

Program Overview

The **Education Project - Empowering Minds** addresses one of Belize's most binding constraints to economic growth: the **low quality of education**, which has contributed to a shortage of trained professionals across industries.

Following Belize's selection for a compact by the Millennium Challenge Corporation in December 2021, a joint constraints analysis identified education quality as a core barrier to sustainable economic development. The project focuses on tackling the root causes of underperformance within the education system - including policy, institutional, and systemic gaps.

The project aligns directly with Belize's national priorities under the **#planBelize Medium Term Development Strategy 2022-2026** and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MoECST) Education Sector Plan 2021-2025. Its objectives include:

- Improving the **quality of education** at all levels
- Expanding **access from preschool to tertiary education**
- Reducing **gender, geographic, and socioeconomic inequities**
- Aligning education systems with **national workforce and development needs**

Through institutional strengthening, policy reform support, and strategic investments, the project empowers Belizeans with relevant skills and competencies — building a stronger, more competitive workforce prepared to drive long-term economic growth.

At its core, *Empowering Minds* is about transforming education into a catalyst for opportunity, productivity, and inclusive development.