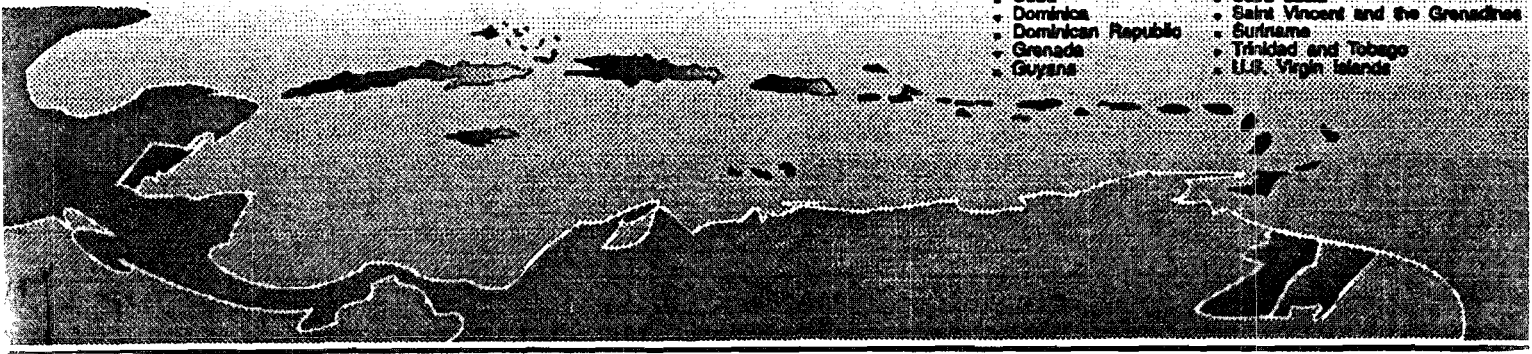




- Antigua and Barbuda
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Br. Virgin Islands
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- U.S. Virgin Islands



GENERAL
 LC/CAR/G.541
 24 July 1998
 ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CONSULTATION TO DEVELOP
 A NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY
 IN BELIZE
 Belmopan, Belize, 29 June-3 July 1998**



