

# BELIZE MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

## Abbreviated Action Plan for the Rehabilitation of First Street North, Corozal Town

### Introduction:

Based on the Inception Report for the Street Rehabilitation subprojects for the municipality of Corozal prepared by the Consultant Engineering Firm of Thurton & Associates, World Bank's Involuntary Resettlement Policy Framework was triggered. The designs indicated that approximately five (5) of the market vendors whose stalls are located in the general vicinity of the northern entrance to the market which borders First Street North, will need to be relocated temporarily during the implementation phase for that subproject to facilitate its smooth execution. The remainder of this report will follow World Bank's Involuntary Resettlement Policy framework (IRF) format.

### 1. Description of Specific Activities under the subproject

The subproject proposes to rehabilitate First Street North which is located in the central area of the municipality and runs adjacent to important public facilities including the police station, the municipal market, and the fire station. It has a length of approximately 194.54 meters and a width of approximately 9.15 meters. The proposed works includes the re-establishment and alignment of the existing sub-base; a double-coat of bituminous asphalt pavement; proper alignment and re-establishment of side-drains where necessary; repairs to existing culverts and culvert headwalls, and the installation of new culverts where necessary. In addition, provision will be made for street/lane markings including center and edge lines; and installation of pedestrian crossings along with proper street signage in accordance with the regulations of the relevant authorities.

#### Estimated Cost and Time Frame of the Subproject

A breakdown of the estimated costs of the subproject is outlined below:

World Bank Loan	Corozal Town Council Counterpart Funding	Total
\$352,330.00	\$10,569.90 (3%)	\$362,899.90

The estimated duration of the implementation phase of the subproject will be approximately 4 to 6 weeks. Based on the estimated duration of the implementation phase of the subproject, the Corozal Town Council has agreed to relocate(temporarily),five(5) market vendors who are located in the general vicinity of the northern entrance to the municipal market ( located adjacent to First Street North), during the implementation phase of that subproject. According to the town council, once the civil works are completed on both the market entrance and First Street North, the vendors will be returned to their original locations.

### 2. Survey of Persons Affected by Relocation

The main findings of a survey conducted on the five (5) market vendors who will be relocated temporarily during the implementation phase of the subproject are presented below in bullet format. The details can be examined at annex #1.

- Age-range: three(3) of the vendors are in their 30's while the remaining two(2) are in their 50's and 60's
- Sex: three(3) of the vendors are females and two(2) are males
- Ethnicity: all five(5) vendors are of mestizo ancestry
- Type of products on sale: two(2) vendors sells clothing & footwear; two(2) sells fruits and vegetables; and one(1) sells cooked food
- Fees for rental of stalls: four (4) vendors pays a fee of \$12.00 for six days, while one (1) pays a fee of \$8.00 for two days.
- Average weekly earnings of the vendors. The level of earnings is dependent on both the type of products on sale, along with the number of days the vendors are at the market as indicated below:
  - Fruits and vegetable vendors: between \$150 to \$500
  - Clothing and footwear vendors: between \$100 to \$125
  - Cooked food vendor: between \$250 to \$300
- Decision to relocate: all five(5) vendors are in agreement the decision to relocate temporarily during implementation phase for the subproject
- Requests from the vendors in relation to their relocation: While three(3) of the vendors had no requests, the remaining two(2) wanted some assurance from the Corozal Town Council that they will be returned to their original locations after the civil works are completed on the northern entrance to the market.

### **3. Description of the Resettlement Assistance and other forms of compensation:**

The Corozal Town Council in consultation with the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) has agreed to assist the five (5) stall owners who will be relocated temporarily during the implementation phase of the subproject with the following assistance until the civil works are completed:

#### Assistance with the relocation of stalls

Transportation will be provided to move the five(5) stalls which are comprised of small wooden houses each with an approximate dimension of 10' x 10', to a centralized area of the market compound until the completion of the civil works on the market entrance when they will be returned to their original locations

#### Assistance with connection to utility services

Each stall owner will be connected to a reliable supply of electricity and potable water while they are in the temporary locations

#### Compensation to business owners on 1<sup>st</sup>, Street North

The trade licenses of two(2) business houses located on 1<sup>st</sup>, Street North were partially waived (by 50%) by the Corozal Town Council for 2013 (based on a recommendation from the Corozal Project Monitoring Committee), as a form of financial compensation for sales losses due to disruptions caused by rehabilitation works on the said street.

