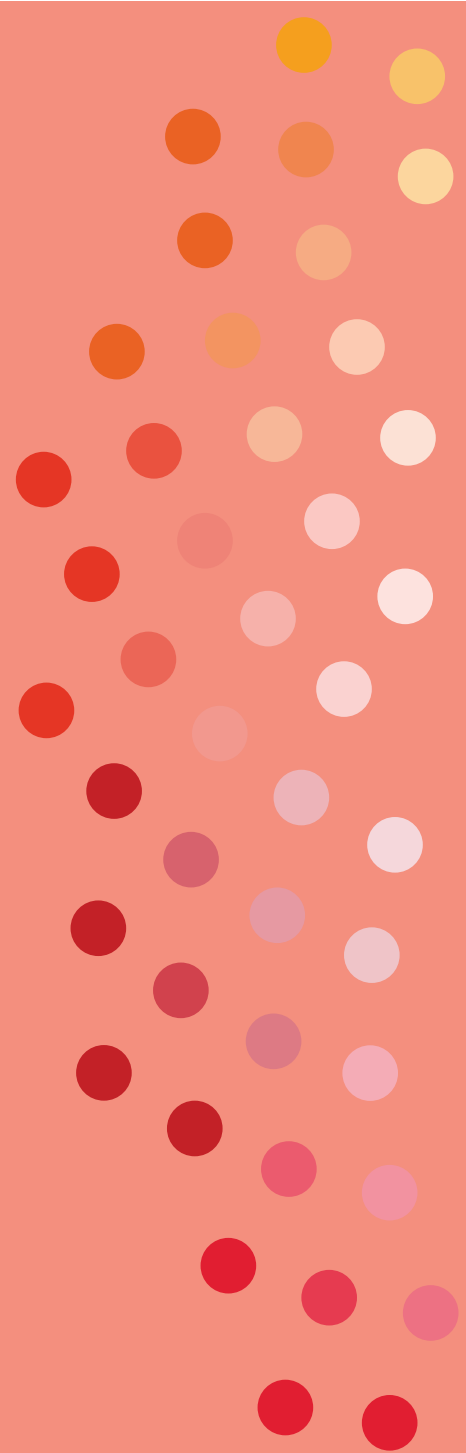


Spotlight Initiative
To eliminate violence
against women and girls



BASELINE ASSESSMENT REPORT: BELIZE

Volume II
May 2021

PREPARED BY: IMC Worldwide | PREPARED FOR: UNICEF Belize



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ANNEX 1:

BASELINE ASSESSMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE

The TOR for the Baseline Assessment is embedded below for easy reference (double click to open).



ToR Spotlight
Baseline Study FINAL



ANNEX 2:

PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

Interview Guide: CSO Stakeholders

1.1 Are you aware of any laws and policies on VAWG, including family violence? If yes, do any of these adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, including SRHR, and are evidence-based and in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations?

1.2 Does Belize have an Action Plan on VAWG? (a) It exists (b) It is in development (c) It is not yet started. If (a) or (b) (yes/no/do not know):

- Does it include family violence?
- Did the Action Plan design process include an analysis of data/evidence based on desk review?
- Is the Action Plan costed?
- Was the Action Plan developed in a participatory manner?
- Is this participation documented in the plan?
- Does the Action Plan have a corresponding M&E Plan
- If so, was this also developed in a participatory manner?
- Does the Action Plan include an analysis of most at risk groups?
- If so, does it propose specific strategies to reach them and respond to their needs?

1.1.1 (a) Are you aware of any new and/or strengthened laws and/or policies on ending family violence, including VAWG drafted, proposed to a legislative body, or passed in Belize during 2019-2020 or that will be developed in the near future? To what extent are they in line with international HR standards? (Ask for copies of all draft & final laws/policies)

1.1.1 (b) Are you aware of any NEW and/or STRENGTHENED laws and/or policies on gender equality and non-discrimination drafted, proposed to a legislative body, or passed in Belize during 2019-2020 or that will developed in the near future? (Ask for copies of all draft & final laws/policies)

1.1.3 From the above laws, which ones received input from women's rights advocates in their development and drafting? Can you give any details about the level of their input to each? Can you please provide me a copy/access to these, even if in draft, yet to be passed?

2.1.1 Does your organization have any written strategies, plans, or programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG and/ or family violence? If yes, can you please provide the following information about each of them: (a) Title/Theme, (b) Date (month and/or year) the instrument/initiative was finalized and activated. Which of these instruments/initiatives specifically addresses marginalized groups (details for each)?

3.3 Does Belize have any VAWG prevention strategies or initiatives focusing on changing norms and practices for marginalized or vulnerable people?² Which of these, if any involved participation³ from the rights holders themselves?

3.2.4 Are you aware of any community-based (i.e. villages, municipalities, etc.) advocacy platforms that promote gender equality? If yes, please provide further information (including individual communities/platforms, and/or other informants that may have additional information). **3.2.5** Are you aware of any campaigns that challenge harmful social norms and gender stereotyping? If yes, please provide further information (including individual communities/platforms, and/or other informants that may have additional information).

3.2.5 Are you aware of any campaigns that challenge harmful social norms and gender stereotyping? If yes, please provide further information (including individual communities/platforms, and/or other informants that may have additional information).

3.3.5 Have you ever advocated for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG and/or Family violence and

(1) These should be evidence-based and transformative/comprehensive. Per methodological notes: 1) "Evidence-based" indicates that the program or strategy has been evaluated and found to be effective and 2) "Transformative/comprehensive" indicates that the programs have been shown to change the norms and promote the rights of marginalized people within the country, in multiple sector, at the society, community, relationship and individual levels.

(2) Per methodological notes: "Marginalized people" refers to groups of people who lack access to mainstream programming for reasons ranging from diverging from normative practices or preferences to social-economic status. The definition of who is marginalized will differ from context to context.

(3) Per methodological notes: "Participatory manner" means that the programs and strategies were developed with input from all relevant stakeholders—including/especially rights holders.

for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights within the past year? If yes, can you provide any evidence (drafted documents, records of policy decision-making meetings, etc)

5.1.2 Does Belize have a system to collect administrative data on VAWG/HP, in line with international standards, across different sectors?

5.1.5 In the past year, have any of your staff participated in training on collection of prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG and/or family violence? If yes, please provide details of the type of training, the number of staff participating.

6.1 Has your organization ever undertaken joint advocacy efforts with one or more other organization? If so, please provide details of each effort: Type of effort/When (year)/Name of Partner(s)/Partner level(s) (natl/sub-natl)

6.3 Has your organization faced any barriers to the work you do on ending VAWG in the during 2019-2020? If yes, what kind of barriers? (E.g. Political, financial, lack of enabling environment, activity coordination, threatened by the legal environment.) Do you feel like these barriers increased or decreased since last year? Do you feel like your influence has grown, stayed the same, or decreased in the during 2019-2020? If yes: please provide us with two examples.

6.1.3 Is your organisation integrated with any other CSOs, coalitions or networks of women's rights groups or those working on ending family violence and VAWG during 2019-2020? If yes, please provide details and share any evidence (records of meetings, events, communications, reports, etc).

6.1.4 Have you ever attended trainings on how to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on ending family violence, including VAWG, at local, national, regional and global levels during 2019-2020? If you have participated in those activities, please provide details (dates, records of training, certificates, curriculum handouts etc.)

6.2.1 Does your organisation use any of the following accountability mechanisms⁴ in your advocacy work related to VAWG? CEDAW, UPR shadow reports, social audits, citizen report cards. Are any other accountability mechanisms used? If so, please specify. Which ones have you used in the past year?

6.3 Has your organisation strengthened its capacity or received any external support on the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of your programmes on ending family violence, including VAWG within the last year?

Interview Guide: Government Stakeholders

1.1 Are you aware of any laws and policies on VAWG, including family violence? If yes, do any of these adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, including SRHR, and are evidence-based and in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations?

1.2 Does Belize have an Action Plan on VAWG? (a) It exists (b) It is in development (c) It is not yet started. If (a) or (b) (yes/no/do not know):

- Does it include family violence?
- Did the Action Plan design process include an analysis of data/evidence based on desk review?
- Is the Action Plan costed?
- Was the Action Plan developed in a participatory manner?
- Is this participation documented in the plan?
- Does the Action Plan have a corresponding M&E Plan
- If so, was this also developed in a participatory manner?
- Does the Action Plan include an analysis of most at risk groups?
- If so, does it propose specific strategies to reach them and respond to their needs?

1.1.1 (a) Are you aware of any new and/or strengthened laws and/or policies on ending family violence, including VAWG drafted, proposed to a legislative body, or passed in Belize in the last year or that will be developed in the near future? To what extent are they in line with international HR standards? (Ask for copies of all draft & final laws/policies)

1.1.1 (b) Are you aware of any NEW and/or STRENGTHENED laws and/or policies on gender equality and non-discrimination drafted, proposed to a legislative body, or passed in Belize in the last year or that will developed in the near future? (Ask for copies of all draft & final laws/policies)

1.1.3 From the above laws, which ones received input from women's rights advocates in their development and drafting? Can you give any details about the level of their input to each? Can you please provide me a copy/access to these, even if in draft, yet to be passed?

(4) Social accountability mechanisms strengthen links between people and their governments to improve equity in a number of areas such as public service delivery, improve budget utilization, and address gender imbalances. Some of the more common tools are Citizens Report Cards, Community Score Cards, Citizen Participation in public policy making, participatory planning and budgeting, lobbying, campaigning and advocacy. From methodological notes: E.g. the CEDAW, UPR shadow reports, and social accountability mechanisms such as social audits, citizen report cards, etc.

1.3.3 Are you familiar with the human rights standards and obligations that are laid out in the Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights, on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and other such documents? (If yes)⁵ Have you ever participated in drafting laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda? If so, please share with us any evidence you have (drafted documents, records of policy decision-making meetings, etc.).

2.1 Does Belize have functioning national and/or sub-national coordination and oversight mechanisms for addressing family violence including VAWG? If so, please list the mechanisms that exist (and their level President, Vice-President, Prime Minister Office, or the relevant office, or relevant government ministry).

2.1.1 Does your organization have any written strategies, plans, or programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG and/or family violence? If yes, can you please provide the following information about each of them: (a) Title/Theme, (b) Date (month and/or year) the instrument/initiative was finalized and activated. Which of these instruments/initiatives specifically addresses marginalized groups (details for each)?

2.1.8 Have you ever helped to integrate efforts to combat VAWG into the development plans of other sectors? If yes, can you please provide the following information about each of them: (a) Title/Theme, (b) Date.

3.1.1 (For MOH and MOE staff only) Does Belize have a formal Comprehensive Sexuality Education curriculum? If so, when was it last updated? Is it in line with any international standards? If so, what standards?

3.3 Does Belize have any VAWG prevention strategies or initiatives⁶ focusing on changing norms and practices for marginalized or vulnerable people?⁷ Which of these, if any involved participation⁸ from the rights holders themselves?

3.2.4 Are you aware of any community-based (i.e. villages, municipalities, etc.) advocacy platforms that promote gender equality? If yes, please provide further information (including individual communities/platforms, and/or other informants that may have additional information). **3.2.5** Are you aware of any campaigns that challenge harmful social norms and gender stereotyping? If yes, please provide further information

(including individual communities/platforms, and/or other informants that may have additional information).

3.2.5 Are you aware of any campaigns that challenge harmful social norms and gender stereotyping? If yes, please provide further information (including individual communities/platforms, and/or other informants that may have additional information).

3.3.5 Have you ever advocated for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG and/or Family violence and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights within the past year? If yes, can you provide any evidence (drafted documents, records of policy decision-making meetings, etc)

4.1.4 Have staff from your organisation ever received training or been part of capacity building activities around coordinated service provision to women and girl survivors of violence within the last year?

5.1.2 Does Belize have a system to collect administrative data on VAWG/HP, in line with international standards, across different sectors?

5.1.4 In the past year, have any of your staff participated in training on collection of prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG and/or family violence?

KABP Survey Questionnaire

Copies of the KABP survey are available below (double-click to open).



Adobe Acrobat Document



Adobe Acrobat Document

(5) Scoring: Step 1) For every statement about which the government officials demonstrate awareness, they receive 1 point. Those individuals who demonstrate enough awareness to have 3 points are counted for this part of the indicator. Step 2) People who scored above the threshold are asked if they have ever participated in drafting laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda and if there is any evidence (drafted documents, records of policy decision-making meetings, etc.). Key officials who produce evidence will be counted at baseline.

(6) These should be evidence-based and transformative/comprehensive. Per methodological notes: 1) "Evidence-based" indicates that the program or strategy has been evaluated and found to be effective and 2) "Transformative/comprehensive" indicates that the programs have been shown to change the norms and promote the rights of marginalized people within the country, in multiple sector, at the society, community, relationship and individual levels.

(7) Per methodological notes: "Marginalized people" refers to groups of people who lack access to mainstream programming for reasons ranging from diverging from normative practices or preferences to social-economic status. The definition of who is marginalized will differ from context to context.

(8) Per methodological notes: "Participatory manner" means that the programs and strategies were developed with input from all relevant stakeholders—including/especially rights holders.

ANNEX 3: KABP RESPONDENTS DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

Sex

A total of 1,254 individuals were interviewed as part of the KABP survey. Of the total, 536 (42.7%) were male while 718 (57.3%) were female.

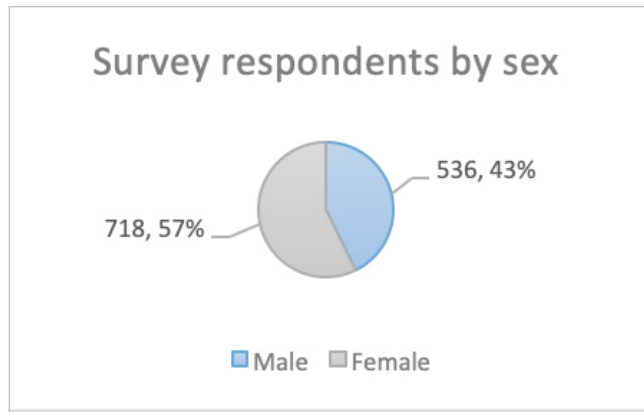


Figure 1: KABP Survey Respondents, by sex



Age

73.4% of the respondents were over 25 years old.

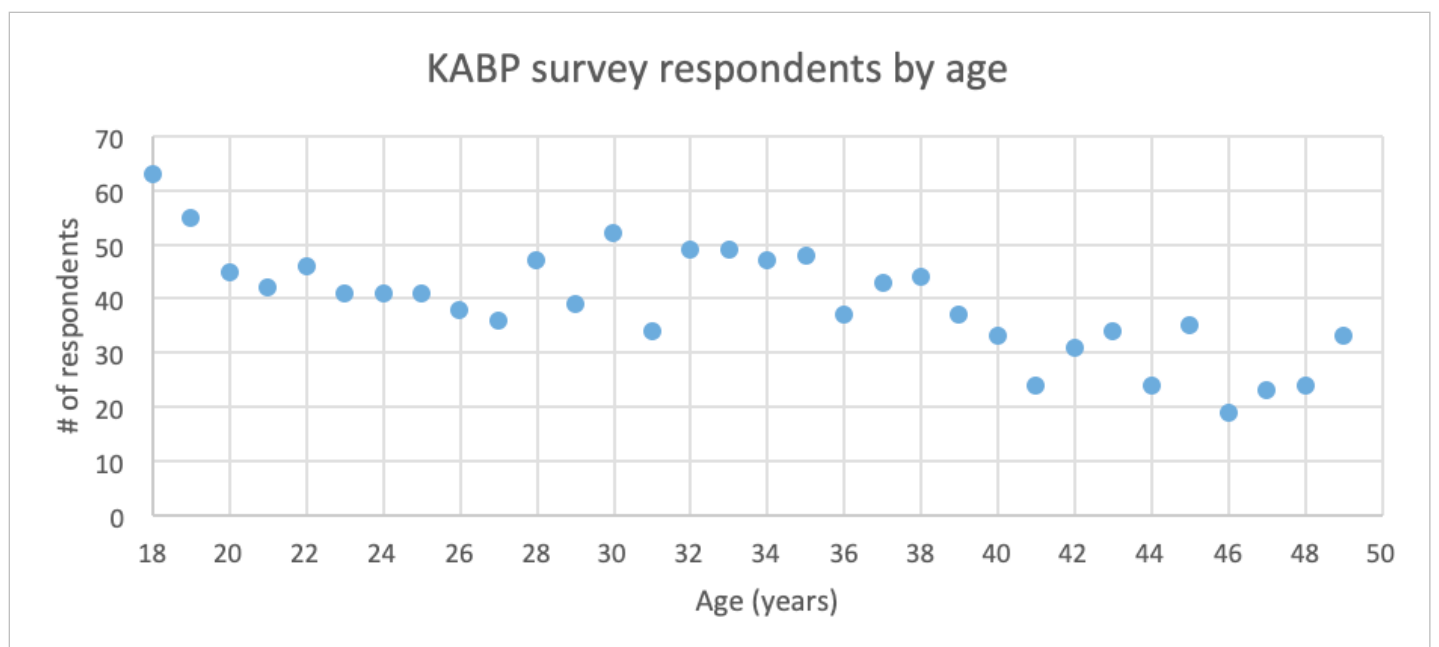


Figure 2: KABP Survey Respondents, by age

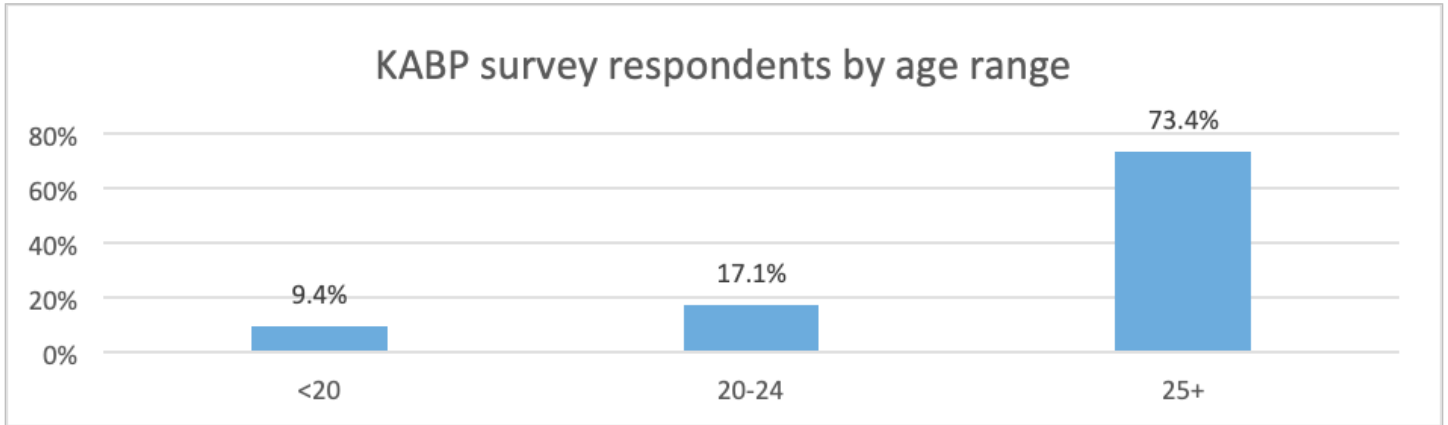


Figure 3: KABP Survey Respondents, by age

Disability status

15.2% of respondents had a disability per the criteria.

Location

In terms of geographical location, 27.8 percent of the total represented rural areas. Corozal district had the highest number of respondents (291) while Belize had the lowest 11.4% followed closely by Stann Creek.

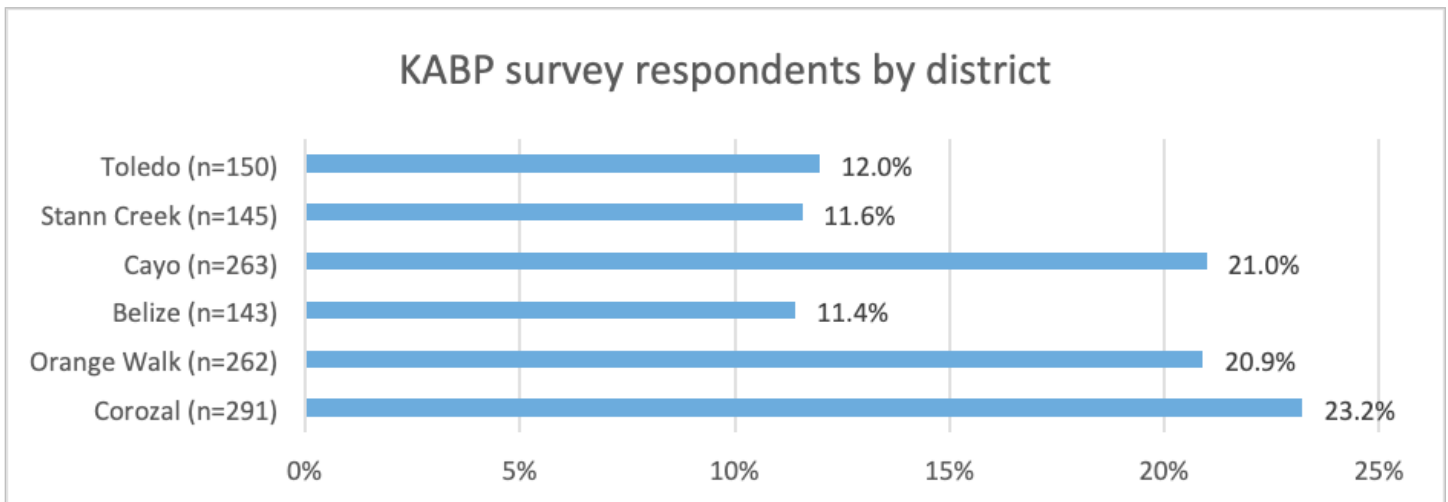


Figure 4: KABP Survey Respondents, by District

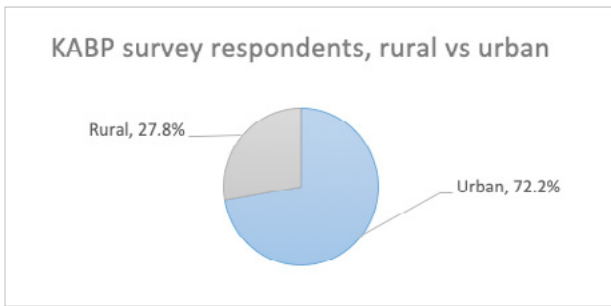


Figure 5: KABP Survey Respondents, by urban/rural location

Ethnicity and migration status

The Mestizo ethnic group had the highest representation with a total of 701 respondents while Mennonites did not have any representative in the analysis.

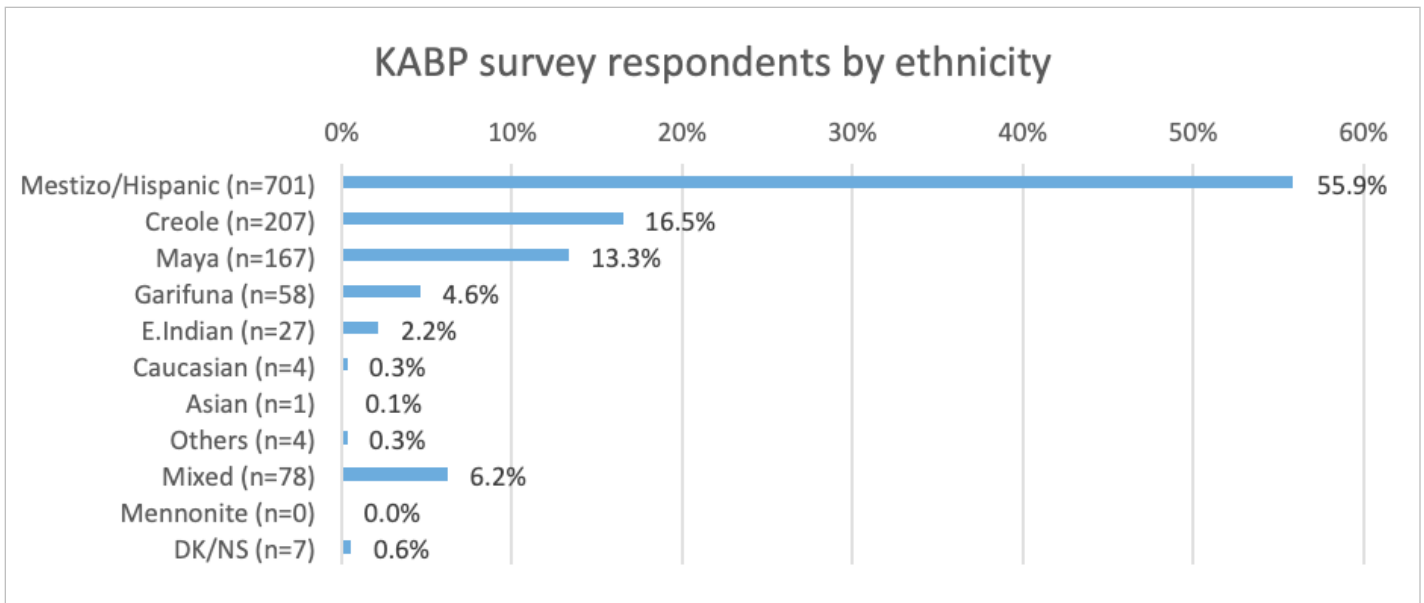


Figure 6: KABP Survey Respondents, by Ethnic Group

1,074 respondents were of Belizean origin forming the highest percentage of 85.6%.

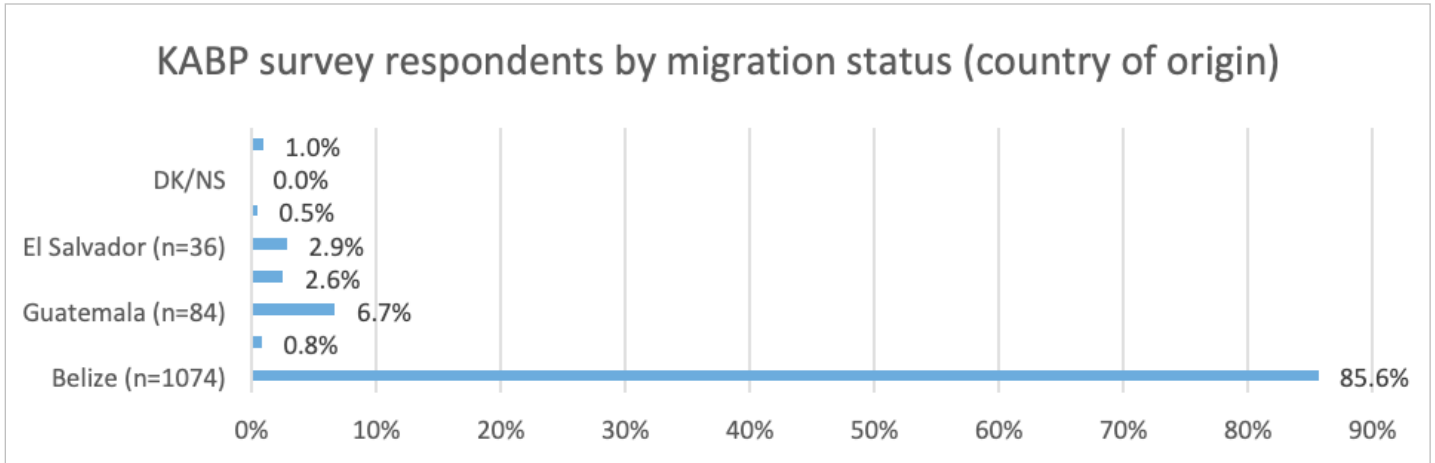


Figure 7: KABP Survey Respondents, by Country of Origin



ANNEX 4:

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK RESULTS FRAMEWORK INDICATOR DATA COLLECTION

The analytical framework is embedded below (double click to open).



Analytical
Framework_S1 Belize B



ANNEX 5:

BASELINE ASSESSMENT LOGFRAME

Indicator	Indicator Description	Baseline Value
Pillar 1: Policy and Legislative Framework		
Outcome 1: Legislative and policy frameworks, based on evidence and in line with international human rights standards, on all forms of violence against women and girls, including family violence, are in place and translated into plans.		
Indicator 1.1: Belize has in place laws and policies on VAWG, including family violence, that adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, including SRHR, and are evidence-based and in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations	Laws and policies on VAWG/HP are in place that adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, including exercise/access to SRHR, and are in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations	1 (Excellent)
Indicator 1.2: Belize has in place national and/or sub-national evidencebased, costed action plans and M&E frameworks on VAWG, including family violence, that respond to the rights of all women and girls and are developed in a participatory manner.	National/and/or sub-national evidence-based, costed and funded action plans and M&E frameworks on VAWG/HP are in place that respond to the rights of all women and girls and are developed in a participatory manner.	4 out of 6 (6 being the best possible score)
Indicator 1.3: Belize has in place laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, autonomous social movements, CSOs and women human rights defenders/feminist activists to advance the human rights agenda	Laws and policies are in place that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, autonomous social movements, CSOs and women human rights defenders/feminist activists to advance the human rights agenda	100% (Belize has ratified the ICESR, ICCPR, CEDAW and CRC)
Output 1.1: National and regional partners have strengthened evidence-based knowledge and capacities to assess gaps and draft new and/or strengthen existing legislations on ending VAWG including family violence and/or gender equality and non-discrimination that respond to the rights of the most groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and are in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations.		
Indicator 1.1.1: Number of draft new and/or strengthened laws and/or policies on ending VAWG, including family violence and or gender equality and non-discrimination developed that respond to the rights of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and are in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies recommendation within last year	Number of draft new and/or strengthened laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination developed that respond to the rights of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination and are in line with international HR standards, within the last year.	0
Indicator 1.1.3: Number of draft laws and/or policies on ending VAWG, including family violence, and/or gender equality and non-discrimination which have received significant inputs from women's rights advocates within last year	Number of draft laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination which have received significant inputs from women's rights advocates within the last year	0

Indicator	Indicator Description	Baseline Value
Output 1.2: National and/or sub-national partners are better able to develop and cost evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on ending VAWG, including family violence, in line with international HR standards with M&E frameworks and responding to the needs and priorities of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.		
Indicator 1.2.1: Number of evidence-based national and/ or subnational action plans on ending VAWG, including family violence, developed that respond to the rights of groups facing multiple and intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination with M&E frameworks and proposed budgets within past year.	Number of evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on ending VAWG developed that respond to the rights of all women and girls, have M&E frameworks and proposed budgets within the last year.	0
Output 1.3 National, sub-national and/or regional partners have greater knowledge and awareness of human rights obligations and are able to draft laws and/or policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda.		
Indicator 1.3.3: Number of key government officials with increased awareness of human rights standards and obligations and strengthened capacities to develop laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda within the last year.	Number of key government officials with increased awareness of human rights standards and obligations and strengthened capacities to develop laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda, within the last year.	0
Pillar 2: Institutional Strengthening		
Outcome 2: National and sub-national systems and institutions plan, fund and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, including family violence, including in other sectors		
Indicator 2.1: Belize has a functioning national and/or sub-national coordination and oversight mechanisms at the highest levels for addressing VAWG, including family violence, that include representation from marginalized groups.	Existence of a functioning regional, national and/or sub-national coordination and oversight mechanisms at the highest levels for addressing VAWG/HP that include representation from marginalized groups.	0
Indicator 2.3: Extent to which VAWG, including family violence, is integrated in 5 other sectors (health, social services, education, justice, security, culture) development plans that are evidence-based and in line with globally agreed standards.	Extent to which VAWG/HP is integrated in five other sectors (health, social services, education, justice, security, culture) development plans that are evidence-based and in line with globally agreed standards	6 (out of a theoretical maximum of 18)
Output 2.1: Key officials at national and/or sub-national levels in all relevant institutions are better able to develop and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG, including family violence, especially for those groups of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including in other sectors.		
Indicator 2.1.1 Number of institutions that develop strategies, plans and/or programmes to prevent and respond to VAWG including family violence, including for those groups of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.	Number of institutions that develop strategies, plans and/or programmes to prevent and respond to VAWG, including for those groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination	0

Indicator	Indicator Description	Baseline Value
Indicator 2.1.8: Number of key government officials with strengthened capacities to integrate efforts to end VAWG including family violence into the development plans of other sectors within the last year	Number of key government officials with strengthened capacities to integrate efforts to combat VAWG into the development plans of other sectors, within the last year	0
Pillar 3: Prevention		
Outcome 3: Gender inequitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours change at community and individual levels to prevent violence against women and girls, including family violence		
Indicator 3.1: Percentage of people who think it is justifiable for a man to (subject) beat his wife/intimate partner (to violence), by sex and age.	Percentage of people who think it is justifiable for a man to (subject) beat his wife/intimate partner (to violence), by sex and age.	19%
Indicator 3.3: Belize has at least 3 evidence-based, transformative/comprehensive prevention strategies/programmes that address the rights of those marginalized and are developed in a participatory manner.	Existence of at least three evidence-based, transformative/comprehensive prevention strategies/programmes that address the rights of those marginalized and are developed in a participatory manner	0
Output 3.1 National and/or sub-national evidence-based programmes are developed to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including on Comprehensive Sexuality Education in line with international standards, for in and out of school settings		
Indicator 3.1.1: Belize has drafted new and / or strengthened Comprehensive Sexuality Education programmes in line with international standards	National and/or sub-national evidence-based programmes are developed to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including on CSE in line with international standards, for in and out of school settings	Yes
Output 3.2: Community advocacy platforms are established/strengthened to develop strategies and programmes, including community dialogues, public information and advocacy campaigns, to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction, self-confidence and self-esteem and transforming harmful masculinities		
Indicator 3.2.1 Number of women, men, girls and boys who regularly attend community programmes to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction within the last year	Number of women, men, girls and boys who regularly attend community programmes to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction within the last year	0
Indicator 3.2.2 Number of people reached by campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping within the last year	Number of people reached by campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, within the last year.	0
Indicator 3.2.3 Number of men and boys who regularly attend gender transformative programmes addressing violent masculinities and men's violence towards women and girls in community centres, schools and other relevant spaces within the last year	Number of men and boys who regularly attend gender transformative programmes addressing violent masculinities and men's violence towards women and girls in community centres, schools and other relevant spaces within the last year	0

Indicator	Indicator Description	Baseline Value
Indicator 3.2.4 Number of communities with advocacy platforms established and/or strengthened to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction	Number of communities with advocacy platforms established and/or strengthened to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction	0
Indicator 3.2.5 Number of campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, including of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, developed and disseminated during past year	Number of campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, including of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, developed and disseminated during the past year.	0

Output 3.3: Decision makers in relevant non-state institutions and key informal decision makers are better able to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG, including family violence, and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights

Indicator 3.3.5: Number of key informal decision makers and decision makers in relevant institutions with strengthened awareness of and capacities to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on VAWG including family violence and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights within the last year	Number of key informal decision makers and decision makers in relevant institutions with strengthened awareness of and capacities to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights, within the last year	0
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Pillar 4: Quality Essential Services

Outcome 4. Women and girls who experience violence use available, accessible, acceptable, and quality essential services including for long term recovery from violence

Indicator 4.1: Proportion of women, including those facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, who report experiencing physical or sexual violence who seek help, by sector	Proportion of women, including those facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, who report experiencing physical or sexual violence who seek help, by sector	88%
Indicator 4.2. : Number of cases of VAWG, including family violence, (a) reported to the police, b. proportions of cases reported to the police that are brought to court, c. proportions of cases reported to the police that resulted in convictions of perpetrators, all during a specific time period (e.g. past 12 months)	In the past 12 months: a) number of VAWG cases reported to the police; b) number of cases reported to the police that are brought to court; and c) number of cases reported to the police that resulted in convictions of perpetrators	a) 217; b) 3; c) 2.

