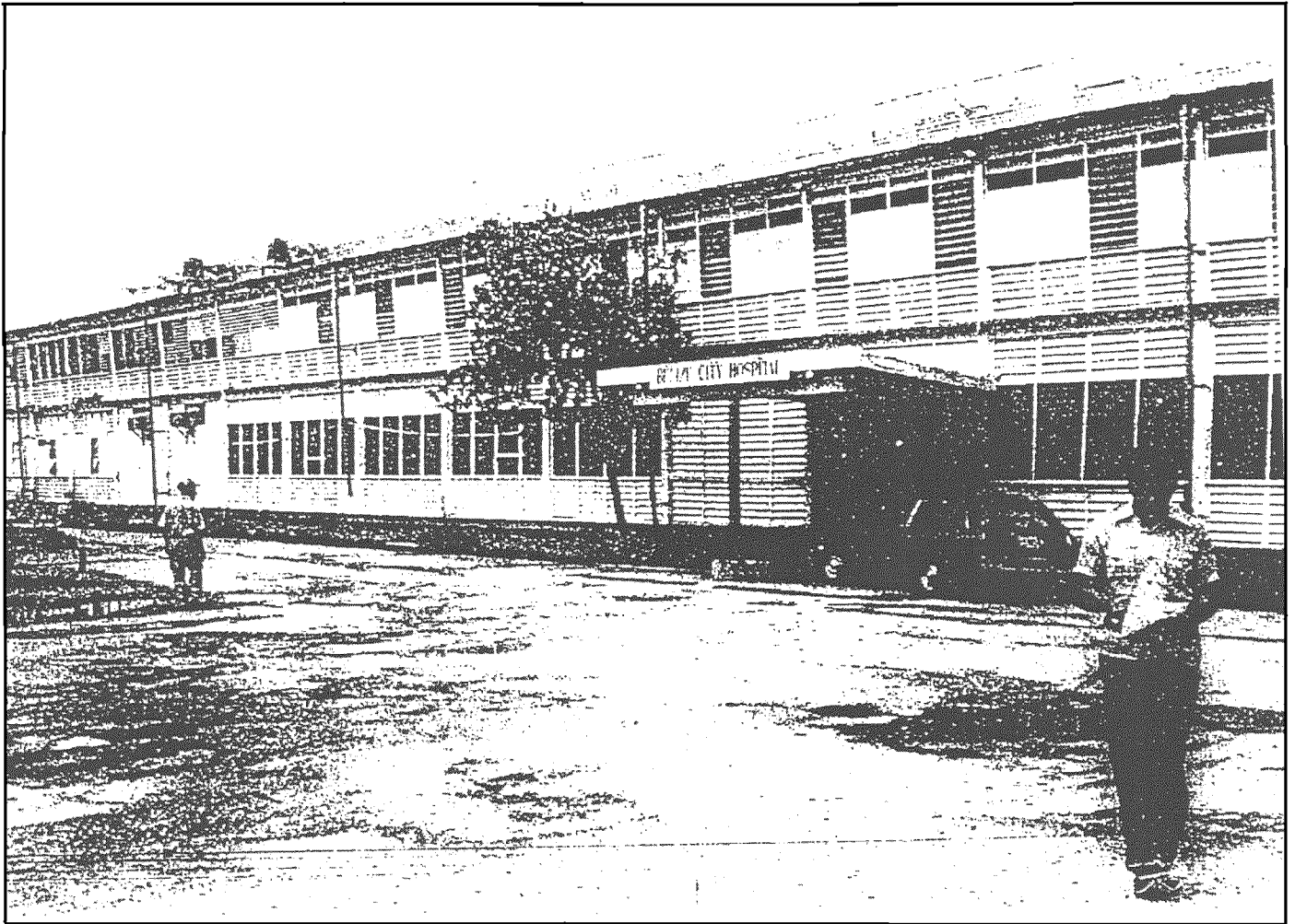


Picture of the Belize City Hospital



The design of the buildings does not allow a flexible occupation of the beds within the wards. Its 186 beds are currently distributed in the wards without enough space between them which diminishes the quality of the environment and does not allow for much privacy for the patient.

Many of the hospital's functional units are operating at substandard levels, eg., operating theatres, labor and delivery suits, radiology, and intensive care units, and to raise them to an acceptable level would entail spending a disproportionate amount of money. Its outpatient department is scattered all over the buildings divided into six places, making it impossible to administer centrally.

### Corozal Hospital

Corozal Hospital was built in the year 1957. It accommodates twenty eight beds and has a total floor area of 20,200 square feet. The hospital has a clear defined zoning and circulation pattern. It consists of two concrete buildings linked by a corridor. The structural condition of the building is sound. The main departments of the hospital are as follows: Administration, Outpatients, Services, Wards, Operating Theater, Labour, Delivery Room and Nurses' Quarters.