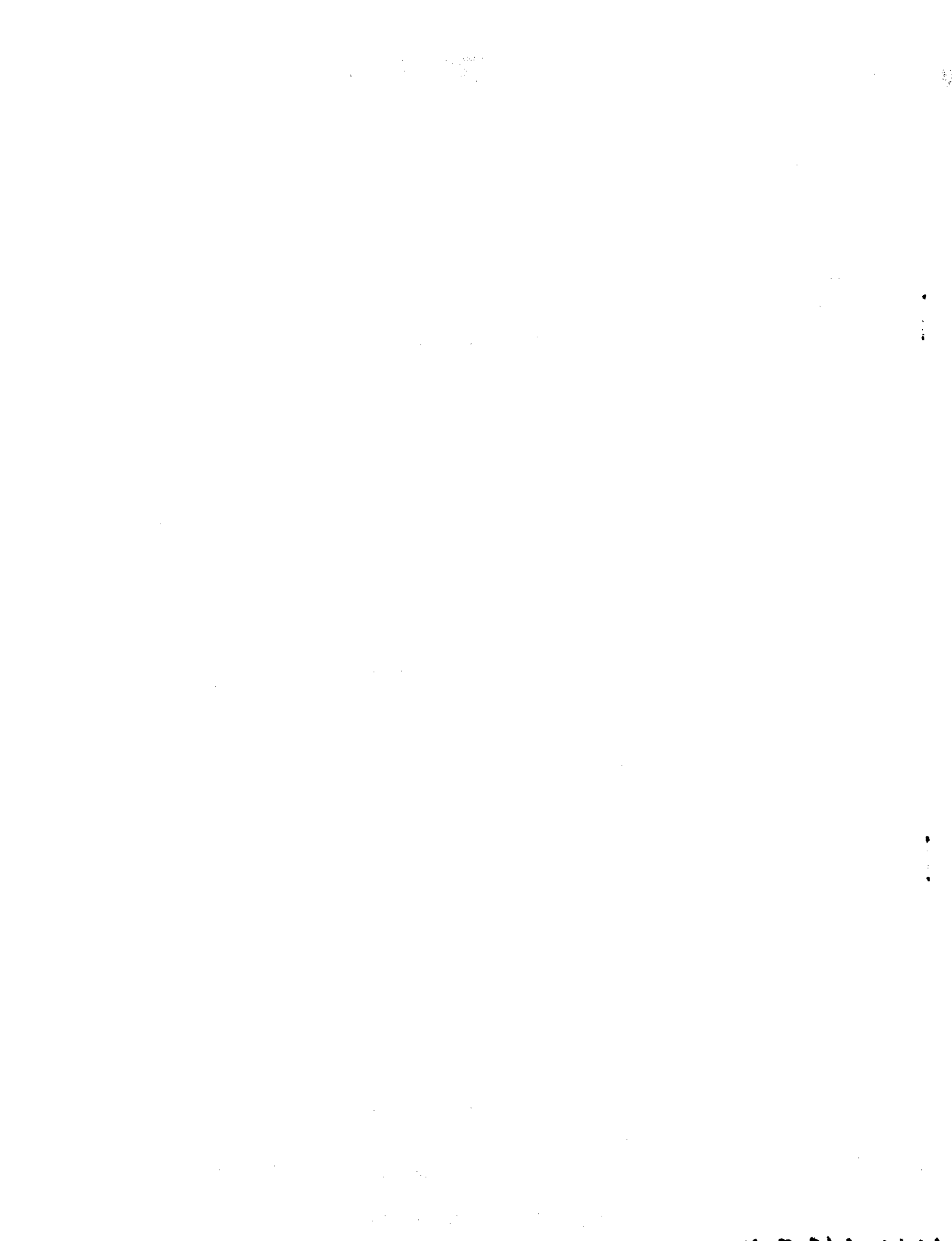


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**REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CONSULTATION TO DEVELOP
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IN BELIZE**

Belmopan, 29 June-3 July 1998

Opening ceremony

The meeting was officially opened by the Hon. Faith Babb, Minister of State, Ministry of Human Resources, Women's Affairs and Youth Department. Representatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) gave a brief introduction to poverty and action on poverty in Belize. They acknowledged that discussion and dialogue on assessment, identification, alleviation/reduction of poverty has been taking place for some time and that the present National Consultation was meant to include all ideas on issues, goals and strategies into a Draft Plan of Action which will be presented to the Government for endorsement.

Attendance¹

Participants included representatives from government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector, international and national organizations, as well as participants from the various districts of Belize. Members of the Diplomatic Corps also attended the opening ceremony.

Proceedings of the consultation

The business of the meeting was conducted as follows:

Presentations were made on each of the subject areas for which special studies had been prepared. This was followed by presentations by discussants on the issues and a plenary session. The sessions continued with group work and a plenary at which group work conclusions were presented. The plenaries allowed for statements, questions, comments and generally for an open discussion on matters of concern. The group work concentrated on special issues within the relevant subjects, the actual current situation, goals to set, strategies to achieve these goals and projects for implementation in order to achieve the goals. The various outputs of the Consultation have been incorporated into a Draft Plan of Action for the Eradication of Poverty in Belize.

Session 1: Macroeconomic framework

Dr. Marcelino Ávila, Private Consultant, presented a Study on the Macroeconomic Framework, within which policies and strategies on social issues were to be understood and informed. The study revealed that there had been a steady rise in GDP and per capita income during the last 10 years. Additionally, the annual inflation rates were seen to be quite low, with only 1996

¹The list of participants is annexed

as an exception with an inflation rate of 6.4 per cent. The recurrent budget for agriculture had declined and education had maintained its previous allocation. Social development had been kept at low levels of allocation. Unemployment rates decreased in 1996 in average, though ranked relatively high for certain age groups, for example 14-20 and for the female sex.

The study identified 25 per cent of households in Belize as poor. The following recommendations were made:

- Long-term investments on poverty reduction programmes;
- Efficient, transparent and selective programmes with regard to the groups addressed;
- Specific criteria to evaluate impact of programmes;
- Clear and achievable objectives;
- Responsibility placed upon one focal point (ministry).