Output 4.1: Relevant government authorities and women's rights organisations at national and sub-national levels have better knowledge and capacity to deliver quality and coordinated essential services, including SRH services and access to justice, to women and girls' survivors of violence (and their families when relevant), especially those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination

Indicator	Indicator Description	Baseline Value
Indicator 4.1.3: Belize has developed and/or strengthened national guidelines or protocols in line with the guidance and tools for essential services	Existence of national guidelines or protocols that have been developed and/or strengthened in line with the guidance and tools for essential services	0
Indicator 4.1.4 Number of government service providers who have increased knowledge and capacities to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girls' survivors of VAWG including family violence within the last year	Number of government service providers who have increased knowledge and capacities to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girl survivors of violence, within the last year	0
Indicator 4.1.9.: Belize has developed and/or strengthened national guidelines or protocols for essential services that specifically address the needs of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination	Existence of national guidelines or protocols for essential services that have been developed and/or strengthened that specifically address the needs of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination	No
Output 4.2: Women and girls' survivors of violence and their families are informed of and can access quality essential services,54 including longer term recovery services and opportunities		
Indicator 4.2.2 Number of women and girls' survivors of violence and their families, including groups facing multiple and intersecting forms or discrimination, that have increased access to (a) quality essential services and (b) accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery services within the last 12 months	Number of women and girl survivors of violence and their families, including groups facing multiple and intersecting forms or discrimination, that have increased access to (a) quality essential services and (b) accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery services within the last 12 months	0
Pillar 5: Data and evidence		
Outcome 5: Quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of violence against women and girls, including family violence, collected, analysed and used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies and programmes		
Indicator 5.1: Belize has globally comparable data on the prevalence (and incidence, where appropriate) of VAWG, including family violence, collected over time	Existence of globally comparable data on the prevalence (and incidence, where appropriate) of VAWG/HP, collected over time	Yes
Indicator 5.2: Belize has publicly available data, reported on a regular basis, on various forms of VAWG, (at least intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, harmful practices and when relevant trafficking and femicide and family violence), at country level	Existence of publicly available data, reported on a regular basis, on various forms of VAWG/HP (at least on intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, harmful practices when relevant, and trafficking and femicide) at country level	Yes
Indicator 5.3: Belize has national statistics related to VAWG, including family violence, incidence and prevalence are disaggregated by income, sex, age, ethnicity, disability, and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts	National statistics related to VAWG/HP incidence and prevalence are disaggregated by income, sex, age, ethnicity, disability, and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts	

Indicator	Indicator Description	Baseline Value
Output 5.1: Key partners, including relevant statistical officers, service providers in the different branches of government and women's rights advocates have strengthened capacities to regularly collect data related to VAWG, including family violence, in line with international and regional standards to inform laws, policies and programmes		
Indicator 5.1.2: Belize has in place a system to collect administrative data on VAWG, including family violence, in line with international standards, across different sectors	A system to collect administrative data on VAWG/HP, is in place and in line with international standards, across different sectors	No
Indicator 5.1.4 Number of government personnel, including service providers, from different sectors who have enhanced capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG including family violence in line with international and regional standards within the past year.	Number of government personnel, including service providers, from different sectors who have enhanced capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG including family violence in line with international and regional standards within the past year.	0
Indicator 5.1.5 Number of women's rights advocates with strengthened capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG including family violence	Number of women's rights advocates with strengthened capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, and qualitative data, on VAWG	0
Pillar 6: Women's Movement and CSO		
Outcome 6: Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on GEWE and ending VAWG		
Indicator 6.1: Women's rights organisations, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs increase their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate on ending VAWG, including family violence	Women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs increase their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate on ending VAWG, including family violence	0
Indicator 6.2: Extent to which there is an increased use of social accountability mechanisms by civil society in order to monitor and engage in efforts to end VAWG, including family violence	Number of supported women's rights groups and relevant CSOs using the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy around VAWG within the last year	0
Indicator 6.3: Proportion of women's rights organisations, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, report having greater influence and agency to work on ending VAWG, including family violence	Proportion of women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, report having greater influence and agency to work on ending VAWG	0
Output 6.1: Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs, have increased opportunities and support to share knowledge, network, partner and jointly advocate for GEWE and ending VAWG, including family violence, with relevant stakeholders at sub-national, national, regional and global levels		

Indicator	Indicator Description	Baseline Value
6.1.3 Number of CSOs representing youth and other groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that are integrated with coalitions and networks of women's rights groups and civil society working on ending VAWG including family violence within the last year	Number of CSOs representing youth and other groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that are integrated with coalitions and networks of women's rights groups and civil society working on ending VAWG including family violence within the last year	0
6.1.4 Number of women's rights groups, networks and relevant CSOs with strengthened capacities to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on ending VAWG including family violence at the local and national level within the last year	Number of women's rights groups, networks and relevant CSOs with strengthened capacities to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on ending VAWG including family violence at the local and national level within the last year	0
Output 6.2: Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs are better supported to use social accountability mechanisms to support their advocacy and influence on prevention and response to VAWG, including family violence, and GEWE more broadly		
Indicator 6.2.1 Number of supported women's rights groups and relevant CSOs using the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy around VAWG within the last year	Number of supported women's rights groups and relevant CSOs using the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy around VAWG within the last year	0
Output 6.3: Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalisation have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement and monitor their own programmes on ending VAWG, including family violence		
6.3.1 Number of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization that have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement, monitor and evaluate their own programmes on ending VAWG, including family violence within the last year	Number of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization that have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement, monitor and evaluate their own programmes on ending VAWG, including family violence within the last year	0

ANNEX 6: LIST OF INTERVIEWEES

Name	Organization	Title
Roxanne Marin	Belize Assembly for Persons with Diverse Abilities (BAPDA)	Executive Director
Deanna Gomez	Belize chapter of the Young Women's Christian Association	General Secretary
Adele Ramos	Belize Crime Observatory	Technical Coordinator
Kylah Ceigo	Belize Family Life Association (BFLA)	Director, Programs and Education
Joan Skeen	Belize Family Life Association (BFLA)	Executive Director
Melissa Zuniga	Belize National Indigenous Council (BENIC)	Chair of BENIC
Diana Shaw	Child Development Foundation	Executive Director
Eckert Middleton	Department of Youth Services	Manager of Health Unit
Kendale Trapp	Empower Yourself Belize Movement (EYBM)	Executive Director
Danae Grant	Family Court	Acting Director
Eva Burgos	GoJoven Belize	Executive Director
Mindy Pratt	Haven House	Director
Cynthia Pitts	Human Rights Commission	Vice President
Deborah Sewell	Love Foundation	Executive Director and Founder
Sharon Fraser	Magistrates Court	Chief Magistrate
Omar Rodriguez	Mary Open Doors	Counsellor and Vice President of the Board of Directors
Brandon Garcia	Ministry of Defence and Border Security	Chief of Staff, Belize Defence Forces
Nicole Halock Rodriguez	Ministry of Defence and Border Security	Deputy Coordinator for National Security Council Secretariat
Rhea Rogers	Ministry of Defence and Border Security	Staff Officer/Gender Focal Point
Carolyn Codd	Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology	Education Officer
Neulin Villanueva	Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology	Deputy Chief Education Officer
Natalia Largaespada-Beer	Ministry of Health	Advisor, Maternal and Child Health Unit
Mark Antrobus	Ministry of Human Development	Social Planner
Lilani Arthurs	Ministry of Human Development	Director of the Department of Human Services

Name	Organization	Title
Starla Bradley	Ministry of Human Development	Director of the Community Rehabilitation Department
Lodawn Jones	Ministry of Human Development	Acting Human Development Coordinator of the Women's Department
Anna Williams	Ministry of Human Development	Director of the Women's Department
Clifford King	Ministry of Rural Transportation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government	Director, Local Government
Margaret Nicholas	National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC)	Executive Director
Ix-Chel Poot	National Council on Ageing	Executive Director
Dembeigh Yorke	National Organization for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NOPCAN)	Director
Cynthia Williams	National Women's Commission	Director
Yahaira Marisol Vega	Northern Mayan Association of Belize, Belize National Indigenous Council	President of the Northern Mayan Association of Belize
Christine Smith	Office of the Prime Minister, RESTORE Belize	Director
Dericia Castillo-Salazar	Our Circle	Managing Director and co-Founder
Carolyn Standiford	Parliament of Belize	Speaker of the Senate
Valerie Woods	Parliament of Belize	Speaker of the House of Representatives
Martha Rhys	Police	Assistant Supervisor of Policy, Domestic Violence Unit
Chester Williams	Police	Commissioner of Police
Michele Irving	Productive Organization for Women in Action (POWA)	Coordinator
Simone Hill	Promoting Empowerment through Awareness for Les/Bi Women (PETAL)	President and Programme Officer
Orlando Dawson	River Valley Association of Belize Council	President
Jaqueline Dragone	Spouses of Caricom Leaders Action Network (SCLAN)	Executive Director
Tanisha Chavarria	Statistical Institute of Belize	Acting Manager of Censuse and Survey Department
Elisa Castellanos	Tikkun Olam Belize	Founder
Caleb Orosco	United Belize Advocacy Movement (UNIBAM)	Executive Director
Karen Cain	Youth Enhancement Services (YES)	Executive Director

ANNEX 7:

LITERATURE RESEARCHED/CONSULTED

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ANNEX 8:

UNEG ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

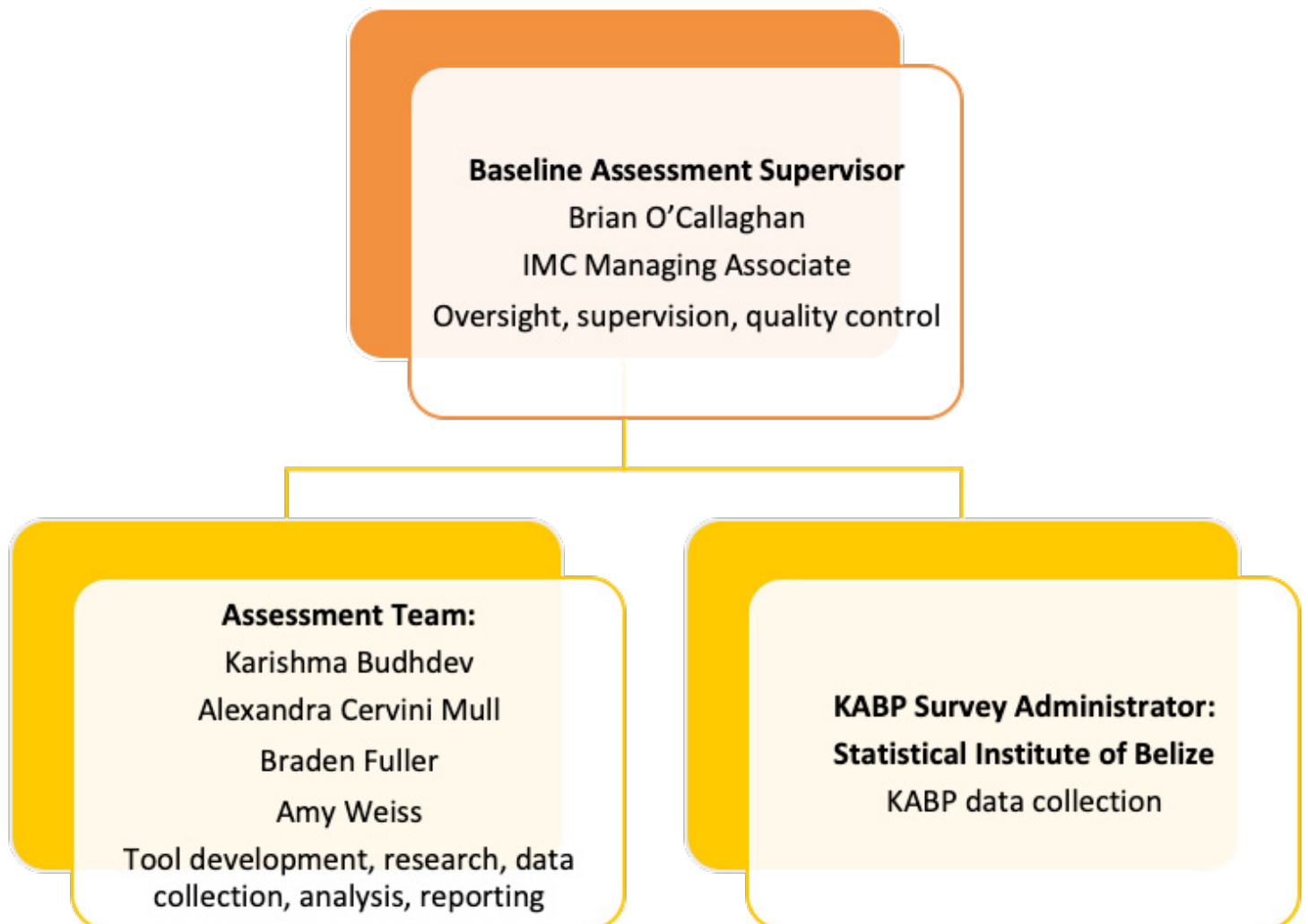
All interview protocols were in adherence to the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluations (2020), embedded below for easy reference (double click to open).



UNEG_Ethical_Guidelines_for_Evaluatio

ANNEX 9:

TEAM STRUCTURE



ANNEX 10:

DETAILED ANALYSES BY INDICATOR

Pillar 1: Policy and Legislative Framework

Outcome 1

Legislative and policy frameworks, based on evidence and in line with international human rights standards, on all forms of violence against women and girls, including family violence, are in place and translated into plans.

Outcome Indicator 1.1

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Proportion
Disaggregation	Geographical location (sub-national region/state/province)

Desk Review Findings

The baseline research team reviewed the SIGI country profiles,⁹ the Women, Business and the Law 2016 and 2020 report country profiles and the Universal Periodic Review. The

Indicator description: Laws and policies on VAWG/HP are in place that adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, including exercise/access to SRHR, and are in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations.

Baseline value

2 (Very Good) (Excellent: ≤ 1 , Very Good: 1.25 – 2.75, Moderate: 3 – 4.75, Poor: 5 – 6.5, Very Poor: 6.75 – 8)

Findings and weights are summarised below.

findings from a review of this documentation in addition to the Belize score provided by the evaluation team (based on the information provided on the SIGI Country Profiles reviewed) are summarized below.

Discriminatory Family Code - legal age at marriage, parental authority in marriage, parental authority in divorce, inheritance rights of widows, inheritance rights of daughters

SIGI Country Profile

Legal age of marriage: The legal age of marriage for women and men is 18 years old (Marriage Act, sect. 5(3)). Persons between ages 16 and 18 years may marry with the consent of parents, legal guardians, or judicial authority.

Belize Score: 0.50

Women, Business and Law Review (2016): The legal age of marriage is 18 years for boys and girls.

(9) <https://www.genderindex.org/wp-content/uploads/files/datasheets/2019/BZ.pdf>

SIGI Country Profile

Parental authority in marriage:¹⁰ Parental authority in marriage: Whether women and men have the same right to be the legal guardian of a child during marriage The law provides women with the same rights as men to be the legal guardians of their children during marriage and in informal unions (Families and Children Act, sect. 6). The law provides women with the same rights and responsibilities as men with regard to their children during marriage (Families and Children Act, sect. 5). Married/unmarried women are granted with the same rights as married/unmarried men to choose where to live (Constitution, sect. 10).

Belize Score: 0

SIGI Country Profile

Parental authority in divorce: The law provides women with the same rights as men to be legal guardians of their children after divorce and women and men have the same rights and responsibilities with regards to their children after divorce (Married Persons (Protection) Act, sect. 2 & 4). The applicant for the divorce is granted the legal custody of the children (Married Persons (Protection) Act, sect. 2 & 4). There is no legal discrimination regarding divorce and it appears that there are no practices which may restrict those rights.

Belize Score: 0

SIGI Country Profile

Inheritance rights of widows: The law provides female surviving spouses with the same rights as male surviving spouses to inherit land and non-land assets (Administration of Estates Act, sect. 54).

it appears that there are no practices which may restrict those rights.

Belize Score: 0

Inheritance rights of daughters: The law provides daughters with the same rights as sons to inherit land and non-land assets (Administration of Estates Act, sect. 54). it appears that there are no practices which may restrict those rights.

Belize Score: 0

Laws on domestic violence:¹¹ The Domestic Violence Act covers physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse from former partners or within the family (Domestic Violence Act, sect. 2). The law provides for specific provisions for investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators, notably the duty of police officers to respond to domestic violence complaint and the ability of police officers to intervene without warrant in certain cases (Domestic Violence Act, sect. 24 & 26). Additionally, the Domestic Violence Act provides for protection orders for victims of domestic violence (Domestic Violence Act, sect. 3).

Belize Score: 0.25

Women, Business and Law Review (2016): There exists legislation that protect women from physical, emotional, sexual and economic domestic violence.

Women, Business and Law Review (2020): When it comes to constraints related to marriage, gender differences in property and inheritance, and laws affecting the size of a women's pension, Belize gets a perfect score. However, when it comes to constraints on freedom of movement, laws affecting women's decisions to work, laws affecting women's pay, laws affecting women's work after having children, and constraints on women's starting and running a business, Belize could consider reforms to improve legal equality for women¹².

(10) Parental authority in marriage: Whether women and men have the same right to be the legal guardian of a child during marriage

(11) Belize has ratified in 1996 the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará). However, there is no law specifically addressing violence against women, including specific provisions for investigation, prosecution and punishment of the perpetrator and protection and support services for victims.

(12) <https://wbl.worldbank.org/content/dam/documents/wbl/2020/sep/Belize.pdf>

Universal Periodic Review: CAP 178 of the Laws of Belize, R.E. 2011 (DVA) ensures the prompt and equitable legal remedies for survivors of domestic violence.

SIGI Country Profile

Laws on rape: There is no law addressing sexual violence as one issue, however, there are several laws regarding specific types of sexual violence. Rape is a criminal offense and is punishable of imprisonment of eight years to life imprisonment (Criminal Code, sect. 46). The legal definition of rape is based on the lack of consent (Criminal Code, sect. 71). The Criminal Code stipulates that evidence in a trial for rape requires proof of penetration (sect. 73). The law provides for increased penalties for aggravated forms of rape and sexual violence, notably when the victim is a minor or vulnerable because of her mental health (Criminal Code, sect. 47). In those cases, the perpetrator is liable to imprisonment of twelve years to life imprisonment (Criminal Code, sect. 47). The legal definition of rape includes marital rape, which is punishable of imprisonment of eight years to life imprisonment (sect. 46 & 72). However, there is a marital rape exemption, as the definition of marital rape is conditioned notably on the act being committed with violence (Criminal Code, sect. 72). The circumstances which condition marital rape are as follows: the spouses have separated and have lived separately; there is a separation agreement in writing; proceedings for a dissolution or nullity of marriage have been instituted; there has been an order or injunction against one of the spouse; and the act of sexual intercourse is preceded or accompanied by or associated with, assault and battery, harm or injury to the female spouse (Criminal Code, sect. 72). There is reportedly a social acceptance of sexual violence and perpetrators are rarely brought to justice for violence and abusive sexual behaviour (National Women's Commission, 2012). Research shows that many cases of sexual violence and rape do not reach court or are dropped while the trial is in process (National Women's Commission, 2013). Additionally, charges are dropped reportedly due to the victim's fear for personal safety (US Department of State, 2016). Cases of rape and sexual violence are largely underreported because of fear of retribution, social stigma and lack of trust towards the police and the justice system (US Department of State, 2016).

Belize Score: 0.5¹³

Women, Business and Law Review (2016): There lack laws that protect women from marital rape. The perpetrators are exempted if they are married to the victim.

SIGI Country Profile

Laws on sexual harassment: The legal framework provides legal protection from sexual harassment under the Protection Against Sexual Harassment Act.¹⁴ The law includes civil remedies (Protection Against Sexual Harassment Act, sect. 16). The law does not include criminal penalties. The law does not specifically cover sporting establishments, public places or cyber harassment. Sexual harassment is seldom reported by victims (US Department of State, 2016). Reports show that there are a few punctual reports of sexual harassment within the workplace, but that women lack information and legal literacy on sexual harassment (National Women's Commission, 2010).

Note: In line with priority area addressing GBV, the National Gender- Based Violence Plan (NGBVPA) 2017–2020 was launched in 2017. The 2017–2020 action plan is preceded by and builds on the 2010–2013 NGBVPA and lays out a three-year framework in effectively decreasing gender-based violence and providing better support to victims. The NGBVPA provides a basis for advocacy work to end gender-based violence in all its forms and serves as a tool to assist policy and decision makers to contribute to the achievement of the national and international goals. The NWC is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the plan at national and regional levels. The National Women's Commission is currently drafting National Implementation Plans for both the National Policy on Gender Equality and NGBVP 2017-2020 which will put in place actionable time lines for the implementation of concrete measures.¹⁵

Belize Score: .75

Women Business and the Law (2016): There exist legislation and civil remedies against sexual harassments. However, there lacks criminal penalties for the same. The issue of legal penalty seems to have been addressed in the revised Act of 2000 (section 20.1)

(13) There is specific legislation in place to address rape. However, while the legal definition of rape includes marital rape there are some serious exemptions, as the definition of marital rape is conditioned notably on the act being committed with violence (Criminal Code, sect. 72). The circumstances which condition marital rape are as follows: the spouses have separated and have lived separately; there is a separation agreement in writing; proceedings for a dissolution or nullity of marriage have been instituted; there has been an order or injunction against one of the spouse; and the act of sexual intercourse is preceded or accompanied by or associated with, assault and battery, harm or injury to the female spouse (Criminal Code, sect. 72).

(14) https://oig.cepal.org/sites/default/files/2000_blz_protectionagainstharrassment.pdf

(15) Human Rights Council Working Group on the UPR Thirty-first session 5–16 November 2018 National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21* Belize

Other

Equal Opportunities Bill.¹⁶ The Equal Opportunities Bill, 2020 seeks to promote equal opportunities and to address discrimination, stigma and violence. It does so by prohibiting certain forms of conduct, and by encouraging proactive steps to be taken to address unjust disparities and barriers in order to promote the core Belizean values of fairness, respect and justice. The Bill further empowers the Government of Belize to meet its obligations under section 16 of the Constitution as well as its relevant international commitments. In order to ensure compatibility between the provisions of the Bill and other legislation, Schedule 3 to the Bill provides for consequential amendments to certain other enactments in Belize. Even though the Constitution and other laws provide for the same legal status and rights for women as for men, Belize's 2017 Human Rights Report identified significant areas of inequality. For instance, there exists a substantial pay gap between the earnings of men versus the amount earned by women. Combatting harassment and other forms of violence (sexual or otherwise) in the workplace and in public life is also a key concern. Part III, clauses 28 to 34, imposes obligations on duty-holders (such as employers, the Government and other public authorities) to promote equal opportunities through various means, including the institution of special measures, facilitating reasonable requests for accommodations (such as the variation of working arrangements for employees affected by domestic violence), and the preparation and operation of equal opportunities policies. Clause 31 enables an employee who is affected by domestic violence to make a request to their employer for a variation in their working arrangements for the purpose of assisting the employee to deal with the effects of domestic violence.

Final Score = 2 (Very Good)

- Most government key informants were aware of laws and policies on VAWG/HP but could not comment on the extent to which they responded to the rights of all women and girls, whether they included exercise/access to SRHR, and whether they were in line with international human rights standards and treaty bodies' recommendations.
- **A number of laws and policies were noted by both government and nongovernmental respondents including:**
 - The Criminal Code was mentioned by respondents, but none referenced specific codes.
 - Family and Children's Act.
 - Children's Agenda 2017-2020.
 - Legislation related to child labour.
 - Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Prohibition) Act.
 - Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act.
 - Domestic Violence Act one respondent noted that a shortcoming was it not covering reproductive rights of women and girls nor did it cover physical or emotional violence.
 - The National GBV Action Plan (2017-2020).
 - The Revised National Gender Policy (updated 2013). This policy makes specific reference to elderly women and women and girls with disabilities.
- **Some of the challenges noted by the respondents included:**
 - Adequacy of coverage of key issues affecting women and girls affected by violence.
 - Lack of evidence base with regard to availability of data on prevalence.
 - Lesbian women are especially vulnerable when reporting cases of GBV or domestic violence. Currently, due to how legislation is written, protection orders may only be given to those laying claims against their spouses.¹⁷ As written in the Domestic Violence Act (2007), spouses must be of opposite sexes.
 - Key informants reported that while the new Cyber Crimes Bill does not directly reference VAWG/HP it aims to combat cybercrime by creating offences of cybercrime; to provide for penalties, investigation and prosecution of the offences of cybercrime and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. As such it will contribute to prevention of cyber bullying which has affected many women and girls.
- Equal Opportunities Bill.
- Cyber Crimes Bill that speaks to cyber bullying, child predators and child pornography.

(16) EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES BILL, 2020, EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(17) The Domestic Violence Act 2007 provides definitions for both spouse and de facto spouse. De facto spouse: "in relation to a person, means a person of the opposite sex to the first-mentioned person who is living with the first-mentioned person as that person's husband or wife though not legally married to each other, or if not living together, is a parent, but not a grandparent, of a child of the first-mentioned person, or is pregnant by the first-mentioned person, and includes a cohabitant, a person in a visiting relationship". Spouse: "a woman who cohabits with a man as if she were in law his wife" and "a man who cohabits with a woman as if he were in law her husband".

Outcome Indicator 1.2

Indicator description: National/and/or sub-national evidence-based, costed and funded action plans and M&E frameworks on VAWG/HP are in place that respond to the rights of all women and girls and are developed in a participatory manner.

Baseline Value

4 out of 6 (6 being the best possible score)

Belize has a National Gender-Based Violence Action Plan 2017-2020. Analysis of the plan per the indicator definition results in a score of 4 out of 6. The plan is currently being reviewed at the national level with a view to ensure that it is evidence based, costed and includes an M&E plan¹⁹.

Basis of Calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Categorical: very low, low, medium, high, very high
Disaggregation	Geographical location (sub-national region/state/province)

Desk Review Findings

This indicator was measured with a review of what exists regarding VAWG Action Plans, funded/costed Action Plans, and M&E Plans at the national/sub-national levels in Belize via

desk review. Key informants also provided additional documentation that was studied. The findings from the desk review are presented below.

Theme	Does a plan exist? Is it costed/funded?
SIGI Belize Profile Domestic Violence	The Revised National Gender Policy aims to increase women's participation in decision-making positions, to build institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming of all relevant policies, strategies and plans of action and to implement gender budgeting across the public sector and across civil society organizations (National Women's Commission, 2013).
Gender Based Violence	<p>National Gender-Based Violence Plan of Action 2017-2020 was commissioned by the Government of Belize through the Women's Department in the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation & Poverty Alleviation with funding from the BA1 Project: Prevention of Violence against Women, Femicide and Human Trafficking in Central America which was led by the Central American Integration System (SICA). In this plan, the introduction summarizes the number of reported domestic violence cases in 2012 and 2015, the number of femicide cases between 2006-2014, rape (2006-13 – average) and sexual abuse cases (2008, 2010, 2014). In years before, the direct responsibility for implementation of the work was the responsibility of that Ministry's Women's Department. With the establishment of a fully functional secretariat for the National Women's Commission (NWC), the responsibility is now headed by this entity. The NWC is housed independently and although has not yet been legally constituted now has a staff of an Executive Director, Programme Officer and supporting administrative staff. The plan outlines a consultative process utilized for its development involving numerous stakeholders including interviews and consultations. A consensus building two-day planning session was held in 2015.</p> <p>The National Gender-Based Violence Plan of Action 2017-2020 includes a strategic objective specifically aimed at increasing awareness and knowledge of GBV among most vulnerable populations including persons with disabilities, elderly persons, and persons living with HIV, among others (Strategic Objective 5). A monitoring and evaluation plan is available (on page 75), but it is not budgeted.</p>

(18) Noted in the definitions section: "GBV: Gender-based violence' and 'violence against women' are terms that are often used interchangeably as most gender-based violence is inflicted by men on women and girls".

(19) Written communications with UNICEF, 18 January 2020.

<p>Adolescent Health National Strategic Plan 2019-2030²⁰</p>	<p>The Adolescent Health National Strategic Plan 2019-2030 was commissioned by the Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture (MOEYSC) and the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation (MHDSTPA). This was developed in collaboration with adolescents and stakeholders providing services to adolescents, using an inclusive and participatory approach via national-level and district-level consultations which allowed adolescents and service providers to give input and validate the strategy. The appointed National Adolescent Health Technical Working Group (TWG) completed the task of developing the Belize Adolescent Health National Strategic Plan (AH-NSP). This included the hosting of two national and four sub-national consultations with 233 adolescents from the six districts in Belize with a view to ensure that the national strategies were discussed with representatives from both the demand and supply side in 2018 and 2019. Outcome 3 of the plan references notes that “every adolescent interacts in environments that supports safety and prevents injuries, violence and neglect”. An M&E Plan is included: defined tables for reporting, separated into the first 4-year cycle (2020-2023) and thereafter in periodic reviews up to 2030. A full review will be undertaken in 2023, 2027 and 2030. The major issues the plan is addressing are related to adolescent positive development, injury and violence, health and mental health and sexual and reproductive health. The four strategies to achieve the vision and mission are institutional strengthening, service coverage and quality, monitoring and evaluation and advocacy and social mobilization. The plan is right-based and life cycle approach with the adolescent at the center and its design is based on provisions for adolescents through strong collaboration among the different implementing agencies.</p>
<p>National Children’s Agenda, National Committee for Families and Children Strategic Plan, 2017-2021</p>	<p>The National Children’s Agenda sets out the Government’s priorities in relation to children and adolescents aged 0 – 19 years over the next 14 years – up to 2030 in line with Horizon 2030 and the Global Goals. It represents a whole of Government effort to improve outcomes for children and adolescents, and recognizes the shared responsibility of achieving these results and the importance of doing so within existing resources. It is rooted in the State’s commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child and integrates standing commitments under relevant national policies, strategies and action plans. The aim of the National Framework is to move policy development and service delivery beyond the present scenario – where children and adolescents are viewed primarily within narrow organizational responsibilities – to a whole of Government response and a clear picture of overall need and the process required to achieve improved outcomes. This shift in thinking is intended to lead to a more seamless approach between a range of child, adolescent and adult services, and provides a unifying policy focus on children and adolescents. The Framework is underpinned by several key strategic documents which lay out in greater detail the programme of work in particular areas. Inter alia, these include Belize’s ECD Commitments and Strategic Plan, the National Youth Policy, the National Strategy and Plan to End Violence and Protect Children in Belize and the National Parenting Curricula and Implementation Plan.</p>
<p>Government of Belize. Road Map to End Child Marriage & Early Unions in Belize. UNFPA, NCFC, UNICEF, Belize, Belize City, 2020</p>	<p>According to the Inter-Agency Regional Joint Programme to End Child Marriage and Early Unions in Latin America and the Caribbean, child marriage and early unions (CMEU) are any formal marriage or informal union involving a boy or girl under the age of 18 years. CMEU has many consequences for adolescent girls, boys and societies, and is as serious as it is wide-ranging. CMEU denies an adolescent girl or boy their childhood, disrupts or terminates their formal education and limits their social development. The road map to end CMEU in Belize contributes to the achievement of the SDG target by outlining a set of strategic actions to address the identified drivers of CMEU, which include poverty, violence, early pregnancy, education, social and gendered norms, and legal and policy frameworks.</p>

(20) GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE, ADOLESCENT HEALTH NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN (AH-NSP), IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation, February 2020

National Child Protection Technical Working Group

[CP-TWG] (2017-2021)

The TWG's principal role is to safeguard the child protection agenda across all ages and stages of the child's life-cycle; this is achieved through effective coordination, collaboration and oversight of the National Strategy and Action Plan to End Violence and Protect Children in Belize, 2017-2021. At the national-level, effective horizontal coordination and collaboration is to be pursued and achieved through the Early Childhood (ECD) and Childhood and Adolescent Development (CAD) Technical Working Groups (TWG) and other technical working groupings inter alia, Parenting and Juvenile Justice. At the sub-national level, vertical coordination is to be pursued and achieved in part through the district-level GBV Committees and the Sustainable and Child-friendly Municipalities Development Steering Committees (SCFMD SC). To this end, the work of the CP-TWG will be supported by the respective standing sub-committees of the NCFC: Policy and Legal Reform; Information, Education and Communication; Monitoring and Evaluation; and Social Planning, within the coordination framework of the National Children's Agenda, 2017-2030. Core responsibilities include: Oversight effective implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan to End Violence and Protect Children in Belize, 2017-2021 and associated Annual Operational Plans, Pursue and achieve horizontal coordination and collaboration in support of effective implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan to End Violence and Protect Children in Belize, 2017-2021 via the Early Childhood (ECD) and Childhood and Adolescent Development (CAD) Technical Working Groups (TWG, district-level GBV and SCFMD steering committees and other technical working groups inter alia, Parenting and Juvenile Justice

Discussion and Findings from Key Informants

While determination of the baseline value of this indicator is based solely on desk review, the baseline reference group agreed that the baseline assessment team should also gather data on this indicator during interviews with government and non-governmental stakeholders. These stakeholders provided some conflicting information regarding the presence of national and/or sub-national evidence-based, costed, and funded action plans and M&E frameworks on VAWG/HP. Just over half of the interviewees (both CSO and government stakeholders) stated that Belize had a national action plan (57%) on VAWG/HP. Approximately one-third (31%) of both CSO and government respondents stated that they did not know if a plan existed, and 11% of all respondents expressed that Belize did not have a national action plan on VAWG/HP. This evidence suggests that while many stakeholders are aware of the existence of action plans, other stakeholders are either unaware, or are unclear about the leadership and processes involving the input of key stakeholders in Belize.

