



HUMANA
PEOPLE TO PEOPLE
BELIZE



2023

PROGRESS REPORT

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GREETINGS FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



Susanne Jensen
Country Director

Empowering communities, transforming lives

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Partners,

With sincere gratitude, we present to you the Annual Progress Report for 2023, a testament to the transformative endeavours of Humana People to People Belize (HPPBZ) in partnership with communities, donors, technical supporters, and governmental stakeholders at both local and national levels.

In Southern Belize, where our mission resonates most deeply, we confront a myriad of challenges – economic disparities, the looming spectre of climate change, environmental degradation, limited access to government services, and the pervasive grip of inequality. Yet, at HPPBZ, our resolve remains unwavering as we stand united with our communities in confronting these obstacles head-on. We recognize the imperative of addressing issues such as poverty, educational inequality, healthcare disparities, and fostering sustainable livelihoods. Through collaborative efforts, we seek to empower individuals and communities to transcend these barriers and embrace a future of promise and opportunity.





Throughout 2023, HPPBZ embarked on a diverse array of initiatives aimed at directly tackling these challenges. From educational endeavours focusing on literacy and numeracy to fostering entrepreneurship and promoting sustainable energy and agriculture, **our community development initiatives directly impacted the lives of 8,900 project participants and, indirectly, countless others.** Through vocational training and capacity-building workshops, we have equipped individuals with the tools and knowledge necessary for success.

Our initiatives represent more than just projects; they serve as beacons of hope for those who have long been marginalized and neglected. Take, for instance, the plight of undocumented and migrant women and girls seeking refuge in Belize. Confronted with myriad obstacles, from educational and employment barriers to the vicious cycle of poverty and vulnerability, these individuals face immense challenges. Yet, through our concerted efforts, we strive to dismantle these barriers and pave a pathway towards a more dignified future. Through capacity building, entrepreneurship support, vocational training, and outreach programs, we aim to enhance the economic autonomy and social integration of these women and girls. We firmly believe that investing in women's empowerment is both a moral imperative and a strategic necessity for societal advancement. By unlocking the potential of women and girls, we unlock opportunities for entire communities to flourish.

To our generous donors, committed local partners, and dedicated staff, we extend our deepest appreciation. Your unwavering support has enabled us to broaden our reach, expand our programs, and effect lasting change in the lives of those we serve. Your contributions serve as the lifeblood of our mission, fuelling our determination to pursue positive change relentlessly.

We also express profound gratitude to our governmental partners and civil society organizations for their invaluable collaboration and support. Through collective action, we have forged robust partnerships, pooled resources, and coordinated efforts to maximize our impact. It is through this collaborative ethos that we can cultivate sustainable solutions and nurture community development.

As we reflect upon the achievements of 2023, we cast our gaze towards the horizon, eager to embark upon the continued journey ahead. Together, shoulder to shoulder with our communities, we remain steadfast in our commitment to building a future that is brighter, more equitable, and brimming with possibility for all.

Sincerely,

Susanne Jensen



**HPPBZ IN
A NUTSHELL**



OUR MISSION AND STRATEGIC APPROACH

Humana People to People Belize (HPPBZ) is a non-governmental organization established in 2007. Its mandate is to empower and mobilize individuals, families, and communities to reduce poverty and vulnerability through local actions and capacity building.

The organization works shoulder-to-shoulder with vulnerable populations and traditionally marginalized groups of different ages and backgrounds in rural and hard-to-reach communities of Belize. Most of our project participants are children, youth, women, and subsistence-farmer groups from Maya and Garinagu groups and Creole and migrant populations from Central America.

HPPBZ seeks to create development in the broadest sense - through the establishment and implementation of projects that transfer knowledge, skills, and capacity - so that individuals and groups facing poverty and dehumanized conditions become the drivers of their development and take direct action on issues that affect them. Accordingly, the organization's approach is based on open dialogue, active participation, and collaborative work between individuals, groups, leaders, government bodies, and the private sector.

The organization's headquarters are in the Toledo District, and its Partnerships Office is situated in the capital, Belmopan.



MEET OUR DYNAMIC TEAM

The organization is powered by a dedicated team of individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds, spanning Belize, Latin America, and Europe. Our staff brings a wealth of experience and expertise to our work, strengthened by our shared commitment to community development.

Field staff members reside in close proximity to the communities we serve, fostering deeper connections and understanding. Their collective experience and local knowledge enrich our programs and initiatives, making us more effective in our mission.



Each year, HPPBZ collaborates with enthusiastic residents who share our passion for community development.

In 2023, our team of local volunteers played a pivotal role in guiding refugee-seekers to access essential services and information, as well as, rising awareness about plastic alternatives, and the detrimental effects of plastic pollution. Volunteers, actively contributed to initiatives such as creating vegetable gardens, conducting community assessments and evaluation surveys, and providing literacy and ESL classes. Their dedication and involvement have been instrumental in driving positive change within our communities.

