

MATURITY ASSESSMENT

ADAPTATIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION

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Application of the Maturity Model

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. The Maturity Model	3
3. Social protection in Belize	4
4. Application of the Maturity Model.....	5
(1) Context	6
(2) Governance and financing	7
(3) Infostructure and infrastructure	9
(4) Management capacity	11
(5) Services and access points.....	13
(6) Program coverage	15
(7) Informed Social Protection	17
4. Consolidated results and recommendations	19
References	24
Annex 1: Details of the dimensions of the Maturity Model	25

Table of Figures

Figure 1: Indicators and results for the "Context" dimension	6
Figure 2: Indicators and results for the "Governance and Financing" dimension	8
Figure 3: Indicators and results for the "Management Capacity" dimension	12
Figure 4: Indicators and results for the "Info and Infrastructure" dimension	10
Figure 5: The Operational Cycle of Social Protection Programs	13
Figure 6: Indicators and results for the "Services and Access Points" dimension	14
Figure 7: Indicators and Results for the "Program Coverage" dimension.....	16
Figure 8: Indicators and results for the "Informed Social Protection" dimension	18
Figure 9: Average by Dimension and Overall Average	20

1. Introduction

The concept of Adaptive Social Protection calls for using existing (or new) national social protection systems and programs to assist populations affected by large-scale shocks. Traditionally, social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have been designed for purposes other than emergency assistance, such as poverty alleviation, life cycle support, protection against individual shocks, and redistribution mechanisms. However, in recent years, many countries in the region have leveraged these systems to support vulnerable populations aftershocks like natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, rising food prices, and massive migration flows (Bowen et al., 2020; Beazley et al., 2019).

The COVID-19 pandemic prompted adaptive social protection measures across all countries in the region. This included creating new emergency programs, expanding existing programs vertically (granting additional subsidies) and horizontally (incorporating new beneficiaries temporarily), exchanging databases between social protection and other sectors and ministries, and introducing digital innovations such as mobile payment mechanisms. These experiences highlighted the importance of adaptive social protection and the necessary steps to enhance system flexibility and responsiveness.

This report aims to identify strengths and challenges of Belize's Social Protection System regarding its capacity to respond to shocks and to make recommendations for a more adaptive social protection system. The analysis is based on the results of the Maturity Model, an assessment tool, developed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), that measures the adaptiveness of social protection systems and identifies priority areas for investment, with the aim to provide countries with a roadmap to close potential gaps. To date, the tool has been implemented in over 10 countries in the region.

2. The Maturity Model

The Maturity Model seeks to measure the capacity of the social protection system to respond to shocks. The model has been built based on other international evaluation models and methodologies, which are detailed in the methodological document.¹

The model includes 7 dimensions articulated to compose a holistic view of adaptive social protection. In addition, digital transformation is incorporated as an analysis variable seen as a tool to make systems even more adaptive. Each dimension is analyzed through a series of indicators that measure its maturity at 5 levels (1 being the lowest level of maturity and 5 the highest), and which can be reliably measured or evidenced. For each dimension, an average of the results of its indicators is obtained. Finally, the simple average of all dimensions yields the overall maturity level of the system.

¹ <https://events.iadb.org/events/handler/geteventdocument.ashx?AFCF784DCD0CBF43BE2C6862BF3344016F9AB241C96CCE4F56C60A3338B48A79728E60379327190EAE644E6752227D76A13DB974C21E027E9EA1E8FCC169AC61A4E49ED6F14FA11D>

Model Dimensions:

1. **Context:** Context analysis allows us to better understand the ecosystem where the adaptive social protection system operates, and to assess its potential expansion.
2. **Governance and financing:** An outlook of the rules and strategies that underpin the social protection system, its scope and capacity to respond to shocks.
3. **Management capacity:** Assessment of the operational capacity to implement social protection programs and systems. It includes everything from programmatic plans and protocols to operational mechanisms and the national capacity of government entities.
4. **Infostructure and infrastructure:** Analysis of the digital components. Infostructure includes technological components (systems or platforms that interact with the user) that allow interaction with data and provide feedback to the other dimensions of the model. Infrastructure focuses on the technological support (connectivity, hardware, software, storage, etc.) needed to optimize processes and the security of the information available in the systems or platforms necessary for adaptive social protection.
5. **Services and access points:** Analysis of the degree of interaction of the social protection system with the population and users.
6. **Program coverage:** Evaluation of the scope of programs (contributory and non-contributory cash transfers and social care services) to identify the potential reach for channeling responses to shocks.
7. **Informed social protection:** Analysis of the use of data and information collected to improve system responses.

Annex 1 presents all the dimensions and variables of the model and highlights the level of maturity attributed to the adaptiveness of the country's social protection system. The following sections present a brief overview of the current context of Belize's social and civil protection and the findings of the assessment.

3. Social protection in Belize

Belize has reduced its multidimensional poverty rate from 35.7% in 2021 to 22% in 2024, though poverty remains unevenly distributed (Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022; 2024). In 2024, the incidence of multidimensional poverty was higher in rural areas compared to urban areas (30.9% versus 9.7%). When comparing across ethnicity, the highest levels were observed among those households headed by persons of Maya ethnicity (56%). Moreover, the poverty rate among households with children was more than three times higher than in households without (27.2% compared to 7.8%). In parallel, the country faces challenges in promoting autonomy and social inclusion for persons with disabilities (currently representing 12.2% of the population) and older adults with care dependencies (UNICEF, 2024). Moreover, the proportion of people aged 65 and over is projected to double within 24 years. This rapid aging will further strain pension and health systems, while also exposing older persons – especially those working informally – to greater risks of poverty in old age.

Climate change compounds these issues as Belize endures frequent river flooding, cyclones, hurricanes, extreme heat, and wildfires (Vega, 2023). Such hazards, which have historically led to annual economic losses averaging nearly 4% of GDP (World Bank Group, 2020), disproportionately impact the population groups living in poverty and vulnerability who tend to have fewer coping mechanisms.

Belize's social protection framework comprises two pillars. The contributory system, managed by the Social Security Board (SSB), operates on a defined benefit model financed by employers and employees, covering most aspects except unemployment. Participation in this system for the self-employed is voluntary. The non-contributory side consists of various social assistance programs for persons living in poverty and vulnerability providing cash transfers, food, housing, education support, and pensions.

While the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous People's Affairs (MHDFIPA) is the main Ministry responsible for non-contributory social protection, some programs are offered by other government agencies. The MHDFIPA key programs are BOOST and BOOST+ (targeting 5 vulnerable groups, including poor children, older persons, and people with disabilities (PwD)), the Public Assistance Program (15 benefits for various groups), and the Food Assistance Program. The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) offers housing assistance support to poor families, and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MoECST) runs the Education Upliftment Project to support poor families with tuition and school supplies. SSB manages the Non-contributory Pension Program for poor families and older persons. Support for the inclusion of PwD is fragmented across multiple agencies. MHDFIPA oversees disability-related policies, MoECST oversees education inclusion and the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities coordinates national efforts to promote disability rights and resources.

Despite ongoing efforts to expand social protection programs, significant coverage gaps remain; in 2021, only about one-third of the population received at least one benefit, including contributory and non-contributory social protection programs (ILOSTAT, 2025). Moreover, in 2020, only 3.3% of the persons living in poverty were covered by social protection systems. Limitations in coverage, administrative capacities, and sustainability hinder the effective protection of people affected by transient poverty in response to economic and climate shocks.

4. Application of the Maturity Model

The application of the Maturity Model provides a comprehensive view of a social protection system's adaptiveness, by assessing the current state of various of its dimensions. This information is crucial for identifying areas that may require strengthening.

This section presents, for each dimension (1-7), the maturity levels (1-5) achieved for each of its indicators. The accompanying paragraphs justify these scores, denoting the specific indicator

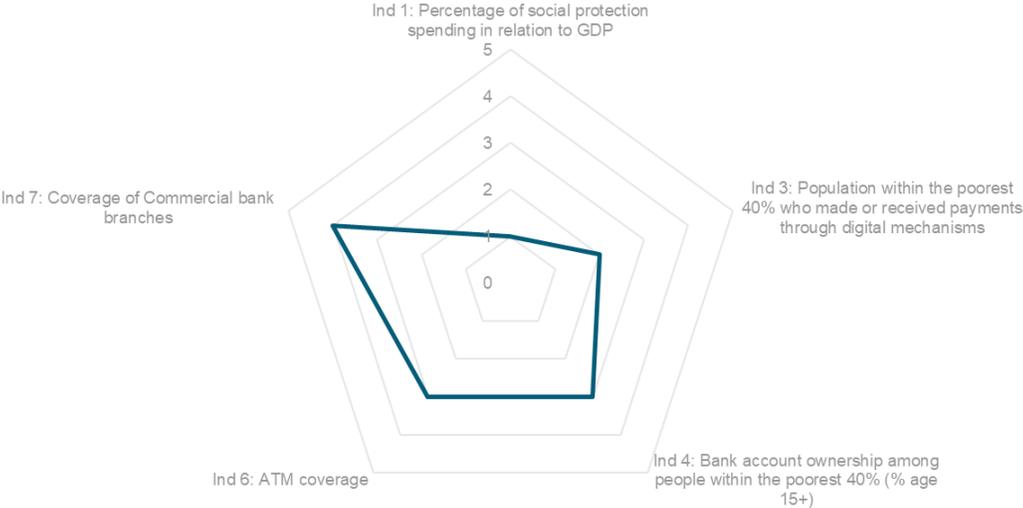
analyzed and the maturity level achieved in parentheses. More detailed information on the methodology and dimensions of the Maturity Model is provided in Annex 1.

(1) Context

Analyzing the context allows for a better understanding of the ecosystem in which the social protection system operates. This analysis focuses on circumstances that are mostly external to the system but significantly influence it. Contextual factors, such as the country’s Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure, investment for social protection, and overall development situation, are crucial for the development of the social protection system. While social protection can impact the development of some factors, such as promoting financial inclusion among beneficiaries, these factors are largely exogenous.

This dimension includes the analysis of seven indicators. A mature, enabling context features high coverage of the national identification system, which facilitates database exchanges, better internet access, increased financial inclusion, extensive banking coverage, and widespread adoption of technological payment tools. These factors enable potential digital payments and enhance the country’s flexibility and responsiveness to crises.

Figure 1: Indicators and results for the "Context" dimension



Belize scores an average of **2.6/5** for the **Context** dimension, which underscores the need to strengthen the enabling environment in which the social protection system operates. This dimension reflects broader socioeconomic conditions, digital infrastructure, and financial inclusion factors that directly impact the system’s capacity to adapt and respond to shocks.

Spending on social protection remains critically low, with less than 1% of GDP allocated annually (Indicator 1: score 1), placing Belize among the lowest investors in the region (UNICEF, 2024). This

limited fiscal space constrains both the reach and effectiveness of programs, particularly in rural and vulnerable communities.

The country currently lacks a unified national ID system; instead, multiple identification systems exist. In 2021, 66.7% of the population held a valid Social Security Board (SSB) card, with 48% in the poorest district (Toledo). Here, the assumption for the measurement of the indicator is that coverage among the poorest 40% of the population is lower than the national average and similar to the coverage in the poorest district. However, the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics, and E-Governance (MPUELE) is working on the development of a new national ID system, which could improve future service delivery.

While financial inclusion is slowly improving, significant gaps remain. Only around 20.6% of the poorest 40% made or received digital payments as of 2014 (Indicator 3: score 2), and most benefit recipients continue to rely on cash transactions. Despite this, bank account ownership in this group is higher, at 37.4% (Indicator 4: score 3), reflecting some foundation for future expansion of digital financial services.

In terms of infrastructure, Belize performs comparatively well. ATM coverage is moderately high, with 47.8 ATMs per 100,000 adults (Indicator 6: score 3), and commercial bank branch coverage is even more favorable, with 18 branches per 100,000 adults (Indicator 7: score 4), the indicator with the highest score for this dimension. These figures indicate that while physical financial infrastructure exists, it has not yet translated into widespread digital payment adoption, especially among low-income populations. Improving digital access and reducing reliance on cash-based systems remain critical for adaptive and inclusive social protection delivery in Belize.²

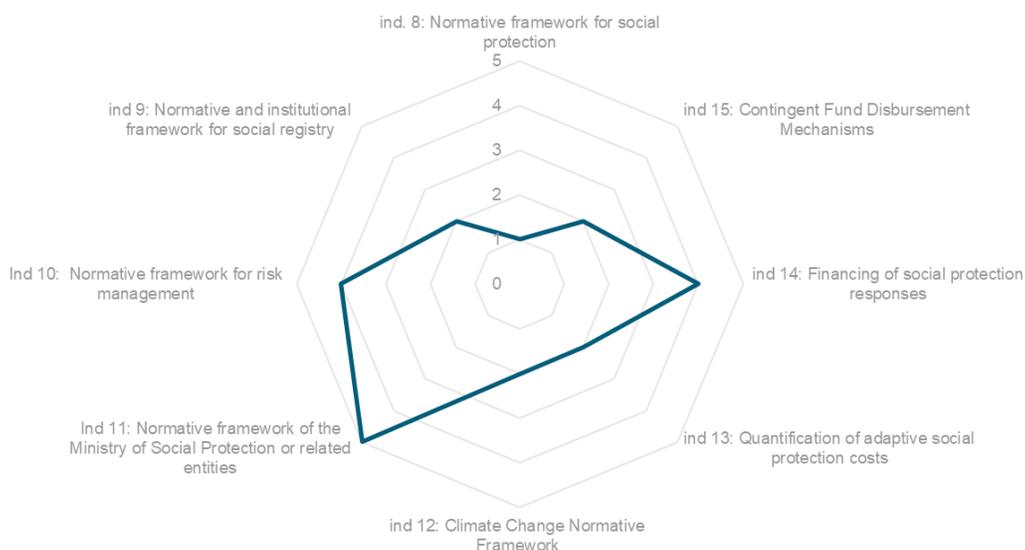
(2) Governance and financing

The governance and financing dimension analyzes the norms and strategies that underpin the social protection system, including its authority and capacity to prepare for and respond to shocks. Governance and financing mechanisms for adaptive social protection should be developed within broader frameworks of risk management, climate change, humanitarian assistance, among others, in line with the country's institutionality (e.g., the relationship between national and subnational levels).

