

## ABSTRACTO DE COOPERACIÓN TÉCNICA

### I. Información Básica del Proyecto

|   |  |
|---|--|
| ▪ País/Región:  | BELICE/CID - Istmo y RD  |
| ▪ Nombre de la CT:  | Plataformas de innovación para el impacto social y económico en Belice   |
| ▪ Número de CT:   | BL-T1119   |
| ▪ Jefe de Equipo/Miembros:  | SOLIS AHUMADA, GALILEO HUMBERTO (IFD/CTI) Team Leader; KING, DANA MICHAEL (IFD/ICS) Alternate Team Leader; GRANT, KAYLA SHAREE (IFD/CTI); KELLY CASTILLO, EMILY LETICIA (IFD/CTI); CANETE BENITEZ, SANTIAGO NICOLAS (IFD/CTI); GUAIPATIN, CARLOS (IFD/CTI); VICENTINI, ISABEL CRISTINA (IFD/CTI); BERTRAND, ANNIE (IFD/CTI); PINELO LEE, MARILYN SUZETTE (GRU/CBL) |
| ▪ Taxonomía:  | Client Support   |
| ▪ Número y nombre de la operación que apoyará la CT:                      | N/A  |
| ▪ Fecha del Abstracto de CT:  | 08 Apr 2019  |
| ▪ Beneficiario:   | Belize   |
| ▪ Agencia Ejecutora:  | INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK  |
| ▪ Financiamiento solicitado del BID:                                      | \$ 300,000.00  |
| ▪ Contrapartida Local:  | \$ 0.00  |
| ▪ Periodo de Desembolso:  | 24 months  |
| ▪ Tipos de consultores:   | Individuos; Empresas   |
| ▪ Unidad Responsable de Preparación:                                      | División de Competitividad, Tecnología e Innovación  |
| ▪ Unidad Responsable de Desembolso:                                       | Sector de Instituciones Para el Desarrollo   |
| ▪ CT incluida en la Estrategia de País (s/n):                             | No   |
| ▪ CT incluida en CPD (s/n):   | Sí   |
| ▪ Alineación a la Actualización de la Estrategia Institucional 2010-2020: | Inclusión social e igualdad; Productividad e innovación  |

### II. Objetivos y Justificación de la CT

- 2.1 El objetivo general de esta CT es fortalecer el ecosistema empresarial y de innovación para respaldar el desarrollo de soluciones innovadoras que tengan un impacto social positivo al abordar las necesidades desatendidas de las comunidades vulnerables (replicación en el país del I-Lab).
- 2.2 Similar to other developing countries, Belize experiences social problems that impact its capacity for growth. As an example, crime and violence reduces firm competitiveness, negatively impacts productivity, and leads to loss of skilled and educated citizens (Ruprah & Sutton, 2017). A little over 50% of Belizean firms indicate that crime, theft, and disorder are an obstacle to doing business whilst approximately 70% of businesses spent money on security (PROTEqIN Survey, 2014). As a small country with a population of only 385,854 people (July 2018 est), Belize's prison population rate in 2017 was 356 out of 100,000 persons (compared to the worldwide mid-point of 145 in the UK and the global high of 724 in the US). Factors such as poverty (approximately 41% of the country's small population lives below the poverty line), inequality (as measured by the Gini coefficient, rose from 0.40 in 2002 to 0.53 in 2013), and gender (the intersection of masculinity issues related to gang violence and gender based violence) contribute to the challenge of crime.

- 2.3 The IDB's experience with the i-Lab methodology suggests that pervasive social problems can become a powerful motivator for innovative solutions, as they pose complex design challenges that require inter-disciplinary teams. Vulnerable communities, including women and youth that have first-hand information about the social problems, are included within the innovation process. Public and private actors in the entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem that have important knowledge of the most pressing problems are also consulted and given the right incentives and capacity development support to develop tailor-made, innovative solutions.
- 2.4 Adoption of the i-Lab methodology could help strengthen Belize's budding eco-system of support for entrepreneurship and innovation. Though the country has made progressive steps, Belize's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem is in its early stages. Additional support, such as capacity building and a widely supported country level strategy for innovation, is required to encourage increased innovation outputs. A recent IDB and Compete Caribbean financed conference on "Toward Exponential Growth in Belize" revealed both the private and public's sector's great interest and demand for strengthening the innovation ecosystem.
- 2.5 This TC aims to promote an inclusive innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem that supports actors to (i) discover and prioritize social problems; (ii) generate innovative solutions with high social impact; (iii) strengthen public sector institutions to lead the replication of the I-Lab approach to social innovation; (iv) build innovation talent within the public and private sector to develop innovative solutions; and (v) develop an innovation roadmap and pact to strengthen the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem for developing solutions.
- 2.6 The project supports: (i) the Updated 2019 IDB Country Strategy for Belize (GN-2948) in promoting private sector development (ii) priorities defined in the Innovation, Science and Technology Sector Framework Document (GN-2791-3) (iii) the "Proposal for the Establishment of the Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility" (GN-2851) in stimulating innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem and (iv) it complements efforts under BL-T1082 "Support for the Preparation and Implementation of the Second Phase of the Community Action for Public Safety (CAPS II) Program (BL-L1023)".