PROJECT PATHWAYS

HPPBZ's programs and projects are strategically aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as national strategies and plans. Moreover, they effectively target and contribute to one or more of the following priority areas:



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

HPPBZ promotes environmentally conscious practices and infrastructure that enhance agricultural productivity while preserving natural resources and adapting to climate change



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

HPPBZ fosters community resilience and empowerment through grassroots initiatives aimed at addressing local needs and fostering inclusive growth



HEALTH

HPPBZ works to improve overall health outcomes and well-being in communities by promoting disease prevention and implementing community health awareness campaigns



EDUCATION

HPPBZ seeks to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive through capacity-building programs and door-to-door campaigns



SALES OF SECOND-HAND CLOTHES

HPPBZ 's sales of second-hand clothes not only provide affordable clothing options but also contribute to sustainable consumption practices and support community development projects through generated revenue



PROJECTS

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2023

In 2023, HPPBZ worked on ten projects in collaboration with local and international partners and volunteers.

Project Name		Priorities	Sustainable Agriculture and Environment	Community Development	Health	Education	Collection and Sales of Second-hand Clothes
							
1	Building community resilience through small-scale storage solutions		✓	✓		✓	
2	Community Hubs			✓	✓		
3	Humana Shops: Second-Hand Clothes and Shoes						✓
4	Empowering communities through social and economic inclusion in southern Belize			✓			
5	Full Circle Belize			✓	✓		
6	Migrant Hub / Centro para el Migrante			✓			
7	Providing Opportunities for Women to increase Education and Economic Empowerment and build Resilience (POWER Project)			✓	✓		
8	Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Belize			✓	✓		
9	Strengthening rural community organization and livelihood to advance resilience in southern Belize (SOLAR Project)			✓	✓	✓	
10	Strengthening Toledo in Organization, Response, Recovery, and Resilience to Manage climate hazards (STORM Project)			✓	✓	✓	

BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH SMALL-SCALE STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Project's purpose: To train women to install and use simple silos for grain storage or water storage to contribute to the sustainability and resilience of their individual family gardens, as well as to strengthen their food, economic, and nutritional security

Participating communities (5): San Isidro, San Roman, Trio, Red Bank, and Cowpen

Timeframe: 2023 to 2024 / 15 months

Before the project, Maricela Estrada from Bella Vista Village faced the daunting challenge of providing for her two daughters as an asylum seeker. Limited by her inability to work, she turned to entrepreneurship, attempting to cultivate vegetables. However, initial setbacks and minimal profits led her to the brink of giving up. The wider issue at hand, echoed by fellow community members, was the escalating prices of vegetables due to restricted imports and local farmers struggling to meet demand. The pressing need for self-sufficiency and climate-smart agriculture practices became evident.

“When I applied to be a refugee, they explained to me that I was unable to be employed until my case was approved. Although another NGO helped me with the basics for the first three months, I did not know how my two daughters and I were going to survive until my case was cleared up. I started to think about a business and that's when I thought about selling vegetables. I started by buying and reselling, however the profit was very little, so I decided to make my own garden. Yet, I didn't know what planting entailed.”

The project, initiated in January 2023, became a lifeline for Maricela and others. Weekly training sessions provided essential knowledge, empowering them to feed the soil with organic matter and create compost from readily available resources. Climate-smart agriculture practices, including cultivation in resilient raised beds, became integral components of their newfound skills. Maricela, now well-versed in these techniques, has cultivated her garden twice, reaping the benefits of home consumption.

“With the support of the project, I have cultivated twice thanks to everything I have learnt. So far, I have used my harvests for home consumption. However, I hope and have faith that in a few months, I will be producing in large quantities and will be able to sell in my community.”





The impact of the project extends beyond agricultural techniques. The acquired knowledge not only ensures food security but also contributes to combating climate change. The beneficiaries, equipped with improved sales strategies and plans, now produce 100 percent organic food. This not only supports personal well-being but also addresses the broader issue of rising prices and insufficient local production. Maricela's journey mirrors the transformative power of this project. It illustrates how individuals like her, supported by the project, can make a tangible difference. Maricela portrays the spirit of resilience, turning adversity into an opportunity to not only feed her family but also nourish her community.

In her words:

"What next? We continue growing, learning, and contributing to a more sustainable and resilient future."

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

- 40 small-scale women farmers formed groups and received both inputs and training, aimed at reducing vulnerability and enhancing their gardening skills. Throughout the project, participants gained expertise in various aspects of agriculture, including vegetable production, organic farming, composting, water management, climate-smart agriculture, disaster risk reduction, post-harvesting techniques, sales strategies, budgeting, and more.
- Each farmer diligently constructed raised beds in their gardens to cultivate and harvest a variety of crops. Additionally, the distribution of 40 storage silos among participants facilitated the preservation of their harvests.
- To disseminate vital information on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, organic gardening, health, hygiene, and other pertinent subjects, the project participants organized and executed 10 awareness-raising campaigns. Their efforts encompassed engaging activities such as door-to-door information sessions, community clean-up initiatives, mural painting focusing on biodiversity, and dedicated tree-planting endeavours.