Table 6: Stakeholder responses for Outcome Indicator 1.2

	Action plan on VAWG/HP exists in Belize?			
	Total #	Yes (# of respondents and %)	No (# of respondents and %)	Unsure/Do not know/Maybe (# of respondents and %)
Total interviewees	35	20 (57%)	4 (11%)	11 (31%)
Total government stakeholders	22	12 (55 %)	3 (14%)	7 (32%)
Total CSO stakeholders	13	8 (62%)	1 (8%)	4 (31%)

Where interviewees were able to reference a specific plan, most were unable to speak to whether these were developed in a participatory manner, whether they respond to the rights of all women and girls, and whether they are evidence-based, costed, funded, and contain M&E frameworks. Where respondents were able to speak on the above points, responses varied. For example, five stakeholders stated that the National Gender-Based Violence Plan of Action 2017-2020 was not costed while two stated it was. Likewise, two stakeholders stated the plan of action does not have an M&E framework while five reported that the plan contained an M&E framework.

Insights from stakeholders who referenced details of the National Gender-Based Violence Plan of Action 2017-2020 include:

- The current plan (2017-2020) was developed using evidence from a desk review and through engaging the GBV action committee, although stakeholder could not state how deep participation was.
- The current plan (2017-2020) was approved by the GBV Committee (now the GBV and Gender Committee) which is evidence that stakeholders were in agreement on its contents.
- The current plan (2017-2020) included an indicator framework but no M&E plan.
- A stakeholder representing rural communities expressed that the plan focuses on service provision to survivors and does not focus on the root causes of violence by addressing social norms and gender inequality issues. Further, this stakeholder expressed that while the action plan is “ok” from the capital city perspective, it is both irrelevant to and does not focus on marginalized and vulnerable people including those from indigenous communities and rural women and girls.
- A consultancy/evaluation (scheduled to begin December 2020 and end in late 2021) will include a costed plan, implementation plan, and M&E framework.

This consultancy/evaluation will also be responsible for evaluating the current plan (2017-2020) as well as creating a new one that will begin in 2021.

- Conclusion and key considerations
- Belize has a National Gender-Based Violence Action Plan 2017-2020; Score 5 out of 6.²¹ The plan is currently being reviewed with a view to ensure that it is evidence based, costed and includes an M&E plan.²² The Adolescent Health National Strategic Plan 2019-2030 includes an outcome that focusses on violence generally (not specifically against women and girls). It includes an M&E plan which is not costed. No further action plans specifically focused on VAWG/HP are found.

Outcome Indicator 1.3

Indicator description: Laws and policies are in place that guarantee the ability of women’s rights groups, autonomous social movements, CSOs and women human rights defenders/ feminist activists to advance the human rights agenda.

Baseline Value

100% Belize has ratified the ICESR, ICCPR, CEDAW and the CRC and has a set of laws and policies that guarantee the rights of civil society to advance political agendas.

Basis of Calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Percentage and cumulative Numerator: Countries with all minimum laws in place and have ratified the 4 core HR covenants (ICESR, ICCPR, CEDAW, CRC). Denominator: All Spotlight countries
Disaggregation	Geographic location (region)

Desk Review Findings

The research team reviewed documentation with an eye towards whether or not countries have human rights protections in place to enable people and organizations to advance human rights in an enabling environment. As seen below, Be-

lize’s constitution and national legislature offers civil society the opportunity to advance political agendas however there is limited evidence of specific (national) human rights protections in place to enable people and organizations to advance *human rights* in an enabling environment.

(21) Noted in the definitions section: “GBV: Gender-based violence’ and ‘violence against women’ are terms that are often used interchangeably as most gender-based violence is inflicted by men on women and girls”.

(22) Written communications with UNICEF, 18 January 2020.

<p>The Freedom of Information Act²³</p> <p>Ombudsman Act</p>	<p>The Freedom of Information Act²⁴ is a law passed in Belize that helps to advance the protection of human rights in the country. “Freedom of information is a fundamental human right and is the touchstone for all freedoms to which the United Nations is consecrated.”²⁵ Belize’s freedom of information law implements the constitutional right to information. This right is articulated at section 12 (1) of the Belize Constitution saying that freedom of expression includes receiving and communicating ideas and information without interference. The provisions of Belize’s act allow citizens to seek and obtain information, within a specified time frame, from any agency of government so long as that information is not classified as exempt under the law. Where the government authority denies a specific request for information claiming, for example, that a document is exempt, the Ombudsman is empowered to review the decision and inspect the requested document. Since independence, in addition to the adoption of the Constitution, the National Assembly, Belize’s legislative branch, has passed various domestic legislation that have enhanced the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. Among these laws is the Ombudsman Act of 1994. Traditionally the role of an Ombudsman, adopted from the Scandinavian countries, has been that of a protector of rights by officially investigating citizen complaints of government abuse. In Belize, the act established the office of the Ombudsman which has the power to investigate and report to the National Assembly on malfunctioning of government functionaries and agencies. Although the Ombudsman Act became law in 1994, it was not until 1999 that the government appointed an individual to fill the post and perform the role of the Ombudsman. Belize’s Ombudsman is not an Ombudsman for Human Rights as exists in some countries.</p>
<p>Non-Governmental Organisations Act (2000)</p>	<p>The Non-Governmental Organisations Act (2000) outlines rules for the financing and operation of NGOs. The registration of NGOs is carried out by the Solicitor-General or the Registrar of NGOs, as appointed by the relevant minister. As of 2007, there were 82 registered NGOs. The role of civil society in the country is entrenched and well recognised by the government. An amendment to the Belize Constitution of January 2002 allowed for expansion of the Senate to incorporate a seat for civil society; enabling civil society to have a voice at state level.</p>
<p>Belize Constitution</p>	<p>The preamble of the Belize Constitution states that Belize is “founded upon principles which acknowledge the supremacy of God, faith in human rights and fundamental freedoms...” The preamble further says that the Belizean people require policies of state, which, among other things, “...protects the rights of the individual to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness...” In addition to these prefatory comments respecting human rights in the Belize Constitution, the Constitution contains an entire chapter devoted to the recognition and protection of human rights. This part of the Constitution, entitled “Protection of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms,” is similar to the human rights provisions in the written constitutions of most, if not all, Commonwealth Caribbean nations, including Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and Guyana. Chapter II of the Belize Constitution protects the civil and political rights of individuals in Belize, including freedom of movement, conscience and religion, expression, and assembly and association. The Constitution enshrines the fundamental right to life, liberty, the presumption of innocence, a fair trial and equality before the law. It also protects certain economic rights, such as the right to property and the right to work, but excludes substantive provisions protecting the economic rights to health and education.</p> <p>The constitution also protects right of assembly in Article 13 (1). Specifically it states, “Except with his own consent, a person shall not be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of assembly and association, that is to say, his right to assemble freely and associate with other persons and in particular to form or belong to trade unions or other associations for the protection of his interests or to form or belong to political parties or other political associations.”</p>

(23) Moore, 25 Years of Human Rights In Belize: From Theory to Practice, A Work In Progress (undated)

(24) Chapter 13 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, R. E. 2003.

(25) United Nations General Assembly, 1946 quoted in “Open Sesame: Looking for the Right to Information in the Commonwealth,” Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, 2003.

**Belize National
NGO Network (BNN)
2021-2023 Strategic
Alignment²⁶**

While the strategic plan does not directly address VAWG, BNN seeks to promote good governance in Belize through advocacy, open and effective communication, and meaningful and active participation in reforming our system of governance. BNN is the unified voice of Non-Governmental Organizations in Belize advocating good governance for sustainable human development. The strategic plan focusses on the lack of women in positions of political leadership.

Regional Agreements

Belize is one of 34 member countries of the world's oldest regional organization, the Organization of American States (OAS). The OAS Charter includes references, though not expansive, to human rights and equality, economic rights and the right to education. Some argue that these references to human rights in the OAS Charter obligate all OAS members to generally respect human rights in their territories. The OAS adopted the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (the American Declaration) in Bogotá, Colombia in 1948. The American Declaration pre-dates the renowned United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights by a half a year. The American Declaration is an innovative human rights instrument, partly because it includes duties or responsibilities, along with rights, as one of its prominent features. The OAS Charter created the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights as its principle organ to promote the observance and protection of human rights in the region.

Subsequently, the American Convention established the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The Court has jurisdiction only over OAS member countries that are party to the American Convention; thus, Belize does not come under the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court. However, all countries belonging to the regional organization, including Belize, are subject to the provisions of the American Declaration and fall within the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Commission. Belize has been the subject of the Inter-American Commission inquiries twice in the last 25 years.

Belize is a party to the 1994 Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belem Do Para). In the area of human trafficking and child protection, in 1997. Belize ratified the Inter-American Convention on the International Traffic in Children. Belize is not a party to other OAS human rights instruments, including the 1985 Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture; the 1994 Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons; and the 1999 Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, and the two protocols to the American Convention, one dealing with death penalty abolition and the other with economic, social and cultural rights.

(26) BNN Strategic Plan 2021-2023

International Agreements

Belize was admitted to the United Nations on the 25th of September 1981, Belize has ratified almost all the major international human rights treaties, and as a result, is considered to have a very good treaty ratification record. Belize boasts being the fifth nation in the world to ratify the CRC in 1990 and thereafter in 1998, Belize imported the CRC into its domestic law. Then in 2000, demonstrating its intention to ratify, Belize signed the two optional protocols to the Children's Convention: one prohibiting the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography; and the other Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Belize ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), but has not ratified the First Optional Protocol to the ICCPR giving individuals in the country the right to petition to the UN's Human Rights Committee created by the Covenant. Belize has also not ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, which aims at the worldwide abolition of the death penalty. The Constitution of Belize protects most of the civil and political rights found in the ICCPR. Belize acceded to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Belize has also ratified the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW, recognizing the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to receive and consider communications by individuals or groups who claim that the state party has violated their rights under CEDAW.

The Belize's women's rights movement has been one of the most visible and successful components of the larger human rights movement in Belize since independence. It is largely in part because of the advocacy of the women's movement that the government ratified CEDAW and the regional Convention of Belem Do Para. It is also the power of the women's lobby that ensures that the government of Belize reports to the UN Committee responsible for the oversight of the implementation of CEDAW.²⁷

Belize ratified the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol and thereafter domesticized its obligation to protect the rights of refugees by its passage of the Refugees Act. Against the lobbying of the United States, Belize was among the first of many countries to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, helping to create the first international tribunal with jurisdiction over crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other gross violations of human rights. In 2000, when the government of Belize ratified the CRC protocols, it also signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) demonstrating its intention to ratify this important convention, which it later did. In that same year, Belize signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) but has yet to formally ratify it. The ICESCR, which includes such rights as health care, education, and an adequate standard of living, call for the progressive realization of the rights contained in it based on the state's available resources. Also, in 2001, Belize ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The ratification of this treaty is especially significant in a country with a steady flow of migrants from surrounding Central American countries, other parts of the Caribbean, Asia, North America, and Africa entering into and working in Belize.

However, with the exception of reporting to the Committees for the CRC and CEDAW, Belize has generally failed to report on time or at all to the respective treaty committees. This prevents the established international monitoring mechanism from assessing whether Belize is adhering to the rights covered in the treaties or not. For example, in the 20 years that Belize has been a state party to the Convention against Torture, it has appeared before that treaty's Committee only once even although the Convention requires that reports be submitted every four years after the state party gives its initial report. Also Belize has consistently failed to broadly disseminate to the Belizean population its human rights treaty reports and the Committee's concluding observations. Belize is not complying with two essential components of the international human rights system by not regularly reporting and not informing the public when it does report.²⁸

(27) Moore, 25 Years of Human Rights In Belize: From Theory to Practice, A Work In Progress (undated)

(28) Ibid

International Agreements

There were several reports that the government or its agents committed arbitrary or unlawful killings.²⁹ In addition, Amnesty International in 2018 made the following relevant recommendations.³⁰

1. Publicly recognize human rights defenders, particularly those who face threats and attacks, and ensure support for them to carry out their human rights work.
2. Recognise the important work of women human rights defenders, LGBTI defenders, Indigenous defenders and any other defenders facing discrimination or marginalization, and ensure their effective protection against gender-specific or other threats and violence they face because of their work or who they are.
3. Adopt and implement legislation to recognize and effectively protect all human rights defenders.
4. Ensure young human rights defenders and youth-led organizations engaged in the defense and promotion of human rights are recognized and protected, including by removing age-based discriminatory practices which restrict participation of young people in public decision-making, as well as by providing resources for their work.
5. Fully co-operate with UN human rights mechanisms, in particular extend an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders to conduct visits without restriction on duration and scope, and ensure they are allowed to meet with human rights defenders without hindrance.
6. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and opt-in to the inquiry and inter-state procedures.

Output 1.1

National and regional partners have strengthened evidence-based knowledge and capacities to assess gaps and draft new and/or strengthen existing legislations on ending VAWG including family violence and/or gender equality and non-discrimination that respond to the rights of the most groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and are in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations.

Output Indicator 1.1.1

Indicator description: Number of draft new and/or strengthened laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination developed that respond to the rights of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination and are in line with international HR standards, within the last year.

Baseline Value

Number of new and/or strengthened laws or policies on ending VAWG/GE and non-discrimination developed within the last year: None (0).

Basis of Calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Number
Disaggregation	Geographic location (region)

(29) <https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/belize/> and <https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/belize/>

(30) Suggested recommendations to States considered during the 31st session of the Universal Periodic Review, 5-16 November 2018 <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/IO4089542018ENGLISH.pdf>

Desk Review Findings

To measure this indicator (Belize's commitment to ongoing policy and legislative processes) towards providing a legal structure that supports ending VAWG/HP that are in line with international standards, the research team conducted a desk

review of Belize's national/sub national legislature (especially new/draft) as they relates to VAWG/HP. The findings are presented below. Aside from the Equal Opportunities Bill (which failed to pass in October 2020), no new/draft policies. KII respondents that the National Gender Based Violence Action Plan will be reviewed and updated during 2021.

National GenderBased Violence Plan (NGBVPA) 2017-2020

In line with priority area addressing GBV, the National GenderBased Violence Plan (NGBVPA) 2017-2020 was launched in 2017. The 2017-2020 action plan is preceded by and builds on the 2010-2013 NGBVPA and lays out a three-year framework in effectively decreasing gender-based violence and providing better support to victims. The NGBVPA provides a basis for advocacy work to end gender-based violence in all its forms and serves as a tool to assist policy and decision makers to contribute to the achievement of the national and international goals. The NWC is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the plan at national and regional levels. 65. The National Women's Commission is currently drafting National Implementation Plans for both the National Policy on Gender Equality and NGBVP 2017-2020 which will put in place actionable time lines for the implementation of concrete measures.³¹

In 2015, to further strengthen efforts aimed at combating all forms of violence against women and children, the Ministry of Human Development amalgamated the Women's Department and the Family Support Services Unit of the Department of Human Services to strengthen psychosocial support to women and survivors of Domestic Violence. A National Care Model for operating safe house was completed. The Ministry has also commenced a consultancy to develop in-house Policy and Procedural Manuals to guide the practices of the existing Safe Houses for victims of gender-based violence.

Belize national constitution Preamble at (e) and sections 3, 6(1) and 16

The obligation mandated by the Constitution to protect the human rights of persons within the country extends to a positive obligation on the State to protect women and girls from domestic violence and sexual violence. The principle of non-discrimination, as reflected and guaranteed by sections 3, 6(1) and 16 of the Belize Constitution, prohibits the state from, inter alia, passing legislation or encouraging conduct that unreasonably differentiates between people based on a status or personal characteristics that form the core of an individual's identity. Sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, social class, race, ethnicity and disabilities fall into the category of either a status or a personal characteristic that informs an individual's sense of self or identity.³²

(31) Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Thirty-first session 5-16 November 2018 National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21⁸ Belize https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/belize/session_31_-_november_2018/a_hrc_wg.6_31_blz_1_en.pdf

(32) https://www.unodc.org/res/ji/import/law_on_administration_of_justice/belize_gender_protocol/belize_gender_protocol.pdf

Domestic Violence Act (1992)

Reforms in 2000, 2007, 2011

In 2011 the Domestic Violence Protocol for Police Officers was revised to include a Complaints Mechanism linked to the Office of the Ombudsman (Omb) to investigate inadequate police response. Additionally, a multi-sectoral Sexual Violence Protocol was developed in 2011 with the purpose of facilitating collaboration amongst the Ministries of Human Development, through its Women's Department, National Security, Health, and the Ombudsman's Office to provide protection, treatment and support for survivors of sexual violence so as to reduce their trauma and facilitate recuperation. A handbook to provide information for the general public was also developed in 2012 to provide information on sexual violence.

The law governing domestic violence in Belize is the Domestic Violence Act 2007. This Act creates a wide range of speedy and effective remedies which are aimed at reducing the incidences of domestic violence. The Family Court can grant:

- a protection order that prohibits abuse and molestation, excludes the abusive person from the home or workplace etc.
- an occupation order which gives a right to the person who applies for the order to remain in the household residence
- a tenancy order which vests the tenancy in the person who applied for the order
- other orders relating to counselling, the use of furniture and household effects, payment of rent, mortgage, utilities compensation for any monetary loss caused to the applicant because of any conduct that amounted to domestic violence etc.³³
- section 4 gives the court the power to “make a Protection Order” and, pursuant to section 11, also to make an interim protection order.

In cases where the applicant and respondent have children together, it is usually advised that the court ensure custody and visitation orders are in place when the protection order is issued. The DVA does not expressly state that the court can also make custody orders during the protection order application.

(33) <https://caribbean.unwomen.org/en/caribbean-gender-portal/caribbean-gbv-law-portal/gbv-country-resources/belize>

Belize Penal and Criminal Code (review 2000)

Amendments, 2000, 2014

The Criminal Code was amended in 2014 to reform the law in relation to sexual offences against children, abduction, kidnapping, procurement, incest, inducement to abandon criminal proceedings and perverting the court of justice. One of the principal amendments was the new definition of rape as being the penetration of a person's mouth, vagina, or anus, with a penis, without the person's consent Code 72 of the Criminal Code creates the offence of marital rape but lists instances when it will be so classified.³⁴ The law governing sexual offences in Belize is the Criminal Code "2000 Rev". The Criminal Code recognizes a wide range of offences and has provisions geared at offering greater protection to minors and persons with mental disorders. Not all offences under this Act involve what would be considered gender-based violence, for example prostitution. Some acts amount to offences even if they are consensual (example buggery). Offences recognized under the Criminal Code include: rape, buggery, sex trafficking/procurement, sexual offences in relation to children, sexual offences in relation to persons with mental impairment. Rape is a criminal offence. The Criminal Code defines rape as "the carnal knowledge of a female of any age without her consent". The maximum penalty for rape is imprisonment for life. The minimum sentence that a convicted person can receive for the offence of rape is imprisonment for eight years. Marital rape is defined as where a man has sexual intercourse with his wife without her consent and knows that she does not consent or is reckless as to whether she consents. The law only recognizes marital rape where: the parties are separated or where proceedings to dissolve the marriage or to have it annulled has begun; where certain court orders have been made against the husband; where the man has given an undertaking with respect to the court order; or where the sexual intercourse is accompanied by what amounts to assault and battery, harm or injury to the wife. These provisions only apply to persons who are married and not persons in common law unions. The maximum penalty for marital rape is imprisonment for life. The minimum term that a husband can serve for marital rape is imprisonment for eight years. Children under sixteen years of age cannot legally consent to sexual intercourse. It is a criminal offence for anyone to have sexual intercourse with a child who is under sixteen years of age. This is commonly known as statutory rape. The penalty for having sexual intercourse with a girl who is under fourteen years of age is imprisonment for a term between twelve years and imprisonment for life. If a person has sexual intercourse with a girl who is not younger than fourteen years of age but is not yet sixteen years old, that person may be imprisoned for a maximum period of ten years. Criminal Code section 71(2): In considering whether a man believes a person was consenting to sexual intercourse the jury should consider the present or absence of reasonable grounds in conjunction with other relevant matters. Criminal Code section 53A lists the circumstances in which consent cannot be given or believed to be given.

Protection against Sexual Harassment Act (1996, 2000 review)

The Protection against Sexual Harassment Act protects against sexual harassment in employment (by prospective employer, actual employer or other employee), sexual harassment in institutions and sexual harassment in relation to accommodation. The Act defines sexual harassment as where a person makes an unwelcome sexual advance, request or conduct towards a person and as a result that person suffers some disadvantage in connection with her job or there results in an unreasonable interference with her performance by creating an intimidating, offensive or hostile working environment. A person against whom an offence under the sexual harassment legislation has been committed may make an application to the court. The court may then carry out its investigation into the matter and hold an inquiry to determine if the allegations are true. Based on its findings the court may dismiss the matter or if it finds that the allegations are true it may make certain orders. The court may order that: the person should stop the conduct complained of; the person should "perform any reasonable act or course of conduct to redress any loss or damage suffered" by the person who was sexually harassed. This would appear to include compensation for monetary loss, reinstatement etc.³⁵

(34) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant Initial reports of States parties due in 2015, Belize, 2017

(35) <https://caribbean.unwomen.org/en/caribbean-gender-portal/caribbean-gbv-law-portal/gbv-country-resources/belize>

<p>National Gender Policy And Action Plan</p>	<p>Revised in 2013 the national response to gender-based violence is spearheaded by the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation, and Poverty Alleviation (Min of Human Development) through the NWC which chairs the National Gender-based Violence Committee (NGBVC) and is also its new Secretariat. The NGBVC is a multi-sectorial committee which includes, among other representatives, the Ministries of Health, Education, Human Development, Magistrate and Family Court, Domestic Violence Unit, and NGOs. Belize addresses gender violence in its plans (the first one was drafted in 2007 with an implementation period that lasted until 2009) and through a third national plan which, covers the period 2016 – 2020.</p>
<p>Sexual Offences Act (1991)</p>	<p>Reforms in 2000, 2007</p>
<p>Evidence Act (2017)</p>	<p>Judicial officers should ensure all sexual offence cases are heard in-camera to provide a courtroom environment that promotes respect for the dignity of the virtual complainant and vulnerable witnesses. In-camera in this case means only officers of the court, parties to the case, their attorneys and persons directly concerned with the case should be present in the courtroom.</p> <p>Evidence Act 2017 section 64(l)(b)(iii) provides that oral evidence may be taken out of court for future use in the Supreme Court. Evidence Act 2017 Section 64(c) makes live video-link or any electronic means of oral evidence possible.</p> <p>Evidence Act section 74: In cases of rape or attempted rape, no evidence and no question in cross examination shall be adduced or asked at trial by a defendant about any sexual experience of the complainant with a person other than the defendant. Evidence Act section 74: The sexual history of the complainant not with the accused cannot be used or questioned.</p>
<p>The Adolescent Health National Strategic Plan</p>	<p>The Adolescent Health National Strategic Plan 2019-2030 was commissioned by the Chief Executive Officers (CEO) from the Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture (MOEYSC) and the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation (MHDSTPA).</p> <p>OUTCOMES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adolescents have access to quality services through improved multi sector collaboration resulting in highly satisfied adolescents. 1. Adolescents achieve positive cognitive, sexual, social, and physical development to reduce risk behaviors. 1. Adolescents grow, participate and develop in healthy, nurturing and safe environments where health and wellbeing are promoted by all at community level.
<p>Draft Equal Opportunities Act, 2020³⁶</p>	<p>The draft of Equal Opportunities Bill is a proposed legislation that seeks to clearly delineate in Belize’s laws anti-discrimination protections for individuals who possess certain protected characteristics (PC). The proposed law identifies eighteen PCs, including age, breastfeeding, race, political opinion, sexual orientation, and family responsibilities.</p> <p>The document defines “discriminate against” in its section 3, saying that it “means to make a distinction, create an exclusion, or show a difference in treatment in relation to a person, by reason of that person falling within a particular description by virtue of that person having any” of the protected characteristics.</p>

(36) <https://www.policytracker.bz/documents/updated-draft-of-the-equal-opportunities-bill/>

<p>Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Act-2013 (TIPPA)</p>	<p>The Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Act-2013 (TIPPA) prohibits all forms of trafficking and increased the punishment of up to 12 years' imprisonment if the victim is a child, and up to 25 years' imprisonment in cases involving sexual assault or other aggravating circumstances. The law also elevated the offense of trafficking from that of a summary offence tried in the lower courts to an indictable offense tried before the Supreme Court and increased the penalties.</p>
<p>Family Court Policies and Procedures Manual (FCPPM)</p>	<p>The Belize Family Court (BFC) is a specialized Court located in Belize City which determines civil and juvenile criminal matters. It has the authority to operate by virtue of the Family Court Act, CAP 93 of the Laws of Belize, R.E. 2011.</p> <p>FCPPM section 3.2.5(vi): In cases of domestic violence requiring interim orders, the interim order should be granted on the same day the application is made and the respondent brought before the court within one week.</p> <p>Section 20 of the Families and Children Act gives judicial officers the jurisdiction to make orders regarding custody, maintenance and visitation. The court therefore has the discretion to make orders with respect to custody or access to a child during a protection or occupation order hearing; this section specifies that cross-examination – such as by ensuring applicants are not unduly subjected to questions that reflect discriminatory perceptions on how victims should act in abusive relationships. For example, questions that equate a woman's decisions to stay in the relationship either to there being no abuse or to the woman's consent to the abuse should not be entertained. For many applicants, the process of approaching the courts can be very intimidating and, as such, their oral evidence may not be very articulate or coherent. Judicial officers are therefore encouraged to pay significant regard to medical/expert reports as well as initial police reports containing the applicant's statement (DVA section 29).</p>
<p>Protocols for Multi-Sectoral Response for Sexual Violence</p>	<p>(a) Protocols for Multi-Sectoral Response for Sexual Violence (2011) which were developed to facilitate collaboration amongst the Ministries of Human Development, National Security, Health, and the Office of the Ombudsman to provide protection, treatment and support for survivors of sexual violence to reduce their trauma and facilitate recuperation</p> <p>(b) the Domestic Violence Protocol for Police Officers (2012) which was revised in 2011 to include a Complaints Mechanism linked to the OMB to investigate inadequate police response; and (c) Family Violence Protocol – a guide for streamlining services to victims of domestic violence (2004).³⁷</p>
<p>Gender Protocol</p>	<p>The Gender Protocol is modeled on the Mexican Supreme Court's Judicial Decision-making with a Gender Perspective: A Protocol, which was developed in 2014 to assist Mexican judicial officers to promote and respect the right to equality and non-discrimination.³⁸</p>
<p>Cyber Crimes Bill (2020)</p>	<p>The Cyber Crimes Bill targets the intimidation and threatening of persons with violence or damage to property, of the other person's family with violence. Specifically, it states a person an offense is created by those who would use a computer system to publish or transmit computer data that is obscene, vulgar, profane, lewd, lascivious or indecent, with intent to humiliate, harass or cause substantial emotional distress to another person; or cause the other person to be subject to public ridicule, contempt, hatred or embarrassment. The Cyber Crimes Bill was passed by the House of Representatives on 30 September 2020.</p>

(37) Ibid

(38) https://www.unodc.org/res/ji/import/law_on_administration_of_justice/belize_gender_protocol/belize_gender_protocol.pdf

Discussion and Findings from Key Informants

- The EOB and Cyber Crimes Bill were also noted by key informants during interviews. In addition, key informants also noted the following:
 - National Child Labour Policy (2019).
 - Gender Protocol for the Judiciary (2019).
- Key informants were asked to what extent these new or strengthened laws and/or policies are in line with international human rights standards. However, no key informants were able to provide specific and quantifiable answers regarding the extent to which these laws and/or policies are in line with international human rights standards, a key element of the indicator measurement. Future research on Spotlight Initiative progress should seek to clarify this element.
- With regard to strengthening national policy, the joint UNDP-UN Women assessment, 'From Commitment to Action: Policies to End Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Regional Analysis Document' reports that Belize has no intersecting legislative coordination between domestic violence, intrafamily violence and violence against women and policies and/national plans on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender-based violence/violence against women.³⁹

Conclusion and key considerations

Number of new and/or strengthened laws or policies within the last year: 0 Aside from the Belize Equal Opportunities Bill (draft which was not passed in October 2020) and the September 2020 Cyber Crimes bill, neither of which directly reference VAWG, there are no new draft policies or laws found via desk research.^{40, 41}

The National Women's Commission is currently drafting National Implementation Plans for both the National Policy on Gender Equality and NGBVP 2017-2020 which will put in place actionable time lines for the implementation of concrete measures.

Belize has no legislative consistency between domestic violence, intrafamily violence and violence against women and policies and/national plans on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and violence against women existing in 2016.⁴² The actors responsible for monitoring and evaluation are mainly the national statistics offices in Belize.

(39) "Part of the explanation for the lack of legislative harmonization can be found in the low level hierarchy and the weak leadership in the Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women, the little to no capacity to influence that they have in the political arenas of decision making (in cabinet ministries and parliamentary areas) and in the negligible joint work coordination of all sectors in the social and political contexts characterized by patriarchal and misogynistic patterns that are often resistant to promote legislative reforms of the second generation or to regulate existing laws." United Nations Development Programme, UNDP Regional Center for Latin America and the Caribbean United Nations Entity for Gender equality and Women Empowerment, From Commitment to Action: Policies to End Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Regional Analysis Document, UN Women Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean Edition and publication: Panama, 2017 <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNDP-RBLAC-ReportVCMEnglish.pdf>

(40) <https://www.policytracker.bz/>

(41) The bill would have secured equality and anti-discrimination in Belize however it was withdrawn in September 2020, after Bishop Lawrence Nicasio and other Catholic leaders raised objections to the bill's treatment of sexual orientation and gender identity. Nicasio said the bill risked creating a "new colonialism" where international experts are allowed to change the country's laws, culture and values. <https://angelusnews.com/news/world/belizes-far-reaching-gender-bill-runs-aground-and-critics-warn-of-international-gender-ideology-pressure/>

(42) "Part of the explanation for the lack of legislative harmonization can be found in the low level hierarchy and the weak leadership in the Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women, the little to no capacity to influence that they have in the political arenas of decision making (in cabinet ministries and parliamentary areas) and in the negligible joint work coordination of all sectors in the social and political contexts characterized by patriarchal and misogynistic patterns that are often resistant to promote legislative reforms of the second generation or to regulate existing laws." United Nations Development Programme, UNDP Regional Center for Latin America and the Caribbean United Nations Entity for Gender equality and Women Empowerment, From Commitment to Action: Policies to End Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Regional Analysis Document, UN Women Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean Edition and publication: Panama, 2017 <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNDP-RBLAC-ReportVCMEnglish.pdf>

Output Indicator 1.1.3

Indicator description: Number of draft laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination which have received significant inputs from women’s rights advocates within the last year

Baseline Value

For the purpose of the Spotlight Initiative, the baseline for this indicator is recommended to be set at 0.

Basis of Calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Number
Disaggregation	Geographic location (region)

Desk Review Findings

Through a desk review of laws and policies or records passed over the last year, the research team found no documentation outlining significant input by women’s rights advocates. Having said that, the NGBVC is a multi-sectorial committee

which includes, among other representatives, the Ministries of Health, Education, Human Development, Magistrate and Family Court, Domestic Violence Unit of the Belize Police Department, and NGOs thus while specific inputs by women’s rights advocates are not documented, this does not mean input was not provided.

Domestic Violence Act (1992)	<p>Reforms in 2000, 2007, 2011</p> <p>In 2011 the Domestic Violence Protocol for Police Officers was revised to include a Complaints Mechanism linked to the Office of the Ombudsman (Omb) to investigate inadequate police response. Additionally, a multi-sectoral Sexual Violence Protocol was developed in 2011 with the purpose of facilitating collaboration amongst the Ministries of Human Development, through its Women’s Department, National Security, Health, and the Ombudsman’s Office to provide protection, treatment and support for survivors of sexual violence so as to reduce their trauma and facilitate recuperation. A handbook to provide information for the general public was also developed in 2012 to provide information on sexual violence.⁴³</p>
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(43) The law governing domestic violence in Belize is the Domestic Violence Act 2007. This Act creates a wide range of speedy and effective remedies which are aimed at reducing the incidences of domestic violence. The Family Court can grant:

- a protection order that prohibits abuse and molestation, excludes the abusive person from the home or workplace etc.
- an occupation order which gives a right to the person who applies for the order to remain in the household residence
- a tenancy order which vests the tenancy in the person who applied for the order
- other orders relating to counselling, the use of furniture and household effects, payment of rent, mortgage, utilities compensation for any monetary loss caused to the applicant because of any conduct that amounted to domestic violence etc.
- section 4 gives the court the power to “make a Protection Order” and, pursuant to section 11, also to make an interim protection order.

