

SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND



Social Assessment Report

Belize Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project (BCRIP)

February 24, 2014
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Acronyms -----	3
1 Introduction -----	4
1.1 Climate Change and National Infrastructure -----	4
1.2 Project Description - BCRIP -----	4
1.3 World Bank Social Safeguard Policies-----	6
1.4 Arrangement of Sections -----	7
2 Methodology -----	8
2.1 Literature Review -----	8
2.2 Field Observations -----	8
2.3 Consultations and Interviews -----	8
3 Legal and Institutional Framework-----	10
3.1 Legal Framework-----	10
3.2 National Development Policy Framework -----	11
4 Socio-economic Profile of Local Communities -----	13
4.1 Scoping of Affected Communities-----	13
4.2 Project Affected Areas -----	18
5 Consultation and Participation Process -----	33
5.1 Culturally Appropriate Consultation -----	33
5.2 Consultation Protocol-----	34
6 Potential Social Impacts -----	38
6.1 Potential Positive Impacts-----	39
6.2 Potential Adverse Impacts -----	41
7 Mitigation Measures and Benefits-----	44
8 Conclusion -----	48
Bibliography -----	49
Annexes-----	50
Annex 1 - List of Persons/Stakeholders Consulted-----	50
Annex 2 – Photographs -----	52

List of Figures

Figure 1: Map Showing Target Areas for BCRIP -----	14
Figure 2: Area A - Greater Belize City-----	15
Figure 3: Area B – West of Belmopan -----	16
Figure 4: Area C - Northern Area Around Corozal -----	17
Figure 5: Area D - Independence Area-----	18
Figure 6: Unemployment Rates in Target Areas-----	22
Figure 7: Supply of Education Services-----	28
Figure 8: Maternal & U-5 Mortality Ratio of Target Areas-----	29
Figure 9: HIV Reported Infections, 2010-----	29

List of Tables

Table 1: Consultation with DAVCOs	8
Table 2: Indigenous Peoples in Area D	19
Table 3: Population of Area A	19
Table 4: Population of Area B	20
Table 5: Population of Area C	20
Table 6: Population of Area D	21
Table 7: Health Centers and Police Stations in Target Areas	31

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACP	Africa Caribbean Pacific
BCRIP	Belize Climate Resilience Infrastructure Project
BSIF	Belize Social Investment Fund
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DAVCO	District Association of Village Councils
EU	European Union
GOB	Government of Belize
MFID	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
MLLGRDI	Ministry of Labour, Local Government, Rural Development and Immigration
MNRA	Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture
MOWT	Ministry of Works and Transport
MCE	Multi-criteria Evaluation
NAVCO	National Association of Village Councils
NCRIP	National Climate Resilient Infrastructure Plan
NPESAP	National Poverty Elimination Strategy and Action Plan
RCDO	Rural Community Development Officer
TAA	Toledo Alcaldes Association
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WB	World Bank

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Belize has experienced frequent natural disasters of catastrophic proportions over the last half century. The fiscal impacts of disasters have required significant capital expenditures on repairing and re-constructing damaged infrastructure and has resulted in unsustainable budgetary deficits and unreliable funding streams, which collectively contribute to prevent any form of sound macro-economic growth. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recognizes that Belize is one of those countries most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change due to the following geographical and meteorological factors: (i) long, low-lying coastline; (ii) 1,060 small islands; (iii) second-longest barrier reef in the world and 17,276 km sq.² of forest cover, each of which supports fragile ecosystems; and (iv) the fact that it is very prone to natural disasters - particularly hurricanes. The impact of global warming on rising sea levels, which increase the elevation of storm surges, and the increase in the strength of hurricanes are two of the major climate change risk factors facing Belize¹. Clearly, climate change is a significant threat to Belize as it is expected to alter the hazard dynamics that affect competitiveness of its key productive sectors.

Planning for adaptation has been prioritized among national authorities and steps are underway to understand the extent of the impact of climate change of Belize's sustainable economic and human development. Over 70 percent of Belize's population is located near the primary road network and is exposed to hazards that pose a recurrent risk of affecting highly productive agricultural industries, critical life-line assets such as access roads and major power infrastructure as well as private property and human life. The lack of redundancy of road networks in the country adds to the high economic impact of weather related events on the road infrastructure. There is an urgent need to improve the infrastructure improvement, to address infrastructural vulnerability to hazard events and the adverse socio-economic impacts resulting from climate change. The Government of Belize (GOB) has expressed a strong interest in investing resources to address the issues related to infrastructure vulnerability.

1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION - BCRIP

The Government of Belize, through the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) in partnership with the Ministry of Works and Transport (MOWT) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture (MNRA), is currently in the process of preparing a project to be funded by the World Bank (WB) designed to contribute to strengthening the resilience of critical infrastructure to natural hazards and the anticipated impacts of climate variability through targeted retrofitting, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities.

¹ McLymont-Lafayette (2009).

The investments financed by the Belize Climate Resilience Infrastructure Project (BCRIP) will be informed by an extensive project identification and prioritization process, the primary output of which would be a comprehensive cross-sectoral climate resilience investment plan, which is currently being developed jointly with the GOB. Activities included in the National Climate Resilience Investment Plan (NCRIP) will be identified and prioritized using a Multi-criteria Evaluation (MCE) methodology. The MCE will be based on a combination of physical, social, economic, and environmental criteria, which will be defined and confirmed by key national stakeholders.

Specific investment programs will then be identified for the BCRIP will be selected based upon a set of criteria which will take into account the requirement of safeguards policies and economic and financial analysis. The investments that will be financed under the proposed BCRIP will cover only critical infrastructure needs and would therefore not be sufficient to build climate resilience across all sectors of public infrastructure. The BCRIP will finance climate resilience activities under the following two main mutually reinforcing components:

Component 1: Climate Resilient Infrastructure

This component aims to reduce physical vulnerability of critical infrastructure through the retrofitting and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure within the primary and secondary road network - including associated drainage and flood mitigation systems in order to strengthen their resilience to natural hazards and the anticipated impacts of climate variability. Under the investment identification process, characteristics and components of infrastructure such as primary and secondary road networks, drainage systems, as well as select critical public buildings, and critical flood mitigation infrastructure will be assessed in terms of the extent they are exposed to natural disasters and climate variability. The intent of this risk exposure assessment is to identify critical infrastructure, focusing specifically on infrastructure performance, that are at risk of failure, loss of service, damage and/or deterioration from hazards and extreme climatic events. Based on the outcome of this assessment, a set of strategic investments would be identified to be financed under the BCRIP.

Activities will be comprehensive in nature and include activities such as river defense, drainage and small scale flood mitigation improvements, the rehabilitation and replacement of critical small-scale bridges, and road improvements. It may also include reinforcement of embankments and slopes. This component will also fund supporting studies required for the development of physical works packages such as in-land flood studies relating to the design of specific river defenses, hydrologic/hydraulic investigations, geotechnical investigations and associated pre-engineering and engineering efforts required to support engineering design options and final detailed designs solutions. During the execution of the proposed physical works investments, the integration of climate resilient design standards and hazard/risk analysis would be integrated into

each sub-project specific preparation process in order to ensure the design and construction of climate resilient infrastructure.

Some of the potential activities that are expected to be carried out as sub-projects include:

- a. Building of drains, creek alignment - which may include repairs to small bridges;
- b. Flood mitigation of small embankments;
- c. Fixing culverts and sizing of culverts;
- d. Creek alignment (cuts and fills);
- e. Sizing of culverts and replacing of culverts with bridges;
- f. Road re-surfacing, widening of roads and shoulder improvement; and
- g. Road realignment and re-surfacing.

Component 2: Technical Assistance for Improved Climate Resilience Management

This component aims to strengthen relevant technical line ministries capacity to mainstream climate resilience considerations into their core development planning. Technical assistance provided under this component would potentially include four mutually-reinforcing core activities: 1) mainstreaming climate variability considerations into the existing land-use and territorial planning decision making processes; 2) support the deployment of an information platform and complimentary data management infrastructure; 3) strengthen infrastructure maintenance and asset management; and 4) strengthen institutional coordination and capacity to implement their Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and climate resilience policy framework.

1.3 WORLD BANK SOCIAL SAFEGUARD POLICIES

The proposed project must comply with World Bank Operational Policies for bank-funded projects. Two Operational Policies, namely, OP 4.10 Indigenous Peoples and OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement have been triggered under the BCRIP. To ensure that BCRIP takes social concerns into account, the preparation of safeguards instruments which includes a social assessment during the project preparation stage is necessary, based on the nature of activities planned for execution. The World Bank recognizes that the identities and cultures of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) are inextricably linked to the lands on which they live and the natural resources on which they depend. These distinct circumstances expose IPs to different types of risks and levels of impacts from development projects, including loss of identity, culture, and customary livelihoods, as well as exposure to disease. The Bank's Policy 4.10 (Indigenous People) also contributes to the Bank's mission of poverty reduction and sustainable development by ensuring that the development process fully respects the dignity, human rights, economies, and cultures of Indigenous Peoples. For the purpose of the World Bank Policy and this report, indigenous

peoples is used in a generic sense to refer to a distinct, vulnerable, social and cultural group possessing the following characteristics in vary degrees:

- a. self-identification as members of a distinct indigenous cultural group and recognition of this identity by others;
- b. collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area and to the natural resources in these habitats and territories;
- c. customary cultural, economic, social, or political institutions that are separate from those of the dominant society and culture; and
- d. an indigenous language, often different from the official language of the country or region.

It is important to note here that the Indigenous Peoples policy, with the concurrence of the World Bank, is being extended to all Belizean communities that are within the project's zone of influence given the multi-ethnic and culturally diverse nature of Belizean society². Social safeguard measures are further recognized to be beneficial to both indigenous and non-indigenous peoples alike in Belize's setting especially to rural communities.

The purpose of the social assessment is to identify and profile communities that may be affected, assess the potential social impacts of the project, whether positive or negative, and to propose mitigation measures. Where adverse impacts are found to be significant, the identification of alternatives is required. The assessment is also intended to establish a process for the consultation of diverse ethnic groups according to their distinct governance structures, culture and traditions during project implementation.

1.4 ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

The structure of this report is organized as follows: Section 2 provides a description of the methodology used in the assessment. Section 3 discusses the legal and institutional context applicable to indigenous peoples and rural communities. Section 4 identifies potentially affected communities from the four project target areas and presents a socio-economic profile of those communities. Section 5 outlines a culturally appropriate consultation process to be followed during implementation. Section 6 identifies potential positive and adverse social impacts resulting from the project. Section 7 outlines mitigations measures to address potential adverse impacts. Lastly, Section 8 presents a short conclusion to the assessment.

² This precedent was set with the ongoing Belize Municipal Development Project also funded by the World Bank.

2 METHODOLOGY

The development of this Social Assessment Report adopted an integrated approach using a mix of methods that included discussions with key persons, consultative meetings, a focus group meeting with elected leaders of indigenous communities, field observation, and relevant literature review.

2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

Several relevant documents were reviewed to obtain information on the baseline information in the various target areas. These included literature on history, demographics, economy and social profiles. Legal and policy documents that have a direct bearing on the project and the aims of the assessment were also reviewed.

2.2 FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Direct field observations was undertaken to enable determination of the nature of potential socio-economic activities that may be affected by the projects. Some of the key focal areas for which observation was done included settlement patterns of villages, land use, institutional presence, community infrastructure, commercial activities, and forms of encroachment on road reserves.

2.3 CONSULTATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

Consultation meetings were held at the district and village level with community leaders and representatives. Given that specific interventions will be determined only after the BCRIP is approved, it is not possible at this time to determine specifically which villages would be affected directly so consultation was held mainly with local community leadership at the District level. Each village in Belize has a duly elected village council including indigenous communities. The Chairpersons of the Village Councils make up the District Association of Village Councils (DAVCO). The Chairpersons of the relevant DAVCOs in the four project target areas were invited to participate to discuss critical features of the project and social safeguard measures. A follow up validation meeting was held with the DAVCOs, RCDOs and indigenous community chairpersons.

