The Salud Mesoamerica Initiative, as the SM2015 is now known is presently in its second phase; in this phase the health facilities (4 Hospitals, 16 Health centers) in the Northern health region and Western health region are evaluated based on 10 indicators (5 for hospitals and 5 for Ambulatory Care) and 2 inputs/supply indicators. These indicators fall under the Quality Innovation Fund which is a monitoring and quality improvement tool within the Quality Improvement Strategy and it’s spirit is to improve performance, learning, and teamwork within health facilities, districts and nationally.

Continues on page 3
The IX Meeting of the Technical Committee on Human Resources Development in Health—Cont’d from Cover

In San Salvador, El Salvador on the 31 of May to 02 of June 2016, the Regional Human Resource Technical commission met once more. This tightly meshed group gathered for the IX Meeting of the Technical Committee on Human Resources Development in Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic: Building RHS Regional Agenda for the Americas. The Objectives during the workshop were to:

⇒ Establish the scope and goals of the dimension and Capacity of the Health Policy SICA (2015-2022) and its responsibility in planning, management and evaluation.
⇒ Inquire of CA DOR on the development of the Regional agenda on Health Human Resources 2030 from the proposed PAHO / WHO.
⇒ Present and validate Regional consultation methodology for defining agenda and Regional Goals by 2030.
⇒ Review progress of the Capabilities Operating Plan component of the Health Plan of Central America and the Dominican Republic.
⇒ Establish operational commitments of the Technical Commission of RHUS CA DOR from June to December 2016.
⇒ Another informal objective met was the farewell of Mrs. Monica Padilla who has served to assist

Belize and the Region in her capacity as PAHO Regional Director of Human Resources in Health for Central America and the Dominican Republic. She will be moving on to Brazil and serve as HRH Director of PAHO in that Region.

Some Presenters at the session were:
1. Dr. Fernando Menezes, Head of the Human Resources Unit PAHO / WHO WDC;
2. Dra. Roxana Aguilar, President Pro Tempore of the CTRHUS / Human Resources in Health Ministry of Health of Honduras;
3. Dr. Oscar Morales, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator SE-COMISCA;
4. Licda. Andrea Lopez – Quijano, Focal Point Health and Gender, SE-COMISCA

Each Country representative also presented on the experience of the Training on the Development of the HRH Observatory website.

In the weeks of April – May for 7 weeks, a Team of Health Planners: Shanna Broomfield, Donovan Cacho, Tisa Grant; Natalia Castillo-Rodriguez and Jose Colli from NH complete a Training on the National Observatory website. Each session was conducted online and hosted by PAHO. Belize was one of the many participating

regional teams of the Central American Countries. The agenda for the sessions were to train on the updating and possible uses of the HRH Observatory website; and to develop a proposed plan for continuous monitoring and updating of the site.

We take this opportunity to offer our deepest gratitude to these participants for their acceptance to participate and dedication in the sessions.

“Farewell [to] Mrs. Monica Padilla who has served to assist Belize and the Region in her capacity as PAHO Regional Director of Human Resources in Health for Central America and the Dominican Republic”
Salud Mesoamerica Initiative—Cont’d from Cover

Quality Improvement Teams work together to create a proposal for an incentive for their team. Every 3 months, results on the 10 performance tranche indicators + 2 inputs/supply indicators are externally verified in all Health facilities. Measurements are carried out using a designed sampling methodology which allows the teams to evaluate a defined a predefined number of files in a random way. Each indicator is assigned a weight in points. Teams that reach their targets every 6 months are awarded the incentive included in their proposal. The QIF is a form of “Pay for Performance” (P4P) tool, which provides incentives linked to levels of performance or target achievement.

The first quarter evaluation was conducted in the months of March and April 2016, and the results were presented by the IDB Mission team at a meeting with the Regional Managers and Representatives from Health facilities in the Corozal District. The results reflected all the hard work that the staff in the facilities have been doing over the previous month as it showed an improvement from the results achieved in the baseline evaluation in December 2015.

In the months of June and July 2016 the 2nd quarter external evaluation will be conducted in all 20 health facilities. The results will be presented in the same way as in the previous evaluation. The facilities that reached the assigned target will be receiving their first incentive which can either be goods or services based on their proposal that was submitted by each Facility.

We would like to acknowledge all their effort and hard work that our Nurses, Doctors and support staff have been doing to improve the quality of care that our mothers and children are receiving when they go to our different health facilities. Thank you and keep up the Great Work!!!