In cases where the applicant and respondent have children together, it is usually advised that the court ensure custody and visitation orders are in place when the protection order is issued. The DVA does not expressly state that the court can also make custody orders during the protection order application.

<p>Belize Gender Protocol</p>	<p>The Gender Protocol is modeled on the Mexican Supreme Court’s Judicial Decision-making with a Gender Perspective: A Protocol, which was developed in 2014 to assist Mexican judicial officers to promote and respect the right to equality and non-discrimination.⁴⁴</p>
<p>National Gender Policy And Action Plan</p>	<p>Revised in 2013</p> <p>National response to gender-based violence is spearheaded by the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation, and Poverty Alleviation (Min of Human Development) through the NWC which chairs the National Gender-based Violence Committee (NGBVC) and is also its new Secretariat. The NGBVC is a multi-sectorial committee which includes, among other representatives, the Ministries of Health, Education, Human Development, Magistrate and Family Court, Domestic Violence Unit, and NGOs.</p> <p>Belize addresses gender violence in its plans (the first one was drafted in 2007 with an implementation period that lasted until 2009) and through a third national plan which, covers the period 2016 – 2020.</p>

Discussion and Findings from Key Informants

Key informants reported taking part in a steering committee during the development of the Equal Opportunities Bill which included CSOs representing marginalized communities (e.g. LBT women and girls). One stakeholder reported steering committee meetings nearly every month in 2019 and sometimes twice a month if necessary. Further, communications via email were frequent during the drafting period. Consultative processes for the Equal Opportunities Bill in addition to the steering committee were also noted, including town hall meetings and other country consultations.

Similarly, a key stakeholder noted being consulted during the drafting of the Cyber Crime Bill.



(44) https://www.unodc.org/res/ji/import/law_on_administration_of_justice/belize_gender_protocol/belize_gender_protocol.pdf

Output 1.2

National and/or sub-national partners are better able to develop and cost evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on ending VAWG, including family violence, in line with international HR standards with M&E frameworks and responding to the needs and priorities of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

Output Indicator 1.2.1

Indicator description: Number of evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on ending VAWG developed that respond to the rights of all women and girls, have M&E frameworks and proposed budgets within the last year.

Baseline Value

Number of draft evidence-based national/subnational action plans on ending VAWG that respond to the rights of all women and girls, have M&E frameworks and proposed budgets within the last year: 0

Basis of Calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Number
Disaggregation	Geographic location (region)
Indicator description	This indicator measures progress in countries towards effectively planning, funding, monitoring and evaluating VAWG/HP programs at the national and sub-national levels. These plans are evidence-based, costed and funded, are developed with all relevant stakeholders and addressing elements of “leaving no one behind”, and respond to the rights of all women and girls.

Desk Review Findings

The desk review findings indicate that Belize has a number of policy and action plans in place that address VAWG/HP, either specifically or tangentially. However as there is no evidence of M&E frameworks not costing associated to these plans. A summary of the relevant plans across sectors are provided below.

Revised in 2013

National response to gender-based violence is spearheaded by the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation, and Poverty Alleviation (Min of Human Development) through the NWC which chairs the National Gender-based Violence Committee (NGBVC) and is also its new Secretariat. The NGBVC is a multi-sectorial committee which includes, among other representatives, the Ministries of Health, Education, Human Development, Magistrate and Family Court, Domestic Violence Unit, and NGOs. Belize addresses gender violence in its plans (the first one was drafted in 2007 with an implementation period that lasted until 2009) and through a third national plan which, covers the period 2016 – 2020. Steps taken to address GBV include: legislative reform, the establishment of two shelters for women, and the establishment of a Domestic Violence Unit in the Police Department, among others. The Goals and Objectives for the National Plan of Action are: Goal 1: There is zero-tolerance for gender-based violence in Belize. Objective 1-1: Police response to survivors of gender-based violence is improved. Complaints concerning police response are reduced. 10 Debra J. Lewis, op cit, p 52 National Gender-Based Violence Plan of Action 2010–2013/Belize/Page 6 Objective 1-2: Prosecution of acts of gender-based violence is strengthened. Attrition in reported cases that go to trial and result in convictions is reduced by 50%. Objective 1-3: Survivors of gender-based violence have access to justice, including adequate legal representation. Goal 2: Survivors of gender-based violence in both urban and rural areas are provided with adequate services and support. Objective 2-1: All survivors of gender-based violence have access to adequate health services delivered in a supportive, respectful and confidential manner. Objective 2-2: All survivors of gender-based violence have access to adequate support and advocacy services. Objective 2-3: All victims of domestic violence in crisis have access to adequate shelter and financial support. Objective 2-4: Rural women who are victims of gender-based violence have access to justice and support. Objective 2-5: There is strong cross-sector collaboration in responding to survivors of gender-based violence. Goal 3: Gender-based violence in Belize is reduced, and ultimately eliminated. Objective 3-1: Recidivism by perpetrators of gender-based violence is reduced by 30%. Objective 3-2: There is greater public understanding of the roots of gender-based violence. Objective 3-3: Men take greater responsibility for understanding the roots of gender-based violence and take action based on that understanding. Goal 4: It is possible to measure both the extent of gender-based violence in Belize and the effectiveness of strategies to respond to it. Objective 4-1: Systems designed to measure reported cases of gender-based violence capture all reported cases of both domestic violence and sexual offenses. Objective 4-2: A system to measure the incidence, frequency and severity of gender-based violence is in place. Objective 4-3: A method to assess the effectiveness of strategies to respond to gender-based violence is in place. These goals and objectives underline the importance of a multi-sectoral response to gender based violence. Zero-tolerance (Goal 1) requires strong policing and prosecution of domestic violence and sexual offenses, as well as access to legal services for survivors. Support for National Gender-Based Violence Plan of Action 2010–2013/Belize/Page 7 survivors (Goal 2) involves health services, social services, schools and counselors – in both the public sector and civil society – in providing an effective response. Strong cross-sector collaboration is key to reaching the objectives leading to both goals. The reduction and eventual elimination of gender-based violence (Goal 3) involves behavior change on the part of offenders as well as a greater understanding of the relationship between gender-based violence, gender inequality, the subordination of women and current concepts of masculinity. Putting in place effective means to measure both gender-based violence and the effectiveness of response strategies (Goal 4) is essential to our ability to determine if we are making progress toward the other three goals. Of course, fully reaching these goals will take more than the three years set forth in this National Plan of Action. In each case, objectives are designed as steps toward these goals and have been defined using the “SMART” guidelines.

<p>National Gender Policy And Action Plan</p>	<p>The National Women’s Commission and the Women’s Department will require strengthening in order to undertake the development of the plan as well as to be able to monitor its implementation. Limited human and financial resources are a major challenge particularly when discussions about women’s issues are now being debated against the perception of men at risk or marginalized.⁴⁵ Where possible, the SIB will provide advice for the consolidation of the M&E framework for this Gender Policy with other M&E frameworks being implemented by other relevant organizations. This includes the M&E frameworks for the MDGs, the Poverty Elimination Strategy and Action Plan (NPESAP), the National Plan of Action for Children and Adolescents (NPA), the Strategic Plan for a Multi-Sectoral Response to HIV/AIDS and the Strategic Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), among others.⁴⁶</p>
<p>Ministry of Health</p>	<p>Ministry of Health, through its health information system manages data on family violence collected by relevant agencies. The Ministry of Health has developed a protocol for the management of family violence cases at hospitals and health centers, and the Women’s Department has also developed its own protocol to respond to cases more effectively. Several publications on family violence including a basic counseling manual have been produced and many public awareness campaigns have been developed and implemented particularly on International Day to End Violence Against Women.⁴⁷</p>
<p>Children’s Agenda 2017-2030</p>	<p>The National Children’s Agenda 2017-2030 will be monitored through the National Children’s Agenda (NCA) Dashboard called the Children’s Agenda Info.⁴⁸ An M&E framework is not included in the NCA. Similarly, no costs associated with the plan are available in the agenda itself.</p> <p>The Special Envoy for Women & Children is the Belizean champion for children, working primarily in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Development and Social Transformation and the National Committee for Families and Children to fulfill the following duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocate for and influence the development of social policies and legislation in defense of women and children. ▪ Advocate for the implementation of programmes and initiatives that benefit children and their families and promote their rights. ▪ Collaborate with government and quasi-government bodies to present projects seeking financial resources at home and abroad to support government programmes and initiatives for women and children. ▪ To participate in delegations that represent the Government of Belize at international and national forums relating to women and children. ▪ Engage in public awareness and education activities designed to sensitize the general public to issues affecting women and children.

(45) Belize’s report On the Implementation of the Beijing platform for action (1995) And The outcome of the twenty-third special session of the general assembly (2000) PREPARED BY THE WOMEN’S DEPARTMENT Ministry of Human Development Government of Belize April 2004 https://www.cepal.org/mujer/noticias/paginas/8/53218/Informe_Belize_Beijing_10.pdf

(46) Ibid

(47) Ibid

(48) Children’s Agenda Info is an ICT-based platform that supports the progress monitoring of the Children’s Agenda 2017-2030 via the M&E Systems Design. The M&E System Design defines the key performance measures related to the Five (5) National Outcome and Six (6) Transformational Goals both in terms of the related metadata, baselines, 2030 target and interim milestones.

<p>The Sustainable and Child Friendly Municipality Initiative's 2017-2021 Child-friendly Municipal Strategy and Action Plans (created for Belize City, Benque Viejo Town, City of Belmopan, Corozal Town, Dangriga Town, Punta Gorda, Orange Walk, and Santa Elena and San Ignacio)</p>	<p>These action plans align with the National Children's Agenda 2017-2030.</p> <p>These action plans included language regarding measuring progress by working with the NCFC Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-Committee to ensure effective monitoring. However, no monitoring and evaluation framework was provided in the action plans themselves.</p> <p>The action plans also included an annual indicative budget and a column that described resources in either dollar amounts or simply that it would require human resources. The baseline assessment team performed a spot check of allocated resources and noted that the estimated budget did not equal the costed resources that were set aside.⁴⁹</p>
<p>National Children's Agenda, National Committee for Families and Children Strategic Plan, 2017-2021</p>	<p>The National Children's Agenda sets out the Government's priorities in relation to children and adolescents aged 0 – 19 years over the next 14 years – up to 2030 in line with Horizon 2030 and the Global Goals. It represents a whole of Government effort to improve outcomes for children and adolescents, and recognizes the shared responsibility of achieving these results and the importance of doing so within existing resources. It is rooted in the State's commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child and integrates standing commitments under relevant national policies, strategies and action plans. The aim of the National Framework is to move policy development and service delivery beyond the present scenario – where children and adolescents are viewed primarily within narrow organizational responsibilities – to a whole of Government response and a clear picture of overall need and the process required to achieve improved outcomes. This shift in thinking is intended to lead to a more seamless approach between a range of child, adolescent and adult services, and provides a unifying policy focus on children and adolescents. The Framework is underpinned by several key strategic documents which lay out in greater detail the programme of work in particular areas. Inter alia, these include Belize's ECD Commitments and Strategic Plan, the National Youth Policy, the National Strategy and Plan to End Violence and Protect Children in Belize and the National Parenting Curricula and Implementation Plan.</p>
<p>Government of Belize. Road Map to End Child Marriage & Early Unions in Belize. UNFPA, NCFC, UNICEF, Belize, Belize City, 2020</p>	<p>According to the Inter-Agency Regional Joint Programme to End Child Marriage and Early Unions in Latin America and the Caribbean, child marriage and early unions (CMEU) are any formal marriage or informal union involving a boy or girl under the age of 18 years. CMEU has many consequences for adolescent girls, boys and societies, and is as serious as it is wide-ranging. CMEU denies an adolescent girl or boy their childhood, disrupts or terminates their formal education and limits their social development. The road map to end CMEU in Belize contributes to the achievement of the SDG target by outlining a set of strategic actions to address the identified drivers of CMEU, which include poverty, violence, early pregnancy, education, social and gendered norms, and legal and policy frameworks.</p>
<p>National Child Protection Technical Working Group [CP-TWG] (2017-2021)</p>	<p>The TWG's principal role is to safeguard the child protection agenda across all ages and stages of the child's life-cycle; this is achieved through effective coordination, collaboration and oversight of the National Strategy and Action Plan to End Violence and Protect Children in Belize, 2017-2021.</p> <p>At the national-level, effective horizontal coordination and collaboration is to be pursued and achieved through the Early Childhood (ECD) and Childhood and Adolescent Development (CAD) Technical Working Groups (TWG) and other technical working groupings inter alia, Parenting and Juvenile Justice.</p>

(49) E.g. Belmopan resources were approximately BZ\$15,000 less than the annual indicative budget, Orange Walk was approximately BZ\$2,000 more than the annual indicative budget, and Corozal allocated resources were approximately BZ\$6,000 more than the annual indicative budget. Further complicating the cost explanation was the fact that some costed activities for many municipalities spanned multiple years and would therefore be spread out among multiple annual budgets.

Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Act-2013 (TIPPA)	<p>Section 5 of the TIPPA elevated the existing committee's status to that of a Council. The Anti-trafficking in Persons (ATIPs) Council has oversight of coordinates from a cross section of Government Ministries and seeks to increase prevention and protection efforts, increase the number of investigation and successful prosecution of traffickers, reduce the vulnerabilities and the demand that fosters all forms of trafficking through public education and awareness, and increase knowledge generation through data gathering and data management. The ATIPs Council produces and implements an annual action plan which focuses on conducting operations, increasing prosecutions, public awareness and sensitization, victim care, training, strengthening partnerships and statistics gathering.</p>
Belize Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy	<p>VAWG/HP not referenced</p>
ECD Strategic Plan 2017-2021	<p>VAWG/HP not referenced</p>
Education Sector Strategy 2011 – 2016	<p>VAWG/HP not referenced</p>
Health Sector Strategic Plan 2014-2024	<p>VAWG/HP not referenced</p>

Output Indicator 1.3.3

Indicator description: Number of key government officials with increased awareness of human rights standards and obligations and strengthened capacities to develop laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda, within the last year.

Baseline Value

This indicator value is set as 0.

For the purpose of the Spotlight Initiative, the baseline for this indicator is recommended to be set at 0. However, interviews with key government officials highlighted a range of anecdotal participation in drafting laws and policies during 2019-2020. That said, no respondents were able to share draft texts and no documented evidence of their involvement was found in secondary data. As such, the baseline assessment value for this indicator is zero (0).

Basis of Calculation

Type of indicator	<p>Quantitative</p>
Measure	<p>Percentage and cumulative</p>
Disaggregation	<p>Geographic location (region)</p>

Desk Review Findings

Belize has a number of laws and policies that allow for or encourage the participation of civil society groups and rights defenders to advance human rights agendas. A summary of the relevant policies and laws is provided below.

<p>The Freedom of Information Act⁵⁰</p>	<p>The Freedom of Information Act⁵¹ is a law passed in Belize that helps to advance the protection of human rights in the country. “Freedom of information is a fundamental human right and is the touchstone for all freedoms to which the United Nations is consecrated.”⁵² Belize’s freedom of information law implements the constitutional right to information. This right is articulated at section 12 (1) of the Belize Constitution saying that freedom of expression includes receiving and communicating ideas and information without interference. The provisions of Belize’s act allow citizens to seek and obtain information, within a specified time frame, from any agency of government so long as that information is not classified as exempt under the law. Where the government authority denies a specific request for information claiming, for example, that a document is exempt, the Ombudsman is empowered to review the decision and inspect the requested document.</p>
<p>Ombudsman Act</p>	<p>Since independence, in addition to the adoption of the Constitution, the National Assembly, Belize’s legislative branch, has passed various domestic legislation that have enhanced the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. Among these laws is the Ombudsman Act of 1994. Traditionally the role of an Ombudsman, adopted from the Scandinavian countries, has been that of a protector of rights by officially investigating citizen complaints of government abuse. In Belize, the act established the office of the Ombudsman who has the power to investigate and report to the National Assembly on malfunctioning of government functionaries and agencies. Although the Ombudsman Act became law in 1994, it was not until 1999 that the government appointed an individual to fill the post and perform the role of the Ombudsman. Belize’s Ombudsman is not an Ombudsman for Human Rights as exists in some countries.</p>
<p>Non-Governmental Organisations Act (2000)</p>	<p>The Non-Governmental Organisations Act (2000) outlines rules for the financing and operation of NGOs. The registration of NGOs is carried out by the Solicitor-General or the Registrar of NGOs, as appointed by the relevant minister. As of 2007, there were 82 registered NGOs. The role of civil society in the country is entrenched and well recognised by the government. An amendment to the Belize Constitution of January 2002 allowed for expansion of the Senate to incorporate a seat for civil society; enabling civil society to have a voice at state level.</p>



(50) Moore, 25 Years of Human Rights In Belize: From Theory to Practice, A Work In Progress (undated)

(51) Chapter 13 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, R. E. 2003.

(52) United Nations General Assembly, 1946 quoted in “Open Sesame: Looking for the Right to Information in the Commonwealth,” Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, 2003.

Belize Constitution

The preamble of the Belize Constitution states that Belize is “founded upon principles which acknowledge the supremacy of God, faith in human rights and fundamental freedoms....” The preamble further says that the Belizean people require policies of state, which, among other things, “...protects the rights of the individual to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness...” In addition to these prefatory comments respecting human rights in the Belize Constitution, the Constitution contains an entire chapter devoted to the recognition and protection of human rights. This part of the Constitution, entitled “Protection of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms,” is similar to the human rights provisions in the written constitutions of most, if not all, Commonwealth Caribbean nations, including Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and Guyana. Chapter II of the Belize Constitution protects the civil and political rights of individuals in Belize, including freedom of movement, conscience and religion, expression, and assembly and association. The Constitution enshrines the fundamental right to life, liberty, the presumption of innocence, a fair trial and equality before the law. It also protects certain economic rights, such as the right to property and the right to work, but excludes substantive provisions protecting the economic rights to health and education.

The constitution also protects right of assembly in Article 13 (1). Specifically it states, “Except with his own consent, a person shall not be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of assembly and association, that is to say, his right to assemble freely and associate with other persons and in particular to form or belong to trade unions or other associations for the protection of his interests or to form or belong to political parties or other political associations.”

Regional Agreements

Belize is one of 34 member countries of the world’s oldest regional organization, the Organization of American States (OAS). The OAS Charter includes references, though not expansive, to human rights and equality, economic rights and the right to education. Some argue that these references to human rights in the OAS Charter obligate all OAS members to generally respect human rights in their territories. The OAS adopted the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (the American Declaration) in Bogotá, Colombia in 1948. The American Declaration pre-dates the renowned United Nation’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights by a half a year. The American Declaration is an innovative human rights instrument, partly because it includes duties or responsibilities, along with rights, as one of its prominent features. The OAS Charter created the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights as its principle organ to promote the observance and protection of human rights in the region.

Subsequently, the American Convention established the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The Court has jurisdiction only over OAS member countries that are party to the American Convention; thus, Belize does not come under the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court. However, all countries belonging to the regional organization, including Belize, are subject to the provisions of the American Declaration and fall within the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Commission. Belize has been the subject of the Inter-American Commission inquiries twice in the last 25 years.

Belize is a party to the 1994 Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belem Do Para). In the area of human trafficking and child protection, in 1997. Belize ratified the Inter-American Convention on the International Traffic in Children. Belize is not a party to other OAS human rights instruments, including the 1985 Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture; the 1994 Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons; and the 1999 Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, and the two protocols to the American Convention, one dealing with death penalty abolition and the other with economic, social and cultural rights.

International Agreements

Belize was admitted to the United Nations on the 25th of September 1981, Belize has ratified almost all the major international human rights treaties, and as a result, is considered to have a very good treaty ratification record. Belize boasts being the fifth nation in the world to ratify the CRC in 1990 and thereafter in 1998, Belize imported the CRC into its domestic law. Then in 2000, demonstrating its intention to ratify, Belize signed the two optional protocols to the Children's Convention: one prohibiting the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography; and the other Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Belize ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), but has not ratified the First Optional Protocol to the ICCPR giving individuals in the country the right to petition to the UN's Human Rights Committee created by the Covenant. Belize has also not ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, which aims at the worldwide abolition of the death penalty. The Constitution of Belize protects most of the civil and political rights found in the ICCPR. Belize acceded to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Belize has also ratified the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW, recognizing the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to receive and consider communications by individuals or groups who claim that the state party has violated their rights under CEDAW.

The Belize's women's rights movement has been one of the most visible and successful components of the larger human rights movement in Belize since independence. It is largely in part because of the advocacy of the women's movement that the government ratified CEDAW and the regional Convention of Belem Do Para. It is also the power of the women's lobby that ensures that the government of Belize reports to the UN Committee responsible for the oversight of the implementation of CEDAW.⁵³

Belize ratified the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol and thereafter domesticized its obligation to protect the rights of refugees by its passage of the Refugees Act. Against the lobbying of the United States, Belize was among the first of many countries to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, helping to create the first international tribunal with jurisdiction over crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other gross violations of human rights. In 2000, when the government of Belize ratified the CRC protocols, it also signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) demonstrating its intention to ratify this important convention, which it later did. In that same year, Belize signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) but has yet to formally ratify it. The ICESCR, which includes such rights as health care, education, and an adequate standard of living, call for the progressive realization of the rights contained in it based on the state's available resources. Also, in 2001, Belize ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The ratification of this treaty is especially significant in a country with a steady flow of migrants from surrounding Central American countries, other parts of the Caribbean, Asia, North America, and Africa entering into and working in Belize.

However, with the exception of reporting to the Committees for the CRC and CEDAW, Belize has generally failed to report on time or at all to the respective treaty committees. This prevents the established international monitoring mechanism from assessing whether Belize is adhering to the rights covered in the treaties or not. For example, in the 20 years that Belize has been a state party to the Convention against Torture, it has appeared before that treaty's Committee only once even although the Convention requires that reports be submitted every four years after the state party gives its initial report. Also Belize has consistently failed to broadly disseminate to the Belizean population its human rights treaty reports and the Committee's concluding observations. Belize is not complying with two essential components of the international human rights system by not regularly reporting and not informing the public when it does report.⁵⁴

(53) Moore, 25 Years of Human Rights In Belize: From Theory to Practice, A Work In Progress (undated)

(54) Ibid

International Agreements

There were several reports that the government or its agents committed arbitrary or unlawful killings.⁵⁵ In addition, Amnesty International in 2018 made the following relevant recommendations:⁵⁶

- Publicly recognize human rights defenders, particularly those who face threats and attacks, and ensure support for them to carry out their human rights work.
- Recognise the important work of women human rights defenders, LGBTI defenders, Indigenous defenders and any other defenders facing discrimination or marginalization, and ensure their effective protection against gender-specific or other threats and violence they face because of their work or who they are.
- Adopt and implement legislation to recognize and effectively protect all human rights defenders.
- Ensure young human rights defenders and youth-led organizations engaged in the defense and promotion of human rights are recognized and protected, including by removing age-based discriminatory practices which restrict participation of young people in public decision-making, as well as by providing resources for their work.
- Fully co-operate with UN human rights mechanisms, in particular extend an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders to conduct visits without restriction on duration and scope, and ensure they are allowed to meet with human rights defenders without hindrance.
- Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and opt-in to the inquiry and inter-state procedures.

The Family Violence Unit (FVU) in Belize City and the DVU countrywide within the BPD collaborate with the Women's Department to implement activities against gender violence and to conduct sensitization sessions with community members. The FVU works to raise awareness on the issues of domestic violence with a focus on the role of the police officer in the reporting, investigation and prosecution of cases of domestic violence and the enforcement of the DVA. In 2014, through the UN Trust Fund Project, several training sessions were conducted with Junior and Senior Police Officers from a wide cross section of the BPD. The overall goal seeks to strengthen police response while increasing survivors/victim's safety and access to protection and justice.⁵⁷

Since the last review Judges and Magistrates participated in several human rights related training sessions including: Gender Equity Workshop of all Judges and Magistrates in 2013 Workshop on Juvenile Justice 2014, Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) Judicial Training in Judicial Ethics and Judgement Writing 2015, Judicial Colloquium on Mental Health in Capital Cases 2016, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR's) Refugee Law and practice Magistrates 2016, Workshop for Judges and Magistrates under auspices of Human Trafficking Institute 2017, and, the UNHCR Refugee training in 2018.⁵⁸

(55) <https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/belize/> and <https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/belize/>

(56) Suggested recommendations to States considered during the 31st session of the Universal Periodic Review, 5-16 November 2018 <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/IOR4089542018ENGLISH.pdf>

(57) Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Thirty-first session 5-16 November 2018 National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21⁸ Belize

(58) Ibid

Discussion and Findings from Key Informants

Of the 17 government stakeholders who answered the question related to step 1 of Indicator 1.3.3, nine met the threshold of three points to be counted and continue to step 2. However, none of the government stakeholders interviewed had ever participated in drafting laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs, and women's human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda.

As stated in the methodological notes, 'individuals must be counted in both step 1 and step 2 in order to be counted into the indicator'. As such, no individuals can be counted for this indicator at baseline.



Pillar 2: Institutional Strengthening

Outcome 2

National and sub-national systems and institutions plan, fund, and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, and harmful practices, including in other sectors.

Outcome Indicator 2.1

Indicator description: Existence of a functioning regional, national and/or sub-national coordination and oversight mechanisms at the highest levels for addressing VAWG/HP that in-

clude representation from marginalized groups.

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Cumulative/Qualitative
Measure	Yes/No
Disaggregation	LNOB
Source of data	Inquiry into the national level coordinating committees among ministries, especially the gender ministry (or department if not its own ministry).
Other sources of data	None
Indicator description	This indicator measures whether or not there is a coordinated mechanism for addressing VAWG/HP at the national level.

Desk Review Findings

While no one (overall) mechanism or oversight body was obvious via the desk review, as is seen in other part of this report, there are several actors who cooperate and coordinate with each other including but not limited to:

- Professional Standards Branch (PSB) of the Belize Police Department, the branches of the PSB are being established countrywide. The police officers assigned to these branches have the sole responsibility to receive, investigate and address complaints by any persons or body of persons who claim to have sustained injustice, injury or abuse or other wrong doing by any police officer. An effort is being made to keep the PSB branch offices physically separate from the police stations. The establishment of these branches will be complemented by a program of public education to further educate Belizeans on their rights and responsibilities.⁵⁹
- The Anti-trafficking in Persons (ATIPs) Council has oversight of coordinates from a cross section of Government Ministries and seeks to increase prevention and protection efforts, increase the number of investigation and successful prosecution of traffickers, reduce the vulnerabilities and the demand that fosters all forms of trafficking through public education and awareness, and increase knowledge generation through data gathering and data management.
- The Ministry of Human Development continues to provide shelter and other basic needs as well as physical and mental health services to victims of trafficking for the duration of the criminal proceedings, and, an individualized care plan with the goal of rehabilitation and/or re-integration.
- The National Women's Commission is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the Gender Based Violence Action plan at national and regional levels. It is currently drafting National Implementation Plans for both the National Policy on Gen-

(59) Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Thirty-first session 5–16 November 2018 National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21* Belize

der Equality and NGBVP 2017-2020 which will put in place actionable time lines for the implementation of concrete measures.

- A National Surveillance System hosted by MoH serves as the data collection mechanism for capturing gender-based violence. The MoH compiles and produces statistical reports to share annually with stakeholders.
- The Ministry of Labour is responsible for the prevention of child labour in Belize. The GoB reactivated the National Child and Labour Committee (NCLC) which in turn has rolled out certain measures to address and prevent child labour.
- The Ministry of Human Development is the primary government institution charged with the mandate of promoting and protecting the rights of disabled persons.

Findings from key informants

20 government key informants answered this question.

Overall, government stakeholders were unclear regarding what body within Belize functions as the national and/or sub-national coordination and oversight mechanism for addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Oftentimes, stakeholders were unable to name one entity that functions as a coordination and oversight mechanism for addressing VAWG, including family violence. Instead, stakeholders would mention several actors in answering the interview question to include: National Women’s Commission (NWC), National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC), Gender and Gender-based Violence Committees, Ministry of Human Development (MHD), Women’s Department, the Special Envoy for Women and Children, and the Domestic Violence Unit of the police. The table below is an accounting of the number of interviewees who mentioned a specific entity while answering the question.

Number of interviewees	Entity included in response to interview question for Indicator 2.1
7	National Women’s Commission (NWC)
5	National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC)
3	Gender and Gender-based Violence Committees
1	Ministry of Human Development (MHD)
1	Women’s Department
1	The Special Envoy for Women and Children
1	Domestic Violence Unit/Family Violence Unit of the police
1	National Council on Ageing
4	Unsure/Took best guess
1	No coordination mechanism

Of the government stakeholders who were able to name one entity that functions as a coordination and oversight mechanism for addressing VAWG, including family violence, the results were wide-ranging. Three individuals stated this was the NWC, two stated this was the NCFC, and the National/District Gender and GBV Committees, the MHD, and the Special Envoy for Women and Children each had one individual stating they were the one entity that functions as a coordination and oversight mechanisms for addressing VAWG.

Regarding whether the coordination and oversight mechanism was housed at the highest levels and included representation from marginalized groups, one interviewee stated that the NWC have groups and representatives from the LGBTQ community and indigenous community, but could not detail the level of engagement.

Outcome Indicator 2.3

Indicator description: Extent to which VAWG/HP is integrated in five other sectors (health, social services, education, justice, security, culture) development plans that are evidence-based and in line with globally agreed standards.

Baseline value

Score: 6 points (LOW):

VAWG/HP is mentioned but is not measured, or described as part of activities or M&E. No funding is allocated.

Health Sector Strategic Plan 2014-2024: low integration (1 point)

Children's Agenda 2017-2030: medium integration (2 points)

Education Sector Strategy 2011-2016: no integration (0 points)

Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy 2016-2019: low integration (1 point)

Justice: low integration (1 point)

National Security and Defense Strategy 2017-2021: low integration (1 point)

Belize National Cultural Policy 2020-2026: no integration (0 points)

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Proportion
Disaggregation	By sector (health, social services, education, justice, security, culture)
Source of data	National and subnational VAWG/HP Action Plans on VAWG/HPs that might be housed with various national and sub-national ministry offices, such as the Gender Ministry

Desk Review Findings

Findings from the desk review indicate that there is a low level of integration of VAWG/HP in Belize's development plans across sectors, and whether these VAWG/HP parts are in line with globally agreed standards. The relevant plans and agendas across the sectors are summarized below and references to VAWG/HP provided.

<p>Health Sector Strategic Plan 2014–2024</p>	<p>The Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP) is built on the WHO Systems Thinking Approach which is people centered. It was developed by the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with other social partners and stakeholders, including but not limited to Government Ministries, Professional Organizations, United Nations Agencies, NGOs and the private sector. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) provided resources for the development of the Health Sector Strategic Plan. The Plan very briefly mentions the Revised National Gender Policy 2013 the national framework document that seeks to ensure that the identified gender equity gaps are addressed through a structured process that engages stakeholders at all levels.⁶⁰</p>
<p>Belize’s National Children’s Agenda</p>	<p>Children’s Agenda 2017–2030 sets out the Government’s agenda and priorities in relation to children and adolescents aged 0–19. National Outcome 3 ensures that children are safe and protected from harm in that they enjoy secure, stable, caring home environments; are safe from abuse, neglect and exploitation; are protected from bullying and discrimination; and are safe from crime. The results framework forming part of the Agenda addresses gender based violence: “Upgrade and sustain national programs aimed at child protection and the elimination of gender based violence” P20.⁶¹</p> <p>Responding to global, regional and national commitments to accelerate actions to end child marriage and early unions, under SDG 5 and in connection with the Country Programme Document priority to support policies that address violence against children, UNICEF, UNFPA and the Central America and Mexico Youth Fund responded to a request by the National Committee for Families and Children to support the development of a Road Map to End Child Marriage and Early Unions in Belize. That goal is included in Belize’s National Children’s Agenda, which falls under the purview of the National Committee for Families and Children. A two-day workshop was organized with the objectives of strengthening the understanding of the problem of child marriage and early unions in Belize, and developing a Road Map with key strategies for preventing and addressing it. Belize is the first English-speaking country in the region to initiate actions to end child marriage and early unions. A country profile was developed to systematically document the policy, legislative and data challenges impacting child marriage and early unions. The Road Map is expected to be completed in 2019. This work is closely linked to the gender action plan and is also supported by the UN Gender Theme Group.</p>
<p>Improving access, quality and governance of education in Belize EDUCATION SECTOR STRATEGY 2011 – 2016</p>	<p>The strategy has no mentioned of violence against women and girls nor harmful practices. It focusses on the following key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase equitable access to all levels of education Improve the quality and relevance of education at all levels Strengthen governance throughout the sector with emphasis on increased accountability for student achievement.⁶²

(60) Ministry of Health, Belize Health Sector Strategic Plan, 2014-2024 <http://health.gov.bz/www/attachments/article/801/Belize%20Health%20Sector%20Strategic%20Plan%202014-2024-April%202014.pdf>

(61) Children’s Agenda, 2017-2030 <http://humandevlopment.gov.bz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Childrens-Agenda-2017-2030.pdf>

(62) Improving access, quality and governance of education in Belize EDUCATION SECTOR STRATEGY 2011 – 2016 https://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/sites/planipolis/files/ressources/belize_ed-sector_strategy_2011-2016.pdf

<p>Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy 2016-2019</p>	<p>This Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS) for Belize aims to rise to the challenge of guiding overall development for the nation for the period 2016-2019.</p> <p>In line with the Horizon 2030 vision and the emerging Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, Belize will seek to eradicate poverty by 2030 and to achieve more equitable income distribution. It will also aim to reduce homicides to under 10 per 100,000 inhabitants annually (as a minimum target), provide universal access to basic and early childhood education, provide universal access to health care, maintain or raise life expectancy beyond the current level of 74 years, and reduce the incidence of morbidity and mortality resulting from a selected set of ailments. (Citizen Security is also addressed under CSF 4.)</p> <p>Action 2, under the Necessary Condition 2.8 which covers social inclusion and equitable growth provides for the elimination of gender based violence and child protection: Upgrade and sustain national programs aimed at child protection and the elimination of gender-based violence MHDSTPA, in partnership with the Attorney General's Ministry, will expand and upgrade legal aid support services to provide free legal advice to victims and alleged perpetrators of crimes. It will also conduct a review of existing psycho-social support mechanisms for victims of genderbased violence and propose improvements as needed.</p> <p>A budget and resource mobilization strategy is included (but not actual figures).⁶³</p>
<p>The National Security and Defence Strategy (NSDS) 2018-2021</p>	<p>The strategy aims to rise to the challenge of guiding overall national security and defence for the period. It builds on previous documents including Horizon 2030: National Development Framework for Belize 2010-2030, the Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy for Belize 2016-2019, and the National Security Strategy of Belize 2009.</p> <p>At the core are the National Security and Defence Pillars that originated with the Chief Executive Officers Caucus, these are:</p> <p>Maintain the Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity of Belize;</p> <p>Reduce Local and Transnational Crime; and,</p> <p>Provide the necessary environment for a prosperous and stable Belize.</p> <p>Strategic objective 1: Protect Belizeans from the harm, violence, and exploitation of transnational criminal networks. Our priority is the safety, security, and prosperity of Belizean citizens. We will target the networks that pose the gravest threat to citizen safety and security, including those that traffic illicit drugs, arms, and people, especially women and children.⁶⁴</p>
<p>Belize National Cultural Policy 2020-2026</p>	<p>The National Cultural Policy provides the policy framework for the safeguarding of Belize's tangible and intangible cultural heritage; the promotion of cultural expression and creativity; the development of cultural and creative industries and the wise management of Belize's cultural resources. There is no mention of any strategy/note to cover violence against women and girls, or harmful practices.⁶⁵</p>

(63) Belizes Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS), 2016-2019. <https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/sites/default/files/plan/files/BelizeGSDS.pdf>

(64) National Security and Defense Strategy 2017-2020

<https://d2rdp9tdzoispr.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/belize-national-security-defence-strategy-plan-2018-2021-2.pdf>

(65) Belize National Cultural Policy 2020-2026, <https://www.dgft.gov.bz/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Copy-of-National-Cultural-Policy-Final-Policy-Document-1.pdf>

Rape and Domestic Violence: The criminal code criminalizes rape of men or women, including spousal rape. The code states that a person convicted of rape shall be sentenced to imprisonment for eight years to life, although sentences were sometimes much lighter. Problems facing the wider justice system generally resulted in poor conviction rates for rape. According to the United Belize Advocacy Movement (UniBAM), 75 percent of sexual abuse crimes were against girls between the ages of 10 and 19. Domestic violence was often prosecuted with charges such as harm, wounding, grievous harm, rape, and marital rape, but allegations of domestic violence were treated as civil matters. Police, prosecutors, and judges recognized both physical violence and mental injury as evidence of domestic violence. Penalties include fines or imprisonment for violations. The law empowers the Family Court to issue protection orders against accused offenders.

