

2016

Sustainable & Child Friendly Municipalities Initiative



*Sustainable and Child Friendly
Municipalities of Belize*

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Executive Summary

The collaborative effort between UNICEF, UNDP, The Belize Mayor Association and the Ministry of Labour, Local Government and Rural Development for the Sustainable and Child Friendly Municipalities Initiative (SCFM) saw the initiative take grow tremendously in 2016 as municipalities sought to claim ownership. This year the initiative set out to:

1. Create an awareness of child friendly models within the local government– in this regard several workshops were conducted where the members for the Mayor’s Office as well as the Mayors got a deeper understanding of the framework for establishing child friendly cities.
2. Build ownership – Developing a deeper understand of what a child friendly city entails via a knowledge transfer host by Costa Rica where a representative from the municipality visited Costa Rica and developed a unique understanding of how to take claim to SCFM and make it their own in there municipality.
3. Children Participation – The cornerstone of SCFM without children participation there is no progression as such each municipality created a Child Advisory Body (CAB). CAB presidents were able to express the concerns of the child of their communities to the leaders who have the greatest capacity for change.
4. Generation of Development Plans – Based on a list of Domains and Indicators TSC in conjunction with CAB worked with a consultants to develop Child friendly development plans for their municipality.

During 2016 the project steering committee conducted four (4) planning meeting.

Acknowledgement Ceremony

At the end of 2015 only four municipalities met the criteria to be acknowledge for the work they have done toward becoming accredited as a Child Friendly Municipality. These were:

- Punta Gorda
- San Pedro
- Benque Viejo
- San Ignacio Santa Elena



The other five municipalities required some additional assistance in order to be acknowledge. A decision was made by the PSC to give an extension by which the remaining municipalities would have to submit their documents in order to be acknowledge. With this in mind the acknowledgement ceremony was set for March 13 - 18 2016. Each of the remaining municipalities were able to meet the necessary requirements for the acknowledgements ceremony. Minister Hugo Patt along with CEO Kerry Belisle and representatives from UNICEF and UNDP set out on a country tour visiting each municipality where they presented the mayors with a plaque recognizing the work they have done and encouraging them to continue striving to become a Child Friendly Municipality.

Before the commencement for the ceremonies, it was necessary to inform the public of the progress of the SCFM initiative. Each municipality was requested to visit their local media house and to talk about the work that has been done in their municipality. In addition a representative from the PSC along with a CAB president and a rapporteur or mayor visited the national media houses to speak about SCFM. The following media houses were visited:

- Love FM
- Krem Radio
- Wave Radio
- Open Your Eyes
- Lick Road

Media week was a success.

Child Friendly Development Plans

At the beginning of the year consultant Ms. Keshia Rodriguez was hired to create Child Friendly Development Plans for San Ignacio, Santa Elena, Dangriga, Belmopan and San Pedro. Ms. Rodriguez methodology entails an three-phase approach aimed at (i) critical analysis of existing development initiatives within the four (4) municipalities such as the Municipal Development

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Plans, Local Economic Development Strategies, as well as other programmes, policies and legislation through the lens of the Child Friendly Municipalities Framework to determine existing gap to be bridge by the development strategy; (ii) a participatory but streamlined approach to stakeholder consultation ensuring a process that is inclusive of all relevant stakeholders and reflective of their input; (iii) development of the strategic and operational plan.

The final five development plans are scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2017. Consultants Keisha Rodriguez and John Flowers were hired to complete this task.

Zika Virus

As the globe response and awareness rose as a result of the Zika virus UNICEF Belize sprang into action through the SCFM initiative. As Zika is detrimental to children in the womb it was important to create an awareness with in Belize of preventative methods. February 22 2016 a meeting with help with two representatives from each municipality Zika was present by UNICEF representatives and a plan was created for a two day workshop. UNICEF gave \$38,000 USD to the initiative to aid in this process.

