



LRC Legislative Analysis Workshop supported by USDOL CLEAR II Project
Photo Credit: Leidi Urbina

Belize LRC Kicks off Legislative Review



LRC Workshop attendees: Judith Williams, Citrus Growers Association; Hayley Webster, LWOB; Aida Reyes, Senior Labor Officer, Ministry of Labor, Local Government and Rural Development; Elroy Foremen, Banana Growers Association; Baja Shoman, Attorney, Legal Aid Services; Danae Grant, Magistrate, Family Court; Aretha Ford, Senior Magistrate, Magistrate's Court; Zune Canche, Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association; Paula Hender, Legislative Drafter, Attorney General's Ministry; Leidi Urbina, CLEAR II; Sherigne Rodriguez, Crown Counsel, Office of the Director of Public Prosecution.

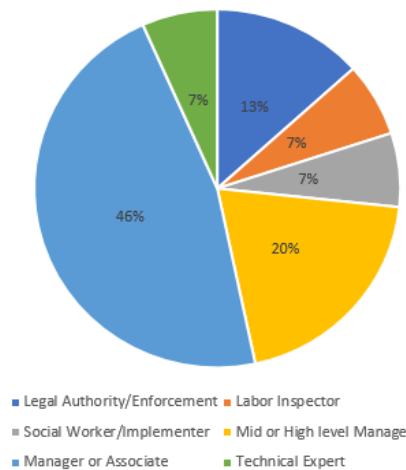
The Belize Legislation Review Committee (LRC), which launched on June 28, 2018 was created as a collaborative effort to unify stakeholders of different ministries and committees that share similar purposes, such as reviewing legislation on reducing child labor in Belize. Today, the LRC comprises 14 members from the National Child Labor Committee, the National Committee for Families and Children's Policy and Legislation Reform, and the Ministry of Labor, Local Government, and Rural Development.

Having convened monthly between June and September, the LRC now plans to meet once a week in October and November to complete the legislative review process on Belize's Children's Agenda 2017–2030 and add recommendations on amendments to address child labor. LRC members

agreed to commit to more frequent meetings and elected a chairperson and co-chairperson to guide the gatherings. LRC members meet voluntarily, unlike most other committees in Belize, which operate on stipends.

During August and September, more than half of the LRC's members attended a 2-day workshop facilitated by CLEAR II partner Lawyers Without Borders. At the first workshop, held at the Ministry of Labor, they worked on drafting definitions for hazardous and light work. On day 2, hosted at the Belize Institute of Management, interactive sessions focused on introducing legislative analysis and drafting; penalties and remedies; drafting the definition of a child, the minimum age for work, and compulsory education; and creating an outreach plan. The LRC is looking forward to upcoming meetings and making headway on the review process.

Belize: LRC Composition



Funding is provided by the United States Department of Labor under cooperative agreement number IL-26260-14K. The CLEAR II project is led by Winrock International. This material does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Department of Labor, nor does the mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the United States Government. 96% percent of total costs of the project are financed with Federal funds, for a total of \$7,000,000.