This dimension includes a total of 10 indicators, where a system is considered mature if it has national social protection and risk management laws that recognize the role of adaptive social protection, a regulatory framework that supports the social registry, contingent financing mechanisms that combine different instruments according to different risk scenarios based on estimations of the costs of social protection responses, instances of coordination and joint work between social protection and civil protection, and agreements of understanding with humanitarian agencies and NGOs.

² Indicator 2 "Population within the poorest 40% with a national identity document" and Indicator 5 "Ownership of a mobile wallet among people within the poorest 40% (% age 15 or older)" (World Bank Indicators) are excluded from the analysis as there is no information available for Belize.

Figure 2: Indicators and results for the "Governance and Financing" dimension



Belize achieves an average score of **2.8/5** in the **Governance and Financing** dimension, reflecting a system with emerging institutional structures and financing strategies, yet still facing regulatory and coordination gaps. While some enabling frameworks exist, particularly for risk management and disaster response, key social protection laws and mechanisms remain underdeveloped or fragmented.

Currently, there is no comprehensive law that formally establishes the social protection system in Belize (Indicator 8: score 1), and the MHDFIPA operates without a formal legislative framework specific to social protection, though there is a draft social protection policy framework. Similarly, the social registry in use lacks a regulatory foundation (Indicator 9: score 2), limiting its institutional recognition and potential integration into long-term programming.

In contrast, the risk management framework is more robust (Indicator 10: score 4). The 2000 Disaster Preparedness and Response Act authorizes the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) to plan and coordinate disaster risk response activities. While social protection is not yet a central element in disaster response strategies, there is growing recognition within MHDFIPA of its role in identifying and supporting vulnerable populations during crises.

This signals a policy shift toward integrating welfare into risk response mechanisms. The Ministry is well-positioned within the national emergency structure (Indicator 11: score 5). It holds a clear mandate under NEMO and operates with defined protocols, including a Relief and Supply Management Committee (RSMC) and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for emergency operations. Specific budget lines are allocated through NEMO and can be mobilized for emergency social protection interventions.

Despite some progress, climate change adaptation efforts do not yet incorporate social protection (Indicator 12: score 2). Belize's second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC2.0) lacks explicit references to social protection, although NDC3.0, currently under development, is expected to address this gap. Similarly, while there have been cost estimations for adaptive social protection, including an analysis based on historical data conducted by the World Bank in 2017 and post-disaster damage analysis based on a methodology developed by UNDP, such estimations remain fragmented and tend to serve external aid justifications rather than internal preparedness (Indicator 13: score 2).

Belize demonstrates strong performance in the financing of responsive social protection programs through cash transfers, indicating a maturity level of 4 out of 5 (Indicator 14: score 4). Programs such as BOOST, the Belize COVID Cash Transfer (BCCAT), and others (e.g., H-LAP, H-LRAP, and FAP) were implemented in response to shocks, showing the country's ability to scale and diversify assistance through social protection channels.

However, when it comes to contingent fund disbursement mechanisms (Indicator 15: score 2), systems remain underdeveloped. While the 2000 Disaster Preparedness and Response Act provides clear guidelines for initiating the response process and identifies the agencies and individuals responsible for the response, it only vaguely addresses the allocation of financial resources. Regulated by the 2005 Finance and Audit (Reform) Act, the Minister of Finance has the authority to supplement resources in extraordinary circumstances. However, while emergency funds are expected to be disbursed through social protection for cash transfers, there are no specific pre-arranged disbursement mechanisms for social protection. Disbursement largely depends on administrative discretion and post-event resource reallocation, reducing predictability and timeliness in response.

Overall, Belize is progressing toward a more institutionalized and responsive governance framework for adaptive social protection, but it still requires legislative anchoring, strategic integration across sectors, and robust financial instruments to achieve higher levels of maturity.

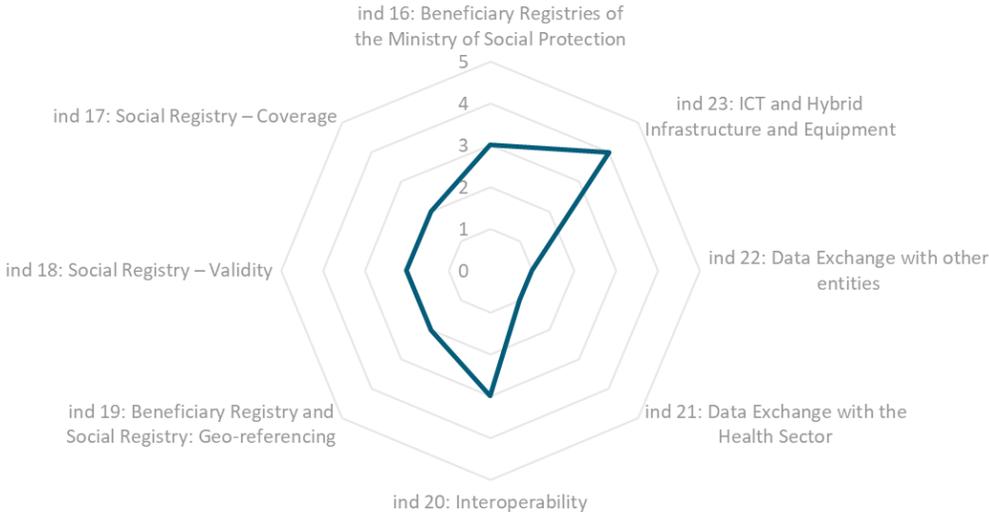
(3) Infostructure and infrastructure

This dimension is composed of two key aspects for the development of information systems: infostructure and infrastructure. Infostructure brings together all the technological components that allow interaction with the data and feeds information back to the other parts of the module. It is associated with technological systems or platforms that interact with users through the recording, processing, exchange, security, analysis, and use of information, which is vital for the implementation of social protection programs both in normal times and during emergencies. One of the key components of the infostructure is data registries. These are databases in which the information of registered individuals, households, or families is displayed. Beneficiary registries contain information about individuals or households that participate in a social program, while social registries contain socioeconomic and demographic information on individuals and households potentially eligible for social programs. Infrastructure provides technological support regarding connectivity, hardware, software, storage, and the different services that are needed

to optimize the processes and the security of the information available in the systems or platforms. Both parts (info and infra) make up the back end of the system.

In general terms, a mature system has consolidated, integrated and interoperable registries, with current information, high coverage at the national level, and protocols for data exchange. It has a social registry used by various government entities, including civil protection, and relevant information to inform preparedness and response actions to crashes. At the same time, the processing and management of data is highly automated, and the system has modern infrastructure and equipment as well as several communication channels for citizens.

Figure 3: Indicators and results for the "Info and infrastructure" dimension



Belize scores an average of **2.3/5** in the **Infostructure and infrastructure** dimension, reflecting a social protection system that has laid foundational technological elements but still faces limitations in data management, system integration, and cross-sectoral collaboration, key factors for adaptive and shock-responsive interventions.

At the core of Belize’s infostructure is the Single Information System for Beneficiaries (SISB), which serves as the primary social registry (Indicator 16: score 3). Originally envisioned as a central registry for all social programs, the SISB currently covers 32.4% of the population and is used primarily by the MHDFIPA for the BOOST program and by the Ministry of Education for the School Subsidy program. While SISB is internally linked to the Ministry’s case management system (FAMCare), interoperability across other governmental systems is limited, and integration with databases such as the Belize Agriculture Information System (BAIMS) or the SSB is mostly manual.

The coverage (Indicator 17: score 2) and validity (Indicator 18: score 2) of the SISB reflect its emerging maturity. Many records are outdated – over 50% are more than four years old – and

updates typically occur only when individuals engage directly with services. However, the Ministry has recently been reclassifying its BOOST beneficiaries. Furthermore, while data collected during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and hurricane relief efforts have been used, they have not been systematically integrated into the SISB. The lack of an automated feedback loop or shared protocols for data updating limits the system's ability to provide real-time, adaptive responses.

Geo-referencing efforts are also in progress but remain limited, with only around 30% of registered households geocoded (Indicator 19: score 2). Although address data or village information is generally available, this level of geographic granularity is insufficient for comprehensive crisis mapping and planning.

The broader interoperability landscape (Indicator 20: score 3) is fragmented. While the Ministry conducts some manual verification checks with databases from the Ministry of Education, the Social Security Board (SSB), the Ministry of Health, the Police and the courts, there is no unique identifier to facilitate streamlined data exchange. A Data Protection Act (2021) exists, and public officers must sign confidentiality oaths, but specific data-sharing protocols within the Ministry are still under development - especially in relation to the Ministry's M&E framework. Furthermore, there is no routine data exchange between the social registry and either the health sector (Indicator 21: score 1) or risk management, agriculture, and climate entities (Indicator 22: score 1), which would be beneficial to better target and respond to multidimensional shocks.

The technical infrastructure is relatively strong (Indicator 23: score 4). Hardware and core systems are up to date, data is hosted online, and necessary devices and servers are available across departments. Support from the Central Information Technology Office (CITO) ensures a reliable backbone for operations. However, challenges remain with software maintenance, particularly as some platforms (like BOOST and FAMCare) are externally supported or locally managed in less scalable formats.

In summary, while Belize has a functioning technical foundation for its social protection systems and registries, significant strides are still needed to improve integration, automation, and cross-sectoral data sharing to fully enable a responsive, real-time digital ecosystem for adaptive social protection.

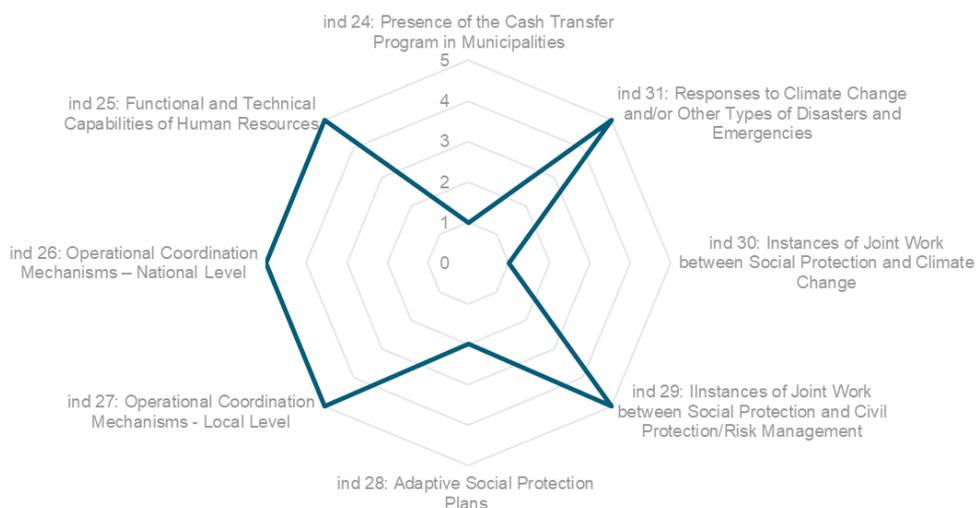
(4) Management capacity

This dimension looks at the country's operational capacity for the implementation of social protection programs in response to shocks. It includes six indicators and serves as the bridge between the back end (infostructure and infrastructure) and the front end (services and points of contact), which are analyzed in the following two subsections.

A mature system demonstrates operational coordination mechanisms at both national and subnational levels, such as the inclusion of social protection in humanitarian assistance committees. It also features training programs focused on risk management. Thus, in theory, the ministry responsible for social protection should maintain active contingency plans that

encompass disbursement mechanisms with established protocols. It also has extensive territorial reach, enabling rapid responses to populations affected by shocks.

Figure 4: Indicators and results for the "Management Capacity" dimension



Belize achieves a score of **3.6/5** in the **Management Capacity** dimension, demonstrating relatively strong institutional readiness and coordination for the operational implementation of social protection programs during shocks. This dimension acts as the operational bridge between the system’s technological backbone and its service delivery capacity.

The country shows high institutional coordination and preparedness at both national and local levels. The MHDFIPA has been part of the Relief Supplies Management Committee (RSMC) for over 20 years (Indicator 26: Score 5). At the local level, through district emergency committees and city emergency management organizations, contingency plans for operational continuity and shock response are regularly reviewed and updated (Indicator 27: Score 5), ensuring a coordinated mechanism exists in theory and is continuously evolving.

Functional and technical capabilities of human resources are another strong feature of the Ministry (Indicator 25: Score 5). MHDFIPA regularly engages its staff in emergency exercises and training focused on operational continuity and disaster relief. However, according to MHDFIPA, more training is still required at both national and local levels. A key strength lies in the collaborative work between social protection and risk management entities (Indicator 29: Score 5). The Ministry participates in national hurricane preparedness and simulation exercises, facilitated through the NEMO framework and guided by established SOPs. Moreover, there have been multiple expansions of cash transfer programs in response to climate events in recent years (Indicator 31: Score 5). These include the vertical expansion of BOOST and horizontal expansion through the creation of BCCAT, H-LAP, and H-LRAP (administered by the Ministry of Agriculture,

Food Security and Enterprise), as well as income support provided in response to forest fires in 2024.

Despite this institutional maturity, there are areas where improvements are still needed. For example, cash transfer programs are operational in a limited number of municipalities (Indicator 24: Score 1) which may hinder rapid crisis responses in certain areas. Additionally, while contingency plans exist, their implementation during crises has proven inconsistent. In the case of Hurricane Lisa, for instance, contingency planning did not translate into effective operational response (Indicator 28: Score 2), signaling a gap between planning and execution.