The building's envelope is in a fair condition; however, the following are some of the repairs that need immediate attention.

1. About 90% of the roofing material (asbestos) needs to be replaced. Corrugated galvanized iron roofing above Operating Theater and Female Ward need some repairs to eliminate water leaks.
2. The entire electrical installation needs to be upgraded.
3. Floor tiles are required in most areas.
4. Toilets, bathrooms, need to be repaired and upgraded. Replace plumbing fixtures, upgrade plumbing waste installations. Provide floor and wall ceramic tiles
5. Doors and windows need to be repaired, including wood sills and frames.
6. Privacy should be provided to Delivery Room and Toilets. This can be done by replacing clear glass louvers with frosted glass to at least eye level height.
7. Kitchen needs tiles, cabinets, replacement of windows.
8. Cleaning and painting is also required for most areas of the building.

### Orange Walk Hospital

Orange Walk Hospital was built in the year 1977. Presently it accommodates fifty beds and has an approximate area of 21,000 S.F.

The hospital consists of three reinforced concrete buildings linked by corridors. The main departments of the hospital are: Public Health Services, Outpatient Department, Diagnostic and Treatment Areas and Services, Wards and Delivery Area.

The buildings' structural condition is sound. Extensive repairs and maintenance are needed however; some of them follow:

1. Provide cement or ceramic floor tiles to most areas.
2. Replace and upgrade the entire electrical installation.
3. Replace and upgrade the entire plumbing installation.
4. Almost all doors and windows need to be repaired. Respective hardware is also needed.
5. All toilets are in a very bad state: New fixtures, and floor and wall tiles are required.
6. Gutters and rain water downpipes need to be replaced.
7. New telephone system is needed.
8. Floor and wall tiles are also required at kitchen and laundry.
9. Repairs to roof to eliminate leaks.
10. Replacement of wooden window sills, window and door frames and roof structure due to termite infestation.

11. Repairs to ceiling and partitions.
12. Cleaning and painting throughout
13. The Operating Theater is inadequate, functionally it is below standard and needs to be upgraded to prevent infections and to function properly.
14. The Nurses' Quarters also need extensive repairs, especially in the bathrooms.

### San Ignacio Hospital

San Ignacio Hospital was built in the year 19 . It accommodates 30 beds and has an approximate area of 9,200 S.F. The building which was built on stilts is of a wooden structure, floor, walls and partitions. The roof consist of corrugated galvanized iron sheets on wood trusses.

Recently, part of the electrical installation of the building was upgraded.

It requires extensive maintenance, repairs and extension of some areas. The following works are required immediately.

1. Canopy at exterior corridor for the protection of patients.
2. General repairs to structure, floor, walls, partitions, ceiling roof and replacement of most doors and windows
3. The wooden floor needs extensive repairs and heavy duty vinyl covering throughout.
4. Casing of exterior walls and partitions.
5. New ramp for incoming emergency patients to replace existing wooden stairs.
6. All toilets, bathrooms need extensive work.
7. Shelves in various departments.
8. Rehabilitation of building's structural system.
9. Cleaning and painting.

### Dangriga Hospital

Dangriga Hospital was built in the year of 1954. It accommodates fifty beds and has an approximate area of 10,000 S.F. The building which is built on stilts is of a wooden structure, floor, walls, and partitions. The roof consists of c.q.i. sheets on wood trusses.

The wooden buildings are in a dilapidated state: termite infested, rotten leaks, deficient electrical and plumbing/waste system. Functionally, the hospital is deficient; the relationship among departments as well as the circulation pattern are very poor making the operation of the facility very difficult.

Upgrading the existing wooden structure would probably cost over \$1,000,000.00. Maintenance of the upgraded wooden structure would continue to be very costly. The upgraded hospital would however, not solve all the functional problems of the hospital.

The construction of a new reinforced concrete structure, to withstand hurricane and planned to function efficiently is urgently required

### Punta Gorda Hospital

Punta Gorda Hospital was built in the year 1962. It accommodates thirty beds and has an approximate area of 14,800 S.F. The two storey building has a reinforced concrete structure, with steel roof structure and light weight steel roofing material.

The main departments of the hospital are as follows:

Ground floor: Outpatient, Diagnostic Services, Public Health, Nurses Quarters, and Services.

First floor: Treatment Room, Operating Theater, Male Ward, Female Ward, Maternity Ward, Delivery Room; Pediatric Ward and Support areas.

