



Annual Technical Report Ministry of Health and Wellness

2023-2024

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Foreword



As we reflect on our nation's healthcare journey, our focus remains not only on our obligation to improve health outcomes for all citizens but also to continue to accelerate progress toward achieving the #planBelize Medium Term Development Strategy, Sustainable Development Goals 2030, and Horizon 2030. Our journey towards a healthier Belize has been exhibiting commitment, collaboration, and resilience. Even through the unique challenges, our team of healthcare professionals has demonstrated unwavering commitment to serving our communities.

Throughout the past year, the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) has achieved significant milestones, from strengthening primary healthcare services through the National Health Insurance (NHI) rollout to implementing innovative public health initiatives such as climate-resilient healthcare infrastructures. The significant increase in climate shocks has triggered the MOHW to engage in its critical role in reducing Carbon Footprints through the continuous retrofitting of health facilities to be Green, Safe, and disaster-resilient while promoting public health and well-being. Together, we have navigated the complexities of a rapidly changing global health reform, reaffirming our commitment to safeguarding the well-being of every Belizean.

In retrospect of our accomplishments and cognizance of the work that lies ahead, the pursuit of health and wellness is undeniably a continuous journey that entails collective effort and constant determination. This determination to improve health policies and programs centered on evidence-based data, monitoring and evaluation of health programs, and accurate data gathering are the forces that contribute to a successful health system. Successfully applying the results and lessons learned for sustained improvement is necessary to reach Universal Health Coverage and the SDG targets. Thus, let us remain cautious, compliant, and benevolent as we strive to build a healthier future for all.

The 2023 Technical Report was completed through the efforts of the Policy, Planning, and Project Management Unit with guidance from the health managers and technical advisors of the different health units. This report attempts to accurately present the work of the entire public health sector and related partners in health and accounts for the current investment in health.

As we steadily progress toward achieving Universal Health Coverage, it is imperative to extend my deepest gratitude to our healthcare professionals, partners, and citizens for their unwavering support and dedication. With our shared vision and commitment, I am confident that we will overcome adversities and continue to make significant strides toward a healthier, more resilient Belize.

Hon. Kevin Bernard
Minister of Health and Wellness

Acronyms

BHIS	Belize Health Information System
CDC	Center for Disease Control
CHR	Central Health Region
CHW	Community Health Worker
CML	Central Medical Laboratory
GOB	Government of Belize
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRH	Human Resources for Health
HECOPAB	Health Education and Community Participation Bureau
IDB	International Development Bank
KMHM	Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital
MOHW	Ministry of Health and Wellness
MPS	Ministry of Public Service, Constitutional and Political Reform, and Religious Affairs
NDACC	National Drug Abuse Control Council
NHI	National Health Insurance
NHR	Northern Health Region
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PPPMU	Policy, Planning, and Project Management Unit
SHR	Southern Health Region
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
WHR	Western Health Region

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Ministry of Health and Wellness aims to provide quality, affordable, comprehensive health services; within a resilient environment that promotes equal health and wellbeing for all. To accomplish this, the Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Health and Wellness must completely roll out the NHI with a focus on primary healthcare services that will allow for accessible and equitable health services for all Belizeans.

The persistent investment in strengthening the human resources for health through capacity building is just one action to address the HRH gap. Effective strategic planning will enable investments to secure the retention of these healthcare workforces. Without the necessary tools, doctors, nurses, lab technicians, pharmacists, etc, will not be able to perform their duties efficiently. Continued efforts must be conducted to invest in modern technology and equipment as well as strengthen the Belize Health Information System to capture data for analysis, research, and evidence-based decision-making to improve patient care. Without adequate infrastructure, the quality of care and safety for patients and staff is significantly affected.

This technical report is a comprehensive analysis of current health challenges, initiatives, and plans. It aims to provide a strategic roadmap for improving healthcare delivery, promoting wellness, and addressing emerging health threats. Highlighted is the importance of infrastructure upgrades and investment in healthcare facilities to be Green and Safe as adaptation measures against Climate Change. Similarly, the MOHW must promote sustainable healthcare practices, reduce carbon footprint, and mitigate health risks associated with environmental factors through policy interventions and public awareness campaigns.

Moreover, the public health threat of emerging and re-emerging diseases, and climate change emphasize the need for continuous surveillance. Through disease prevention and management, priority areas for disease prevention, including vaccination campaigns, public health education, and improved surveillance systems are identified to reduce infectious diseases and non-communicable diseases. Continuous efforts must be directed at combating non-communicable diseases, maternal and infant deaths, vector-borne illnesses, etc.

Hence, the Ministry of Health and Wellness is committed to addressing the identified challenges and implementing the recommended strategies to enhance healthcare delivery, promote wellness, and safeguard public health. By collaborating with stakeholders and using resources effectively, we can attain Universal Health Coverage and achieve the SDG targets.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION



Vision:

Quality health care and well-being for all now and beyond.

Mission:

The Ministry of Health and Wellness aims to provide quality, affordable, comprehensive, health services; within a resilient environment that promotes equal health and well-being for all.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) vision and mission statement are aligned with #planBelize from the Government of Belize and focus on healthier choices, fewer diseases, and longer lives through the provision of quality, affordable, comprehensive health services for all citizens. This was done through the collaboration of the Technical Advisors and Regional Health Managers of the MOHW.

Core Values:

- ⊕ People-Centered Services
- ⊕ Social Justice
- ⊕ Equity
- ⊕ Respect for human rights and individual dignity
- ⊕ Accessible, Available, Affordable Health Care
- ⊕ Leadership
- ⊕ Transparency and accountability
- ⊕ Efficiency and Effectiveness
- ⊕ Quality

As stated in the previous Annual Technical Report 2023, the goals, and objectives of the MOHW for the next two years will focus on building a resilient health system that can overcome any difficulty and respond adequately to health emergencies.

The focus will be: 1. Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

2. Provision of a basic package of health services for primary and secondary care
3. Investment in human resources for health
4. Build resilient health infrastructure

This report is compiled from the Annual Health Region's and Technical Advisors' Reports which provide insights into the accomplishments, lessons learned, and future priorities in all sectors of the health sector.

CHAPTER 2: MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1 National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC)



Policy and Legislation: Submission of the draft Tobacco Bill to the Attorney General's Ministry.

Services Provided:

- ⊕ Substance Abuse Prevention Intervention (115 schools of all levels nationally) to inspire preventive measures across diverse educational levels.
- ⊕ Outreach Services (339 Cases - 250 Males, 89 Females)- representing an impact on individuals seeking assistance- Corozal- 25, Orange Walk- 60, Belize- 116, Cayo- 90, Stann Creek- 48, Toledo- 0
- ⊕ Community Empowerment (Corozal- 33, Orange Walk- 23, Belize- 25, Cayo- 34, Stann Creek- 15, Toledo- 5) through workshops, health fairs, and community engagement to build resilient communities with substance abuse awareness.
- ⊕ Media Interviews (District and National Level)- the platform for disseminating information and public engagement.



Coordination and Partnerships:



- ⊕ Strengthen Partnerships with Rehabilitation Facilities and the National Prison- a commitment to provide holistic support through collaborative efforts to rehabilitation.
- ⊕ Network with Support Groups (17 AA Groups countrywide) to foster a supportive environment for individuals on the path to recovery; reinforce community-based assistance.
- ⊕ Regional and International Engagement (Virtual Meetings and Training)- NDACC's commitment to staying abreast of global best practices.
- ⊕ Coordination of the Multilateral Evaluation Report- underscores capabilities in managing

complex evaluations and contributing valuable insights to regional initiatives.

- ⊕ Participation in Rough sleepers/Homeless persons Initiative (Ministry of Human Development)
- ⊕ Don't Drink and Drive Campaign (Easter Holidays, September Celebration, and Holiday Season)- the commitment to public safety and responsible celebration; active contribution in reducing Road Traffic Incidents (RTIs).

2.2 Mental Health

Policy and Legislation: Launch of the revised Belize National Mental Health Policy 2023 – 2028

- ⊕ Draft of the National Suicide Prevention Plan submitted for review; approval pending

Collaboration:

- ⊕ Mt. Sinai, Beth Israel Department of Psychiatry, New York- training on Psychiatric emergencies for medical staff; high-risk interventions for Police officers.

Capacity Building:

- ⊕ MHPSS for victims of Road Traffic Incidents (RTIs)- capacity building of public and private stakeholders; operational plan developed to integrate Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) into existing systems of care and emergency response; Psychological First Aid (PFA)- certified training for trainers of trainers countrywide.
- ⊕ Annual Mental Health Program Workshop- excellent customer service, communication in the workplace, teamwork and team building, and professionalism training provided.
- ⊕ Police Training- police and mental health training manual, mental health, and self-care
- ⊕ PFA Training- countrywide sessions with CHWs, public health staff, shelter managers, District Emergency Management Organization (DEMO) and National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) staff



wellness walks.

Advocacy:

- ⊕ World Suicide Prevention Day- light candles and flag raising; health fairs and educational sessions to raise awareness.
- ⊕ World Mental Health Week- Mental health is a Universal Human Right; distribution of meals; media rounds, educational sessions; sports day activities with Palm Center residents, consumers, and staff (collaboration with UNICEF).
- ⊕ Wellness Week- “Your health is my health”- media appearances, health fairs, and

2.3 Nursing

Capacity Building:

- ⊕ A cohort of 5 nurses was provided with a scholarship for the Master's in Public Health Nursing at the University of Science and Technology in Jamaica.
- ⊕ The Ministry liaised with Chi Mei Hospital in Tainan, Republic of China Taiwan for the training of nurses in specialized areas. This was done with support from the Taiwan Embassy in Belize. This collaboration led to the second cohort of training of six nurses in Operating Room Nursing for a period of 18 months.



- ⊕ Annually the Ministry issued 15 Registered Nurse Scholarships in partnership with the Ministry of Education (MOE). This scholarship includes tuition by MOE and fees by MOHW. Each student is required to sign a bond with the MOHW. This bonding policy was updated to extend the number of years committed to service after completion as a means of increasing the retention of nurses.

⊕ Issued 12 scholarships for the License Practical Nursing Program at the University of Belize. This scholarship included tuition and fees. The program commenced in August 2023 for eighteen months.



- ⊕ Additionally, a stipend program supports 25 students in the Nursing program requiring some financial assistance to complete their nursing education. The stipend is \$400 monthly, and students must maintain a GPA of 2.5 and above and provide evidence of an actual need for this support. This program was expanded to an additional twelve students who required financial support to complete the nursing program.

Planning:

- ⊕ Completion of the Nursing budget (2023-2024) and the program budget for the Ministry of Health and Wellness.
- ⊕ Development and execution of the Nursing Annual Operational Plan.
- ⊕ Reviewed and updated the National Medical Mission Guidelines 2024.
- ⊕ Development of a proposal for the creation of twenty-two new positions for the new Placencia Polyclinic.

Collaboration:

- ⊕ Participate in the Regional Nursing Body annual meeting. This was held virtually due to COVID-19, otherwise, it would have been hosted in Belize. Topics discussed were



surrounding COVID-19- sharing of best practices in the regional response, presentation on the Migration of Health Workers report, reviewing process for items for the Regional Examination for Nurses Registration, and the review and update of the education and practice standards for nursing in the Caribbean.

- ⊕ Participated and presented at the Fifth Global Forum on Human Resources for Health where issues such as migration of healthcare workers, universal access to health, and the role of human resources for health among others were highlighted.
- ⊕ Belize participated in the vaccine hesitancy survey which contributed to the policy brief on vaccines among healthcare workers in the Caribbean. This study was carried out at a regional level via the HRH Caribbean Commission which Belize held the chairmanship for the period 2022 to March 2024.

Staff Recognition:

- ⊕ Nurses Week celebrated- a formal recognition ceremony for nurses who have served for more than 15 years this included nurses from the public sector and KMHM. Also, the regions conducted different activities for the nurses and appeared in the media to promote the nursing profession.
- ⊕ The University of Belize recognized/ honored eight Belizean Nurses who have contributed to nursing midwifery and research in Belize.



2.4 Pharmacy Unit



Improved Efficiency:

- ⊕ Transitioned to fully electronic approvals of Pharmaceuticals being imported into the Country.
- ⊕ Active Third-Party Selectivity Sister - Agency on the Automated Systems for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) alongside the Belize Customs Department.
- ⊕ Processing of approvals for Pharmaceutical Importation by only Licensed Importers.
- ⊕ Having 80% of all Pharmaceuticals being imported Registered with the MOHW per the Food and Drug Amendment Act.
- ⊕ Having 100% Precursor Chemical Importation be by legitimate institutions in compliance with Pre-Expert Notification (PEN) Online Program within the specified timeline for feedback.
- ⊕ 100% approval of Medical Missions that enter the country for Customs and Ministry of Finance Exemption requests. Revision of the current application forms was conducted in consultation with the regional management teams.
- ⊕ Completion of the review and update of the Core Drug list of Pharmaceuticals that must be 100% available at all Public Sector Health Facilities.