Table 1: Consultation with DAVCOs

BCRIP Target Area	District/DAVCO
Area A – Greater Belize City	Belize District Association of Village Councils
Area B – West of Belmopan	Cayo District Association of Village Councils
Area C – Northern Area Around Corozal	Corozal District Association of Village Councils
Area D – Independence Area	Stann Creek District Association of Village Councils

In Area D (Independence Area) where indigenous peoples are found, the leaders of these communities, Village Council Chairpersons (including Alcaldes where they are place), were invited to a similar consultation meeting. This forum was used to share information on the project, gain input and feedback and well as discuss potential social impacts, mitigation and other safeguard measures.

The Rural Development Officers of the Ministry of Labour, Local Government, Rural Development and Immigration (MLLGRDI) were also invited to participate in the consultation meetings with DAVCOs given their role of working with and supporting Village Councils in meeting their mandates. The BSIF, the MOWT and the MNRA as the primary project proponents were also present.

Aside from the consultations meetings at which the MOWT was present, a separate meeting was held with the Chief Engineer from the MOWT to discuss the policies and practice of the Ministry in regards to potential social impacts.

3 LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

3.1.1 Constitutional Provisions

The Constitution of Belize recognizes indigenous peoples through its preamble where it affirms the rights of citizens. The preamble which was amended by Act No. 2 of 2001 makes explicit reference to the indigenous peoples of Belize. The relevant parts are quoted here:

*“WHEREAS the people of Belize ... (a) affirm that the Nation of Belize shall be founded upon principles which acknowledge ... faith in human rights and fundamental freedoms ... and the equal and inalienable rights with which all members of the human family are endowed ... (e) require policies of state which protect ... the identity, dignity and social and cultural values of Belizeans, including Belize’s **indigenous peoples** ... with respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings among nations.”* (Emphasis added)

The Constitutions also guarantees the same protection of fundamental rights to indigenous peoples as it does for the rest of the citizens. Section 3 (a) guarantees that “*every person in Belize is entitled to ... life, liberty, security of the person, and the protection of the law.*” Citizens including indigenous people are also protected from discrimination under the provisions of Section 16 where it states that “*no law shall make any provision that is discriminatory either of itself or in its effect and no person shall be treated in a discriminatory manner by any person or authority.*” Discrimination, under the Belize Constitution is done when:

“...means affording different treatment to different persons attributable wholly or mainly to their respective descriptions by sex, race, place of origin, political opinions, colour or creed whereby persons of one such description are subjected to disabilities or restrictions to which persons of another such description are not made subject or are accorded privileges or advantages which are not accorded to persons of another such description.”

Aside from the provisions of the Constitutions there is no other legislation that specifically addresses the rights and role of indigenous communities in relations to development programs or projects or that gives official recognition to their cultural and land rights. Indigenous and non-indigenous communities alike however are given political and legal space to govern their communities under the conditions provided for by the Village Councils Act of 2002.

3.1.2 Local Governance

All officially recognized villages, including indigenous communities, have elected village councils in accordance with the Village Councils Act, Chapter 88, of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000. The Act establishes and empowers village councils to act on the good governance and improvement of their respective villages. According to the Act, they are responsible for the general wellbeing of the community including the care and maintenance of public property and to make regulations to improve the quality of life for residents. The Act further requires that Village Councils be consulted in matters relating to land and land use within the local communities.

Two of the potentially affected indigenous communities in Area D (Independence Area), namely Bladen and San Pablo, have an Alcalde in addition to their village councils. The Inferior Courts Act, Chapter 94 of the Laws of Belize establishes the Alcalde Jurisdiction Court and empowers the Alcalde to preside over minor criminal and civil matters. In practice however, the Alcalde system is more than a judicial entity and is regarded as the official and customary leadership of indigenous Maya communities even though the Act itself makes no mention of it being a system established specifically for indigenous communities. While the Act makes provision for the Attorney General to appoint Alcaldes and Deputy Alcaldes, the practice has been that Alcaldes and their deputies are elected directly by residents of Mayan communities.

The Alcaldes of each of the 38 Maya communities in the Toledo and Stann Creek District form what is locally known as an Alcaldes Assembly where a 7 member executive is elected to form the Executive Committee of the Toledo Alcaldes Association. The customary leadership role held by Alcaldes makes it important for them to be engaged and consulted in regards to project activities in indigenous Maya communities in addition to the Village Council. It should be noted that the Alcalde System is not currently in existence among indigenous Garinagu communities even though they are also recognized as indigenous peoples. The Alcalde System was once present within Garinagu communities but the practice has since been discontinued. Garinagu communities do however have Village Councils.

3.2 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

3.2.1 Horizon 2030

The Government of Belize has developed a long term development strategy called the Horizon 2030 which outlines broad goals for the future of Belizean society. These have a bearing on rural and indigenous communities and can be seen as a way of ensuring democratic participation and social sustainability of the country's development trajectory. The Strategies under the Horizon 2030 Framework are grouped under four thematic areas. These are:

- 1) Democratic Governance For Effective Public Administration And Sustainable Development;
- 2) Education For Development - Education For Life;
- 3) Economic Resilience: Generating Resources For Long Term Development; and
- 4) The Bricks and the Mortar - Healthy Citizens and A Healthy Environment.

Horizon 2030 reflects a shared national long term vision for Belize and was the outcome of a long participatory process that engaged a wide cross-section of society and institutions in its development. One of the core values identified is people-participation in the economic, social and political development process. The Framework seeks “to focus on the community by anchoring development planning in the communities to promote relevance, ownership by beneficiaries and long term sustainability of results.”

3.2.2 National Poverty Reduction Strategy

The National Poverty Elimination Strategy and Action Plan (NPESAP) also sets out issues and measures in the macro-structural, human development and infrastructure areas, and simultaneously targets urban and rural poverty and the cross cutting issues of governance, gender and environment. The five strategic thrusts of the NPESAP each target a specific set of national priorities. The first, **Economic Policies for Enabled Growth**, seeks to address the need for a stable macroeconomic and fiscal environment to ensure that resources for social programmes are not diverted toward monetary and fiscal imbalances. The second, **Effective Planning and Transparent and Accountable Governance for Growth**, sets out key priorities which include improved accountability, transparency and public service delivery. The third, **Investing in Human Capital Development**, addresses human capabilities and human development needs. It provides for expanded education and health opportunities for the poor and disadvantaged. The fourth, **Infrastructure for Economic Growth**, incorporates priorities in the areas of private enterprise, infrastructure and trade. The activities in this area include measures to improve communication and transportation linkages between poor communities and larger population centers and to enable rural communities to access potable water and sanitation. The final strategic area, **Strategic Support for Equity and Development**, provides for specific interventions to improve the conditions of residents in key geographic areas, such as Belize City Southside and the Toledo District, as well as other vulnerable groups. The investments under the BCRIP falls and responds to several of the national priorities identified here especially those relating to improvements in infrastructure for economic growth.

4 SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

4.1 SCOPING OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

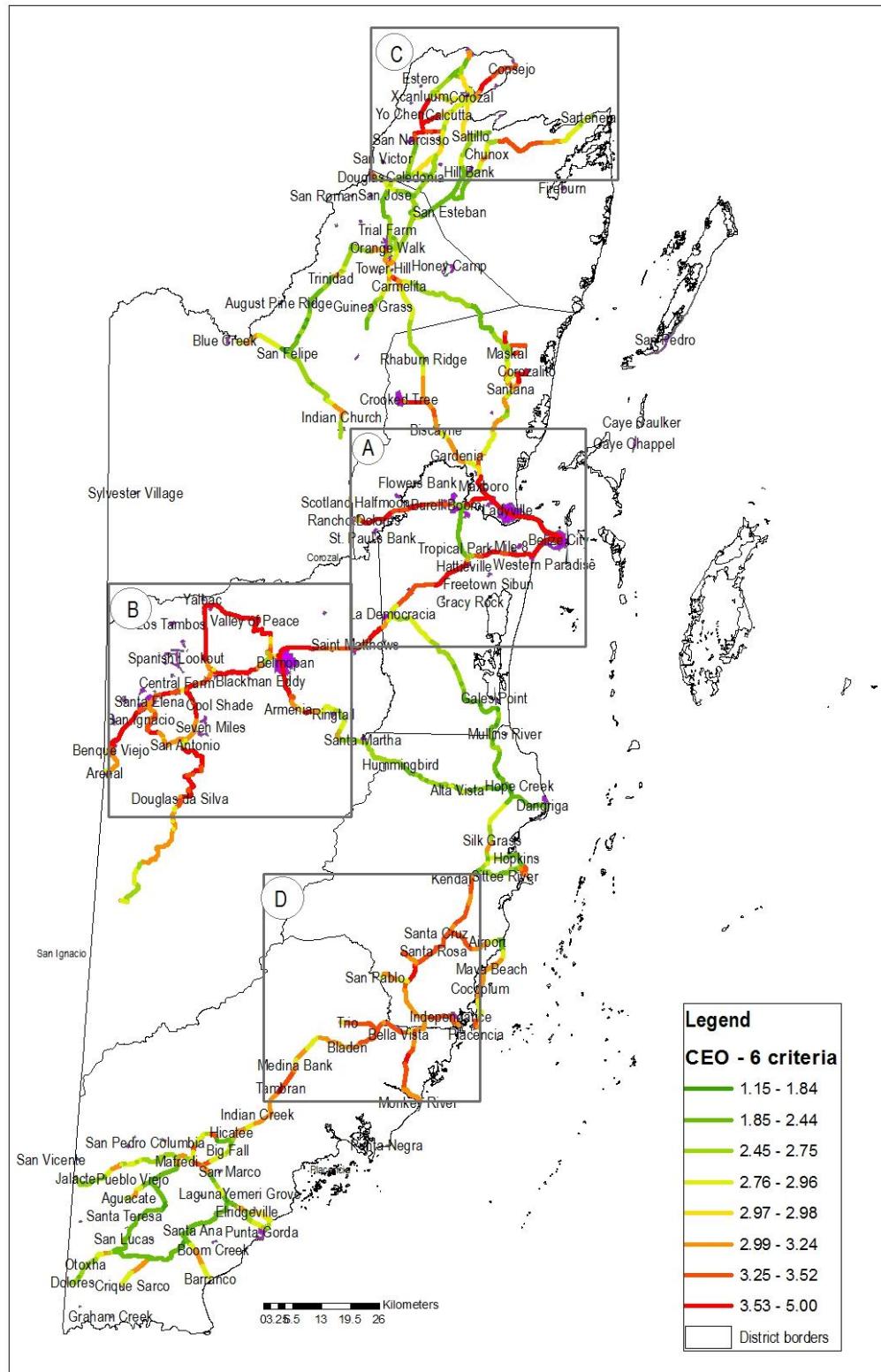
Four specific areas have been identified as target areas for the BCRIP based on the National Climate Resilient Infrastructure Plan (NCRIP). The NCRIP is a comprehensive cross-sectorial plan that has been elaborated by the GOB with support from the WB and financial support from the Africa Caribbean Pacific (ACP) European Union (EU) Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program. During the preparation of the NCRIP, an extensive project identification and prioritization process was carried out for the transportation network aiming at understanding vulnerabilities and risks in order to be able to efficiently direct funds for the highest climate resilience enhancing impact. The proposed activities included in the national climate resilience investment plan were identified and prioritized using a comprehensive and participatory approach based on two main pillars: (a) flood susceptibility and (b) criticality of the primary and secondary road network. The criticality of transportation infrastructure assets refers to the importance of a specific road, road segment or bridge in the transportation network in terms of its provision of access to various economically or socially significant locations.

Criticality was developed using a multi-criteria evaluation (MCE) approach. Various indicators were further established for each criterion. The main criteria utilized include the following:

- a) Physical Vulnerability
- b) Use & Operational Characteristics
- c) Economic Parameters
- d) Social Parameters
- e) Health
- f) Safety & Security
- g) Environment & Ecology

The result of the MCE exercise produced the target areas A, B, C, and D as shown in the map in Figure 1 below and are the target areas for the BCRIP.

