

# EnGenDER Climate Resilience

## Analysis: Belize



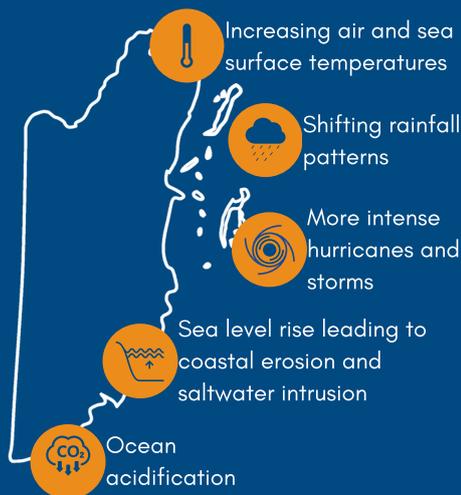
**EnGenDER**  
Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery,  
Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean

A gender-based climate resilience analysis was undertaken from September 2020 to April 2021 in Belize under the Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean (EnGenDER) Project. The project is led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and funded by Global Affairs Canada and the United Kingdom Government. Its overall goal is to enhance gender-responsive climate and disaster resilience in the Caribbean.

The analysis focused on existing gender and social inequities, how climate change will impact on and shape the vulnerabilities among men, women, boys and girls and key vulnerable groups (e.g. elderly, indigenous communities), and key gaps and opportunities to mainstream gender in three priority areas in Belize:

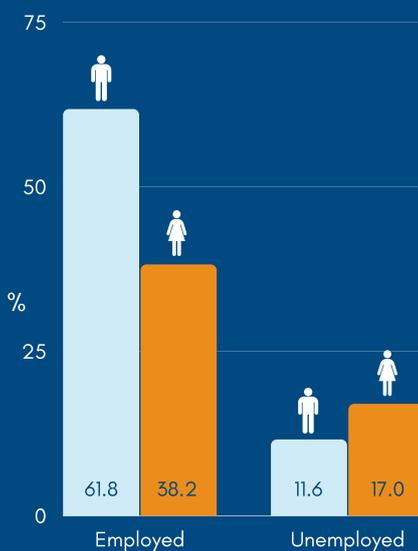
- Agriculture
- Coastal Zone and Communities
- Water

### Belize's economy and priority sectors are extremely vulnerable to Climate Change



The majority of Belize's population and built infrastructure is located in the coastal zone and will be significantly impacted by sea level rise. Hurricanes, storms and storm surges will further impact coastal communities, and disrupt key economic sectors and livelihoods based on agriculture and tourism. Warmer and drier conditions, along with saltwater intrusion, will decrease crop and fisheries productivity and access to clean water and sanitation affecting both food and water security.

Total Belize labour force  
September 2020



While men, women, boys and girls are all at risk from climate change, gender inequalities exist. Labour force data indicates women have lower employment rates, and undertake a disproportionate amount of unpaid care work. Women and children in their care therefore are among the most income poor and vulnerable to shocks, especially in remote rural and indigenous communities. Youth also have much lower employment rates, and male youth are more likely engaged in crime and violence, increasing their risk of poverty and vulnerability.

For more information:

<https://www.bb.undp.org/content/barbados/en/home/projects/EnGenDER.html>

# Progress and Gaps

Belize has integrated gender concerns into national and sectoral policies, including the National Climate Change Policy, Strategy, and Action Plan and National Adaptation Plan for Agriculture and Water as it relates to Agriculture, and recent project interventions. There is also a revised National Gender Policy focused on health, education and skills training, employment generation, gender-based violence, and inclusive decision-making. Key gaps remain, however, including:



Lack of gender-disaggregated data to fully account for the differential vulnerabilities of men, women and key vulnerable groups



Limited gender-responsive budgeting to support coordinated and effective action on gender



High poverty rates and limited access to social protection which increases vulnerability to climate hazards

## Recommendations

### Agriculture

- Promote gender-responsive value chain analysis and development to increase the participation of women in the more lucrative aspects of agriculture and fisheries value chains
- Improve young men's and young women's access to employment in emerging markets in agriculture and coastal-based activities, including better access to finance and training in business development and climate-smart practices

### Coastal zone

- Invest in sustainable and climate-smart infrastructure along the coastline to support adaptation and mitigation within coastal communities

### Water

- Promote gender-responsive awareness and education on water management and storage to encourage sustainable water management and resilience at the household and community levels

### Cross cutting

- Improve the collection, analysis and reporting of gender-disaggregated data on how men and women participate in the priority areas to inform planning and implementation
- Implement gender-responsive budgeting to enhance public sector investment and interventions to mainstream gender and build climate resilience
- Strengthen social protection systems and ensure they are gender-responsive and target those most in need