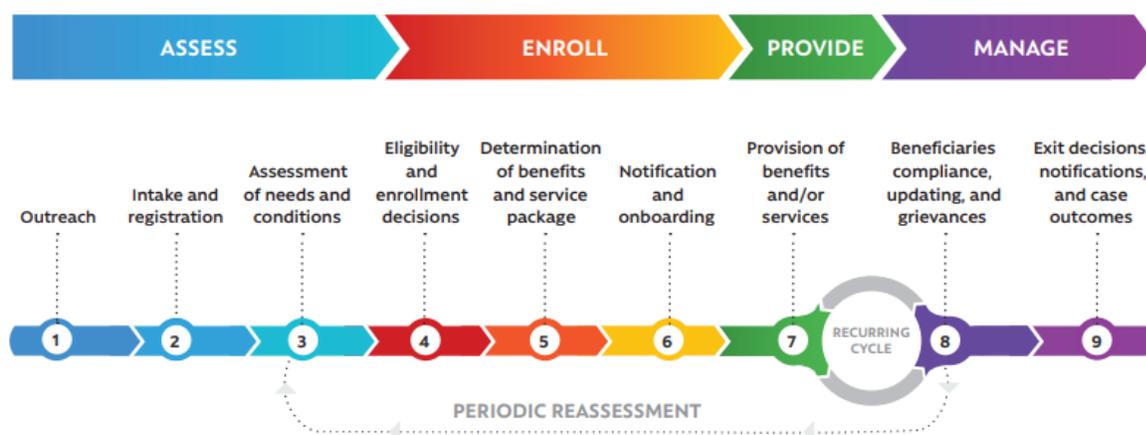
Finally, coordination with climate change institutions remains underdeveloped (Indicator 30: Score 1). There have been no recent instances of structured joint work, although the forthcoming NDC 3.0 is expected to formally link social protection and climate change policy for the first time, a promising step toward greater policy integration in the future.

Belize’s management capacity for adaptive social protection is relatively robust in structure and coordination, but it must still address challenges in local reach, operational consistency, and multisectoral alignment – especially with climate actors – to fully realize a responsive and resilient system.

(5) Services and access points

This section analyses the interaction of the social protection system with the general population and users. These are actions and activities implemented for the population and users of the system (frontend). This dimension has an operational cycle that consists of four stages: identification of needs (communication, registration in the system, needs assessment, etc.), registration (definition of who participates and what services are delivered), delivery (provision of the service and collection of delivery information) and management (sending notifications, updating, receiving complaints, queries, etc.).

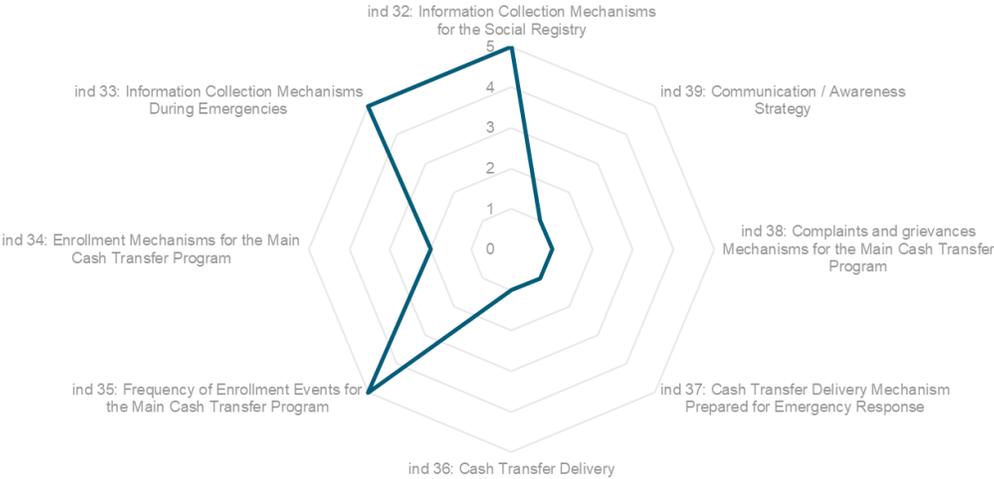
Figure 3: The Operational Cycle of Social Protection Programs



Source: Lindert et al. (2020).

An adaptive and mature social protection system has data collection mechanisms that combine different instruments, from census sweeps to online updates, to absorb the increase in demand during emergencies. At the same time, such a system has mechanisms in place to collect information during emergencies and use that data to inform social protection responses. In these systems, more than 90% of cash transfers are digital and payment mechanisms are prepared to be used during emergencies. Moreover, grievance and redress and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are prepared for emergency situations.

Figure 4: Indicators and results for the "Services and Access Points" dimension



Belize scores **2.6/5** in the **Services and Access Points** dimension, reflecting a system with strong data collection and registration capacity, but limited reach and preparedness in service delivery, grievance redress, and public communication. This dimension analyzes how the social protection system interacts with the general population across the service delivery lifecycle, from identifying needs to delivering services and managing follow-up.

A key area of strength lies in the mechanisms for collecting information, both during routine periods and in times of crisis. Belize’s social registry uses a combination of in-person updates at local offices, census sweeps, and administrative databases (Indicator 32: Score 5). Moreover, the MHDFIPA is responsible for and manages the data collection. It has the capacity to collect information quickly and on a large scale as well as identify the required social protection responses through the RSMC. It has developed robust emergency data collection capabilities through digital tools such as KOBO, applied in emergency programs like H-LAP, for example (Indicator 33: Score 5).

Enrollment processes, however, present a mixed picture. While enrollment is continuous (Indicator 35: Score 5), it remains entirely in-person, requiring individuals to walk into Ministry offices or be referred to by intermediaries (Indicator 34: Score 2). This structure limits access and creates bottlenecks, particularly during emergencies when mobility is restricted.

In terms of delivery of benefits, Belize faces significant gaps as current program cash transfers coverage reaches less than 5% of the population (Indicators 36 and 37: Score 1 each). Without significant coverage of society and digital payment infrastructure that can scale quickly, the system remains constrained in its ability to respond at scale during shocks. Similarly, the limited program coverage negatively affects the preparedness and capacity of grievance redress mechanisms (GRM) to be leveraged, including during crisis situations (Indicator 38: Score 1). The Ministry has used various channels through which individuals can inquire about eligibility, payments, and appeal decisions. Depending on the program, these have included walk-ins, phone, hotlines, e-mail, WhatsApp, and Facebook. However, it is important to note that the MHDFIPA has been working on the development of a wider, streamlined GRM to be used for emergency response, based on lessons learned from existing mechanisms.

Communication strategies also require significant improvement (Indicator 39: Score 1). While there have been ad-hoc outreach activities during shocks such as brochures, SMS, radio broadcasts, social media updates, and community sessions for programs like BOOST and HLAP, there is no institutionalized, comprehensive communication or awareness strategy for ongoing social protection services. Additionally, emergency messaging is primarily hurricane-focused under NEMO, with limited preparedness for other hazard types (e.g., droughts or tsunamis) and no pre-established strategies for informing the public about the broader social protection ecosystem.

In summary, Belize has built strong emergency data collection systems and continuous enrollment processes, showing the capacity for adaptive identification and targeting. However, limited coverage, manual processes, and weak communication and feedback mechanisms constrain the system's overall maturity. Moving forward, digital enrollment and payment solutions, formal GRM structures, and comprehensive communication strategies will be essential to improve user experience and system responsiveness.

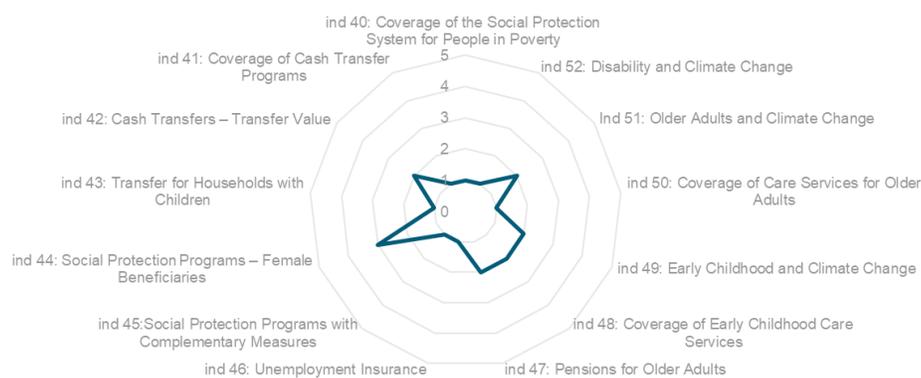
(6) Program coverage

This section analyzes the coverage and adaptiveness of the programs and services of the social protection system. It evaluates coverage of the overall system and the main cash transfer program as well as the cash transfer program adequacy, specifically by assessing the value of the transfer relative to the national poverty line. Regular cash transfer programs contribute to strengthening the resilience of the poorest households against climate-related shocks. The region has been a pioneer in the development of cash transfer programs, which play a key role in alleviating chronic poverty (Ibarrarán et al., 2017). In 2019, regular cash transfer programs reached around 105 million people (Stampini et al., 2021). These programs help establish a minimum income floor and, in some cases, enable savings, which supports better shock absorption and recovery and prevents the adoption of negative coping strategies in response to extreme weather events and disasters (Bastagli, 2016; Asfaw and Davis, 2018).

Additionally, the analysis covers other elements of the social protection system, including unemployment insurance, child and family benefits, and early childhood care programs, among others. It also examines the extent to which social protection programs have adapted to address the impacts of climate change and/or incorporated complementary measures to enhance climate resilience.

A mature system is characterized by broader program coverage, providing a stronger platform to reach populations affected by shocks. Furthermore, such a system includes social protection programs that incorporate complementary measures to foster household resilience, as well as care services for older persons, children, and persons with disabilities that integrate climate change adaptation measures.

Figure 5: Indicators and Results for the "Program Coverage" dimension



Belize scores **1.5/5** in the **Program Coverage** dimension, reflecting a system that remains highly limited in its reach across key demographic groups, with low coverage rates, relatively low cash transfer values, and few complementary measures in place. This dimension considers the extent to which social protection programs, including contributory and non-contributory cash transfers, and care services, effectively reach the population, particularly those living in poverty or vulnerable to shocks, and their adaptiveness to climate-related shocks.

The most significant constraint lies in the limited population coverage of cash transfer and contributory programs. According to estimates of the International Labor Organization (ILO), as of 2020, only 3.3% of people in poverty were covered by social protection programs (Indicator 40: Score 1), and the BOOST, Belize’s main non-contributory cash transfer program, reaches fewer than 2% of the national population (Indicator 41: Score 1). Gender targeting is partially addressed: 56% of BOOST recipients are women (Indicator 44: Score 3). BOOST provides modest monthly benefits, representing between 6% and 15% of the national poverty line, depending on the household type (Indicator 42: Score 2). However, complementary services or conditions linked to social protection programs, such as skills training, nutrition support, or referrals are currently

absent (Indicator 45: Score 1), which limits their impact on multidimensional poverty and resilience.

Coverage for specific vulnerable groups is similarly constrained. According to ILO estimates, only 3% of households with children benefit from cash transfers (Indicator 43: Score 1), pension programs reach just 37.5% of older adults (Indicator 47: Score 2), and unemployment insurance is practically non-existent (Indicator 46: Score 1). The early childhood education net enrollment rate amounts to 32.6% (Indicator 48: Score 2). While a model for early childhood centers has been recently developed, it has not yet translated into significant expansion. Moreover, Aranco et al. (2022) estimate that coverage among older adults with functional dependency who have access to formal care services is towards 0% (Indicator 50: Score 1).

Regarding climate-related resilience, response protocols exist for early childhood and older adult care facilities (Indicators 49 and 51: Score 2 each). Although there is no specific use of historical climate data or projections, NEMO conducts assessments of all residential facilities for children and older persons, including inspections on basic protective measures like facility licenses, for example. However, adaptation measures for care facilities for persons with disabilities are still missing (Indicator 52: Score 1), though the new Disability Legislation recently passed by the Government is expected to prompt improvements.

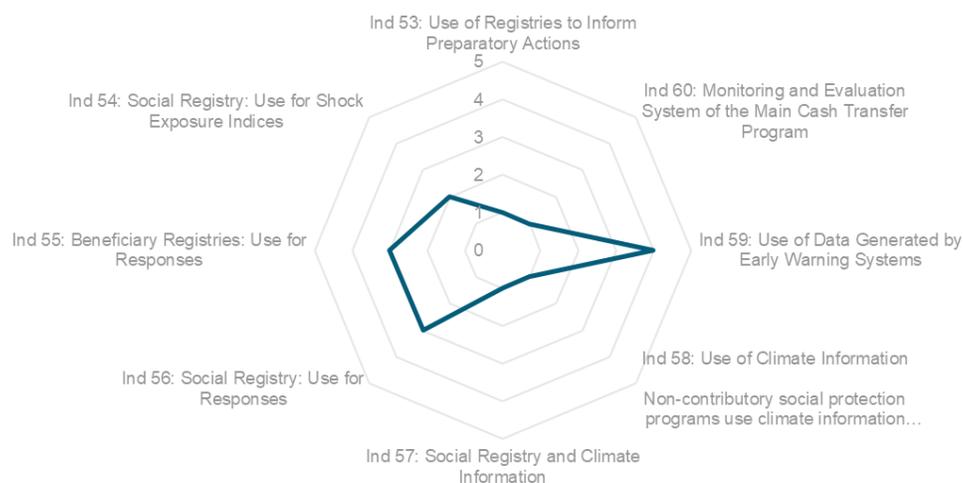
While Belize has taken important initial steps in creating targeted cash transfer programs and response protocols for climate-sensitive populations, the system's overall reach remains low. Key investments are needed in coverage expansion, program adequacy, and integrated care and support services to serve vulnerable populations more comprehensively and adaptively.