Figure 1: Map Showing Target Areas for BCRI



Source: MCE Report, 2013

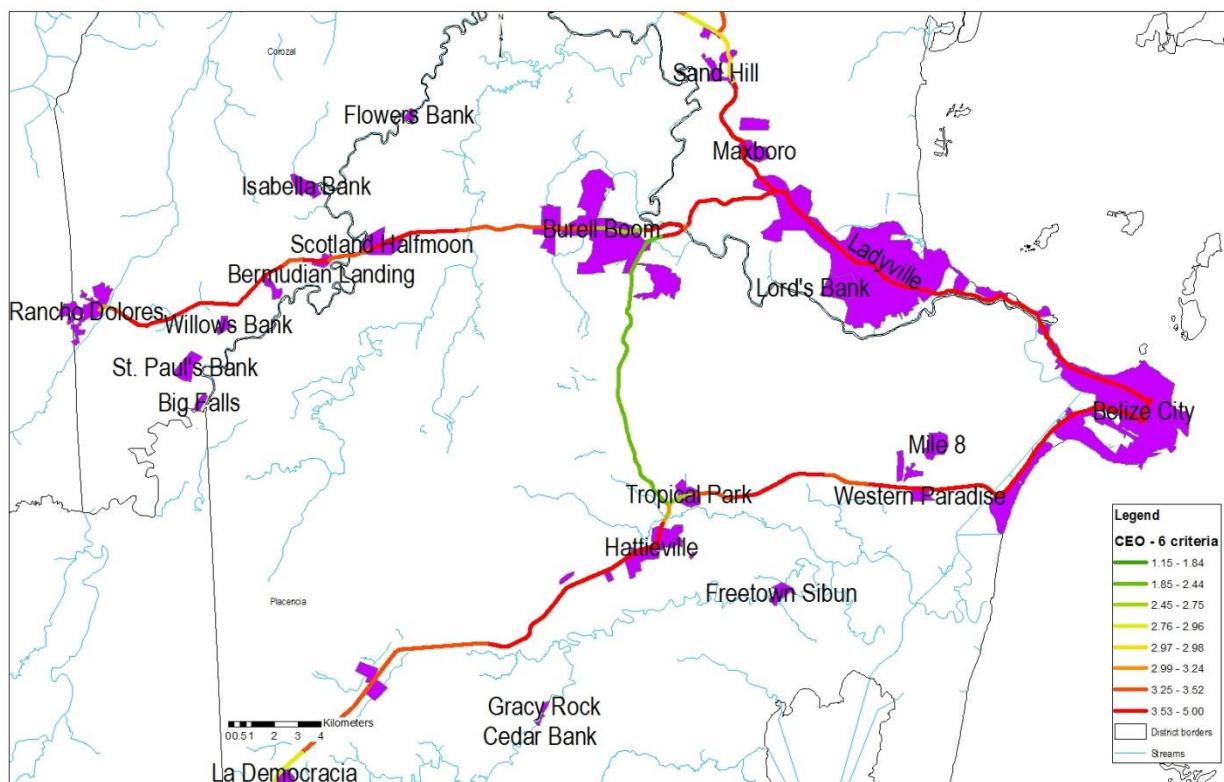
4.1.1 Project Target Areas

As shown above, there are four target areas under the BCRIP. The following is a brief geographic description of each of the four priority areas.

Area A - Greater Belize City:

The primary and secondary roads ranked high by both the criticality analysis and the flood susceptible assessment in this area include the George Price Highway from Belize City to Mile 25, The Philip Goldson Highway from Belize City to just beyond the junction with the Old Northern Road in San Hill Village, and the Bermudian landing Road from the Junction with the Burrell Boom Road to Rancho Dolores.

Figure 2: Area A - Greater Belize City



Source: MCE Report, 2013

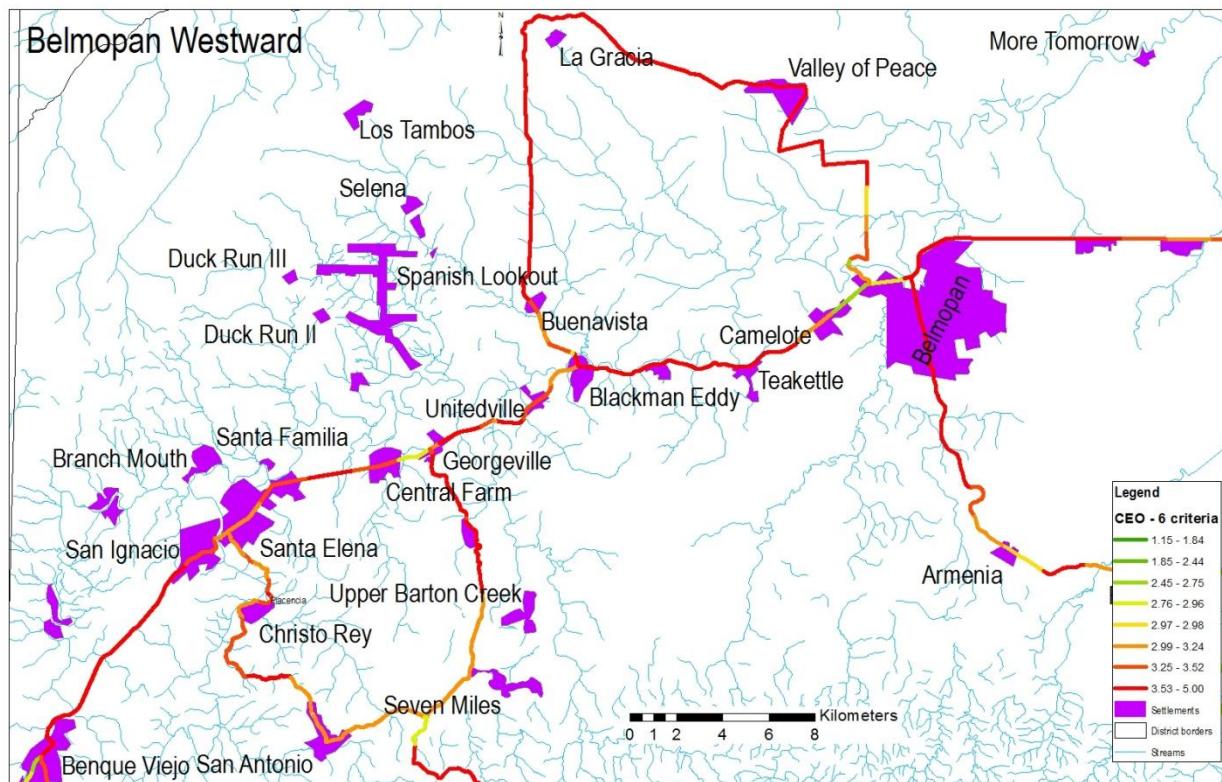
There is a road safety project currently being undertaken on the George Price Highway from Belize City to Belmopan but it does not currently include any flood mitigation works. There will be a road works investment by the Caribbean Development Bank on the Philip Goldson Highway from Belama in Belize City to the Philip Goldson International Airport. It is anticipated that the works will include flood mitigation and climate resilience measures.

Area B - West of Belmopan:

The roads with high criticality and flood susceptibility include the George Price Highway from Mount Pleasant Creek west towards San Ignacio and the Guatemalan border; the La Gracia Road, the Valley of Peace Road, The San Antonio Road, and the Pine Ridge Road starting at the Georgeville junction.

An investment is being planned for the section of the George Price Highway from the Agricultural Show Grounds to the Western Border under a different funding source. This works is expected to include flood mitigation and climate resilience measures. No investments are currently identified for the other roads in this area.

Figure 3: Area B – West of Belmopan



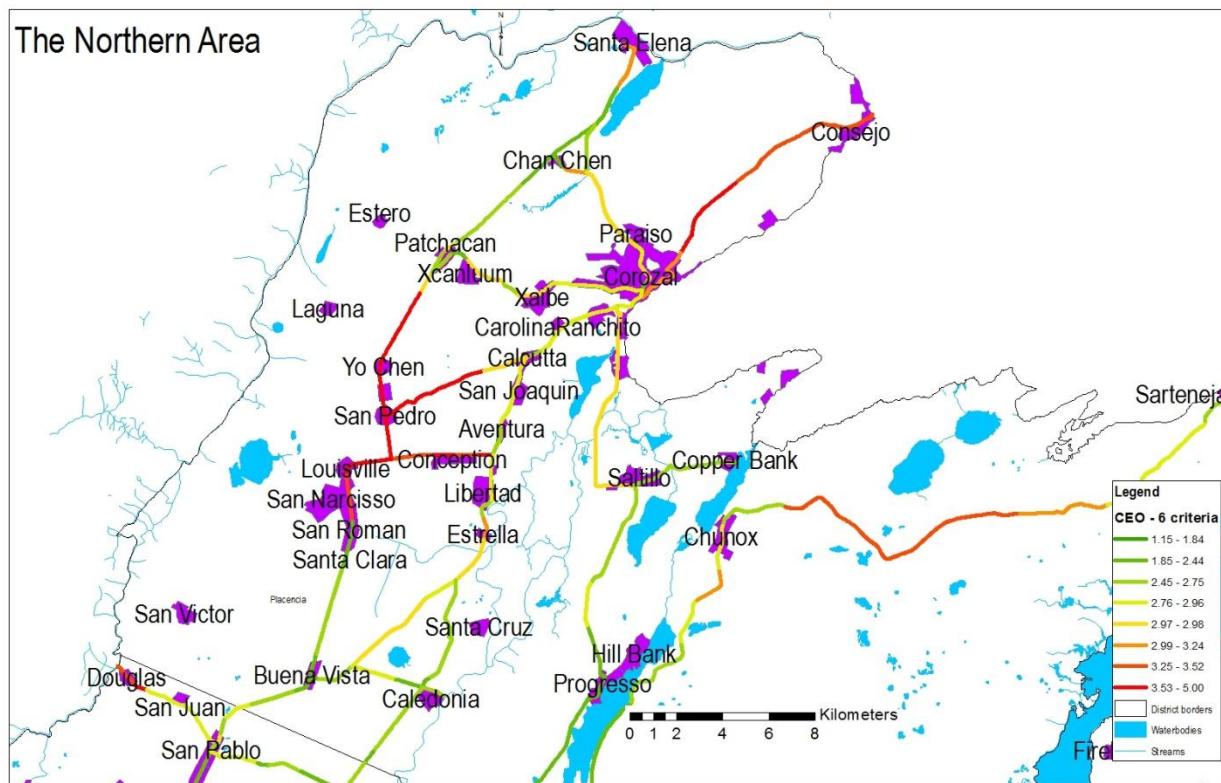
Source: MCE Report, 2013

Area C - Northern area around Corozal:

In this area, the roads with the highest criticality and flood susceptibility include roads near San Narciso Village, the road to Consejo Village and the road to Sarteneja. There investments on the

road to Sarteneja from Orange Walk Town but not on the road to Corozal. The San Narciso – San Victor road is currently being upgraded to pave standard with EU Grant Funds.