Presentation on the macroeconomic framework led to questioning of the figures, but it was also suggested that there was need for a mechanism to make better use of survey data for targeting. With reference to education, it was felt that data should support statements made in the document. The document referred to 20 per cent recurrent expenditure on education, but did not clearly reflect expenditure patterns. A debate revolved around the exclusive use of recurrent expenditure to the exclusion of capital cost.

It was felt that there was a need for new ways to capture resources. Some participants suggested a re-examination of the Church-State relationship, especially in terms of investments and costs. One participant questioned whether agriculture was still the major economic earner.

Some suggested that there were inequities embodied into the manner of spending monies. While a certain percentage of allocations might be high, the question remained whether that percentage was spent on infrastructure or in the delivery of services.

Session 2: Synthesis of District Consultations

The district population had varied perceptions/notions of the concept of poverty. Who were the poor? Participants at the District Consultation Workshops agreed that the poor were people who could not benefit adequately from services such as water, sanitation, infrastructure and education. There was much debate with regard to the term "poverty" and its actual meaning in Belize. Some felt that the question of poor aspects of governance was not addressed at the district level. The organizers of the District Consultations assured the meeting that the question of governance was addressed indeed but perhaps without particularly utilizing the term "governance".

Generally, participation was not higher than 50 per cent in some districts. It was noted that the issues in the District of Belize City were serious enough to deserve special attention.

One participant suggested that the 20-20 initiative might serve as a guide in terms of evaluating how good and efficient the existing social services have been.

Session 3: Education and poverty

The study identified three significant areas in the education system which contributed to poverty.

- *Lack of access:* An analysis of the current situation suggested that there is a high exclusion rate at the primary and secondary levels.
- *Equity:* While Government's commitment to education was reflected in the continued high levels of spending, the organization of the education sector (Church vs. State control, free tuition for all) has contributed to an unequal distribution of such spending.
- *Quality:* Lack of standardized primary and secondary level curricula and an inequitable distribution of trained teachers were highlighted as key constraints in the provision of quality education throughout the system.

The discussant for the paper provided a detailed critique of the consultant's presentation, but in general agreed with the main ideas of the document. The suggestion was made that more use could be made of disaggregated data, to show specifically how some areas in the country were more disadvantaged than others, particularly in terms of access and utilization of educational facilities.

On the issue of equity, the discussant suggested that the idea of the efficient use of the education subsidies could also be explored using studies of drop-outs. The use of examination data could have enhanced the section on quality.

A number of issues were identified in the plenary:

- Conditions of employment for teachers would have to be included in any discussion on education and poverty.
- Calls were made for the review of the existing relationship and division of labour between the Church and the State in the education sector. The meeting felt that the State should have greater say in the running of schools since it was the main source of finance.
- Review of the management structures of schools would allow for greater participation of members of the community.

Session 4: An analysis of country poverty assessment and labour force

Figures relating to those considered to be indigent for the various districts were provided and causes of poverty were further discussed. The meeting acknowledged that 27.6 per cent of older persons were poor.

It was noted that the document prepared summarized the Country Poverty Assessment (CPA) rather than making some obvious links. The discussant identified the need for a profile of the unemployed as the Study failed to engage in a discussion on the education and employment trends for certain labour groups. Such an analysis would have allowed for a clearer identification of the nature and extent of the vulnerability of various social groups in Belize. The discussant then used the existing Labour Force data on young, unemployed females to illustrate the manner in which such an analysis could be useful to a discussion on poverty.

Piecemeal work and casual odd jobs were not categorized as "work in the informal sector". Rather, such a worker was categorized as "employed" in the labour survey.

Session 5: Agriculture and natural resource sectors

The presenter stated that while agriculture was the major economic earner for the country with a 10 per cent contribution to the GDP, 75 per cent of Belize exports, 60 per cent of the population dependent on agriculture), it was also the sector with the highest proportion of poor people in Belize. The majority (90 per cent) of the country's 7,000 sugar cane farmers and 1,000 citrus growers, were small farmers. Unfortunately no age/gender data was available. Small farmers, for example, in fruits, plantains, peppers, had no access to credits from Banks which only gave credits to major crop producers. Credit access marginalization and non-ownership of land were closely linked. Waterlogging had been identified as a major constraint in the citrus industry.