- ⊕ Creation of an online Pharmaceuticals Importation database via Microsoft 365 for the storage of data of all pharmaceutical products imported into the Country.

Licensing:

- ⊕ Completion of second sitting of pharmacy board licensure examination with seventeen (17) candidates sitting the exam, ten (10) were successful (9 new and 1 deferred) yielding a 58.8% passage rate of the second sitting of the 2023 pharmacy board licensure examination.

Collaboration:

- ⊕ PAHO/WHO Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) Collaborative Project: Strengthening the Supply Chain Management (SCM) System for medicines and other health technologies -HIV, TB Medications & Malaria. Also, undertaking the introduction of the Procurement Transition Plan for the SCM of antiretrovirals (ARVs), TB, and Malaria.
- ⊕ Obtaining access to the Strategic Fund Demand Consolidated Platform which ensures access to the procurement of safe & cost-effective medications. A forecast was placed on the platform for the following categories of medications: Diabetes, Cardiovascular, HIV/STIs test kits, Mental Health, Malaria, and Cancer.
- ⊕ Conducted Time Release Study for Belize 2023 for the Customs & Excise Department. Data was collected to evaluate the actual time to clear goods from arrival in the country to physical release to the importers. The study required preparation of the study, data collection, recording of data, and data analysis.
- ⊕ The Ministry of Health & Wellness named the focal point for the PAHO Resolution CD55.R12 to ensure access & rational use of strategic and high-cost medicines and other health technologies.
- ⊕ Collaborated with the Ministry of Finance - Assets & Utilities Management Unit, Department of the Environment, and the Belize Solid Waste Management Authority on the destruction of expired pharmaceuticals & related medical supplies that were stored since 2009.
- ⊕ Oversight on the co-ordination of the forecast, bid process, and evaluation of the Pharmaceutical and Related Medical Supplies & Laboratory Supplies & Equipment for Tender Period 2023-2024 to review forecasted figures, advise on tender procedures provide technical support and sign off on a budget that was approved for \$42.4M.
- ⊕ Through collaborative efforts with PPPMU, proposal approval was granted for the Upgrade of Pharmacy Profession PayScale 10 to 16 for pharmacists. Senior Pharmacist maintained the same nomenclature with a salary upgrade from PayScale 14 to 18. The unit also saw the re-designation of the drug inspector post, it was upgraded from drug inspector to senior drug inspector with a salary increase from PayScale 14 to 18. Pharmacist Assistants also received an increase in salary from PayScale 4 to 5.



- ⊕ Oversee the mapping of the pharmaceutical profiles necessary for the CDEP project.

2.5 Laboratory Unit



Capacity

Building:

- ⊕ Actively supported training, both locally and internationally, which further supports exposure to quality systems and develops international relations through participation in conferences and seminars such as:
 - ⊕ Strengthening the Latin America and Caribbean Network for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (ReLAVRA)
 - ⊕ Adverse Transfusion Reactions
 - ⊕ Importance of Blood and Blood Components
 - ⊕ Strengthening Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) detection and surveillance in CARICOM
 - ⊕ Water Quality and Foodborne Pathogens
 - ⊕ Molecular Detection and Diagnosis of Carbapenem Genes in Gram-Negative Bacteria
 - ⊕ Sequencing and Bioinformatic analysis for Dengue virus
- ⊕ One member of staff completed an online Master of Science program in Public Health.
- ⊕ All staff completed Continuing Education hours facilitated by the L&A unit.
- ⊕ Participated in a train-the-trainer transport of infectious substances by air certificate course facilitated by IATA (International Air Transport Association).
- ⊕ Participated in a training on Monkey Pox testing facilitated by the Institute of Epidemiological Diagnosis and Reference (InDRE) in Mexico City, Mexico.
- ⊕ The Microbiology unit facilitated two cohorts of leishmaniasis training.

Improvements:

- ⊕ Additional support with staff through contracts for (1) Quality Assurance Coordinator (4) new Phlebotomists and (3) new Medical Laboratory Technologist III
- ⊕ Increase the scope of testing to now include the following tests:
 - ⊕ Human papillomavirus (HPV) testing: implementation of the AmpFire Test (Atila) HPV Technology & Gene Xpert Platforms at Central Medical Laboratory (CML) and all districts: To detect HPV 16, HPV 18
- ⊕ Actively developing and validating methods for: HIV Qualitative Confirmatory Testing
 - ⊕ Cancer markers for Breast, Pancreas, Colorectal Colon, Ovarian, Pancreas Management Testing



- ⊕ Hepatitis B viral load Testing
- ⊕ CD 4 testing is now being done at the regional hospitals and CML.
- ⊕ External evaluation and assessment proved CML's competence in the overall performance of the national testing service systems in supporting the diagnosis of HIV and syphilis.



Quality Achievements:

- ⊕ Collaborated with the Licensing & Accreditation (L & A) unit and conducted audits at different health facilities.
- ⊕ Roll out of Quality Control Program starting with Serology Quality Control In-House Preparations for HIV and Syphilis to district labs.
- ⊕ Certification of 9 Biosafety cabinets with support from Costa Rican Institute of Research and Teaching in Nutrition and Health (INCIENSA) at CML, 3 community hospitals, and 2 regional hospitals.



Upgrades: Instrument upgrades and new instruments acquired- nine (9) new hematology analyzers, CD4 instruments, Citadel processor, an Embedding center, an automatic microtome, and two new fume hoods- one anatomical fume hood and a Cytological fume hood.

2.6 Environmental Health

Advocacy:

- ⊕ Updated Compendium of Allowance to reflect the needs of the Public Health Inspectorate (PHI).
- ⊕ Finalize discussion on the Upgrade of Public Health Inspectors Post with the Ministry of Public Service.
- ⊕ Upgrade the Food Handlers Database System through funding provided by UNICEF.



Coordination and Partnership:

- ⊕ Participated in Monthly National Port Community Council Meeting to prepare for the implementation of the Maritime Single Window (MSW) implementation (large vessels only)
- ⊕ Participated in the annual US Embassy TTX as part of their routine preparation for the upcoming hurricane season. The objective of the TTX was to gauge the level of preparedness with collaborating sectors to update their response plan for the 2023 hurricane season.
- ⊕ Principal PHI was nominated as a representative to the Belize National Port Community Council in preparedness for the implementation of the Maritime Single Window (MSW).
- ⊕ Completed a video to showcase Belize's THIS achievements and support for its continued implementation as part of CARPHA's Regional Tourism and Health Program Stakeholders in the Bahamas.



⊕ Participated in the Medico-Legal legislative review and updating with the Forensic Department. Review completed and draft to be submitted to cabinet for approval.

⊕ Conducted Canine Rabies Annual Requirement and Plan to PAHO as part of conducting a national ant-rabies vaccination campaign (5,309 doses were requested).

⊕ Conducted discussions and agreement on the location of the Emergency Hospital for KMHM.

⊕ Conducted Belize Hurricane Lisa After Action Review. This was coordinated by NEMO along with technical support provided by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CEDEMA).

⊕ Supported Campaign “Better Climate 4 My Health”- the activity was a youth-focused campaign by the Caribbean Climate Change Community Center (CCCCC) calling on youth between the ages of 9 to 30 from across Belize and the 15 other Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM) countries to advocate for immediate action to address the health-related issues caused by the global climate crisis.

⊕ Completed PAHO International Travel and Health Questionnaire on Yellow Fever and Malaria.

Planning:

⊕ Conducted 3 Senior PHI Meetings to discuss accomplishments and program interventions for the Environmental Health Program.

⊕ Update the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of MOHW.

⊕ Participated in the National Climate Change Meeting on Gender Action- to review the five-year Gender Action Plan which focuses on



having inclusive representation of sub-populations: indigenous, marginalized, and disadvantaged.

⊕ Prepared annual budget (2024-2025) for the Environmental Health Program.

⊕ Completed IHR 2022 SPARS report and submitted it to PAHO.

⊕ Conducted the Revamping of the Tourism and Health Program



Services:

⊕ Support Western Health Region in reviewing a wastewater complaint at Quality Poultry on Hummingbird Highway- to improve the system so that the wastewater is disposed of properly

and appease the complainant Good Shepard School. The management accepted the proposed recommendations, work was implemented, and nuisance was abated.

Capacity Building:

- ⊕ Conducted train-the-trainer workshop in advanced food safety and certification.
- ⊕ Supported Central Health Region with the assessment of the Crem De La Crem wastewater treatment system- 4 Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) accompanied the inspection to get hands-on training on troubleshooting wastewater system problems and abatement of nuisance.
- ⊕ Participated in National Back Yard Poultry Sensitization Sessions on Avian Influenza with Backyard Poultry Farmers



Collaboration:

- ⊕ Conducted a Launch of the National One Health Platform.

2.7 Maternal and Child Health

Awards and Recognition:

- ⊕ Belize awarded initial validation of elimination of the mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis.



- ⊕ Belize obtained first place award for the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) surveillance indicators among countries in the English-speaking Caribbean countries; introduction of the pneumococcal vaccine (PCV 10); 100% of suspected Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD) investigated and discarded.

quality
the

Cervical
action

- ⊕ Baby



Policy and strategic planning:

- ⊕ Contribution to the discussions on policy in healthcare and establishment of quality in health directorate
- ⊕ Finalized national strategic plans: Cancer prevention and control, newborn plan, and EMTCT Plus
- Friendly Hospital Initiative updated.

Services:

- ⊕ 7.2% reduction of under-five deaths (U5D) (116/125); no U5D due to vaccine-preventable diseases
- ⊕ The Quality Improvement of clinical services is strengthening the teamwork at the health facility level with support from management teams and specialists and routine actions implemented and monitored using digital platforms.
- ⊕ Support to the Cash Plus Nutrition Project implemented in 12 selected communities in the Toledo

District.

- ⊕ Data capturing on vaccines administered in the field is captured digitally; improved vaccination coverages; enhanced cold chain network (cold chain equipment, training, and remote temperature monitoring system; vaccines procured with vaccine vial monitor)
- ⊕ HPV single dose approved; completion of yearly country reports (eJRF, Polio, Measles/ rubella, and CRS);
- ⊕ Enhanced elimination of mother-to-child transmission of Hepatitis B virus (Hepatitis B Birth dose administration, Hep B immunoglobulin, and access to Tenofovir)
- ⊕ Training of trainers in the provision of services to adolescents
- ⊕ External assessment of obstetric and neonatal care services at hospital level



Campaign Information:

- ⊕ Increased cervical cancer screening and follow-up of women with a positive HPV test (triage and treatment); access to treatment with visiting OB/GYN Oncologist
- ⊕ Modern contraceptive commodities available to the target population
- ⊕ Celebration of Vaccination Week in America's.
- ⊕ Belize Pro Tempore delivered gender mainstreaming in the health strategy plan.
- ⊕ Support from SE-COMISCA/CDC for outreach vaccination sessions

2.8 HEALTH EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION BUREAU (HECOPAB)



Capacity Building:

- ⊕ 6 DHEs trained on developing communication campaigns to increase the protection of children and other vulnerable populations against vaccine-preventable diseases.
- ⊕ CHW participation in trainings in the following areas: Surveillance & Vaccination; Wellness, NCDs, Mental Health; WASH; HIV & AIDS, Prenatal and Post-Natal Care, Immunization, Monkeypox, Nutrition, First Aid Emergency Preparedness/ First Response, Disaster psychological related trauma & Mental Health Training- included refresher training.
- ⊕ All HECOPAB officers completed Training in communication strategies to prevent zoonoses and vector-borne diseases.
- ⊕ Technical Advisor and Health Educator led the COMISCA REDCOM & Health Promotion plans with virtual workshops from Jan to June 2023 (PRO TEMPORE Presidency of Belize).

Collaboration:

- ⊕ Donation of blood pressure kits, glucometers, glucose strips, scales, and infrared thermometers, which will assist CHWs to continue supporting the provision of primary healthcare in communities (PAHO)
- ⊕ Through the support of the Malaria Elimination Project, CHWs in priority areas were provided with flip charts to use for education sessions.
- ⊕ A documentary, titled ‘A Day in the Life of a CHW’ was produced in Toledo and aired on television with the support of UNICEF.
- ⊕ One Health Educator attended the closing event of phase I of the project "Strengthening Regional Strategic and Operational Cooperation for the Protection of Selva Maya”.