Based on an analysis executed jointly by the PIU and the Corozal Town Council to determine potential income loss during the implementation phase of the subproject for the five vendors, it was concluded

that none of the vendors will be experiencing a loss in income. The three(3) main factors on which the analysis was based included:

- (i) All five(5) market vendors will be relocated temporarily to locations within the existing market facility which will enable them to display their products and continue previous interactions with clients who patronizes them at the market
- (ii) They will be provided with a safe environment for the sale of their products, and will be supplied with reliable sources of power and potable water; and
- (iii) All stall relocations will take place on a day when the market will be closed for business e.g.: on a Sunday.

In relation to the two(2) business houses on 1<sup>st</sup>, Street North that were compensated, the main determining factor was related to the nature of their respective businesses. In both instances, the main business activity is related to the cleaning of vehicles or the tinting of their windows which necessitates the movement of vehicles in and out of these establishments via 1<sup>st</sup>, Street North. For relatively short periods during the execution of the civil works, vehicles were unable to enter these establishments.

#### **4. Description of Consultations with Project Affected Persons**

So far, the PIU have held two(2) consultations with the five(5) market vendors who will be temporarily relocated during the implementation phase of the subproject, and one(1) session with the owners of four(4) business houses who have applied for financial compensation. A summary report of these consultations are outlined below:

##### First Consultation: 18<sup>th</sup>, January 2012

Objectives of Session:

- To inform the Corozal Town Council representatives about the necessity for the drafting of a Resettlement Plan in line with WB's Involuntary Resettlement Policy Framework for five(5) market vendors
- To inform the five(5) market vendors who will be relocated about the Plan and what types of assistance they should be receiving from the Corozal TC during and after the relocation period.
- For the PIU's engineer to outline the scope of civil works being proposed for the northern entrance to the market, and the need for the temporary relocation of the five(5) market vendors during the implementation phase
- For the Social Officer to collect basic social and economic data, as well as to canvass the views of the five(5) market vendors in relation to their feelings towards the proposed relocations via the use of a questionnaire

Participants:

- Mayor of Corozal Town Council
- Works Foreman(Corozal TC)
- Social Officer(PIU)
- Engineer(PIU)
- Five(5) market vendors who will be relocated during project implementation

Decisions/Actions taken:

- It was agreed that the five(5) market vendors whose stalls are in the general vicinity of the northern entrance to the market will be relocated temporarily to an area inside the main market until the civil works on the entrance are completed when they will be returned to their original locations
- The Social Officer was given permission by the five(5) vendors to conduct a survey with them to collect basic socio-economic data and to solicit their views on the proposed relocations
- The Social Officer was able to collect the data he requested via the use of a questionnaire

Second Consultation: 27<sup>th</sup>, March 2012

Objectives of session:

- To acquire the signatures of the five(5) market vendors for an Agreement document which sets out the respective responsibilities of the Corozal TC and the five(5) vendors in relation to the temporary relocation of the latter

Participants:

- Social Officer
- Market Vendors(5)

Decisions/Actions Taken:

The Social Officer conducted one-on-one sessions with the relevant five(5) market vendors and was successful in acquiring their signatures to the Agreement document.

Consultation with Business Owners: 9<sup>th</sup>, January 2013

Objective of Session:

- To listen to and document requests from four (4) business owners located on 1<sup>st</sup>, Street North who are requesting financial compensation from the PIU for alleged loss of sales due to the rehabilitation works on the said street

Participants:

- Social Officer
- Representatives of the four(4) business owners

Decisions/Action Taken:

The Social Officer will forward the requests to the Corozal Project Monitoring Committee(PMC) who will deliberate and make recommendations to the Corozal TC in relation to what form of compensation(if any) will be awarded to the applicants.

#### **5. Institutional Responsibility for Implementation and Procedure for Grievance Redress**

The following institutions share the responsibility of planning and implementing the resettlement plan for the subproject entitled "Rehabilitation of First Street North in Corozal Town".