The discussion on agriculture and natural resources sector may be summarized as follows:

- How did the agricultural sector impact on people's life, especially the poor?
- How could banks be convinced of the need of farmers and the benefits to the bank of credits to small farmers?
- **Sugar/citrus/bananas** - What would be the effect of the removal of preferential market access on these three industries? How will the farmers and the country be prepared for that?
- **Livestock** - Poultry is controlled by the Mennonites but 2,000 livestock farmers depend on that income;
- **Role of institutions** - The cooperatives, for example, need to be seriously considered;

- **Forestry - Biodiversity, protection and conservation were important (72 per cent of the country's land);**
- **Land-use pattern - Most of the smaller farmers were relegated to marginal lands with low soil productivity;**
- **Niche markets for honey, among other things, existed though Belize was not moving into major relevant production;**
- **Forest reserve - Large portions of land were set aside for conservation. The communal use of forest had diminished a lot (17-19 per cent protected; 18 per cent unprotected). Mountainous areas, if not protected, caused loss of soil and related environmental problems which will affect the population. Agro-forestry systems should be considered for the purpose of small-scale agriculture, but under careful planning;**
- **Problem of 'trucking' - Ownership of transport was demanded in the sugar industry by individual farmers, but this was considered absurd, as that truck will be idle for a significant period of the crop cycle. How to convince the farmers to coordinate and share?**
- **Agro-forestry - When does the country begin to plant for the future? Mahogany, for example.**

A discussion ensued on the importance of planting mahogany trees. The meeting expressed reservations in the context of the length of time a mahogany tree took to become productive. A mahogany tree took over 100 years to produce \$2,000.00 for the planter. That is, two to three generations. The main concern in the plenary session was the question, why do small farmers remain poor? The following answers were suggested:

- (a) Management systems of small farmers were very inefficient and did not produce substantially.
- (b) Farmers had no access to commercial institutions making capital spending difficult. They were basically into subsistence agriculture.
- (c) It was suggested that at the macroeconomic level such production should be made more efficient and more competitive. Replacing trees was not a policy matter. Some farmers had planted mahogany, among other trees, but this had not taken place in a systematic way. Agriculture and tourism were addressed in the policies on biodiversity, but not in a way that served policy. One official noted that the Government had opened management regimes and prepared plans to guide people in forestry conservation.

The following points emanated from group discussions on agriculture and were presented in plenary.

(a) The markets for citrus/banana and sugar should be maintained. Belize should continue to lobby for preferential access to the European markets. Marketing for agricultural goods was very thin in some villages, for example in Progreso.

(b) The overuse of chemicals was a point of concern to some.

Session 6: Health

Dr. Ramon Figueroa, Medical Officer of Health, was the discussant on the question of health and started off by noting that Primary Health Care strategy and Primary Health were two different concepts, used indiscriminately in the document. He critically raised issues related to the interventions by Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs). The PVOs and some NGOs, in light of the uncertainty as regards their agendas and interventions, had the attention of the meeting.

A main area of concern raised by the discussant was water and sanitation-related diseases. The problem was identified in the coordination between water management/monitoring and the Health Department. The Health Sector was dependent on support from other agencies. There was a high need for responsibility to be assumed by other sectors in society, as their services, in terms of quality, level, access, etc., affected health but could not be addressed by the Health Department.

Health related concerns differed by culture, caste, sex, race, ethnicity and age groups. For example, within similar age groupings, men and women show different health concerns. Younger women had concerns related chiefly to reproductive health while similarly aged men appeared to be heavily affected by work and accident related injuries.

Access to health care was noted as another salient issue.

Financial allocations and other financial resources were relevant in this sphere. Finally, the discussant called the meeting's special attention to the question of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS). Belize needs to prepare for the impact this will have on the economy, the lives of people and the country as a whole. The speaker also noted that the risk groups are widely spread and not predominantly women. Subsequently the Discussant raised the question of Reform in the Health Sector. Dr. Figueroa advised that the Reform was 24 years ongoing and that the Plan could be consulted at the Reform Office. Two reports had been produced so far. Attention was given to the management structure and the decentralization component in the strategies for the reform. His comments continued with the following remarks:

(a) The link between health and education needed to be made specifically.

(b) The work of NGOs in health had not been mentioned in any concrete way. NGOs had acquired skills and expertise over the years, so that there might be some merit to their involvement.