Figure 4: Area C - Northern Area Around Corozal

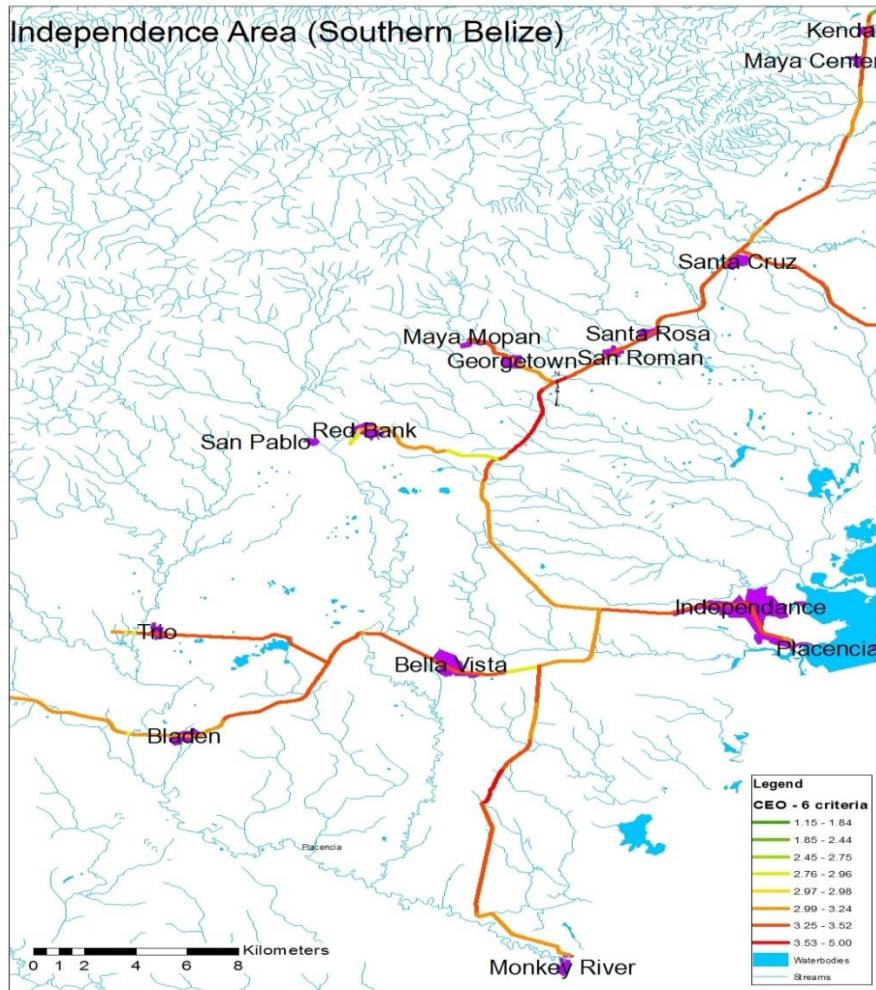


Source: MCE Report, 2013

Area D - Southern Area Around Independence:

The roads in this area have medium criticality and medium to high flood susceptibility. These include the Southern Highway from Maya Centre to Bladen, the Trio Road, the Independence Road, and the road to Monkey River. There are currently no on-going projects in the area, and most of the roads are paved with the exception of the segment connecting the highway to Monkey River and the Trio Road.

Figure 5: Area D - Independence Area



Source: MCE Report, 2013

4.2 PROJECT AFFECTED AREAS

4.2.1 Demographics

The main communities to be affected by the project are those that are located on or next to the primary and secondary roads considered critical identified in each of the four target areas. All of these communities with the exception of Belmopan are considered rural communities. Indigenous communities that have been identified have been included because they all fall within the projects zone of influence as shown in Section 3.1.1 above. Of all the communities that are likely to be affected by the project, seven are considered to be indigenous communities. Six are

made up predominantly by indigenous Mayas and one by the Garifuna. These are all found in Target Area D³. Table 2 below provides a list of these communities.

Table 2: Indigenous Peoples in Area D

Village	District	Indigenous Group
1. Maya Center	Stann Creek District	Maya Mopan
2. San Roman	Stann Creek District	Maya Mopan
3. Santa Rosa	Stann Creek District	Maya Mopan
4. Georgetown	Stann Creek District	Garifuna
5. Maya Mopan	Stann Creek District	Maya Mopan
6. Red Bank	Stann Creek District	Maya Mopan/Q'eqchi
7. San Pablo	Toledo District	Maya Q'eqchi
8. Bladen	Toledo District	Maya Mopan/Q'eqchi

The indigenous Maya communities of the Stann Creek District, while maintaining several aspects of their indigenous culture, vary in economy, land tenure, and local leadership from their counterparts in the Toledo District. They are not involved in the Maya land rights case before the courts as they have adopted the State system of land tenure of individual ownership through leases and titled properties. While San Pablo and Bladen are involved in the Maya land rights case through the Toledo Alcalde Association, significant portions of their community lands are also held through individual leases issued by the State. This is further addressed in section 4.2.3.3 *Land Use & Land Rights* below.

4.2.1.1 Population

Area A (Greater Belize City) is made up of thirteen potentially affected villages. These villages generally share a common history and are culturally tied to Belize City, the largest population center in the country. There are approximately 17,928 persons living in communities likely to be affected in this area in 4,926 households. The average household size is 3.9 persons.

Table 3: Population of Area A

Community	District	Total	Male	Female	# of HHs	Avg. HH Size
1. Bermudian Landing	Belize	183	87	96	43	4.3
2. Burrell Boom	Belize	2,218	1,128	1,090	617	3.6
3. Double Head Cabbage	Belize	406	206	200	102	4.0
4. Flowers Bank	Belize	121	67	54	31	3.9
5. Hattieville	Belize	2,344	1,104	1,240	628	3.7

³ Area D – Independence Area is the only area of the 4 target areas that is ranked at “medium criticality” with others being ranked as “high criticality.”

6. Isabella Bank	Belize	143	82	61	37	3.9
7. Ladyville	Belize	5,458	2,627	2,786	1,527	3.6
8. Lord's Bank	Belize	3,140	1,517	1,623	884	3.6
9. Rancho Dolores	Belize	217	109	108	48	4.5
10. Sandhill	Belize	1,843	912	931	508	3.6
11. Scotland Halfmoon	Belize	259	128	131	70	3.7
12. St. Paul's Bank	Belize	153	79	74	37	4.1
13. Western Paradise	Belize	1,258	599	659	348	3.6
14. Willows Bank	Belize	185	97	88	46	4.0
TOTAL		17,928	8,742	9,141	4,926	3.9

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2010

The population of potentially affected communities in Area B (West of Belmopan) is approximately 20,438 persons. There are approximately 4,791 households with the average household size being 4.8 persons. This area has the highest number of persons mainly because Belmopan, being a larger urban area, is included.

Table 4: Population of Area B

Community	District	Total	Male	Female	# of HHs	Avg. HH Size
1. Belmopan	Cayo	13,931	6,775	7,156	3,463	4.0
2. Cristo Rey	Cayo	873	441	432	212	4.1
3. Georgeville	Cayo	921	464	457	190	4.8
4. La Gracia	Cayo	271	146	125	48	5.6
5. San Antonio	Cayo	1,847	933	914	381	4.8
6. Seven Miles	Cayo	483	252	231	96	5.0
7. Valley of Peace	Cayo	2,112	1,091	1,021	401	5.3
TOTAL		20,438	10,102	10,336	4,791	4.8

There are ten communities in Area C (Northern Area) that are likely to be affected by the project with a total of 10,411 persons. There are approximately 2,168 households in the area with the average household size being 4.7 persons. This area has the second highest average household size after Area D.

Table 5: Population of Area C

Community	District	Total	Male	Female	# of HHs	Avg. HH Size
1. Chunox	Corozal	1,375	705	670	234	5.9
2. Concepcion	Corozal	1,275	613	644	257	4.9
3. Consejo	Corozal	350	178	172	117	3.0

4. Copper Bank	Corozal	470	237	233	104	4.5
5. Louisville	Corozal	880	454	426	176	5.0
6. Patchakan	Corozal	1,374	693	681	281	4.9
7. San Narciso	Corozal	2,422	1,198	1,224	517	4.7
8. San Pedro	Corozal	519	260	259	123	4.2
9. San Roman	Corozal	884	423	461	183	4.8
10. Santa Clara	Corozal	862	455	407	176	4.9
TOTAL		10,411	5,216	5,177	2,168	4.7

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2010

Area D (Independence Area) in the South has fourteen villages that may be affected by the project with a combined population of approximately 14,790 persons. This area has the highest number of villages and all the predominantly indigenous communities within the project's zone of influence. Area D also has one of the largest household sizes at 4.8 persons. Some community such as Red Bank and San Pablo has up to 6 persons on average per household. The large family sizes indicate a large degree of dependence on the working members of those households.

Table 6: Population of Area D

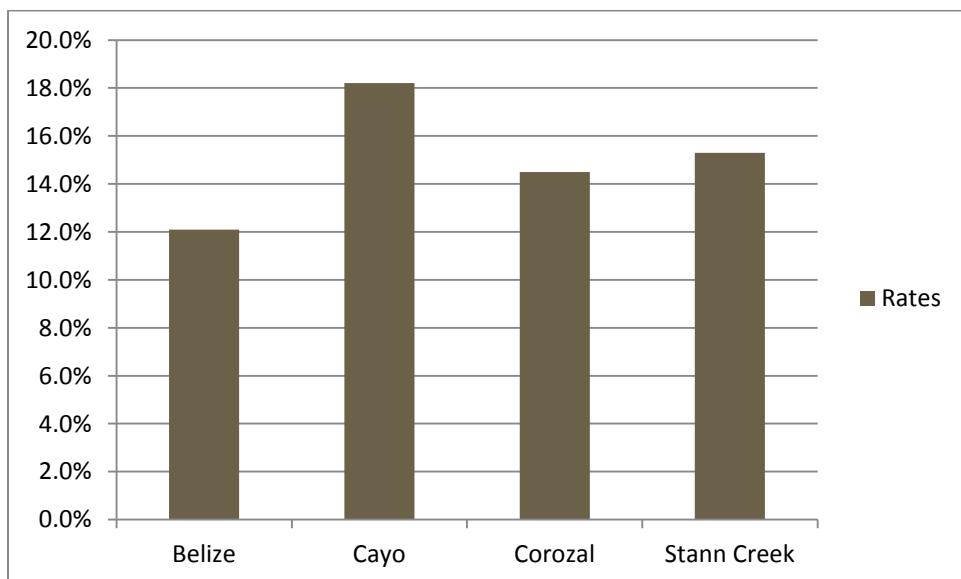
Community	District	Total	Male	Female	# of HHs	Avg. HH Size
1. Bella Vista	Toledo	3,508	1,802	1,706	827	4.2
2. Bladen	Toledo	466	247	219	110	4.2
3. Georgetown	Stann Creek	473	241	232	96	4.9
4. Independence	Stann Creek	4,014	2,011	2,003	972	4.1
5. Kendall	Stann Creek	118	72	46	37	3.2
6. Maya Center	Stann Creek	386	198	188	87	4.4
7. Maya Mopan	Stann Creek	632	316	316	110	5.7
8. Monkey River	Toledo	196	98	98	37	5.3
9. Red Bank	Stann Creek	1,201	621	580	200	6.0
10. San Juan	Stann Creek	437	250	187	123	3.6
11. San Pablo	Stann Creek	250	127	123	40	6.3
12. San Roman	Stann Creek	894	446	448	168	5.3
13. Santa Cruz	Stann Creek	774	399	375	192	4.0
14. Santa Rosa	Stann Creek	542	284	258	89	6.1
15. Trio	Stann Creek	899	481	418	188	4.8
TOTAL		14,790	7,593	7,197	3,276	4.8

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2010

4.2.1.2 Economy & Employment

At the national level, Belize's GDP per capita, which is low relative to peers in the region, grew at about 1 percent in real terms on average yearly since 2008. This along with increasing poverty is reflected in high unemployment, widening income disparity, lagging educational attainment and rising crime. The national unemployment rate was at 16% in September 2012, affecting the youth (30%) and women (22.4%) more severely. The tertiary sector provides almost two-thirds of jobs in Belize and the retail sector alone provides one-fifth of all jobs. For women, the tertiary jobs make up almost 80% of all female employment (23% of women's employment is in retail and 15% in tourism). The primary construction sectors are a much more important source of jobs for men than for women; 26% of working men work in the agricultural sector and another 12% work in construction. These realities are reflected in the communities of the four areas targeted under the BCRIP project though the predominant industries that provide employment in each area vary.