Regional Diploma for the Prevention of Violence Against Women
By: Tisa C. Grant, Health Planner (Gender Focal Point), PAPU

“The Diploma is part of the actions of the B.A.1 Project aimed to strengthen institutional capability to prevent and address violence against women in its various manifestations.”
The National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC) of the Ministry of Health held a small ceremony in front of its council offices in Belize City to promote this theme as they commemorate annually under World No Tobacco Day, under the theme “Get ready for plain packaging of tobacco products”. A welcome address was delivered by the District Coordinator for Belize District and the Chair of this year’s activities, Mr. D’Alessandro Requena. He welcomed everyone to the day’s activities and encourage the guest to visit the information booths after the conclusion of the ceremony.

Contributing remarks were done by the Director, NDACC, Mr. Esner Vellos. He spoke of the theme and what Belize is doing in that regard. He explained that plain packaging of tobacco products will restrict the use of logos, colors and brand images and use graphic health images to discourage the sale of tobacco products, limit misleading packaging, and increase the effectiveness of health warnings. The bill for plain packaging; according to Mr. Vellos, is being drafted by CARICOM through the Bureau of Standards and it is expected to be in full effect within the next five years. The main address was done by, PAHO/WHO Belize Representative, Dr. Luis Roberto Escoto.

World No Tobacco Day is an opportunity to focus on tobacco products and its harmful effects. The Ministry encourages the public to visit the NDACC offices in your respective district for more information on Tobacco and other harmful drugs. Information is also available on the new initiatives of the Ministry of Health in the areas of policy development, legislation relating to the consumption of tobacco products, and the protection of non-smokers as part of Belize’s commitment to the WHO framework Convention on Tobacco Control in Belize.
The Regional Diploma "Prevention of Violence against Women, Human Trafficking and femicide/feminicide in Central America", is part of the Project "B.A.1- Preventing violence against women in Central America" of the Security Strategy (ESCA, in Spanish) for the Central American Integration System (SICA, in Spanish). This capacity building initiative was one of the deliverables of the project and was conducted virtually but ended in a two-day workshop at the Radisson Fort George Hotel on June 20-21, 2016. The Central American Institute of Public Administration (ICAP, in Spanish) was in charge of the academic development and the implementation of the Diploma.

The B.A.1 Project was financed by the governments of the Netherlands and Finland. The regional entities responsible for executing the project were the Security Commission for Central America (coordination unit of ESCA), supported by the Sub-Commission for the Prevention of Violence, and the SICA Council of Ministers for Women’s Affairs for Central America and Dominican Republic (COMMCA, in Spanish). At the national level the Project is supported by the Ministries of Government, Security, Justice or Peace, the Police bodies and the National Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women.

The main implementing entities are the General Secretary of SICA, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). UNFPA and IOM are the financial managers of the project. Also participating are other regional and national entities of countries member of SICA; at the national level, each country has a National Commission for Project Management (CNGP, in Spanish) as the entity responsible for the coordination and implementation of the project.

The Diploma is part of the actions of the B.A.1 Project aimed to strengthen institutional capability to prevent and address violence against women in its various manifestations.

Zika!
[www.health.gov.bz, June 20th, 2016]

The Ministry of Health is investigating and closely monitoring a situation on the island of Caye Caulker, Belize District where three additional Zika cases have been confirmed.

These cases stem from an investigation of fever and rash cases reported earlier in June. While we continue to aggressively scale up efforts to reduce the mosquito population in the area along with local authorities, we once again ask for cooperation from the community to assist the Ministry and our local partners to clean up areas that may be breeding sites for the mosquitoes. This effort will continue especially with the onset in the increase of rains.

We continue to engage with the local authorities in Caye Caulker along with the investigative team from the Central Region offices in Belize City. Samples will now only be sent for reporting purposes as we have now confirmed the presence of the Zika virus in Belize.

The focus is now on the educational campaign to reduce mosquito breeding sites and also in protecting women who are considering getting pregnant or may already be pregnant from the risk associated with contracting the Zika virus.
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MISSION
The Policy Analysis and Planning Unit, in coordination with Technical Advisors and Regional Management teams, continuously work in partnership with other stakeholders in identifying the social determinants of health that greatly impact the development of our country, Belize. The unit, through evidence-based health policy development and planning, will guide the Ministry of Health in addressing health care disparities with society wide measures that improve social welfare.

VISION
A Policy Analysis & Planning Unit effectively working with the Ministry of Health & its regions to assist them in making evidence based decisions

OBJECTIVE
To promote and generate evidence-based policy development and planning in health care issues and serve as advisory body to the Ministry of Health.

Next Issue
~October 3, 2016~

Upcoming Dates and Events

July
11—World Population Day
28—World Hepatitis Day

August
1-7—World Breastfeeding Week
9—International Day of the World’s Indigenous People
12—International Youth Day

September
8—International Literacy Day
10—World Suicide Prevention Day
10—Caribbean Wellness Day
10—St. George’s Caye Day
12-18—Wellness Week in the Americas
21—Independence Day
28—World Rabies Day
29—World Heart Day

October
1—International Day of Older Persons
1—Inter-American Water Day
10—World Mental Health Day