



AGEING AND DEVELOPMENT IN BELIZE

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BELIZE BACKGROUND AND GENERAL INFORMATION



- ▶ Bordered on the north and northwest by Mexico, to the south and west by Guatemala, and to the east by the Caribbean Sea
- ▶ Population is comprised of six major ethnic groups
- ▶ 2017 indicated there were an approximate 20% increase since 2010

POPULATION



- ▶ 6% of Belize's population is 60+
- ▶ 35% are between the ages of 15-34

Life expectancy

- ▶ women 74 & men 72
- ▶ Estimated equal amount of men and women 60+
- ▶ More women in the 75+ age group.

ABOUT THE NCA

- ▶ 2002 Adoption of the Belize National Policy for Older Persons
- ▶ 2003 Establishment of the National Council on Ageing NCA as a Statutory Board attached to the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation & Poverty Alleviation.
- ▶ The board of directors is comprised of members from Government Ministries, Older Persons Organizations, the Church, and Civil Society.
- ▶ NCA's mandate is to implement policy and act as a coordinating body for agencies addressing ageing.



EXPANDING INCOME SECURITY IN OLD AGE

Background

- ▶ 84% of the older population do not earn any employment income,
- ▶ 63% do not receive a pension or benefit
- ▶ 55% of women receive a pensions
- ▶ 44% of men receive pensions
- ▶ 2010 Country Poverty assessment indicated that 34% of all older persons were living in poverty.



EXPANDING INCOME SECURITY IN OLD AGE

- ▶ Belize's Social Security System established in 1981
- ▶ Non-Contributory Pension Program launched in 2003 (Women 65, Men 67)
- ▶ BOOST – Building Opportunities for Our Social Transformation
- ▶ Community based organizations (HelpAge Belize, HOPE, LIFE)
- ▶ Belize Electricity Ltd – Bill Pay Program



EXPANDING INCOME SECURITY IN OLD AGE

- ▶ In 2016 the Belize Private Pensions Act was passed, this legal instrument is designed to facilitate the registering and supervision of Private Pensions and the protection of private pensioners.



EXPANDING INCOME SECURITY IN OLD AGE

- ▶ Country's medium term development strategy (GSDS) identified Priority Actions:
 - ▶ Adjustment to social security contributions,
 - ▶ Acquisition of resources from government to cover costs of the non-contributory pension
 - ▶ Gradual increase of the retirement age from 55 to 65.



EXPANDING INCOME SECURITY IN OLD AGE

- ▶ NCA 2018 Conference on Ageing will focus on Financial Planning for Retirement with the objective to begin a larger discussion on individual responsibility and options to safe guard financial security



SOCIAL PROTECTION IN HEALTH



The poster features a collage of images: a person in a pink uniform attending to an elderly person lying down, a group of people in white uniforms holding certificates, and a close-up of hands being held. Logos for btec, BELIZE NATURAL ENERGY CHARITABLE TRUST, and NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGEING BELIZE are at the top.

**Home Health Care-Giver Training
Belmopan Cohort**

The art of growing old is the art of being regarded by the incoming generations as a support and not a stumbling-block. --Annie Mauros, *An Art of Living*

BTEC in collaboration with the National Council on Ageing and Sister Cecilia's Home for the Elderly and with financial support from BNE Charitable Trust will be conducting Home-Health Care-giver Training for persons who will be working for and on behalf of older persons.

The objectives of the trainings are to promote a safe environment that will enhance health and wellness for older persons, develop skills to care for older persons and to ensure a cadre of trained care givers. The training has three components: Theory, First Aid and CPR Certification + Internship.

Date: March 20th - April 28th, 2017* [5 weeks]
Venue: George Price Centre for Peace and Development

*Pre-testing is required and can be done on February 20th, March 2nd, 8th, 9th, 15th and 16th at the National Council on Ageing Office in Belmopan. Internship will be at Sister Cecilia's Home for the Elderly in Belize City. All participants will have to complete internship at the designated home. Internship will run from April 10th - April 28th (excluding days in Holy Week).

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a part of
BELIZE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COMPANY
Beltraide

- ▶ National Health Insurance
- ▶ Mercy Care Clinic
- ▶ Expansion of HelpAge Medical Services
- ▶ Basic Home Health Care-giver Program.

SOCIAL PROTECTION IN HEALTH

- ▶ There is still need to Mainstream ageing issues into existing health plans and protocols including plans aimed at addressing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and obesity.
- ▶ Standardize caregiver training caregiver training and certification course ensuring a minimum standard for care with private homes and institutions.
- ▶ Improving access to health services for older persons who live in rural areas.

HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

- ▶ VOICE Organization
- ▶ National Conference on Human Rights & Ageing
- ▶ Promotion of the Inter-American convention on the Rights of Older Persons
- ▶ On going awareness activities.



HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

- ▶ Revision of the National Policy for Older Persons,
- ▶ Revision and possible re-drafting of the Belize Older Persons Act
- ▶ Advocating for the signing on to the Inter-American Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons by the Government of Belize – Ongoing



THANK YOU



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