(7) Informed Social Protection

This dimension is the result of the articulation of all the previous dimensions. It refers to the degree of use of data collected and shared to inform public policies in social protection and risk management. One of the advantages of digital systems is precisely the collection and flow of data on a large scale, which can then be analyzed and used to inform public policy. The fundamental function of the dimension "Informed Social Protection" is to transform collected data into information that is used for decision-making to improve the system's response.

It includes eight indicators linked to the use of records for preparedness and response actions and communication strategies. A mature system uses beneficiary and social registries to inform vertical and horizontal expansions of social protection programs and preparatory actions. In such systems, social registry data are used to model and forecast the effects of potential future shocks, and there is a communication strategy for adaptive social protection.

Figure 6: Indicators and results for the "Informed Social Protection" dimension



Belize scores **2/5** in the **Informed Social Protection** dimension, indicating early-stage development in leveraging data and analytics to inform social protection policies and actions, particularly in the context of risk and climate resilience. This dimension reflects how data generated by the system – especially from social registries, monitoring tools, and early warning systems – is used to anticipate shocks, guide responses, and improve decision-making across programs.

While Belize has made some progress, especially in response mechanisms, the use of data for preparedness and forward-looking planning remains limited. Social and beneficiary registries have not yet been institutionalized as tools for anticipatory action (Indicator 53: Score 1). For instance, Hurricane Lisa response efforts (H-LAP) relied on newly created beneficiary lists rather than drawing from existing data systems. However, conversations of the Ministry with the WFP signals future intentions toward anticipatory frameworks.

There are no established shock exposure indices tied to the social registry (Indicator 54: Score 2), and climate data is not yet integrated into social protection registries or used for program design and implementation (Indicators 57 and 58: Scores 1 each). Similarly, forecasting and modeling tools are not currently used to simulate potential shocks or estimate impact on vulnerable populations.

However, Belize's past Covid-19 response efforts demonstrated some adaptive capacity. The government carried out a vertical expansion of the BOOST program and introduced the BCCAT cash transfer, both of which leveraged data from the social registry and beneficiary databases, although protocols were ad hoc (Indicators 55 and 56: Score 3 each). These examples highlight a growing but still reactive use of existing data rather than a systematic, predictive approach.

Belize has been using the hurricane early warning system from NEMO to activate social protection responses through the RSMC. Social protection responses are also triggered by the Hydrology and Meteorology Services that issue flood level warnings. The Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) has specific payout thresholds for excess rainfall and tropical cyclones, with 25% of the overall payout allocated to social protection. However, no CCRIF-triggered payout has occurred yet, as thresholds have not been met. For instance, the Hurricane Lisa Cash Assistance program was implemented independently of CCRIF. Currently, Belize is planning to develop a National Early Warning System that integrates social protection and covers multiple hazards in a coordinated manner (Indicator 59: Score 4). This represents a foundational step towards a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to adaptive social protection.

Finally, the limited program coverage negatively affects the social protection system's maturity with respect to a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system that can be considered prepared for emergency response (Indicator 60: Score 1). Systematic learning and evidence-based adjustments are constrained.

In summary, while Belize has shown adaptive potential in emergency contexts and a foundation for linking social protection to climate risk systems, the institutionalization and routine use of data – especially for anticipatory action, climate-informed planning, and preparedness – remains a critical gap. Strategic investments are needed to fully unlock the potential of informed decision-making in social protection.

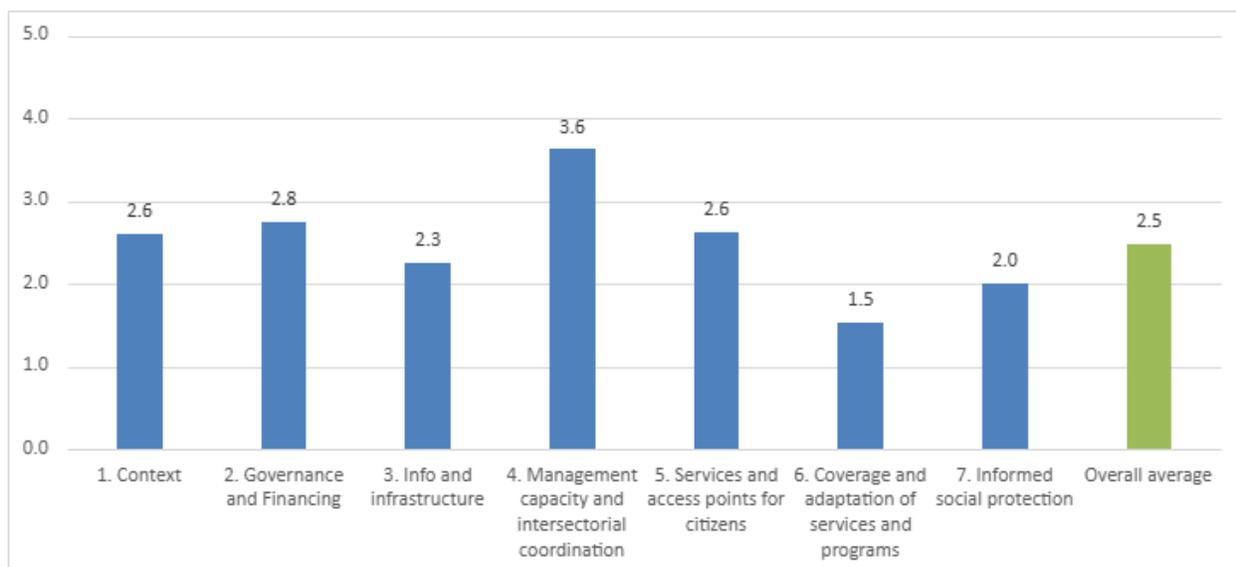
5. Consolidated results and recommendations

In recent years, Belize has embarked on a journey to improve its social protection system, addressing critical needs across various dimensions. This includes strengthening the capacity for a more adaptive social protection system. This process is not yet completed, as the model implementation encapsulates.

The results of the Maturity Model for Belize show an average score of **2.5** out of a maximum of 5. Although there are dimensions that show greater performance and progress than others, none exceeds an average score of 4 points.

The next section examines the various dimensions and suggests specific recommendations for the Government of Belize and the MHDFIPA to strengthen its capacity and initiatives for a more adaptive social protection system moving forward.

Figure 7: Average by Dimension and Overall Average



The environment in which the social protection in Belize operates (Context dimension) reflects an intermediate stage of development (final score: 2.6/5), revealing key structural and environmental challenges that limit the adaptability of its social protection system. Critical issues include low public spending on social protection (less than 1% of GDP), fragmented identification systems, and limited digital and financial inclusion, particularly among the poorest populations. Ongoing efforts, such as the development of a national ID system, offer opportunities to strengthen service delivery, but significant work remains to create a more enabling environment for adaptive and inclusive social protection. Based on the analysis and results obtained, the recommendations for improving the enabling environment are:

- Expand digital payment infrastructure and promote the adoption and use of digital payments through incentives, such as subsidies, promotional campaigns and direct outreach to increase sensitization and to raise awareness and increase trust in digital payments.
- Increase governmental investment in social protection to allow for the inclusion of more eligible persons in social programs from across the country, as to increase overall budget and potential impact.

The dimension of Governance and Financing (final score: 2.8/5) indicates that Belize has some financial instruments and past experiences with emergency funding, such as, for example, the use of CCRIF SPC payouts, but regular funding for social protection is constrained and emergency response financing remains reactive. There is no pre-allocated contingency fund or financial plan for vertical or horizontal expansion of social protection programs in response to shocks and budgetary allocations for social programs are not systematically linked to risk reduction, or the preparedness system relies on outdated laws. The suggestions for enhancing this dimension are as follows:

- Consider creating new and comprehensive legislation for social protection in the country, in addition to the new Ministry's strategy document, revising and modernizing social protection laws to meet current needs, in addition to framework for shock responsiveness and risk reduction.
- Include the MIS within the new regulations and policies, and allow a clear pathway towards enrolment, data update, and data sharing between governmental agencies through the creation of ministerial agreements and protocols.
- Establish a formal coordination mechanism for adaptive social protection that includes key ministries, NEMO, and international partners, to be added to the RSMC as part of the ongoing operations and support.
- Create clear mechanisms for pre-established financing of emergency situations to avoid ad-hoc resource allocation and the need for real-time approval. It is also recommended to have contingent financing mechanisms based on estimation of the level of damage and cost of social protection response to future crisis, mostly looking at floods and fires for the ministry and specific social programs.

With regards to the infra- and infostructure dimension (final score: 2.3/5), the results show that Belize has a relatively well-developed base but limited efforts in integration and dynamic updating for data available. The SISB platform provides a foundation for registry and benefit delivery but is considered basic and does not allow a full and holistic solution. There is limited interoperability with other databases (e.g., health, disaster risk, census) and manual processes still dominate enrollment and updating. The assessment of the current situation for this dimension points to the following suggestions:

- Complete and enhance the digital transformation process of the MHDFIPA, including the existing digitization of beneficiary data (currently via google sheets), and create new and advanced accessible digital data collection, processes and channels for beneficiaries to interact and engage with the Ministry.
- Enhance data management automation and establish robust data exchange protocols, both internally and with various agencies in the government, including strengthening of the interoperability between the SISB and other national information systems (civil registry, disaster risk management, health, etc.).
- Enhance targeting through the collection, integration in the social registry, and use of information related to shock exposure (for example, georeferencing, vulnerability index for different types of shocks).

Belize scores 3.6 out of 5 in the Management Capacity dimension, reflecting relatively strong institutional coordination and readiness to implement social protection programs during shocks.

The MHDFIPA demonstrates well-established collaboration with national and local emergency bodies, robust human resource capabilities, and a track record of program expansions in response to disaster events. However, program coverage remains geographically narrow, contingency plans are not always effectively executed, and coordination with climate change institutions is still minimal. While the foundation for adaptive social protection is solid, further efforts are needed to expand local reach, improve operational consistency, and establish stronger cross-sectoral linkages to ensure the system can respond equitably and efficiently to future shocks. Therefore, it is recommended to:

- Implement enhanced continuous training programs on risk management and crisis management for MHDFIPA staff at both national and local levels, in addition to the existing programs, to include elements of ASP.
- Develop detailed emergency response plans, including vertical and horizontal expansions of cash transfers, utilizing existing and future systems.

Service delivery (final score: 2.6/5) mechanisms are evolving, with continuous enrollment into the main cash transfer program, but show limited coverage, digital payment adoption, and there is no comprehensive grievance redress mechanism and communication strategy. Hence, the recommendations to enhance performance are as follows:

- Facilitate the use of digital payment methods among beneficiaries, including incentives and communication campaigns, including creating contingencies for emergency-based cash transfers during crisis.
- Create a new Management Information System (MIS) for the ministry to include all initial existing digital transformation and data efforts, while enhancing front-end service delivery with mobile registration, user dashboards, and multilingual information access.
- Establish clear data gathering protocols and enhance infrastructure (KOBO tablets, software) for data collection during crisis.

The coverage of existing cash transfer programs is limited (final score: 1.5/5), restricting crisis response scalability, especially regarding vertical and horizontal expansions. Thus, it is recommended to:

- Continue promoting enrollment in existing social protection programs, particularly among the most vulnerable populations and expand the coverage of BOOST and related programs.
- Examine interoperability with other national agencies to allow data and program expansion, including through linkages between programs (within the MHDFIPA or with other ministries such as housing, education, contributory pensions, and health).

- Improve targeting and outreach relating to climate change and resilience using poverty maps, administrative data, and predictive tools.

Finally, data utilization and informed decision making for preparedness and response actions appears to be limited (final score: 2/5). Therefore, recommendations include:

- Leverage social and beneficiary registry data for predictive analysis, monitoring, evaluation, and planning, while continuously integrating climate risk and exposure indicators into social registries and preparedness tools.
- Develop dedicated communication strategies for emergency responses at the national and subnational level.
- Invest in robust M&E systems, including outcome tracking and feedback loops to inform decision-making.

In conclusion, Belize's social protection system shows promise regarding its adaptiveness to shocks but requires substantial improvements across several dimensions. By implementing the recommended actions, the country can enhance its resilience, ensuring better preparedness and response to future crises.

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Annex 1: Details of the dimensions of the Maturity Model

This annex details the different dimensions of the maturity model and highlights in green the level achieved by the country. The maturity model has been applied to Belize based on interviews conducted with representatives from the MHDFIPA and other stakeholders, inputs received from MHDFIPA staff in virtual policy dialogue meetings in the framework of the Technical Cooperation project “Lessons learned from Cash Transfers Implementation during the Covid-19 pandemic” (RG-T4246), and a review of relevant literature.

