



Change dah Story is social innovation challenge looking for innovative ideas and business models to improve the future of vulnerable youths in Belize. Among many issues, young people are especially vulnerable to crime and violence which significantly affects them, both as victims and offenders.

The contest is promoted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility (CCPF) in alliance with Beltraide and the Belize Department of Youth, and the support of various local organizations and international partners. This is the first challenge under the initiative 'Ideas for Change Belize', which aims at promoting social innovation and entrepreneurship as tools to transform social and environmental problems in Belize.

THE CONTEXT

Belize is a country with a large demographic of young people, with 70% of the population under 30 years of age and 46% under 19 years of age (2010 Census). Problems affecting this population include poverty, lack of access to basic services, education, violence, unemployment, early unions and early pregnancy. All these issues make children and youth vulnerable, limiting their integral development.



In 2009 the poverty rate in childhood was more than 50%, exceeding the national average of 41%; and about 65% of children experience some type of violence, be it physical, psychological or other (PAHO, 2016; UNICEF, 2016). In addition, 44% of young people between 10 to 19 years of age do not have access to all basic services and 31% of women between 15 to 19 are already married or living with their partners (UNICEF, 2015; UNFPA and the Council of Population, 2011).

Crime and violence are among the biggest issues in Belize. The country is in the top six in Latin America and the Caribbean in homicide rate with 35.9% per 100,000 inhabitants (Dalby & Carranza, 2019). Crime is very common amongst vulnerable youth, specially between 18 to 25. According to the Belize Crime Observatory, in March 2019 there were 1,160 inmates incarcerated at the Belize Central Prison, out of which 29.8% were between 18 and 25 years of age. In addition, there were 20 inmates who were under 18.

Crime and violence also have strong impact on the life of young males and females. According to Belize Crime Observatory, from 2016 to 2018, 1,884 young people were victims of crimes, out of which 741 were between 25 to 29 years old and 714 between 20 to 24 years old. In addition, 655 suffered aggravated assault, 529 burglary, 337 robbery, 178 were killed and 98 suffered a death attack.

HOW CAN CREATIVE AND TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS BRING RELIEF TO YOUTH COMMUNITIES IN BELIZE, ESPECIALLY THOSE AFFECTED BY OR VULNERABLE TO CRIME AND VIOLENCE?

The 'Change dah Story' challenge is an opportunity for creative, innovative and committed solvers that are willing to propose business ideas aimed at bringing relief to communities affected by this relevant social problem. We believe that through inclusive innovation, technology and entrepreneurship we can Change dah Story of young people in Belize.



EDUCATION

Young males and females struggle to go through the traditional education system: high cost, low quality, lack of interest and limited technical skills are some of the causes.

RECREATION

Young boys and girls are frequently left alone on their spare time, especially after school, with limited activities and guidance on how to deal with everyday issues making them vulnerable.

PARENTING

Early parenthood, single parenthood, and lack of mentorship and proper guidance from parents are some of the causes that make youth vulnerable to violence and crime.

EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment makes young people vulnerable to being involved in violence and crime. Youth struggle to develop their talents, find their purpose and reach for opportunities, while many are affected by stigmatization, profiling and "having a record", among other issues.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR IDEAS AND BUSINESS MODEL

- Proposing access to alternative education through innovation and technology.
- Aiming at providing youth with recreation, sports, culture and learning experiences in spare time.
- Seeking to establish a support structure for parents, through training, counseling, employment and other alternatives.
- Incorporating vulnerable youth and aimed at building a support network among them, creating conditions for skills development, introduction to new technologies and building soft skills.

WHO CAN PRESENT PROPOSALS?

Proposals can be submitted by entities located in Belize. These entities include innovators, entrepreneurs, students, professionals, startups, NGOs, companies, academic institutions or similar entities with interest, specialization and/or knowledge in the development of business models that address one or more of the challenge categories. Proponents have to be 18 years old or older.

AWARDS

1st phase: Up to 15 proposals that best meet the evaluation criteria will be selected as finalists and will participate in a 2-day pre-incubation bootcamp to receive training in social entrepreneurship and business models, user centered design and pitching.

2nd phase: 3 three proposals will be selected to receive seed capital and incubation sessions valued in USD 10,000 per proposal, in order to put their ideas and prototypes into work.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS:

From October 10th to January 12th, 2020 through the contest website

More information on the challenge, schedule and guidelines

www.iadb.org/changedahstory