Sexual Harassment: The law provides protection from sexual harassment in the workplace, including provisions against unfair dismissal of a victim of sexual harassment in the workplace. The Women's Department recognizes sexual harassment as a subset of sexual violence, but no cases have ever been brought under the sexual harassment provisions.

Discrimination: The law provides for the same legal status and rights for women as for men. The law also mandates equal pay for equal work, but the labor commissioner verified that men earned on average BZ\$90 (\$45) more per month than women did because they held higher managerial positions. The law provides generally for the continuity of employment and protection against unfair dismissal, including for sexual harassment in the workplace, pregnancy, or HIV status. Despite legal provisions for gender equality and government programs aimed at empowering women, NGOs and other observers reported women faced social and economic discrimination. Although participating in all spheres of national life and outnumbering men in university classrooms and having higher high school graduation rates, women held relatively few top managerial or government positions.⁶⁶

Early and Forced Marriage: The legal minimum age to marry is 18, but persons between ages 16 and 18 may marry with the consent of parents, legal guardians, or judicial authority. According to UNICEF, 29 percent of women ages 20 to 49 were married or cohabitating before reaching age 18. **Sexual Exploitation of Children:** The law establishes penalties for child prostitution, child pornography, child sexual exploitation, and indecent exhibition of a child. It defines a "child" as anyone younger than age 18. The law stipulates that the offense of child prostitution does not apply to persons exploiting 16 and 17-year-old children through exchanging sexual activity for remuneration, gifts, goods, food, or other benefits. The legal age for consensual sex is 16, but prostitution is not legal under age 18. Sexual intercourse with a minor younger than age 14 is punishable by 12 years' to life imprisonment. Unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor age 14-16 is punishable by five to 10 years' imprisonment.⁶⁷ The criminal code was also amended in 2013.

(66) <https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/belize/>

(67) United States State Department, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2019 United States Department of State. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. 2019 file:///C:/Users/HP/Downloads/Justice%20report%20from%20DOS.pdf

<p>Gender Equality Protocol for Judicial Officers in Belize</p>	<p>Gender Equality Protocol for Judicial Officers in Belize</p> <p>The absence of a gendered perspective or lens in the administration of justice is a notable factor in the justice system's failure to adequately address the barriers to women's and men's access to justice. This Protocol is therefore intended to offer judicial officers (and other stakeholders) a lens through which they can better appreciate what gaps exist in the judicial system in relation to the gendered needs of women and men who appear before the courts. Judicial officers will hopefully then be able to make decisions that are responsive to those needs, and the court environment will reflect a similar responsiveness. The Gender Protocol is intended to promote awareness of the ways in which gender intersects with other social statuses to affect the justice system and its users, and to provide tools to help judicial officers achieve gender-sensitive adjudication.</p> <p>No Judicial Ministry process/strategy or policy is referred to in the gender protocol. Rather it refers to the following structures that guided its development:</p> <p>Belize Constitution: Preamble and sections 3, 6(1) and 16 of the Constitution is a guarantee of the rights of equality and protection under the law.</p> <p>The principle of non-discrimination, as reflected and guaranteed by sections 3, 6(1) and 16 of the Belize Constitution.</p> <p>The Domestic Violence Act (DVA)</p> <p>Family Court Policies and Procedures Manual (FCPPM)</p>
<p>National Cybersecurity Strategy Towards A Secure Cyberspace 2020-2023</p>	<p>This Strategy recognizes that human rights apply online, as well as offline, and that cybersecurity and human rights are mutually reinforcing. Thus this Strategy protects and promotes fundamental rights and freedoms such as the right to privacy, freedom of expression, freedom of association, freedom of assembly among others, in addition to being in line with Part II of the Constitution of Belize and the international instruments to which Belize is party to. The strategy does not directly reference VAWG however it will support efforts to prevent cyber bullying which has affected many women and girls.</p>
<p>THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES BILL AND EDUCATION (2020)</p> <p>(proposed)</p>	<p>Under the proposed Equal Opportunities Bill (EOB), it would be unlawful for education providers to treat, or propose to treat, someone differently and less favourably because of a 'protected characteristic' covered under the legislation. This builds on the equal opportunities and antidiscrimination provisions already set down in the Education and Training Act 2010 (ETA).</p> <p>The bill proposed to cover a wide range of educational environments, similar to the Education and Training Act, such as schools, colleges, universities or other institutions where training or education is provided. It also covers people and bodies that run educational institutions. The bill was not passed in October 2020.</p>

GBV IMS Concept Note (draft)

Belize has had a surveillance system for domestic violence since 1999, overseen by the Ministry of Health Epidemiology Unit, in collaboration with the Women’s Department in the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation [MHDSTPA]). This was renamed to a Gender Based Violence Surveillance System (GBVSS) in part because of a PAHO/CDC report from 2003, and other system changes were implemented including a new data collection form in 2006.

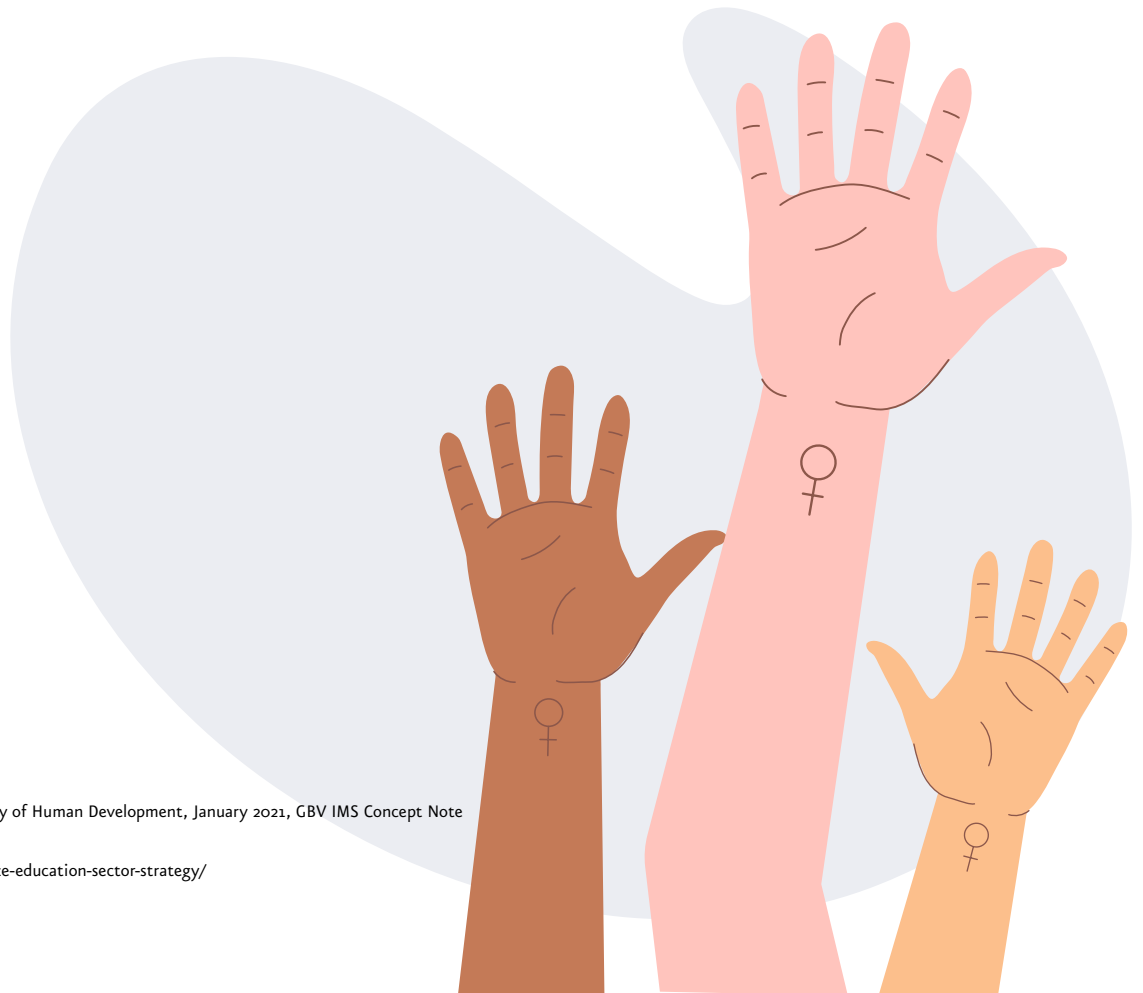
The Government of Belize, through the tripartite group of Ministries that oversee the current GBVSS, now wish to improve and strengthen the system, to both fulfill the role of a statistical M&E system as well as a comprehensive case management system, that captures important aspects of each case from first report through to case closure. This includes any service provided by any public, private or NGO social service or health care organization for a client or their family, including the judiciary.

MHDSTPA has recently implemented its own online case management system (FAMCare) which has expanded far beyond just the Ministry. Numerous agencies now use FAMCare, including other government agencies, the police department and some non-government organisations. It provides a platform for service providers from any agency to register details in a central database, whilst maintaining strict confidentiality through a number of security settings applied to a user’s agency and role within the system.

The objective of transferring the current GBVSS from the Belize health Information System to FAMCare, is therefore, to effectively monitor all aspects of a GBV case.⁶⁸

Belize Education Sector Strategy (2020)

There are ongoing consultations reported by the Ministry of Education with regards to updating the strategy.⁶⁹



(68) Documentation provided by the Ministry of Human Development, January 2021, GBV IMS Concept Note

(69) <https://www.moe.gov.bz/the-new-belize-education-sector-strategy/>

Output 2.1

Key officials at national and/or sub-national levels in all relevant institutions are better able to develop and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG, including family violence, especially for those groups of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including in other sectors.

Output Indicator 2.1.1

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Number, Count
Disaggregation	National/ Subnational
Source of data	<p>Inquiry into the national level coordinating committees and records of sessions among the president's (or equivalent) office, ministries, especially the gender ministry (or department if not its own ministry).</p> <p>Inquiry into the state/provincial/regional level coordinating committees and records of sessions among ministries, especially the gender ministry (or department if not its own ministry), and other institutions supported by or reporting to the national government in the area of VAWG prevention.</p>
Other sources of data	None
Indicator description	This indicator measures the progress of a country and its regions towards a coordinated effort to prevent and respond to VAWG, including those groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination

Indicator description Number of institutions that develop strategies, plans and/or programmes to prevent and respond to VAWG, including for those groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.

Baseline value

At Baseline, this indicator is recommended to be set at 0. Findings from the desk review and key informant interviews to aid Spotlight Belize in grasping a fuller understanding of the context at baseline indicate that there are a number of coordinated efforts including national plans, strategies and programmes that respond to VAWG in Belize.

Desk Review Findings

There are a number of coordinated efforts including plans, strategies and programmes that respond to VAWG in Belize. These are listed below.

Strategies and Plans:

- The Revised National Gender Policy (Updated Version 2013) includes Violence Producing Conditions as one of the five policy priorities. The document comprises a situational analysis of GBV in Belize as well as specific GBV-related objectives and commitments.
- National Gender-Based Violence Plan of Action 2017-2020 was commissioned by the Government of Belize through the Women's Department in the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation & Poverty Alleviation. The preliminary version (draft) of the third National Gender-based Violence Plan of Action (2015-2020) has been finalized and is scheduled to be submitted for validation before moving on to the official approval of the Cabinet of Ministers. The national action plan adopts a multisectoral approach. That is, the implementation is carried out by various state institutions (Police, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, among others) as well as women's organizations of civil society in Belize.
- The Adolescent Health National Strategic Plan 2019-2030 was commissioned by the Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture (MOEYSC) and the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation (MHDSTPA).
- The National Children's Agenda sets out the Government's priorities in relation to children and adolescents aged 0 – 19 years over the next 14 years – up to 2030 in line with Horizon 2030 and the Global Goals.
- Road Map to End Child Marriage & Early Unions in Belize. UNFPA, NCFC, UNICEF, Belize, Belize City, 2020 – an Inter-Agency Regional Joint Programme to End Child Marriage and Early Unions in Latin America and the Caribbean
- National Strategy and Action Plan to End Violence and Protect Children in Belize, 2017-2021

Programmes/Campaigns/Services⁷⁰

- The State of Belize takes actions to prevent domestic violence within the framework of the campaign “16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women” and in commemoration of the International Day of Non-Violence against Women, each November 25th. In 2010, the State of Belize created the Network of Men “Champions for Change” through a regional programme by UN Women that recruits men all over the country to act as advocates to end violence against women.
- The Department of Women, with the support of the Domestic Violence Unit of the Police and the Judiciary, provides training on gender violence to professionals and officials in all sectors and jurisdictions, police officers, prosecutors, officers of the judiciary, health area personnel, social workers, educators, community leaders, and civil and religious society through annual training exercises. In line with the comprehensive approach that the National Action Plan adopts, the contents of the training are aimed at prevention, care and reparations for gender-based violence and an identification of the various forms of manifestation of violence, its causes and consequences.
- The Ministry of Human Development and Social Transformation created the Community Counseling Centre and Haven House and Mary Open Doors shelters, which provide comprehensive assistance to victims/survivors and are coordinated by the Department of Women. The Department of Women also provides psychological counseling services through support groups for women in each district. The State of Belize has implemented programmes to address gender-based violence and domestic violence, such as the 2001 Health and Family Life Education Programme; the 2008 Batterers Intervention Programme, which is coordinated by the Department of Women and sponsored by UN Women; and the Gender Awareness Safe School Programme includes capacity and awareness-building activities regarding gender-based violence, among others.
- There are three civil society organizations that provide support (basic services) and shelter to victims/survivors in three of six districts in which the country is divided, in collaboration with the Department of Women. Shelters rely principally on social workers.
- The State of Belize installed a hotline to deal with cases of violence against women and/or domestic violence run by the Police Department (0-800-A-WAY-OUT). The Women Development Officers have been trained to provide legal support to victims/survivors.

Findings from key informants

Representatives from 31 entities provided information related to this indicator. 21 of these entities reported having strategic, plans, and/or programmes on preventing and responding to VAWG.

Examples of strategies, plans, and programmes aimed at prevention of and response to VAWG include:

- Human rights awareness trainings and safe space programming (Belize Chapter of the Young Women’s Christian Association)
- Sexual Harassment Policy (Belize Defense Forces)
- WPS Agenda (Belize Defense Forces)
- Trainings for judiciary regarding how to handle cases involving marginalized populations
- Provision of services to survivors of GBV and provision of CSE to young people (BFLA with IPPF funding)
- Provision of complaint form box (BFLA)
- RISE Girls Programme (CDF in collaboration with MOE)
- SMS messaging to parents on violence and how they may access help (CDF with Spotlight Initiative)
- Trainings to community leaders (CDF with Spotlight Initiative)
- Sensitizations with churches and pastors regarding child marriage as a form of GBV (CDF alone as well as with Spotlight Initiative)
- Project documenting cases of GBV and working with a community paralegal to assist the survivors (Empower Yourself Belize Movement – EBYM)
- Capacity building trainings for girls that includes GBV (GoJoven Belize)
- Program regarding GBV with men and boys (GoJoven Belize)
- Masculinity training to help break the cycle of violence (GoJoven Belize)
- Training of community health workers which includes identifying family violence (GoJoven Belize)
- Online couples counselling/therapy for couples who face domestic violence of IPV issues (Love Foundation)
- Workshop on empowering women including information on GBV (Mary Open Doors)

(70) United Nations Development Programme, From Commitment to Action (undated), <https://americalatinagenera.org/newsite/includes/fichas/fichas/english/BELIZE.pdf>

- Interactions with leaders in 10 rural villages in the south of the country to address violence against women and gender equality (NWC in partnership with Humana People to People)
- Strategy to End Violence (NCFC)
- Trauma training for teachers which has a component that looks at family violence (RESTORE Belize)
- Signature Conversation of domestic violence in same-sex relationships (PETAL)
- Couples Wellness Programme (PETAL)
- Monthly GBV outreach on the 25th of every month (PETAL)
- Policy on how to deal with perpetrators of violence (Police in consultation with the Women's Department and Special Envoy for Women and Children)
- Additional hotline in Domestic Violence Unit of police for Smart Users (previously, hotline only catered to users of BTL) (through the Spotlight Initiative and Women's Commission)
- Strategic Plan 2018-2020 (POWA)
- School talks about domestic violence and GBV (POWA)
- MHPSS services (POWA)
- HIV Peer Education which includes GBV (SCLAN)
- Awareness campaign on national television regarding GBV (SCLAN)
- Trauma-informed systems of care trainings (Tikum Alum)
- Strategic Plan (UNIBAM)
- Educational presentations to schools which includes topics such as domestic violence, human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation and rape (YES)
- Advocacy and trainings with police, teachers, public officials, and Belize Defence Force (YES)



Output Indicator 2.1.8

Indicator description: Number of key government officials with strengthened capacities to integrate efforts to combat VAWG into the development plans of other sectors, within the last year.

Baseline value

None of the key officials reported integrating efforts to combat VAWG into the development plans of other sectors within the last year and, as such, no evidence was produced. The value for baseline is recommended to be 0.

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Number/Count
Disaggregation	Sex
Source of data	Survey of key government officials
Other sources of data	Data from programs that target building the capacity of key government officials to enable them to integrate efforts to combat VAWG into the development plans of other sectors.
Indicator description	This indicator measures political commitment in a country, or region of a country, to ensuring that there is an increase in the skills base of key government officials in integrating efforts to combat VAWG into the development plans of other sectors.

Findings from key informants

17 government stakeholders answered the interview question related to Indicator 2.1.8.

Several stakeholders described their efforts to integrate efforts to combat VAWG within their sectors and with other sectors, however, stakeholders were often unable to give specific examples and supporting evidence. Further, the efforts described largely related to drafting policies, discussing strategies, and contributing to protocols – not development plans of other sectors. No instances of a key official helping to integrate efforts to combat VAWG into the development plans of other sectors within the last year were discovered during key informant interviews.

One government stakeholder gave the example of sitting on committees that address VAWG (e.g., NWC, Gender and GBV Committee) and meeting with various ministries on the issue of domestic violence last year, including a discussion of strategies to end violence. However, the stakeholder had not contributed to writing development plans of other sectors.

One government stakeholder reported working with the education and justice sectors, but these interactions were from five or more years ago and no supporting documentation was provided.

One government stakeholder conveyed that their ministry would participate in sessions and discussions that would then

lead to drafting of policies and legislations. The example given was their involvement regarding protocols for the National Emergency Management Organization – not a sector development plan – that established protocols for children and vulnerable persons in emergency situations, including mitigating the potential for violence.

The methodological notes state that key officials who produce evidence will be counted. None of the key officials reported integrating efforts to combat VAWG into the development plans of other sectors within the last year and, as such, no evidence was produced. The value for baseline is 0. (Note that for the purposes of the Spotlight Initiative, the Baseline for this indicator is recommended to be set at 0.)

Findings from Desk Review

A number of training and capacity building efforts were found via desk review⁷¹ however all of these efforts pre-date 2019.

- Law enforcement agencies coordinate with the Human Rights Commission of Belize (HRCB) on a training program for newly recruited national security officers on their roles and responsibilities in relation to the Constitution. Periodic in-house human rights training is provided to all law enforcement officers.
- In December of 2017 more than 80 percent of all Magistrates and Supreme Court Justices attended a

(71) Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Thirty-first session 5–16 November 2018 National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21* Belize

human rights training session that focused on Belize's anti-trafficking legislation as well as knowledge and management of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) cases.

- There has been strengthened interagency cooperation with those agencies whose mandate addresses allegations of excessive use of force, such as the Professional Standards Branch. For example, the BPD and the OMB signed a MOU in 2016. The MOU facilitates interagency cooperation in the investigation of complaints, training, public education and awareness, joint field operations, and development and implementation of standard operating procedures between both entities to expedite the investigation and resolution of complaints.
- The Anti-trafficking in Persons (ATIPs) produces and implements an annual action plan which focuses on conducting operations, increasing prosecutions, public awareness and sensitization, victim care, training, strengthening partnerships and statistics gathering.
- In 2017, ATIP's Council and the BPD conducted a series of trainings to build the capacity of the police officers attached to the Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) and

Criminal Investigative Branch on human trafficking, victim identification and referral to the investigative unit within the BPD. The Council also partnered with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and international organizations to provide training to teachers, national utility workers, social security board inspectors, and private employers in the tourism sector on human trafficking, victim identification, and reporting. Extensive training was conducted with immigration officers, customs officers, labour officers, social workers, prosecutors and judges.

- The Family Violence Unit (FVU) in Belize City and the DVU countrywide within the BPD collaborate with the Women's Department to implement activities against gender violence and to conduct sensitization sessions with community members. In 2014, through the UN Trust Fund Project, several training sessions were conducted with Junior and Senior Police Officers from a wide cross section of the BPD. The overall goal seeks to strengthen police response while increasing survivors/victim's safety and access to protection and justice.

Pillar 3: Prevention

Outcome 3

Gender inequitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours change at community and individual levels to prevent violence against women and girls, including family violence.

Outcome Indicator 3.1

Indicator description: Percentage of people who think it is justifiable for a man to (subject) beat his wife/intimate partner (to violence).

Baseline value: 11.2%

The baseline value is calculated by the number of respondents who agree with any of the following statements divided by the total number of respondents:

- A man is justified in beating his partner if she...
 - burns the food.
 - cheats on him with another man.
 - talks back to him or disrespects him.
 - neglects the children.
 - stays out late.

Of the 1,254 respondents, 44 males and 96 females – or 11.2% of the survey sample (8.2% male, 13.4% female) – agreed that a man is justified in beating his partner under any of the five circumstances listed above. Therefore, the baseline value for this indicator is 11.2%.

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Percentage
Disaggregation	Not applicable
Numerator	Number of respondents in a community who respond “yes” to any of the following questions related to what justifies wife/IP beating by husbands/partners, as listed below
Denominator	Total number of people surveyed in the community: A total of 923 households were interviewed; From the successfully contacted households, 1256 eligible individuals were interviewed.

Desk Review Findings

A study of Belize’s Belize Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (2015–2016) indicates that the percentage of women aged 15–49 years who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife is 6.7% (4,699). The percentage of men age 15–49 years who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife: 7.3% (3,573). In total, 5.2% and 5.4% of women and men respectively state it is justifiable for a man to beat or hit his partner.⁷²

(72) UNICEF, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women, 2015-2016

Source	Finding (% and number)	Other relevant information
<p>Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey⁷³</p> <p>Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women Statistical Institute of Belize and UNICEF Belize. 2017. Belize Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2015-2016, Final Report. Belmopan, Belize: Statistical Institute of Belize and UNICEF Belize.</p>	<p>Total number of people surveyed by MIC: 4,636 were successfully interviewed for a household response rate of 94.6 percent.</p> <p>In the interviewed households, 5,095 women (age 15-49 years) were identified as eligible. However, 4,699 were successfully interviewed, yielding a response rate of 92 percent, within the interviewed households. The survey also sampled men (age 15-49) but required only a subsample. All men (age 15-49) were identified in every 4,351-subsampled household. 4,351 men (age 15-49 years) were listed in the household questionnaires. Questionnaires were completed for 3,573 eligible men, which correspond to a response rate of 82 percent within eligible interviewed households.</p> <p><i>Percentage of people age 15-49 years who state that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his</i></p> <p>(a) Women: 5.2% (b) Men: 5.4%</p> <p><i>Percent of women age 15-49 years who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife: 6.7% (4,699)</i></p> <p><i>Percent of men age 15-49 years who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife: 7.3% (3,573)</i></p> <p>P.172-173</p>	<p>Almost an equal proportion of men and women (one in twenty) in Belize feels that a husband/partner is justified in hitting or beating his wife in at least one of these five situations: if she goes out without telling him, if she neglects the children, if she argues with him, if she refuses sex with him, and if she burns the food. Justification in any of the five situations is more present among women living in the poorest households and those who are less educated. Younger women are more likely to justify a husband/partner hitting or beating his wife in at least one of the five situations. These same patterns apply to boys and men as well.</p> <p>Women who justify a husband's violence agree and justify violence in instances in which a wife neglects the children (3%), demonstrates her autonomy, exemplified by arguing with him (2%) or refuses sex with him (1%). Justification in any of the five situations is more prevalent among women living in the poorest households and those who are less educated. Younger women are more likely to justify a husband/partner hitting or beating his wife in at least one of the five situations. Similar to the women, almost the same proportions of men agreed with all the instances in which a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife/partner. About 16 percent of women and men in Toledo region feel a husband/partner is justified in hitting or beating his wife in at least one of the five situations, while two percent of women and four percent of men in Orange Walk region and Cayo region agree to at least one of the five statements.</p>

(73) Ibid

Outcome Indicator 3.3

Indicator description: Existence of at least three evidence-based, transformative/comprehensive prevention strategies/programmes that address the rights of those marginalized and are developed in a participatory manner.

Baseline value

An in-depth desk review reveals no documentary evidence of evidence-based, transformative prevention strategies that address the rights of those marginalized, which were developed in a participatory manner. Stakeholders interviewed (34) highlighted several initiatives but could not provide further information regarding involvement of the rights holders. The baseline for this indicator is recommended to be zero (0).

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Annual/Cumulative/Quantitative
Measure	Boolean and number/count
Disaggregation	Not applicable

Desk Review Findings

The desk review findings suggest that there are a number of government strategies (as discussed above) that target VAWG however a specific focus on the marginalized is not heavily evident. There is no documentation on the methods in which the strategies were developed (i.e. if they were developed in a participatory way, if they involved beneficiaries etc.).

As noted in the documentation provided around indicator 1.2:

The Revised National Gender Policy aims to increase women's participation in decision-making positions, to build institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming of all relevant policies, strategies and plans of action and to implement gender budgeting across the public sector and across civil society organizations (National Women's Commission, 2013). In this plan, the introduction summarizes the number of reported domestic violence cases in 2012 and 2015, the number of femicide cases between 2006-2014, rape (2006-13 – average) and sexual abuse cases (2008, 2010, 2014). The plan outlines a consultative process utilized for its development involving numerous stakeholders including interviews and consultations. However there is no mention of marginalized persons.

The Adolescent Health National Strategic Plan 2019-2030 was commissioned by the Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture (MOEYSC) and the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation (MHDSTPA).

Discussion and Findings from Key Informants

Both government and non-government stakeholders were asked:

Does Belize have any VAWG prevention strategies or initiatives focusing on changing norms and practices for marginalized or vulnerable people? If so, please give details. Which of these, if any involved participation from the rights holders themselves?

Thirty-four stakeholders (16 CSO stakeholders and 18 government stakeholders) answered the question. Overall, stakeholders recalled initiatives and strategies but oftentimes could not state specific actors along with the titles of these initiatives/strategies.

VAWG prevention strategies and/or initiatives highlighted by CSOs included:

- 16 Days of Activism (includes activities like sensitization sessions, trainings on violence, virtual engagement, etc.).
- NCFC committee focusing on ending violence against children's action plan and prevention strategies.
- NCFC child-friendly spaces.
- Road Map to End Child Marriage and Early Unions in Belize.
- National Women's Commission initiative involving implementation of some hotlines and a complaint mechanism for victims/survivors of violence who felt they were improperly treated when seeking support.
- National Women's Commission initiative where men and boys were taught how to be agents of change (done virtually due to COVID-19).
- Radio and TV initiatives on ending violence (note that stakeholder could not name responsible agency/organization).

VAWG prevention strategies and/or initiatives highlighted by CSOs included:

- Radio initiative with number someone can call if they or someone they know are experiencing violence (note that stakeholder could not name responsible agency/organization).
- United States Embassy workshops and trainings regarding changing norms and practices, which included participants from a wide cross-section of the population, including NGOs/CSOs representing marginalized groups.
- Belize Red Cross outreach initiative/campaign to youth groups to discuss different forms of violence.
- HUMANA People for People's program with BFLA and the human rights commission to work with migrant women on their human rights within the context of the prevention of VAWG and other areas.

Output 3.1

National and/or sub-national evidence-based programmes are developed to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including on Comprehensive Sexuality Education in line with international standards, for in and out of school settings.

Output Indicator 3.1.1.

Indicator description: National and/or sub-national evidence-based programmes are developed to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including on CSE in line with international standards, for in and out of school settings.

Baseline value

Belize's Ministry of Education Youth, Sports and Culture National Curriculum for Primary Schools Adaptation for 2020-2021 covers several aspects of UNESCO's Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education including physical and sexual abuse, sex and sexuality personal development, social media and personal safety protection from harm.

Yes

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Yes/No
Disaggregation	
Indicator description	This indicator measures whether or not countries have policy and/or guidelines identifying a curriculum of Comprehensive Sexuality Education as part of their educational requirements for schools. The CSE must be in line with international standards.

Desk Review Findings

UNESCO's International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education⁷⁴ takes a rights-based approach that emphasizes values such as inclusion, respect, equality, empathy, responsibility and reciprocity as inextricably linked to universal human rights. It is also grounded in the understanding that advancing gender equality is critical to young people's sexual health and wellbeing. The Ministry of Education in Belize has produced a national curriculum for primary schools (2020-2021) which includes crucial topics in sexuality education as noted below.⁷⁵ Still, in 2018, the World Health Organization noted that adolescents in Belize either do not access the services, face stigma or shame, or are not provided enough information.⁷⁶

(74) https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000260770_eng

(75) National Curriculum for Primary Schools Adaptation for 2020-2021, 2020

(76) <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/belize-steps-up-to-prioritize-the-health-challenges-faced-by-its-youth>

UNESCO's International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education

The guidance promotes a learner-centered approach to education, whereby the focus of instruction is on the student. The goals of the key concepts, topics and learning objectives are to equip children and young people with the knowledge, attitudes and skills that will empower them to realize their health, well-being and dignity; consider the well-being of others affected by their choices; understand and act upon their rights; and respect the rights of others by: providing scientifically-accurate, incremental, age and developmentally-appropriate, gender-sensitive, culturally relevant and transformative information about the cognitive, emotional, physical and social aspects of sexuality; providing young people with the opportunity to explore values, attitudes and social and cultural norms and rights impacting sexual and social relationships; and, promoting the acquisition of life skills. Below are the key concepts outlined by UNESCO:

- Relationships
- Values, Rights, Culture and Sexuality
- Understanding Gender
- Violence and Staying Safe
- Skills for Health and Well-being
- The Human Body and Development
- Sexuality and Sexual Behaviour
- Sexual and Reproductive Health

Ministry of Education

Abridged Learning Outcomes:

Physical and Sexual Abuse

- Explain the risks involved in developing a real or online friendship with an unfamiliar adult.
- Describe situations that can increase the risk of abuse.
- Explain how to avoid being touched by someone else in inappropriate ways.
- Identify ways to seek information and assistance if worried, abused or threatened.
- Identify measures to protect themselves against sexual or criminal approaches and actions by peers, adults or older children.
- Sex and Sexuality Personal Development
- Discuss the significance of the law relating to the age of consent for sexual activity.
- Discuss how television, movies, music, videos and information from the internet shape their understanding of sex and sexuality.
- Identify how people can control when they become pregnant.
- Identify the benefits of openly discussing sex and sexuality with parents, caregivers and responsible adults.
- Identify how to access accurate and safe information about sex and sexuality

Sexual Relationships Human Relationships

- Explain that every person has the right to control their own body and sexuality without being subject to discrimination, force, coercion or violence, and to refuse, or if they are above the age of consent, to agree to take part in sexual activity.
- Explore assertiveness and refusal skills for saying “no” to sexual advances. Identify effective ways of maintaining good sexual health, including having access to accurate information relating to sex and reproduction.
- Discuss the implications for a teenager of conceiving a child.