COMMUNITY HUBS

*Community
hub*

Project's purpose: To improve the ability of Civil Society Organizations to facilitate an enabling environment to increase service delivery on behalf of vulnerable communities in the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts

Participating communities (7): Dangriga, Silk Grass, Bella Vista, Punta Gorda, Big Falls and San Pedro Columbia, and Independence

Timeframe: 2021 to present / Multi-phased project

In Big Falls, a rural community facing common challenges, Ingris found herself on a daunting journey to obtain her son's birth certificate. Despite her determination, she encountered numerous obstacles that seemed undefeatable.

For Ingris and many others in her community, obtaining basic documentation was a significant challenge due to bureaucratic hurdles, financial strain and the long distances required to access services in urban areas. Without proper documentation, accessing essential services and opportunities remained out of reach, perpetuating a cycle of disadvantage.

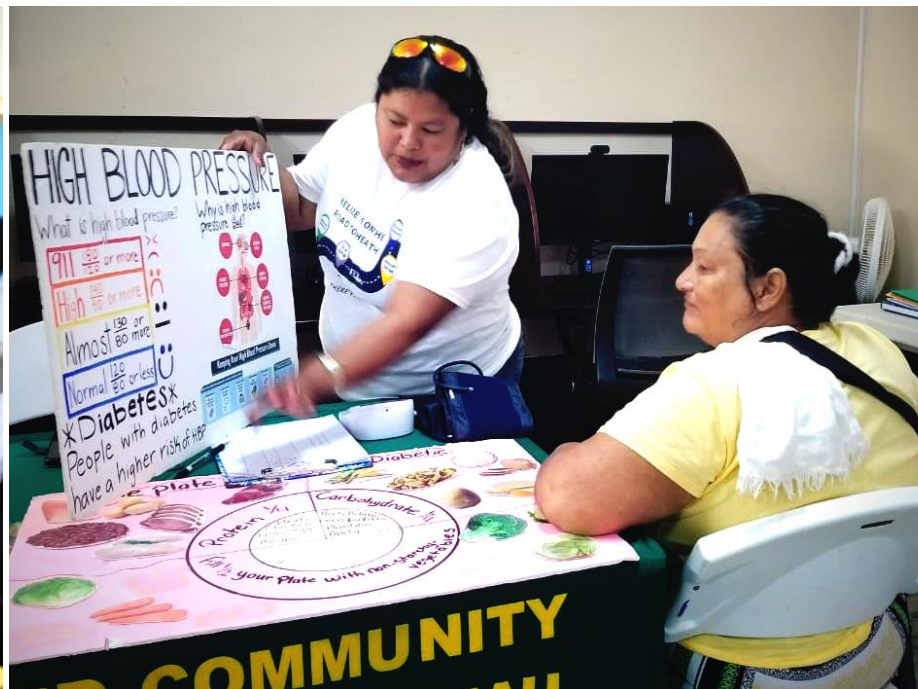
Ingris's story took a transformative turn when she discovered the Community Hub, operating in her village. Through this initiative, she found support and guidance to navigate the bureaucratic maze. With assistance from the hub, Ingris was able to access a free mobile clinic at a closer location, in Independence Village, where she received the help she needed to obtain her son's birth certificate.

Armed with this vital document, Ingris experienced a profound transformation. Doors that had previously been closed began to open, allowing her to navigate bureaucratic systems with newfound confidence. She seized the opportunity to open a bank account and secure financial support for her son, marking a significant step towards a brighter future for their family.

In celebrating Ingris's success, we are reminded of the transformative impact that community-based projects can have on individual lives. Through initiatives like the Community Hubs, individuals like Ingris are empowered to overcome obstacles and achieve their goals, paving the way for a more inclusive and prosperous community.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

- Six community hubs were established to improve service accessibility and availability in the targeted communities.
- 17 government entities and civil society organizations provided essential services and training programs through the hubs, fostering synergy and efficient resource utilization.
- A total of 4,723 individuals utilized the hubs in 2023, engaging in various educational, developmental, and entertainment activities facilitated by the project's partners and hub hosts.
- 4 hub hosts and 10 peer educators participated in ongoing training programs, covering topics such as computer literacy, public awareness, and local actions, empowering them to effectively manage and operate the hubs.



HUMANA SHOPS

SECOND-HAND CLOTHES AND SHOES



Project's Purpose: Fundraise funds for HPPBZ's community development projects while increasing ecosystem health and entrepreneurship development through used clothing sales

Communities served (5): Bella Vista, Dangriga, Mango Creek / Independence, Placencia, and Santa Cruz

Timeframe: 2008 to present / Multi-phased project

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

- 51.5 tons of second-hand clothes, shoes, clothing accessories, and household linens were retailed across 5 shops and wholesale outlets. These sales facilitated public access to quality clothing at affordable prices to 34,000 customers while diverting used textiles from landfills, thereby reducing pollution from new textile production.
- 4.73 tons of used clothing were distributed to families in challenging circumstances, including those impacted by flooding, and to community groups engaged in sewing and other income-generating ventures.
- 10 entrepreneurs boosted their income streams by procuring bales and reselling second-hand goods in their establishments.
- The project's surplus accounted for 10 % of HPPBZ's annual budget, financing various community development endeavours.
- 18 females were employed by the project, fostering economic empowerment and gender inclusivity.





EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION IN SOUTHERN BELIZE

Project's Purpose: To support collective initiatives that improve living conditions, ensure food security, and generate income, emphasizing on women and youth

Participating communities (10): Hopkins, Georgetown, Santa Rosa, San Roman, San Isidro, Trio, Golden Stream, Indian Creek, Big Falls, and Blue Creek

Timeframe: 2021 to 2024 / 30 months

Amidst the rich cultural tapestry of the Maya people, Dorla Sam, spearheads a transformative initiative. Through the 'Empowering Communities through Social and Economic Inclusion in Southern Belize' project, she and her partners are rewriting the narrative of marginalization and economic disparity. Their journey is one of empowerment, entrepreneurship, and unwavering commitment to uplift their community.

"I strongly believe that women should be given the opportunity to own businesses and generate income for the household. Projects like this one, are of utmost importance in rural areas, especially in indigenous communities where women are marginalized, and the economy of the households is low." – Dorla Sam

As Dorla recognises this systemic injustice and envisions a future where women can reclaim their agency and contribute meaningfully to household incomes; she empowered seven more women, and with the support of the project, they created their own women's group called Ancient Maya Women's Group. A food catering business and artisanal marketplace located near the Nim Li Punit archaeological site.

Through a comprehensive suite of capacity-building programs facilitated by HPPBZ, Dorla and her compatriots embarked on a journey of empowerment. Armed with newfound knowledge in first aid, resource management, human rights, and business insights, they forged ahead, determined to carve a path to prosperity. Together, they are leveraging traditional arts, crafts, and culinary heritage to generate income and defy societal expectations. In the words of Dorla herself: *"Shoulder to shoulder we are stronger and we can overcome challenges."*

Shoulder to shoulder we are stronger and we can overcome challenges



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

- 20 community groups, each comprising 10 members, actively participated in project activities, including entrepreneurship training, awareness campaigns, and leadership presentations; to foster empowerment within the community. Among the participants, 50% were women and 25% were youths.
- A Project Management Committee (PMC) consisting of 13 members was established. These members actively engaged in decision-making and review processes, which included approving the Sub-grant Manual and appointing the Sub-grant Approval Committee.
- 15 community groups successfully developed and completed their business plans, which underwent vetting and approval by the Sub-grant Approval Committee. Each group received the necessary equipment, materials, training, and services to initiate small business ventures. These businesses directly assisted 80 individuals in alleviating financial strains for household expenses.
- 13 of the 16 businesses are registered under the Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Registry.

FULL CIRCLE BELIZE



Project's Purpose: Increase ecosystem health and entrepreneurship development through training, awareness-raising, plastic recycling, and product manufacturing

Participating communities (10): Belmopan, Armenia, Camalote, Cotton Tree, Ontario, Roaring Creek, Teakettle, Unitedville, Santa Cruz, and Bella Vista

Timeframe: 2021 to present / Multi-phased project

Dacia, a college student driven by her passion for sustainability, stumbled upon a brochure at the University of Belize campus that immediately captured her attention. Diving into the contents of the brochure, she discovered the Full Circle Belize project and was instantly drawn to its initiatives and activities. Without hesitation, she reached out to the project's team to express her enthusiasm for the initiative and her eagerness to contribute.

Throughout her upbringing, Dacia had always felt a profound connection to nature, but it wasn't until she actively engaged in environmental programs at college that she fully grasped her passion. Participating in community clean-ups in Belmopan and immersing herself in hands-on experiences such as tree planting events and sustainability workshops, Dacia's love for environmental practices deepened. She recalls, *"The Full Circle project resonated deeply with me, igniting a sense of purpose in environmental restoration within my community."*

Witnessing the transformation of once-polluted waterways into flourishing ecosystems ignited a fervour within Dacia. She realized her calling to dedicate her life to protecting the environment and advocating for sustainable practices.

Inspired by her firsthand experiences, Dacia embarked on a journey of environmental activism. She volunteered with local environmental organizations, led educational workshops, and initiated impactful environmental campaigns nationwide. Upon graduating, Dacia committed herself to environmental advocacy, collaborating with nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and community groups to advance conservation efforts, combat climate change, and cultivate environmental stewardship among youth. Reflecting on her journey, Dacia remarks, *"I am steadfast in my commitment to making a positive impact in my community and inspiring others to join the movement towards a more sustainable future".*





HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

- A sustainable recycling system was effectively implemented in 7 target communities and Belmopan City, with 18 strategically positioned recycling systems. This initiative facilitated the collection and shredding of over 1.3 tons of plastic waste, thereby advocating sustainable waste management practices, and mitigating environmental impact.
- 8 youth groups were established and actively involved in promoting social and environmental awareness in their communities.
- 11 clean-up rallies were organized involving community members, students, and children to educate residents about the project, encourage them to minimize the use of plastic materials at home, and improve sanitation.
- Through door-to-door visits, school presentations, and technical assistance, 712 community members were engaged, raising awareness about COVID-19 prevention, plastic alternatives, and the detrimental effects of plastic pollution. Additionally, the project reached an additional 202,111 individuals through social media with the same key messages.