(c) With regard to access to health care geographical factors were closely linked to ethnicity in Belize. A more careful disaggregation of health data could provide for more informed and appropriate policy intervention.

The general trend for sexually transmitted disease (STD) showed a dramatic increase. The heavy immigration flow helped to exacerbate the problem. A similar trend was found with AIDS; the incidence had doubled in one year especially in pregnant women. The strain on the health system is becoming significant given the diverse health care needs of full-blown AIDS patients and other infected groups, particularly infants.

In the working group discussion on health, some concern was raised again about PVOs from abroad, who came to Belize, obtained informal permission from members of Government and proceeded to work in the area of health and provided health services that could not be controlled by the Ministry of Health. Comments were made with regard to the question of water management and the contention was whether administration of safe water was the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, or of the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA). One participant informed the meeting that WASA had a Water Board in each village and that Water Board added chlorine weekly, depending on how the water came from the tap. United Ville Village was a case study.

Session 7: Responses to poverty and their effectiveness

The study on Poverty was presented by Mr. Carlos Santos, REMA Consultant. Mr. Santos stated that all ministries, NGOs, community based organizations (CBOs), commodity organizations, political parties, social and welfare, non-governmental agencies, regional and bilateral agencies, in some way, had programmes for the poor. He singled out organizations, such as the Red Cross, Belize Human Rights Commission, Young Women's Christian Association, Belize Council of Churches, Conscious Youth Development Program, Belize Enterprise for Sustainable Technology (BEST) and National Development Foundation of Belize (NDFB). He noted that the Social Investment Fund (SIF) undertook targeted activities on the question of poverty. However, target policies and plans were absent, which limited the work done by so many. Institutional limitations and politics were seen as part of the problem. Reference was made to the Ministry of National Coordination and Mobilization, suggested to be the Ministry to proceed with action on poverty. Some reservation was expressed with regard to such choice. It seemed difficult to imagine that Ministry in the role of focal point for poverty for the following reasons: (a) that Ministry had not yet shown any commitment to the issue of poverty; (b) there was no representation at this meeting; and (c) that institution was a political "making". Neither that Ministry nor the SIF, nor the Environmental and Social Technical Assistance Project (ESTAP) had attended this National Consultation meeting although they were especially invited to attend.

Ms. Melva Johnson, Coordinator, Sustainable Human Development Project, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who was the discussant, had the following to say:

- (a) The free education policy had not been very effective. Technical assessment of that

education policy had confirmed this view.

(b) A Health Reform Programme was underway, however, its effectiveness and response to the needs of the poor was limited and perhaps even questionable.

(c) A Young Adult Programme was administered by the Department of Women's Affairs. Whether it had been effective was an open question.

The discussant's main comment was that the document reviewed mentioned programmes that had been put in place, but did not state how effective the programmes had been. She noted that the SIF had been operative for quite a while but it was not clear how effective their programmes had been. It did not seem that any poverty-focused programme mentioned in the paper had put an assessment mechanism in place.

The UNDP and other United Nations agencies had, for example, the following programmes:

- Sustainable Human Development Programme;
- Small Funds Programme;
- Drugs Rehabilitation Programme;
- AIDS Prevention Programme;
- PAHO Health-related Programme

In the plenary, it was noted that churches all over the country had assisted the poor, fed them, clothed them and attended to their needs. Several reservations were made with respect to the notations given in the document on some agencies' poverty intervention/non-intervention, in which actual achievements were marked. A suggestion was made to hold discussions with actual implementers and beneficiaries of certain programmes.

Group discussions concluded that the country was dependent on external consultants who had limitations as to assessment of poverty programmes, and with regard to actual implementation of community programmes and action plans to break the cycle of poverty. It was suggested that success stories could be the key for poverty-efficient action to be taken.

The meeting expressed regret and surprise at the absence of a representative of the Social Investment Fund at the week-long meeting. This Fund had actually been put in place to address problems of the poor. Participants felt that that institution should have been fully part of the deliberations and proceedings.

Some participants felt that issues of housing, nutrition and agro-forestry had barely been addressed in the consultation meetings, and that little had been said by participants with regard to relevant situations affecting poor people in Belize. It was also felt that no attention had been paid to the problem of populations in Correctional Institutions, for example in the jails.