UNESCO's International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education	Ministry of Education
	<p>Social Media and Personal Safety Protection from Harm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify what constitutes risky or unsafe online, public, sexual or other behaviour. ▪ Discuss how social media can have a powerful influence on what people think and do. ▪ Develop a set of personal rules for staying safe at high school, in the real world and online. Explore how the use of alcohol, marijuana, highly caffeinated drinks and other substances can make it more difficult for a person to resist pressure to engage in sexual activity, risky behaviour or criminal activity. ▪ Discuss the threat of abuse that children face from early childhood through adolescence.

Discussion and Findings from Key Informants

In addition to reviewing records pertaining to educational policy, the baseline assessment team also interviewed relevant government stakeholders.

As of January 2021, key informants stated that the CSE curriculum was under review and being finalized.

One stakeholder noted the influence that churches have on school curricula. While the government pays for most schools in the country – including those owned by churches – the churches deal with policy and management. As such, the government walks a very tight rope in terms of how CSE and SRHR are addressed in schools.

Output 3.2

Community advocacy platforms are established/strengthened to develop strategies and programmes, including community dialogues, public information and advocacy campaigns, to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction, self-confidence and self-esteem and transforming harmful masculinities.

Output Indicator 3.2.1

Indicator description: Number of women, men, girls and boys who regularly attend community programmes to promote

gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction within the last year.

Baseline value

For the purpose of the Spotlight Initiative the value of this indicator is considered to be zero. A KABP survey was designed as the main data collection tool for this indicator, as a means to gathering primary data at baseline and to support the future measurement of this indicator (at mid and end line), during the inception stage of this assignment. The results indicate that only 0.7% of the respondents reported they had attended any activities (n=9) of which eight were females.

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Number/count
Disaggregation	Sex, age (10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25+), type of program, urban and rural residence, region
Indicator description	This indicator measures the number of women, men, girls, and boys who regularly participate in programs promoting gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women's and girls' sexuality and reproduction.

Desk Review Findings

A review of documentation online and those received via key informants did not reveal any reporting that indicates ongoing programming (with information around frequency and participation) to promote gender equity, nor programmes that focus on SRH attitudes and behaviour change.

KABP Survey Findings

Findings from the KABP survey reveal that a limited number of women, men, girls and boys attended community programmes to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women's and girls' sexuality and reproduction during 2019-2020.

The findings indicate that:

- The majority of the individuals surveyed (90.2%) were unaware of any community activities that address gender equality/rights of women and girls on SRH over past year.
- Only 4.9% of the respondents reported they were aware of community activities while 2.7% were not sure. Of those that were aware, they cited the Belize Family Life Association as the key source of activities. Seven of the nine respondents represented urban areas (Stan Creek and Toledo).
- More females (3.2 % or 40 individuals) than males (1.8% or 22 individuals) had had heard of such activi-

ties, although slightly more men than women failed to give yes/no responses to the question.

- Only 0.7% of the total respondents reported they had participated in any activities (n=9). Of the nine who had participated, eight were female and one was male. Only three females and one male reported attending relevant community activities weekly or monthly.
- 77.8% of the respondents (n=7) who had participated in these community activities were above 25 years of age.
- Stann Creek and Toledo districts had the highest percentage of respondents (33.3%) who had ever participated in the activities, although the small number of respondents in these districts (nine respondents in each district) means this value should be interpreted with caution.

Output Indicator 3.2.2

Indicator description: Number of people reached by campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, within the last year.

Baseline value

For the purpose of the Spotlight Initiative, the baseline for this indicator is recommended to be set at zero (0). To provide further context to this indicator, a desk review was conducted which yielded some information on campaigns implemented during 2019-2020, that focused on challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping.

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Number/Count
Disaggregation	Although not required for the Online Platform, disaggregation at country level by, inter alia, income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics is encouraged to ensure alignment with the principle of non-discrimination, equality, and "leaving no one behind".
Source of data	Reports of sectorial campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping
Other sources of data	
Indicator description	This indicator measures the number of reached by campaigns that challenge harmful social norms and gender stereotyping each year. These campaigns could be run in any sectorial programme. A campaign qualifies for review if it includes messages and strategies to challenge harmful social norms and gender stereotyping. Reporting mechanisms from listed campaigns will be reviewed for the number of people reached during the last year. Total number of people reached by each campaign will be tallied and counted.

Findings

Campaign	Detail
Name Source	N of people reached
From Commitment to Action, UNDP ⁷⁷	<p>According to available information, the State of Belize takes actions to prevent domestic violence within the framework of the campaign "16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women" and in commemoration of the International Day of Non-Violence against Women, each November 25th. In 2010, the State of Belize created the Network of Men "Champions for Change" through a regional programme by UN Women that recruits men all over the country to act as advocates to end violence against women.</p> <p>The State of Belize has implemented programmes to address gender-based violence and domestic violence, such as the 2001 Health and Family Life Education Programme; the 2008 Batterers Intervention Programme, which is coordinated by the Department of Women and sponsored by UN Women; and the Gender Awareness Safe School Programme includes capacity and awareness-building activities regarding gender-based violence, among others.⁷⁸</p>

(77) The women, from all walks of life including a huge police/military contingent assembled at the Memorial Park and marched to the stadium for a rally with stirring speeches by women in politics, business and the teaching profession. <https://americalatinagenera.org/newsite/includes/fichas/fichas/english/BELIZE.pdf>

(78) <https://www.nationalwomenscommissionbz.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Final-16-Days-Calendar-of-Activities-2020-.pdf>

Output Indicator 3.2.3

Indicator description: Number of men and boys who regularly attend gender transformative programmes addressing violent masculinities and men’s violence towards women and girls in community centres, schools and other relevant spaces within the last year

Baseline value

At Baseline, the value for this indicator is considered to be zero (0).

However, the KABP survey was designed to undertake assessment for this indicator and to allow for future mid and end line analyses. Evidence gathered during the KABP revealed that a very small proportion of respondents (mainly from urban areas – Corozal district) had participated in activities that address VAWG. The findings are discussed further below.

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Number/count
Disaggregation	Sex, age (10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25+), type of program, urban and rural residence, region
Numerator	
Denominator	
Source of data	Reports of sectorial gender transformative programmes in community centres, schools and other public spaces that address violent masculinities and men’s violence towards women and girls.
Other sources of data	None
Indicator description	This indicator measures how many men and boys regularly attend attend gender transformative programmes addressing violent masculinities and men’s violence towards women and girls. These programs can take place in community centres, schools and other relevant spaces.

A review of documentation online and those received via key informants did not reveal any reporting that indicates ongoing sectorial gender transformative programmes in community centres, schools, and other public spaces that address violent masculinities and men’s violence towards women and girls.

Output Indicator 3.2.4

Indicator description: Number of communities with advocacy platforms⁷⁹ established and/or strengthened to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls’ sexuality and reproduction

Baseline value

The baseline value for this indicator is set to zero (0). However, interviewees referenced a number of activities and organizations that conduct advocacy activities (listed below). However, with the exception of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign events, the desk review did not find evidence of formal platforms established. For future assessments, the Spotlight Initiative should monitor the advocacy platforms supported by the programme.

(79) This refers to an initiative, programme and/or structure aimed at mobilizing/engaging communities (to strengthen structures, cultures & practices that promote non-violence and gender-equitable norms, attitudes, behaviours, including in relation to W&G sexuality & reproduction) and contributes to commitments to prevent VAW, ensuring that community leaders meet obligations to prevent VAWG.

Basis of Calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Number/Count
Disaggregation	Not applicable
Source of data	Survey of community advocacy platform members
Other sources of data	Inquiry into relevant sectorial ministries at national and sub-national levels
Indicator description	This indicator measure progress in advocacy to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction in a country.

Findings from key informants

A total of 38 key informants from government and civil society organizations answered the question related to 3.2.4 during interviews: "Are you aware of any community-based (i.e. villages, municipalities, etc.) advocacy platforms that promote gender equality? If yes, please provide further information (including individual communities/platforms, and/or other informants that may have additional information)."

Several key informants felt that UNICEF are already aware of these community-based advocacy platforms and suggested the baseline assessment team coordinate with UNICEF for a list or referred the baseline assessment team to the CSO Hub and the Spotlight Initiative's CSO Reference Group.

Other key informants offered the following community-based advocacy platforms in response to the question:

1. 16 Days of Activism
2. Belize Family Life Association (BFLA)
3. Belize Trans Scholars
4. Building People Movement
5. Child Development Foundation (CDF)
6. GoJoven/GoBelize
7. Haven House
8. Humana People to People Belize
9. Human Rights Commission (HRC)

10. Maya Women's Council
11. Our Circle
12. National AIDS Commission (NAC)
13. National Women's Commission (NWC)
14. Productive Organization for Women in Action (POWA)
15. Promoting Empowerment Through Awareness for Les/Bi Women (PETAL)
16. United Belize Advocacy Movement (UNIBAM)
17. Women's Department within the Ministry of Human Development
18. Young Women Christian Association (YWCA)
19. Youth Enhancement Services (YES)

A few key informants also referenced grassroots organizations and efforts around the country that focus on human trafficking, GBV, justice and other topics; however, these efforts are largely ad-hoc or informal. One key informant expressed that there are many strong voices in Belize who act as community advocates but are not associated with specific organizations. These individuals are often left out of consultations and engagements regarding programming as these efforts are normally reserved for organizations that are registered as NGOs.

Output Indicator 3.2.5

Indicator description: Number of campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, including of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, developed and disseminated during the past year.

Baseline value

The baseline value for this indicator is set to zero (0). To provide further context to this indicator, and to support future mid and end lines assessments, it should be noted that the desk review identified two campaigns which were also confirmed via key informant interviews.

Basis of calculation

Campaign	Detail
16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence Theme: #ORANGEBELIZE: RESPOND, PREVENT, COLLECT AND EMPOWER!	The State of Belize takes actions to prevent domestic violence within the framework of the campaign "16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women" and in commemoration of the International Day of Non-Violence against Women, each November 25th. The 16 Days Campaign has been used as an organizing strategy by individuals and groups around the world to galvanize support to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by: raising awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at the local, national, regional and international levels, strengthening local work around violence against women, establishing a clear link between local and international work to end gender-based violence; especially violence against women, providing a forum in which organizers can develop and share new and effective strategies, demonstrating the solidarity of women around the world organizing against violence against women and creating tools to pressure governments to implement promises made to eliminate violence against women. The most recent such event was held on 25 th November – December 10, 2020 with events taking place country wide.

Output 3.3

Decision makers in relevant non-state institutions and key informal decision makers are better able to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG, including family violence, and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights

Output Indicator 3.3.5

Indicator description: Number of key informal decision makers and decision makers in relevant institutions with strengthened

awareness of and capacities to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights, within the last year

Baseline value

The baseline value for this indicator is recommended to be zero (0). However, 35 individuals from government and civil society shared information regarding 2019–2020 during interviews. 71% of government interviewees and 61% of CSO interviewees stated that they had advocated for implementation of legislation and policies on either ending VAWG, including family violence, for gender-equitable norms, attitudes, and behaviours, and women's and girls' rights during 2019–2020.

Basis of Calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Number/Count
Disaggregation	For the Spotlight Online Platform: sex Note: Although not required for the Online Platform, disaggregation at country level by, inter alia, income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics is encouraged to ensure alignment with the principle of non-discrimination, equality, and "leaving no one behind", as well as the following: "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights prohibits discrimination of any kind as to "race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status" that has the intention or effect of nullifying or impairing the equal enjoyment or exercise of a human right. The inclusion of "other status" indicates that this list is not exhaustive. Indeed, international human rights mechanisms have since specified that "other status" includes discrimination on the basis of age (with attention to youth and older persons), nationality, marital and family status, sexual orientation and gender identity, health status (including HIV), place of residence, economic and social situation, and civil, political or other status."
Source of data	Survey of key informal decision makers and decision makers in relevant institutions
Other sources of data	National or regional Ministry-level inquiry into recently (within the last year) drafted laws and policies on ending VAWG and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights
Indicator description	This indicator measures political commitment in a country, or region of a country, to ensuring that there is an increase in the skill-base of key informal decision makers and decision makers in relevant institutions to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviors and women and girls' rights.

Findings from key informants

A total of 39 stakeholders from both government and civil society organizations provided information on whether they had advocated for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG and/or family violence and/or for gender-equitable norms, attitudes, and behaviors and/or women's and girls' rights within the last year. While some stakeholders were unable to state whether these efforts took place within the

last year, 35 individuals shared information from the last year. 71% of government interviewees and 61% of CSO interviewees stated that they had advocated for implementation of legislation and policies on either ending VAWG, including family violence, for gender-equitable norms, attitudes, and behaviours, and women's and girls' rights.

Advocated for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG and/or family violence and/or for gender-equitable norms, attitudes, and behaviours and/or women's and girls' rights within the last year?	Stakeholder Type		
	Government Interviewee (no. of respondents and %)	CSO Interviewee (no. of respondents and %)	Total Interviewees (no. of respondents and %)
Yes	11 (65%)	11 (61%)	22 (63%)
No	6 (35%)	7 (39%)	13 (37%)

Examples of advocating for implementation of legislation and policies included:

- Government stakeholders
 - Advocacy through presence on National AIDS Commission
 - Advocacy through launch of the WPS Agenda under the BDF
 - Advocacy as a member of the NCFC Policy and Legislative Review Committee
 - Advocacy as a member of the District GBV Committee
 - Advocacy through consultations regarding the Equal Opportunities Bill
 - Advocacy related to a girl's right to return to school after giving birth
 - Advocacy through efforts related to implementing the National Gender Safe School Program
- CSO stakeholders
 - Advocacy related to the Equal Opportunities Bill
 - Advocacy related to the Cyber Crimes Act
- Advocacy on television shows (morning shows)
- Advocacy through video, specifically a video called When Silence Speaks
- Advocacy related to ending sexual abuse and exploitation
- Advocacy for women's representation in executive positions by attending workshops and forums held by the Ministry of Human Development
- Advocacy as a member of the National GBV Committee
- Advocacy as member of the NCFC Child Protection Working Group
- Advocacy through the participation in 16 Days of Activism

Pillar 4: Quality Essential Services

Outcome 4

Women and girls who experience violence use available, accessible, acceptable, and quality essential services including for long term recovery from violence.

Outcome Indicator 4.1

Indicator description: Proportion of women, including those facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, who report experiencing physical or sexual violence who seek help, by sector.

Baseline value: 88%

While the approach to collecting data for this indicator suggests that it can be measured via primary data collection (i.e. via a survey such as the KABP), the remote methodology adopted by the assessment team meant that investigating such a

potentially sensitive area over the telephone introduced ethical concerns that could not be mitigated. Hence, this indicator was measured via secondary desk review data.

Evidence from the desk review indicates that 88% of reported domestic violence cases (199 of 217) sought help (2019).⁸⁰ It should be noted for future assessment purposes, with the exception of the MOH reporting on domestic violence, the desk review found no other statistics (relating to other types of VAWG/HP) that correlate type of violence by help seeking behaviour. The discussion below presents findings from the MOH statistical reports from 2019 (no statistics were available for 2020). Relevant analysis from the Belize Crime Observatory is also provided notwithstanding lack of information with regards to outcomes for the cases discussed.

A supplementary question in the KABP survey assessed confidence levels among respondents on reporting situations of violence (either themselves or persons they knew) to a range of community members/service providers. The findings, presented in the chart below, indicate that the police, followed by a family member and/or social worker, are the most likely to be informed.

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Number/Count
Disaggregation	For the Spotlight Online Platform: age (girls below 19 years old / women above 19 years old); and by sector (health, justice and policing, security, and social services).
Source of data	<p>Where possible, most recent data will be gathered from all available Demographic and Health Surveys that collect data on use of services from victims of/survivors of violence. Otherwise, equivalent or relevant data will be gathered from nationally representative dedicated VAW surveys (including surveys that use the WHO methodology for intimate partner violence and sexual violence).</p> <p>Population-based survey data, such as the DHS, VAW specialized surveys within a country (for example those using the WHO methodology) and other national surveys.</p>
Other sources of data	Police, health, social work, justice, and program data from organizations working to end VAWG can help supply a count, but a proportion cannot be calculated from this data. A survey would be needed to determine the denominator.
Indicator description	<p>This indicator measures a baseline level of help-seeking patterns among women who have ever experienced physical or sexual violence. To seek help, people must know that services are available, they must be accessible, and they must be of high quality to be trusted and effective. For example, the police station may be just down the street, but if women do not trust that they will be treated well, they may fear seeking help—the same is true for any service.</p> <p>This indicator will not measure progress over time, since data are only available for help sought following any episode of violence which occurred during women's lifetimes.</p>

⁽⁸⁰⁾ The Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health, DV End Year 2019, Belize. 2019

Desk Review Findings

Number of domestic violence cases (2019)⁸¹	217	See detailed table below.
Age (under 19 +above)	56 total for victims under 19 years 161 total for victims over 19 years	The number of female victims is higher than that of the males. Females who reported domestic violence are between the age of 15 and 19 years. There were two reported cases by male victims under 9 years. See detailed table below.
Sex	17 male victims 199 female victims	
Top 5 Geographical areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cayo 2. Toledo 3. Corozal 4. Stann Creek 5. Orange Walk 	<p>Cayo district had the highest number of reported domestic violence cases at 122 which is too high compared to the second district, Toledo, which is at 44. There were no reported cases for Belize district.</p> <p>57 married individuals from all the districts reported to have faced domestic violence, with Cayo still leading at 32 cases and Stann Creek having none. The third category in the list included individuals who were single with a total of 48 cases in all the districts with Belize being the only one that had no reported case.</p>
Outcomes and Referrals	In 2019 191 referrals were made of 217 cases in total.	<p>One suicide case was reported in 2019. Three victims in Cayo and one in Stann Creek were hospitalized in the same year while a total of 48 victims were treated and released in three districts: Cayo, Stann Creek and Toledo.</p> <p>The report also indicates that in most reported cases, the courts gave orders for the aggressors. A good example is Corozal where for all the reported cases, the courts gave orders. None of the victims went missing after reporting for all the districts.</p> <p>Most referrals were made to the Family Court/ Magistrate. (63 of 121). The second on the list was police with a total of 58 referrals. Throughout the year no referrals were made to the National Council of Ageing. Most of the referrals were made for victims in the 15-34 age bracket with only four referrals made for the Police and Family Court/ Magistrate for the victims who were older than 65 years.</p> <p>See detailed table below.</p>

Child Abuse	9 of a total of 217	Nine child abuse cases were recorded for the year 2019. Seven of these cases were aged between 10-14 years with five reported in Cayo. Five of the nine cases were reported to be sexual abuse and three physical. Two cases were treated then released, while two others were referred to a court order. Three were recorded as receiving 'other' outcomes. One resulted in suicide.
Belize Crime Observatory⁸²	28 cases of rape and 65 cases of unlawful sexual intercourse were reported for the year 2019 29 cases of rape and 49 cases of unlawful sexual intercourse were reported for the year 2020, (74 cases of sexual violence in total)	Although sexual violence was on an upward trajectory during the second quarter of 2020 (April to June), there has been an overall decline since January 2020. Generally, sexual violence reports were down by 26% for January to November 2020, when compared with the same period in 2019. The reduction in reports registered by Police was greater for unlawful sexual intercourse than for rape. Notable spikes in reports of unlawful sexual intercourse occurred in June and August. There was a similar but more pronounced spike last August.

Domestic Violence Cases by Age-Group and Sex of Victims

Belize: January - December 2019

Age-Group	Female	Male	Dk/Ns	Total
<1	0	0	0	0
1-4	0	0	0	0
5-9	0	2	0	2
10-14	7	0	0	7
15-19	45	0	0	45
20-24	31	1	0	32
25-29	29	3	0	32
30-34	29	4	0	33
35-39	23	2	0	25
40-44	15	3	0	18
45-49	5	0	0	5
50-54	9	0	0	9
55-59	1	1	0	2
60-64	2	0	0	2

(82) <https://bco.gov.bz/monthly-analysis/>

65+	3	1	0	4
Dk/Ns	0	0	1	1
Total	199	17	1	217

Source: The Epidemiology Unit, MOH

Domestic Violence Cases by Place of Referrals and Age-Group of Victims											
Belize: January - December 2019											
Age-Group	Psyc. Nurse	Women's Dept.	Human Ser. Dept.	Health Center/ Post	Legal Aid	Police	Haven House	A & E	Family Court/ Magistrate	Com. Rehab. Dept.	National Council for Ageing
<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-9	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-14	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
15-19	2	5	7	3	0	10	0	0	5	0	0
20-24	0	4	5	2	0	16	1	3	13	0	0
25-29	1	1	1	0	1	8	0	0	12	0	0
30-34	2	2	2	0	1	5	1	2	12	1	0
35-39	1	2	3	0	1	3	0	0	7	0	0
40-44	2	1	1	0	0	6	0	1	8	0	0
45-49	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
50-54	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0
55-59	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
60-64	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
65+	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
Dk/Ns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	16	21	8	5	58	2	7	63	2	0
Note: A Client could be referred to more than one place or none.											
Source: The Epidemiology Unit, MOH											

Child Abuse by Age-Group and Sex

Belize: January - December 2019

Age-Group	Female	Male	Total
<1	0	0	0
1-4	0	0	0
5-9	0	2	2
10-14	7	0	7
Total	7	2	9

Source: The Epidemiology Unit, MOH

Child Abuse by Age-Group and District

Belize: January - December 2019

Age-Group	Corozal	Orange Walk	Belize	Cayo	Stann Creek	Toledo	Dk/Ns	Total
<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-9	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
10-14	1	1	0	3	1	1	0	7
Total	1	1	0	5	1	1	0	9

Source: The Epidemiology Unit, MOH

Outcome of Child Abuse by District

Belize: January - December 2019

Outcome	Corozal	Orange Walk	Belize	Cayo	Stann Creek	Toledo	Dk/Ns	Total
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suicide	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Hospitalization	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Treated & Released	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Referred to another level of Care	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Court order for Aggressor	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Other	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	3

Outcome	Corozal	Orange Walk	Belize	Cayo	Stann Creek	Toledo	Dk/Ns	Total
Total	0	1	0	6	1	1	0	9

Note: There could be more than one outcome per case or none at all
 Source: The Epidemiology Unit, MOH
 Note: Child (age 14 and below)

A supplementary question in the KABP survey assessed confidence levels among respondents on reporting situations of violence (either themselves or persons they knew) to a range of community members/service providers. The findings, presented in the chart below, indicate that the police, followed by a family member and/or social worker, are the most likely to be informed.

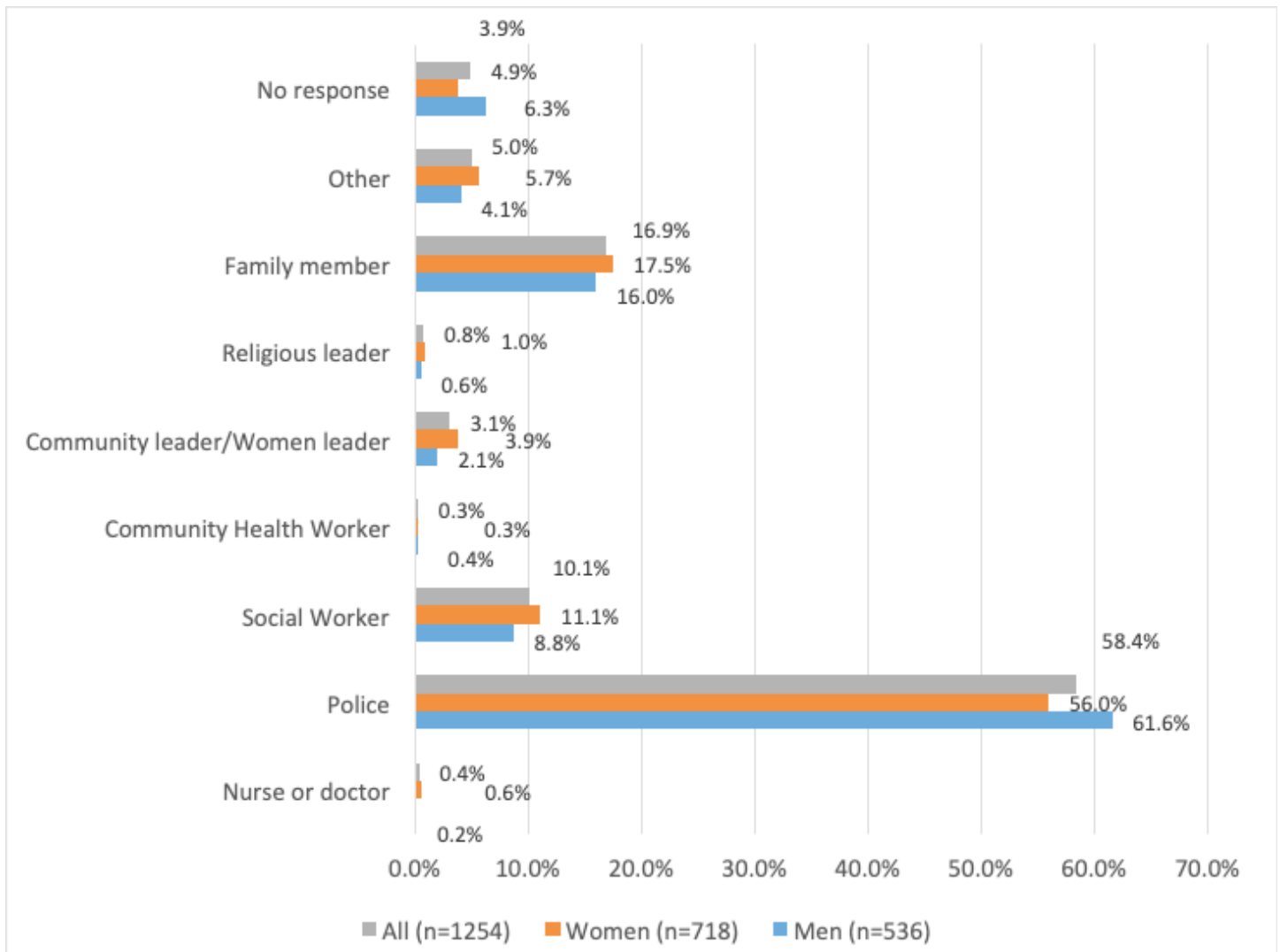


Figure: Who would you feel most confident in reporting violence against self or other to?

There was a slight difference between men and women insofar as women were less likely than men to report incidents to the police and more likely to all other actors. This suggests a lack of trust in the police or the judicial system. Across different age groups, younger respondents were more likely to report incidents to family members than older. There were no significant differences across disability status or location (urban/rural, district).

Discussion

- Number of cases: The Belize Ministry of Health reported 217 cases of domestic violence in 2019. The number of female victims (199) is higher than that of the males (17) during 2019. There were two reported cases by male victims under 9 years. A total of 191 referrals were made. However, these figures are not disaggregated by sex. While the Crime Observatory provides data on gender-based violence (see below), it does not provide data on help seeking behaviour.
- Referrals: Most of the referrals were made for victims in the 15–34 age bracket with only four referrals made for the Police and Family Court/ Magistrate for the victims who were older than 65 years.⁸³ A total of 141 cases of physical violence and 38 sexual violence cases in domestic were reported. Of the latter, all the cases were reported by females with 29 of 38 cases aged between 15 to 19 years, mainly in Cayo. Nine child abuse cases were recorded for the year 2019. Seven of these cases were aged between 10–14 years with five reported in Cayo. Five of the nine cases were reported to be sexual abuse and three physical. Seven cases were female and two, male.⁸⁴
- Distribution of cases: Cayo district had the highest number of reported domestic violence cases at 122 which is much higher as compared to Toledo (with the second most number of cases), with 44. Reported cases. There were no reported cases for Belize district.
- Outcomes and referrals: In 2019, 191 referrals were made of 217 cases in total. One suicide case was reported in 2019. Three victims in Cayo and one in Stann Creek were hospitalized in the same year while a total of 48 victims were treated and released in three districts: Cayo, Stann Creek and Toledo.
- The data also indicates that in most reported cases, the courts gave orders for the aggressors. A good example is Corozal where the court gave orders for all the reported cases. None of the victims went missing after reporting for all the districts. Most referrals were made to the Family Court/ Magistrate (63 of 121), followed by the police with a total of 58 referrals (and none to the National Council for Aging). Most of the referrals were made for victims in the 15–34 age bracket with only four referrals made for the Police and Family Court/ Magistrate for the victims who were older than 65 years.
- Child abuse: Nine child abuse cases were recorded for the year 2019. Seven of these cases were aged between 10–14 years with five reported in Cayo. Five of the nine cases were reported to be sexual abuse and three physical. Two cases were treated then released, while two others were referred to a court order. Three were recorded as receiving ‘other’ outcomes. One resulted in suicide.
- Other sources of data on GBV: It is important to note, the Belize Crime Observatory⁸⁵ also houses data on GBV/sexual violence inclusive of police reporting: 28 cases of rape and 65 cases of unlawful sexual intercourse were reported for the year 2019. 29 cases of rape and 49 cases of unlawful sexual intercourse were reported for the year 2020, (74 cases of sexual violence in total). The Observatory commented that although sexual violence was on an upward trajectory during the second quarter of 2020 (April to June), there had been an overall decline since January 2020. Generally, sexual violence reports were down by 26% for January to November 2020, when compared with the same period in 2019.

⁽⁸³⁾ Ibid

⁽⁸⁴⁾ Ibid

⁽⁸⁵⁾ <https://bco.gov.bz/monthly-analysis/>

Outcome Indicator 4.2

Indicator description: In the past 12 months: a) number of VAWG cases reported to the police; b) number of cases reported to the police that are brought to court; and c) number of cases reported to the police that resulted in convictions of perpetrators.

Baseline value:

217 cases of domestic violence were reported in 2019 according to the Ministry of Health. Three court orders against the aggressor were reportedly issued (1% of crimes reported).

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Number/Count
Disaggregation	Not Applicable (for input into the Spotlight Online Platform)
Source of data	Police records, court records

Number of records (2019) ⁸⁶	Age (Under 19, above 19)	Number of cases brought to court (n and % of total)	Number of cases prosecuted	Number of cases resulting in conviction
217 total cases 199 females and 17 males	54 of 217 under age 19 years	58 of 217 cases brought to the police (27%)	63 cases brought to family court/magistrate (29%) and 5 cases referred to legal aid (2%).	3 court orders for the aggressor issued (1%), of which 2 cases were recorded under child abuse.

(86) Belize Ministry of Health 2019 Domestic Violence End Year Report

Output 4.1

Relevant government authorities and women’s rights organizations at national and sub-national levels have better knowledge and capacity to deliver quality and coordinated essential services, including SRH services and access to justice, to women and girls’ survivors of violence (and their families when relevant), especially those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

Output Indicator 4.1.3

Indicator description: Existence of national guidelines or protocols that have been developed and/or strengthened in line with the guidance and tools for essential services.

Baseline value: 0

The baseline value for this indicator is zero (0). There is evidence of detailed guidelines and protocols (by different stakeholders and across sectors, namely the justice sector) that offer critical advice on the provision of essential services. A review of these guidelines indicates Belize does not have in place guidelines that are fully aligned to all of the essential service package.

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Boolean Y/N
Disaggregation	For the Spotlight Online Platform: by type of action (developed or strengthened)

Desk Review Findings

The Women’s Handbook on Domestic Violence (2005) defines domestic violence, discusses types of domestic violence, and provides information on the legal system and what individuals can do to keep themselves safe.

The Family Court Policies and Procedures Manual (2015) offers procedures for delivery of social services in part one of the manual. The findings are further detailed below.

<p>Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence Core Elements and Quality Guidelines</p>	<p>The Essential Services Package reflects the vital components of coordinated multi-sectoral responses for women and girls subject to violence. The provision, coordination and governance of essential health, police, justice and social services can significantly mitigate the consequences that violence has on the well-being, health and safety of women and girls' lives, assist in the recovery and empowerment of women, and stop violence from reoccurring.</p>
<p>Responding to intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women WHO clinical and policy guidelines⁸⁷</p>	<p>The guidelines are aimed at health-care providers because they are in a unique position to address the health and psychosocial needs of women who have experienced violence. Health professionals can provide assistance by facilitating disclosure; offering support and referral; providing the appropriate medical services and follow-up care; or gathering forensic evidence, particularly in cases of sexual violence.</p> <p>Guidelines summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Women who disclose any form of violence by an intimate partner (or other family member) or sexual assault by any perpetrator should be offered immediate support. ▪ Health-care providers should, as a minimum, offer first line support when women disclose violence. ▪ Identification and care for survivors of intimate partner violence, including mental health care, cognitive behavioral therapy, a structured programme of advocacy, support and/or empowerment, a medium-duration empowerment counselling (up to 12 sessions) and advocacy/support for pregnant women and where children are exposed to intimate partner violence at home, a psychotherapeutic intervention. ▪ Clinical care for survivors of sexual assault: interventions during first five days after assault, emergency contraception, HIV post-exposure prophylaxis ▪ Psychological intervention including coping strategies in writing. ▪ Continued support and care three months post trauma ▪ Training for health care workers ▪ Health care policy and provision.
<p>Belize, Women's Department, Family Support Services Division (FSS)</p>	<p>The FSS is based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Families and Children Act (FACA), recognizing the family as the fundamental unit in society and the natural environment for the growth and well being of all of its members. The division creates an integrative system of care designed to protect the rights of adults, the rights of children, and the rights of families by offering a full range of support services to adults, the elderly, children with disabilities, and families with children. Services include information and referral, case management, pauper burial, individual and family counselling, public assistance monies and other concrete services to alleviate family crisis and prevent further family disintegration.</p>

⁽⁸⁷⁾ https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/85240/9789241548595_eng.pdf;jsessionid=CoDA0186C7B780253620669EDF6DB2E8?sequence=1

Women's Handbook on Domestic Violence⁸⁸

The Women's Handbook on Domestic Violence which focuses on clearly defining domestic violence and discussing key issues that relate to this problem that continues to affect the lives of so many women and children throughout Belize. The idea for this Handbook came out of weekly discussions with the Support Group for Women, which was formed through the department on August 9th, 2005. These women come from varied, backgrounds, ethnicities, educational levels, and religions but there is one commonality – they are all survivors of domestic violence or have close family members who are suffering from domestic violence.