Context dimension

Total indicators: 7

	Indicator	Levels
	<p>Percentage of social protection expenditure in relation to GDP³ Percentage of annual expenditure on social protection in relation to GDP as an indicator of administrative capacity ILO</p>	<p>It is allocated annually for social protection, < 1% of GDP UNICEF 2024 costing report: “Belize most likely spends less than 1 percent of GDP on social protection” (p. 13).</p> <p>It is allocated annually for social protection, > 1% and < 5% GDP</p> <p>It is allocated annually for social protection >5% < 7% of GDP</p> <p>It is allocated annually for social protection > 7% and < 10% of GDP</p> <p>It is allocated annually for social protection > 10% of GDP</p>
	<p>Population that is within the poorest 40% with a national identity document.⁴ Indicator was omitted due to lack of information.</p>	<p>>50% <70% of the population within the poorest 40% has a national identity card</p> <p>>70% <86% of the population within the poorest 40% has a national identity card</p> <p>>86% <96% of the population within the poorest 40% has a national identity card</p> <p>>96% <99% of the population within the poorest 40% has a national identity card</p> <p>100% of the population in the poorest 40% has a national identity card</p>
	<p>Population that is within the poorest 40% that made or received payments through digital mechanisms (%+15 years old)⁵</p>	<p>< 16% of the population within the poorest 40% made or received payments through digital mechanisms></p> <p>>16 and < 35 of the population within the poorest 40% made or received payments through digital mechanisms 20.64% of the poorest 40% made or received a digital payment in 2014 (World Bank FINDEX). According to the Central Bank's National Financial Inclusion Strategy report, in 2019, “less than half of Belizean adults (44.8 percent) made or received digital payments in the past year” (p. 27).</p>

³ ILO Protection Database Social_Parametros established on the basis of distribution data in LAC

⁴ World Bank: Identification for Development (ID4D) Database, 2021. Parameters set based on distribution data in LAC_ [https://databank.worldbank.org/source/identification-for-development-\(id4d\)-data](https://databank.worldbank.org/source/identification-for-development-(id4d)-data)

⁵ FINDEX 2021. Parameters established based on distribution data in LAC

		Beneficiaries of the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs (MHDFIPA) can get their benefits through credit unions or at ATMs. However, probably less than 16% of the people receive their benefit through digital mechanisms. Most are still relying on cash.
		> 35 and < 50 of the population within the poorest 40% made or received payments through digital mechanisms
		> 50 and < 75 of the population within the poorest 40% made or received payments through digital mechanisms
		> 75% of the population within the poorest 40% made or received payments through digital mechanisms
	Bank account ownership in people who are within the poorest 40% (% + 15 years)⁶	< of the 25% of the population in the poorest 40% has a bank account in their name.
		>25% <35% of the population in the poorest 40% has a bank account in their name.
		>35% and < 55% of the population in the poorest 40% have a bank account in their name. 37.38% in 2014 (World Bank Indicators)
		> 55% and < of the 85% of the population in the poorest 40% have a bank account in their name.
		>85% of the population in the poorest 40% has a bank account in their name.
	Ownership of a payment wallet on a mobile device in people who are within the poorest 40% (% + 15 years old)⁷ Indicator was omitted due to lack of information.	< 5% of the population in the poorest 40% has a mobile payment wallet.
		>5% <10% of the population in the poorest 40% owns a mobile payment wallet.
		>12% < 25% of the population in the poorest 40% owns a mobile payment wallet.
		> 25% < of the 50% of the population in the poorest 40% owns a mobile payment wallet.
		>50% of the population in the poorest 40% has a payment wallet on a mobile device.
	ATM coverage⁸	< 20 ATMs per 100,000 inhabitants. adults
		>20 < 40 ATMs per 100,000 inhabitants. adults
		>40 < 60 ATMs per 100,000 inhabitants. Adults 47.84 in 2021 (World Bank Indicators)

⁶ FINDEX 2021. Parameters established based on distribution data in LAC

⁷ FINDEX 2021. Parameters established based on distribution data in LAC

⁸ IMF FAS. Parameters established based on distribution data in LAC

		>60 <120 ATMs per 100,000 inhabitants. adults
		>120 ATMs per 100,000 inhabitants. adults
	Commercial Bank Branch Coverage⁹	< 6 branches of commercial banks per 100,000 inhabitants. adults
		>6 < 10 commercial bank branches per 100,000 inhabitants. adults
		>10 < 15 commercial bank branches per 100,000 inhabitants. adults
		>15 < 90 commercial bank branches per 100,000 inhabitants Adults 18 in 2021 (World Bank Indicators)
		>90 commercial bank branches per 100,000 inhabitants. Adults

Governance and financing dimension
Total indicators: 8

	Indicator	Levels
	Regulatory framework for social protection There are legislation, resolutions and strategies that underpin social protection.	There is no law that establishes the social protection system. There is a draft for a social protection policy framework. There is only a general law that established the Ministry as a whole, but not the social protection system as such. The MHDFIPA has been operating as part of the constitution. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA
		There is a law that establishes the social protection system, but it is very outdated and, in practice, does not reflect the real situation of the system.
		There is a current law
		There is a current law and other instruments such as national social protection policies or strategies
		There is a current law and other instruments such as national social protection policies or strategies: substantial changes in the programs must be approved by law.

⁹ IMF FAS. Parameters established based on distribution data in LAC

	Indicator	Levels
	<p>Regulatory and institutional framework of the social registry The social registry has normative and institutional support</p>	<p>There is no social registry in the country</p> <p>The social registry exists <i>de facto</i>, but it is not established by law There is a social registry, but it is not referenced in a law or regulation as there is none. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p> <p>The social registry is mentioned in the social protection law (or similar) but without details regarding its institutionality</p> <p>The social registry is mentioned in the social protection law (or similar) but without details regarding its institutionality. There are complementary regulations (regulations, resolutions, strategies) that establish the role of the registry</p> <p>The social registry is established by law and the institution that implements it has the mandate to do so. There are complementary regulations (regulations, resolutions, strategies) that establish the role of the registry</p>
	<p>Risk management regulatory framework The national risk management regulations and/or plan establish the role of social protection in disaster preparedness and response.</p>	<p>There is no national risk management law</p> <p>The law and the national risk management plan are very outdated (more than 10 years)</p> <p>The law and/or the national risk management plan – developed less than 10 years ago – does not establish roles for the ministry of social protection or the like.</p> <p>The law and/or the national risk management plan provides for the participation of the ministry of social protection or related in some preparedness and response committees, but does not provide specific roles or leadership According to the Disaster Preparedness and Response Act 2000, which provides the legal authority for the official response to natural disasters and the use of government resources, NEMO creates yearly multi-hazard plans that are presented to the Prime Minister. These plans guide the department’s disaster risk management operations for the year. The MHDFIPA commented that at the current state the frameworks/plans do not address multi hazard. Although the Ministry is involved in the national coordination mechanism, as of now, social protection is more seen as an ‘added service’ rather than the main goal of disaster response. The country is advocating for a shift to promote more welfare and vulnerability support during crisis by identifying who are the people that need support the most. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA, WB Stress Test</p> <p>The law and/or the national risk management plan establishes that it is the power of the Ministry of Social Protection or related to provide assistance to the affected population</p>

	Indicator	Levels
	<p>Regulatory framework of the Ministry of Social Protection or related The regulations (laws, resolutions, strategies) establish the power to provide assistance to people affected by disasters / respond to emergencies¹⁰</p>	<p>The regulations do not give the ministry the power to provide assistance to people affected by disasters/respond to emergencies</p> <p>The regulation establishes the need for the ministry to take measures to ensure operational continuity during disasters/emergencies, but not to provide assistance to affected people</p> <p>The regulations establish the need for the ministry to provide assistance only to those who already participate in the ministry's programs</p> <p>The regulations establish the ministry's mandate as a response entity for the affected and vulnerable population, but no concrete measures have been taken for this role</p> <p>The regulations establish the ministry's mandate as a response entity for the affected and vulnerable population, and concrete measures have been taken for this role: protocols and budget items. The MHDFIPA has the mandate of providing social protection within the NEMO framework. There are new protocols of RSMC and SoPs that establish their responsibilities in times of crisis. There are specific budget lines with NEMO and they can allocate it to the ministry in times of emergency. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p>
	<p>Climate change regulatory framework The regulations and/or the national plan exist and establish synergies between social protection and climate change. (law, plan, Nationally Determined Contribution ¹¹ , etc.) It focuses on identifying synergies in the 3 main roles of social protection in the climate agenda: (a) compensation to persons affected by crashes (b) ex-ante support for strengthening household resilience to climate change (c) compensations and social protection contributions linked to the just transition</p>	<p>There is no national climate change strategy or plan or it is very outdated (more than 10 years)</p> <p>The strategy, NDC or national climate change plan - developed less than 10 years ago - does not explicitly establish roles for social protection (a) compensation for people affected by shocks, (b) ex-ante support for strengthening household resilience to climate change (c) compensations and social protection contributions linked to the just transition There is a NDC2.0, but it does not establish roles for social protection. The Government is now developing NDC3.0, which will address this link. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p> <p>The strategy, NDC or plan establishes for social protection ONE of the THREE roles mentioned above</p> <p>The strategy, NDC or plan establishes for social protection TWO of the THREE roles mentioned above</p>

¹⁰ Laws, decrees, and resolutions will be taken into account to analyze the regulatory framework.

¹¹ <https://unfccc.int/NDCREG>

	Indicator	Levels
		The strategy, NDC, or plan lays out the THREE roles mentioned above
	<p>Quantifying the costs of adaptive social protection The government has made estimates of the cost of responding to frequent shocks through social protection</p>	<p>The costs of responding to frequent shocks through social protection have not been quantified</p> <p>A quantification exercise was carried out for a single crash and not based on historical data on levels of impact (or based on data from the last 5 years or less) Analysis has been performed based on historical data in the past. The WB conducted such analysis for the GoB in 2017 (Advancing Disaster Risk Finance in Belize report). For each event there is a post-disaster analysis to better understand the cost and benefit required done through a methodology from UNDP. However, this analysis is mainly used for calculating costs for foreign assistance support. Part of this analysis refers to social protection. There is also an internal assessment within the Ministry to evaluate the damage experienced by program beneficiaries. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA, WB Stress Test</p> <p>A quantification exercise was carried out for <u>a single crash</u>, based on historical data on levels of impact from at least the last 5 years</p> <p>At least one quantification exercise was carried out for <u>more than one shock</u>, based on historical data on levels of impact from at least the last 5 years</p> <p>Several quantification exercises have been carried out for more than one shock, based on historical data on levels of impact from at least the last 5 years and climate change models</p>
	<p>Financing social protection responses There are experiences of financing social protection responses to shocks through cash transfers, and it has established protocols.</p>	<p>There are no recent experiences of financing social protection cash transfers to shocks</p> <p>Funding of responses through cash transfers dates back more than 5 years</p> <p>At least one experience of financing social protection cash transfer responses to shocks in the last 5 years</p> <p>At least three experiences of financing social protection cash transfer responses to shocks in the last 5 years Vertical expansion of BOOST; Implementation of BCCAT; Implementaton of H-LAP; H-LRAP (Ministry of Agriculture); Food Assistance Program (FAP) (voucher program). Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p> <p>At least three experiences of financing social protection cash transfer responses to shocks in the last 5 years with pre-established protocols</p>
	<p>Mechanisms for disbursement of contingent funds.</p>	There are no plans to disburse emergency funds through social protection.

	Indicator	Levels
	<p>Mechanisms for the flow and disbursement of contingent funds in the event of emergency response, from the source of origin of the financing to the social protection agency in charge of making the payments.</p>	<p>It is envisaged that emergency funds will be disbursed through social protection for cash transfers, but there are no specially prepared mechanisms.</p> <p>Reallocation of resources : Section 5 of the Disaster Preparedness and Response Act (2000) permits NEMO to independently utilize the services of all public officers. Although the Disaster Preparedness and Response Act provides clear guidelines for initiating the response process and identifies the agencies and individuals responsible for the response, it only vaguely addresses the allocation of financial resources.</p> <p>The 2005 Finance and Audit (Reform) Act regulates revenue, expenditures, and contracts in Belize. Section 5 of the act gives the Minister of Finance authority to appropriate supplementary resources "if the Minister is satisfied that there has arisen an urgent and unforeseen need for expenditure". In extraordinary circumstances, such as the aftermath of natural disasters, these funds are charged to the consolidated revenue fund.</p> <p>Before 2022, NEMO usually received a smaller annual amount (around BZ\$250,000) to cover its general operating costs, with an additional sum of no more than BZ\$300,000 designated for preventive measures related to disasters, such as training, public awareness campaigns, and equipment. However, there was no allocation for disasters in the formal national budget. In the event of a disaster, NEMO assessed the damage and applied for an allocation to cover expenses related the disaster. The Prime Minister approved the allocation, and the MOF could then provide grants or loans to cover expenses related to the disaster. In 2023, NEMO received an allocation of BLZ \$2 million which will be designated for natural disaster response.</p> <p>External financial assistance: Belize has been a member of the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF SPC) since 2007. The insurance has policies for multiple disaster such as hurricanes, excess rainfalls, and earthquakes. The GoB received a pay-out once.</p> <p>The WFP entered into a two-year agreement with the GoB in June 2022 to provide a top-up of US\$100,000 per year towards the premium of the CCRIF Tropical Cyclone and Excess Rainfall Policies for 2022/23 and 2023/24 policy periods.</p> <p>World Bank Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project with a Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) was used during the pandemic to fund BCCAT and BOOST expansion (source of immediate liquidity of USD 30 million (BZ\$ 60.5 million)). (For the vertical expansion of BOOST during the pandemic, there was no pre-established mechanism, timelines, nor a defined strategy for releasing resources during disaster response.)</p> <p>The GoB has a national disaster fund established within the Social Security Board since 2007. This fund allows for immediate available funds for disaster response. The fund receives an annual allocation of BZD150,000 with the remaining balance from the previous year rolling over. This fund has only been tapped sparingly by the GoB, because of limited understanding within the government of how it works and how to access it.</p>

	Indicator	Levels
		<p>WFP top-up to the CCRIG insurance is a step for scaling up ASP response in the country. An option the Ministry is exploring is to establish contingency financing with the Social Security Board (SSB). Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA, WB Stress Test</p> <p>The regulation establishes a mechanism for the disbursement of contingent funds through the social protection agency for cash transfers, but it is not <i>de facto active</i>.</p> <p>The regulation establishes a mechanism for the disbursement of contingent funds through the social protection agency for cash transfers, which could be used, although there are no protocols or experiences in its use.</p> <p>There are mechanisms established in the legislation, with established protocols and that have been used or tested, for the disbursement of contingent funds through the social protection agency for cash transfers.</p>

