

ICPD +15 Caribbean Sub-Regional Meeting



Belize Country Report

Belize in Context

- Area: 8,867 sq. miles
- Population: 322,100
- Pop. Growth Rate : 3.4
- Fertility Rate: 2.9
- Adolescent Fertility Rate: 72
- Life expectancy : 72.5



Sexual and Reproductive Health

- Approval of Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy
- Development and implementation of 2006-2010 Strategic Plan for S&RH
- Decrease in maternal mortality from 2005 rates due to implementation of a robust safe motherhood programme.
- Provision of commodities in the public health system
- Youth friendly services are available.
- HFLE curriculum in primary schools



Sexual and Reproductive Health GBV and Sexual Abuse

- National Plan of Action for GBV
- Strengthening of Domestic Violence Act.
- Batterers' Intervention Pilot Project is under way.
- Age of marriage increased.
- ILO funded CSEC pilot project integrated into child protection services.
- Group homes for adolescents who are wards of the State.



Belize in Context 2

- GDP per capita: US\$4090
- Poverty rate: 33.3%
- Indigence Rate: 10%
- Unemployment Rate: 8.5 %
 - Females:13.1%,
 - Youths: 24%
- Multi ethnic, multilingual society



Link between productive and reproductive rights

- Increase in paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 14 weeks
- Introduction of 2 weeks paternity leave
- Law allows fathers to collect paternity benefits in lieu of mother.
- Passage of frameworks for the discontinuation of discriminatory practices against female soldiers and teachers



Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment

- Strengthening of the National Women's Commission
- National Gender Policy currently under review
- Key amendments to the Supreme Court of Judicature Act .
- Decent work country programme with increasing women's labour force participation as one of its goals



HIV and AIDS

- Prevalence Rate: 2.1
- NAC is a legally mandated entity under the PM's Office.
- Provision of free ARVs
- Reduction in the mother to child transmission rates
- Prevention and awareness activities, especially with vulnerable groups (MSM, CSWs, youth, women)



Ageing

- National Council on Aging and VOICE established.
- Draft Older Persons Act.
- Non contributory pensions provided.



Challenges and Gaps

- Integration and coordination among major line Ministries
- Data collection and disaggregation
- Comprehensive migration policy
- Addressing disabilities comprehensively
- Integration of S&RH and VCT services
- Expansion of youth friendly services and HFLE education at post primary levels and for out of school youth.

