1.2. Change Management and Fiscal Space in a Time of Global Crisis: The Belize NFSS Experience
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Learning Objectives:

By the end of the presentation, participants will be able to:
1. State the major challenge areas which are impacting the NFSS in light of the pandemic and shifting national priorities
2. Describe examples of solutions being implemented by the NFSS to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on the department’s daily operations
3. Explain how the NFSS is leveraging local and international partnerships to identify opportunities for bridging gaps in current resources

Abstract:
The Belize National Forensic Science Service (NFSS) was established as an independent government department in 2013 with the responsibility for providing services for the state in crime scene processing, medicolegal autopsies and laboratory analyses all under one roof. There has been sustained growth in the department over the past few years, however the recent global crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic presents several threats to furthering the growth and development of the various sections and units of the department. To navigate through these turbulent times while keeping the focus on providing quality forensic science services, several initiatives are underway in the areas of human and physical resources, training, management system implementation, local and international partnerships and legislative reform, to name a few.

This presentation will review the recent developments, major challenges and strategic priorities of the NFSS along its roadmap to improving and enhancing the forensic science services provided to Belizean law enforcement agencies and criminal justice system.