Info and infrastructure dimension
Total indicators: 8

	Indicator	Levels
	<p>Registries of beneficiaries of the Ministry of Social Protection. Beneficiary (or recipient) registries contain information about individuals or households participating in a social program. This type of registration is used for the implementation of the program and not for its targeting, since they have data only on the participants.</p>	<p>The main social protection programs do not have digital databases, or if they do, they are without software for processing (e.g. Excel)</p> <p>The main social protection program has a digital registry, with software for data processing, but the other programs do not (they have Excel-type digital databases).</p> <p>The beneficiary registries are digital and with software for data processing The Single Information System for Beneficiaries (SISB) is the country's main social registry. It is a National Household Registry that covers 142,998 individuals (= 32.4% of the population). The system is further supported by spreadsheet listing. It was intended to be a single identification system for all social protection programs and services at the time of its design but is principally used by the MHDFIPA for BOOST and the Ministry of Education for the School Subsidy program. The registry is not yet interoperable with other databases of other Ministries, it is however linked internally to the MHDFIPA's case management system (FAMCare). Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p> <p>Beneficiary registries are consolidated into an integrated and interoperable registry</p>

	Indicator	Levels
		Beneficiary registers are consolidated into an integrated and interoperable register, which exchanges data with administrative registers of other ministries
	Social Registration – Coverage Social registries (or recipient registries) contain information about coverage of individuals and households potentially eligible for social programs.	<p>There is no social registry, or if there is one, it has a coverage of < 20% of the national population</p> <p>Coverage of the national population: 20%-40% The SISB currently covers approx. 32.4% of the total population. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p> <p>National population coverage: 40%-60%</p> <p>Coverage of the national population: 60% - 80%</p> <p>Coverage of more than 80% of the national population</p>
	Social Registry - validity. Social records contain recently collected data	<p>There is no social registry</p> <p>> 50% of the records are more than four years old, Updates on people's information are ad-hoc when a client requests a service. More than 50% of the records are older than 4 years old. Only the clients that interact with the Ministry are being updated. The registry is mainly being used for BOOST and public assistance, but data is not automatically updated based on other systems used. During the Covid-29 pandemic, additional people received assistance, but data collected during this process was only partially, and not systematically, integrated into the existing database. Similarly, for each hurricane relief exercise, events are treated as separate. Currently, MHDFIPA is reclassifying its BOOST beneficiaries (about 8000 people have been reclassified so far). Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p> <p>< 50% of the records are more than four years old,</p> <p>< 25% of the records are more than four years old,</p> <p>There are no records more than four years old,</p>
	Beneficiary registration and social registration: geo-referencing. Geo-referencing is used for the planning and implementation of shock responses.	<p>The registry does not have geo-referenced registered households</p> <p>The registry has geo-referenced up to 30% of registered households Not many households are georeferenced. Almost all have address or a village connected to it. The Ministry is updating the geographic information. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p>

	Indicator	Levels
		The registry has geo-referenced up to 60% of registered households
		The registry has geo-referenced up to 80% of registered households
		The registry has geo-referenced virtually all registered households
	<p>Interoperability. It is the ability of information systems to interconnect data and processes through the use of standards and protocols to exchange information within the framework of data protection, ethics and security.¹²</p>	<p>No significant data exchanges</p> <p>Data exchanges every six months or more</p> <p>Data exchanges every less than six months, although without protocols or agreements There are multiple social databases but very little to no integration and communication between different systems within the Ministry, as well as with systems from other Ministries or institutions, such as the Belize Agriculture Information System (BAIMS) and the Social Security Board's (SSB) system). Verification checks with the SSB and the Ministry of Education's School Database are conducted continuously, but there is no unique identification system. Verifications are currently done manually, and the Ministry is looking for a digital process. The Ministry also exchanges data with the MoH, the Police, and the courts. Data sharing protocols are lacking but it is in discussion, especially with regards to the M&E framework of the Ministry. There is a Data Protection Bill from 2014 and a new data privacy law, the Data Protection Act 2021, but no specific protocols for data privacy within the Ministry. Public officials working with the SISB must, however, sign a confidentiality oath to protect the privacy of individuals. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p> <p>Data exchanges every less than six months, based on protocols and agreements and APIs or web services</p> <p>Continuous data exchanges, based on protocols and agreements and APIs or web services</p>
	<p>Data exchange with the Health sector for adaptive social protection. Social protection exchanges data with the health sector Social protection shares and receives data.</p>	<p>The social registry does not share or receive or have developed data on the health sector The social registry does not exchange data with the health sector. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p> <p>The social registry shares or receives data with the health sector every six months or more and without defined protocols or agreements</p> <p>The social registry shares and receives data with the health sector every six months or more and without defined protocols or agreements</p>

¹² The indicator prioritizes periodicity in data analysis. That is, if there are protocols, agreements, etc., but it is every more than 6 months, then the score is 2.

	Indicator	Levels
		<p>The social registry shares and receives data with the health sector every less than six months, based on protocols and agreements.</p> <p>The social registry shares and receives data with the health sector on an ongoing basis based on protocols and agreements and APIs or Web Services.</p>
	<p>Data sharing with entities in charge of risk management, agriculture and climate change. There are frequent exchanges of data (historical and/or projections) on the basis of protocols and agreements.</p> <p>For risk management and climate change entities, historical data and projections on disasters, changes in temperatures, and precipitation are considered. For agricultural entities, for example, records of activities such as agricultural records, fisheries records, are considered.</p>	<p>The social registry does not receive or share data with risk management, agriculture, or climate change entities The social registry does not exchange data with the risk management, agriculture, or climate entities. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p> <p>The social registry shares or receives data with at least 1 of the institutions (specify which one), without defined protocols or agreements, or defined periodicity.</p> <p>The social registry shares or receives data with at least 2 of the entities (specify which ones), without defined protocols or agreements, or defined periodicity.</p> <p>The social registry shares and receives data with at least 2 of the entities (specify which ones), with defined protocols and agreements, and defined periodicity.</p> <p>The social registry shares and receives data with the 3 entities, with defined protocols and agreements, and defined periodicity.</p>
	<p>ICT and hybrid infrastructure and equipment. Technological support that guarantees the operation and stability of the system and data storage (on-premise datacenter / cloud computing)</p>	<p>The infrastructure and equipment is more than 8 years old and has no hardware service guarantee</p> <p>The infrastructure and equipment is between 8 and 6 years old and has no hardware service guarantee</p> <p>The infrastructure and equipment is between 4 and 5 years old and has a hardware service guarantee</p> <p>The infrastructure and equipment is between 2 and 3 years old and has a hardware and technological equipment service guarantee Hardware is up-to-date, software not really. It is more the maintenance of the systems as they are external - that is the main challenge. All systems, servers, PCs, etc. are available. All the data is online. The Central Information Technology Office (CITO) is the one who supports the SISB. FAMCare is from another ACSESS organization, and BOOST is on a laptop. The Ministry is working towards integrating the different databases. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p> <p>The infrastructure and equipment is less than 2 years old and has a guarantee of hardware service, technological equipment and cloud computing storage.</p>

Dimension Management capacity and intersectoral coordination
Total indicators: 8

	Indicator	Levels
	<p>Presence of the cash transfer program in the municipalities. The operational presence of cash transfer programs, either through a national or municipal delegation, or through NGOs, allows us to infer the possibility of expansion in case of emergency.</p>	<p>The program is operational in < 30% of municipalities No specific number available, but coverage is small. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p> <p>The program is operational in < 55% of municipalities</p> <p>The program is operational in < of 75% municipalities</p> <p>The program is operational in < 85% of municipalities</p> <p>Cash transfer programs are implemented in all municipalities</p>
	<p>Functional and technical capabilities of human resources. Training for social protection human resources on risk management and climate change</p>	<p>There is no training programme on risk management and/or climate change applied in the main social protection entities</p> <p>There are one or more training programs on risk management, but there have been no trainings in the last three years and the programs do not specifically address the effects of climate change</p> <p>There are one or more training programs on risk management, there have been trainings in the last three years, although not in all social protection entities and the programs do not specifically address the effects of climate change</p> <p>There are one or more training programs on risk management that specifically include the effects of climate change, there were trainings in the last three years in all social protection entities, response simulation activities were carried out, but mostly at the national level</p> <p>There are one or more training programs on risk management that specifically include the effects of climate change, there were trainings in the last three years in all social protection entities, response simulation activities were carried out, both at the national and local levels There are some trainings but not enough. The Ministry is providing ongoing training on their operations, and this helps for disaster relief. They have conducted emergency exercises and identified important lessons learned to get better on response. However, according to MHDFIPA a lot more training is still required, at the national and local levels. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p>
	<p>Operational coordination mechanisms – at the national level. Participation of the Ministry of Social Protection or related entity in emergency preparedness and response committees (in the humanitarian assistance committee or related)</p>	<p>No risk management system</p> <p>The legislation does not provide for the participation of the national social protection entity in risk management committees on humanitarian assistance/response</p> <p>The legislation does provide for the participation of the national social protection entity in the risk management committees on humanitarian assistance/response, but the committees have little activity (they are only activated during emergencies)</p> <p>The legislation does provide for the participation of the national social protection entity in the risk management committees on humanitarian assistance/response, the committees meet at least</p>

	Indicator	Levels
		<p>once a year – in normal times – for preparatory activities, but the social protection actors do not participate</p> <p>The legislation does provide for the participation of the national social protection entity in the risk management committees on humanitarian assistance/response, the committees meet at least once a year – in normal times – for preparatory activities, and the social protection actors participate regularly</p> <p>The Ministry is part of the RSMC. There is training and simulation exercises. It is however not yet fully operating within the NEMO – the committee for social protection is the most advanced, they have been doing this for the past 20+ years within the Ministry.</p> <p>Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p>
	<p>Operational coordination mechanisms – at the local level.</p> <p>Those responsible for implementing the main social protection programme (preferably cash transfers) at the local level participate in local emergency preparedness and response committees. (Depending on the country, those responsible may belong to a national program or to local governments, among others.)</p>	<p>No local risk management committees (or no active)</p> <p>Local risk management committees are active, but social protection actors are not involved</p> <p>Local risk management committees are active, social protection actors have participated at some point, but they are not regular members</p> <p>Local risk management committees are active and social protection actors are regular members, but the committees' activity during normal times is very limited (they do not meet more than once a year)</p> <p>Local risk management committees are active and social protection actors are regular members. The committees meet several times a year even in normal times.</p> <p>There are 6 district emergency response committees and city emergency management organizations in 2 cities. Ministry is embedded in these committees/organizations at local level and there are MoUs with service providers (access to food, shelter, etc.). The committees meet several times a year, similar to national preparation exercises.</p> <p>Example: operational/preparation exercises for cleaning after floods.</p> <p>Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p>
	<p>Adaptive social protection plans.</p> <p>The ministry of social protection or related entity has contingency plans for shocks, including climate change considerations.</p>	<p>The ministry of social protection or related entity does not have contingency plans for shocks or they are not active (there are no measures or resources allocated for preparedness).</p> <p>The ministry of social protection or related entity has active contingency plans, although only to ensure the operational continuity of the entity and programs, not for responses (e.g. expansions, new programs)</p> <p>There is a multi-hazard plan responsible for maintaining continued support and supporting the committee. However, it exists in theory, but its implementation is more challenging. For example, when hurricane Lisa hit, this plan was not really utilized.</p> <p>Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p> <p>The ministry of social protection or related entity has active contingency plans for the operational continuity of the entity and programs, and for vertical expansions.</p>

	Indicator	Levels
		<p>The ministry of social protection or related entity has active contingency plans for the entity's operational continuity and for shock responses, including vertical expansions, horizontal expansions and/or new programs.</p> <p>The ministry of social protection or related entity has active contingency plans for the entity's operational continuity and for responses to shocks, including expansions, horizontal and/or new programs. These plans are reviewed periodically together with the collaboration of the risk management authority/civil protection/climate change/health to ensure that the plans are permanently updated.</p>
	<p>Joint work instances social protection – civil protection/risk management. Instances of joint work may include trainings, simulations of crisis scenarios, or planning activities</p>	<p>There have been no recent instances of joint work between social protection and civil protection/risk management.</p> <p>There have been instances of joint work between social protection and civil protection/risk management, but more than 5 years ago.</p> <p>There have been instances of joint work, less than 5 years ago, promoted by intentional cooperation.</p> <p>There have been instances of joint work, less than 5 years ago, scheduled by the Government.</p> <p>There was at least one instance of joint work between social protection, civil protection/risk management and climate change in the last 5 years, scheduled by the Government. All relevant entities of the Government form part of the NEMO framework (with SOPs, preparatory meetings, simulation exercises). Frequently done exercises for hurricanes. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p>
	<p>Instances of joint work social protection and climate change. Instances of joint work may include trainings, simulations of crisis scenarios, or planning activities) Climate change entities include, in certain cases, ministries of finance or finance.</p>	<p>There have been no recent instances of joint work between social protection and climate change entities. NDC3.0 will link climate change and social protection for the first time. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p> <p>There have been instances of joint work between social protection and climate change entities, but they have not existed for more than 5 years.</p> <p>There have been instances of joint work between social protection and climate change entities, in the last 5 years, promoted by intentional cooperation.</p> <p>There was at least one instance of joint work between social protection and climate change in the last 5 years, scheduled by the government</p> <p>There was at least one instance of joint work between social protection, civil protection/risk management and climate change in the last 5 years, scheduled by the Government.</p>
	<p>Responses to climate change and/or other types of disasters and emergencies</p>	<p>No vertical or horizontal expansions of social protection programmes in response to shocks</p>

	Indicator	Levels
	Vertical or horizontal expansions or creating programs to respond to shocks	Vertical expansions, horizontal expansions or new emergency programs were created in response to shocks more than 5 years ago.
		Vertical expansions, horizontal expansions or new emergency programs were created, in response to shocks less than 5 years ago (at least one).
		Vertical or horizontal expansions were carried out or new emergency programs were created, in response to shocks less than 5 years ago: at least one response to a climatic event.
		Vertical and horizontal expansions were carried out or new emergency programs were created, in response to shocks less than 5 years ago: more than one response to a climatic event. As a response to the Hurricane Lisa: Creation of H-LAP (MHSSS) and H-LRAP (Ministry of Agriculture), Creation of BCCAT and horizontal expansion of BOOST during Covid, Horizontal expansion during forest fires in 2024. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA

