

WHY DO A CENSUS?

Every ten years our country has the opportunity to gather information about every man, woman and child living in Belize through the **Population and Housing Census**. The information provided from the Census gives us the most comprehensive picture of our entire population: **who we are, where we are, what we do, and how we live.**

But why do a Census? Here are just some of the many reasons why the Census is important:

1

To plan for the future:

Government uses census data to plan where to invest in new infrastructure and facilities such as roads, schools and hospitals. It is also used to identify communities and groups in need of assistance and issues to be targeted when developing new programs. This information provides guidance and helps government to prioritize when budgeting for the year.



2

To understand the lives of the most vulnerable groups in our country:

Because the census covers every single household in Belize, it is one of the few opportunities we have to study & understand the lives of our vulnerable populations. For example, it will provide information about how many disabled persons live in our country, what types of disabilities they have, their living conditions, and their level of participation in education and employment. With this information, agencies that serve vulnerable populations are better able to address their needs and improve their quality of life.



3

To get a clear picture of the housing stock and living conditions of our people:

The census provides information on the types of dwellings in our country, what they are made from, what type of kitchen and sanitary facilities they have, and the condition of these homes. It will also tell us how much of our population has access to services such as electricity and piped water, and the types of household assets they own.



4

To help businesses plan and make decisions:

Businesses can make use of census data to make informed investment decisions. They can use this information to identify which communities represent new and growing markets, what types of products and services to produce, and where to recruit staff with the needed skills and training.



5

To track how our country develops and changes over time:

Information allows us to track how our country develops over time and the census is the richest source of such information available. By comparing changes from one census to another, we can identify the ways in which the lives of our people have improved and areas in which more needs to be done in the future.