The building seems to have a sound structure; however, general maintenance, repairs and upgrading of some areas are needed urgently. Some are as follows:

1. The wooden ramp needs to be replaced with reinforced concrete.
2. Ceramic floor tiles are required throughout.
3. Replace entire suspended ceiling at first floor.
4. Replace and upgrade entire electrical installation.
5. Replace and upgrade all toilets, (replace fixtures, floor and wall tiles), upgrade plumbing/waste installations.
6. Repairs to some roof areas to eliminate leaks.
7. X-Ray department needs complete renovation



8. Pharmacy area needs to be increased 100 S F. at a minimum.
9. Extensive exterior works are required: Fascia, guttering, cleaning and painting
10. Cleaning and painting

### Belmopan Hospital

Belmopan Hospital was built in the year 1971. Presently it accommodates forty eight beds and has an approximate floor area of 24,800 square feet. The buildings have a reinforced concrete structure and a wooden roof structure with light weight roofing. It has the following departments: Administration, Outpatients, Public Health, Maternity Ward, General Ward, Pediatric Ward, Operating Theater and General Services.

Renovation works have recently been carried out to the General Ward.

Although the buildings' structure seems to be physically sound, the following are some of the rehabilitation works required.

1. Provide cement or ceramic floor tiles to entire hospital.
2. Replace and upgrade the entire electrical installation.
3. Replace and upgrade the entire plumbing installation.
4. Upgrade all toilets.
5. Extensive work to roof due to leaks, especially at Operating Theater.
6. Replacement of doors and windows including respective hardware.
7. Repairs to ceiling and partitions.
8. Cleaning and painting of all buildings.

### Psychiatric Hospital - Rockview

Rockview Hospital buildings were used as a prison until June of 1979 when it became Rockview Hospital for mental patients. It was not built to be a hospital.

The hospital consists of basically five buildings as follows: a) An open plan (no partitions) timber building housing the Female Ward with 35 beds and an approximate area of 3,300 S.F. b) An open plan timber building housing the Male Ward with 35 beds and an approximate area of 3,300 S.F. c) A central building housing the Administration Support Block with the following departments: Kitchen, Dining Room for patients, Recreation Room and Maintenance Room. Area 5,400 S.F. d) An Administration building with an approximate area of 725 S.F. and (e) Doctors' Quarters, area 1,200 S.F.

The wooden buildings are in a dilapidated state: termite infested, rotten leaks, deficient electrical and plumbing waste system. Functionally, the hospital is deficient, since the buildings were not originally designed for a psychiatric hospital.

The construction of a new reinforced concrete structure, to withstand hurricanes and planned to function efficiently is urgently required.

the assessment also revealed that of the country's 34 Health Centres, 60% of those facilities were of reinforced concrete construction and were in fair to good condition.

The remaining 40% were of wooden construction, a few of which were in very bad condition (mainly those near the coast). The others were in poor to fair condition.

## **DISASTER MITIGATION PLANS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Given the results of the health facilities vulnerability assessment, the Ministry of Health and Sports has since forged ahead with plans and activities to upgrade and refurbish these facilities. A major improvement has been the construction of a new hospital in Belize City (see picture of Hospital). Opened in September 1995, the new "Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital" has an impressive array of new features, including safety features, and has taken its proper place as the flagship facility of the ministry.**

**Work is now in progress for the complete renovation, expansion and refurbishing of the Orange Walk Hospital and renovation/expansion of the San Ignacio Hospital. A new hospital is currently being built in Dangriga to replace the existing hospital. Refurbishing and renovation of the Belmopan Hospital is nearing completion, and similar work is soon to commence on the Punta Gorda and Corozal Hospitals.**

**The Ministry of Health and Sports is continuing its efforts to secure funding for the construction of a new psychiatric hospital.**

**Throughout all the above plans and activities, major consideration has been given to disaster mitigation factors. For example all newly constructed hospitals should be able to withstand sustained hurricane winds of up to 200 m.p.h., and those near the coast built above flood levels. Internally, appropriate fire doors, exits and fire hydrants have been positioned. Hurricane shutters are now a mandatory feature. All newly built health centers are of reinforced concrete and are a standard two stories high in flood prone areas.**

**The Ministry of Health and Sports plans to continue the upgrading and strengthening of all its health facilities, and in so doing, seeks to ensure that utmost consideration is given to disaster mitigation.**

## **FUTURE PLANS**

**The Health Sector Disaster Management Committee, cognizant of the need to effect disaster mitigation activities on a sustained basis, has endeavored to continue its scheduled meeting throughout the year to formulate plans, and programme activities, in an effort to, among other things, upgrade and maintain health facilities is a state of preparedness for potential disasters.**

**These plans and activities include, but will not be limited to:**

- Continued updating of the Hurricane Emergency Plan**
- Closer liaison with local level disaster preparedness committees**
- Inter and Intra-Ministerial collaboration for disaster preparedness activities**
- ± Closer liaison with the office of the National Disaster Preparedness Coordinator**
- Continued education exercises for users of health facilities in the area of disaster preparedness**
- Comprehensive vulnerability assessment exercises of health facilities on an ongoing basis**
- Conducting of similar exercises for Hurricane Emergency Shelters country-wide, in collaboration with the Housing and Shelter Committee of the C.E.O.**