



TPR 2026 & MSME EVOLUTION IN BELIZE

Belize's Fourth TPR 2026-

Highlights:

- ✓ Debt Reduction
- ✓ Economic Rebound
- ✓ Global Leadership
- ✓ Legal Modernization

Challenges:

- ✓ Climate Vulnerability
- ✓ Energy Costs
- ✓ Notification gaps (human resource strain)



Moving Forward:

- ✓ Proactive Governance
- ✓ Inter-Agency Synergy
- ✓ Digitalization as an Equalizer
- ✓ Intentional Equity

Evolution of MSMEs in Belize

Pre-Covid	2,500+ BPO-sector jobs	Pre-MSME Program (2019- \$11.82 Million)
Post-Covid	20,000+ BPO sector jobs	1,200+ MSMEs engaged (SBDC/EXPORTBelize 2020–2025)

12
New export markets
entered with BELTRAIDE
support

\$100M+
Export sales generated
2020–2025

From Recovery to Diversification

Post-COVID rebound: Belize's GDP contracted 14% in 2020, then rebounded sharply (+18.2% in 2021). MSMEs were central to that recovery — especially in tourism, retail, and services.

Sectoral growth: New sectors include renewable energy, agro-processing, and the Orange Economy (creative services).

Digital shift: "Go Digital Belize" and the National Innovation Hub are positioning MSMEs for e-commerce and higher-value global market participation.



Regulatory Framework: Reducing Barriers

Incentives

Fiscal Incentives Act (2023)
— rewarding job creation,
green technology
adoption, & local MSME
sourcing.

§6.19–6.21

Designated Processing Areas (DPA)

Duty exemptions, property
tax relief, & preferential
rates for manufacturing,
agro-processing,
aquaculture, & global
digital services, 8-year
incentives.

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Single Windows for Trade & Investment

The forthcoming Single
Investment Window (SIW)
and Single Window for
Trade (SWT), (2028
release), will digitalize
permit approvals & cut
administrative burdens.

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Also: Madrid Protocol (IP), Geographical Indications Bill, National Quality Infrastructure — all reducing compliance costs for exporters.



Access to Finance & Technical Assistance

FINANCING CHANNELS

DFC Credit Lines

Dedicated lending for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate-resilient MSME operations.

CRIF Credit Bureau (2025)

Lowers borrower risk profiles, reducing cost of credit for small exporters.

Instant Payments System (IPS)

Central Bank-led digital payments infrastructure cutting transaction costs for MSMEs.

Taiwan–ICDF Fund (\$342K)

Five local projects: COVID relief, startup incubation, mobile outreach, women-led businesses in Orange Walk.

BELTRAIDE–DFC Partnership

Over \$25M in capital investment facilitated for MSMEs (2020–2025).

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

SBDCBelize Network

No-cost confidential advising; ~1,500 businesses assisted (2020–2025) through national SBDC network.

BTEC Workforce Training

1,850 job seekers trained → 1,285 employment outcomes. Demand-driven, sector-specific programs.

ENTRE-CON & Innovate Belize

Annual entrepreneurship convention + innovation competition connecting startups with mentors and investors.

Chinese Taipei ICDF Training (2025)

AI Document Processing & Digital Marketing workshops; participants become "seed instructors" replicating skills locally.

Go Digital Belize

E-commerce tools and training for MSMEs, with priority reach to rural and underserved communities.

05

WTO TPR WT/TPR/G/484 | Sections 2.12, 2.14–2.15, 6.21, 7.1–7.3 | Taiwan ICDF Partnership Report 2025



Way Forward: Building on TPR Momentum

#planBelize

Plan Belize 2.0 Alignment

New MTDS (2026-2030) anchors MSME resilience, digitalization, and diversification within a strengthened multilateral posture. Belize reopens its WTO Mission in Geneva in 2026.

01 National Innovation Hub

Co-working space, mentorship, and seed funding for tech-enabled businesses operationalizing Belize's first Global Digital Services Investment Policy.

02 Gender-Responsive Trade

Scaling women's empowerment programs (Vanilla Training, female-led startups) and aligning with the Revised National Gender Policy 2024–2030.

03 Supplier Development Program

Systematically link MSMEs into tourism, agriculture, and FDI-led value chains increasing indirect exports and raising quality standards.

Belize's MSMEs are not peripheral — they are the engine of inclusive, sustainable growth.



THANK YOU!

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