There was some discussion about decisions concerning resources and responsibility for the implementation of the Plan of Action. It was agreed that the National Human Development Advisory Committee (NHDAC) should obtain resources and should be responsible for overseeing, coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the poverty programmes which emanated from the Plan of Action. Setting a time-frame for each and every action was considered imperative, as well as the need to target specific areas and communities for each action project and to put in place adequate mechanisms for monitoring the execution of the Plan at the community level.

The final session emphasized the following points:

- Inclusion of social indicators that were being developed for measurement of developmental activities;
- The Plan (final draft) should be accompanied by Terms of Reference for the Monitoring Focal Point of the Plan;
- All the activities proposed for poverty eradication needed to be linked to budgeting and planning.

Closing

In closing this important and innovative participatory process towards poverty eradication in Belize, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Development thanked the audience and people of Belize, who participated in various stages of the process. A special word of appreciation was also addressed to the Government Officer responsible for the organization of proceedings locally and the agencies which had made the production of a National Plan of Action for the Eradication of Poverty in Belize possible.

The meeting decided that the Plan would be submitted to a small committee of technical senior level government officials during the second half of the year.

Annex I**NATIONAL CONSULTATION FOR THE
ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN BELIZE,
29 June 1998****ECLAC STATEMENT**

Sustainable development remains an elusive goal for some Caribbean governments. In particular, high levels of poverty has prevented the active involvement of large sections of the population in the critical productive, social and governance processes. The condition of material deprivation is often getting worse. Unequal distribution of the benefits of macro economic growth has widened the gap between the rich and the poor.

The effects of poverty are pervasive and multi-faceted. Aside from the psychologically damaging effects, a lack of material resources results in an overuse, and inappropriate use, of the natural resource environment. In addition, there is deterioration of health and education levels, and further disempowerment and marginalization of groups already disadvantaged such as the Elderly, the Disabled and the Indigenous Peoples.

ECLAC has initiated and facilitated regional efforts to better understand these developments and to assist in the formulation of alleviation programmes. This process culminated in the Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Eradication in 1996. Participating countries of that meeting produced a Directional Plan of Action. The Plan provides a policy matrix framework for use in the development of country specific poverty reduction plans. Governments were encouraged to devise a National Plan on Poverty Eradication via a series of consultations with communities in the country, as a means of ensuring wide-spread participation. This action has been well underway in Belize over the past few months.

It is in the context of this process that ECLAC and the CDB are assisting the Government to host the National Consultation in Belize today. It is hoped that the planned activities will stimulate interaction and dialogue among the significant social partners, all participants. Your ideas will inform a Plan of Action to help the poor in Belize.

We wish you fruitful deliberations over the next couple of days and thank you for working with us.

Annex II

POVERTY

1.0. What is Poverty?

The definition and aggregation of poverty has generated a great deal of debate. In the work of ECLAC regionally, over the past decade, poverty has generally been defined as the absence of basic resources for human survival. The search for an adequate poverty measure has grappled with the sometimes contradictory needs of using measurable or quantifiable variables while trying to provide a complete picture of the multifaceted conditions of deprivation that confront the poor.

The UNDP Human Development Report usefully distinguishes between Income Poverty and Human Poverty which are categories to measures used by the World Bank, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in the Poverty Assessments conducted in a number of countries.

1.1. *Income poverty*

Income poverty refers to a situation where an individual's income level is less than the value calculated as necessary to consume the basic necessities for material well-being. This minimum requirement for survival is usually considered to be the ability to purchase a minimum food basket and is expressed as the extreme or indigence poverty line.

1.2. *Human poverty*

While the ability to purchase a certain minimum level of food is important, recognition that other non food items are crucial to basic human existence has resulted in the inclusion of other factors in the definition of poverty, the human aspect. In this regard the ability to sustain life is balanced with the quality of that life. In such a discussion, access to the basic health and education facilities is critical. Also important is the ability to have some real measure of control over the opportunities available for leading a valuable life. The Human Development Index (HDI) created by UNDP acknowledges these factors. The HDI is therefore a composite index of the three variables: life expectancy, educational attainment (measured by the adult literacy levels, and combined enrollment in primary, secondary and tertiary) and real GDP per capita. **Belize's HDI is 0.806 which ranks it sixty third amongst the countries of the world.** In comparison some other Caribbean countries present a different picture, as illustrated below.