Figure 6: Unemployment Rates in Target Areas



Source: SIB, 2013

The communities of Area A (Greater Belize City) in the Belize District are considered rural but are connected historically and economically to Belize City, the largest urban population in the country. Many residents of this area commute to work mainly in Belize City and as such some of the rural communities can be considered suburban and peri-urban extensions of the urban center. Aside from those working in the service sectors (retail, banking, tourism) residents do take advantage of the availability of land in outer areas and many practice agriculture especially cattle rearing. The level of dependence on agriculture varies from community to community as some

practice mainly subsistence farming to those producing crops for sale at local markets. Typical crops grown in the area include, rice, plantains, corn, cacao, and cassava. Some residents of those communities along the main highway have begun to take opportunities of their location by opening several types of small businesses including stores and restaurants. The residents of the Belize River Valley on the other hand, have begun to take advantage of the tourism opportunities presented within the area and have established a Community Baboon Sanctuary that attracts many visitors, locals and foreigners alike. An important source of household income for many residents this target area is remittances from relatives abroad, especially from the United States of America. Residents of Area A have the lowest rate of unemployment in the country as compared to the other target areas under the project and the lowest income inequality.

Area B (West of Belmopan) in the Cayo District covers a wide area starting from the capital city of Belmopan extending to La Gracia in the north and to San Antonio Village in the south. Belmopan, being the capital, has a diverse economy that is predominated by public service employment at government offices and local embassies. As a growing city, the outskirts of Belmopan show greater characteristics of residents participating in the informal economy through several micro-enterprises and other forms of self-employment. The rural communities of Area B, such as Valley of Peace, La Gracia and San Antonio can be considered agricultural communities. They produce significant amounts of cash crops (fruits and vegetables) for sale in the domestic market. This area of the country is also known as a tourism destination so many community residents also work in that sector. Reflecting national unemployment rates, unemployment in the Cayo District was the highest in the country in 2012 at 18.2%.

Meanwhile, Area C communities in the Corozal District are highly dependent on sugar cane farming and participate heavily in the sugar industry especially those around the San Narciso area. Those on the eastern side of Area C, while many continue to participate in the sugar industry, are now commercial fishers exploiting mainly the conch and lobster fishery products. These products are exported by the two largest fishing cooperatives in the country. The sugar industry is the predominant industry in northern Belize seeing the participation of most of the communities in both the Corozal and Orange Walk districts. Other types of economic activities include subsistence farming (corn and beans), and small scale commercial farming of cash crops (peppers, tomatoes, potatoes, and onions). Many of the youth in this area work in the Corozal Free Zone as wage workers. Even though the sugar industry is large and provides significant employment throughout the value chain there is still a high rate of unemployment in Area C. In 2012, the rate of unemployment was almost equal to the national average at 14.5%; the national average being 14.4%. There are other small agro-industries such as papaya farming for export in the area but these have been continuously affected by dramatic changes in weather patterns and there has been significant losses in production and have even recently began reducing their number of workers.

Area D (Independence Area) in the Stann Creek District⁴, where all indigenous communities within the project's scope of influence are located, is home to several important agro-industries. Consequently the employment opportunities for both indigenous and non-indigenous communities located here are found in the citrus, bananas, aquaculture and tourism industries. On the road to San Pablo alone, off the Southern Highway, there are five large banana farms, namely Farm 12, Farm 21, Farm 22, Farm 14 and Farm 20. A significant number of the residents of Area D gain long term and temporary employment at these farms. Women from the area often obtain temporary employment at the banana farms during shipment periods when they are employed in processing and packing bananas for export. Some of the communities, such as Trio, Bella Vista, Cowpen, San Juan, and Santa Cruz are the result of immigrant banana workers from Central America settling in the area.

The residents of the Maya communities of Red Bank, Santa Rosa, San Roman, Maya Mopan and Maya Center maintain some traditional aspects of livelihoods while seeking out wage employment. While some are fully dependent on outside jobs in the various local industries as wage labourers, some continue to maintain small plots for agriculture producing mainly corn for household consumption. Some participate in the citrus industry by having small orchards from which they harvest fruits to deliver to the processing factories in Pomona and Bella Vista. Due to the location of Maya Center near the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, it is now a key player in eco-tourism in the area.

There is considerable agricultural produce that comes from Area D whether for subsistence or as cash crops. These agriculture products include cacao, plantains, ground food, peppers and honey. Bella Vista and Trio especially produce pineapples in significant quantities. There is a small cooperative in Trio that produces and sells pineapple to the Citrus Products of Belize Ltd. which in turns produces pineapple juice. The coastal community of Monkey River on the other hand is considered a fishing village as many residents depend on fisheries for their livelihoods. There is also now some tourism related activities happening in the village in conjunction with the growth of tourism in the Placencia Peninsula to the north.

4.2.2 Socio-Cultural Characteristics

4.2.2.1 Ethnicity

The communities of Area A (Greater Belize City) are considered to be predominantly Belize Creoles. Belizean Creoles are afro-descendants of British colonialists and African slaves. Creoles continue to represent a significant segment of Belize's population second only to Mestizos, who are the largest group, in terms of population size.

⁴ While there are 2 communities in Area D that are physically located in the Toledo District, for the most part their economic activities are tied to the main economic sectors of the Stann Creek District.

The communities of Area B (West of Belmopan) are generally considered to be Belizean Hispanics/Mestizo. There are some historical distinctions however between these communities. La Gracia and Valley of Peace for instance originated as refugee settlements by persons coming from the neighbouring countries of El Salvador and Guatemala to escape the civil wars occurring in those countries in the 1980's. The residents of Cristo Rey and San Antonio are Spanish speaking Mestizos who are essentially a mix of indigenous Mayas and European Spaniards and have longer ties to the area. Some community members in San Antonio actually continue to speak Yucatec Maya which is an indigenous language. The central part of Area B, which is mostly along the George Price Highway, are inhabited mostly by Creoles though recently there has been increasing presence of Hispanic/Mestizo residents moving into the area. Georgeville, one of the villages under consideration, is still predominantly a Creole village.

The communities of Area C are all located within the Corozal District and share a common history, culture and ethnicity. These communities are inhabited predominantly by the Mestizos. Mestizos, who are descendants of indigenous Maya and European Spaniards, first came into northern Belize from southern Yucatan, Mexico as refugees of the Caste War of Yucatán in 1848. The Caste War was a Maya uprising against the Spaniards but it eventually became a war against the Mestizos. The Mestizos, mixed Spanish and Maya (indigenous), were allies of the Spaniards, and thus became targets of attacks by the Mayas. They came over to Belize to escape from these attacks and eventually settled in most of northern Belize. Even though Belizean Mestizos of the north share Mayan ancestry from Mexico they do not as an ethnic group self-identify as indigenous peoples. Most consider themselves Mestizos and do not claim indigenous status. While a few speak the Maya Yucatec language, the predominant language spoken is Spanish.

Indigenous peoples within the project's scope of influence can be found in Area D (Independence Area). These include Maya Q'eqchi, Maya Mopan and Garifuna. These communities speak their own indigenous languages in addition to Belizean Creole and English. The Maya residents of the communities identified in this area are originally from the Toledo District and so maintain familial ties with their relatives there. The Garifuna community of Georgetown was similarly established around the 1960s by Garinagu who came from Seine Bight along the coast in search of farmland. Other communities in Area D are mostly Hispanic/Mestizo communities established around banana farms except for Independence (also known as Mango Creek) and Monkey River villages, which are considered Creole villages. The growth in Independence however is notable and is now home to a wide mix of persons from various cultural backgrounds.

4.2.2.2 Indigenous Traditions & Cultural Practices

Generally speaking indigenous communities have a close connection to the land as a primary means of their livelihoods. Those Maya communities that are now located in Stann Creek

District still maintain some aspect of their culture but have also experienced some changes due mainly to their participation in the labour market and cash economy. There is still a strong sense of community where their indigenous language is still spoken. Family structures remain extended families but there are signs of a shift towards having more nuclear families. The practice of reciprocity has also eroded due to a growing labour market and by participating in wage work time is now valued differently so only a few continue to maintain their traditional practice of labour exchange. The fact that these communities are located near some of Belize's main industries including, aquaculture, citrus, bananas, and tourism, means that they rely less on subsistence farming and more on wage work as a means of livelihoods. Nonetheless, the sense of community is maintained through family ties, marriage, religious gatherings and other community social events especially sports. While most community members are considered Christians there are still some aspects of traditional beliefs maintained in parallel. It is still widely held for instance that one can be cursed and made ill as a consequence of envy or improper and unfair behavior towards another. These illnesses are considered to be incurable by modern medicine and need the intervention of traditional healers. Maya communities are also generally patriarchal with clear division of labour between males and females even though some Mayan women are now working outside the home especially in the banana farms.

Similarly, while the Garifuna continue to recreate their culture over time, there are some more longstanding traditional practices that continue to play a significant role within their community. Given their history and ancestry, Garifuna spirituality is a mixture of Christianity (Catholicism), African and indigenous beliefs. Belief in and respect for the ancestors is at the very core of their faith. They believe that the departed ancestors mediate between the individual and the external world. The religious system thus implies certain responsibilities and obligations between the living and deceased. Food and drink should occasionally be laid out for the ancestors. Garifuna women especially, even with their changing roles, remain prominent in traditional practices. Rituals for the dead, for example, often have female organizers. Ceremonies such as *dugu* and even other celebrations often have women as dancers, singers and *trancers*. The *buyei* or healer/spirit-medium positions are held by men. The *dugu* ceremony is not a public event but engages large sections of the community through familial relations. It is not uncommon to have relatives from the other countries who come to participate. A *dugu* generally lasts for about a week. The Garinagu also celebrates the 19th of November as Garifuna Settlement Day and is also a national holiday to commemorate their arrival to Belize in 1832. The celebrations are a strongly display of Garifuna culture and nationalism and includes weeklong schedule of activities.

4.2.2.3 Poverty and Social Development

The Country Poverty Assessment (CPA) 2010 shows that 43% of the national population falls below the official poverty line of which 16% are considered indigent. The sharpest rise in poverty has been in the northern district of Corozal (Area C) where poverty doubled and

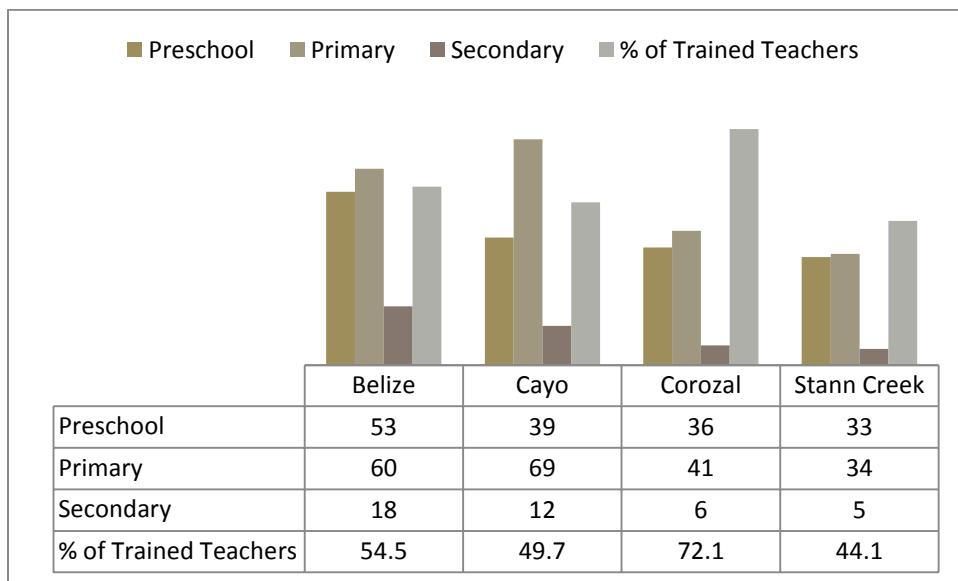
indigence tripled from 2002 to 2010. Notably, during the period when the CPA was conducted, Corozal was one of the districts repeatedly impacted by hurricane and flooding, thus underscoring the population's vulnerability to disasters. Agricultural workers and people with unskilled jobs are more likely to be poor or indigent. Overall, the agricultural sector has not changed since 2002 and continues to have higher poverty rates than any other sector. Unsurprisingly, rural Belizeans are almost twice as likely to be poor as compared to urban Belizeans.