MIGRANT HUB IN BELLA VISTA VILLAGE



Project's Purpose: Assist migrants and Belizean returnees with accurate and appropriate information on migration procedures, offers support on migration services, and refer them to relevant government offices and IOM's voluntary repatriation program

Participating communities (1): Bella Vista

Timeframe: 2021 to present / Multi-phased project

At the Migrant Hub, individuals like Nelson, Denia, and Iris find solace and assistance on their arduous journeys towards a better life. Before the Migrant Hub, countless migrants faced daunting obstacles: from lack of documentation to legal uncertainties, their paths were fraught with hardship. Denied opportunities and trapped in precarious situations, they struggled to build stable lives for themselves and their families. With limited resources and little guidance, their aspirations seemed out of reach. However, the Migrant Hub aims to change this narrative, offering a lifeline to those in need.

Through a combination of outreach, advocacy, and practical assistance, the Migrant Hub has become a helping hand for individuals like Nelson, Denia, and Iris. From providing essential documents to offering guidance on legal processes, the hub empowers migrants to navigate complex systems with confidence. Moreover, it fosters a sense of community and solidarity, creating a support network for those facing similar challenges. With the dedication of volunteers and the generosity of donors, the Migrant Hub continues to expand its reach, offering hope to countless others in need.

"The Migrant Hub is supporting migrants in a very significant way. While we must invest our time, they assist us in obtaining vital documents like passports, birth certificates, and Amnesty applications. Their guidance includes providing information, assisting with form filling, arranging transportation for paperwork, and offering financial aid for medical exams." - Nelson, Denia, and Iris



For Nelson, the assistance received not only enabled him to secure his passport but also allowed him to get his daughter's birth certificate. Denia's journey, found renewed hope through the support of the hub, paving the way for a brighter tomorrow for her and her family. Similarly, Iris's story highlights the transformative power of assistance, as she navigates the path towards legal recognition and newfound opportunities. Their testimonies serve as a testament to the profound impact of the Migrant Hub, inspiring others to pursue their dreams with courage and resilience.

“As a child, I arrived in Belize with my mother and siblings following my father's passing. For years, I lived in Belize without proper documentation due to challenges surrounding my father's death and subsequent COVID-related lockdowns. After being deported, I returned and obtained a work permit, a financial burden I carried for many years. When I learned about the Amnesty program, I saw an opportunity to regularize my status, given my ties to Belize through my two children and partner. The Migrant Hub's unwavering support throughout the application process was invaluable, and I'm immensely grateful for their assistance.” - Denia

As we reflect on the stories of Nelson, Denia, and Iris, we are reminded of the profound impact of compassion and solidarity. Yet, amidst the triumphs lies the recognition that much work remains to be done. As we look towards the future, let us continue to stand in solidarity with migrants around the world, offering hope, support, and opportunity to those in need.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

- A total of 1,254 consultations were provided at the Migrant Hub to assist with application filling and documentation for immigration services, along with appropriate referrals.
- To facilitate the integration of children, 58 tutoring sessions were conducted, focusing on English, Math, Life Skills, Reading, and Arts & Crafts, held during the school term, weekends, and summer.
- 5 informative pop-up booths were implemented in targeted areas to disseminate information about migration and the services offered by the Migrant Hub.
- 6 awareness and sensitization sessions were conducted, utilizing storytelling techniques to highlight the positive aspects of migration.
- 2 virtual information sessions on social media and 2 face-to-face sessions were organized to educate the general public about safe migration and the Amnesty program.
- 20 candidates were referred to Peacework Belize's Financial Literacy/Entrepreneurship Training, aimed at enhancing their financial knowledge and entrepreneurial skills.
- 2 migrants were successfully guided to IOM Belize's Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) program to facilitate their safe return to their country of origin.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN BELIZE



Project's Purpose: Enhance the access to essential services, information, opportunities, and basic needs of refugees and asylum seekers

Participating communities (3): Bella Vista, San Isidro, and Trio

Timeframe: 2019 to present / Multi-phased project

Mary's story unfolds, echoing the struggles and triumphs of many who have been forced to flee their homelands. *"I love my country and we lived happily... But one day we had to run away, when gangs were planning to kill my father-in-law and my husband. We had no choice! We had to run away"*, Mary reflects, her eyes brimming with memories of a life left behind. Her journey, emblematic of the countless families seeking refuge, is a testament to resilience in the face of turmoil. Her family was among the 24,398 people that fled from El Salvador in 2022.

Before finding solace in Bella Vista, Mary and her family grappled with the disturbing realities of gang violence in her country. The shadows of fear loomed large over their daily lives, as gangs exerted control over their community. With escalating threats and dwindling opportunities, the spectre of danger forced Mary to make a choice: flee or face the consequences. The statistics paint a grim picture, with thousands like Mary seeking asylum each year, propelled by the urgent need for safety and stability.