Section IV: The fourth section offers a general overview of the legal options that are available including Protection Orders, Legal Separation, Child and Spousal Maintenance and criminal charges.

Section V: The last section provides a list of phone numbers that may be helpful.

The Domestic Violence Protocols, inclusive of a complaints mechanism through the Office of the Ombudsman was completed in November 2011. The Sexual Violence Protocols was completed in 2012. A mandatory arrest policy to require arrest in any incident of domestic violence where there is reasonable evidence to do so was developed and implemented. External DNA laboratories were being used for sexual offence cases; however, a major challenge was that most of these cases were not reported in a timely manner, which delayed the collection of biological evidence on victims.⁸⁹

The Family Court Policies and Procedures Manual 2015

The Family Court was established as a Magistrate Court by the Family Court Act in 1989 as the Court with primary jurisdiction to hear and dispose of civil legal proceedings involving children and families and children and criminal proceedings for children who come in conflict with the law. The protocols apply to the following types of proceedings: a) Family Court Proceedings for maintenance, custody, access and visitation, declaration of paternity, guardianship, relinquishment of children; b) Family Court Proceedings for legal separation, domestic violence proceedings; c) Family Court Care Order Proceedings for custody, ward of the state, care or supervision or other orders; d) Family Court Proceedings involving the Hague Convention on Abduction and any other Convention Proceedings involving the Department of Human Services; and e) All Juvenile Court Proceedings involving youth between the ages of 12-17 years of age.

(88) Prepared by Peace Corps Volunteer Jamie Lee Ganger for the Women's Department, Ministry of Human Development and Housing November 25th, 2005, The Women's Department, 2005 Available: <https://www.nationalwomenscommissionbz.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/womens-handbook.pdf>

(89) BFLA, The National Gender-Based Violence Action Plan 2017 – 2020 THEMATIC BRIEF

National Women's Commission Hotline

Victims of gender-based violence now have an additional hotline to call for assistance. The National Women's Commission with funding from the Spotlight Initiative and technical support from UNFPA, launched the second 0-800 Gender-based Violence hotline on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, at the Eastern Division Police Department on Queen Street, Belize City.

Studies have shown that in time of crises, acts of gender-based violence directed towards women and children escalates. The National Women's Commission along with its partners have done their best in ensuring that victims have quick and efficient access to reporting services. This important community-based protection system becomes more effective when protecting everyone experiencing gender-based violence, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With victims already having access to a BTL toll-free hotline, an additional hotline and a Smart mobile phone were implemented to provide toll-free access to persons with Smart numbers, further expanding their access in requesting assistance by sending text messages via SMS or WhatsApp. This component can impact access by persons with disabilities who can only use mobile devices or those persons who cannot make a call due to the danger they may find themselves in. Both landlines and mobile phones will be manned by the Domestic Violence Unit at the Queen Street Police Station.

The Government of Belize is grateful for the partnership and support of the European Union and the United Nations under the Spotlight Initiative to advance efforts aiming to improve access for timely reporting to authorities and authorities' timely response time to handle GBV cases.

Gender Equity Protocol for Judicial Officers⁹⁰

The Gender Protocol is intended to promote awareness of the ways in which gender intersects with other social statuses to affect the justice system and its users, and to provide tools to help judicial officers achieve gender-sensitive adjudication.

This Protocol is therefore intended to offer judicial officers (and other stakeholders) a lens through which they can better appreciate what gaps exist in the judicial system in relation to the gendered needs of women and men who appear before the courts. Judicial officers will hopefully then be able to make decisions that are responsive to those needs, and the court environment will reflect a similar responsiveness.

Output Indicator 4.1.4

Indicator description: Number of government service providers who have increased knowledge and capacities to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girl survivors of violence, within the last year.

Baseline value

As noted above, the Essential Services Package consists of multiple modules that provide guidance in a number of sec-

tors. The desk review found that while discrimination is discussed in Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 of the Belize Gender Equity Protocol for Judicial Officers, there was no documentary evidence provided on the remaining sectors covered by the Essential Services Package. For the use of future assessments during mid and end line, the desk review offers a summary of national protocols that do align in some ways to the guidance modules in the Essential Services Package. The findings highlight a need for advocacy and support provided to aid closer alignment.

(90) Belize Judiciary, Justice through a Gendered Lens, Gender Equity Protocol for Judicial Officers, 2018

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Boolean Y/N
Disaggregation	For the Spotlight Online Platform: by type of action (developed or strengthened)

Findings from key informants

A total of 20 government officials from the security, education and human development sectors answered the interview question regarding whether their organization had received training or participated in capacity building activities around coordinated service provision to women and girl survivors of violence within the last year.

While some interviewees recalled receiving training or receiving capacity building activities related to coordination service provision for survivors of VAWG, few were able to share information on specific activities within the last year.

The following list provides a summary of details shared by informants regarding trainings or capacity building activities within the last year:

- Trainings on sensitization on GBV (note that interviewee was unsure if this included information around coordinated service provision to survivors of VAWG);
- UNICEF-led workshop (training of trainers) on child rights, GBV, and other topics (note that interviewee was unsure if this included information around coordinated service provision to survivors of VAWG);
- Online training on sexual exploitation of children;
- Trainings across the country during Domestic Violence Month⁹¹ led by NWC district teams (note that interviewee was unsure if this included information around coordinated service provision to survivors of VAWG).

The baseline assessment team recommends setting the baseline value at zero since a majority of stakeholders were able to

confirm that the activities they described included discussion around coordinated service provision to survivors of VAWG.

Output Indicator 4.1.9

Indicator description: Existence of national guidelines or protocols for essential services that have been developed and/or strengthened that specifically address the needs of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

Baseline value: 0

Per the methodological notes, the source of data for this indicator is a “mapping of service delivery points across sectors – both state and non-state and a survey of mapped services to determine access”. For the baseline, indicate the number of women and girls that have access to quality essential services and accompaniment/support initiatives. The quality of the data for this indicator depends on a comprehensive mapping of accompaniment initiatives, including longer-term recovery services.

The goal of this indicator is to measure “the number of women and girl survivors of violence who are aware of and have access to quality essential services and/or accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery services”. The indicator was to be measured through a survey of the mapped accompaniment/support initiatives to be undertaken by UNFPA.

Further, as noted above, the remote methodology adopted by the assessment team meant that investigating potentially sensitive areas as personal experiences of violence over the telephone introduced ethical concerns that could not be mitigated.

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Boolean Y/N
Disaggregation	For the Spotlight Online Platform: by type of action (developed or strengthened)

(91) Note that “domestic violence month” was the terminology used by the interviewee. Upon further exploration with representatives from NWC, the assessment team believes that the interviewee was referring to Women’s Month.

Desk Review Findings

The Constitution of Belize defines “discrimination” as: “accord[ing] 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 of another such description” (16,3) 16. The Constitution of Belize continues to provide protection from discrimination on the grounds of race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex. (Chapter II, 3, 16). However, the desk review did not find national guidelines or protocols for essential services that address discrimination.

<p>Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence Core Elements and Quality Guidelines</p>	<p>The Essential Services Package reflects the vital components of coordinated multi-sectoral responses for women and girls subject to violence. The document also states that centrality of gender inequality and discrimination, as both a root cause and a consequence of violence against women and girls, requires that services ensure gender sensitive and responsive policies and practices are in place. Services must ensure that violence against women and girls will not be condoned, tolerated or perpetuated. Services must promote women’s agency where women and girls are entitled to make their own decisions, including decisions that refuse essential services.</p>
<p>Responding to intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women WHO clinical and policy guidelines⁹²</p>	<p>The guidelines are aimed at health-care providers because they are in a unique position to address the health and psychosocial needs of women who have experienced violence.</p>
<p>Women’s Handbook on Domestic Violence⁹³</p>	<p>The Women’s Handbook on Domestic Violence (2005)⁹⁴ defines domestic violence, discusses types of domestic violence, and provides information on the legal system and what individuals can do to keep themselves safe. However, it does not refer to women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (e.g. women and girls with disabilities, ethnic minorities, members of the LGBTQI community, etc.).</p>

⁽⁹²⁾ https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/85240/9789241548595_eng.pdf;jsessionid=CoDAo186C7B78o25362o669EDF6DB2E8?sequence=1

⁽⁹³⁾ Women’s Handbook on Domestic Violence, Prepared by Peace Corps Volunteer Jamie Lee Ganger for the Women’s Department, Ministry of Human Development and Housing November 25th, 2005

⁽⁹⁴⁾ Women’s Handbook on Domestic Violence, Prepared by Peace Corps Volunteer Jamie Lee Ganger for the Women’s Department, Ministry of Human Development and Housing November 25th, 2005

<p>Gender Equity Protocol for Judicial Officers⁹⁵</p>	<p>The Gender Protocol is intended to promote awareness of the ways in which gender intersects with other social statuses to affect the justice system and its users, and to provide tools to help judicial officers achieve gender-sensitive adjudication. The Protocol notes “Gender inequalities in the court system are apparent in its treatment of family law cases, its handling of survivors of gender-based violence and its attitude towards sexual minorities and other vulnerable individuals. In custody and child support cases, the adversarial nature of the court process can sometimes militate against the satisfactory resolution of conflicts between parties. When dealing with sexual offence cases, many court officials are not sensitized to the need to treat complainants with special care, and court administrators often fail to design courtrooms to accommodate the special needs of the complainant”. Chapter 2 covers the legal and conceptual framework supporting non-discrimination and equality and Part 3 of the document offers guidance on applying gender analysis to adjudication processes, covering IPV, protection orders, legal provisions for counselling, a friendly environment for survivors etc.</p> <p>Belize’s ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (the Convention of Belém do Pará, or BdP) signals its commitment to the promotion of gender equality in all spheres of government, including the justice sector. Moreover, in its National Gender Policy (NGP), the Government of Belize recognizes that “women’s rights are human rights and that women, men, boys and girls have a right to live free of discrimination and violence”. The NGP places importance on the right of women and men “to equality of opportunity, of access, and/or of outcomes”. It also emphasizes that “the concept of equity recognizes that women and men have different needs and power, and that these differences should be identified and addressed in a manner that rectifies the imbalance between the sexes. This extends to men and women of all ages, geographic location and ethnicities.”</p>
<p>A resource guide to legislation, policies, services and more, a Handbook on Sexual Violence</p>	<p>The document focuses on sexual violence. In the “Women and Sexual Rights” section it states that women’s rights to control their sexuality is an indivisible part of their human rights. For women to realize this important aspect of their human rights, effective policies and laws need to be put in place to protect them from all forms of coercion, discrimination and violence.</p>
<p>The National Gender-Based Violence Action Plan and Policy</p>	<p>Discriminatory traditions, customs and stereotypes keep women in subordinate positions and place them at the risk of violence. Awareness raising, education and training on violence against women remain inadequate.</p> <p>The National Women’s Commission developed a National Gender Policy which aims to achieve gender equity and equality by eliminating discrimination against women in five priority policy areas: Health, Wealth and Employment Generation, Violence-Producing Conditions, Education and Skills Training, and Power and Decision-Making.⁹⁶</p>

(95) Belize Judiciary, Justice through a Gendered Lens, Gender Equity Protocol for Judicial Officers, 2018 https://www.unodc.org/res/ji/import/law_on_administration_of_justice/belize_gender_protocol/belize_gender_protocol.pdf

(96) Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women Combined third and fourth periodic reports of States parties Belize [https://www.refworld.org/publisher,CEDAW,STATEPARTIESREP,BLZ,453778300,o.html](https://www.refworld.org/publisher/CEDAW/STATEPARTIESREP,BLZ,453778300,o.html)

Output 4.2

Women and girls' survivors of violence and their families are informed of and can access quality essential services, including longer term recovery services and opportunities.

Output Indicator 4.2.2

Indicator description: Number of women and girl survivors of violence and their families, including groups facing multiple and intersecting forms or discrimination, that have increased access to (a) quality essential services and (b) accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery services within the last 12 months.

Baseline value

Per the methodological notes, the source of data for this indicator is a “mapping of service delivery points across sectors – both state and non-state and a survey of mapped services to determine access”. For the baseline, indicate the number of women and girls that have access to quality essential services and accompaniment/support initiatives. The quality of the data for this indicator depends on a comprehensive mapping of accompaniment initiatives, including longer-term recovery services.

The goal of this indicator is to measure “the number of women and girl survivors of violence who are aware of and have access to quality essential services and/or accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery services”. The indicator was to be measured through a survey of the mapped accompaniment/support initiatives to be undertaken by UNFPA.

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Annual/Quantitative
Measure	Number and Percentage
Disaggregation	Age, race, ethnicity, disability, and geographic location, including urban and rural residence

Discussion

Types of support services available to survivors of violence

A majority of KABP survey respondents had heard of at least one type of support service available to survivors of violence and their families in their community (80% of females and 76% of males). Out of the eight response options,⁹⁷ KABP survey

Further, as noted above, the remote methodology adopted by the assessment team meant that investigating potentially sensitive areas as personal experiences of violence over the telephone introduced ethical concerns that could not be mitigated. Therefore, in coordination with the reference group for this baseline assessment, the following data was collected for this indicator:

- Whether KABP survey respondents had ever heard of eight types of support services that are available to survivors of violence and their families in their community (these eight services were: a. shelter for girls and women survivors of violence, b. free legal assistance, c. protection or restraining orders, d. emergency assistance through community health workers, e. survivor support programmes, f. counselling or psychosocial support, g. social workers, and h. dignity kits).
- If KABP survey respondents had heard of these services, how they were made aware of them (e.g. through a friend, local meetings or events, radio, etc.).
- Whether KABP survey respondents think that survivors of violence in their community know where to go for help.
- Where KABP survey respondents would be most comfortable accessing services related to GBV if they needed access to GBV-related services.
- What KABP survey respondents do if they witness, hear about, or learn of domestic violence or family violence against someone they know.

respondents were most aware of protection or restraining orders and social workers, and this held true for both males and females, urban and rural populations, across ethnicities, across all age ranges, and for females with disabilities. The chart, below, provides details of awareness of these services, disaggregated by sex.

(97) Options included: a. shelter for girls and women survivors of violence, b. free legal assistance, c. protection or restraining orders, d. emergency assistance through community health workers, e. survivor support programmes, f. counselling or psychosocial support, g. social workers, and h. dignity kits.

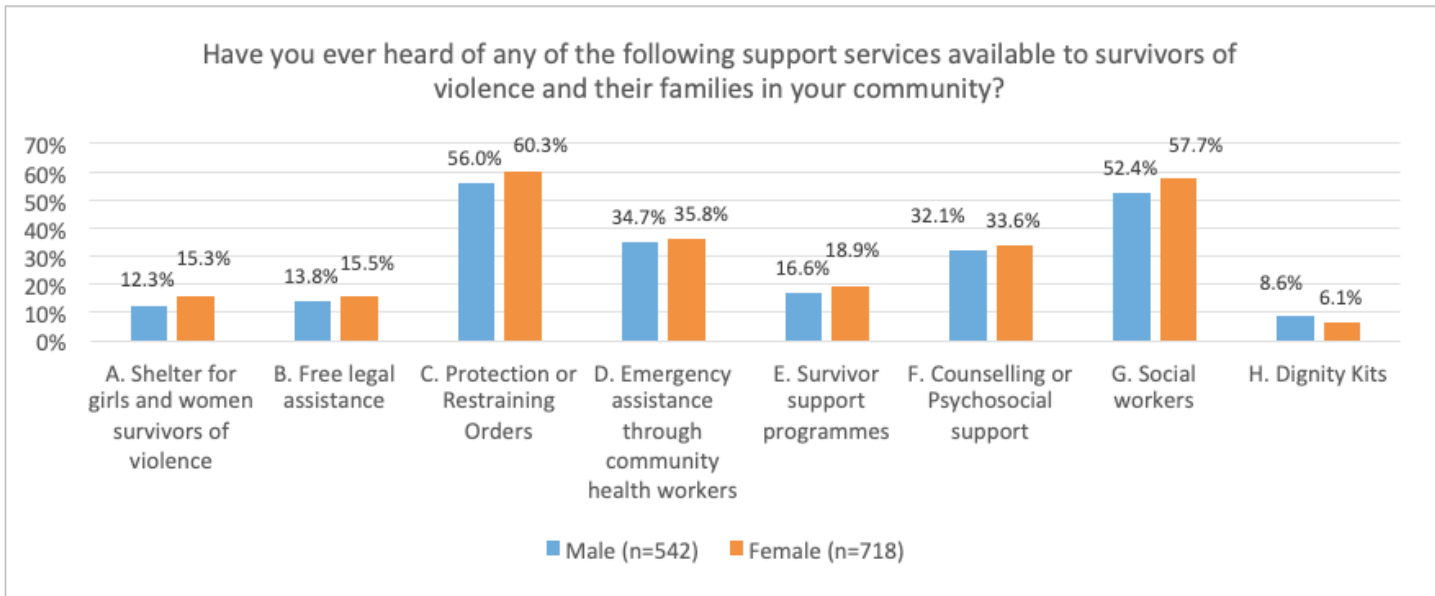


Figure: Awareness of community support services to survivors.

KABP respondents were evenly divided when asked if they thought that survivors of violence in their communities know where to go for help. Male and female respondents and rural and urban respondents exhibited very similar responses for this question (within three percentage points, ranging from 40% to 44% for no and 41% to 42% for yes). However, 48% of women with disabilities reported that they did not think that survivors of violence in their communities know where to go for help, and only 35% of women with disabilities believed that survivors in their communities know where to go for assistance.

When it came to learning about these support services, most respondents reported learning through a friend or family member (between 31% and 51% of respondents). All other options including local meetings or events, radio, television, local organizations, and the internet or social media scored much lower than learning through a friend or family member. The second most common method to learn about support services is through local organizations including women’s organizations, faith-based organizations, and others. Still, respondents are between 1.4 and 3.9 times more likely to learn of support services through family or friends than any other method.

▪ **Comfort levels regarding accessing GBV-related services**

In Belize, women access GBV-related services in a number of settings including through the formal health system, a social worker, the Women’s Department, the court, the police, an NGO or faith-based organization, or other avenues. Women respondents were asked about where they would be most comfortable accessing these services. Results were divided across the different options,⁹⁸ with the most popular option for accessing GBV services (chosen by 31% of women) being through the police. Women respondents were least comfortable accessing GBV services from the courts (1.4%). These

results were mirrored among rural and urban populations as well as women with disabilities – all populations reported being most comfortable accessing GBV services through the police and least comfortable with accessing GBV services through the court. Similarly, a very small percentage of women in rural and urban areas as well as women with disabilities are comfortable accessing services related to GBV from NGOs or faith-based organizations (ranging from 3% to 4%) or through the health system (ranging from 5% to 7%).

▪ **Reactions to domestic violence or family violence**

As discussed under indicator 4.1 above, a substantial majority (95%) of both rural and urban women would take action if they witnessed, heard about, or learned that someone they knew was a victim of domestic violence or family violence. Most (56%) women stated that they would inform the police if they experienced or learned of domestic or family violence against someone they know, with less than 1% stating that they would inform a health worker. However, this was slightly less than the corresponding proportion of men (58.5%). Since police are one of the major relevant authorities when it comes to preventing and responding to violence, this finding correlates closely with the above finding that women are most comfortable with accessing GBV services through the police and are much less comfortable accessing GBV services through the health system. The data does indicate that women are more comfortable than men in reporting to family or community leaders/social workers, suggesting potential entry points for future work.

(98) Health system, Social worker, Women’s dept, Courts, Police, NGO/ faith-based org

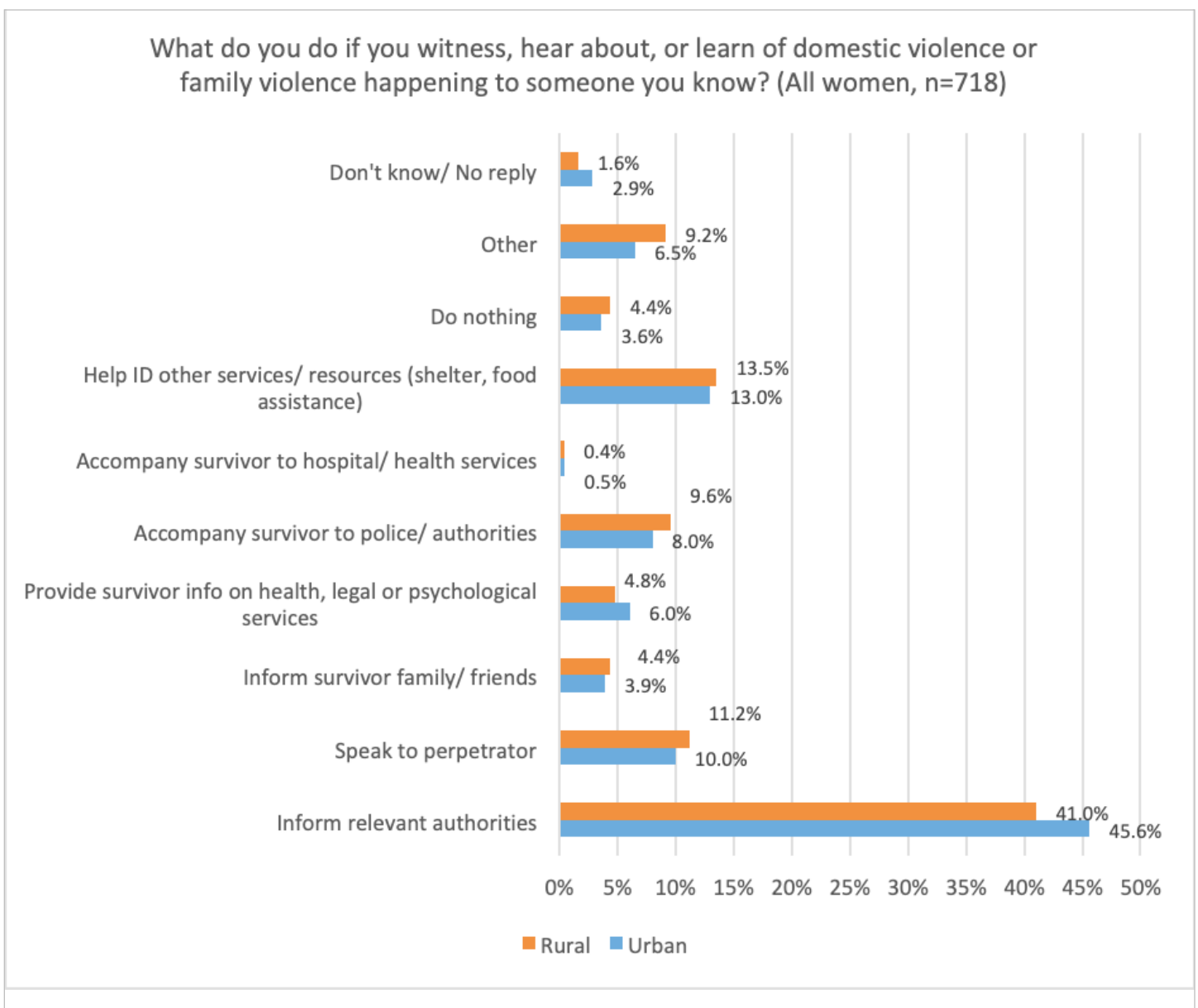
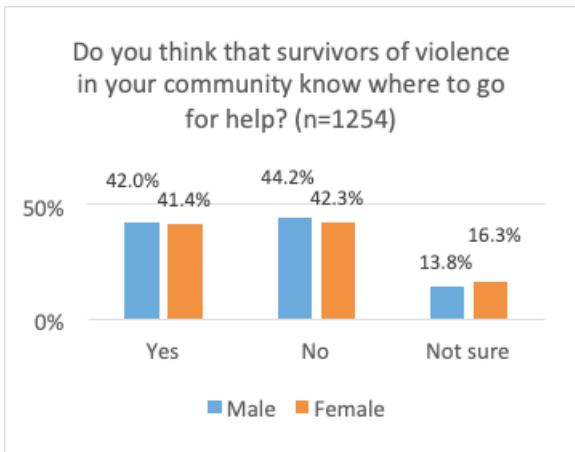


Figure: Respondent actions regarding domestic violence against someone known.

Pillar 5: Data and evidence

Outcome 5:

Quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of violence against women and girls, including family violence, collected, analysed and used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies and programmes.

Outcome Indicator 5.1

Indicator description: Existence of globally comparable data on the prevalence (and incidence, where appropriate) of VAWG/HP, collected over time.

Baseline Value

The desk review found that the statistical unit of the Belize Police Department – the Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center, or JICC – compiles, organizes, and analyses data on offenses (including VAWG/HP) on cases that are reported to police stations in each district. There are other sources of data, namely the Ministry of Health’s Gender-Based Violence Surveillance System and the Belize Crime Observatory which utilizes data from the Belize Police Department on incidence and national trends in GBV over the last decade.

Notwithstanding the presence of these multiple systems, the “quality” criterion of the indicator does not have an associated definition. Indeed, evidence from key informants suggests that the MOH GBV surveillance system suffers from a backlog of data going back multiple years due to lack of clarity on responsibility for data input.

A summary of the types of analysis produced by the different actors is offered below.

Basis of Calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Boolean Y/N
Disaggregation	For the Spotlight Online Platform: Answers should be disaggregated by prevalence and incidence.

Desk Review Findings

A 2012 analysis on the collection of sexual offenses statistics in Belize noted that there are two main sources of data on sexual offenses in Belize: 1) Belize Police Department’s Sexual Offenses Statistics, as part of the overall system of gathering statistics on offenses reported to the various police stations in each district. 2) The other primary source of data is the

Ministry of Health’s Gender-Based Violence Surveillance System. The Belize Crime Observatory also produces data and national GBV trends. The three main sets of data are comparable as seen below.

Prevalence of VAWG/HP:

The National Action Plan 2010 2013 has as two objectives were 1) Systems designed to measure reported cases of GBV capture all reported cases of both domestic violence and sexual offences and 2) A system to reassess the incidence, frequency and severity of gender based violence is in place. During the implementing period up to 2015 a number of initiatives were undertaken to strengthen the Gender Based Violence Surveillance System. The GBV surveillance system is a national surveillance system established to capture GBV reported cases seen at the police, women, health departments (hospitals) and other partners in the fight against GBV (NGO’s and private sectors). The surveillance system is overseen by the Ministry of Health’s Epidemiology Unit, in collaboration with the Women’s Department. It was established as a National and local multi-sectoral system.⁹⁹ Further, stakeholders and documentation reviewed by the baseline assessment team were unable to clearly lay out how the GBV surveillance system interacts with other repositories and how different stakeholders participate in the system. Further, stakeholders and documentation reviewed by the baseline assessment team were unable to clearly lay out how the GBV surveillance system interacts with other repositories and how different stakeholders participate in the system.

(99) BFLA, The National Gender-Based Violence Action Plan 2017 – 2020, Thematic Brief

Incidence of femicide:

Women's deaths at the hands of their intimate partner or former partner (Absolute number and rate): 5 rate = 2/6/100 (2018)^{100, 101}

Women's deaths at the hands of their intimate partner or former partner:

Absolute number: 5 rate = 2.6/100 (2018)¹⁰²

Trafficking: The US State Department Trafficking in Persons report published in June 2020 lists Belize as a Tier Two Watchlist country for the second consecutive year. Belize was assigned this ranking because while the Government of Belize is making significant effort to meet the minimum standards set by the U.S. State Department regarding the elimination of trafficking, the country does not yet fully meet the minimum standards. The Government of Belize does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so. These efforts included initiating more trafficking investigations, convicting a trafficker, and screening for potential trafficking victims during joint labor inspections. However, the government did not demonstrate overall increasing efforts from the previous reporting period. The government did not initiate any new prosecutions against traffickers and continued to apply victim identification procedures inconsistently, despite improvement in this area. The government opened 10 new trafficking investigations—three for forced labor and seven for sex trafficking—compared to three new investigations in 2018 and nine in 2017. There were no ongoing trafficking investigations from previous years. The government did not initiate any trafficking prosecutions in 2019, but there were ongoing cases from previous reporting periods against four accused traffickers, all of whom awaited trial on bail. The government reported convicting one trafficker on two counts of sex trafficking in March 2020. This was Belize's second conviction under the 2013 trafficking law; the first occurred in early 2016. A dedicated police unit of five officers conducted trafficking investigations and operations.

The government maintained efforts to protect victims. Authorities identified 24 potential victims in 2019—all foreign nationals—compared to 17 potential victims in 2018 and 17 potential victims in 2017. Seventeen of the 24 victims, including one child, were exploited in labor trafficking, while the remaining seven, four of whom were children, were identified as victims of sex trafficking. While a majority of victims were Central American, there were also five victims of Indian nationality and one Mexican victim.¹⁰³

Physical and sexual IPV: MICS covers attitudes of men and women towards domestic violence but not incidence/prevalence. Between the periods 2008–2013, the Belize police recorded 620 sexual offences including rape, carnal knowledge, indecent assault, unnatural crime and indecent exposure. Only 354 of these offences resulted in arrest.¹⁰⁴

GBV: Statistics reported by the Belize Police Department and published by the Belize Crime Observatory offer a look at national trends in GBV over the last decade. In 2018, 19 females were murdered, more than any other year in the previous decade. The number of domestic violence reports made to police increased by nearly 15% between 2016 and 2019. Changes in the prevalence of these offenses in two districts Belize and Cayo – appear to be driving these upward trends. Though the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) estimates that these two districts are home to about half of the country's population, they account for 12 of the 19 murders and 66% of domestic violence reports in 2019.¹⁰⁵

Child Marriage: Among women aged 15–49 years, about one in twenty (6%) were married before age 15 and, among women aged 20–49 years, more than one in four (29%) women were married before age 18. About one in five young women aged 15–19 years is currently married.¹⁰⁶

(100) <https://oig.cepal.org/en/countries/69/profile>

(101) Due to the small population and high per capita murder rate, Belize consistently ranks among the top 10 countries in the world for homicides, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Belize averages approximately 40 homicides per 100,000 residents. The official murder total in 2018 countrywide was 143, with an additional seven cases potentially classifiable as murders pending the conclusion of investigations. The highest murder total on record in Belize is 145, which occurred in 2012. In previous years, the increase was likely due to the displacement of crime from the central hub of criminal gang activity in south Belize City. The murder total in the Belize District increased by 12 in 2018. <https://www.osac.gov/Country/Belize/Content/Detail/Report/ab83a8af-6f54-4004-a042-15f4aeb5a936>

(102) <https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators/womens-deaths-hands-their-intimate-partner-or-former-partner>

(103) US State Department, 2020 Trafficking in Persons Report: Belize, OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report/belize/>

(104) <https://www.nationalwomenscommissionbz.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/National-Gender-Based-Violence-Plan-of-Action-Book.pdf>

(105) Belize Crime Observatory, DATA-DRIVEN RESPONSES TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE A research brief prepared for the Project to Improve Governance Decision-Making in Belize, June 2020

(106) Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2015-2016

Over the last decade, the Government of Belize and partner NGOs and CBOs have taken steps to identify the full scope of GBV and develop a coordinated data-driven response. In 2013, the National Women’s Commission of Belize revised the National Gender Policy first adopted in 2002 – strengthening policy commitments for addressing gender-based violence. This policy was elaborated on in 2017 with the development of the National Gender-Based Violence Plan of Action (2017–2020), which outlines a multisectoral response to GBV in which national and district-level GBV committees comprising key stakeholders in social services, education, health and criminal justice will oversee the implementation of strategies for preventing and responding to GBV. The plan evidence-based evaluation and calls for greater data collection and sharing.¹⁰⁷

The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean provides comparable data on the incidence of femicide in Belize for the year 2019.¹⁰⁸ In Latin American countries, the highest rates of femicide per 100,000 women are observed in the case of Honduras (6.2), El Salvador (3.3), the Dominican Republic (2.7) and the Plurinational State of Bolivia (2.1). In the Caribbean, six countries recorded a total of 26 women victims of gender-based violence in 2019, which has marked a downturn from the 36 cases reported in 2018. The

year-to-year variation in the number of feminicides was 1.3% between 2018 and 2019 for 18 countries in Latin America and 6 countries in the Caribbean. The US State Department 2019 Trafficking in Persons reporting covers Belize’s trafficking profile. As of June, Belize remains a Tier Two country on the U.S. State Department’s Annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

Outcome Indicator 5.2

Indicator description: Existence of publicly available data, reported on a regular basis, on various forms of VAWG/HP (at least on intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, harmful practices when relevant, and trafficking and femicide) at country level.

Baseline value

National statistics relating to sexual violence and gender-based violence are housed at the statistical unit of the Belize Police Department (JICC), the Belize Crime Observatory and the Ministry of Health as noted above as part of the analysis for indicator 5.1.

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative/Annual
Measure	Boolean (Y/N)
Disaggregation	Spotlight Online Platform: Outcome should be disaggregated by types of VAWG/HP (IPV, FGM, Child Marriage and Femicide)

Desk Review Findings

National Statistics

As noted above, the National Action Plan 2010–2013 has as two objectives that focus on the measurement of reported cases of GBV (domestic violence and sexual offences) and the measurement of incidence, frequency and severity of gender based violence is in place.¹⁰⁹

The Ministry of Health provided data for the year 2019 pertaining to the number of reported domestic violence cases. The Belize Crime Observatory reported the following statistics comparable between the years 2019–2020. The Belize Crime Observatory has also produced reporting on GBV and sexual violence incidences however this data pre dates 2019. MICS covers attitudes of men and women towards domestic violence but not incidence/prevalence. Further information regarding availability of publicly disaggregated data is provided below, referencing indicator 5.3.