Selected Caribbean countries	HDI	Rank
Barbados	0.907	25
Bahamas	0.894	28
Antigua and Barbuda	0.892	29
Trinidad and Tobago	0.880	40
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.853	49
Grenada	0.843	54
Saint Lucia	0.838	56
Suriname	0.792	66
Jamaica	0.736	83
Guyana	0.649	104

Source: UNDP Human Development Report, 1997

In the Country Poverty Assessments (CPAs) these two levels are defined as the extreme poverty indigence line and the poverty line and are compiled through the formulation of baskets of goods typically used by the poor in specific countries or regions. In the Belize CPA 'poverty lines' were computed for each district.

2.0.

Such a holistic definition suggests a number of further issues to be examined. Poverty is a global phenomenon, affecting both the developing and developed world. Some features are universal while others are peculiar to specific countries or even regions within countries. The following features are crucial, but not exhaustive, of the characteristics of poverty today.

2.1. The causes of poverty are multi dimensional

The increasing interdependence of the world has impacted on the levels of poverty. The present thinking on poverty places emphasis on causal factors both external and internal to a country. At the national level, the dramatic reduction of the role of the state in economic development and recurrent imbalances in the key fiscal and balance of payment accounts have resulted in significant reductions in social spending and levels of employment. At the international level, changes in the global political and economic environment, evolving patterns of regional conflicts, even changing weather patterns have all contributed to the state of poverty in any one country. Any measures to alleviate poverty will have to be cognizant of the myriad contributory causes.

2.2. The poor is not an undifferentiated mass

There has been greater awareness of the differentiated nature of the group termed "the poor". Poverty can result from both sustained condition of deprivation but can also be an instantaneous phenomenon. To this end The 1996 Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Eradication of Poverty found it useful to distinguish different categories of poor in the Caribbean. These include the "new

poor", particularly found among retrenched persons, the long-term unemployed, etc., the "instant poor", which includes people displaced and impoverished upon instant natural disasters such as hurricane, volcano eruptions, unusual heavy floods, etc.

2.3. The state and situation of poverty is dynamic and constantly changing

The characteristics of the poor have undergone change over the last three decades. The UNDP's Human Development Report 1997 stated that since 1970 the constituent nature of the poor has changed. Three decades ago, the poor would have been most likely Asian adult males in rural areas whose income was earned as small farmers. In 1997, the face of the poor had changed, as a poor person was more likely to be: a child, an older person or a woman; a recent migrant (either refugees or due to internally displacement); situated in an urban area in Africa or Latin America and engaged in low wage, unskilled employment. With globalisation, the economically vulnerable groups are constantly shifting and poverty alleviation strategies need to have processes included that allow a sustained vigilance of the characteristics of the poor. The collection of relevant labour force and poverty related statistics is therefore crucial.

2.4. Economic growth does not necessarily mean poverty reduction

Country experiences have shown that the fruits of economic growth have not necessarily translated into reductions in the levels of poverty. One of the chief causes of poverty has been the existing economic arrangements which have continuously excluded significant numbers from direct ownership and control of productive resources. For growth to improve, conditions of poverty, employment, productivity and the wages offered to the lowest paid workers must increase. A focus on equity must therefore accompany economic restructuring. Poverty alleviation is therefore also about treating with equity issues and finding ways to promote greater participation in land ownership and encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit of the economically dispossessed.

Annex III**GUIDELINES FOR GROUP WORK FACILITATORS**

Please make sure that Group Work produces opinions/statement of issues within the categories listed below, then explain the current situation of the issue, then suggest the goal to be achieved, then the strategy to use in order to achieve the goal, and finally suggest which institution(s), organization(s) or group should/could be responsible.

Categories:**1. Social protection for vulnerable groups**

Include in this category issues that are *specific* to Youth, Women, Children, Poor Farmers, Indigenous People, Disabled Persons and Older Persons (and any other social group which is disadvantaged and vulnerable to a particularly serious degree in Belize).

