



## BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

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# 4792 Coney Drive, 2nd Floor Withfield Tower, P.O. Box 291 , Belize City, Belize, Central America

Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

### **THE BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** **HOSTS CLOSING CEREMONY FOR “SUPPORT FOR MICRO BUSINESS** **– CLOSING THE GAP PROJECT”**

**-For Immediate Release -**

**Belize City, 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2024** - The Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI), hosted a closing ceremony for the *“Support for Micro Business – Closing the Gap Project,”* at the Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza Hotel – Toucan Room, in Belize City. Launched on 9th July 2024, with support and funding from the Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (Taiwan ICDF) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the project sought to empower and build the capacity of 15 women-owned micro businesses.

Project activities revealed that financial management - including cash-flow management, financial literacy, and financial compliance, were priority areas where participants needed support. Data gathered through surveys and focus groups were used to develop a tailored workshop series that served to address these gaps and equip the participants with the skills and tools needed to improve their business operations.

While reflecting on the project’s results BCCI Project Coordinator - Ms. Ronalee McKenzie, shared that “Our objective for this project was simple yet powerful: to empower and build the capacity of women-owned micro businesses. We sought to provide a platform that not only strengthened business skills but also allowed for personal growth and professional development.” The outcome of this initiative proved that the BCCI’s participatory and inclusive approach to project implementation is a key ingredient in ensuring a favorable project outcome.

BCCI President – Ms. Katherine Meighan, took the opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments, dedication, and resilience of the 15 women-owned businesses in her ‘Vote of Thanks.’ She reiterated that each of them was essential in building a stronger business community and encouraged them to continue to grow their businesses and contribute to the development of Belize.

The BCCI remains committed to supporting micro businesses and promoting gender equity. This project is proof of the impact we can have when we come together to close gaps that hinder growth and improve the lives of those around us. We look forward to offering continued support to Belize’s micro-business community through similar initiatives in the near future and beyond.



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For more information, contact the BCCI's Project Coordinator at [bccipc@belize.org](mailto:bccipc@belize.org).



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