



MESOAMERICA HUNGER FREE AMEXCID-FAO



BELIZE OUTCOMES 2022



The “Mesoamerica Hunger Free AMEXCID-FAO” program is the result of a Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Mexico, through the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The Program aims to strengthen public policies and legal frameworks that contribute to overcoming hunger and rural poverty, promoting social welfare and the creation of opportunities in territories with high levels of poverty.

In addition, “Mesoamerica Hunger Free AMEXCID-FAO” program develops actions that allow exchange of

experiences between and across the countries of Mesoamerica to improve learning.

Raising awareness of public opinion and decision-makers on the fight against hunger, as well as knowledge management and dissemination, play a fundamental role and are seen as a cross-cutting line of action in the Program. Communication actions are a fundamental element to make the work carried out by the Program visible; these actions allow the collection of good practices, lessons learned, life stories, etc. from the participants, as well as from the Program's partners.

As of recent, two major activities were undertaken under the Program in Belize.

The first was the elaboration of a short testimonial video titled **“Championing Malnutrition in Belize to support the Belize Parliamentary Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition”**. The video was intended for the dissemination of information to Belizean populace, as well as, to showcase the political will of the Government of Belize towards the effort. This was coordinated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Belize, Hon. Valerie Woods, who also Chairs the Belize Parliamentary Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition (BPAHM).

Secondly, the Government of Belize organized a virtual training on **“Food and Nutrition Education for Teachers: Towards a Sustainable School Feeding Program”**. Eighty teachers from throughout the country enrolled in the course which was held from August 15th to 19th, 2022. The virtual training sought to introduce basic concepts and principles of Food and Nutrition Education, allowed for sharing of experiences of nutrition education activities and school gardens initiatives, and to train teachers to use tools that address challenges in developing nutrition education.

The virtual training “Food and Nutrition Education for Teachers: Towards a Sustainable School Feeding Program” is an activity of the Government of Belize – through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, and the Ministry of Education, with the support of the “Mesoamerica Hunger Free AMEXCID-FAO” program, a joint initiative between the Government of Mexico – through AMEXCID and FAO, as well as the Brazilian Cooperation.

In 2019, FAO adopted a corporate framework for holistic action in School Food and Nutrition (SFN), as a direct response to the call for better nutrition and agri-food system transformation in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025. To this end, FAO has been supporting countries in the development and implementation of policies, legislation and programs to improve school food environments, ensuring consistency between healthy and culturally appropriate available foods at school, and school-based food and nu-

trition education to improve behaviors and practices.

FAO also works with local smallholder producers and wider institutional structures so that the circuits for delivering foods at school are shorter, more inclusive, and more sustainable.

The initiative is an evidence-based process implemented for the first time in 2020 for the Caribbean countries as an activity of the plan of the Brazil-FAO International Cooperation Program. The demonstration-based training approach applied then will be addressed again. However, the methodology will be improved with a set of cultural aspects of Belize’s food security and nutrition context throughout the classes.

Furthermore, this approach holds now a significant core designed to suit the target audience, teachers and to be scaled up and replicated. In this sense, it can reach not only more teachers but potentially all stakeholders that engage in a school feeding implementation process.