**Table 1: Institutional Arrangements and Sources of Funding**

Institution/Group	Responsibilities	Time-Frame	Source of Funding	Costs
Project Implementation Unit(PIU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Drafting of Resettlement Action Plan Date: Jan 2012</li> <li>(b) Submit Plan(first draft) to WB for review and approval</li> <li>(c) Disclosure of Plan with Corozal Town Council, and market vendors</li> <li>(d) Conduct on-going consultations with the Corozal TC and vendors during the feasibility and implementation phases of the subproject</li> </ul>	<p>Start date: Jan 2012 Completion Date: March 2012</p> <p>Feb 2013</p> <p>Feb 2013</p> <p>Jan 2012 – Feb 2013</p>	<p>Earmarked project budget allocation</p>	<p>-costs related traveling/subsistence/ Lodging for PIU staff members engaged in the Plan preparation and implementation process</p>
Corozal Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) To support the PIU in accessing the relevant data needed for the drafting of the Plan</li> <li>(b) Assist the PIU in mobilizing the main stakeholders for the holding of consultations, and provide a venue(if needed), for the sessions</li> <li>(c) Meet specific demands from</li> </ul>	<p>Jan 2012 – Feb 2013</p> <p>Jan 2012 – Feb 2013</p> <p>Jan 2012 – Feb 2013</p>	<p>WB funds for the Street Rehabilitation subprojects for Corozal Town</p>	<p>-costs related to requests from the five(5) stall owners , and two(2) business owners located on 1<sup>st</sup>,Street North under the assistance program agreed to by the Corozal TC</p>

	the stall owners and business owners on 1 <sup>st</sup> ,Street North via the assistance program agreed to by the Corozal TC			
Project Affected Persons( five (5) market vendors) and two(2) business owners on 1 <sup>st</sup> ,Street North	(a) Collaborate with the PIU in the execution of surveys/census and preparation of the Action Plan  (b) Participate in stakeholder consultations organized by the PIU/Corozal TC during the feasibility and construction phases of the subproject	Jan 2012– Feb 2013  Jan 2012- Feb 2013	-----	-----
World Bank	(a) Provide guidance and training to the PIU regarding the preparation and implementation of the Plan	Jan 2012 – Dec 2012	WB Funds for BMDP	-costs related to providing training sessions in Social Safeguards for PIU staff members

**Grievance Redress Mechanism:**

The grievance redress mechanism for the First Street North Rehabilitation subproject for Corozal Town will be comprised of three tiers as set out below:

- (i) The Corozal Town Council in consultation with a local mediation committee
- (ii) The Office of the Ombudsman
- (iii) The Legal Aid Office

It is anticipated that only the first tier of the redress mechanism (the local mediation committee), may need to be activated. A local mediation committee made up of community leaders will be established shortly with the support of the PIU’s Social Officer and the Corozal Town Council.

**Table: 2 Grievance Redress Mechanism**

<b>Tiers of Grievance Redress Mechanism</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Mechanism</b>	<b>Time Frame to address grievance</b>
First Tier	Corozal Town Council in consultation with local mediation committee	Written grievance	1 week
Second Tier	Ombudsman	Case Submission	4 weeks(approx.)
Third Tier	Legal Aid Office	Low Cost	Lengthy process and long delays

**6. Arrangements for Monitoring and Implementation:**

Based on the recommendations of the Social Assessment Consultancy that was executed during the project preparation stage of the BMDP, the PIU has agreed to implement one of the recommendations which dealt with the establishment of multi-sectorial monitoring committees at the municipal level for the BMDP. Each monitoring committee will be composed of seven (7) members, with not more than three (3) coming from the respective town/city councils and the remaining members drawn from civil society. One of the main justifications for the composition of these monitoring committees is to ensure (hopefully), some degree of continuity of its functions and work in the event of political changes at the municipal level following municipal elections which are due in March 2012.

