

**BELIZE**

**HRH**

# **CONCERNING THE NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM**

## **FOR**

### **PLANNING RHUS: BELIZE**

- Universal Access to personal and population based services and in some areas at no direct cost to the individual
- Decentralized administrative authority for health services
- (4) health regions that cover the entire country:
  - the Northern Region which encompasses the northern districts of Corozal and Orange Walk,
  - the Southern Region which covers Toledo and Stann Creek,
  - the Western Region which covers the Cayo District and
  - the Central Region, which covers the Belize District.

- Hospital based care in these four regions includes:
  - inpatient and outpatient care, including
    - accident and emergency, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, internal medicine and surgical care.
- A network of clinics, permanently staffed health centres and un-manned health posts is available to address the primary health care needs of the population. These are supplemented by mobile health services, community nursing aides, community health workers and traditional birth attendants working throughout the rural communities of the country.

# NATIONAL SYSTEM

- Minister
- Chief Executive Officer
- Director of Health Services
- Directors: Planning and Policy; Health; Epidemiology

# EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

- no medical facility where physicians are trained. However various categories of nurses are trained at Belize's national university, the University of Belize.
- Graduation rates appear to be abysmally low.

## IMPROVEMENTS TOWARDS INCREASING HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TO PROVIDE HEALTH SERVICES:

- Belize approved the CSME freedom of movement, the movement of health professionals to CSME can be traced since they must apply for a CARICOM Skills Certificate.
- Belize relies on international healthcare volunteers to shore up health workforce shortages most especially in the rural areas. Notable among the healthcare volunteers in Belize are the Cuban Medical Brigades and the Nigerian Technical Aids Corps.

# **ROLE OF PLANNING TO MOVE TOWARDS** **UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE**

- Every one has the right to healthcare. The plans need to level the disparities between culture, sexes and economic status to allow all to the same quality health care. Launching of NHI to cover more regions of the country.
- Community Health Workers can be regarded as the base of Belize's primary health care system
- No healthcare without health workforce – Plans for retention and recruitment – increase in salaries and benefits of nurses and doctors
- Database of HR personnel functioning to improve planning

# CRITICAL AREAS THAT REQUIRE PLANNING IN THEIR COUNTRY

- Belize's health system is challenged by the increasing burden of chronic non-communicable diseases and lifestyle ailments.
- Diabetes, Homicides & Injury purposely inflicted, Ischaemic Heart disease, HIV/AIDS and Cerebrovascular disease are leading causes of deaths.
- International Diabetes Foundation reveal that in the age cohort 20 to 79 years, there are some 45,000 Belizeans living with diabetes.
- cost of treating violence and related injuries. On a per capita basis, Belize has one of the highest homicide rates on the world and most of the victims are as a result of gunshots.

Prevention programs is now the emphasis of the newly launched NCD Strategic plans 2014-2024.