In the wake of the upheaval, Mary found refuge and support through organizations like HPPBZ. Their small business start-up assistance provided a lifeline, empowering Mary and others to rebuild their lives from the ground up. Through entrepreneurial ventures and unwavering determination, families like Mary's begin anew, forging pathways to a brighter future. Mary is among the 61 refugees and asylum seeker families that HPPBZ has assisted in 2023 with small business start-ups and other humanitarian assistance in Bella Vista.

Mary's entrepreneurial spirit has blossomed into a thriving shave ice and kitchenware business, serving as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. Through access to education and economic opportunities, families once displaced by conflict are now poised to thrive in their adopted country.



As Mary gazes upon the streets of Bella Vista, her gaze reflects a sense of renewed optimism and gratitude. *"We feel safer... and thanks to HPPBZ and other organizations we can start again..."*, she remarks, her words echoing the sentiments of countless others who have found sanctuary in this and other communities of Belize. Yet, amidst the triumphs lies a poignant reminder of the countless others still in search of refuge. As we celebrate the resilience of families like Mary's, let us also heed the call to action, extending a hand of compassion and solidarity to those in need.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

- Over 600 individuals received assistance with late birth registration through a mobile clinic, facilitating the issuance of birth certificates. Additionally, the project supported asylum seekers to update their Permanent Residence (PR) documentation and offered informative sessions about the Amnesty Program.
- A total of 102 individuals participated in hygiene and sanitation training, focusing on food handling strategies to prevent instances of food poisoning.
- 44 refugees and asylum seekers benefited from English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and psycho-social support, improving both their language skills and mental well-being.
- 17 project participants were provided support for launching start-up businesses, including guidance in business plan development and selection. Alongside other community members, they underwent customer service training and received vocational training in jewellery making, sewing, or carpentry. Their products were showcased at market days held in Bella Vista Village and Belmopan.
- 35 project participants, who faced cost constraints in accessing dental care services, received sensitization on dental hygiene and care, alongside treatments such as dental cleaning, extraction, and fillings.
- 6 asylum-seeking youth received support covering the costs of high school registration.
- 50 volunteers were recruited and underwent capacity-building training in the Community-Based Protection Network (CBPN), enhancing their ability to support project activities and raise awareness within the community.





STRENGTHENING TOLEDO

IN ORGANIZATION, RESPONSE, RECOVERY, AND RESILIENCE TO MANAGE CLIMATE HAZARDS (STORM PROJECT)

Project's Purpose: To increase preparedness, response, readiness and resilience – with emphasis on agriculture – to reduce the effects of natural disasters through capacity, awareness, readiness, and resilience building

Participating communities (3): Dolores, Otoxha, and San Lucas

Timeframe: 2023 to 2025 / 24 months

In Dolores, San Lucas and Otoxha, three vibrant communities, a tale of resilience and transformation unfolds. For years, these communities have faced the challenges of natural hazards and shifting climates. However, with the STORM Project, they've embarked on a journey of empowerment and preparedness. Before the inception of the project, San Lucas and Otoxha grappled with the daunting reality of unpreparedness in the face of natural disasters. With livelihoods centred around farming and livestock, the communities felt the effect of erratic weather patterns and diminishing water sources. Access to essential services, like healthcare, is limited, exacerbating vulnerabilities in emergencies.

“A tremendous change in weather patterns has been noted and has affected our livelihood, which is farming and livestock. With the project, we are doing various trainings that will allow our community to be more resilient and be more prepared if a natural hazard hits. Now, we are more organized as a team, and each individual plays a role in making sure that the community is ready. As we still follow our traditional ways, we stick together and work together to get things done as a community.” - Alejandro Salam, Village chairman of San Lucas Village

The STORM project is bringing tailored solutions and hands-on training to the forefront. From comprehensive disaster preparedness workshops to specialized first aid training, the communities are becoming equipped to navigate crises with confidence.

“Before, the leaders would take up the whole burden as there was no structure in having our members play a role. With this project, each team member plays a role and is aware of the different responsibilities that come with it. This helps us to be more prepared and know exactly what areas need to be looked at in time of hazard; so that, no one is left behind” - Olario Ical, teacher and member of Otoxha community

Basic first aid training is a lifeline in remote areas, bridging the gap until professional help arrives. In the words of Mr. Salam, *“First aid training will help in our community as we are far away from clinics. Being able to save lives during emergencies, helps us to respond and recover while we wait for help or get to an area where more help is available.”* Moreover, climate-smart agricultural practices not only preserve resources but also ensure sustainable futures for generations to come. The impact of these initiatives continues to reverberate throughout Dolores, San Lucas and Otoxha, it becomes evident that resilience is more than a concept - it is a way of life.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

- Following comprehensive Climate Needs Assessments conducted through focus groups and household surveys, key intervention areas for 2024 were identified through thorough data analysis and presentation to stakeholders, aiming to effectively mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Basic First Aid training was attended by 29 individuals from the target communities and collaborating partners, equipping them with crucial skills to respond effectively to minor accidents, thereby enhancing community safety and overall well-being.
- Village Emergency Committees (VECs) were established and provided training for in disaster preparedness and response in collaboration with NEMO. This proactive approach ensures communities are well-prepared to handle emergencies and minimize their impact.