### **III. Descripción de las Actividades y Resultados**

- 3.1 Component I: "Call for Problems" to identify challenges and "Call for Solutions" to develop and implement innovative, high-impact solutions (US\$80,000). First, this component will utilize consultative and participatory mechanisms such as traditional field-based knowledge collection methodologies, to collaborate with beneficiaries (formal and informal firms, public sector and vulnerable communities, especially youth and women) to identify unattended social needs that will inform the design of a call for problems focused on crime. The identified problems related to crime will be prioritized based on criteria such as potential impact on the communities, feasibility, etc. Secondly, this component will design and implement a crowdsourcing process to invite multi-disciplinary stakeholders (private sector, public sector, civil society, and regional/international organizations) to propose solutions for prioritized problems related to crime in Belize. The call for solutions will be launched, followed by an ideathon to help generate ideas for solutions, and then at least two workshops to support the development of quality proposal submissions. Proposals submitted to the call for solutions will be evaluated and selected by a panel of experts (specialists on the topic from inside and outside the IDB, as well as representatives of relevant government entities and private investors). Up to ten finalists will be selected to undergo a pre-incubation workshop where they will receive personalized mentoring in innovation methodologies, business models, and pitching. The top three winners will receive funding to attend an incubator where they will further refine their project development and pilot testing of their solutions.

- 3.2 Component II: Talent for Innovation (US\$100,000). This component will support increased innovation outputs within private and public sector organizations through (i) identifying and prioritizing gaps in talent required for developing and implementing innovation strategies; and (ii) providing fast track training programs for competitively selected candidates to acquire (a) skills for designing innovation strategies in organizations and (b) digital skills for encouraging digital transformation in firms .
- 3.3 Component III: Innovation Roadmap (US\$60,000). This component will support increased investment in innovation through (i) financing the design of an innovation roadmap (strategy) to support the strengthening of the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in Belize and (ii) designing a public-private innovation pact to increase investment in science, technology, and innovation .
- 3.4 Component IV: Communication, Capacity Building, and Evaluation (US\$60,000). This component will finance (i) communication products (social media design, publications, etc.) to engage target audiences in the innovation process; (ii) a final evaluation of the TC's activities to share lessons learned; and (iii) capacity building (training workshops and webinars) of local institutions to independently replicate the I-Lab process.
- 3.5 **Componente I: Component I: “Call for Problems” to identify challenges and “Call for Solutions” to develop and implement innovative, high-impact solutions (US\$80,000).** . This component will consist of two parts: (a) Definition of key social challenges to address, and (b) Call for innovative solutions to social challenges related to crime in Belize.
- 3.6 **Componente II: Component II: Talent for Innovation (US\$100,000).** . This component will support increased innovation outputs within private and public sector organizations through training programs to address prioritized innovation skills gap.
- 3.7 **Componente III: Component III: Innovation Roadmap (US\$60,000).** . This component will support increased investment in innovation through the development of an innovation roadmap and innovaton pact for the country.
- 3.8 **Componente IV: Component IV: Communication, Capacity Building, and Evaluation (US\$60,000).** . This component will finance the development and implementation of a communication plan that includes events, marketing and dissemination products and other initiatives to foster collaboration and a dialogue around the outcomes of the solutions and to promote participation in the innovation challenges.

#### IV. Presupuesto

Presupuesto Indicativo

| Actividad/Componente  | BID/Financiamiento por Fondo | Contrapartida Local | Financiamiento Total |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Component I: “Call for Problems” to identify challenges and “Call for Solutions” to develop and implement innovative, high-impact solutions (US\$80,000). | \$ 80,000.00                 | \$ 0.00             | \$ 80,000.00         |
| Component II: Talent for Innovation (US\$100,000).  | \$ 100,000.00                | \$ 0.00             | \$ 100,000.00        |
| Component III: Innovation Roadmap (US\$60,000).   | \$ 60,000.00                 | \$ 0.00             | \$ 60,000.00         |
| Component IV: Communication, Capacity Building, and Evaluation  | \$ 60,000.00                 | \$ 0.00             | \$ 60,000.00         |

|               |  |  |  |
|---------------|--|--|--|
| (US\$60,000). |  |  |  |
|---------------|--|--|--|

## **V. Agencia Ejecutora y Estructura de Ejecución**

- 5.1 The executing agency of this technical cooperation will be the Inter-American Development Bank through the Competitiveness, Technology and Innovation Division (IFD/CTI) with cross-support from other sectoral divisions in the Bank.
- 5.2 The execution structure is consistent with the TC's specific objective and aims at completing the tasks at hand in a cost-efficient manner and ensuring quality of the outputs. This approach will also benefit from utilizing the Bank's ability to execute technical cooperation and contributing with time of the project team and their knowledge to identify highly qualified international consultants based on their work experience in operations in different countries of the region. Some of the public institutions pre-identified as key stakeholders in these sectors are: BELTRAIDE (Belize Trade and Investment Development agency, which has a small business development centre) and the Economic Development Council (Public-Private agency under the Prime Minister's Office).

## **VI. Riesgos Importantes**

- 6.1 There is a risk of limited high-quality solutions that are scalable. This risk will be mitigated by inviting international and regional providers to submit proposals in partnership with local entities, building local capacity for developing innovation solutions through ideathons and workshops, and encouraging partnerships between local and international/regional entities where possible.
- 6.2 There is the risk that solutions require support for a scale-up through the public sector via relevant government entities or through private sector interest to develop and pilot innovative solutions. This TC will implement strategies to mitigate this risk, including involving key public institutions and private sector representatives early in the process to reflect their views in problem definition, identify areas for collaboration, and develop incentives that would motivate their participation in the solutions developed.

## **VII. Salvaguardias Ambientales**

- 7.1 La clasificación ESG para esta operación es "indefinida".