The authority for the selection of members on the monitoring committees rests with the respective Town and City Councils (TCC's). The criteria for the selection of members include:

- A background in any of the following disciplines: civil engineering, traffic management, public health, education, and tourism.
- The individual has demonstrated in his/her interactions in the community, a willingness to serve their community either through a community-based group or individually
- At least two(2) members to be drawn from the Town/City Council
- At least five(5) members to be drawn from the community

The PIU is fully aware that partisan politics is an integral aspect of the day to day reality of municipal level governance in Belize and as such, the PIU would like to promote the adoption of an “inclusive approach” by all TCC's in terms of prospective members' political background and affiliation. In other words, the PIU would like to see “mixed memberships” in terms of members' political affiliation with representation from at least the two main political parties in the country (the governing party and the main opposition party).

Although Issues related to the rights of indigenous peoples are deemed to be important in relation to the membership composition of these committees, one of the key recommendations that came out of the Social Assessment Consultancy (Indigenous Peoples Framework) was: “the consultant recommends the consideration of the potential vulnerability of all affected groups. This recommendation is to ensure effective consultations and culturally appropriate benefits for each group, instead of focusing only on

groups defined as “Indigenous Peoples. In conclusion, the data available is indicating that more emphasis should be placed on vulnerable groups instead of indigenous groups in the determination of project benefits and negative project impacts.

The district level monitoring committees will be charged with the responsibility of monitoring the day to day project activities on the ground (inclusive of the resettlement action plan for the 1<sup>st</sup>, Street North Rehabilitation subproject), and submit progress reports to the PIU.

**Annex 1**

**Table 3: Basic Demographic and Economic data on stall owners to be relocated**

<b>Name of stall owner</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Products on sale</b>	<b>Stall Fee</b>	<b>Agree or Disagree with relocation</b>	<b>Request from stall owners</b>
Martha Chable	35	F	Belizean	Mestizo	Clothing/ footwear	\$12 Per week	Yes	None
Glorio Osorio	59	F	Belizean	Mestizo	Clothing/ footwear	\$8 Per week	Yes	None
Miguel Olivia	65	M	Belizean	Mestizo	Fruits/ vegetables	\$12 Per week	Yes	Security of original location
Omar Olivia	34	M	Belizean	Mestizo	Fruits/ vegetables	\$12 Per week	Yes	Security of Original location
Marisol Chacon	37	F	Naturalized Belizean	Mestizo		\$12 Per week	Yes	None

**Table 4: Data showing length of relocation; current weekly income; valuation of loss; level of vulnerability; and type of resettlement assistance to stall owners**

<b>Name of stall owners</b>	<b>Length of relocation</b>	<b>Current Income (weekly)</b>	<b>Valuation of Loss</b>	<b>Level of vulnerability</b>	<b>Type of resettlement assistance</b>
Martha Chable	4-6 weeks	\$125.00 (5 days)	No Loss	Low	Temporary relocation
Glorio Osorio	4-6 weeks	\$100.00 (2 days)	No Loss	Low	Temporary relocation
Miguel Olivia	4-6 weeks	\$150.00 (6 days)	No Loss	Low	Temporary relocation
Omar Olivia	4-6 weeks	\$500.00 (6 days)	No Loss	Low	Temporary relocation
Marisol Chacon	4-6 weeks	\$300.00 (6 days)	No Loss	Low	Temporary relocation

**Table5: Data showing current monthly income; valuation of loss; level of vulnerability; and type of compensation to business owners located on 1<sup>st</sup>,Street North, Corozal Town**

<b>Name of Business Owner</b>	<b>Type of Business</b>	<b>Current Income (monthly)</b>	<b>Valuation of Loss</b>	<b>Level of vulnerability</b>	<b>Type of Compensation</b>
Wilberto Rosales	Tinting of vehicle windows/sale of auto products	Bz\$4,000.00	high	moderate	Waiver of 50% trade license(2013)
Jia Kong Chen	Car Wash	BZ\$1,200.00	high	moderate	Waiver of 50% trade license(2013)
Tomas Zetina	Pawn Shop	BZ\$2,00.00	low	low	None*
Saul Navarro etal.	Barber Shop	BZ\$800.00	low	low	None*

**\*These requests were not honored by the Corozal PMC since the patrons were able to access these business houses(with the support of the contractor) throughout the period of rehabilitation works on 1<sup>st</sup>,Street North.**