Dimension Citizen Access Points
Total indicators: 8

	Indicator	Levels
	Mechanisms for collecting information for the social registry. Mechanisms for collecting information on demand and with more alternatives are more suitable for emergencies.	There is no social registry or it is in disuse.
		The only way to collect data for the social registry is with census sweeps.
		People can update their data at local offices, but more than 70% of current records come from the last census sweep
		There is a combination of mechanisms that includes: i) census sweeps, ii) updating via local offices or online, and iii) via other administrative databases. But more than 40% of current records have information collected only with census sweeps.
		There is a combination of mechanisms that includes: i) census sweeps, ii) updating via local offices or online, and iii) via other administrative databases. Less than 40% of current records have information collected solely with census sweeping. It is a combination. Data is mostly updated in the local offices and some census data and administrative databases are also used. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA
	Mechanisms for collecting information during emergencies.	There are no mechanisms to collect information from all affected households

	Indicator	Levels
	<p>Through damage assessments or emergency files, information is collected on affected households. This information allows the targeting of the social protection response.</p>	<p>Mechanisms exist, but the ability to collect information quickly and on a large scale is very limited</p> <p>There are mechanisms and the capacity to collect information quickly and on a large scale, but the questionnaire questions were not designed to inform social protection response</p> <p>There are mechanisms and the capacity to collect information quickly and on a large scale, and the questionnaire questions were designed to inform the response to social protection</p> <p>There are mechanisms and the capacity to collect information quickly and on a large scale, the questionnaire questions were designed to inform the social protection response, and the social protection entity has access to the resulting database HLAP: Ad-hoc registration based on the RSMC needs assessment (digital data collection tool KOBO).</p> <p>BOOST: The SISB was used for Covid-19 response (BOOST vertical expansion); BCCAT: Based on PMT utilized by SISB, and categorical eligibility criteria (no beneficiary of Unemployment Relief program, BOOST, FAP; at least 1 household member of Belizean citizenship). Information from FAP enrollment and other pools of potential beneficiaries was leveraged. Phone calls were conducted to collect information; RSMC allows for quick collection and at large scale, assessment is almost automatic after activation of committees (this is the main tool, other tools need to be adjusted). The assessment doesn't collect income data but level of damage, demographic characteristics, household composition, etc. Ministry manages data collection and has responsibility. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p>
	<p>Registration mechanisms for the main cash transfer programme. Digital mechanisms give greater scope to the programs.</p>	<p>No cash transfer program</p> <p>Registration is in person BOOST: Physical walk-ins to the Ministry's offices, either due to referrals by social workers, Ministry staff, political area representatives, etc. or self-selection. The digital process still requires people to come to the office. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p> <p>Registration is face-to-face and digital, but through a single digital mechanism</p> <p>Registration is face-to-face and digital with a wide variety of digital mechanisms (social networks, WhatsApp, website, etc.), but more than 60% of registrations are made in person.</p> <p>Registration is face-to-face and digital with a wide variety of digital mechanisms (social networks, WhatsApp, website, etc.) and/or automatic, and more than 40% of registrations are made digitally and/or automatically.</p>
	<p>Periodicity of the main cash transfer program enrollment events. Continuous mechanisms give</p>	<p>No cash transfer program</p>

	Indicator	Levels
	more flexibility to programs.	<p>Registration is for events that occur less than once a year</p> <p>Registration is for events that occur at least once a year, although without a set periodicity or with significant delays</p> <p>Registration is for events that occur at least once a year, with a schedule set and followed</p> <p>Registration is continuous Enrollment is continuous. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p>
	<p>Delivery of cash transfers. Digital delivery mechanisms give more flexibility.</p>	<p>There is no cash transfer program with relevant coverage (at least 5% of the population) Coverage does not reach 5%. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA and see Indicator 41</p> <p>Most of the program's transfers are made in one of the following ways: i) manual delivery of cash, ii) withdrawals in banks or other entities (without an account), iii) checks, iv) coupons</p> <p>Some beneficiaries receive the transfer electronically, but the majority (>50%) of transfers are made in one of the following ways: i) manual delivery of cash, ii) withdrawals in banks or other entities (without an account), iii) checks, iv) coupons</p> <p>>50% and <90% of the program's transfers are made electronically: via i) bank account, ii) mobile telephony, iii) prepaid cards</p> <p>More than 90% of transfers are delivered electronically: via i) bank account, ii) mobile telephony, iii) prepaid cards</p>
	<p>Cash transfer delivery mechanism prepared to respond to emergencies. The delivery mechanism is set to expand vertically and/or horizontally in response to emergencies</p>	<p>There is no cash transfer program with relevant coverage (at least 5% of the population) or there are no plans to use the payment mechanism to respond to emergencies (vertical or horizontal expansions) Coverage does not reach 5%. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA and see Indicator 41</p> <p>The authorities believe that the payment mechanism could be used to respond to emergencies (vertical or horizontal expansions), but no preparedness measures have been taken</p> <p>The payment mechanism has been prepared to respond to emergencies (vertical or horizontal expansions): there are protocols, agreements with service providers, the IT platform has been adapted, there are alternative payment mechanisms (only one of these measures implemented)</p> <p>The payment mechanism has been prepared to respond to emergencies (vertical or horizontal expansions): there are protocols, agreements with service providers, the IT platform has been adapted, there are alternative payment mechanisms (2 of these measures implemented)</p> <p>The payment mechanism has been prepared to respond to emergencies (vertical or horizontal expansions): there are protocols, agreements with service providers, the IT platform has been adapted, there are alternative payment mechanisms (3 of these measures implemented)</p>

	Indicator	Levels
	<p>Grievance mechanisms of the main cash transfer program. Grievance and grievance mechanism is poised to expand in response to emergencies</p>	<p>There is no cash transfer program with relevant coverage (at least 5% of the population), or if there is, it does not have an active grievance and grievance mechanism Coverage does not reach 5%. BOOST beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries can visit the Ministry's offices to inquire about payments and eligibility and appeal decisions. BCCAT implemented various GRM channels (hotlines, walk-ins, email). Grievances and complaints were categorized as FAQ or escalated to higher levels, and service agents were trained accordingly. HLAP implemented a complaints hotline at DigiWallet and the Ministry. Both entities could be reached through phone, WhatsApp, or Facebook. RSMC: Some informal mechanisms for individuals to appeal the decision for support (walk-ins or phone). The Ministry is starting the process of wider GRM to be used for emergency response (based on lessons learned from all the mechanisms that have been implemented). Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA and see Indicator 41</p> <p>The cash transfer program's grievance mechanism has not been prepared for emergencies and was not used</p> <p>The cash transfer program's grievance mechanism has not been prepared for emergencies, but it was used in some recent responses</p> <p>The cash transfer program's grievance mechanism has been prepared for emergencies (e.g., there are grievance and grievance channels about extraordinary emergency response benefits) and has been used recently.</p> <p>The cash transfer program's grievance mechanism has been prepared for emergencies (e.g., there are grievance and grievance channels about extraordinary emergency response benefits) and the information collected is used for the continuous improvement of the shock-responsive social protection system</p>
	<p>Communication Strategy / Awareness There is an awareness-raising and communication strategy for households and communities on shock preparedness and response measures, including information on adaptive social protection</p>	<p>There is no awareness/communication strategy, or it exists, but it has not been put into practice Under the framework of NEMO, there is a communication national response action plan, especially for hurricane response. However, there is no preparation for other shocks. For instance, during a Tsunami warning, relevant agencies were not prepared, same happens for droughts. There are no communication strategies for existing programs: There is no comprehensive communication strategy for the BOOST program. However, during past shock response, the Ministry has utilized various channels and methods of communication based on the specific needs of the program and its beneficiaries but focused on shock response only. BOOST vertical expansion and BCCAT: information regarding difference between programs, delivery mechanism, important dates, eligibility criteria, GRM, etc. through brochures, flyers, social media, and radio. First announcement through Government press office. HLAP: SMS, phone, flyers, posters, social media, orientation sessions on the program and DigiWallet, and home visits.</p>

	Indicator	Levels
		Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA and WB Stress Test
		There is an awareness-raising/communication strategy, which has been implemented only in some municipalities of the country.
		There is an awareness-raising/communication strategy, it has been implemented in all municipalities, but ad hoc - without a systematic implementation scheme.
		There is an awareness-raising/communication strategy, it has been implemented in all municipalities of the country in a systematic way at least once a year, but it does not include information on adaptive social protection.
		An awareness-raising/communication strategy has been systematically implemented, and includes information on adaptive social protection.

Coverage dimension and adaptation of services and programs

Total indicators: 13

#	Indicator	Levels
40	<p>Coverage of the social protection system for people in poverty (including contributory and non-contributory social protection programs)¹³</p> <p>Note: Poverty data at the national level are included.</p>	<p>The coverage of social protection programmes (contributory and non-contributory) reaches 20% of the population in poverty 3.3% in 2020 (ILO) https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer/?lang=en&id=SDG_0131_SEX_SOC_RT_A</p> <p>The coverage of social protection programmes (contributory and non-contributory) reaches 40% of the population in poverty</p> <p>The coverage of social protection programmes (contributory and non-contributory) reaches 60% of the population in poverty</p> <p>The coverage of social protection programmes (contributory and non-contributory) reaches 80% of the population living in poverty</p> <p>The coverage of social protection programmes (contributory and non-contributory) exceeds 80% of the population in poverty</p>

¹³ https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer/?lang=en&id=SDG_0131_SEX_SOC_RT_A.

#	Indicator	Levels
41	<p>Coverage of cash transfer programs. Conditional and unconditional programmes cover, in total, a large percentage of the population, which allows them to be used for responses.</p> <p>Note: All persons who inhabit the household are considered</p>	<p>The total coverage of the programs is <10% of the national population Most likely below 10%. There are 2245 households that receive the BOOST program. Considering an average household number of 3.6 persons (https://sib.org.bz/wp-content/uploads/CensusLaunch2022.pdf), and a total population size of 417,072 (as of 2024) (Belize Population (2025) - Worldometer), this represents about 1.9%. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA and documents cited</p>
		The total coverage of the programs is 10%-20% of the national population
		The total coverage of the programmes is 20%-35% of the national population
		The total coverage of the programmes is 35%-50% of the national population
		The total coverage of the programs is >50% of the national population
42	<p>Cash transfers – transfer value¹⁴ Value of the monthly cash transfer of the main non-contributory cash transfer program, with respect to the poverty line.</p>	The value of the monthly cash transfer represents up to 10% of the poverty line
		<p>The value of the monthly cash transfer represents up to 20% of the poverty line The BOOST cash transfer is Belize's main non-contributory cash transfer program. The amount of the monthly payment depends on the purpose/modality. It is BZD100 in the case of the program for older persons and between BZD44 and 88 in the case of support for families with children (depending on school grade of students). As of 2024, the poverty line is BZD7961 (annual), according to information from the Statistics Institute. The cash transfer amount therefore represents up to 15% (min. 6%, max. 15%). Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA, also see https://sib.org.bz/wp-content/uploads/PovertyStudy2018.pdf</p>
		The value of the monthly cash transfer represents up to 30% of the poverty line
		The value of the monthly cash transfer represents up to 40% of the poverty line
		The value of the monthly cash transfer represents more than 40% of the poverty line

¹⁴The national poverty line and per capita values are considered.

#	Indicator	Levels
43	Transfer for households with children ¹⁵ Proportion of children/households receiving cash benefits per child/family in the total number of households with children.	Coverage of child benefit programmes reaches less than 10 per cent of the population with children 3% in 2021 (ILO) https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer/?lang=en&id=SDG_0131_SEX_SOC_RT_A
		The coverage of the cash benefit programmes for children reaches up to 20% of the population with children
		Coverage of child benefit programmes reaches up to 35 per cent of the population with children
		The coverage of the cash benefit programs for children reaches up to 65% of the population with children
		Coverage of child cash benefit programmes exceeds 65 per cent of the population with children
44	Social protection programmes – women beneficiaries Percentage of women who receive cash transfers from the main social protection programme. Applies to the main programme of the Ministry of Social Protection	25% of the beneficiaries (main recipient) of the main cash transfer program are women
		45 per cent of the beneficiaries (main recipient) of the main cash transfer programme are women.
		65% of the beneficiaries (main recipient) of the main cash transfer program are women 56% of the BOOST recipients are female according to information from the MHDFIPA.
		85% of the beneficiaries (main recipient) of the main cash transfer program are women
		More than 85 per cent of the beneficiaries (main recipient) of the main cash transfer programme are women
45	HCP programmes with complementary	There is no social protection program (cash transfers, public jobs, productive inclusion) that includes conditionalities or complementary measures for resilience to CC There is no program with such conditionalities or complementary measures. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA

¹⁵ https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer/?lang=en&id=SDG_0131_SEX_SOC_RT_A

#	Indicator	Levels
	<p>measures Based on the indicative list¹⁶ of activities to promote resilience to Climate Change,</p> <p>This indicator applies only to the programs of the main ministry of non-contributory social protection.</p>	<p>There is a pilot SP program (coverage < 1% of the target population) with 1 conditionality or complementary measure for resilience to CC</p> <p>There is a pilot SP program (coverage < 1% of the target population) with at least 2 complementary measures or conditionality for resilience to CC</p> <p>There is a HCP program with 1 conditionality or complementary measure for resilience to CC that is implemented at scale (coverage > 1% of the target population)</p> <p>There is a HCP program with at least 2 complementary measures or conditionalities for resilience to CC that is implemented at scale (coverage > 1% of the target population)</p>
46	<p>Unemployment Insurance¹⁷ Ratio of recipients of monetary unemployment benefits to the number of unemployed</p>	<p>Unemployment insurance coverage reaches less than 5% of the unemployed population 0% in 2022 (ILO) https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer/?lang=en&id=SDG_0131_SEX_SOC_RT_A</p> <p>Unemployment insurance coverage reaches 10% of the unemployed population</p> <p>Unemployment insurance coverage reaches 30% of the unemployed population</p> <p>Unemployment insurance coverage reaches 50% of the unemployed population</p> <p>Unemployment insurance coverage exceeds 50% of the unemployed population</p>
47	<p>Pensions for the elderly¹⁸ Relationship between people who receive a</p>	<p>Coverage of retirement programs reaches 20% of the population of retirement age</p> <p>Coverage of retirement programs reaches 40% of the population of retirement age 37.5% in 2021 (ILO) https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer/?lang=en&id=SDG_0131_SEX_SOC_RT_A</p>

