

MDG WATER GOVERNANCE PROJECT 2011 PROJECT REPORT



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



Annual Project Report (APR)

Name of the country: BELIZE
 Project number (Atlas): 00077697
 Project name: MDG WATER GOVERNANCE PROJECT

DGTTF edition (year): 2011
 Implementation period: MARCH 2011 – December 2011

PROJECT PERFORMANCE

Outcome areas under UNDP strategic plan 2008-2011 ¹	Purpose and expected output	Activities undertaken	Results Achieved	Reasons if progress below target
1.1: Promoting inclusive growth, gender equality and MDG achievement 2.1: Fostering inclusive participation	1: Build Capacity of Water Boards	1: Review of institutional capacity of MLLGRD 2: Technical assistance to Ministry integrated recommendations of Capacity Assessment. 3: Training of the staff of MLLGRD to implement revised procedures 4: Revision of the Village Council Act to include water boards 5: Water board training 6: Country-wide consultation on the proposed legislation amendments	1. Comprehensive technical assistance to conduct Capacity Assessment of MLLGRD 2: Action Plan for Capacity Development completed " Preparing for Tomorrow: Enhancing Access and Service Delivery " complete 3: Training plan for RCDOs completed and implemented. 4: Communication materials on MDG 7 produced 5: Country-wide consultations with stakeholders on proposed amendments to Village Council for water board regulations completed 6: Proposed amendments to the Village Council Act completed. 7. Cabinet paper drafted and submitted awaiting approval	The proposed legislation suggesting improvements to the appointment, functions and responsibility of water boards is pending approval by the national Cabinet. The promotional and educational materials on the Village Council and Water Board revised legislation has not yet been reproduced and disseminated pending approval by the National Cabinet. Furthermore, in light of proposed Drinking Water Quality Regulation, the proposed revisions to the Act now need to be reviewed for alignment with this parent regulation prior to approval by the national Cabinet.

¹ Please state under which of the following nine outcome areas your project falls into:

1. Civil society, including civil society organizations and voluntary associations, and the private sector contribute to the MDGs in support of national planning strategies and policies
2. Electoral laws, processes and institutions strengthen inclusive participation and professional electoral administration
3. Access to information policies support accountability and transparency
4. National, regional and local levels of governance expand their capacities to reduce conflict and manage the equitable delivery of public services
5. Legislatures, regional elected bodies, and local assemblies have strengthened institutional capacity, enabling them to represent their constituents more effectively
6. Effective, responsive, accessible and fair justice systems promote the rule of law, including both formal and informal processes, with due consideration on the rights of the poor, women and vulnerable groups.
7. Strengthened capacities of national human rights institutions
8. Strengthened national, regional and local level capacity to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment in government policies and institutions

RESOURCES UTILIZED IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

DGTTF resources: US \$94,492.41

Other resources (as applicable; please state sources of funding and amount):

PROJECT PERFORMANCE—MAIN CHALLENGES

Internal factors: The national mandate for water and sanitation which are the focus of MDG 7C is shared among other ministries and this shared responsibility can limit the capacity of the project ministry – Ministry of Labor Local Government and Rural Development - to fully implement activities related to the legislative amendments many of which are led by other ministries. For example, the MLLGRD completed its local level consultations for the revisions to the Village Council Act but the submission of the revisions to the National Cabinet is the responsibility of another ministry. At this stage, the MLLGRD can only act as an advocate for the prompt submission to national cabinet for approval.



District Consultations (6) on Legal Amendments, Toledo, 2011



Theoretical and Practical Training of RCDOs, Cotton Tree, 2011

External factors: The MDG Acceleration Framework for water and sanitation which is the overarching framework under which the proposed legislations are being conducted is still awaiting Cabinet endorsement. It is expected that the document will be endorsed by Government and then launched in the first quarter of 2012. The successful completion of two deliverables, specifically, training of RCDOs and water boards on the revised legislation and the production and dissemination of communication materials on the same are contingent on approval by the National Cabinet. With National elections soon to be implemented, this could further delay the timeliness of the approval of the legislative revisions.

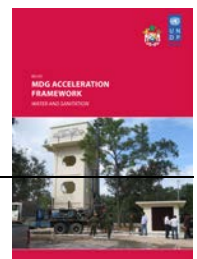
Another external factor which has affected project performance was the linguistic diversity of the country. This was particularly evident in the Toledo District and at times inhibited the quality of the discussions on legislative review of the Village Council Act. Additionally, the cultural dynamics of culture and gender relations in the Toledo District required special planning by the Ministry in order to ensure the participation of women in the legislative review. In this regard, a special consultation with indigenous women only was conducted to facilitate their input into the review process.

PROJECT PERFORMANCE—MAIN OPPORTUNITIES

Please list the main opportunities which have been the key enabling factors to support the implementation of the project to date.

