Skills to Access the Green Economy

THE INTERVENTION, AT A GLANCE

Due to its high dependence on tourism, Belize’s economy was severely impacted by COVID-19. In order to have a greener, more resilient, sustainable, and job-generating economy, the country is committed to increase the share of electricity generated from renewable energy sources. This intervention will train Belize’s workforce to be employable for renewable energy jobs and will provide the foundation to enable the country to achieve its goals.

WHAT IS THE CONTEXT?

Belize was one of the world’s tourism-dependent economies most severely impacted by COVID-19. The pandemic arrived at a time when the country was already in recession due to drought and a general decrease in tourism in 2019. According to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), tourism constitutes 39% of the country’s GDP and is responsible for 40% of employment and 42% of total exports. In addition, Belize has committed to mitigating climate change and increasing the proportion of electricity which is generated from renewable energy sources, thus, requiring specialists capable of working on the installation, operation, and maintenance of such renewable energy infrastructure. According to a recent IDB study, the energy sector is one with the highest potential to create jobs during this energy transition process.

WHAT DOES THE INTERVENTION CONSIST OF?

• Creating and launching a renewable energy program in the Belize City ITVET. This program will be launched in September 2022.
• Promoting Belize as an innovation lab in the development of green energy skills for the English-speaking Caribbean.

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INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS
• First modern course in the country that focuses on skill development for jobs aligned with Belize’s need to move towards a greener, more resilient, and sustainable economy.
• First course that uses inquiry and problem-based learning in TVET.
• Pilot evaluation of pedagogical practices adapted to semi-distance technical education.

PARTNERS
Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MoECST) of Belize, Solar Energy Solutions Belize (SESB), Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), and other private sector partners.

RELATED PROJECTS
Education Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) II (BL-L1030).
WHO DOES WHAT?

Private sector partners will continually validate the courses, ensuring courses alignment with their needs, and offering in-company training opportunities.

- The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology (MoECST) will implement and incorporate the program as part of its regular course offerings.
- Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) will develop and implement the 2-year renewable energy program, generating capacities within the ITVET and the MoECST to ensure the continuity of the course in the future.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED RESULTS?

- Course, curricula, and pedagogical materials developed for the new course.
- First cohort of 40 students graduated with higher employability prospects.
- Fully developed digital platform, with focus on teaching skills for the green economy (renewable energy sources and energy efficiency), directed to the English-speaking Caribbean.
- Learning and teaching quality assessment, through a qualitative evaluation of the program based on detailed in-classroom observations.
- ITVET and MoECST ready to continue offering the renewable energy program and escalate it to other ITVETs in Belize and other, more advanced, programs.

WHY IS THIS INTERVENTION RELEVANT?

This intervention offers the opportunity to develop and implement a modern training program in a small economy such as Belize and to transform the national ecosystem of skill formation to better align with the country’s needs and commitments. Additionally, it will adapt an evaluation methodology based on classroom observations – that has only been carried out in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) – to the field of skills for work; thus, filling the gap in terms of evaluation of the quality of education provided and assessment of learning in TVET.