and mental health and nutrition interventions. UNICEF will also engage with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology and the Ministry for Health and Human Development for the intersectoral coordination of ECD plans and policies, and with the Ministry of Human Development for social protection activities. A children's advisory body in the nine municipalities (adolescent-led) will be created to carry out peer-to-peer counselling and sensitization. The Statistical Institute of Belize will contribute to the implementation of household surveys, including the multiple indicator cluster survey, the labour force survey, the national census and the Country Poverty Assessment.

38. Investing in social protection and social investment presents an opportunity to prevent sickness and disability and, ultimately, to improve health and reduce health inequalities, especially within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic recovery. Similarly, critical investments in health outcomes have been a key pull factor for economic recovery and growth.

Programme effectiveness

39. UNICEF will use cross-sectoral workstreams to enhance overall country programme results and harness results for children at all levels. This programme component supports programme delivery and managing for results and comprises evidence generation and planning, monitoring and evaluation, strategic communication, advocacy, resource mobilization and partnerships.

40. UNICEF will establish effective coordination with the Government of Belize through line ministries and agencies responsible for priority areas. Partnerships with regional organizations will be established to facilitate knowledge exchange and South-South collaboration, to avoid the duplication of efforts and to ensure that common objectives are achieved.

41. UNICEF will engage with the private sector for alternative financing, as well as with other collaboration modalities relevant to accelerating results for children. New and innovative ways to realize children's rights will involve promoting corporate social responsibility and the implementation of actions in line with the Children's Rights and Business Principles.

Summary budget table

Programme component[a]	(In thousands of United States dollars)		
	Regular resources	Other resources	Total
Every child lives free from violence	1 334	3 187	4 521
Every child learns	1 462	3 884	5 346
Every child survives, thrives and lives free from all forms of poverty	1 194	2 964	4 158
Programme effectiveness	260	275	535
Total	**4 250**	**10 310**	**14 560**

[a] UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 Goal Areas are cited in full at the beginning of the section
on programme priorities and partnerships (see para. 26).

Programme and risk management

42. This country programme document outlines the UNICEF contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

43. UNICEF will monitor results to assess key strategic, programmatic, operational, and financial risks, and will define appropriate risk controls and mitigation measures guided by the Enterprise Risk Management policies. UNICEF will monitor the effectiveness of governance and management systems and the stewardship of financial resources.

44. UNICEF will use corporate tools to mitigate critical risks to programme and operational continuity. A resource mobilization strategy will be developed and monitored.

45. UNICEF will support early warning mechanisms to allow timely detection and intervention regarding threats from climate change, social unrest and economic crises. Real-time monitoring will support risk management, especially in underserved areas.

Monitoring, learning and evaluation

46. In cooperation with line ministries, other United Nations agencies and civil society, UNICEF will monitor progress towards the realization of child rights, with a focus on measuring the reduction of bottlenecks and barriers, to support an enabling environment, access to and demand for quality social services, and the strengthening of existing national and subnational evidence. The country office will follow a three-pronged approach:

(a) Field monitoring: programmatic visits by UNICEF staff will complement and verify quarterly partner reports on their results achieved and will also seek to probe programmes' theories of change and explore whether activities and outputs are delivering change at the outcome level;

(b)   Situation monitoring: in liaison with the Statistical Institute of Belize and the Government, UNICEF will support the design and execution of national surveys to capture situational data on child deprivations;

(c)   Evaluation: in line with the revised evaluation policy of UNICEF, the country office will conduct at least three thematic evaluations for accountability and learning purposes.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Belize – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2022–2026

Convention on the Rights of the Child: All articles	
National priorities: Protection from violence; safety and justice; National Children's Agenda, 2017–2030	

United Nations Multi-country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNMSDCF) for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean outcomes involving UNICEF:

2: Equality, well-being and leaving no one behind
Outcome 4: People in the Caribbean equitably access and utilize universal, quality and shock-responsive social protection, education, health, and care services.

3: Resilience to climate change and sustainable natural resource management
Outcome 5: Caribbean people, communities and institutions enhance their adaptive capacity for inclusive, gender-responsive disaster risk management and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Outcome 6: Caribbean countries manage natural resources and ecosystems to strengthen their resilience and enhance the resilience and prosperity of the people and communities that depend on them.

4: Peace, safety, justice and the rule of law
Outcome 7: Regional and national laws, policies, systems and institutions improve access to justice and promote peace, social cohesion and security.

Outcome 8: People in the Caribbean and communities actively contribute to and benefit from building and maintaining safer, fairer, more inclusive and equitable societies.

Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, Goal Areas: 1–5

UNMSDCF outcomes	*UNICEF outcomes*	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
						RR	*OR*	*Total*
Outcomes 7 and 8	1. Every child lives free from violence: By 2026, Girls and boys in	Percentage of children (12–17 years) who are in contact with the law B: 15% T: 30%	Administrative data (FAMCare)	Output 1: Legal, judicial procedures and services for children in the justice sector	Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous	1 334	3 187	4 521

UNMSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
	Belize, particularly the most vulnerable, are better protected from violence, exploitation, abuse and child marriage and have better access to justice, including in emergencies.	Percentage of children (1–14 years) who experienced any violent punishment and psychological aggression by caregivers (multiple indicator cluster survey) B: 65.1% T: 50%	Multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS)	are improved, in line with national and international standards, and can respond even in times of emergencies. Output 2: Girls and boys at risk and engaged in early unions will have better access to prevention and protection services. Output 3: Girls and boys have better access to services to protect them from and respond to violence, including sexual violence and gender-based violence against children, including in times of emergencies.	Peoples' Affairs (MHDFIPA), Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, Ministry of National Defence and Border Security, Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MECST), Attorney General's Ministry (Vital Statistics and Supreme Court), The Child Development Foundation, Youth Enhancement Services, Productive Organization for Women in Action, The Human Rights Commission of Belize, GOJoven Belize Alumni Association, Pathlight International, Belize National Indigenous Council,			
		Percentage of women (15–49 years) who first married or entered a marital union before their fifteenth birthday B: 5.9% T: 3.0%	MICS					

UNMSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
					New Love Foundation, National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC), National Women's Commission (NWC), Child Justice Committee, Child Labour Committee, National Telecommunication Agency, United Nations Development Programme, International Labour Organization, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Population Fund, International Organization for Migration			
Outcome 4	2. Every child learns: By 2026, all girls, boys and adolescents have increased	Percentage of students who are overage for grade in primary education, by gender B: 7.5% (boys 6.2%; girls 8.6%) T: 4% (boys 3.2%;	MECST administrative data	Output 1: By 2026, national frameworks, policies and plans are strengthened to	MECST, Ministry of Health and Wellness (MHW), MHDFIPA,	1 462	3 884	5 346

UNMSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
	access to quality and innovative education with improved learning outcomes and life skills in an equitable and inclusive environment, including in emergencies.	girls 5.6%)		increase access to quality, equitable and inclusive education from early childhood to primary school.	Ministry of Youth, Sports and E-Governance (MYSEG), Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government (MRTCDLLG), Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise (MAFSE), Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (MSDCCDRM), National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, Belize Chamber of Commerce (BCC), RESTORE Belize, NCFC, NWC,			
		Completion rate (primary education, upper-secondary education) B: primary education: 94.6% (girls 97.4%; boys 92%) upper secondary: 73.5% (girls 79.7%; boys 67.4%) T: primary education: 97% (girls 98%; boys 95%) upper secondary: 76% (girls 82%; boys 70%)	MECST administrative data, MICS	Output 2: By 2026, national frameworks, policies and plans are strengthened to increase the provision of equal opportunities and adequate conditions for at-risk children and adolescents to be retained in and complete relevant education.				
		Percentage of children attending first grade of primary school who attended preschool the previous year B: 63.3% (boys 64.5%; girls 62.0%) T: 70% (boys 70%; girls 70%)	MICS	Output 3: By 2026, the capacities of key stakeholders are strengthened to design and deliver innovative and relevant education services for continuous learning,				

UNMSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
				including in emergencies.	Belize Red Cross Association (BRCA), Statistical Institute of Belize, Belize Mayors' Association			
Outcome 4	3. Every child survives, thrives and lives free from all forms of poverty: By 2026, children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from an equitable, inclusive, high-quality and resilient health and social protection system across the continuum of care, including in humanitarian situations.	Percentage of infants (0–6 months) who are exclusively breastfed B: 33% T: 45%	MHW administrative data, MICS	Output 1: By 2026, national frameworks, policies, plans and standards to reduce malnutrition in all its forms and address preventable childhood illnesses and mental health are strengthened. Output 2: By 2026, children and adolescents, parents and caregivers benefit from strengthened evidence-informed approaches to demand quality and climate-smart health and nutrition	Ministry of Finance, MECST, MHW, MHDFIPA, MYSEG, MRTCDLLG, MAFSE, MSDCCDRM, NEMO, BCC, RESTORE Belize, NCFC, NWC, BRCA	1 194	2 964	4 158
		Rate of attempted suicide in adolescents (10–19 years) B: 10–14 years: 17.6% 15-19 years: 74.3% T: 10–14 years: 15% 15–19 years: 60%	MHW administrative data					
		Percentage of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme B: 61% BCG; 65% Polio 3; 65% Penta 3; 68% MMR1; 73% MMR2; 57% HEPB T: 95% BCG; 95% Polio 3; 95% Penta 3; 95% MMR1; 95% MMR2; 80% HEPB	MHW administrative data, MICS					
		Percentage of children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions,	Poverty report					

UNMSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
		according to national definitions B: 60% (10–14 years) Child monetary poverty T: 55% (10–14 years)		services and improve care practices. Output 3: By 2026, evidence-based and harmonized social protection programmes provide equitable, shock-responsive and resilient safety nets and social services to children and adolescents, including in humanitarian situations. Output 4: By 2026, public resource allocation and efficiency in key social policy sectors are enhanced for children and adolescents.				
		Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies B: National Protocols for the Integrated Protection of Children and Adolescents in Emergency and Disaster Situations in Belize T: Subnational Protocols for the Integrated Protection of Children and Adolescents in Emergency and Disaster Situations in six of nine municipalities	MSDCCDRM, National Emergency Management Organization, NEMO administrative data					
	4. Programme effectiveness: By 2026, the country programme is efficiently designed, coordinated,	Percentage of key progress indicators meeting scorecard benchmarks B: 80% T: 85%	Annual review	Output 1: Quality disaggregated and gender-sensitive data for evidence-based decisions are available.		260	275	535

UNMSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
	managed and supported to meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children.							
Total resources						**4 250**	**10 310**	**14 560**