Campaign Information:

- ⊕ The countrywide Healthy Caravans in partnership with PAHO provided support and publicity on the efforts by MOHW & its partners in addressing the population's needs on the importance of healthy lifestyles to address the burden of NCDs.
- ⊕ There were many health screening sessions with private entities and health fairs with partners. This allowed increased awareness of risk factors.
- ⊕ NCDs Nuh Fu Belize’ Back to School Expo in partnership with MOE and BMP City Council schools from Belmopan attended



Services Delivered:

- ⊕ Conduct house-to-house visits (Group Home Visits carried out by some districts such as Cayo)
- ⊕ CHWs supported vaccination campaigns in their communities by mobilizing the community.
- ⊕ CHWs collect relevant information/data for their communities (population size, no. of diabetics, no of chronics, etc.)



Advocacy:

- ⊕ Increased Stipend for active CHWs was approved (\$100/month- now \$500/month)
- ⊕ TOR was approved, reviewed, and signed by the CHWs.

2.9 NUTRITION UNIT



Coordination and Partnership:



- ⊕ Coordinate National Consultancies for Rice Fortification and Food Security sessions (supported by UNICEF)
- ⊕ Development Emergency Modality (DEM) Stakeholder Consultation Session
- ⊕ Coordinate and Launch Healthy Habits Healthy Schools Healthy Belize Initiative (Media launch, implementation, and communication plan)
- ⊕ Coordinate Wellness sessions and emotional intelligence training for TAs and staff members
- ⊕ Organize and coordinate Healthy Habits, Healthy Schools Healthy Belize Task force trainings, and meetings.
- ⊕ Support PLANTS project by Humana and Food Systems Pathway meetings
- ⊕ Coordinate Wellness Forums for Belize City and Belmopan and coordinate wellness forums in all districts

Capacity Building:

- ⊕ Nutrition in Emergencies National Training supported by UNICEF
- ⊕ Orientation sessions with 2 new regional Nutritionist
- ⊕ National Breastfeeding Sessions for Regions (Breastfeeding committees)
- ⊕ National Dietary Unit Training (33 trainings)
- ⊕ National Continuous Professional Development Trainings for 60 teachers in Belize District
- ⊕ 1687 National Nutrition Consultations
- ⊕ Participated in COMBI Behavior for Impact Training
- ⊕ Coordinate Training sessions for Vendors and Foodservice providers for schools (Healthy Habits, Healthy Schools)



Policy and Publication:

- ⊕ Launch of National Nutrition Policy for the Ministry of Health and Wellness
- ⊕ Submission of Nutrition Article for CARPHA Food and Nutrition Bulletin

Services Delivered:

- ⊕ 50 Wellness Sessions with staff and public officers (assessment, forum, Soca walk)
- ⊕ Activities for Health Days (Hypertension Day, Fruit Day, Breastfeeding Month, Wellness Day, World Food Day, and World Diabetes Day)
- ⊕ Nutrition for 1000 days with Human Development (Rovers from Human Development)
- ⊕ Cash Plus Nutrition Project for Toledo (organize meetings, field visits in Toledo, and training manual)

2.10 National Engineering and Maintenance Center (NEMC)

Capacity Building:

- ⊕ Implement/train maintenance web applications using the NEMC maintenance website. Web applications are used at San Antonio Polyclinic, Punta Gorda Community Hospital, Southern Regional Hospital, Palm Center Nursing Home, Western Regional Hospital, San Ignacio Community Hospital, NEMC, Northern Regional Hospital, and Corozal Community Hospital to record maintenance works.
- ⊕ Radiation protection officer training for NEMC Technical Advisor held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- ⊕ NEMC staff completed setup and user training for field hospital and Emergency Medical Team training held in Belmopan by PAHO.



Services Delivered:

- ⊕ Installation of donated Panoramic dental X-ray Punta Gorda Community Hospital.
- ⊕ Installation of ROTARY Punta Gorda donated Hematology analyzer Punta Gorda Community Hospital.
- ⊕ Installation of a new morgue cooler at Northern Regional Hospital and Western Regional Hospital donated by PAHO.
- ⊕ Lead wall bucky wall for radiation protection.
- ⊕ Completion of preventive maintenance service to mission-critical biomedical equipment for all four health regions.
- ⊕ Completion of preventive service to mission-critical air conditioning (A/C) equipment for Central Health Regions.
- ⊕ Completion of preventive service to mission-critical of a generator for Central Health Regions. Addition of new plumber, driver, and biomedical staff to the NEMC team.
- ⊕ Installation of medical incinerator and training at Caye Caulker transfer station.



- ⊕ Installation of CR Readers for Western Regional Hospital, Independence Polyclinic, Punta Gorda Community Hospital, and San Pedro Polyclinic this equipment has given the MOHW 100% digital x-ray.
- ⊕ (2) A/C technicians from NEMC received A/C license from Belize A/C association.
- ⊕ Installation of medical sterilizer equipment and training for Northern Regional Hospital, Southern Regional Hospital, Western Regional Hospital, and San Ignacio Community Hospital.
- ⊕ Assist the Ministry of National Security/ National Forensic Laboratory with medical equipment repairs.

2.11 Drug Inspectorate Unit

Services



Delivered:

- ⊕ 32 new applications for drug registration were received, 17 were processed, and granted a drug registration certificate. (15 were deemed incomplete and were unable to be processed)
- ⊕ 5 GMP certificates for pharmaceutical manufacturers were received and updated in the drug registration database.
- ⊕ Received and processed the certificates of pharmaceutical products for 108 products, all of which have been updated

in the drug registration database.

- ⊕ 195 retail establishments were visited that do not hold a Ministry of Health and Wellness facility license- 157 of those carried products that were not included in the over-the-counter list of medicines for general sale; 82 of those carried antimicrobial agents, in the oral or topical formulation.
- ⊕ Technical Licensing Committee was established- 50 licenses for pharmaceutical retail facilities were granted and 16 licenses for pharmaceutical import/ wholesale.
- ⊕ Received 45 applications for the licensing of pharmaceutical facilities: retail and 22 importation/wholesale pharmaceutical facilities - 2 applications were not accepted for processing because of the lack of a registered Chemist & Druggist.
- ⊕ 16 New License inspections and 123 License renewal inspections were done for pharmaceutical retail facilities.
- ⊕ 3 New License inspections and 42 License renewal inspections were done for import/wholesale facilities; and 6 health food stores.
- ⊕ 5 substandard and falsified (SF) products were identified on the market (private sector)
- ⊕ 3 offenders were charged with the importation and storage of antibiotics without a license.
- ⊕ 25 quality assurance reports were received from public health facilities; 16 of those reports were investigated resulting in the recall and removal of 2 products from the supply chain.



Capacity Building:



⊕ A National Workshop for the prevention, detection, and response to Substandard & Falsified Medical Products was held with various stakeholders including the Ministry of Health & Wellness, KMH Authority, The Belize Police Department, Customs and Excise, University of Belize, Nurses Association of Belize, Belize Medical and Dental Association.

⊕ Participated and benefitted from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) Medicines Quality Control and Surveillance Department (MQCSD) 2-year medicines surveillance program.

2.12 Licensing and Accreditation Unit

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- ⊕ Develop a Linen Management Monitoring Tool and include the service provider requirements to enhance linen services at the facility levels.
- ⊕ Develop a standardized tool for the inspection and licensing of linen providers facility.
- ⊕ Ongoing revision of licensure Inspection Checklist to include SMART Indicators for all health facilities.
- ⊕



Capacity Building:

- ⊕ Trained Regions on the use of the Linen Management Tool.
- ⊕ Conduct Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training with PAHO for healthcare professional emergency response in pandemics.
- ⊕ Capacity building of staff in key technical areas for quality assurance, patient safety measures, infection prevention and control, blood banking, quality infrastructure and radiology

Services Delivered:

- ⊕ Assist with reviewing and providing Infection and Prevention Control advice to established autoclaves for medical waste disposal, a project with PAHO and IDB (Collaborate with PPPMU).
- ⊕ Licensure application of Allied Health Professionals and Pharmacies. Maintain an efficient licensing system to establish, monitor, and enforce quality standards under regulatory requirements.
- ⊕ Supported with the first point prevalence survey for antimicrobials in Belize.

- ⊕ Completed and submitted annual report.
- ⊕ Conduct reviews of Dialysis facilities.
- ⊕ Review and audit of rural health facilities (1 of 2 visits conducted).
- ⊕ Policy review and adherence at public hospitals (peer review, incident and complaint system, ambulance policy, surveillance committee, and Quality Committee response -1/2 conducted annually)
- ⊕ Disseminate the revised National Waste Management Plan.
- ⊕ Updated license application form for Allied Health Services and mobile and stationary medical laboratory.
- ⊕ Conducted hand hygiene project audit hospital with support from the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America (COMISCA).
- ⊕ Conducted a pilot hand hygiene project in rural health centers in collaboration with Baylor University.
- ⊕ Conduct assessment to identify benchmarks on the capacity for the detection of (laboratory) and response to (infection prevention and control) multi-drug resistant organisms. The results of the survey will be used to inform facility selection for the Global Action in Healthcare Network (GAIHN)
- ⊕ Conducted health facilities inspection for licensing adherence (private facilities including dialysis centers).



Policy and planning:

- ⊕ Assist in reviewing Environmental and Social Management Plan revision and development with the World Bank and PPPMU.
- ⊕ Finalize Grievance Policy and submit for approval.
- ⊕ Develop medical waste criteria for autoclave requirements and operation at the facility level.
- ⊕ Support the revision of the proposed module for the new Quality Improvement System for MOHW.



Collaboration:

- ⊕ Finalized Radiology Quality Assurance Manual in collaboration with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and PPPMU.
- ⊕ Work with IAEA with radiation safety measures, investigation, and collaboration.
- ⊕ Provide support to strengthen HIV/AIDS Testing sites and providers.
- ⊕ Participate in One Health and Anti-microbial Resistance (AMR) working group sessions for

the implementation of One Health and AMR Infection Control activities.

- ⊕ Developed AMR Subcommittee and pertinent Terms of References.
- ⊕ Working with the regions to ensure the functionality of quality initiatives at the district level.

2.13 Vector Control



Award and Recognition:

- ⊕ Certification of Belize as Malaria free by WHO
- ⊕ PAHO Malaria Champions of the Americas 2023 award

Capacity Building:

- ⊕ Conduct Malaria microscopy capacity-building workshops for the Intermediate level.
- ⊕ Conduct Malaria microscopy capacity-building workshops for the private sector (local level).
- ⊕ Training in National Malaria Guidelines was completed (348 persons trained: 112 physicians and 171 nurses)
- ⊕ Training sessions for 187 CHWs and 49 Volunteer Collaborators (VCs) in malaria awareness, Rapid Diagnostic Tests, and Thick Blood Films (TBF) in Corozal, Orange Walk, Dangriga, Independence, Belmopan, San Ignacio, Belize District, and Toledo.
- ⊕ 106 CHWs and 6 District Health Educators (DHEs) trained in the BCC strategy using the Malaria flipcharts as a communication tool.
- ⊕ Re-certification of designated reference microscopist as Level 1 by PAHO and Institute of Epidemiological Diagnosis and Reference (InDRE)
- ⊕ Toledo, Stann Creek, Corozal, and Orange Walk: 15 Community Platforms organized and trained in the BCC strategy using the Malaria flipchart as a communication tool.
- ⊕ Training of 14 vector control officers by the Pesticides Control Board & MOHW in the safe use and application of public health pesticides and training of temporary spray men

Services Delivered:

- ⊕ Secure additional financing for malaria through the IDB in the sum of USD 399,854

- ⊕ Support regional teams in reviewing and updating annual malaria micro plans for malaria elimination.
- ⊕ One cycle of Indoor Residual Spraying was conducted in 48 communities, covering 7,479 houses, and protecting a population of 27,077.
- ⊕ Design and printing of malaria educational flip charts to be used as training tools by vector control, health educators, community health workers, and other stakeholders.
- ⊕ Organize a committee for review of surveillance at health facilities, and education and surveillance at points of entry – BHIS Unit, Communications, Epidemiology, Public Health, and Vector Control
- ⊕ Support the FETP training with a budget for field activity in collaboration with the Belize Vector and Ecology Center
- ⊕ Update proposal for salary upgrade for submission to the Ministry of Public Service



Policy and Planning:

- ⊕ Finalize and print the Malaria National Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027.
- ⊕ Conduct a costing exercise for the Malaria National Strategic Plan, identifying the financial gap and making requests to the IDB for additional financing, ultimately securing additional financing for 2024 – 2025.
- ⊕ Draft bi-national agreement for malaria elimination w/ Guatemala – pending signing

Procurement:

- ⊕ Procurements to support CHWs/VCS: backpacks, testing kits, and Polo shirts with the MOHW logo, Malaria testing site/Fever notification posts signs installed for CHWs/VCS
- ⊕ Procurement of 20,000 malaria rapid diagnostic tests
- ⊕ Procurement of 8 air conditioners for Corozal, Orange Walk, and Toledo vector control departments
- ⊕ Procured and distributed 6 laptops, 8 desktops, and 4 projectors for district vector control teams.
- ⊕ Procurement of Olympus EP50 digital camera for microscope at national reference lab – to be used as a training tool.
- ⊕ Procurement of 6 Garmin handheld GPS
- ⊕ Procurement of 5 thermal foggers

2.14 Epidemiology Unit



Capacity Building:

- ⊕ Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) – Frontline Course: 11 trained; 19 graduated from the different units and health regions.
- ⊕ Refresher training and sensitization sessions were carried out at the national and local level in collaboration with funding agencies Global Fund, National AIDS Commission, and PAHO with key members of the disciplinary team.
- ⊕ Capacity training for a cadre of well-trained and competent healthcare workers

Services:

- ⊕ A pregnancy cohort and PMTCT tool was developed to mine all pregnancy-related data from the BHIS and devise episode-based reporting- data is then linked to the HIV cohort to be able to report PMTCT-related information.
- ⊕ Improved reconciliation and reporting of births and deaths- a routine process has been established for reconciling paper-based registries with data in the BHIS using the reconciliation tool at each district health information unit.
- ⊕ Delivered high-impact combination prevention on HIV/STI and TB
- ⊕ Developed, completed, printed, and sensitized the Preexposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) guidelines with a continued roll-out at the facility level.