In collaboration with PAHO/WHO, the Ministry of Health and UNICEF members from all municipalities in Belize came together to conduct a communication for development training April 7-8, 2016. This training goal was to strengthen the capacity of the municipal authorities involved in the Sustainable and Child Friendly Municipalities Initiative with the aim of promoting evidence-based community-based vector control interventions to prevent Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya outbreaks. Participants were able to:

- Understand the socio-cultural and environmental factors that influence the risk behaviours related to Aedes mosquitoes
- Conduct a SWOT analysis around the Risk Communication and Community Engagement for Zika prevention and control
- Analyze and identify the actions, interventions and tools that have a greater chance to promote behavior change at individual and social level towards vector control
- Develop a Risk Communication and Community Engagement draft plan per municipality

SCFM has expanded its training beyond this two day workshop in order to meet the needs of the country. Municipalities were tasked to bring together stakeholders in their community to participate

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in a two day communication for development workshop. Where they were able to focus specifically on their community's needs. Eight of the nine municipalities have completed their communication for development training and seven have submitted their action plan to combat the virus in there municipality.

CAB President's Meeting:

As a part of the development of SCFM it became necessary to create opportunities for children to engage in issues of concern to them in their local community not only contributes to civic engagement, but also strengthens capacity for holding government and other duty-bearers to account. On December 9 2016 the CAB president's platform was created where the voices of children from their municipalities would be heard - the president of each of the CAB would showcase their achievements during 2016 with a view to impact the CAB's work plan for 2017; highlight issues being faced by children in each of their municipalities. In addition, a space was provided for information sharing and dialogue between the presidents of CABs and key national duty bearers. Panelist included:

- Eugene Palacio Ministry of Labour, Local Government & Rural Development,
- Ilija Talev Officer in Charge UNICEF,
- Mayor Khaild Belisle Mayor of Belmopan,
- Margaret Nicholas Executive Director NCFC,
- Rudolf Williams Director PUC,
- Allison McKenzie Director Youth Department,
- CEO Felix Enriquez Ministry National Security,
- Michele Irvin Director of POWA,
- Dr. Carolyn Babb Director of Education,
- Ms. Allison Green Global Fund HIV/AIDS

CAB was able to actively participate. They share a brief over view of the situation in their municipality and brought question forward in which the panellist readily answered.

South South Tour

A proposal was made by UNICEF Belize to conduct an exchange of knowledge between Belize and Costa Rica. Costa Rica was chosen because in the last two years, it has been developing the "Cantones Amigos

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de la Infancia” program, obtaining excellent results, by building a municipal work platform in 32 of the 81 municipalities in the country.

Under this program important achievement cooperation and collaborative partnerships were strengthened over the year, including:

Partnership with the National Institute for Decentralization (IFAM) and the 32 child-friendly municipalities (CAI) were further strengthened to facilitate coordination between public institutions, community development associations, youth groups, the private sector, members of academia and the Church. The role of municipalities was instrumental in ensuring that policies were allocated local funding, thereby providing viability and sustainability to the initiatives

The South south knowledge exchange dates were set for August 8 -12 2016 in Costa Rica. The meeting has been changed to a high level meeting which required political representation from Belize. As a part of the delegation traveling to Costa Rica was the Minister of Labour, Local Government and Rural Development must along with the mayors of Belize City, Belmopan, and Punta Gorda.

As a result of the impact of Hurricane Earl on August 4 2016 the Minister of Labour, Local Government and Rural Development made the decision to that the Belize Delegation would not be able to travel to Costa Rica as the country the country was in a state of crisis. The tour was then postponed to October 3- 7 2016. A delegation of 16 travelled from Belize to Costa Rica.