¹⁶ i) environmental conditionalities (zero deforestation, preservation or restoration of ecosystems), ii) support for the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices (agroforestry, low-carbon agriculture), iii) support for the diversification of less climate-sensitive livelihoods (agricultural or non-agricultural). Complementary measures usually include training, asset transfers, technical advice, among others

¹⁷ https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer/?lang=en&id=SDG_0131_SEX_SOC_RT_A

¹⁸ https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer/?lang=en&id=SDG_0131_SEX_SOC_RT_A

#	Indicator	Levels
	pension and the number of people who exceed the legal retirement age (including contributory and non-contributory people).	Coverage of retirement programs reaches 60% of the population of retirement age
		Coverage of retirement programs reaches 80% of the population of retirement age
		Coverage of retirement programs exceeds 80% of the population of retirement age
48	Coverage of services of pre-primary education programs. ¹⁹ Net enrollment rate for pre-primary educational programs (3-5 years)	The net enrollment rate for pre-primary education programs is less than or equal to 30%
		The net enrollment rate for pre-primary education programs is greater than 30% and less than or equal to 50%
		According to UNESCO, in 2023, the net enrollment rate for pre-primary was 32.61. https://databrowser.uis.unesco.org/view#hs=&geoMode=countries&geoUnits=BLZ%2CCRI%2CGTM%2CHND%2CNIC%2CPAN%2CSLV%2CARG%2CBOL%2CBRA%2CBRB%2CCHL%2CCOL%2CDOM%2CECU%2CJAM%2CMEX%2CPER%2CPRY%2CSUR%2CTTO%2CURY%2CGUY&timeMode=range&view=table&chartMode=multiple&chartHighlightSeries=&chartHighlightEnabled=true&indicatorPaths=UIS-SDG4Monitoring%3A0%3ANER.02.CP&tableIndicatorId=NER.02.CP&years=2015%2C2025
		The net enrollment rate for pre-primary education programs is greater than 50% and less than or equal to 70%
		The net enrollment rate for pre-primary education programs is greater than 70% and less than or equal to 90%
		The net enrollment rate for pre-primary education programs is greater than 90%
49	Early Childhood and Climate Change Early childhood care services adopt adaptation measures to the effects of climate	Early childhood care services do not have climate change adaptation measures
		Early childhood care services implemented only one of the following types of climate change adaptation measures: (i) Use of climate data (historical and projections) for the design, targeting or monitoring of early childhood care programmes and services ii) Response protocols for climatic events iii) Training of caregivers to act in the context of extreme weather events (heat wave, drought,

¹⁹ <https://databrowser.uis.unesco.org/>

#	Indicator	Levels
	change	<p>flood) (iv) Investments in climate-resilient infrastructure (for early childhood care centres, for example) The only measure are the response protocols for climate events. Additional information: There are 24 centers registered countrywide. The Central Building Authority advises on the structure of buildings, but the childcare buildings in use have initially not been designed for childcare services. The Government has recently developed a model for early childhood centers. Moreover, NEMO does assessments of all residential facilities for children and this information is then used to find alternatives for housing/social care, but there is no use of historical data or projections. Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p> <p>Same as the previous one but two types of measures</p> <p>Same as the previous one but the three types of measures</p> <p>Same as the previous one but the four types of measures</p>
50	Coverage of care services for older adults²⁰ Coverage for functionally dependent seniors receiving state-funded care services	<p>The coverage of care services reaches 1% of elderly people with functional dependency Study estimates towards 0%.</p> <p>Source: Study results used for this indicator (Aranco et al. (2022). Aging in Latin America and the Caribbean)</p> <p>The coverage of care services reaches 5% of elderly people with functional dependence</p> <p>The coverage of care services reaches 10% of elderly people with functional dependence</p> <p>The coverage of care services reaches 20% of elderly people with functional dependency</p> <p>The coverage of care services reaches more than 20% of elderly people with functional dependence</p>
51	Older Adults and Climate Change Care services for older adults adopt measures to	<p>Care services for older adults do not have climate change adaptation measures</p> <p>Care services for older adults implemented only one of the following types of climate change adaptation measures: i) Use of climate data (historical or projections) for the design, targeting or monitoring of care</p>

²⁰ The information to determine the level comes from the data expressed in the following paper: Aranco et al: Aging in Latin America and the Caribbean Social Protection and Quality of Life of Older Persons, IDB, 2022

#	Indicator	Levels
	<p>adapt to the effects of climate change</p>	<p>programmes and services</p> <p>ii) Response protocols for climatic events</p> <p>iii) Training of caregivers to act in the context of extreme weather events (heat wave, drought, flood)</p> <p>(iv) Investments in climate-resilient infrastructure (for long-term care facilities, for example)</p> <p>There are response protocols in place (for example, for hurricanes) and each facility will soon have a multi-hazard response plan.</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Facilities for older persons are owned by the Ministry and located in areas that are less exposed to extreme weather events, and measures, such as the adjustment of the temperature in the buildings to the older persons needs are in place. NEMO does assessments of the facilities and there are also inspections for facility licenses.</p> <p>Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p> <p>Same as the previous one but two types of measures</p> <p>Same as the previous one but the three types of measures</p> <p>Same as the previous one but the four types of measures</p>
52	<p>Disability and Climate Change</p> <p>Care services for people with disabilities adopt adaptation measures to the effects of climate change</p>	<p>Care services for people with disabilities do not have climate change adaptation measures</p> <p>Current facilities that provide services to persons with disabilities do not yet have adaptation measures to climate change.</p> <p>The Government has recently passed the Disability Legislation, and facilities will need to make adjustments according to this new legislation.</p> <p>Source: Interviews with MHDFIPA</p> <p>Care services for persons with disabilities implemented only one of the following types of adaptation measures to the effects of climate change:</p> <p>i) Use of climate data (historical or projections) for the design, targeting or monitoring of programmes or services</p> <p>ii) Response protocols for climatic events</p> <p>iii) Training of caregivers to act in the context of extreme weather events (heat wave, drought, flood)</p> <p>(iv) Investments in climate-resilient infrastructure (for long-term care facilities, for example)</p> <p>Same as the previous one but two types of measures</p> <p>Same as the previous one but the three types of measures</p>

#	Indicator	Levels
		Same as the previous one but the four types of measures

Informed Social Protection Dimension

Total indicators: 8

	Indicator	Levels
53	Use of records to inform preparatory actions. Data from beneficiary registries or the social registry are used to inform preparedness actions for future shock responses	Beneficiary or social registries have not been used for risk and disaster preparedness actions For the Hurricane Lisa response, a new list of beneficiaries was used. There is no process, but the Ministry is in conversation with WFP for anticipatory action. Currently, lessons learned rather than beneficiary or social registry data as such is used to inform actions.
		Beneficiary or social records were used only once to inform preparatory actions (e.g., mapping of the most vulnerable households and their exposure to disaster risk zones)
		Beneficiary or social registries were used more than once to inform preparatory actions (e.g., mapping of the most vulnerable households and their exposure to disaster risk zones)
		Beneficiary or social registries were used more than once to inform preparatory actions based on pre-existing protocols
		Beneficiary or social registers were combined with risk management registers and were used more than once to inform preparatory actions based on pre-existing protocols
	Social Record: Use for shock exposure indices. Social registry data can be inputs for indices that measure or predict the exposure of the most vulnerable households to shocks	Does not exist or is in disuse
		There is a social registry but there is no established index that measures the exposure of households in the registry to shocks No index available.
		There is a social registry and an index that measures the exposure of households in the registry to a single shock
		The index measures the exposure of households in the registry to more than one shock
		Social registry data is used to model and forecast the effects of potential future shocks
	Beneficiary Records: Use for Responses. Data from beneficiary registries can be used for targeting vertical expansions or the implementation of new programs.	Data from beneficiary registries was never used to report responses to shocks
		Data from beneficiary registries were used to report responses to shocks at times, although not for vertical expansions

	Indicator	Levels
		<p>A beneficiary registry was used only once to inform the targeting of a vertical expansion in response to a large-scale shock (e.g. natural disaster, pandemic, migration), on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis – without pre-established protocols or processes</p> <p>Vertical expansion of BOOST and creation of BCCAT during Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>On more than one occasion, a registry of beneficiaries was used to inform the targeting of vertical expansions in response to large-scale shocks (e.g. natural disaster, pandemic, migration), in an <i>ad hoc</i> manner – without pre-established protocols or processes</p> <p>It was used more than once to inform the targeting of vertical expansions in responses to large-scale shocks (e.g. natural disaster, pandemic, migration). There are pre-established protocols and processes.</p>
	<p>Social Registration: Use for Responses. Data from the social registry can be used to target horizontal expansions or the implementation of new programs.</p>	<p>Does not exist or is in disuse</p> <p>It has never been used to inform the targeting of responses to large-scale shocks (e.g. natural disaster, pandemic, migration)</p> <p>It was used only once to inform the targeting of a response to a large-scale shock (e.g. natural disaster, pandemic, migration), on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis – without pre-established protocols or processes</p> <p>In 2020, the MHDFIPA created the Belize Covid-19 cash transfer program (BCCAT), with the support of the World Bank. During the implementation of BCCAT, the BOOST PMT and information systems were used to determine eligibility for the program. There were no pre-established protocols or processes.</p> <p>It was used more than once to inform the targeting of responses to large-scale shocks (e.g. natural disaster, pandemic, migration), on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis – without pre-established protocols or processes</p> <p>It was used more than once to inform the targeting of responses to large-scale shocks (e.g. natural disaster, pandemic, migration). There are pre-established protocols and processes.</p>
	<p>Social Registry and Climate Information The social registry is complemented by climate data (data on temperatures, rainfall patterns, and climate events and disasters linked to climate change such as storms, droughts, floods, among others), which inform the design and implementation of social programs.</p>	<p>There is no social registry or it is not fed by climate information</p> <p>The social registry is not complemented with climate information.</p> <p>The social registry is nourished by historical climate information</p> <p>The social registry is nourished by historical climate information and climate change projections</p> <p>The social registry is nourished by historical climate information and projections and this information is used for the production of indices and risk maps (or other methodologies)</p> <p>The social registry is fed by historical climate information and projections and that information is used for the production of indices and risk maps (or other methodologies) and were used to inform the design or implementation of at least one social protection program</p>

	Indicator	Levels
	<p>Use of climate information Non-contributory social protection program uses climate information for its design and implementation. It also includes energy use information to inform just transition strategies and offsets for the elimination of energy subsidies. It includes both actually active and contingent programmes.</p>	<p>The programs did not use historical data or climate projections to inform their design Historical data or climate projections are not used for their design.</p> <p>At least one program used historical climate data to inform its design (e.g., where to implement the program, what assistance to offer, flexible development of long-term resilience strategies)</p> <p>At least one program used historical climate data and projections to inform its design (e.g., where to implement the program, what assistance to offer, flexible development of long-term resilience strategies)</p> <p>In addition to the previous point, this data is used to inform the implementation of the program</p> <p>Same as above but applied to more than one program</p>
	<p>Use of data generated by early warning systems The early warning system is used to trigger responses.</p>	<p>Early warning system not used to trigger social protection responses</p> <p>The early warning system has been used to activate adaptive social protection responses to a single shock, although not automatically: the authorities decide to activate the response based on the alerts.</p> <p>The early warning system was used to activate adaptive social protection responses to more than one shock, although not automatically: the authorities decide to activate the response based on the alerts.</p> <p>The early warning system was used to activate adaptive social protection responses to more than one shock, some in automatic mode and others in manual/discretionary mode. The Ministry used the existing early warning system (hurricane early warning from NEMO) to trigger the social protection response to shocks (through the RSMC). The Hurricane Phases (4 Phases) is one way of activation and warning. There are flood level warnings and triggers engaged through the Hydrology and Meteorology Services. Specific to CCRIF, there are thresholds established that trigger the CCRIF SP Policy for excess rainfall and tropical cyclone. As part of the design of the CCRIF, if the threshold for payout is triggered, then the funding for social protection will be initiated (25% of the overall payout goes to social protection). However, the excess rainfall or tropical cyclone has not been triggered yet through the CCRIF as the threshold was not hit. For example, the Hurricane Lisa Cash Assistance program was done outside of the CCRIF triggers. Some of the responses are triggered automatically, while in others it is more discretionarily. Now, for the first time, Belize will look at a comprehensive National Early Warning System (inclusive of social protection pieces) that will cover multiple hazards and is fully coordinated.</p> <p>The early warning system was used to activate adaptive social protection responses to more than one shock, automatically.</p>
	<p>Monitoring and evaluation system of the main cash transfer program.</p>	<p>There is no cash transfer program with relevant coverage (at least 5% of the population), or if there is, it does not have an active monitoring and evaluation system</p>

	Indicator	Levels
	The monitoring and evaluation system is prepared for emergency response	Coverage does not reach 5%.
		The cash transfer program's monitoring and evaluation system has not been prepared for emergencies and was not used
		The Cash Transfer Program Evaluation and Monitoring System has not been prepared for emergencies, but was used in some recent responses
		The monitoring and evaluation system of the cash transfer program has been prepared for emergencies and there are special reports and indicators for emergencies (measurement of response time, measurement of the quality of vertical and/or horizontal expansion)
		The monitoring and evaluation system of the cash transfer program has been prepared for emergencies, there are special reports and indicators for emergencies (measurement of response time, measurement of the quality of vertical and/or horizontal expansion) and the findings of the monitoring reports are used to take measures for continuous improvement of the shock-responsive social protection system.