

## BELIZE – COUNTRY DESCRIPTION

Belize is an upper middle-income country located at the Caribbean coast of Central America with a population of 408,487. Member of both the Caribbean forum (CARIFORUM) and the Central American Integration System, Belize connects Central America and the Caribbean.

Belize faces many development challenges including weak institutions and vulnerability to external shocks, such as natural disasters and economic crises. Governmental ability to address these challenges is constrained by high debt levels and limited fiscal space.

The EU development cooperation with Belize spans over 30 years and over EUR 200 million in support, concentrated on agricultural development in rural areas. Through the Banana and Sugar Accompanying Measures, EUR 100 million have been provided in the last decade alone. The EU coordinates its efforts with other contributors such as the UK-funded Caribbean Infrastructure Fund.

The main partnership agreements with Belize include the Cotonou Agreement, and the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). EU support is currently provided under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) National Indicative Programme for 2014-2020. Priority sectors of engagement are energy, health, and public finance management, and are based on Belize's strategic policy framework, Horizon 2030.

As part of the CIF program, Belize benefits from a total investment of EUR 21,700,000 with a CIF contribution of EUR 5,200,000. There is currently one ongoing bilateral project, within the Sustainable Transport sector. So far, there are no activities of regional projects implemented in Belize.

### ● LIST OF BILATERAL PROJECTS

Project title	Sector	Total €	CIF €
George Prince Highway (GPH) rehabilitation	Sustainable transport	21,700,000	5,200,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>21,700,000</b>	<b>5,200,000</b>

**PROJECT:** George Prince Highway (GPH) Rehabilitation



**LEAD INSTITUTION:**

IDB

**PARTNER:**

CIF

**TOTAL COST:**

€ 21,700,000

**CIF CONTRIBUTION:**

€ 5,200,000

**TYPES OF SUPPORT:**

Investment Grant

**DURATION PERIOD:**

July 2015 – July 2021

**DESCRIPTION:**

The project seeks to rehabilitate the most deteriorated segment of one of Belize's main highways, the George Price Highway (GPH), up to national standards and to preserve it through adequate maintenance while improving and guaranteeing road connectivity between the Northern, Southern and Central Regions of Belize as well as enhancing physical connectivity with Central America and Mexico. The GPH is included in the International Network of Mesoamerican Roads (RICAM), which is recognized as important for physical regional integration and the progressive implementation of a Partial-Scope Agreement with Guatemala (2010) and other trade agreements being negotiated with Honduras and El Salvador.

**OBJECTIVE:**

This project aims to reduce transport costs and the road's vulnerability to flooding and other natural hazards, thereby increasing its resilience to climate change. Another objective of the project is to reduce road fatalities by increasing road user safety, ensuring adequate signaling, building pedestrian facilities, bike paths and installing other special safety features.

**EXPECTED RESULTS:**

- Boosting trade between Belize's main districts and fostering agriculture through the upgrading of the road.
- Provisioning better access to tourism activities in the Western region of Belize will have a positive impact on the country's development.
- Improvement of the road infrastructure will facilitate Belizean oil production and exports.
- Increased climate change resilience and adaptation.