STRENGTHENING RURAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION AND LIVELIHOOD TO ADVANCE RESILIENCE IN SOUTHERN BELIZE (SOLAR PROJECT)

Project's Purpose: To improve economic and social development by increasing the access to and use of renewable energy in the Toledo District, Belize

Participating communities (3): Mabil Ha, San Lucas, and Otoxha

Timeframe: 2022 to 2023 / 27 months

Embedded within the lush landscapes of Mabil Ha, San Lucas and Otoxha, a transformative project took root, changing lives in profound ways. Before the project's inception, the communities struggled with a lack of sustainable energy and limited means to preserve perishable goods. The absence of refrigeration meant food spoilage and economic setbacks, an issue Edwardo of Maya Enterprise Meat Products knew all too well.

With a vision to empower, in 2022, the project distributed small solar units to households, igniting a spark of possibility. *"First, all the households got a small solar unit. With them, we saw that solar power works, we saw that having electricity it's a lot more helpful than before,"* José Salam affirmed, echoing the sentiments of an entire community uplifted by possibility. Through planning and resource allocation, refrigeration systems and other assets were provided to a solar-powered business in each community, transforming mere dreams into tangible realities.

"We weren't able to store any meat, anything that we couldn't sell that day we would just have it as leftover. But sometimes it would spoil, and then, we would make a great loss in expenses." - Edwardo, Chairman of Maya Enterprise Meat Products

With electricity and refrigeration, businesses can flourish, and livelihoods can be safeguarded. Edwardo marvelled at the newfound ability to store and sell meat, while households rejoiced in the luxury of ice on demand.

As the project ends in 2023, sustainable energy and economic empowerment, have illuminated pathways to prosperity previously obscured by darkness. The participating entrepreneurs like Edwardo, have a renewed future brimming with promise and potential. In the words of José Salam,

“Now that these young people have formed their group, I know that, if they continue united, their future will be better than ours was.” Jose Salam, Chairman of Mabil Ha.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

- 3 solar-powered businesses were established in the participating communities, with community members actively engaged in constructing or renovating building spaces for these enterprises. Extensive training in various aspects of business management, including development, marketing, and financial management, was provided to the members. Furthermore, specialized training sessions equipped them with skills such as bread making and poultry processing. Validated business plans served as the cornerstone for the successful establishment and operation of these community-owned enterprises.
- In collaboration with the Toledo Catholic Management of Schools, the school in San Lucas was seamlessly integrated into the solar system installed by the project, significantly enhancing energy access for educational purposes.
- The project spearheaded a wide array of outreach activities, ranging from engaging movie nights to impactful tree planting initiatives. These efforts were instrumental in raising awareness about renewable energy, sustainable development, gender equality, and environmental conservation, thereby fostering robust community engagement and participation.





SUPPORTERS

Throughout the year, local and international offices, organizations, and groups played a vital role in the funding and implementation of HPPBZ’s projects.

FUNDING PARTNERS

In 2023, the following local and international funding partners supported the implementation of the reported community development projects.



GOVERNMENT BODIES

ALCALDE
COUNCILS



Attorney
General



DAVCO
District Association
Village Councils



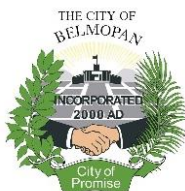
Embassy of
Guatemala



Embassy of
the Republic
of Honduras



**Ministry of Rural
Transformation**
Community Development, Labour
and Local Government



Town
Councils



Vital
Statistics
Unit





PRIVATE SECTOR





**INSTITUTIONAL
INFORMATION**

AFFILIATIONS

HPPBZ is part of two international networks and one local network.

FEDERATION FOR ASSOCIATIONS OF THE HUMANA PEOPLE TO PEOPLE MOVEMENT (FEDERATION)



Since 2007, we have been members of the Federation for Associations connected to the International Humana People to People Movement. It comprises 29 independent national member associations.

The network's common agenda is to protect the planet, build communities and support people by connecting them with others, unleashing their potential for positive change and action.

The Federation supports its members in delivering critical on-the-ground programmes across Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America. This support includes programme development, project management and operations, financial management support, and helps to promote our common agenda and gain influence through important relationships and partnerships.

The activities of the Humana People to People movement are aligned with the UN 2030 Agenda. Together with the people in the communities and our numerous partners, we continue to stand by countries as they strive to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, creating lasting positive change in the process.



REGIONAL DIALOGUE MECHANISM OF THE REGIONAL INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK FOR PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS (MIRPS)

MIRPS seeks to improve refugee self-sufficiency, alleviate pressures on host countries, support existing conditions in countries of origin, and expand access to solutions involving third countries. The network operates in Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama.



