

El Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo
y
El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores – D G C S.
del Gobierno de Italia

PRODERE

Misión Interagencial de Identificación de los Programas
a nivel Centroamericano



Sub-Programa de Belize

Centroamérica, 1o de Noviembre al 14 de Diciembre de 1988

LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING

The Refugees, Displaced and Repatriates Mission (PRODERE) visited Belize from the 16th to the 18th of November and, from 8th to 12th December 1988. The Mission acted in accordance with guidelines provided by the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Belize, in order to identify jointly with the Government of Belize alternative ways of assisting the target population.

The Mission held several meetings with Government Authorities, local organizations and families eligible to participate in the Program. All meetings were designed to determine policy and technical criteria for the identification of a) the project area, b) project activities in support of the target population c) a framework Project implementation. The Mission's tasks were accomplished within the framework established by development priorities and policies of the Government of Belize, the philosophy and objectives of PRODERE and the needs of the program beneficiaries

The results and conclusions of the Mission are as follows:

1. PROJECT AREAS:

1.1 The geographical area selected for implementing the PRODERE projects is Cayo District and, more precisely, the District Sub-divisions of Belmopan and Cayo Rural. According to the latest Census, Cayo District has a total population of 22,837 and a territory of 2,061 square miles. The District Sub-division selected for project implementation has a population of 14,736 inhabitants and a territory of 1,056 square miles. In terms of refugee population, Cayo district leads all other districts in the country : out of a total legally recognized population of 1,037 persons and an undetermined number of illegal aliens, 75% are probably concentrated in Cayo District, 12% are located in the District of Orange Walk, 6% are in Belize District and the remaining 7% are living mostly in the Districts of Stann Creek and Toledo. According to knowledgeable sources, there is a significant population of illegal aliens in Belize, some of which could be eligible for "refugee status".

1.2 Cayo District is located in the central part of the country, with no coastal area; it borders with Guatemala to the west, with the Districts of Orange Walk and Belize to the north and north east, respectively; and with the Districts of Stann Creek and Toledo to the east and south east. Only a small portion of the district is covered with mangrove swamps, as are the coastal plains; thus a relatively high proportion of the territory has agricultural potential. From east to west, along Cayo District the land rises gradually towards the interior. The Maya Mountains and the Cockscombs are located to the south and south east of the District. Furthermore, Cayo district includes to the east the Mountain Pine Ridge, a formation ranging from 305 to 914 meters above sea level. The most important limitation for the development of the area is the lack of a sufficiently developed infrastructure and the relatively high cost of building roads and clearing the land.

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3.

- d. Approximately 300 acres of potentially urban land located in the outskirts of Belmopan, owned by the Government of Belize through RECONDEV. The lands are currently occupied by refugees and low income Belizean families, with one year renewable leases. Families were advised that the lands were part of the expansion plans of the city of Belmopan and, thus they should not build permanent structures and should be ready to move out on a three months previous notice. These lands are a potential site for the implementation of the Project insofar as some families have become inserted into the urban economy of the capital city and prefer to remain in this location. For these urban oriented families living in the area of Belmopan and vicinities and preferring to be part of the urban expansion plans of the city, the project contemplates the provision of services in quantities and qualities adequate to the urban standards and the levels available to the urban standards and the levels available to the national population.

2. TARGET POPULATION OF PRODERE

- 2.1 The direct and immediate beneficiaries of the Programme will be, approximately, 332 families representing a population of 1,992 persons. Currently, these families are living in the outskirts of the capital city, Belmopan, and along the Hummingbird Highway.

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3. ACTIVITIES AND WORK GUIDELINES

PRODERE is a technical cooperation program that aims at identifying and supporting technically feasible, development oriented and participatory solutions to the problems faced by the refugee and the low income national populations defined as targets. Accordingly, and taking into account the specific characteristics of the participants and the areas selected, the following activities and work guidelines have been defined:

3.1 Support for the relocation of families and their final insertion into the country's socio-economic life: given the present location of the target population, it is necessary to relocate those families that have an agricultural background and derive their income and/or means of subsistence from agricultural activities. Before the initiation of the Project, a survey will be carried out to identify these families. Furthermore, the survey shall try to establish the preferences and/or opinions of the target population. To facilitate the relocation of the families with agricultural vocation, the Program shall provide them with a basic kit of agricultural tools and houseware. In accordance with the Government of Belize and UNHCR, PRODERE shall provide assistance to those alien families that are eligible for "refugee status" but are currently in an illegal situation. As part of this set of activities, transportation will be provided to the relocated families and, also, assistance to dismantle their homes, save those materials that are potentially reusable and transport them to the new site. Some of the target population currently living in the surrounding areas of Belmopan will remain there; however, given the Master Plan for the expansion of the capital city and the guidelines provided by RECONDEV, their houses may have to be relocated to fit into the projected settlement. In this situation, the Program shall also provide assistance.

3.2 Revolving Fund for the support of income and employment generating projects: in relation with these activities, financial support shall be given in the form of loans for implementing agricultural activities, cattle raising, services, commercial activities and handicraft production. The support will be available to both the refugee and the Belizean population. An effort will be made to support projects or activities that benefit women, that involve organized groups, such as cooperatives; and finally projects that contribute significantly to the integration of the refugee population into the local economy and society.

3.3 Revolving Fund for house Improvement and Construction: loans in building materials will be provided to the families, both relocated and those that remain in Belmopan. The financial conditions of such loans will be determined according to the families socio-economic condition.

As a rule the house improvement and construction will be carried out by self-help and/or mutual help methods. Thus, only as an exception will the families receive loans to pay for labour.

For practical reasons, the Project will leave to each family the selection of designs and construction techniques; only in the case of families remaining in the area of the capital city support and technical advice will be provided to ensure that construction techniques fulfill established terms and regulations.