The delegation included:

- Minister Hugo Patt
- Mayor Khaild Belisle
- Deputy Mayor Nicholas Gomez
- Deputy Mayor Ian Cal
- Deputy Mayor Earth Lopez
- Councilor Vanessa Neal
- Councilor Alifa Elrington
- Jorge Aldana
- Oscar Nabet
- James Petillo
- Eugene Palacio
- Kay-De Vaughn

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- Sylvia Noralez
- Ava Diaz Sosa
- Paulette Wade
- Ivan Yerovi

Day one was a workshop held at the TYRP Hotel. Representative from Belize, Costa Rica, Colombia Brazil, and Peru made presentations on the situation of the child friendly initiative in their respective country. Minister Patt and Mr. Yerovi sat on the head table and both gave speeches about the SCFM initiative and the role it will play in Belize.

The afternoon session started with a panel discussion where each representative who presented on the situation of the child friendly initiative in their country sat on a panel and answered questions from the audience. This then moved into a plenary working session as everyone was divided into groups given a situation to discuss and create results that would best fit in a child friendly municipality. Over the next three days the following municipalities were visited where the delegation was able to learn different methods to develop their municipality into a child friendly one.

- Santa Ana & Belen
- Pococi & Siquirres
- Goicochea & Moravia

Hurricane Relief

August 4 2016 Belize was devastated by the impact of Hurricane Earl. Hurricane Earl was a category 1 hurricane travelled over the center of Belize providing damages ranging from the Stann Creek District all the way to the Orange Walk District. This impact sprung UNICEF into action as they made a commitment to provide funding to assist municipalities in their efforts to recover and return to normalise from Hurricane Earl. A total of \$70,000 Belize dollars was given. It was divided up amongst the municipalities as followed:

- Orange Walk: \$5,000
- Dangriga: \$5,000

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- San Pedro: \$15,000
- Belize City: \$15,000
- Belmopan: \$15,00
- San Ignacio Santa Elena: \$15,000

Funding was used to assist with the removal of debris from the roads, parks and play grounds in each municipality. In addition to the funding given UNDP allocated \$20,000 to Belize City to assist with Hurricane Relief efforts.

Way Forward

As SCFM moves into its third year the aim is that municipalities would narrow down their action plan based on knowledge learned from the experience in Costa Rica to one specific domain in which they will be certified as Child Friendly. The goal is to strengthen each CAB and technical steering committee, complete the monitoring tool and training partners in each municipality, complete development plans for Belize City, Punta Gorda, Corozal, Orange Walk and Benque Viejo Town. It is the goal that municipalities would take ownership of this process and continue to strive daily to maintain child friendly municipalities.

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Annex A:

<p>EXPECTED Intermediate Results AND INDICATORS INCLUDING ANNUAL TARGETS</p>	<p>PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List all the activities including monitoring and evaluation activities to be undertaken during the year towards stated Intermediate Results</i></p>	<p>EXPENDITURES <i>List actual expenditures against activities completed</i></p>	<p>RESULTS OF ACTIVITIES <i>For each activity, state the results of the activity</i></p>	<p>PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING Intermediate Results Using data on annual indicator targets, state progress towards achieving the Milestones. Where relevant, comment on factors that facilitated and/or constrained achievement of Milestones including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Whether risks and assumptions as identified in the CP M&E Framework materialized or whether new risks emerged</i> - <i>Internal factors such as timing of inputs and activities, quality of products and services, coordination and/or other management issues</i> </p>
<p>Milestone 1: Municipal Seal Launch and Implemented</p> <p>Indicators: # of person trained # of child friendly municipalities established. # of air time for ADs</p>	<p>Workshop with 9 Mayors, 50 councillors and Admin Staff</p>	<p>\$ 17,108.00</p>	<p>Mayors, City Administrator, councillors, SC members are knowledge of CFC</p> <p>Mayors identified indicators to monitor their progress to the SCFM</p>	<p>A total of 46 personnel were trained from Corozal, Orange Walk, San Pedro, Belmopan, Benque Viejo, Dangriga and Punta Gorda</p>
	<p>Official launch of Municipal Seal in 9 municipalities (including production and Airing of jingle)</p>	<p>\$ 19,100.00</p>	<p>9 municipal mayors agree to work towards SCFM</p>	<p>Official launch was completed mayors signed an agreement to works towards making their municipality child friendly.</p>