Mecanismo de Diálogo
Regional entre Organizaciones
de la Sociedad Civil del **MIRPS**

HPPBZ has been an active member of MIRPS since 2021.



BELIZE NETWORK OF NGOS (BNN)

The Belize Network of NGOs (BNN) was formed in 2016 and seeks to be the unified voice of Non-Governmental-Organizations in Belize advocating good governance to achieve sustainable human development.



HPPBZ has been an active member of BNN since 2016.



CERTIFICATIONS



Humana People to People Belize has had an NGO Benchmarking certification since 2021.

SGS certificate no: 213/NGO/19.12.2021

The certification was done by SGS - the world's leading testing, inspection, and certification company. SGS is recognized as the global benchmark for quality and integrity. In this process, HPPBZ has demonstrated compliance with Best Practices requirements related to the following 12 dimensions:

1. Governance Framework
2. Governing Body
3. Strategic Framework
4. Integrity Management
5. Communication Advocacy and Public Image
6. Human Resources
7. Resources Generation and Allocation
8. Financial Controls
9. Operations and Service Provision (Planning)
10. Operations and Service Provision (Implementation)
11. Outcomes' Measurement and Evaluation
12. Continuous Improvement

LEGAL STATUS

Humana People to People Belize (HPPBZ) is officially registered as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with the Belize Companies & Corporate Affairs Registry, bearing registration number CERT-REG-23/94005, since June 14, 2007. Additionally, the organization holds a Good Standing Certificate issued by the same entity, dated November 09, 2023.

Previously, HPPBZ was registered with the Ministry of Human Development in Belize under certificate number 84/07. However, due to legislative changes, the organization's registration transitioned to the Belize Companies & Corporate Affairs Registry in 2023.

HPPBZ became registered in the Department of General Sales Tax (GST) in 2014 with the Tax Identification Number (TIN) 140427.



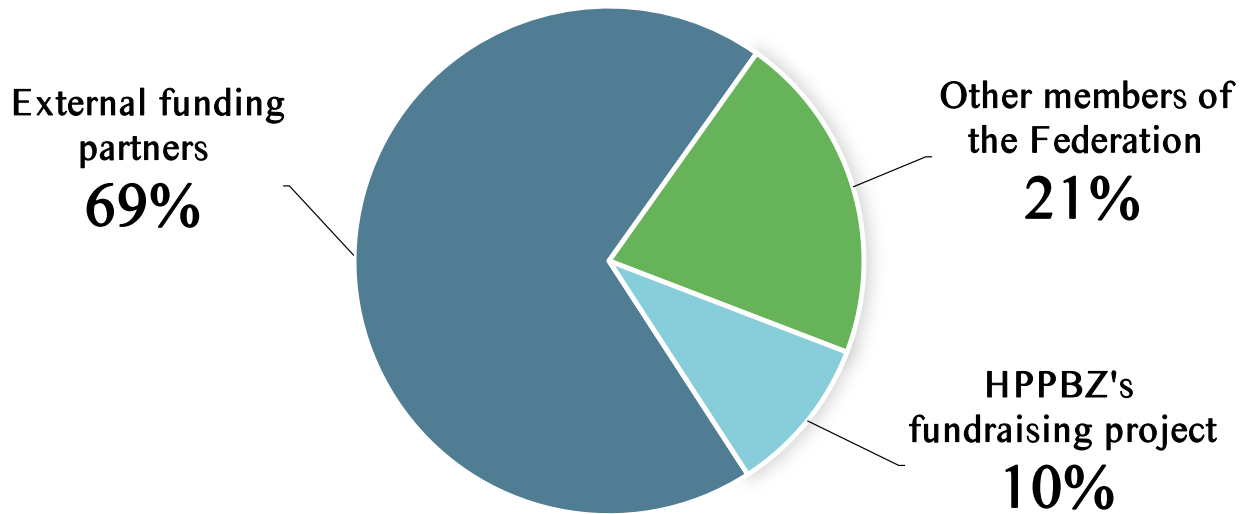
GOVERNING BODY

The governing body of HPPBZ is its General Assembly, comprised of 20 active members. Annually, the General Assembly elects three of its members to serve on the Board of Directors, which is responsible for overseeing the organization's governance. The Board of Directors appoints and empowers the Country Director, Susanne Jensen, to lead and manage the organization's daily operations.

** Detailed information regarding members, the Board of Directors, and audited financial statements can be provided upon request. We are committed to transparency and accountability in our governance practices.*

DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME SOURCES

In 2023, HPPBZ had an annual budget of US\$ 1,17 million from three income sources.



SOCIAL MEDIA

HPPBZ actively engages with our online community through our website (www.humana-belize.org) and various social media platforms including Facebook (www.facebook.com/humanabelize), Instagram (www.instagram.com/humanabelize), LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com/company/hppbz), and YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@hppbz>).

We invite you to connect with us and become a part of our journey as we continue to create positive change in Belize!



2023



HUMANA **PEOPLE TO PEOPLE** **BELIZE**

We empower and mobilize individuals, families and communities to reduce poverty and vulnerability through local actions and capacity building