Outcome Indicator 5.3

Indicator description: National statistics related to VAWG/HP incidence and prevalence are disaggregated by income, sex, age, ethnicity, disability, and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

Baseline value

As noted above, Belize gathers national statistics relating to sexual violence and gender based violence which are housed by the Police Department, the Belize Crime Observatory and the Ministry of Health. Updated statistics pertaining to the major crimes and associated arrests are available for the years 2019 and 2020 (see below) available from both sources. Data is disaggregated by age, sex, district, location and other characteristics. Disability/the LGBT community and other marginalized groups have not been factored as part of the MOH/ Crime Observatory disaggregated sets.

(107) RTI International, Amanda R. Witwer, DATA-DRIVEN RESPONSES TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, Research Analyst Division for Applied Justice Research, June 2020

(108) <https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators>

(109) BFLA, The National Gender-Based Violence Action Plan 2017 – 2020, Thematic Brief

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative/Annual
Measure	Categorical
Disaggregation	For the Spotlight Online Platform: Answers should be disaggregated by prevalence and incidence.

Desk Review Findings

National Statistics

As noted above, the Ministry of Health provided data for the year 2019 pertaining to the number of reported domestic violence cases. This data is heavily disaggregated including the following: age, sex, district, civil status of victim, employment, ethnic background, referral, resulting pregnancy, type of violence and injury, if sexual abuse occurred, associated

outcome, time, day and place of abuse, child abuse (sexual), relationship to aggressor, aggressor's employment and educational level.

The Belize Crime Observatory reported the following statistics comparable between the years 2019-2020. Disaggregation is available by district.

Domestic Violence Cases by Age-Group and Sex of Victims				
Belize: January December 2019				
Age-Group	Female	Male	Dk/Ns	Total
Total	199	17	1	217

Domestic Violence Cases by Age-Group and District of Victims								
Belize: January December 2019								
Age-Group	Corozal	Orange Walk	Belize	Cayo	Stann Creek	Toledo	Dk/Ns	Total
Total	27	11	0	122	12	44	1	217

Source: The Epidemiology Unit, MOH

Source: The Epidemiology Unit, MOH

DATE: 5TH JANUARY, 2021

Item	Total	
	2019	2020
CRIMES		
Murder	134	102
Rape	30	25
Robbery	251	160
Burglary	693	479
Theft	89	67
Unlawful S.Int.	67	55
Total	1,264	888

ITEM	Total	
ARRESTS	2019	2020
Murder	51	55
Rape	12	13
Robbery	83	69
Burglary	193	144
Theft	8	6
Unlawful S.Int.	28	23
Total Arrests	375	310

Source¹¹⁰

Prevalence of VAWG/HP:

The Belize Crime Observatory has also produced reporting on GBV and sexual violence incidences however this data pre dates 2019. The 2018 reporting disaggregates data by district, age group, type of violence, relationship to perpetrator, circumstances surrounding the incident and location of incident.¹¹¹ The observatory also provides data on incidents of murders for which females were victims (2009–2019). This data is disaggregated by age, weapon used, and district.¹¹²

Physical and sexual IPV: MICS covers attitudes of men and women towards domestic violence but not incidence/prevalence.

Between the periods 2008–2013, the Belize police recorded 620 sexual offences including rape, carnal knowledge, indecent assault, unnatural crime and indecent exposure. Only 354 of these offences resulted in arrest.¹¹³

Child Marriage: Among women aged 15–49 years, about one in twenty (6%) were married before age 15 and, among women aged 20–49 years, more than one in four (29%) women were married before age 18. About one in five young women aged 15–19 years is currently married.¹¹⁴

(110) <https://bco.gov.bz/crime-statistics/>

(111) Belize-Crime-Observatory-Report-on-GBV-Published-June-2019.pdf

(112) <https://crime-data-belizeco.hub.arcgis.com/app/murder-of-females-2009-2019-1>

(113) <https://www.nationalwomenscommissionbz.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/National-Gender-Based-Violence-Plan-of-Action-Book.pdf>

(114) Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2015-2016

Output 5.1

Key partners, including relevant statistical officers, service providers in the different branches of government and women's rights advocates have strengthened capacities to regularly collect data related to VAWG, including family violence, in line with international and regional standards to inform laws, policies and programmes.

Output Indicator 5.1.2

Basis of Calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Boolean Y/N
Disaggregation	N/A
Source of data	Inquiry into the reporting mechanisms of VAWG/HP service delivery points across sectors (health, social services, education, justice, security, culture) at the national and sub-national levels.

Desk Review Findings

As noted above there are a number of key sources and systems for data management – but not one in which data across sectors is housed. Nor is it clear how the different systems cooperate. The individual systems include: the Belize Police Department's statistical unit (JICC) which is part of the overall system of gathering statistics on offenses reported to the various police stations in each district. Individual stations submit their daily Situation Reports to the respective police formation which compiles and sends the information to the Department's Joint Intelligence Coordinating Centre (JICC). These Sit Reps are the basis of police statistics for all types of offenses, with separate reports being produced for sexual offenses and domestic violence offenses. The sexual offenses report includes the following offenses as defined by the Criminal Code: Rape, Attempted Rape, Carnal Knowledge, Unlawful Carnal Knowledge, Incest, Indecent Assault and Unnatural Crime. The system is based on reports from the point of first contact that the victim/survivor has with the police, health or social services systems. Institutions that complete the forms include the Police Department (through the Domestic Violence Unit and Criminal Investigations Branch for sexual offenses), Family and Magistrate's Courts, hospitals and clinics, Women's Department, and Department of Human Services. The information is recorded on a triplicate form, with one copy kept by the agency of first contact, one copy given to the victim/survivor and one copy forwarded to the Epidemiology Department. Data is compiled and the overall report provided in a multi-tabbed Excel spreadsheet that organizes the statistics with respect to a range of variables. According to the system, forms should be submitted on a quarterly basis and reports compiled quarterly as well. The other primary source of data is the Ministry of Health's Gender-Based Violence Surveillance System. This system was first established in 1999 (with the support of the Pan-American Health Organization/PAHO) as a surveillance system for domestic violence. The system is housed in the Epidemiology Department of the Ministry.¹¹⁶ In 1999, Belize became the first country in the Caribbean to gather ongoing data on domestic violence through a Surveillance System housed in the Ministry of Health. In 2012, the National Women's Commission launched its Gender Info system, designed to bring together data on gender issues in one, easily accessible location. The Department of Human Services also keeps its own statistics on referrals of abuse and neglect to its Child Protection Services branch. This includes cases of sexual abuse. A detailed analysis (2011) of the Gender-Based Violence Surveillance System (overseen by the Ministry of Health Epidemiology Unit, in collaboration with the Women's Department (part of the Ministry of Human Development) was produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.¹¹⁷ The report outlined several concerns with regards to data collection and management.

(115) UNICEF methodological notes: There should be one system in which these data from across sectors (health, social services, education, justice, security, culture) SDPs are available. A system, at minimum, should include service data from at least 3 sectors in order to be counted. In addition, the system should be in line with international ethical standards around data pertaining to VAWG. The standards are presented in tools such as the WHO's Ethical and safety recommendations for intervention research on violence against women.

(116) UNFPA, Debra J. Lewis UNFPA Caribbean Sub-Region December 2012

(117) Evaluation of the Gender-Based Violence Surveillance System in Belize, September 2011 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Division of Violence Prevention, Katherine Fowler, Victoria Espitia, Alex Crosby, Linda Dahlberg, Sharyn Parks, Atlanta, Georgia USA, 2011

Output Indicator 5.1.4

Indicator description: Number of government personnel, including service providers, from different sectors who have

enhanced capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG including family violence in line with international and regional standards within the past year.

Basis of Calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Number/count
Disaggregation	<p>For the Online Platform: outputs are disaggregated by sector (total Government Personnel, health, education, justice, security, social services, culture) and by the sex of the government personnel</p> <p>Note: Although not required for the Online Platform, further disaggregation at country level by, inter alia, income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics is encouraged to ensure alignment with the principle of non-discrimination, equality, and “leaving no one behind”, as well as the following: “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights prohibits discrimination of any kind as to “race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status” that has the intention or effect of nullifying or impairing the equal enjoyment or exercise of a human right. The inclusion of “other status” indicates that this list is not exhaustive. Indeed, international human rights mechanisms have since specified that “other status” includes discrimination on the basis of age (with attention to youth and older persons), nationality, marital and family status, sexual orientation and gender identity, health status (including HIV), place of residence, economic and social situation, and civil, political or other status.”</p>
Source of data	Inquiry into sectorial Ministries, NGOs and other relevant organizations for programmatic data on capacity building and training activities that target government personnel, including service providers.
Other sources of data	None
Indicator description	This indicator measures commitment in a country, or region of a country, to ensuring that government personnel from different sectors, including service providers, have enhanced capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG in line with international and regional standards

Baseline Value

For the purpose of the Spotlight Initiative, the recommended Baseline for this indicator is 0.

Findings from key informants

Four key informants referenced the same training from 2020 which was facilitated by the Belize Crime Observatory. Approximately 50 individuals from 20 agencies (e.g. MOH, NWC, Gender and GBV Committees, police, national forensic science service) attended this online training that focused on applying the gender perspective to information management processes. No other capacity building and training activities that target government personnel were mentioned during interviews.

Findings from Desk Review

In 2017, ATIP’s Council and the BPD conducted a series of trainings to build the capacity of the police officers attached to the Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) and Criminal Investigative Branch on human trafficking, victim identification and referral to the investigative unit within the BPD. The Council also partnered with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and international organizations to provide training to teachers, national utility workers, social security board inspectors, and private employers in the tourism sector on human trafficking, victim identification, and reporting. Extensive training was conducted with immigration officers, customs officers, labour officers, social workers, prosecutors and judges. Public education through the placements of billboards on major highways, public service announcements on the media and information sessions with communities are ongoing.¹¹⁸

(118) <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/292/22/PDF/G1829222.pdf?OpenElement>

United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 26 September 2005

Belize also participated in a Regional Project to address sex role stereotyping in the media. This Project, conducted in 2001, included the completion of a Gender and Media Training Needs Assessment exercise as well as a Gender Training Program for media personnel.

Output Indicator 5.1.5

Indicator description: Number of women’s rights advocates with strengthened capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, and qualitative data, on VAWG.

Baseline value

For the purpose of the Spotlight Initiative, the recommended Baseline for this indicator is 0. However, two respondents reported participation of their staff in data management, as discussed below. For future assessment purposes it should be noted that the desk review did not find evidence of recent trainings undertaken to strengthen data capacity.¹¹⁹

Basis of Calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Number/count
Disaggregation	Not applicable for the Online Platform
Source of data	Survey of women’s rights advocates
Other sources of data	National or regional Ministry-level inquiry into programs targeted at building capacity for collecting prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG.
Indicator description	This indicator measures commitment in a country, or region of a country, to ensuring that women’s rights advocates have strengthened capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG

Findings from key informants

21 women’s rights advocates provided information regarding whether their staff has participated in training on collection of prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG and/or family violence. Of these individuals, two reported receiving training on data collection related to VAWG and/or family violence:

- 2019: Training regarding data collection led by Outright Action International. (No details on number of attendees or specific topics discussed.)
- 2020: Six-week training on sexual exploitation led by the U.S. State Department. (No details on number of attendees or specific topics discussed.)

(119) The most recent documentary evidence is dated 2017. ATIP’s Council and the BPD conducted a series of trainings to build the capacity of the police officers attached to the Domestic Violence Unit and Criminal Investigative Branch on human trafficking, victim identification and referral to the investigative unit within the BPD. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/292/22/PDF/G1829222.pdf?OpenElement>

Pillar 6: Women’s Movement and CSO

Outcome 6

Women’s rights groups, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on GEWE and ending VAWG.

Outcome Indicator 6.1

Indicator description: Women’s rights organizations, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs increase their co-

ordinated efforts to jointly advocate on ending VAWG, including family violence¹²⁰

Baseline Value

The baseline for this indicator is recommended to be set at 0. The methodological notes state that ‘a special study is needed to contact organizations and groups to understand whether or not they have increased their coordination to jointly advocate for EVAWG’. However, as part of the baseline assessment, 14 organizations expressed that they have undertaken joint advocacy efforts. Per the methodological notes for this indicator, ‘advocacy statements that represent more than one organization will demonstrate efforts to advocate for their respective groups, together’. No advocacy statements were provided by the key informants or gathered during the desk review.

Basis of Calculation

Type of indicator	Biannual/Quantitative
Measure	Proportion
Disaggregation	Type of organization (representing youth, LNOB)
Source of data	Special study needed to contact organizations and groups to understand whether or not they have increased their coordination to jointly advocate for EVAWG
Other sources of data	None
Indicator description	This indicator measures the extent to which activist organizations within a country can coordinate together and work jointly to EVAWG

Findings from key informants

The methodological notes for this indicator state that a special study is needed to contact organisations and groups to understand whether or not they have increased their coordination to jointly advocate for ending VAWG. The methodological notes prescribe a counting of advocacy statements that represent more than one organization to demonstrate joint efforts to advocate for their respective groups. No advocacy statements were received during the baseline assessment data collection period.

As part of this baseline, the Assessment Team asked key informants from women’s rights organisations, autonomous social movements, and civil society organisations whether their organisation has ever undertaken joint advocacy efforts with one or more other organisation. A total of 14 organisations expressed that they have undertaken joint advocacy efforts – 4 representing youth/children exclusively, 4 representing LBT women and girls, 1 representing sex workers, 1 representing indigenous populations, and 4 representing women, youth, and children more generally.

While many stakeholders answered yes to the question described above, only a handful could give specific examples. Some examples that were given include:

- Activities related to the 16 Days of Activism
- Activities related to Women’s Month in March including human rights awareness training.
- Participation in fairs on National Women’s Day
- Participation on the steering committee for the Equal Opportunities bill, associated advocacy efforts
- Creation of a trauma-informed advocacy training
- Political lobbying and transnational lobbying
- Advocacy work regarding CSE in schools – collaboration with UNDP to align a manual for high schools
- Activities related to marches, workshops, ‘speak up’ events, and other demonstrations
- Advocacy work around service provision for survivors of violence and commercial sexual exploitation
- Joint presentations on issues of violence in schools (both children and staff)

(120) The methodological notes for this indicator state that a special study is needed to contact organizations and groups to understand whether or not they have increased their coordination to jointly advocate for ending VAWG. The methodological notes prescribe a counting of advocacy statements that represent more than one organization to demonstrate joint efforts to advocate for their respective groups.

Outcome Indicator 6.2

Baseline value

Indicator description: Number of supported women’s rights groups and relevant CSOs using the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy around VAWG within the last year.

The baseline for this indicator is recommended to be set at 0. However, as part of the baseline assessment, 18 CSO stakeholders answered the interview question related to 6.2.1.

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative/Annual
Measure	Quantitative

Desk Review Findings

Discussed in further detail as part of the analysis for indicator 6.2.1, a review of “appropriate accountability mechanisms” including the CEDAW, UPR shadow reports, and social accountability mechanisms such as social audits, citizen report cards, etc was conducted which show that rights groups and CSOs are present and participating in the Universal Period Review

(more detail is available later in the report). The last CEDAW report (2005) also documented the establishment of an Ombudsman (in 1999) and the role of women’s organizations in advancing the Domestic Violence Act.

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights ¹²¹	The latest report (2018) found via a review of documentation available online found the following organizations provided input to the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Thirty-first session 5-16 November 2018: BFLA Belize Family Life Association (Belize); GIEACPC, The Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); ICAN International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (Switzerland); IHRC-OU International Human rights Clinic, International Human Rights Clinic University of Oklahoma College of Law (United States of America).
Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women Combined third and fourth periodic reports of States parties Belize ¹²²	<p>The last report to CEDAW, dated 26 September 2005 noted the following:</p> <p>In 1999, the Government of Belize established the Office of Ombudsman. The effectiveness of this Office has been limited by institutional capacity issues as well as lack of a clear strategy for protecting citizens, in particular women and girls, from human rights abuses and gender-based violence</p> <p>Women’s organizations in Belize have played a strategic role in advocating for policy changes to advance the status of women. For example, it was women’s organizations that were responsible for: a.) the passing of the Domestic Violence Act and b.) keeping alive the campaign to amend the minimum wages act to ensure gender equality.</p>

Outcome Indicator 6.3

Baseline Value

Indicator description: Proportion of women’s rights organizations, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, report having greater influence and agency to work on ending VAWG.

The baseline for this indicator is recommended to be set at 0. The methodological notes for this indicator state that a special study is needed to contact organisations and groups to understand whether or not they report greater agency to work on ending VAWG. A similar study was purported to be undertaken

(121) Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Thirty-first session 5-16 November 2018 Summary of Stakeholders’ submissions on Belize⁸ Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/258/O2/PDF/G18258O2.pdf?OpenElement>

(122) UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Reports of States Parties, Belize, 26 September 2005, CEDAW/C/BLZ/3-4, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/453778300.html>

by UNDP and the data would be available to the Spotlight Initiative on completion.

To support and triangulate with this data, the baseline as-

essment team sought feedback from key informants of ten women’s organizations on their influence and agency to work on ending VAWG.

Basis of Calculation

Type of indicator	Biennial/Quantitative
Measure	Numerical
Disaggregation	Type of organization (representing youth, LNOB)
Source of data	A special study is needed to contact organizations and groups to understand whether or not they report greater agency to work on EVAWG. this can be done easily through an inline survey. The list of organizations that is generator for indicator 6.1
Other sources of data	None
Indicator description	This indicator measures the extent to which activist organizations within a country gain agency to work on EVAWG

The methodological notes for this indicator state that a special study is needed to contact organisations and groups to understand whether or not they report greater agency to work on ending VAWG. The methodological notes prescribe an annual online survey to collect the required data. As part of this baseline, the Assessment Team asked key informants from women’s rights organisations, autonomous social movements, and civil society organisations the series of questions laid out in the methodological notes during key informant interviews.

Many key informants were unable to answer the series of questions related to this indicator during interviews, however, a majority of the limited number of key informants who did provide responses (between one and eight individuals) indicated that they face political barriers, financial barriers, activity coordination barriers and barriers due to the lack of an enabling environment (See Table below).

Table. Indicator 2.1.8 Online Survey Questions and Responses Gathered During Key Informant Interviews

Question	Number and percentage of respondents	
	Yes	No
Has your organization faced any political barriers to the work you do on EVAWG in the last year?	5 (83%)	1 (17%)
Has your organization faced any financial barriers to the work you do on EVAWG in the last year?	8 (100%)	0 (0%)
Has your organization faced any barriers due to the lack of an enabling environment to the work you do on EVAWG in the last year?	5 (83%)	1 (17%)
Has your organisation faced any activity coordination barriers to the work you do on EVAWG in the last year?	3 (60%)	2 (40%)
Has your organisation faced any barriers to the work you do on EVAWG in the last year due to being threatened by the legal environment?	1 (25%)	3 (75%)

When asked whether key informants felt these barriers have increased or decreased since last year:

- One stakeholder expressed that COVID-19 has created additional barriers since meeting as a group to organise activities had to shift to virtual settings and many of their members did not possess the technological skills or equipment to participate.
- One stakeholder shared that they felt barriers had decreased over the last year since the focus has been on responding to COVID-19 and the elections. As such, the organisation was able to operate 'under the radar' and faced fewer roadblocks than previous years. However, a shift in funding towards responding to the COVID-19 pandemic countrywide meant that their organization also faced a decrease in funding from their donors.

- One stakeholder stated that financial barriers have increased a bit as their clients are unable to pay for the services that the organization provides. Further, the organization is unable to keep all of its staff due to lack of funding, however, some donor funds have kept their organization functioning including safe spaces for survivors.

When asked whether key informants felt their influence has grown, stayed the same, or decreased in the last year, three key informants expressed that their influence had grown since the communities and other key stakeholders have begun to recognize the services they provide and the work that they do. No key informants were able to provide two examples to highlight how their influence has grown, stayed the same, or decreased in the last year as it relates to their work on ending VAWG.

Output 6.1

Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs¹²³ have increased opportunities and support to share knowledge, network, partner and jointly advocate for GEWE and ending VAWG, including family violence, with relevant stakeholders at sub-national, national, regional and global levels.

Output Indicator 6.1.3

Indicator description: Number of CSOs representing youth and other groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of dis-

crimination that are integrated with coalitions and networks of women's rights groups and civil society working on ending VAWG including family violence within the last year.

Baseline value

For the purpose of this indicator, the baseline value is recommended to be zero (0). For future assessment purposes it should be noted that several informants (eight from fifteen interviewed) stated their organization is aligned to CSOs, coalitions or networks listed below. A desk review did not find evidence of any formal network/system in operation and the KIIs did not produce documentation to support the baseline assessment.

Basis of Calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Number/Count
Disaggregation	Type of organization (youth, LNOB)
Source of data	Inquiry into Ministries and programme partners, and then with those identified groups and organizations for more groups and organizations.
Other sources of data	None
Indicator description	This indicator measures the number of CSOs representing youth and other groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that are integrated with coalitions and networks of women's rights groups and civil society working on ending VAWG thanks to Spotlight's advocacy effort.

Findings from key informants

For the purpose of this indicator, the baseline value is recommended to be zero (0). For future assessment purposes it should be noted that several informants (eight from fifteen interviewed) stated their organization is aligned to CSOs, coalitions or networks listed below. A desk review did not find evidence of any formal network/system in operation and the KIIs did not produce documentation to support the baseline assessment.

Other key informants stated that while they were not officially integrated with coalitions or networks, they still provided support through partnerships and technical assistance. For example, one key informant stated that they provided support to other organisations by mentoring staff, providing technical support in developing strategies, and reporting. Another key informant stated that their organization produced policy briefs related to the Action Plan in partnership with other CSOs.

- Member of the District GBV Committee
- Member of the CSO Hub
- Member of the Belize Network of NGOs
- Member of the Caribbean Network of Sex Workers
- Member of the Committee of the NCFC
- Member of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Council

(123) Including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization.

Output Indicator 6.1.4

Indicator description: Number of women's rights groups, networks and relevant CSOs with strengthened capacities to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on ending VAWG including family violence at the local and national level within the last year.

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Number/Count
Disaggregation	Not applicable
Source of data	Survey of women's rights groups, networks and relevant CSOs

Desk Review Findings

A number of training and capacity building events were reported to have taken place in 2018 via the Human Rights Commission of Belize, the Magistrates and Supreme Court Justices, the Police Department, Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) and Criminal Investigative Branch on human trafficking, victim

Baseline value

The baseline value is set at 0 for two reasons: a) there is no documentary evidence of capacity building events having taken place in 2019-2020. b) This is corroborated by the results of key informant interviews that indicate stakeholders were unable to provide evidence as defined by methodological notes.

identification. The ATIP's Council provides training to relevant officials, and stakeholders on the identification of victims of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and, provides information to the public regarding the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21¹²⁴

Law enforcement agencies coordinate with the Human Rights Commission of Belize (HRCB) on a training program for newly recruited national security officers on their roles and responsibilities in relation to the Constitution. Periodic in-house human rights training is provided to all law enforcement officers. By their professional training and formation, judges, lawyers and law enforcement personnel swear to uphold the Constitution and to protect and enforce the constitutional rights of all persons in Belize. In December of 2017 more than 80 percent of all Magistrates and Supreme Court Justices attended a human rights training session that focused on Belize's anti-trafficking legislation as well as knowledge and management of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) cases.

There has been strengthened interagency cooperation with those agencies whose mandate addresses allegations of excessive use of force, such as the Professional Standards Branch. For example, the BPD and the OMB signed a MOU in 2016. The MOU facilitates interagency cooperation in the investigation of complaints, training, public education and awareness, joint field operations, and development and implementation of standard operating procedures between both entities to expedite the investigation and resolution of complaints. Pursuant to the MOU, OMB and members of the PSB meet periodically to review complaints received. In addition, the HRCB conducted a training of trainers' sessions on the Commissioner of Police's Guidelines for the Treatment of Persons in Detention as a part of the measures to curb the complaints against the BPD.

In 2017, ATIP's Council and the BPD conducted a series of trainings to build the capacity of the police officers attached to the Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) and Criminal Investigative Branch on human trafficking, victim identification and referral to the investigative unit within the BPD. The Council also partnered with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and international organizations to provide training to teachers, national utility workers, social security board inspectors, and private employers in the tourism sector on human trafficking, victim identification, and reporting. Extensive training was conducted with immigration officers, customs officers, labour officers, social workers, prosecutors and judges.

At the regional level, the NAC partners with Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC). The NAC in collaboration with CVC provided training to the stakeholders of both Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI) community on Legal Literacy and Advocacy. This activity is part of a three (3) year regional project titled: Challenging Stigma and Discrimination to Improve Access to and Quality of HIV Services in the Caribbean.

The Children against Sexual Exploitation of Children Act, CSEC (2013) makes it an offence for anyone to employ a child to engage in sexual intercourse or any other sexual activity with themselves or any other person. The ATIP's Council provides training to relevant officials, and stakeholders on the identification of victims of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and, provides information to the public regarding the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

(124) Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Thirty-first session 5–16 November 2018 National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21* Belize <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/292/22/PDF/G1829222.pdf?OpenElement>

Findings from key informants

Of the 14 key informants that answered whether their organisation has strengthened its capacity or received any external support on the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their programmes on ending family violence, including VAWG within the last year, 11 stated 'no'.

The three key informants who shared that they had attended trainings on how to network, partner, and jointly advocate for progress on ending family violence, including VAWG, in the last year cited the following:

- Capacity building on early marriages and GBV through Girls Not Brides.
- Online forum explaining CEDAW and how to apply it to your programming, carried out by the Women's Human Rights Education Institute.
- Training related to VAWG, carried out by PAHO.

Output 6.2

Women’s rights groups and relevant CSOs are better supported to use social accountability mechanisms to support their advocacy and influence on prevention and response to VAWG, including family violence, and GEWE more broadly.

Output Indicator 6.2.1

Indicator description: Number of supported women’s rights groups and relevant CSOs using the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy around VAWG within the last year.

Baseline value

The baseline for this indicator is recommended to be set at 0. However, as part of the baseline assessment and to aid future midline and endline assessments, 18 CSO stakeholders were interviewed. They indicated a number of mechanisms including the UPR, CEDAW, and the Conference of States Parties in NYC as the main mechanisms in which they participated. No recent documentary evidence pointing to active participation of women’s rights groups and CSOs in advocacy and accountability mechanisms around VAWG was found during the desk review.

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Number/Count
Disaggregation	Type of accountability mechanisms for advocacy around EVAWG.

Desk Review Findings

A review of “appropriate accountability mechanisms” including the CEDAW, UPR shadow reports, and social accountability mechanisms such as social audits, citizen report cards, etc was conducted. The following are results of the desk review.

**Report of the Office of
the United Nations High
Commissioner for Human
Rights¹²⁵**

The latest report (2018) found via a review of documentation available online found the following organizations provided input to the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Thirty-first session 5-16 November 2018: BFLA Belize Family Life Association (Belize); GIEACPC The Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); ICAN International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (Switzerland); IHRC-OU International Human rights Clinic, International Human Rights Clinic University of Oklahoma College of Law (United States of America).

Detailed overview of stakeholder input:

The International Human Rights Clinic University of Oklahoma College of Law (IHRC-OU) noted that in 2015 Belize ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.⁴ IHRC-OU recommended that Belize consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the same covenant.⁵ It also recommended that Belize sign and ratify the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights “Protocol of San Salvador”.

While commending Belize for fostering national debate about its sodomy law and the rights of LGBT Belizeans, JS2 noted that it was a decision of the Supreme Court of Belize that in 2016 formally decriminalised sex between consenting adults in private.

The joint submission report noted that LGBT Belizeans continued to experience crime and violence that went undocumented.²⁰ It recommended that Belize centralise disaggregated data collection on violence and discrimination through the police department and the Ministry of Health and develop a trauma-centred strategy and an anti-violence prevention plan that could be incorporated in the current National Security Strategic Plan.

The Belize Family Life Association (BFLA) recommended that Belize ensure the establishment of efficient and effective systems for redress in instances of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and/or HIV status.

BFLA noted that the lack of information on HIV prevention and of women’s power to use such information in sexual relationships, including in the context of marriage, undermined their ability to negotiate condom use and engage in safer sex practices. It added that the lack of a national policy on comprehensive sexuality education in schools exacerbated the human rights violations already experienced by women and girls who were victims of gender based violence and served to perpetuate the cycle of violence.

The joint submission noted that Belize’s immigration law prohibited LGBT immigrants from entering the country. It recommended that Belize amend any section of such law that promoted or reinforced discriminatory practices in immigration and establish an accessible complaint mechanism.

(125) Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Thirty-first session 5-16 November 2018 Summary of Stakeholders’ submissions on Belize⁸ Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/258/O2/PDF/G1825802.pdf?OpenElement>

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women Combined third and fourth periodic reports of States parties Belize¹²⁶

The last report to CEDAW, dated 26 September 2005 noted the following:

In 1999, the Government of Belize established the Office of Ombudsman. The effectiveness of this Office has been limited by institutional capacity issues as well as lack of a clear strategy for protecting citizens, in particular women and girls, from human rights abuses and gender-based violence

Women's organizations in Belize have played a strategic role in advocating for policy changes to advance the status of women. For example, it was women's organizations that were responsible for: a.) the passing of the Domestic Violence Act and b.) keeping alive the campaign to amend the minimum wages act to ensure gender equality. However, unlike the momentum of the 1980's and the mid-1990's, the past five years have seen the weakening of the women's movement. Several key women's organizations such as the Belize Organization for Women and Development, Belize Rural Women's Association and Women Against Violence Movement are either defunct or marginally operational due to a lack of resources to maintain permanent offices and personnel to carry out the work.

A study on Women's Political Leadership recommended that Women's Organizations and Political Parties promote debate among women regarding the setting of quotas for female representation on slates. No advancement has been made to enact this recommendation.

Also On December 22nd, 2000 an optional protocol to CEDAW came into force. This protocol established a communication procedure for individual women or groups of women to submit claims of violations of CEDAW after exhausting all domestic remedies and an enquiry procedure which allows the committee to investigate matters of "grave" concern.

Findings from key informants

Since this indicator 'measures the number of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs supported (technically or financially) by the Spotlight Initiative that have strengthened capacity to use the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy around ending VAWG', the baseline for this indicator is recommended to be set at 0. However, as part of the baseline assessment, 18 CSO stakeholders answered the interview question related to 6.2.1.

One stakeholder shared that their CSO participated in CEDAW in 2019 and UPR in 2018. This individual noted that UPR recommendations were used to lobby SIB regarding changes in the census questions for Census 2020. Their participation in the UPR process led to strengthened engagement with NCFC

and increased their ability to lobby partners to research how to make family laws more inclusive.

One stakeholder expressed that UPR data informs their work and that their work is based both on the local situation but also information presented in the UPR.

One stakeholder shared that their attendance to the Conference of States Parties in NYC in 2019 led to their organization authoring a report on the status of Belize for CRPD.

One stakeholder shared that CEDAW reporting helps their organization know how to focus or refocus activities, and helps them know who and how they can partner with other organizations to ensure there is no duplication of efforts.

(126) UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Reports of States Parties, Belize, 26 September 2005, CEDAW/C/BLZ/3-4, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/453778300.html>

Output 6.3

Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement and monitor their own programmes on ending VAWG, including family violence.

Output Indicator 6.3.1

Basis of calculation

Type of indicator	Quantitative
Measure	Number/Count
Disaggregation	Not applicable

Desk Review Findings

A review of the last report of Belize to CEDAW report of 2015 notes the following:

- The National Women's Commission (NWC) is a Cabinet-appointed body mandated to advise Government on issues related to promoting gender equity and equality. Since 2010, the NWC assumed the role of monitoring the CEDAW and ensuring that local policies and laws are developed to effect the provisions in the articles. Much like the Ombudsman office, effectiveness was undermined by capacity issues.
- The report further noted that while women's organizations in Belize have played a strategic role in advocating for policy changes to advance the status of women, in, for example, a.) the passing of the Domestic Violence Act and b.) keeping alive the campaign to amend the minimum wages act to ensure gender equality the movement was deemed to be weaker or vend defunct due to a lack of resources to maintain permanent offices and personnel to carry out the work.
- A lack of programming to change discriminatory attitudes and practices in the social protection and judicial systems, legal reform will continue to have negligible effects in eliminating all forms of discrimination against women.
- The report also highlighted that while it was evident

Indicator description: Number of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization that have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement, monitor and evaluate their own programmes on ending VAWG, including family violence within the last year.

Baseline value

At Baseline, for the purpose of the Spotlight Initiative, baseline for this indicator is considered to be 0.

that although mechanisms were in place to formulate policy, lobby for change, and implement national strategies of action, measures to evaluate the impact of policies and legislation on the status of women were insufficient. Monitoring of implementation of the Convention was also lacking as was a wide distribution of reports on women in Belize and information exchange between the different agencies working for the advancement of women.

- Although much dated, the report noted the Women's Department has the responsibility, through its Policy Unit, for mainstreaming gender into all levels of government. However performing this role was compromised by a lack of financial and human resources.

The Universal Period Review (2018) notes:

- To assist with advancing the implementation of the National Policy on Gender Equality adopted by GoB in March of 2013, the National Women's Commission (NWC) established the National Gender and Gender-based Violence Committee and the District Gender-based Violence Committees. The Committees were established as an integrated, multifaceted, multi-sectoral response to address all forms of gender issues with respect to the five priority areas of Health, Education, Wealth and Employment, Power and Decision making, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Findings from key informants

Of the 21 key informants that answered whether their organisation has strengthened its capacity or received any external support on the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their programmes on ending family violence, including VAWG within the last year, 14 stated no.

The seven key informants who shared that they had strengthened their capacity or received external support cited the following:

- Technical support from the Summit Foundation and WestWind Foundation.
- Spotlight Initiative grant and international consultant working with their organisation on design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of their programming related to VAWG and family violence.
- Women's Department review of a procedure manual.
- Zoom trainings on governance, how to manage an NGO, how to budget, monitoring and evaluation.
- Assistance with providing legal aid to members.
- Assistance with developing a VAWG strategy.
- Training of Trainers led by PAHO on responding to GBV.
- Training related to psychosocial support services to children in the context of COVID through the Central American Youth Fund based in Seattle, Washington.