



# Belize hospital energy storage

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With Belize's annual precipitation ranging from 60 inches (subtropical) in the North to 150 inches (tropical) in the South, its low-lying coasts and rising sea level combine to make it vulnerable to hurricanes, flooding, and storm surges. Thus, health facilities must be able to deliver care effectively and efficiently in a safe environment that protects both staff and patients during emergencies. This is especially relevant for the Punta Gorda Community Hospital which provides secondary care for 52 communities, many of which are remotely located at the end of flood-prone roads.

"Reducing the vulnerability of health care facilities is a goal that can be achieved as we see here today," said Dr. Karen Lewis-Bell, PAHO/WHO Representative in Belize. "The "smart" initiative focuses on improving a facility's resilience and strengthening structural and operational aspects with green innovations. We are grateful to the EU for entrusting us with the implementation of this project and the long-standing partnership we have to be able to retrofit six health facilities as well as to improve the overall health system in Belize."

With a USD\$688,022.00 investment for the facility, the PGCH has undergone significant retrofitting works to improve overall safety, functionality, and sustainability. These included:

Additionally, the entire facility has received exterior and interior repairs with new tiling, doors, and hurricane-grade storm shutters. The facility will also receive a new solar water heater.

With the assistance of the design and supervising consultant, Mitchell Moody & Associates, and the contractor, Guerra's Construction Ltd., the PGCH is the first of the six health facilities to become a "smart" hospital. The Southern Regional Hospital (Dangriga) and Corozal Community Hospital are expected to be completed later this year while the Northern Regional Hospital (Orange Walk), and Western Regional Hospital (Belmopan) will be completed next year. Retrofitting of the Central Medical Laboratory will also be completed next year.

Funded by the EU and implemented by PAHO/WHO in collaboration with the MoHW, the Health Sector Support Programme Belize Project is one of the largest projects in the country with a funding of 8.8 million Euros. Besides making health facilities disaster-resilient and climate-friendly, the project is also improving the structure, organization, and management of health services, and strengthening Belize's health information system.

PAHO/WHO continues to collaborate with partners like the EU and the MoHW to strengthen Belize's health system to "achieve a better quality of life, for all Belizeans, living now and in the future."

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment of the country of Belize located on the north-eastern coast of Central America has called for expressions of interest (EOI) from energy storage experts



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and consultants to assist the country's proposed flagship power management project named as "Belize Renewable Integration and Resilient Energy System Project".

The project, backed by funding from the World Bank, is aimed at the strengthening of the national power transmission infrastructure in the country, by improving its reliability and resilience against extreme climates and other emergencies.

A battery energy storage system (BESS) facility of 40 MW capacity is sought under the project to enable seamless integration of clean energy onto the national electricity grid to provide uninterrupted supply of power to the country's residents.

According to the World Bank, an amount of \$65 million has been sanctioned for the battery storage project, which will be implemented by the country's national power utility and electricity operator Belize Electricity Limited.

Belize is one of the early movers in the Central American region to pursue battery energy storage for national grid resilience. Recently, Honduras had launched a consultation on regulatory changes to integrate energy storage in its electricity network.

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