- ⊕ Complete phase-out of ARVs with a high level of resistance as per WHO recommendation.
- ⊕ Procurement and introduction of zidovudine IV use for infants born to pregnant HIV females who are considered high risk for HIV transmission.
- ⊕ Implementation of quality improvement measures in the monitoring of HIV/TB service delivery
- ⊕ Conduct periodic analysis of BHIS data for surveillance of HIV/STI and expected measurement.
- ⊕ The health status of the population is accurately described and monitored.
- ⊕ Monitor the use of the BHIS at both public and private facilities.
- ⊕ Ongoing coverage of death certificate data collection and validation and verification of unreturned certificates which results in death under-reporting through site visits and

institutionalization of a death certificate tracking system at all district units. In addition, the continued distribution of death certificate books to private institutions, monitoring of their usage, and continued collaboration with the Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center (JICC) to reconcile traffic fatalities.

- ⊕ Completion of Reports (Descriptive reports from FETP students, Review and feedback of Research Proposals, Weekly Epidemiology Digest)
- ⊕ Continued support to Regional Surveillance teams – with enhanced surveillance and testing

Collaboration:

- ⊕ Close support/collaboration with Laboratory surveillance during COVID-19, Tourism & Health Surveillance (THiS) Software.
- ⊕ Developed and strengthened public, private, and civil society partnerships.



2.15 Dental Unit



Procurement:

- ⊕ Purchased 4 Dental Units for San Pedro, Orange Walk, Belmopan, and Punta Gorda. This standardizes all Government Dental clinics with the same modern COVID-ready Dental Chair.

Capacity Building:

- ⊕ Zoom meeting on an Information session on integrated health tools, UHC compendium, and cost-effective interventions on oral health.
- ⊕ Train of Trainers workshop conducted for all dental staff countrywide.
- ⊕ Dental Congress participation under the theme “The Evolution of Dentistry”

Planning:

- ⊕ Update National Dental Action Plans and accomplishments reflective of the five main dental programs- by clinics.

Campaigns:

- ⊕ Dental Health Week activities by clinic and presentation of budgets.
- ⊕ Distribution of Monies for Dental Health Week Activities
- ⊕ Application of Dental Assistants Education to School children based on given topics presented at the Annual Dental Workshop.
- ⊕ Promotion of Healthy snacks.

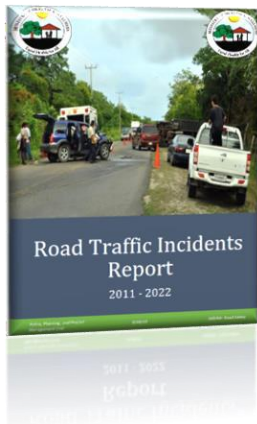
Services:

- ⊕ The Dental Education Program shows an increase from 4298 in 2022 to nearly double 8406 in 2023, representing an increase of 4,108 patients.
- ⊕ Outpatient care program shows an increase from 6280 in 2022 to 7192 in 2023; a difference of 912 more patients being attended.
- ⊕ The MCH program shows an increase at the national level seeing a total of 1327 in 2023.
- ⊕ Mobile Outreach Program shows a total of 4407 in 2022 to an increase of 10071 in 2023. This is 5664 more patients being seen on our mobile program.

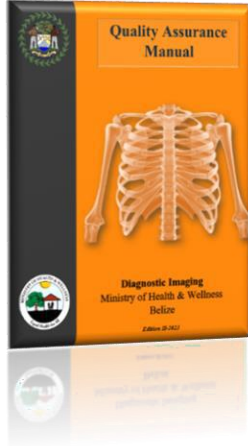


2.16 Policy, Planning, and Project Management Unit (PPPMU)

Policy Analysis and Planning:



- ⊕ Participated in work sessions with IDB in the development of a draft of the Belize National Quality Policy for Health.
- ⊕ Conducted Employee Satisfaction Survey.
- ⊕ Prepared and submitted the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Project Proposal for Western Regional Hospital (2 ambulances)-successfully approved.
- ⊕ Compiled a Road Traffic Incident Report 2011- 2022.
- ⊕ Collaborative efforts with the Drug Inspector Unit (DIU) in the finalization of the SOP Manual for the Evaluation and Registration of Pharmaceutical Products in Belize.
- ⊕ Actively engaged in the Pandemic Fund Proposal Writing and submission with collaborative efforts with IDB
- ⊕ Actively participated in the planning of the HEARTS Initiative in Belize.
- ⊕ Finalized the Revised Edition of the Quality Assurance Manual in Diagnostic Imaging (aligned



with the Radiation Safety and Security Act, 2020)

- ⊕ Strengthen collaboration efforts with the IAEA to support radiation activities.
- ⊕ Participate in Climate Finance Write-shop in partnership with the National Climate Change Office and the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub
- ⊕ Submission of request for the consultant to conduct training on Proposal Writing and Results-based Management training in collaboration with Catalyst+ and CCEDM.
- ⊕ Prepare and submit a proposal for the upgrade of salaries of the pharmacy department- successfully approved by MPS.
- ⊕ Participate in various webinars and online courses on different topics.

- ⊕ Established and participated in the Information System for Health technical working group for the Clinical Development Exchange Platform (CDEP) along with multiple stakeholders.
- ⊕ Actively engaged with different sub-committees with SE-COMISCA and participated in various training.
- ⊕ Strengthening of the Human Resource for Health Database- Populated the data set for the HRM web-based platform (HRM database tool)
- ⊕ Successfully conducted the first Quality Assessment and Control (QAC) of the HRM in 6 health regions.
- ⊕ Completion of HRH accounts training via the Virtual Self-Learning Course on Human Resources Planning for Universal Access and Coverage (2022)
- ⊕ Development of the National Health Sector Strategic Plan (NHSSP) framework tool.
- ⊕ Assist in the drafting of the Multi-Sectoral Gender-Based Violence Protocol
- ⊕ Review and revise the draft of the Belize Nation Social Protection Strategy
- ⊕ Participate in Board meetings of the Women's Commission





- ⊕ Draft and submit the Terms of Reference for the Mental Health Gap Action Program (mhGAP) Consultant.
- ⊕ Review and revise the Proposal for Mental Health Program
- ⊕ Review and revise the Tobacco Bill for submission.
- ⊕ Participate in meetings with SIF for the procurement of medical equipment for the Belmopan Polyclinic
- ⊕ Submit bids evaluation for Medical and kitchen equipment.
- ⊕ Develop a listing of supplies with costing for Belmopan and San Pedro Hospital
- ⊕ Revise and submit floor plan listing for San Pedro Hospital
- ⊕ Review and revision of the National Nutrition Policy
- ⊕ Preparation of the Self-Discharge Form and Clinic Notes Form
- ⊕ Review and submission of quarterly PSIP Reports to Ministry of Economic Development.

Project Management Unit:

Regional Malaria Elimination Initiative (RMEI)



Capacity Building:

- ⊕ Malaria national Guidelines: 348 health workers
- ⊕ Rapid response Teams Training: 121 health workers (Central Health Region Pending)
- ⊕ Behaviour Communications Change with Flipcharts for CHWs: 106 (Southern Health Region, Northern Health Region, Punta Gorda pending)
 - ⊕ Behaviour Communications Change with Flipcharts for Community Platforms (101)
 - ⊕ Malaria Surveillance for CHWs/Volunteer Collaborators: 222
 - ⊕ Microscopy training/SOP/Microscope maintenance for Intermediate level
 - ⊕ Microscopy Training for the local level (Cayo and Stann Creek Districts)



Coordination & Partnerships:

- ⊕ IDB In-country visits: Technical missions: June, October, November, and Supervision Mission: February
- ⊕ IDB Monthly virtual meetings conducted.
- ⊕ RMEI counterpart 100% execution with a request for additional funds to meet commitments and projections to March 2024. Funds requested were approved and disbursed.
- ⊕ C19 RM funds 72% executed, 27% committed to March 2024



⊕



Procurement:

- ⊕ Procurement of 300 backpacks, 2 laptops, 350 caps, 8 A/C units- all delivered to end users.
- ⊕ Procurement of vehicle repairs
- ⊕ Procurements pending C19RM: 2 vehicles, Caps with neck guards, work vests, office chairs, flipcharts, strategic plan, polo shirts, and workstation for Malaria lab.

IDB Funded Mesoamerican Health – Belize Project (3rd Operation):

Total Cost of Project	Total Disbursed Before 2023	Total Disbursed in 2023	Available Balance
\$1,165,174.00	\$1,165,174.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

- ⊕ Finalized the Final Audit of the Project with an unqualified opinion.
- ⊕ Successfully closed out the project with 100% of grant funding utilized.
- ⊕ Facilitated the payout of incentives to participating health regions (north and west) for the attainment of project indicators.

IDB Funded Immediate Public Health Response Project:

Total Cost of Project	Total Disbursed Before 2023	Total Disbursed in 2023	Available Balance
\$12,400,000.00	\$11,543,067.30	\$856,932.27	\$0.00



- ⊕ Completed the construction of two (2) autoclave houses at the San Ignacio Community and Western Regional Hospitals
- ⊕ Completed the installation of two autoclaves at the two structures in San Ignacio and Belmopan
- ⊕ Successfully completed the contract for the installation of medical air gases at the Southern Regional and Punta Gorda Community Hospitals
- ⊕ Finalized the Final Audit of the Project with an unqualified opinion.
- ⊕ Successfully closed out the project with 100% of loan funding expended.

World Bank Funded COVID-19 Response Project:

Total Cost of Project	Total Disbursed Before 2023	Total Disbursed in 2023	Available Balance
\$12,400,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,733,856.62	\$7,666,143.38

- ⊕ Successfully engaged the services of the project staff including the Project Officer, Senior Accounts Officer, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, and Environmental & Social Officer
- ⊕ Successfully reformulated the project to finance the cost of construction and equipping of a Central Medical Stores building in Belmopan City.
- ⊕ Engagement of temporal healthcare workers to support the health regions – five cohorts have been engaged so far:



- ⊕ Cohort 1 – 28 individuals (8 Medical Officers, 10 Nurses, 5 Medical Technologist, 3 Medical Care Assistants and 2 Administrative Support Staff)
- ⊕ Cohort 2 – 10 individuals (6 Medical Officers to support quality improvement, 4 Administrative Support Staff)
- ⊕ Cohort 3 – 51 individuals (11 Medical Officers, 13 Nurses, 7 Medical Technologist, 8 Phlebotomist, 4 Administrative Support Staff, and 8 Patient Care Assistants)
- ⊕ Cohort 4 – 12 individuals (7 Medical Officers, 1 Nurse, and 4 Administrative Support Staff)
- ⊕ Cohort 5 – 20 individuals (3 Medical Officers, 2 Nurses, 3 Medical Technologist, 6 Phlebotomist, 2 Administrative Support Staff, and 4 Patient Care

Assistants)

- ⊕ Successfully awarded contract for the supply of 5 vans and 2 pickup trucks to scale up outreach programs. To date, 4 vans and 2 pickup trucks have been delivered and distributed to the health regions.
- ⊕ Successfully awarded contract supply of medical equipment including patient monitors, EKG machines, and suction pumps. The equipment was delivered and distributed to the health regions.
- ⊕ Successfully launched the procurement process for the supply of computers to support the health regions. Contract and goods to be delivered in 2024.
- ⊕ Contracted an external auditor and finalized the first audit of the project which received an unqualified opinion.
- ⊕ Successfully launched the process for the engagement of an Architectural & Engineering Consultancy firm to develop the working designs and cost estimates for the Central Medical Stores building.