Challenges persist in terms of addressing rural and indigenous groups that remain at greater risk of poverty and poor health indicators than urban and non-indigenous groups. The CPA shows that the rate of poverty among the Mayas is at 68%, the highest among all other ethnic groups in the country. Poverty as a major social issue among indigenous peoples is manifested in related issues such as limited access to education, and lack of proper health care. For instance, attendance of Mayan children in school is lower than all other ethnic groups, at all levels, from primary to tertiary levels. Similarly, a high rate of malnutrition is evidenced by the highest rate of stunting occurring among Mayan children besides other issues related to maternal and child health.

All of the forty-six communities identified in all of the four project target areas have access to primary school education. There is generally a high gross enrollment ratio at the primary education levels which stands at 107%⁵. There are variations in the supply of education services at various levels across the four areas. While the Belize District (Area A) has the highest number of educational facilities, the Corozal District (Area C) has the highest rate of trained teachers in rural areas. The percentage of trained teachers in rural Stann Creek (Area D) on the other hand, is the lowest at only 44.1%.

⁵ The surpassing of 100% has to do with a high rate of repetition.

Figure 7: Supply of Education Services

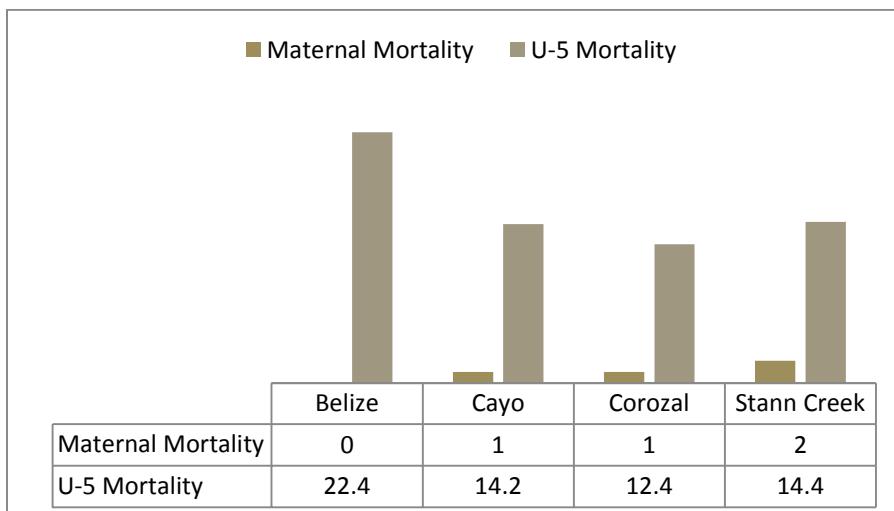


Source: Belize Education Statistics 2012 - 2013

At the national level, the country's health profile is a reflection of the trends seen in most countries in Central America and the Caribbean. It is undergoing the transition from communicable diseases (CD) to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) as the main causes of death and illness. In general, health indicators show improved life expectancy and survival, but improvements in quality of life decreases with deaths and illnesses occurring mainly from preventable causes which remain major health challenges. These challenges are undoubtedly reflected across the population including the rural communities of the project target areas.

Maternal mortality and under-5 infant mortality rates are good indicators of the social welfare of the location population. In general, Belize is doing well in reducing maternal mortality and this is reflected in the target areas. Under-5 infant mortality however still remains high especially in the Belize District (Area A). Of the four target areas, Corozal (Area C) has the lowest under-5 mortality rate. Maternal mortality is measured at every 100,000 live births while the under-5 mortality rate is measure per every 1,000 live births.

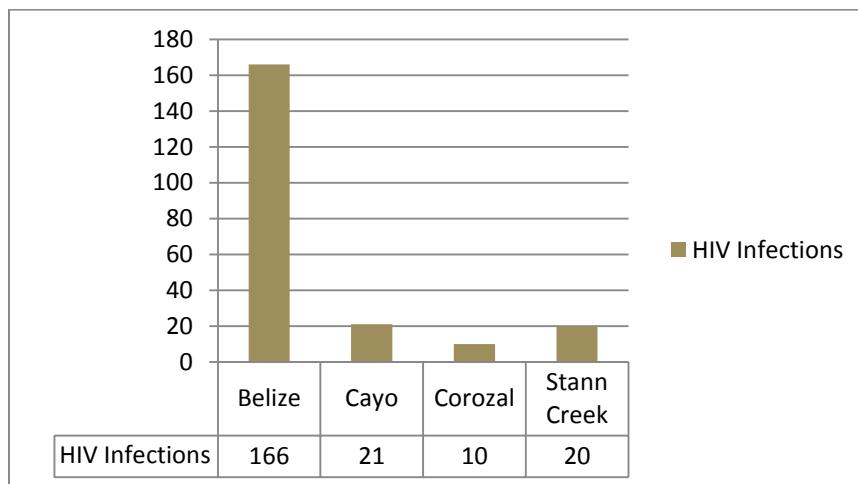
Figure 8: Maternal & U-5 Mortality Ratio of Target Areas



Source: Ministry of Health, 2011

Meanwhile, HIV and AIDS continue to pose major challenges to Belize. Belize has the highest sero-prevalence in Central America and the third highest in the Caribbean. From 1986 – 2009, there were 5,045 reported cases of HIV and 963 deaths. The majority of deaths were recorded in the Belize District (Area A) at 69.5%. In 2009, of the 9,236 persons were tested for HIV, 4.9% tested positive. The Stann Creek (Area D) had the highest positivity rate (7.8%) followed by Belize District (4.3%). Of the reported HIV infections in 2010, Belize District has the highest number with Corozal (Area C) reporting the lowest.

Figure 9: HIV Reported Infections, 2010



Source: Ministry of Health, 2011

4.2.3 Institutional and Political Characteristics

4.2.3.1 Leadership & Governance

All of the villages under consideration in this report, including indigenous Maya and Garifuna communities, have a duly elected Village Council as a form of local government. The Village Council Act, Chapter 88, Laws of Belize, establishes and empowers Village Councils to act on the good governance and improvement of their respective villages. Most village councils however remain weak and are challenged by limited capacity. They often do not have the financial resources or the leadership capacity to carry out their mandate. The Village Councils of each of the six districts of Belize are organized into District Association of Village Councils (DAVCO). Each of the six DAVCOs nominates two members to represent them at the national level to form the National Association of Village Councils (NAVCO). The purpose of NAVCO is to represent the interests of the DAVCOs and be a lobbying body on behalf of rural communities. With the recent election of new leadership at NAVCO there has been a revitalization of the organization.

There is the traditional Alcalde leadership in only three of the seven Mayan communities within the target area. These can be found in the villages of Bladen, San Pablo and Maya Mopan. Within the Alcalde system, there is a 1st Alcalde, a 2nd Alcalde and five police men who work along with the Alcalde. Unlike the Chairman of a Village Council, the Alcalde is considered a traditional leader and has the authority exercise judicial powers in minor offenses committed within his jurisdiction. Alcaldes and their team are elected every three years and are officially sworn in to their duties by a local Magistrate.

4.2.3.2 Community Infrastructure

All of the communities within the four project target areas have 24 hour access to electricity with the exception of San Pablo. Similarly, all have access to potable water through a rudimentary or upgraded water system. San Pablo similarly does not have access to potable running water and obtain water from the Swasey River for household use.

While a significant number of communities have immediate access to health facilities within their communities most do not. However, health facilities are available within one hour of their communities. Thirteen identified communities have health centers within the community. Of the thirteen one, is a regional hospital located in the capital, Belmopan. Furthermore, each of the other districts has a hospital which is accessible by all identified communities.

In terms of public safety and security eleven identified communities within the four target areas have a police station within the village. Generally, criminal activities are low in rural areas however some of the larger communities such as Ladyville are experiencing an increase in crime including gun violence. The actual number of health centers/hospitals and police stations with potentially affected communities are shown below in Table 6. It should be noted that the target

areas specified are not inclusive of all villages in each district and as such does not include all existing facilities with the entire district.

Table 7: Health Centers and Police Stations in Target Areas

Community Infrastructure	Area A (Greater Belize City)	Area B (West of Belmopan)	Area C (Corozal Area)	Area D (Independence Area)
Health Center/Hospital	1. Burrell Boom 2. Hattieville 3. Ladyville 4. Sandhill 5. Double Head Cabbage	1. Belmopan 2. Georgeville 3. San Antonio 4. Valley of Peace	1. San Narciso	1. Bella Vista 2. Independence 3. San Juan
Police Station	1. Bermudian Landing 2. Hattieville 3. Ladyville 4. Sandhill	1. Belmopan 2. Georgeville 3. San Antonio 4. Valley of Peace	None	1. Bella Vista 2. Independence 3. Santa Cruz

Source: Adapted from Ministry of Health, 2011.

4.2.3.3 Land Use & Land Rights

The land tenure systems in the project area are either national lands or private lands. Private lands are held either as leasehold or freehold interest. Leasehold is an interest in land that is provided for a certain number of years, usually 7 years, under stipulated conditions by the Minister responsible for lands whereas the freehold interest is accepted as absolute title and the term can be infinite. Private lands are generally surveyed with defined parameters regardless of size.

Communities generally have two broad areas of land use especially those heavily dependent on agriculture. A segment of community lands are allotted as residential areas surveyed into house lots and other segment dedicated to farming and cultivation. This distinction is very clear especially in the sugarcane farming communities of the northern area around Corozal (Area C). This reality can also be found in most of Area A, B and C. Even the communities of Areas D, where indigenous people are found, have subscribed to the national system of land tenure of individual private leases and properties. This includes the communities of Bladen and San Pablo where there are individual survey blocks of land held by community members.

It should be noted however that indigenous Maya communities in the Toledo District have received recognition of collective property at the Supreme Court ruling in 2007 in the *Aurelio Cal et. al vs. the Attorney General and the Minister of Natural Resources* case. The Alcaldes of Bladen and San Pablo in Area D are members of the Toledo Alcalde Association and are party to

the Association's claim for indigenous land rights. A further ruling of the Supreme Court in 2010 further extended recognition of indigenous traditional lands to all 38 Mayan villages. This ruling has been appealed by the Government of Belize at the Caribbean Court of Justice. Nonetheless, members of those two communities are holders of individual leases and titles under the national system of land tenure while at the same time are claiming collective rights to community lands. Works under the BCRIP are not expected to affect community lands or those lands that the Mayas of Toledo are laying claim to based on traditional use and occupancy. Consequently, the project is unlikely to prejudice the outcome of the land rights case before the Caribbean Court of Justice in any way, unless significant community lands are required for the project. This however is not expected to occur given the nature of the project and its focus on major roads only and these roads already exist.

5 CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION PROCESS

5.1 CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION

The World Bank's Policy (OP 4.10 - Indigenous Peoples) aims to contribute to the Bank's mission of poverty reduction and sustainable development by ensuring that the development process fully respects the dignity, human rights, economies, and cultures of Indigenous Peoples. For all projects that are proposed for Bank financing and affect Indigenous Peoples, the Bank requires that there are free, prior and informed consultations of potentially affected Indigenous Peoples. The World Bank recognizes that the identities and cultures of Indigenous Peoples are inextricably linked to the lands on which they live and the natural resources on which they depend. These distinct circumstances expose Indigenous Peoples to different types of risks and levels of impacts from development projects, including loss of identity, culture, and customary livelihoods, as well as exposure to disease.

In considering the objectives, approach of OP 4.10, and the multi-ethnic and culturally diverse nature of Belizean society, the consultation protocol here is designed to include and consider indigenous and non-indigenous communities alike. This consultation protocol is to ensure that indigenous peoples and other potentially affected communities, especially rural ones, impacted by the project will have an opportunity to provide their views and feedback in a culturally appropriate manner during project implementation as well as to ensure access to appropriate project benefits.

