BELIZE PAHO/WHO COUNTRY COOPERATION STRATEGY 2023-2027



INTRODUCTION

The Belize Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) 2023-2027 outlines the medium-term vision guiding PAHO/WHO's technical cooperation with Belize. This strategy is designed to support Belize's national health priorities, emphasizing health system strengthening and alignment with global and regional standards. Developed in consultation with diverse stakeholders, the CCS is based on four strategic priorities that focus on improving health outcomes and access to quality services for all. PAHO/WHO will collaborate closely with the Ministry of Health and Wellness and other national and international partners to drive progress in addressing health challenges, including non-communicable diseases, communicable diseases, human resources for health and pandemic preparedness and response. Through this partnership, PAHO/WHO reaffirms its commitment to ensuring universal health coverage and sustainable development for the people of Belize.

ABOUT US

PAHO, founded in 1902, serves as the specialized health agency of the Inter-American system, working closely with WHO as its regional office for the Americas. In Belize, PAHO/WHO is dedicated to advancing health and well-being through technical cooperation that is aligned with national health priorities and global health standards. In addition, PAHO/ WHO has one office in the country since 1989. It belongs to CPCP typology C. As of 2024, the office has 18 personnel. Of these, two are CPCP staff. In the past biennium the total funding received by the country office was US$ 8.9M and the utilization rate was 87%.

PARTNERSHIP ENVIRONMENT

Through its work, PAHO/WHO will continue to support national health policies, strategies, and plans while working and collaborating with United Nations (UN) and development partners to advance universal health and sustainable development in the health sector. PAHO/WHO works with the Ministry of Health and Wellness of Belize (as its main counterpart) and other partners to strengthen health sector capacity and advance priority programs.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Belize is the only English-speaking country in Central America; it shares borders with Guatemala and Mexico and has a land area of 8,867 square miles (22,700 sq km), with its capital located in Belmopan City. Belize's economy has evolved significantly, driven by its tourism industry, which is the largest single-sector contributor, generating around 15% of GDP and accounting for a substantial portion of employment. The country's GDP per capita was estimated at USD $7,988 in 2023, reflecting its status as a small upper-middle-income country. Belize is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and contributing to the WHO's GPW Targets.

PROGRESS ON HEALTH OUTCOMES

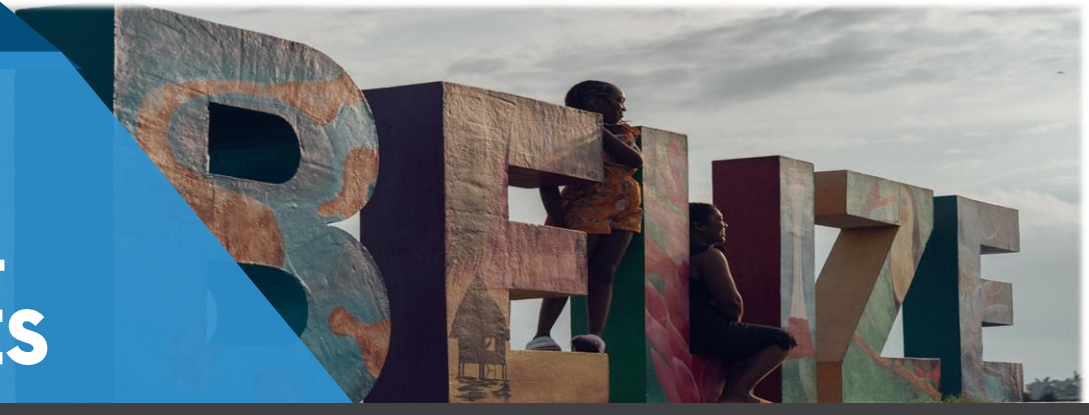
The country has made advances in healthcare and is working assiduously towards strengthening the health infrastructure and human resources for health while also addressing the determinants of health. However, the Ministry of Health and Wellness faces challenges with the double burden of non-communicable diseases and mental health disorders and communicable diseases. The country has been certified as having eliminated Malaria and mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis in 2023. Work continues towards the improvement of the vaccination coverage in children following the decline during the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY CHALLENGES

Some key health challenges in the country include limited financial resources, a shortage of healthcare professionals, inadequate infrastructure, and limited health information systems. Non-communicable diseases, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, mental health issues, and violence further strain the health system.

For more information visit the link: https://www.paho.org/blz

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & DELIVERABLES



1 Provide expanded and equitable access to quality health services for the prevention, detection, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health (MH) conditions across the life course through evidence-based interventions and intersectoral partnerships for action.

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLE

- Implement evidence-based policies, interventions and intersectoral collaborations to improve access to prevention, detection, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care services for NCDs and mental health conditions.

INDICATORS

- Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory disease
- Suicide mortality rate

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Reduced premature mortality from NCDs and mental health conditions.
- Increased access to quality healthcare services for vulnerable populations.
- Improved health outcomes for individuals with NCDs and mental health conditions

2 Increase response capacity of integrated health services to monitor, prevent, detect, treat, control and eliminate communicable diseases including neglected infectious diseases by addressing the determinants of health through intersectoral actions to reduce risk factors.

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLE

- Strengthen the One Health approach for integrated health services to monitor, prevent, detect, treat, control, and eliminate communicable diseases, including neglected tropical diseases.

INDICATORS

- # of new HIV infections/ 1,000 uninfected pop, by sex, age & key populations
- Tb incidence/100,000 population
- Malaria incidence/1,000 population
- Hepatitis B incidence/100,000 population
- # of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Reduced incidence and prevalence of communicable diseases.
- Improved disease surveillance and response systems.
- Strengthened capacity to address neglected tropical diseases

3 Adequate availability and distribution of a competent, skilled health workforce with access to technology, and educational opportunities with sustainable financing.

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLE

- Increase the availability and distribution of a competent and skilled health workforce with access to technology and educational opportunities.

INDICATORS

- Health worker density and distribution

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Increased number of qualified healthcare professionals.
- Improved distribution of healthcare workers across the country.
- Enhanced capacity of the healthcare workforce to deliver quality care

4 Strengthen and build national and local emergency response systems with capabilities to monitor, detect, respond, prevent and mitigate Public Health Emergencies, Disasters and Hazards.

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLE

- Build and strengthen national and local emergency response systems to monitor, detect, respond, prevent, and mitigate public health emergencies, disasters, and hazards.

INDICATORS

- International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness
- % of bloodstream infections due to selected antimicrobial-resistant organisms

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Improved capacity to respond to public health emergencies.
- Strengthened early warning and risk reduction systems.
- Enhanced preparedness for natural disasters and other emergencies.

CONTACT US
Tel: +5012244885
e-mail: BLZPWR@paho.org
4792 Coney Drive,
Belize City, Belize CA