IDB Funded Program to Support the Health Sector to Contain and Control Coronavirus and Mitigate Its Effect on Service Provision

Total Cost of Project	Total Disbursed Before 2023	Total Disbursed in 2023	Available Balance
\$5,725,480.00	\$2,727,031.21	\$230,916.73	\$2,767,532.06

- ⊕ Successfully procured 7 ultra-low temperature freezers which were distributed to the National Vaccine Storage Facility, the



3 community hospitals, 2 regional hospitals, and 1 polyclinic.

⊕ Successfully procured 10 combination fridge-freezers and 2 large lab freezers for health facilities, countrywide.

⊕ Contracts were awarded to eight Drivers to provide support to the health regions. These contracts will run until February 2024.

⊕ The contract was awarded for the provision of external Auditing services over two years. Financial Audit for the period April 1, 2022, to March 2023 was completed throughout the year with the project receiving an unqualified opinion. The final audit will be completed in 2024.

⊕ Successfully onboarded the services of a Finance Consultant to the Unit.

⊕ Successfully launched procurement processes for the following activities which are scheduled for completion in 2024:

- (i) Supply and Delivery of 3 Waste Transfer Trucks
- (ii) Supply and Delivery of 1 Heavy Duty Truck for NEMC
- (iii) Supply and Delivery of Equipment for Central Medical Stores
- (iv) Supply and Delivery of Computer Equipment for Central Medical Laboratory
- (v) Supply and Delivery of Autoclave Consumables
- (vi) Supply and Delivery of Air Conditioners for Central Medical Laboratory
- (vii) Supply and Delivery of one (1) 40ft. Storage Container for Central Medical Laboratory

Taiwanese-Funded Project for Strengthening Medical Imaging Systems in Belize

⊕ Awarded contract for the Supply and Delivery of One (1) C-Arm Machine for the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital

⊕ Successful procured one (1) additional CR Reader System with additional accessories for the expansion of the Picture Archiving Community System (PACs) across the three health regions, namely Northern, Southern and Western Health Regions as well as the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital

⊕ Successfully re-engaged the services of EBM Technologies to provide additional licenses and PACs system with the view of expanding and enhancing the medical imaging systems across the three health regions, namely Northern, Southern, and Western Health Regions as well as the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital.



Support to the UNICEF Funded Cold Chain System Strengthening and Quality Improvement for COVID-19 and Cash Plus Nutrition Projects:

- ⊕ Provided procurement support to the Maternal and Child Health Union in the execution of the above projects. Support included procurement of staffing, consultancy services, medical equipment, other equipment, and vehicles.



2.17 Western Health Region

Urban vs. Rural Population by sex – Cayo district (estimated 2023)

District	Population	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Belmopan Catchment Area	55,809	27,022	27,129	33,430	22,379
San Ignacio Catchment area	54,704	28,125	28,237	27,352	27,352
Total	110,513	55,147	55,366	60,782	49,731

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize Estimated Mid-Year Population 2023

- ⊕ Crude death rate was at 3.5 per 1,000 populations, a slight decrease of 0.8 as compared to 2022 when it was at 4.5 per 1,000 inhabitants.
- ⊕ Maternal mortality rate was 3 per 100,000 live births due to Eclampsia, Congestive Heart Failure, and Pulmonary Embolism: eclampsia, Diabetes Mellitus and Congestive Heart.
- ⊕ The under-5 mortality rate was 15 per 1,000 live births, an increase of 26 % when compared to 2022 (91 % of under-five deaths occurred in the infancy period and 70% of all under-five deaths occurred in the neonatal period.
- ⊕ Top causes of death in the under-5 population were Birth

asphyxia, unspecified and congenital malformation, and congenital pneumonia, unspecified, with 4 cases.

- ⊕ The infant mortality was 15 x 1,000 live births, with most infant deaths occurring in the neonatal period.
- ⊕ The total number of deaths recorded was 397 and when grouped according to disease group the major causes, in descending order were: 1) non-communicable diseases (34%), 2) Injuries (26%), 3). Communicable Diseases (13%).
- ⊕ Most frequently diagnosed communicable diseases are acute respiratory infections and gastroenteritis while Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension, Asthma, Cerebrovascular disease (CVD), and cardiovascular diseases (which do not include CVD), were the top five (5) non-communicable.
- ⊕ 24 patients diagnosed with Tuberculosis and placed on treatment; 11 have been successfully cured; 15 new HIV infections identified.
- ⊕ 24% decrease in the number of transfers but an increase of 50 in the number of admissions
- ⊕ A total of 1,612 live neonates were delivered.
- ⊕ Still Birth Rate of 57 per 1,000 total births
- ⊕ The number of cases of gender-based violence was the highest recorded (3754)

Western Regional Hospital (Belmopan City)

Before



After



Georgeville Health Center (Georgeville Village, Cayo District)

Before

(Georgeville Health Center)

After

(Margaret Spain Health Center)



2.18 Central Health Region



⊕ The crude mortality rate was 1.4 per 1,000 population, decreasing compared to 2022 (1.7 per 1,000 population).

⊕ The under-5 mortality rate was 20.4 per 1,000 live births, a higher rate than in the previous year with the same number of deaths but 261 fewer births; 42.8% of under-five deaths occurred in the early neonatal period (related to stillbirths occurred above 28 weeks); 65.7% of deaths were related to certain conditions originating in the perinatal period and Congenital malformations, deformities, and chromosomal anomalies.

⊕ The total number of deaths recorded was 603 and

when grouped according to causes, the major causes, in descending order were: (1) All other diseases (residual) (2) Diseases of the heart (3) Malignant neoplasms (4) Cerebrovascular diseases (5) Assault (homicide).

- ⊕ Noncommunicable diseases were the leading cause of death in 2023 with 55 % of all recorded deaths (703), followed by Communicable, maternal, perinatal, and nutritional diseases which accounted for 16.8 % of deaths, injuries ranked as the third leading cause of death in 2023.
- ⊕ 2 maternal deaths were recorded, one of the deaths was due to HIV-associated infections (indirect cause), and the other to an accident (indirect cause); the crude maternal mortality rate increased in 2023 because fewer births were received in the period.
- ⊕ The age group with the highest number of deaths in recent years is 30-34 years, which accounted for 46.1%, and corresponds to the age group with the highest number of pregnancies in the region.
- ⊕ 1433 births belonging to the Belize district, 261 fewer births compared to 2022, representing a decrease of 15.4%. The under-five mortality rate in 2023 was 24.4 per 1000 live births, the same number of deaths is shown (35) but the rate increases due to a decrease in births.

- ⊕ Acute respiratory infections and gastroenteritis continue to predominate as the most frequent communicable conditions; diagnosis of communicable diseases increased by 47%
- ⊕ For non-communicable diseases, high blood pressure and diabetes with or without complications, increasing compared to 2022. Females accounted for 64.8% of the cases attended.

Caye Caulker Health Center

Before

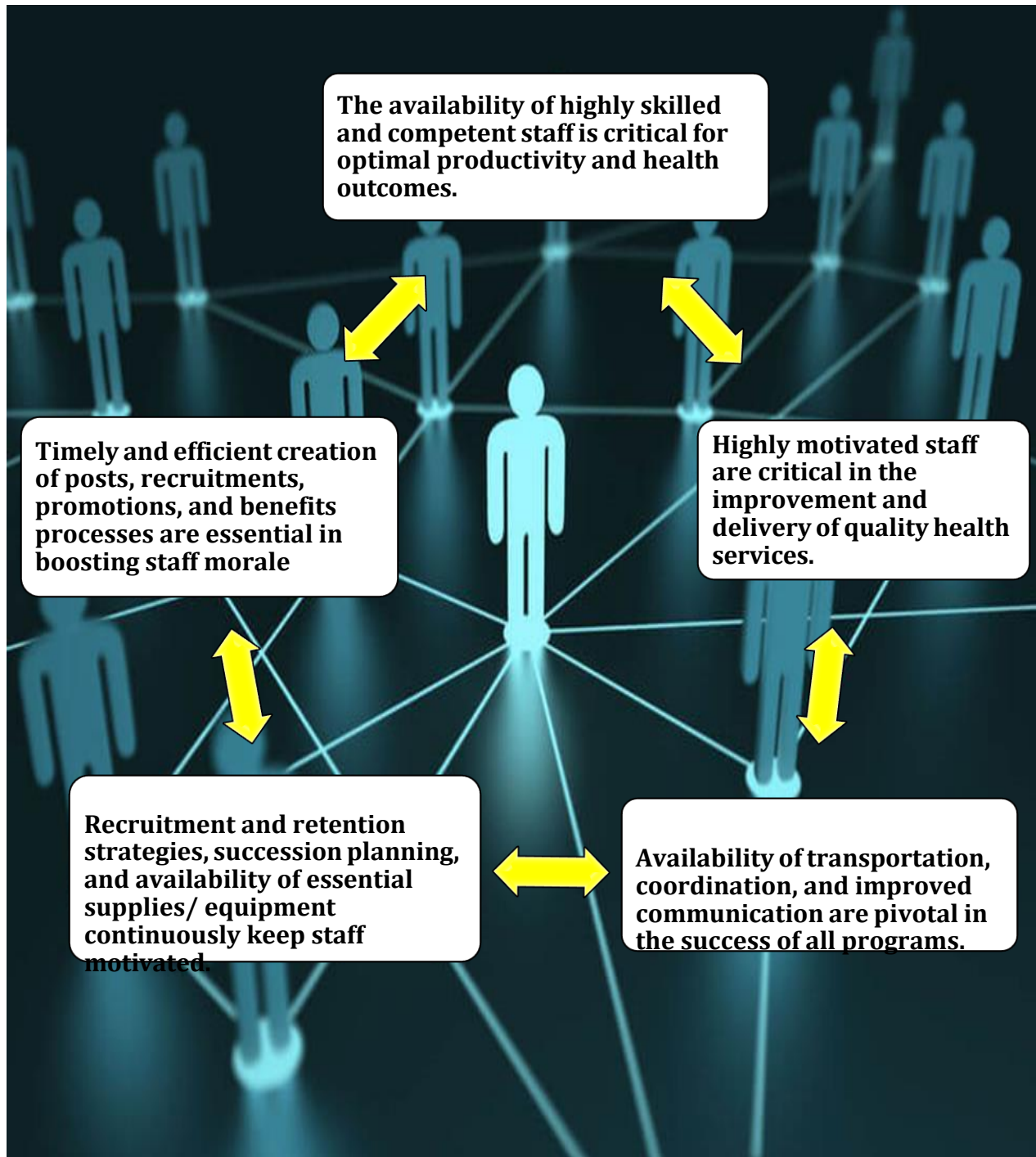


After



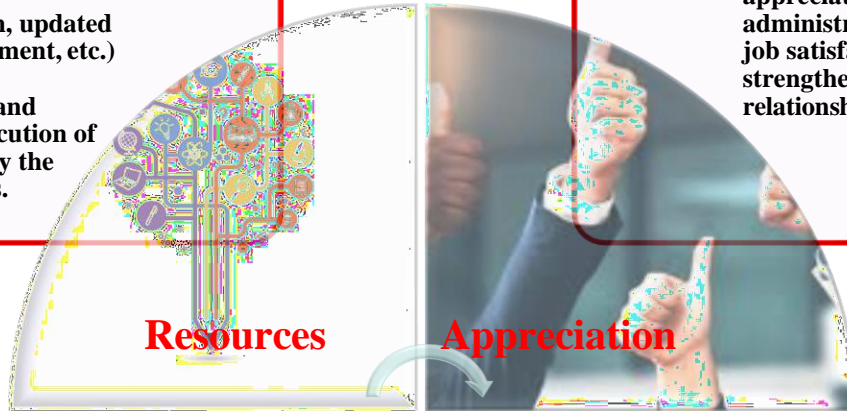
CHAPTER 3: LESSONS LEARNT

Human Resources



Administrative

- Limited resources (computers, transportation, updated medical equipment, etc.) impede high performance and successful execution of action plans by the different units.