5.1.1 CONSULTATION PRINCIPLES

For the consultation process of communities to be participatory, inclusive and comply with the spirit of the World Bank's OP 4.10, it is required that the engagement of communities is based on the principles of free, prior, and informed consultation. It must also be culturally appropriate. Free, prior and informed consultation is defined as follows:

- Free – the engagement should be free of coercion, corruption, interference and external pressures. Community members should have the opportunity to participate regardless of gender, age or socio-economic status.
- Prior – the engagement should be during the design phase and prior to the execution of any project or sub-project activities that may affect them. Times of engagement should be established in advance.
- Informed – information sharing during consultation should be timely, sufficient, and accessible and should cover the potential impacts of the project whether positive or adverse.

- Consultation - the consultation process is to be carried through in good faith, is meaningful and that it meets the conditions set out by the consultation principles, and adheres to established protocol.
- Culturally appropriate – the process must ensure that information is provided in the appropriate language, traditional and customary leadership and decision-making processes are respected and seek to maximize community input into the process regardless of age or gender.

5.2 CONSULTATION PROTOCOL

5.2.1 Role of Local Leadership

All communities identified in this assessment have established systems of leadership and these should be used when undertaking consultations with communities during the implementation phase of the project. For those indigenous communities that have an Alcalde, they too must be informed and engaged in conjunction with their Village Councils as required by the nature of the sub-projects. The Toledo Alcalde Association (TAA) must be consulted in the event that subproject activities affect the communities of Bladen and San Pablo. In the case of Belmopan, being an officially designated city, the City Council is to be engaged. The leaders in these positions are to be approached first and all arrangements for meetings are to be done through them. It should be noted that in some communities there are informal leaders that can be engaged to assist with the consultation process.

5.2.2 Role of Rural Community Development Officers

The Ministry of Labour, Local Government, Rural Development and Immigration (MLLGRDI) has a Rural Development Unit that has Rural Community Development Officers (RCDO) assigned to work with all rural communities and their village councils. The RCDOs can play an invaluable role in liaising with communities, village councils and the project. Through their regular engagement with village councils, they have firsthand information on challenges and opportunities facing the local communities and are often aware of whom the local informal leaders are. They can be called upon to assist with planning and facilitating meetings given their mandate. This relationship will need to be formalized between the project and the MLLGRDI.

5.2.3 Holding Consultation Meetings

Once there are preliminary designs of sub-project activities, a meeting should be called with all potentially affected communities. These consultations meetings can be held separately in each affected community along the target road segments or meetings can be held in clusters of

affected communities represented by their village councils. Meetings called within any community should be open to the public. RCDOs should be present at these meetings. The purpose of the first meeting is to be mainly informational and to gain feedback on potential community issues and concerns. Where there are direct impacts to be realized, persons who are likely to be affected should be called to a follow up meeting and the impacts such as land appropriation, dislocation or displacement are to be discussed then. It is important for project officers to already have a preliminary list of those that are likely to be affected as well as types of properties to be affected. The meeting should cover the process of notification, compensation and grievance redress.

In carrying out the relevant consultation meetings the following steps should be observed:

- a. Identify community leaders and notify RCDOs of planned meeting.
- b. Contact formal community leaders and provide the notice of meeting to them. When providing notice of meeting, a rationale for the meeting should be provided and the importance of having their participation emphasized. Community leaders get meeting requests all the time and so it is important to help them to distinguish the purpose of calling them together. If leaders are clear on why the meeting should be held, it helps to motivate them to call on others to attend.
- c. The notice of meeting should be made a minimum of 1 calendar week prior to date of the meeting. Use of the media to provide notice of meetings is encouraged.
- d. Undertaking activities including consultations within communities without the notification of community leaders is considered disrespectful by both indigenous and non-indigenous communities in Belize. When this occurs it can lead to the process being stalled or opposed outright by community leaders who often have considerable influence.

5.2.4 Provide Relevant Information

The communities to be affected by the project must be provided with all relevant information about the project activities in a culturally appropriate manner at each stage of its implementation. The information to be provided must include details of subproject activities, potential positive and negative impacts, role and participation of community members, mitigation measures, and grievance redress mechanism. The information should be provided during consultations meetings prior to the initiation of works and in a format that is accessible to community members. This means that the information should be concise and technical terminology used in project documents and other documentation must be simplified.

5.2.5 Use Appropriate Consultation Methods

The methods used to convey information and engage community members in consultation should be done using appropriate methods. This includes, firstly, the use of the most appropriate language. In Area C (Corozal Area) and Area B (West of Belmopan) it is expected that

presentations and meetings will be done in Spanish. It may be necessary to identify a translator as the primary language used to communicate in these areas is Spanish. Similarly, Area D (Independence Area) it would be best to communicate in the indigenous language. In most cases, there are community members who are able to translate between the indigenous languages or Spanish and English. In the affected Garifuna community, if community members wish to express themselves in their local language, this should be accommodated.

When holding meetings the sessions should be participatory and should use formats that take advantage of various learning styles and incorporate adult learning principles. The information being provided should be delivered in an objective format. It is reasonable to expect a delay in getting a response from participants if the topics being discussed are being shared with them for the first time. If follow-up meetings are necessary then it should be established who to communicate with.

Rural communities in Belize and especially indigenous communities have strong cultural practices that distinguish them either individually or as a collective. These traditions and practices are important aspects of community life. They also help to shape and perpetuate their collective identities and as such must be respected. One of the main ways indigenous people and rural communities manifest and express their culture is through community gatherings and celebrations. These events normally engage the entire community and as such focus on other activities are often deferred. For the consultations to ensure maximum participation while respecting their culture it is important to consider this. No consultation activities arranged around these times.

5.2.6 Planning Meeting Logistics

In carry out consultation activities that aim to maximize participation, it is important that the following critical aspects of logistics be observed.

In collaboration with RCDOs and Village Council Chairperson, the most appropriate times for meetings should be identified in advance. Experience has shown that rural residents are likely to be available for meetings in the evenings and on weekends though meetings during the work day are sometimes possible. It is also important to identify an appropriate venue. The locations of the meetings must be the most suitable but also the most neutral. Some locations in the communities are associated with special interests groups and selecting such a location may deter some from attending. The location should also allow maximum participation from those who attend. A community center usually provides the most suitable location in rural communities.

5.2.7 Gender Considerations

Generally, most of the community leaders are men and therefore calling a meeting of community representatives are likely to have limited gender equitable participation. For instance, it is not

common for indigenous women to participate in public meetings in their communities. This often limits participation from indigenous women. On the other hand, in some Area A communities, women are the ones who attend community meetings mostly but these are exceptions when looking at all four project target areas. Nonetheless, some of the project affected persons may be women and the project will need to ensure that they are not excluded from consultation activities. In order to ensure their participation in the implementation process, the following points should be considered:

- a. Hold meetings separately with women to ensure their participation where necessary;
- b. Consider conducting home visits to conduct interviews or surveys to reach women who are not able to attend a community meeting;
- c. When inviting to meetings, recognize the care-giving role of women;
- d. When setting up meetings, identify a time that is like to ensure maximum participation from both men and women;
- e. Project officers should be prepared to discuss the role of women in project implementation activities and how they may benefit.

6 POTENTIAL SOCIAL IMPACTS

Social impacts can be defined as the consequences to people of any proposed action that changes the way they live, work, relate to one another, organize themselves and function as individuals and members of society. This definition includes social-psychological changes, for example to people's values, attitudes and perceptions of themselves and their community and environment. Social impacts are the 'people impacts' of development actions. Social impact assessments focus on the human dimension of environments, and seek to identify the impacts on people who benefits and who loses. A social impact assessment can help to ensure that the needs and voices of diverse groups and people in a community are taken into account.

One of the unique features of the BCRIP is that it focuses on road infrastructure that is already in place. The primary road networks under consideration especially are the main highways of the country. Some of the roads within the target areas are also recently constructed or upgraded. This feature significantly reduces the potential negative impacts of the project. Nonetheless, some of the activities typically associated with road construction and rehabilitation that need to be considered include:

- a. Establishment of construction camps;
- b. Construction of temporary/permanent accommodation;
- c. Construction of workshops;
- d. Transportation of construction materials and equipment;
- e. Recruitment of the labor force;
- f. Earthworks;
- g. Construction of detours and access routes;
- h. Quarries, borrow pits and materials extraction;
- i. Crushing and screening of materials;
- j. Screening, mixing, and stockpiling of aggregates;
- k. Heating of bitumen and aggregates separately and then mixing in asphalt plant;
- l. Transportation of asphaltic concrete mixes to the road for laying using paver;
- m. Construction of drainage structures, e.g. culverts, bridges;
- n. Pavement Construction; and
- o. Construction of erosion protection works

These activities have various degrees of impacts on both the biophysical and human environment. This Social Assessment report includes a section on mitigation measures that is intended to guide implementation in avoiding impacts and mitigating those, which are not avoidable.

The tables in the section below present a list of potential positive and adverse impacts that are likely to occur from the implementation of the project. The list does not provide a list of all potential impacts but rather attempts to highlight the most likely and main impacts. The impacts are shown by multiple social factors which are broken down into several variables. The type of impact whether Direct (D), Indirect (I) or Cumulative (C) is shown. The phase of the project in which it is likely to occur is also shown. These phases considered are Planning (P), Implementation (I), and Operational (O).

6.1 POTENTIAL POSITIVE IMPACTS

6.1.1 Factor 1 - Population Characteristics

Variable	Positive	Type of Impact	Phase
1. Population Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No significant change in population of target areas anticipated as a consequence of project. 	NA	NA
2. Ethnic and Racial Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No significant change in ethnic and racial distribution in target areas anticipated as a consequence of project. 	NA	NA

6.1.2 Factor 2 – Livelihoods and Family

Variable	Positive	Type of Impact	Phase
1. Income and Livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased employment opportunities. ▪ Skills transfer and training during road works. ▪ Increase in trade opportunities. ▪ Reduced vulnerability of livelihoods and household income s. 	D, I D I	I, O I I, O
2. Land and other Properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in value of real estate. ▪ Increase opportunities to rent properties for 	D D	I, O I

	temporary workers.		
3. Gender Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased indirect economic opportunities (by selling food to work crews, rent, etc.). ▪ Increase job opportunities for women and youth. 	I	I

6.1.3 Factor 3 - Lifestyle and Well-being

Variable	Positive	Type of Impact	Phase
1. Risk, Safety and Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduced need for students and residents to cross flooded areas to get to school and work. ▪ Reduced vulnerability of households to natural disasters. 	D I	O O
2. Psycho-social well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduced anxiety from risk and vulnerability of livelihoods. 	C	O

6.1.4 Factor 4 - Political and Institutional Resources

Variable	Positive	Type of Impact	Phase
1. Trust in political and social institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trust in government institutions is enhanced by addressing community infrastructure needs. 	I, C	P, I, O
2. Local/National Linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social and economic linkages between rural and urban centres improved. 	C	O
3. Leadership Capability and Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stronger recognition of role of Village Councils in development activities. 	I	P, I

6.1.5 Factor 5 - Community Resources

Variable	Positive	Type of Impact	Phase
1. Community Infrastructure	▪ Improved transport system and accessibility.	D	O
	▪ Improved drainage within and around communities.	D, I	O

6.2 POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACTS

6.2.1 Factor 1 - Population Characteristics

Variable	Negative	Type of Impact	Phases
1. Population Change	▪ No significant change in population of target areas anticipated as a consequence of project.	NA	NA
2. Ethnic and Racial Distribution	▪ No significant change in ethnic and racial distribution in target areas anticipated as a consequence of project.	NA	NA
3. Influx/Outflows of temporary workers	▪ Disruption of social order by migrant work crews coming from diverse cultural and geographic backgrounds.	D	I