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	Project Manager (Info.Tech. Office, M/Finance). GOB new pay scale 14 23,220x960-41460 (second point on the scale)	\$ 37,427.40	Project is managed and monitor	Completed
	Administrative cost for support to the establishment of the municipal seal (this is only a tap-up)	\$ 9,450.00	Project is implemented	Completed
<p>Milestone 2:</p> <p>Study Tour to a Child Friendly Municipalities conducted and recommendations developed for strengthening Belize's Municipal initiative</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p># of visits</p> <p># of person knowledgeable</p>	Technical Visit to Mexico/ Brazil(to be determined) for 3 government officials	\$43,000	Mayors are knowledgeable of modes of CFC	Completed October 2016
<p>Milestone 3:</p> <p>Municipalities are measuring the performance of Actions/interventions towards improvements in quality of life and gender and social inequities</p>	Develop data base and install and institutionalize online monitoring system		Data based is developed	Research for database has begun, training and completion to be done in the new phase of initiative
	Customize face			
	Training of 20 data administrators and users			

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<p>Study Tour of Guatemala’s Child Friendly Courts System conducted and recommendations developed for strengthening Belize’s system</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Online data base install managed</p> <p># of data administrators and users</p> <p># of reports generating</p>	<p>Data base management and generation and disseminate reports</p>			
<p>Milestone 4:</p> <p>QCFS have established minimum standards for education: preparedness, response, recovery.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p># of persons participating in conference</p> <p>Work plan / road map established</p>	<p>2-3 days conference on establishing minimum standard for education in emergencies with regional technical support from CDEMA, OCHA and other partners.</p>	<p>\$5,000.00</p>	<p>Work plan/ road map developed</p>	<p>Efforts started however effective November 2015 NEMO was no longer linked to the Ministry of Labour, Local Government and Rural Development. RWP needs to be adjusted.</p>
<p>Milestone 5:</p> <p><i>Recognition of Progress Ceremonies</i></p> <p><i>a. Municipal ceremonies</i></p> <p>.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p># of municipalities acknowledged</p>	<p>Country tour to award municipalities for the efforts made thus far as they strive towards becoming child friendly.</p>	<p>\$39,000</p>	<p>Municipalities awarded in a recognition ceremony</p>	<p>Completed</p>

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<p>Milestone 6:</p> <p>Strategic plans for the implementation of SCFM</p> <p><i>a. Develop municipal strategic plans for Dangriga, Belmopan, San Ignacio, San Pedro</i></p> <p><i>Develop municipal strategic plans for Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize, Benque Viejo Del Carman, and Punta Gorda.</i></p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p># of development plan completed</p>	<p>Consultants review action plans and other plans for municipalities and create a 5 year development that to guide municipalities towards becoming child friendly</p>	<p>\$40,000</p>	<p>Development plans created</p>	<p>Efforts started and plans will be completed in 2017</p>
<p>Milestone 7:</p> <p>State of the Municipals children’s report</p> <p>.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Completed report</p>	<p>Consultant hired, survey conducted, validation, and information disseminated for public use.</p>		<p>Children report completed and disseminated</p>	<p>Efforts not started</p>

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<p>Milestone : 8</p> <p>Zika Virus</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Municipalities trained on C4D</p>	<p>Communication and behaviour change, communication technical support and social communication in outbreak readiness and outbreak response.</p> <p>Capacity building for nation officials and children on behavioural and social communication in outbreak readiness and outbreak response</p>	<p>\$76,000</p>	<p>Training competed in 8 municipalities for children community stakeholders</p>	<p>Efforts completed</p>
<p>Milestone : 9</p> <p>Hurricane Relief</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Municipalities trained on C4D</p>	<p>Clean up activities to restore municipalities back to normalcy after Hurricane Earl</p>	<p>\$70,000</p>	<p>Funds distributed and clean up campaigns were done</p>	<p>Efforts completed</p>