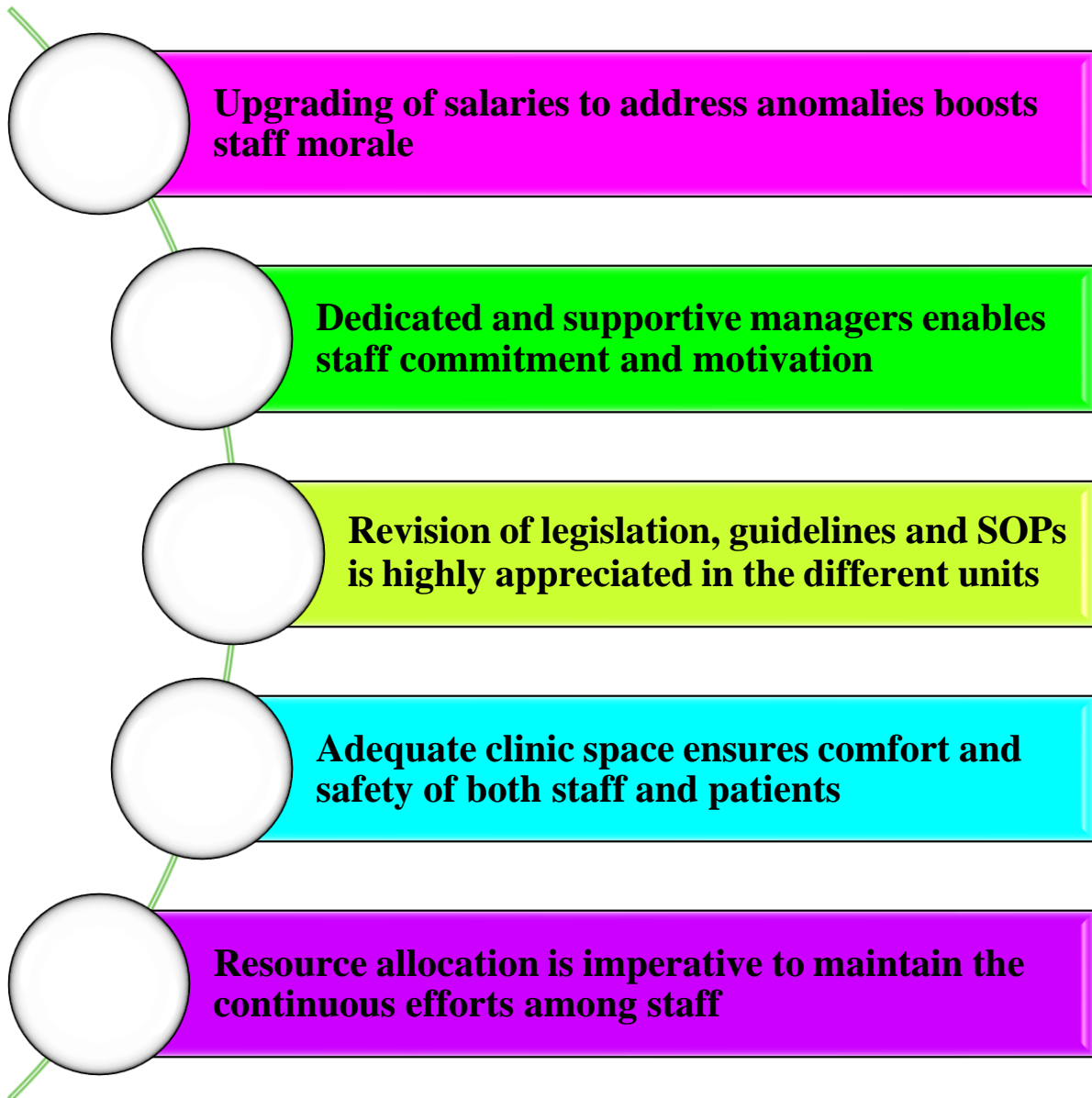
- Continuous support and appreciation from the administration boosts job satisfaction and strengthens team relationships

- Supervisory visits and continuous monitoring contribute to the successful accomplishment of goals and encourages timely delivery of documentation



- Proper budgeting supports the availability of essential materials and supplies for the prosperous programs and diminishes staff morale

Others



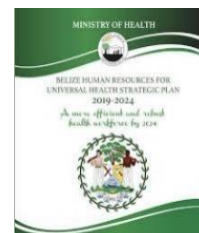
CHAPTER 4: FUTURE PRIORITIES AND PLANS

The Ministry of Health and Wellness is likely to focus on several key priorities and plans, which would specifically be aligned with #planBelize Medium-Term Development Strategy 2022 – 2026, Sustainable Development Goals 2030, and Horizon 2030. Hence, priorities for the future include:



1. Development of a New Health Sector Strategic Plan (2025 – 2030)- this is of utmost importance as new health challenges emerge and existing ones evolve, such as shifting disease patterns or demographic changes, the strategic plan needs to adapt to address these issues effectively and be able to respond to changing circumstances, improve healthcare outcomes, and better meet the needs of the population.

2. Development of a New Human Resources for Universal Health Strategic Plan (2025 – 2030)- human resources are the backbone of an efficient health system, therefore, strengthening this pillar is essential in terms of appropriateness, availability, and qualified personnel to meet the health needs of the population which remains at the forefront on the MOHW agenda.



3. Strengthening the Healthcare Workforce: Continuously engaging healthcare personnel to participate in training and specializations is pivotal. Their retention is equally important to secure a skilled, motivated, and adequately staffed workforce that delivers high-quality healthcare services while providing accurate diagnosis, effective treatments, and compassionate care. Thus, the MOHW is developing retention packages and updating the Compendium of Allowances as priorities.

4. Improving Healthcare Access: Ensuring all citizens have access to quality healthcare services, especially in rural and underserved areas while addressing these socioeconomic barriers to access through the complete roll-out of the National Health Insurance (NHI) and the implementation of telemedicine services. Belize also seeks to achieve Universal Health Coverage with an emphasis on Primary Health Care Services consequently addressing rising trends in maternal and infant mortality and early deaths associated with NCDs.





Strengthening of Guidelines, Policies, and Legislation: updating legislation with cabinet approval to address health disparities, and emerging issues and ensure that laws remain relevant and effective in protecting public health by focusing on safety and maintaining ethical standards. Updated policies and guidelines for disease prevention and control by implementing strategies to prevent and control communicable and non-communicable diseases, with the goal of improving health outcomes by focusing on patient safety.

5. Uninterrupted Health Promotion and Education: this reduces healthcare costs as prevention is often more cost-effective than treatment. Continuously promoting healthy lifestyles and behaviors through education and awareness campaigns empowers communities. It integrates them into the decision-making, planning processes, and health promotion efforts to build community capacity, resilience, and ownership of health initiatives.



6. Engaging Innovation: advancements in healthcare are wide and can include advancements in medical technology, treatments, and healthcare delivery models allowing us to incorporate innovations and ensure the healthcare system remains up to date with lower healthcare costs, increased efficiency, and easier workflow. Concurrently, patient privacy protection, data security, and patient rights will be ensured through updated and new legislation.

7. Climate Change Resilient Infrastructure Development: Integrating climate considerations by investing in climate-resilient healthcare infrastructure with green and safe features, including a new hospital in San Pedro, a new teaching hospital in Belmopan, Placencia Polyclinic, as well as medical equipment, is imperative in enhancing the capacity and quality of healthcare services fit for long-term sustainability.



8. Strengthen Emergency Preparedness and Response: Developing and enhancing emergency response capabilities to effectively manage public health emergencies, including natural disasters and disease outbreaks. This is crucial for protecting lives, minimizing suffering, and promoting resilience in the face of disasters and emergencies.

CHAPTER 5: STAFFING AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Human Resources for Health:

There are approximately 2,000 public officers employed in the MOHW of which approximately 976 are considered technical staff (i.e., doctors, nurses, and dentists). A recent assessment of human resources for health showed the following conclusions and recommendations:

“The results of this Human Resource for Health assessment in the public health system clearly show a disparity and uneven distribution of the health workforce. When compared with both HRH benchmarks for achieving Universal Health Coverage and for achieving Sustainable Development Goals there is a shortage of approximately 32.6% and 47.7%, respectively. There is a disparity in distribution between health regions and between health facilities. It is also noted that there are a few key available posts that need to be filled including several administrative, technical staff, specialists, and nurse specialists. To move forward it is necessary to first fill the available posts within the four health regions. Based on the recommended benchmarks to achieve universal health coverage, MOHW must fully implement the BELIZE HUMAN RESOURCES FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2024. The HRH plan has five strategic objectives and seeks to address the HRH issues within the public health system. These include:

- SO1:** Strengthen leadership and consolidate governance in human resources for health.
- SO2:** Develop conditions and capacities in human resources for health to expand access to health and health coverage with equity and quality.
- SO3:** Increase investment in human resources for health to increase the pool of qualified personnel, improve the health of the population, and contribute to national development.
- SO4:** Strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration to improve education systems for human resources for health.
- SO5:** Strengthen health workforce partnership to respond to the needs of the health system in the transformation towards universal access to health and universal health coverage.

An effective health workforce should be urgently mobilized to implement priority national programs resulting in the long-term building of sustainable human resource capacities, a positive work environment, education, and training, and enabling policies. Furthermore, evidence has shown that investing in human resources for health improves employment rates and enhances economic growth.”

Health Financing:

The annual budget for the MOHW has remained at a cap of approximately \$142,000,000. With the COVID-19 pandemic lessons learned, it is now vital to have a public health emergency fund that can be easily accessed in times of urgent need. This is significant, especially with the new emerging diseases and the constant threats of climate change. Additionally, it is worth mentioning that employment remuneration amounts to a greater share of government expenditure, followed by hospital services. Hence, as our focus remains on achieving Universal Health Coverage, it is equally significant to reconsider new and more robust schemes for investment in primary healthcare to address the alarming increase in non-communicable diseases.

Cost Center	Type			
	Capital II Expenditure	Capital III Expenditure	Recurrent Expenditure	Recurrent Revenue
19017	8,442,725.00	2,200,000.00	39,832,428.00	455,269.00
19021			2,390,388.00	
19031			8,910,828.00	1,146,826.00
19041			575,796.00	
19068			305,328.00	77,454.00
19074			6,735,936.00	
19083			10,131,732.00	
19092			7,315,152.00	
19105			8,808,180.00	
19116			5,505,108.00	
19121			11,756,652.00	
19131			1,924,872.00	
19141			900,396.00	
19151			641,784.00	
19168			11,514,612.00	
19178			1,727,160.00	
19188			2,790,348.00	
19198			469,196.00	

19208			276,816.00	
19218			498,072.00	
19228			719,724.00	
19238			417,264.00	
19248			200,328.00	
19258			1,106,664.00	
19268			122,448.00	
19278			209,652.00	
19288			163,380.00	
19291			2,365,992.00	
19298	200,000.00	125,000.00	515,352.00	
30241			1,164,288.00	
TOTAL:	\$ 8, 642, 725.00	\$ 2, 325, 000.00	\$ 129, 995, 876.00	\$ 1, 679, 549.00
GRAND TOTAL:	<u>\$ 142, 643, 150.00</u>			

Table 1: The Ministry of Health and Wellness Expenditure and Revenue Breakdown by Cost Center

CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion, this Annual Technical Report for the Ministry of Health and Wellness highlights the progress made by the Ministry of Health and Wellness despite the adversities lingering after the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, the MOHW is committed to addressing key healthcare challenges and advancing public health goals. The journey to achieving Universal Health Coverage which is aligned with #planBelize Medium Term Development Strategy, SDGs 2030, and Horizon 2030 is reflected in the numerous achievements. The reduction of out-of-pocket expenses with the uplifting of fees at all public facilities and in the ongoing rollout of the NHI program, which now provides equitable and accessible health services to the citizens of the Northern Health Region adding to the Central and Southern Health Regions is a testament of the Ministry of Health and Wellness's resolution.