2. Employment and income

Include here *very specific* issues of employment -in particular the question of generation of productive and remunerative employment opportunities at the centre of national policies- underemployment and unemployment, labour market, institutions, skills training.

3. Health

Include issues that are specifically problematic in health services, issues of time and quality, availability of drugs, medical supplies and equipment, public hospitals and clinics, at both general and community-level, sanitation, private health facilities, financial arrangements, such as fees, Social/National Health Insurance, Private Health Insurance, HIV/AIDS and poverty.

4. Education

Include issue of quality, placements (availability, adequacy), life skills and family life education, performance levels, reasons for drop-outs, community/parent participation.

5. Population

Include issues of migration (national and international), brain-drain, if any, remittances, adolescent sexuality and unwanted pregnancy, single female-headed households and poverty, reproductive health facilities (e.g. family planning).

6. Environmental realities

Include issues of land-based degradation, waste management, forest and watershed management, eco-tourism vs. conservation, national disasters and environmental hazards.

7. Housing, settlement and infrastructure

Include issues of basic low cost housing for the poor and issues related to infrastructure.

8. Management of social programmes

Include issues of mismanagement of project finances, inefficiency of programme implementation, poor targeting of beneficiaries, inadequate implementation and reporting mechanisms.

9. Violence, drugs, crime

Include issues of concern related to specific type of victims and perpetrators, existing laws, assistance and prevention strategies.

10. Integration of economic and social strategies

Include issues related to the need to integrate social aspects of development in National Economic Development Plans rather than seeing social programmes as antagonistic to macroeconomic policies.

Matters related to improvement of capacities for measurement, monitoring and evaluation of poverty.

Role of private sector in fostering social progress, role of NGOs in poverty reduction and eradication, fostering and maintenance of gender equity at all levels and avenues of development.

Attention for cultural factors, participatory approaches, adequate conceptualization of social safety nets in relation to their tasks.

Annex IV**GROUP WORK GUIDE**

The following guides were provided to the facilitators to help focus the group discussions.

Education

- Equity
- Quality
- Access (exclusion from the formal education system)
- Relevance of the present curriculum
- Management of the education system
- The male in school

Macro-economic Framework

- Economic Growth
- Per Capita Income
- Inflation Rate
- Budgets for
 - Agriculture
 - Health
 - Education
 - Social Development
- Unemployment Rates, Female?
- Action for
 - Public Sector
 - NGOs
 - Private Sector
 - Donors

Health

- HIV/AIDS as related to poverty and the Belize economy
- Private vs. Government Health Care
- Access to PHC
- Malnutrition
- Sexual and Reproduction Health

Agriculture and National Resources

- Small farmers/livestock production
- Sugar/citrus/bananas and the impact of the future in these sectors and People
- Marine Natural Resources and People
- Tourism and People
- Forestry and People

Responses on Poverty

Considering the importance of sustainability, please conduct your discussions on the following within the context of sustainable development.

1. Effectiveness of poverty programmes (G.O.B., NGOs, Churches, others)
2. Views on successes in poverty-focussed actions taken . Why are they successful
3. Suggestions to address poverty seriously, by public sector, NGOs and communities

Synthesis of District Consultations

1. Who are the poor in communities? Identify within groups: which women? Which youths?
2. NHDAC; How can you make poverty intervention programmes more responsive to local needs?

3. **Governance issues at district level**
4. **Social services at community levels**
5. **Goal of government for poverty?**
6. **District level perceptions, concepts and approaches:**
 - Valid?**
 - Not valid?**
 - Need to connect to national concepts?**
7. **What is a realistic target and time frame for the achievement of poverty alleviation/elimination?**

Annex V

**GUIDE FOR THE PREPARATION OF A LIST OF ISSUES TO DEVELOP
A NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY
IN BELIZE**

1. **Enhanced Social Protection and Reduced Vulnerability**
2. **Productive Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods**
3. **Health**
4. **Education**
5. **Population and Development**
6. **Environmental Realities**
7. **Management/Financial Resources for Social Development Programmes**
8. **Violence, Drugs and Crime**
9. **Integrated Social and Economic Strategies**
10. **Institutional Mechanisms**
11. **Measurement and Monitoring Instruments and Mechanisms for Effective Poverty Eradication**
12. **Governance**

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