6.2.2 Factor 2 - Individual and Household Livelihoods

Variable	Negative	Type of Impact	Phase
1. Displacement and Relocation	▪ Resettlement of persons encroaching on roads reserves.	D	I, O
2. Income and Livelihood	▪ Discrimination in employment opportunities for locals.	D	I
3. Land and other Properties	▪ Loss of land and other properties (buildings, fences, driveways,	D	I

	<p>signs etc.) from appropriation, removal, acquisition and demolition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disruption of access to properties from main road. ▪ Moving into area near primary and secondary roads to capitalize on compensation opportunities under project. 	D D, I	I P
4. Gender Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gender disparities (economic, political power, social benefits) are further entrenched. 	I	I

6.2.3 Factor 3 - Lifestyle and Well-being

Variable	Negative	Type of Impact	Phase
1. Acquaintanceship and Interpersonal Networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Widening of socio-economic disparities and social differences. 	I	I, O
2. Risk, Safety and Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dust and air pollution from road works. ▪ Noise pollution from heavy machinery and equipment. ▪ Open borrow pits and quarries can threaten safety of small livestock and children. ▪ Increased chances of work-related accidents, injuries and illnesses. ▪ Temporary and migrant workers can facilitate the transmission of diseases. ▪ Increase in road traffic accidents from high speeds and high traffic volume. 	D D D D, I D, I	I I I, O I I O

3. Psycho-social well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased annoyance and stress reaction resulting from road works. 	D, I	I

6.2.4 Factor 4 - Political and Institutional Resources

Variable	Negative	Type of Impact	Phase
1. Trust in political and social institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resentment of authorities from land acquisition or displacement actions. 	D	I

6.2.5 Factor 5 - Community Resources

Variable	Negative	Type of Impact	Phase
2. Cultural, Historical and Archeological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disturbances caused to historical and archaeological sites arising from road works. 	D	I
3. Community Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disruption of services from public utilities (light and water) from necessary relocation. ▪ Delays in transportation due to disruption of traffic flow from works being carried out. 	D D	I

7 MITIGATION MEASURES AND BENEFITS

The section presents mitigation measures for potential negative impacts that can be experienced by communities with the project's zone of influence including both indigenous and non-indigenous communities alike. The measures are shown in relation to the significance of the impacts expected. The significance of the impacts has to do with its level of impact: H (High), L (Low, M (Moderate).

7.1.1 Factor 1 - Population Characteristics

Variable	Negative	Significance	Measures
1. Influx/Outflows of temporary workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Disruption of social order by migrant work crews coming from diverse cultural and geographic backgrounds.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Encourage village councils and residents to use the grievance mechanism to assess issues relating to work crews behaviours.▪ The contractor will be required to assist in investigating and addressing related grievances expeditiously.

7.1.2 Factor 2 - Household & Livelihoods

Variable	Negative	Significance	Measures
1. Displacement and Relocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Resettlement of persons encroaching on roads reserves.	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Implement measures specified in the Involuntary Resettlement Framework.▪ Ensure that legally entitled rights are fully respected in any incidence of displacement and relocation.
2. Income and Livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Discrimination in employment opportunities for locals.	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ While not legally obligatory, encourage contractors to hire local residents in consultation with village councils especially unskilled and semi-skilled work.▪ Encourage contractors to ensure gender equity in hiring practices.
3. Land and other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Loss of land and other	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Implement measures specified in the Involuntary

Properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ properties (buildings, fences, driveways, signs etc.) from appropriation, removal, acquisition and demolition. ▪ Disruption of access to properties from main road. ▪ Moving into area near primary and secondary roads to capitalize on compensation opportunities under project. 		<p>Resettlement Framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that legally entitled rights are fully respected in any incidence of displacement and relocation. ▪ Disruption of access to properties should be minimized as much as possible. Where not possible ensure that property owners are given at least a week's notice of any such disruption. ▪ The MOWT will need to undertake routine and strict surveillance of roads within target areas. ▪ Enlist the support of local government authorities to dissuade persons from encroaching on road reserves.
4. Gender Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gender disparities (economic, political power, social benefits) are further entrenched. 	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage contractors to ensure gender equity in hiring practices. ▪ Ensure that there is gender-equitable participation in consultation meetings and activities.

7.1.3 Area 3 - Lifestyle and Well-being

Variable	Negative	Significance	Measures
4. Acquaintanceship and Interpersonal Networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Widening of socio-economic disparities and social differences from wealthy and land speculators. 	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discuss with community leaders and residents of potential appreciation of real estate value and any sale of land to outsiders is a private matter driven by market forces but one that should be carefully considered prior.
5. Risk, Safety and Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dust and air pollution from road works. ▪ Noise pollution from heavy machinery and equipment. ▪ Open borrow pits and quarries can threaten safety of small livestock and children. ▪ Increased chances of work-related accidents, injuries 	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water active dusty construction areas and major access roads on a set schedule, particularly in the dry season. ▪ Vehicles delivering soil materials are to be covered to reduce spills and windblown dust. ▪ Construction materials storage areas and mixing plants will be sited away from residences and schools, and in a down wind direction. ▪ Contractors to observe all statutory regulations relating to traffic management. ▪ Contractors are to be obligated to observe all

	<p>and illnesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Temporary and migrant workers can facilitate the transmission of diseases. ▪ Increase in road traffic accidents from high speeds and high traffic volume. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ occupational, health and safety standards. ▪ Minimize night time works and carry out construction work mostly during the day. ▪ Quarry and borrow areas are to be cordoned off and clearly marked. ▪ Borrow pits are to be properly rehabilitated and decommissioned. ▪ Children are to be strictly forbidden near work sites. ▪ Ensure that there are road signs that are highly visible both day and night during construction period. ▪ Contractors must be asked to work with local health authorities in providing health promotion information especially relating to sexually transmitted infections and in the provision of condoms in appropriate locations.
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7.1.4 Area 4 – Political and Institutional Resources

Variable	Negative	Significance	Measures
2. Trust in political and social institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resentment of authorities from land acquisition or displacement actions. ▪ Undermining of local authority through lack of engagement and consultation by project and contractors. 	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that due process is followed in addressing matters of land acquisition and displacement. ▪ Implement measures specified in the Involuntary Resettlement Framework. ▪ Ensure that Village Councils and Alcaldes are informed and kept up to date on project implementation. ▪ Include Village Councils and Alcaldes in addressing issues of displacement and relocation.

7.1.5 Area 5 – Community Resources

Variable	Negative	Significance	Measures
2. Cultural, Historical and Archeological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disturbances caused to historical and archaeological sites arising from road works.⁶ 	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that contractors have all necessary permits, licences for mining and quarrying. ▪ Ensure that contractors source materials from legitimate mines and quarries. ▪ Works site supervisor includes visits to quarries in and mines during regular inspection visits. ▪ Report all potential historic and archaeological findings to the Institute of Archaeology.
3. Community Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disruption of services from public utilities (light and water) from necessary relocation. ▪ Delays in transportation due to disruption of traffic flow from works being carried out. 	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide notice to residents prior to any interruption of services from public utilities. ▪ Ensure that is mandatory traffic management and control throughout construction period.

⁶ See BCRIP's environmental management framework that includes a cultural heritage management plan.

8 CONCLUSION

The communities that are within the project's zone of influence vary greatly from one area to another however they are mostly rural communities. Given that the road networks to be addressed under the project are already in place there is no significant concern shared as they have experience already with road works on the scale that is being anticipated. Given that the potentially affected communities are mostly rural, their local economies and livelihoods are based both on the wage economy supplemented by some subsistence farming. Land tenure and land use in the target areas are clear and based on the national land tenure system even in those considered indigenous communities. There are obvious cultural and ethnic differences among the target areas and these of course have a bearing on their social organization and cultural practices. At the governance level all utilize the village council system including two indigenous Maya communities who also maintain the traditional Alcalde system.

Even though most of the potentially affected communities are located adjacent to and even participate in major national agro-industries they still experience a high rate of poverty. On the other hand there is good access to public services including social services such as primary education and primary healthcare. Most of the potential impacts are expected to occur during implementation and construction and will likely be felt mostly at the individual and household level. Loss of property through displacements for those occupying road reserves and road safety are likely to be among the main adverse impacts. Most of the encroachments on road reserves are in Area A (Greater Belize City Area). Positive impacts are likely to be realized through employment opportunities. A more detailed analysis of communities, social impacts and participation plan will need to be developed once specific subprojects have been identified in the target areas. Separate community consultations will need to be held for this purpose.

Consultations held for this assessment with community representatives and leaders has demonstrated support for the project however this comes with the expectation that they will be kept informed and will be involved in the implementation process at various levels and intervals. The social impacts of the project will be manageable and project is socially feasible. The potentially affected communities including indigenous community stand to gain long-term from upgrades to the road networks on which much of their livelihoods depend.

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ANNEXES

ANNEX 1 - LIST OF PERSONS/STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

Interview with MOWT – 30th January, 2013

1. Mr. Lennox Bradley, Chief Engineer, MOWT

Consultation Meeting With DAVCO and Rural Development - 18th February, 2014

1. Mr. Antoine Devonshire, Project Coordinator, BSIF, 822 0508
2. Mr. Irving Thimbriel, Ministry of Works, 620 3189, irvingthimbriel@yahoo.co.uk
3. Miss Yolanda Molina, President, DAVCO, Cayo District, 605 5135
4. Mr. Herman Castillo, Sr. Valuation Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture, 626 1989, cas.values@yahoo.com
5. Mr. Justo Augustine, Chairman, DAVCO, Stann Creek District, 660 1687
6. Mr. Marion Lewis, Rural Development Officer, 621 4273
7. Mr. Santiago Pop, Rural Development Officer, Stann Creek District, 620 2481
8. Miss Cordelia Forman, Rural Development Officer, 622 1990
9. Mr. Evan Dakers, Social Specialist, BMDP/SIF, 622 4365
10. Miss Jacqueline Franklin, Rural Development Officer, 623 8218
11. Miss Ruth Staine Dawson, President, NAVCO, Belize District, 610 1719

Focus Group Meeting with Indigenous Community Leaders – 25th February, 2014

1. Mr. Primitivo Teul, Chairman, Maya Mopan Village Council, Stann Creek, 661-2043
2. Mr. Maximiliano Makin, Chairman, San Pablo Village Council, Stann Creek, 651-0815
3. Mr. Antonio Shal, Chairman, Santa Rosa Village Council, Stann Creek, 634-5281

Validation Meeting with DAVCO and Rural Development – 26th March, 2014

1. Mr. Antoine Devonshire, Project Coordinator, BSIF, 822 0508
2. Mr. Irving Thimbriel, Ministry of Works, 620 3189, irvingthimbriel@yahoo.co.uk
3. Miss Yolanda Molina, President, DAVCO, Cayo District, 605 5135
4. Mr. Herman Castillo, Sr. Valuation Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture, 626 1989, cas.values@yahoo.com

5. Mr. Justo Augustine, Chairman, DAVCO, Stann Creek District, 660 1687
6. Mr. Marion Lewis, Rural Development Officer, 621 4273
7. Mr. Santiago Pop, Rural Development Officer, Stann Creek District, 620 2481
8. Miss Cordelia Forman, Rural Development Officer, 622 1990
9. Mr. Evan Dakers, Social Specialist, BMDP/SIF, 622 4365
10. Miss Jacqueline Franklin, Rural Development Officer, 623 8218
11. Miss Ruth Staine Dawson, President, NAVCO, Belize District, 610 1719
12. Mr. William Lamb Jr., Executive Director, BSIF.

Validation Meeting with Indigenous Community Leaders – 29th March, 2014

1. Mr. Maximiliano Makin, Chairman, San Pablo Village Council, Stann Creek, 651-0815
2. Mr. Antonio Shal, Chairman, Santa Rosa Village Council, Stann Creek, 634-5281

ANNEX 2 – PHOTOGRAPHS



Southern Highway in Area D is generally free from encroachments.



Banana farms adjacent to highway but away from road reserve.



Consultation meeting with DAVCO and other stakeholders.