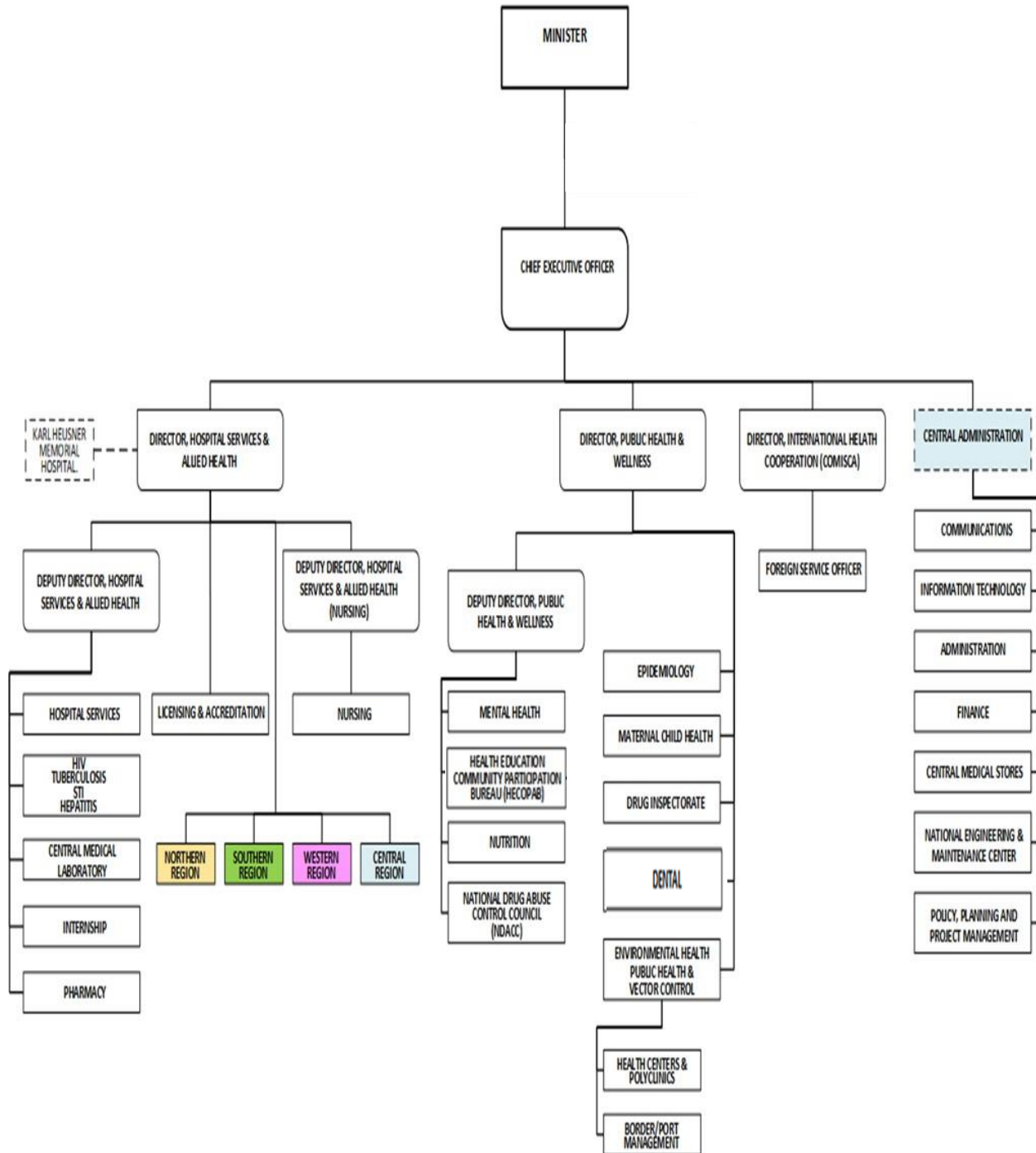
Through collaborative efforts and proper strategic planning, the MOHW will undoubtedly continue to prioritize areas of focus, allocate resources effectively, coordinate efforts among various stakeholders, and monitor progress toward desired outcomes. Limited resources will indisputably be used efficiently, and evidence-based interventions will strengthen Belize's Health System by addressing current and future health challenges effectively. The close monitoring of the major causes of morbidity and early mortality, such as non-communicable diseases, will persistently be addressed through the empowerment of communities with robust health education and awareness campaigns. This will consequently allow each citizen to take ownership of their health.

Moreover, the Ministry of Health and Wellness will continue to strengthen the quality of services. No mother or newborn should die due to complications of pregnancy or during delivery. Hence, the Quality Improvement of clinical services will enforce teamwork at the health facility level with support from management teams and specialists through the routine actions implemented and monitored using digital platforms. Proper strategic planning from the different units is imperative to improve health outcomes, e.g., the MCH unit that developed a National Strategic Plan for Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control.

Strengthening of healthcare workforce and enhancing emergency preparedness and response through the support of surveillance teams will ultimately save lives by enabling timely and effective interventions. Continuous investments in developing climate-resilient infrastructure must also remain at the forefront. Parallel is the strengthening of human resources for health to achieve the benchmark of 3.45 healthcare workers per 1000 population.

Nonetheless, challenges remain, and continued commitment and investment are needed to sustain these rewards and address emerging health issues. The MOHW's firm commitment to the updating of guidelines, policies, and legislation that govern the public health system must not be tarnished. Thus, with a steadfast dedication to innovation, collaboration, and equity, we can build a healthier and more resilient future for all.

Annex 1: Organizational Structure for the Ministry of Health and Wellness



Annex 2: List of Professional and Technical Staff of the Ministry of Health and Wellness

	MOHW EMPLOYEE NAMES	MOHW EMPLOYEE POST
1	LISSETH ABARCA	SOFTWARE TRAINING SUPPORT OFFICER
2	WENDOR ALAMILLA	DRIVER / HANDYMAN
3	DAVID ANDERSON	PORTER
4	MARYLIN DAWSON ASPINAL	ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL SERVICE AND ALLIED HEALTH (NURSING)
5	HECTOR AYALA	DRUG INSPECTOR
6	KAYRRIE BACAB	SECRETARY III
7	JOHN BARAHONA	GRAPHIC DESIGNER
8	ISAIRIS BARRERA	SECOND CLASS CLERK
9	KIM BAUTISTA	VECTOR CONTROL CHIEF
10	NATALIA BEER	TECHNICAL ADVISOR
11	KERA BELL	SECRETARY III
12	LIZETTE BELL	DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL SERVICE AND ALLIED HEALTH (NURSING)
13	ELEANOR BENNETT	REGISTRAR (NURSES & MIDWIVES) COUNCIL OF BELIZE
14	KEVIN BERNARD	MINISTER
15	RENEE BERRY	HEALTH EDUCATOR
16	NICOLE BETSON	HEALTH PLANNER
17	JOHN BODDEN	PRINCIPAL HEALTH INSPECTOR
18	AARON BUCKLEY	DRIVER/MECHANIC
19	JAMILAH BULWER	PROCUREMENT MANAGER
20	TESSIE BURGESS	CLEANER
21	ISRAEL CADLE	OFFICE ASSISTANT
22	IAN CAL	GRAPHIC DESIGNER
23	RENDY CAL	PORTER
24	EDGAR CAN	VACCINE TECHNICIAN
25	LOYDA CANO	FIRST CLASS CLERK
26	ARISA CARDONA	SECOND CLASS CLERK
27	JENNYEVE CASEY	FIRST CLASS CLERK
28	PHILLIP CASTILLO	EVALUATION OFFICER
29	JAVAN CHAVARRIA	BIostatistician
30	ALBERT CHIAC	HANDYMAN
31	KATHLEEN CHO	HECOPAB OFFICER
32	JESSE CHUN	SENIOR BIostatistician
33	AMALIA COCOM	MCH ASSISTANT
34	MIRNA COH	BIostatistician
35	MAUREEN COLEMAN	SECRETARY
36	SEAN COLEMAN	IT TECHNICIAN
37	ANGEL COWO	PROGRAM COORDINATOR
38	DAVID CRUZ	ASSISTANT ENGINEERING
39	EDGAR CRUZ	ASSISTANT ENGINEERING

40	ELSBETH CRUZ	DRUG INSPECTOR
41	JOHNATHAN CRUZ	PORTER
42	FIDEL CUELLAR	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS
43	CLIFFORD CUS	DRUG INSPECTOR
44	MELISSA DIAZ	DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS
45	NAVEEN DIAZ	SECRETARY III
46	DIANE EK	FOREIGN SERVICES OFFICER
47	EDUARDO ESPAT	DRIVER
48	ENGLEBERT EMMANUEL	BIOSTATISTICIAN
49	ROBYN DALY FABER	NUTRITIONIST
50	MYRA FERNANDEZ	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER
51	AGGASI FINNEGAN	SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL
52	SHARON FISHER	FINANCE OFFICER III
53	FRANCISCA INDIRA FLOWERS	FIRST CLASS CLERK
54	SHAVONEY FLOWERS	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II
55	DAVID FRUTOS	ASSISTANT PROJECT OFFICER
56	KEILY GALDAMEZ	SECRETARY III
57	AMINI GALVEZ	DRUG INSPECTOR
58	DENISE GARCIA JOSEPH	SECOND CLASS CLERK
59	RONDINE GARCIA	SECOND CLASS CLERK
60	ARMELLE GILLETT	MEDICAL OFFICER II
61	FIONA GILLETT	SECRETARY
62	SAMIRA GONGORA	DRUG INSPECTOR
63	EUNICE AURA GONGORA	FINANCE OFFICER III
64	REYNA GONAZALES	OFFICE ASSISTANT
65	LILY GUERRA	HEALTH PLANNER
66	SELENI GUERRA	FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
67	ARITHESHA HENDY	SECOND CLASS CLERK
68	ESTELLA HUMPHREYS	COMMUNITY PLATFORM AGENT
69	ANTONIO HEGAR	EPIDEMIOLOGIST
70	ALICIA ICO	SECOND CLASS CLERK
71	CANCY JONES	CLEANER
72	IAN JONES	PORTER
73	ELLEN SUE JOSEPH	PROCUREMENT MANAGER
74	AYONNI JUCHIM	SECOND CLASS CLERK
75	NAUDIA WILLIAMS LEONARDO	HEALTH PLANNER
76	ALDEIR LIMA	PROJECT MANAGER
77	ARIK LIMA	PROCUREMENT MANAGER
78	CATHY LINAREZ	ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER III
79	HUAN HU LIN	SYSTEM ANALYST
80	YESENIA LISBEY	STOREKEEPER
81	JESSIE LOPEZ	DRIVER
82	KRYSTEL LOTIFF	SECOND CLASS CLERK
83	SHAYNA MAKIN	HEALTH PLANNER
84	MARVIN MANZANERO	DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH COOPERATION
85	RUSSEL MANZANERO	EPIDEMIOLOGIST

86	ARTHUR MARTINEZ	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM
87	LUIS MATUTE	STOREKEEPER
88	JANELLI MEJIA	MEDICAL OFFICER II
89	DENNIS MIDDLETON	HANDYMAN/ DRIVER
90	LILIA MIDDLETON	NURSING ADMINISTRATOR
91	FRANCIS MOREY	DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES HOSPITAL SERVICES AND ALLIED HEALTH
92	EDGAR NAH	BIOSTATICIAN
93	CLAUDETTE NORALES	COMMUNICATION OFFICER
94	PAMELA O'BRIEN	SECRETARY
95	SHANTI OLIVIA	FIRST CLASS CLERK
96	STACY ORDONEZ	SECOND CLASS CLERK
97	VERONICA ORTEGA	MONITORING & EVALUATION OFFICER
98	DALE PALACIO	DRIVER
99	LISA MIRANDA PALACIO	SENIOR SECRETARY
100	DENISE PETERS	ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER III
101	LEONORA PELAYO	CLEANER
102	DAVID PERRERA	ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL OFFICER
103	JORGE POLANCO	DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL SERVICES AND ALLIED HEALTH
104	DEVON PRATT	PORTER
105	IVETH QUINTANILLA	MENTAL COORDINATOR
106	LISANDRO REYES	ASSISTANT STATISTICAL OFFICER
107	ROSE RIVERO	FINANCE CONSULTANT
108	SHANICE RODRIQUEZ	SECRETARY II
109	TIFFANY RODRIQUEZ	PROCUREMENT OFFICER
110	DESIREE ROMERO	ALLIED HEALTH COORDINATOR
111	NEDIA ROMERO	QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR
112	JULIO SABIDO	CEO
113	YESICA SAGASTUME	FINANCE OFFICER II
114	RAPHAEL SAMOS	DENTAL SURGEON
115	CHRYSTAL SAMOUGE	CHIEF DRUG INSPECTOR
116	INEZ SANCHEZ	SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR
117	LISA SANCHEZ	SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
118	JUAN SARABIA	ASSISTANT STATISTICAL CLERK
119	LIGIA SERRANO	SOCIAL WORKER/COUNSELLOR
120	ELIJAH SHABAZZ	CARETAKER
121	ROBERTO SHO	PROJECT OFFICER
122	CAROL SMITH	ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER II
123	MARLENE SOBERANIS	ASSISTANT PROJECT OFFICER
124	ALDO SOSA	SENIOR MED TECH
125	ARY SOSA	WATER ANALYST
126	URIEL SOSA	WATER ANALYST
127	D'ANDRE SOTO	MINISTER AIDE
128	TELICIA SWIFT	CEO SECRETARY
129	ESTEVAN TEJEDA	HANDYMAN/DRIVER
130	AKEEM TENCH	SECOND CLASS CLERK
131	CYNTHIA TERRY	PROJECT TECHNICIAN
132	WENDY THOMAS	CLEANER
133	NAOMI TORRES	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

134	VIOLA TUYUD	HEALTH PLANNER
135	NAOMI TZUL	DRUG INSPECTOR
136	DALE USHER	DRIVER
137	KENZY VALLE	SECOND CLASS CLERK
138	JANET VALENCIA	CLEANER
139	LUIS VASQUEZ	DRIVER
140	EUFEMIA WAIGHT	SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE
141	KRISTEN WAIGHT	DRUG INSPECTOR
142	PATRICIA FRANCIS YOUNG	STATISTICAL OFFICER