1) Belize was selected as a pilot country for the [MDG Acceleration Framework](#). This pilot focused on the identification of deliberate actions that would propel the country to achieve MDG 7 Target 7C: improved water and sanitation. Subsequently, the project is being implemented through this framework which was built on extensive research and participation from national stakeholders.

9. Strengthened national, regional and local level capacity to implement anti-corruption initiatives



MAF REPORT

The Belize MDG Acceleration Framework: Water and Sanitation document was produced in July 2011 and presents an overview of the water and sanitation services in Belize. Most importantly, the MAF document lays out indicative acceleration solutions based on the bottleneck analyses that should adequately address water and sanitation issues in Belize. The project responds to the governance bottlenecks documented in the MDG Acceleration Framework.

An additional opportunity enabling the project implementation is the cross the support for cross-sector assistance to integrate the MAF within the wider response to the MDGs including greater focus on capacity building for sanitation particularly increasing communication on sanitation and hygiene and promoting proper disposal of human waste. The inclusion of the cross-sector assistance has opened spaces for greater, joint action and planning among UN agencies such as UNICEF and other national counterparts, namely the Ministry of Health and the Social Investment Fund. This cross-

World Water Day Fair and Forum with government, semi-government, NGOs, and private sector, Belize City, 2012



sector initiative will also benefit from technical expertise by BDP and CD LAC.

MAF PROJECT: SANITATION

The cross-sector support has increased attention to sanitation. Consequently, a partnership between the MLLGRD, UNDP, NAVCO the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Social Investment Fund (SIF) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to conduct training in the two project districts to increase the capacity of the RCDOs, Community Health Workers (CHW), Village Health Committees (VHC), Public Health Inspectors (PHI) and the village Alcades to engage the community on improved sanitation practices is now being planned and will be implemented in the second quarter of the project. In this context, the project will implement WHO's Communication Behavioural Impact (COMBI) strategy; and conduct further legislative review to align the proposed Village Council and Water Boards Act with MoH's proposed Drinking Water Quality Regulation. The proposed regulations has major implications on the responsibilities of water boards in producing safe and clean drinking water to their respective communities, thus the responsibilities of water boards will likely increase. The focus on sanitation will also include construction of improved sanitation units that will be funded by the SIF at an approximate cost USD \$125,000. This fund will be used to construct sanitation units in rural communities in the two project districts.

RATING ON PROGRESS on PARTNERSHIPS

Please describe the level to which the DGTTF project has thus far contributed to strengthening partnership with different stakeholders and tick the boxes as appropriate:

Strengthened Somewhat Unchanged

		Strengthened	
1. Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Donors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Civil society:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) Academia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Unions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Religious organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) NGO/CBOs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. UN system	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Other Int. organizations (like IMF, ADB, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUPPORT FROM HQ/REGIONAL BUREAUS/REGIONAL SERVICE CENTRES

Please briefly indicate the nature of support requested and received from HQ, Regional Bureaus, Regional Service Centers, DG-net.



Technical Experts on Capacity Building Mission in Belize, RCDO Training, Belmopan, 2011

A team of technical experts from the Regional Center, Panama, CD LAC conducted a capacity assessment exercise for the Ministry of Labour, Local Government, and Rural Development (MLLGRD). The purpose of the assessment was to strengthen the institutional capacity of the MLLGRD to improve governance practices both within the ministry and among sector stakeholders. The capacity development team met with national officials on the methodology to be applied in the assessment process. They conducted stakeholder consultations to identify critical bottlenecks in the ministry's organizational structure and administrative framework as well as conducted training workshop of key staff from the MLLGRD based on CDLAC's capacity assessment methodology. During the workshop, a capacity assessment was carried out to assess the ministry's organizational structure and administrative framework as well as to analyze capacity gaps. As a result, a consolidated capacity development response that ensures more integrated and long-term cohesiveness and leadership

role in support to sector partners and water boards was developed. This was contained in a final report which was sent to UNDP and MLLGRD and was accepted by the ministry, who indicated a commitment to follow up on the recommendations made.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Has your project contributed thus far to gender mainstreaming? If so, please elaborate.



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Interview with former Senator, Pulcheria Teul, speaking on MAF and Gender, Belmopan, 2011

As a critical aspect of water governance at the rural level, gender mainstreaming is an ongoing practical aspect of this project. At the community level, consultation on the revisions to the legislation for water board management and functions included the active engagement of women. In the Toledo District where cultural norms prevent women and men from jointly providing feedback to this process special consultation spaces for both men and women were conducted to facilitate inclusion of both perspective in the legislative review. Further, the actual revised legislations, while including the submissions by women and men also took into consideration critical gender dimensions to water board management and consistent supply of water in the community. Finally, the project board is gender balanced, having equal participation of men and women.

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