Subject to further analysis, the Programme will use those construction techniques currently in use by low income families of Belize.

3.4 Support for the improvement of community services and infrastructure: this component of the Project is aimed at both the families that are relocated and those that remain in the vicinities of Belmopan. Support will be granted not to families but to organized communities; Whenever possible they will assume the responsibility for repayment on a collective basis.

It is not possible or necessary to make a comprehensive list of the different works that will be supported. For the sake of illustration some examples could be mentioned: sewerage or latrine systems, water distribution networks, electricity and public lighting, flood control mechanisms and improvement to internal roads and pedestrian ways.

Granting this support to communities has the double objective of, on the one hand contributing to the improvement of living conditions in these settlements and, on the other, to support the community organization and development process.

3.5 Training: all activities will be supported by training of the participants. These activities will be designed and organized in such a way as to facilitate the refugee population integration process into the Belizean society and economy; they would also enable or empower the individuals, families and communities to solve the following problems:

- Identification of community needs and Project formulation.
- Home improvement and construction.

- Obtaining construction permits, when required.
- Improvement of public services
- Project administration
- Community organization
- Organization and administration of cooperatives and small businesses

3.6 Institutional Development: the requirements in this area will have to be established in detail in the nearby future within the process of formulation. Nevertheless, some initial requirements can be already identified: in the first place, the Office of Refugees, RECONDEV, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Immigration Department will require support to strengthen their administrative and executive capacity in the area in which the project will be implemented.

4. NATIONAL COUNTERPART INSTITUTION

4.- The responsible national organization will be the Immigration Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; this institution will, from the perspective of the Government of Belize, be responsible for the overall orientation and planning of the Programme, its supervision and evaluation.

4.2 Furthermore, the Department of Immigration will be responsible for creating, if the need arises appropriate inter-institutional coordination mechanisms to assure efficient and effective Programme functioning.

5.- ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

5.1 PRODERE is, fundamentally, a technical cooperation programme for Central America, funded by the Italian Government in coordination with different Agencies of the United Nations, namely: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Food Programme (WFP), PAHO/WHO and UNICEF.

5.2 On behalf of UNDP the Programme shall have a National Director, who will be responsible for the implementation of the Programme. On behalf of the Government of Belize, the programme shall have a National Coordinator appointed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Decision concerning the implementation of the Programme will be taken jointly.

6.- RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNDP AND THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

6.1 To ensure the success of the Programme and the performance of activities relevant to the project, the Government of Belize shall provide for the strengthening of the different institutions' administrative and executive capacity in the areas selected for project implementation. Provisions will be taken, particularly, with respect to human resources.

6.2 The Government of Belize shall ensure that all state institutions proceed with the necessary expediency and efficiency in matters related to PRODERE, implementation and to the solution of problems affecting the target population; particularly important is the effort to provide the appropriate documentation for all the qualifying alien population located in the areas selected for project implementation, in accordance with the relevant laws and policies.

6.3 Both the Government of Belize and UNDP shall be responsible for the implementation of the Programme in ways that are efficient and cost-effective. In this respect, it is their joint responsibility to design and operate mechanisms that ensure the real participation of the target population in the identification of problems and solutions.

6.4 Both the Government and UNDP shall jointly be responsible for making the necessary decisions to allocate the highest percentage of the funds for activities that will directly benefit the target population and will reduce to a minimum the allocations for the construction of new infrastructure.

6.5 Both the Government and UNDP shall take necessary provisions to ensure that the relocation of families and their final insertion into the economic and social life of the country are made in accordance with the preferences of the families, the general laws of the country and the stated goal of building in and around Belmopan and acceptable community to all concerned.

6.6 The Government of Italy, through the United Nations System, shall provide the necessary financing to cover all materials and expenses of the Programme up to a total amount of U.S.\$ 1,900,000. Such contribution represents a donation. The execution of the Programme will be the responsibility of UNDP.

6.7 The Government of Belize is in agreement with the heretofore description of responsibilities of UNDP and the Government, provided that all the above (6.1-6.6) shall be consistent with the resources of the Government and the Immigration and Labour Policies of the Government.

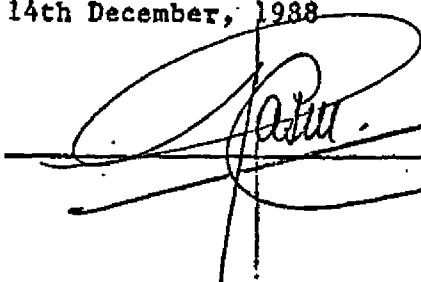

FOR
GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

NAME: Mrs. Yvonne Hyde
TITLE: Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Economic Development
PLACE: Belmopan
DATE: 13th December, 1988

SIGN: 

FOR
U.N.D.P.

NAME: Mr. Gonzalo Perez del Castillo
TITLE: Resident Representative
El Salvador/Belize
PLACE: San Salvador
DATE: 14th December, 1988

SIGN:  

BELIZE

PRESUPUESTO TENTATIVO (en dolares de Estados Unidos)

1. AREA : CAYO DISTRICT

Rubros -----	Montos -----
1. Promoción y organización de la comunidad (inserción laboral)	100,000
2. Apoyo a sector agro-pecuario	200,000
3. Alfabetización y educación	100,000
4. Capacitación para el trabajo	57,600
5. Créditos y proyectos productivos	290,000
6. Inversión de capital	
7. Salud y Bienestar Social	250,000
8. Vivienda e infraestructura	300,000
9. Asistencia legal y apoyo actividades PRODERE	100,000
10. Apoyo construcción caminos	100,000
11. Cooperación Técnica	502,400
TOTAL	2,000,000 -----