Annex 3: Budget and Investments for each Program and Region of the Ministry of Health and Wellness

Health Programs:

Item	Description	Approved	Expended
	General Administration		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$2,063,687	\$1,478,468
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$68,381	\$68,496
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$108,827	\$102,291
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$384,151	\$357,558
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$240,120	\$196,571
344	EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS	\$8,000	\$1,466
346	PUBLIC UTILITIES	\$115,000	\$436,567
348	CONTRACTS AND CONSULTANCY	\$2,236,176	\$2,753,825
349	RENT AND LEASES	\$30,000	\$9,500
350	GRANTS	\$30,689,434	\$34,640,210
	Total	\$35,943,776	\$40,044,952
	Director of Health Services		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$1,319,258	\$556,298
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$17,014	\$16,827
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$23,529	\$21,075
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$353,752	\$253,948
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$17,000	\$11,385
343	TRAINING	\$1,081,000	\$809,903
	Total	\$2,811,553	\$1,669,437
	Epidemiology Surveillance		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$458,998	\$341,134
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$15,590	\$10,262
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$30,975	\$28,140
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$33,760	\$25,199
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$21,000	\$19,003
343	TRAINING	\$16,500	
	Total	\$576,823	\$423,738
	Pharmacy		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$92,186	\$51,255
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$23,228	\$1,865
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$13,646	\$9,420
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$33,000	\$17,964
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$4,500	
343	TRAINING	\$58,475	\$303
	Total	\$225,035	\$80,807
	Drug Inspectorate Unit		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$226,709	\$143,066
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$46,361	\$38,941
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$31,565	\$30,179

Item	Description	Approved	Expended
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$37,480	\$16,591
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$17,450	\$9,664
343	TRAINING	\$10,000	
	Total	\$369,565	\$238,441
	Medical Supplies		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$368,278	\$277,400
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$27,804	\$18,932
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$11,044,540	\$23,542,237
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$48,567	\$43,718
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$18,396	\$13,968
348	CONTRACTS AND CONSULTANCY	\$20,000	\$10,000
	Total	\$11,527,585	\$23,906,254
	Medical Laboratory Services		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$1,769,859	\$1,195,673
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$59,944	\$7,933
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$167,476	\$218,960
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$37,704	\$27,746
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$151,800	\$64,528
343	TRAINING	\$50,000	\$9,605
	Total	\$2,236,783	\$1,524,444
	Nat'nl Engineering & M'tce Cen		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$528,537	\$284,403
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$129,074	\$26,134
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$110,399	\$108,145
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$59,260	\$49,584
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$394,138	\$252,331
343	TRAINING	\$19,800	
	Total	\$1,241,208	\$720,598
	Planning and Policy Unit		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$776,677	\$626,474
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$28,275	\$11,730
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$44,165	\$44,165
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$36,306	\$36,306
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$20,250	\$20,250
343	TRAINING	\$3,000	
	Total	\$908,673	\$738,925
	Project Management Unit (PMU)		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$320,439	\$285,561
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$21,675	\$3,382
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$34,719	\$34,608
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$42,136	\$41,888
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$19,180	\$18,182
	Total	\$438,149	\$383,621
	Maternal & Child Health		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$451,118	\$246,500
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$70,790	\$51,189
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$1,122,616	\$1,585,334
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$131,050	\$89,787

Item	Description	Approved	Expended
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$20,450	\$17,745
343	TRAINING	\$31,000	\$12,954
348	CONTRACTS AND CONSULTANCY	\$108,000	\$72,504
	Total	\$1,935,024	\$2,076,012
	HIV/AIDS		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$278,399	\$88,500
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$21,720	\$5,007
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$860,804	\$911,740
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$412,825	\$308,712
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$37,488	\$20,156
	Total	\$1,611,236	\$1,334,116
	Environmental Health		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$143,059	\$151,123
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$29,500	\$8,510
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$386,842	\$316,004
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$63,562	\$26,932
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$26,782	\$13,763
343	TRAINING	\$29,000	
	Total	\$678,745	\$516,332
	Regulatory Unit		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$254,787	\$149,054
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$18,310	\$15,837
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$15,684	\$13,205
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$21,188	\$5,415
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$4,400	\$619
343	TRAINING	\$7,200	
	Total	\$321,569	\$184,130
	Belize Health Information System		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$274,234	\$175,741
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$48,400	\$4,395
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$123,257	\$160,702
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$28,372	\$18,463
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$68,500	\$65,101
343	TRAINING	\$10,000	
	Total	\$552,763	\$424,403
	Vector Control		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$165,138	\$98,207
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$100,918	\$59,681
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$425,032	\$409,776
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$79,800	\$63,859
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$21,500	\$11,780
343	TRAINING	\$4,000	
	Total	\$796,388	\$643,303
	Mental Health		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$421,933	\$228,954
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$17,296	\$11,317
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$21,808	\$17,087
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$48,900	\$40,281

Item	Description	Approved	Expended
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$3,000	\$2,289
343	TRAINING	\$10,300	\$2,875
350	GRANTS	\$3,600	\$3,244
	Total	\$526,837	\$306,048
	Health Promotion (HECOPAB)		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$68,371	\$40,244
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$4,530	\$4,394
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$24,184	\$22,823
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$120,000	\$95,651
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$4,500	\$1,879
	Total	\$221,585	\$164,991
	Nutrition		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$45,344	\$43,677
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$13,086	\$4,986
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$26,298	\$24,969
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$49,880	\$29,654
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$2,000	
343	TRAINING	\$9,800	\$7,414
	Total	\$146,408	\$110,699
	Dental		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$144,374	\$73,344
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$19,711	
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$40,508	
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$55,768	\$1,373
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$62,000	
343	TRAINING	\$35,656	\$4,000
	Total	\$358,017	\$78,717
	Nat Drug Abuse Control Council		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$820,363	\$694,970
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$28,094	\$11,406
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$109,711	\$88,851
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$102,823	\$47,768
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$54,475	\$9,074
343	TRAINING	\$10,500	\$1,300
350	GRANTS	\$42,500	\$42,494
	Total	\$1,168,466	\$895,864
	GRAND TOTAL	\$123,455,922	\$131,006,738

Health Regions:

Item	Description	Approved	Expended
	Belize Dist Health Services		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$7,241,494	\$5,333,591
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$158,537	\$156,924
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$250,103	\$252,293
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$195,299	\$193,461
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$85,485	\$77,579

Item	Description	Approved	Expended
343	TRAINING	\$31,200	\$25,279
346	PUBLIC UTILITIES	\$9,050	\$1,094
348	CONTRACTS AND CONSULTANCY	\$44,600	\$17,670
	Total	\$8,015,768	\$6,057,893
	San Pedro Health Services		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$1,712,900	\$1,279,578
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$104,678	\$85,381
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$378,867	\$208,533
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$117,240	\$105,443
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$235,156	\$110,979
343	TRAINING	\$51,600	\$31,094
346	PUBLIC UTILITIES	\$1,680	0
348	CONTRACTS AND CONSULTANCY	\$66,700	\$29,088
	Total	\$2,668,821	\$1,850,097
	Belmopan Hospital		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$9,396,421	\$9,411,084
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$108,610	\$76,076
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$303,033	\$373,200
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$211,472	\$187,714
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$142,760	\$171,111
343	TRAINING	\$25,000	\$9,413
346	PUBLIC UTILITIES	\$18,612	\$18,564
348	CONTRACTS AND CONSULTANCY	\$600,000	\$552,696
	Total	\$10,805,908	\$10,799,857
	Palm View Mental Health		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$813,607	\$829,682
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$21,060	\$7,989
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$168,786	\$186,184
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$68,563	\$49,735
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$102,423	\$97,359
343	TRAINING	\$6,000	\$2,031
346	PUBLIC UTILITIES	\$20,160	\$9,523
	Total	\$1,200,599	\$1,182,503
	Cayo District Health Service		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$4,371,260	\$5,199,778
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$133,664	\$112,354
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$411,493	\$409,873
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$246,254	\$237,323
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$439,629	\$435,318
343	TRAINING	\$90,000	\$64,455
346	PUBLIC UTILITIES	\$27,360	
348	CONTRACTS AND CONSULTANCY	\$93,320	\$93,320
	Total	\$5,812,980	\$6,552,421
	O/Walk District Health Service		

Item	Description	Approved	Expended
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$9,505,690	\$8,482,632
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$163,733	\$131,512
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$267,496	\$297,448
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$177,065	\$177,036
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$195,025	\$212,645
343	TRAINING	\$45,660	\$45,653
346	PUBLIC UTILITIES	\$37,380	\$8,997
348	CONTRACTS AND CONSULTANCY	\$375,948	\$386,370
	Total	\$10,767,997	\$9,742,293
	Corozal District Health Service		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$5,446,121	\$5,391,020
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$138,182	\$106,966
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$247,646	\$241,990
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$235,317	\$211,559
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$107,108	\$129,130
343	TRAINING	\$8,885	\$8,340
346	PUBLIC UTILITIES	\$13,152	
348	CONTRACTS AND CONSULTANCY	\$135,232	\$135,230
	Total	\$6,331,643	\$6,224,234
	S/Creek District Health Service		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$7,636,406	\$6,728,173
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$192,796	\$156,955
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$343,830	\$295,631
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$330,880	\$274,306
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$283,324	\$228,757
343	TRAINING	\$22,541	\$22,408
346	PUBLIC UTILITIES	\$46,800	\$13,758
348	CONTRACTS AND CONSULTANCY	\$31,340	\$359,345
	Total	\$8,887,917	\$8,079,332
	Toledo District Health Service		
230	PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	\$3,855,747	\$3,597,450
231	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	\$125,272	\$76,730
340	MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	\$158,652	\$151,221
341	OPERATING COSTS	\$133,065	\$142,620
342	MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$70,405	\$69,643
343	TRAINING	\$8,960	\$8,613
346	PUBLIC UTILITIES	\$16,000	\$6,000
	Total	\$4,368,101	\$4,052,278
	GRAND TOTAL	\$58,859,734.00	\$54,540,908.00

Annex 4: Awards, Publications, Proposals, and Reports Prepared by the Ministry of Health and Wellness

Awards:



Belize awarded initial validation of elimination of the mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis



Belize obtained first place award for the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) surveillance indicators among countries in the English-speaking Caribbean countries



Belize obtained Malaria-free certification

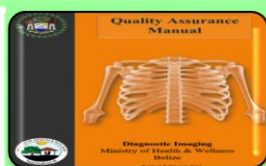


PAHO Malaria Champions of the Americas 2023 award

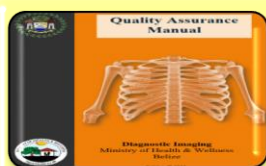
Publications:



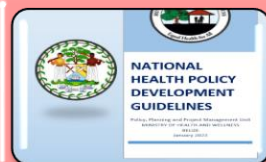
National Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Malaria Transmission Re-Establishment 2023 - 2037



Quality Assurance Manual in Diagnostic Imaging Edition I - 2023



Quality Assurance Manual in Diagnostic Imaging Edition II - 2023



National Health Policy Development Guidelines



National Mental Health Policy 2023 - 2028



National Nutrition Policy



National Waste Management Plan: Health Facilities

Proposals:

Policy, Planning, and Project Management Unit

While proposing a salary structure commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Redesignation of Names and Advancement in the Pharmacy Department

Policy, Planning, and Project Management Unit
Ministry of Health & Wellness

Redesignation of Names and Advancement in the Pharmacy Unit

Policy, Planning, and Project Management Unit

Redesignation of Names and Advancement in the Environmental Health Unit

Redesignation of Names and Advancement in the Environmental Health Unit

Policy, Planning, and Project Management Unit

Fund
FOR A RESILIENT WORLD

**THE PANDEMIC FUND:
FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS (CfP)**

Submitted grant proposal to the pandemic fund to strengthen epidemiologic surveillance

Nursing Unit

The creation of twenty-two new positions for the new Placencia Polyclinic

Reports:



Road Traffic Incidents Report

Policy, Planning, and Project Management Unit



Annual Technical Report of the Ministry of Health and Wellness

2022

Policy, Planning, and Project Management Unit



Western Health Region

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Health Regions' Annual Reports



Technical Advisors' Annual Reports

Occupational burnout among healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, Belize, 2020-2021
May 5, 2023

Field Epidemiology Training Program, Belize
2nd Cohort-Intermediate 2022-2023

Final Version 1.1

Principal Investigators:

Javan Chavarria, Phillip De Shield, Lynette Teul, Edgar Nah Justina Shal, Javier Novelo, Lydia Cruz, Sair Pech, Brendel Gibson, Angeli Olmedo, Michael Vaughan, Dominic Castellanos

**Epidemiology Unit-
Field Epidemiology
Training Program (FETP)**