



MINISTRY OF
**HEALTH &
WELLNESS**



HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY INITIATIVES :::: 2021-2022



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POLICY, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION



Planning & Evaluation Branch

Major achievements for FY 2021–22

- Developed new health information database, Jamaica Healthcare Reporting and Visualisation System (JAHRVIS), which replaces legacy systems. JAHRVIS facilitates the entry, collation and reporting of health data from health centres and hospitals. Piloting within select health departments and hospitals in all Regions commenced.
- The Ministry's Annual Report for Financial Year 2019–20 was finalised, published and disseminated to key stakeholders. The Annual Report for Financial Year 2020–21 was finalised and submitted for publishing.
- The Ministry's Strategic Business Plan (2022/23 – 2025/26) and the Operational Plan FY 2022–23 was developed and submitted to the Office of the Cabinet and the Ministry of Finance and Public Service.
- The Risk Management Framework, initially drafted in 2016, was revised in keeping with GOJ's Enterprise Risk Management Policy
- Conducted seven audits and 12 monitoring visits for health information management at primary and secondary health care facilities to assess compliance with Health Information Management Standard Operating Procedures
- Coordinated health inputs and drafted parts of the chapter for SDG 3 of the Voluntary National Report (VNR). The VNR reports on Jamaica's progress towards attaining the UN SDGs and Goal 3 is to 'ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all'.

Priorities for FY 2022–23

- Wide-scale implementation of JAHRVIS in health departments and hospitals in all regions.
- Development of Strategic Business and Operational Plans
- Implementation of Electronic Health Records in select facilities
- Development and publishing of Ministry's Annual Report for financial year 2021–22
- Performance monitoring of the Ministry's Operational Plan



Health Systems Improvement Branch

Major achievements for FY 2021–22

- Preparation of the National Health Accounts Report which collates and reviews key health expenditure indicators
- Development of Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the University Hospital of the West Indies
- Preparation of Monitoring and Evaluation Manual
- Preparation of Monitoring and Evaluation Agenda
- Completion of Human Resources for Health Planning concept paper
- Technical supervision of the Joint UNICEF/PAHO/MOHW joint agreement and assisting with implementation of the various components of same. The first phase was capacity-building exercise for the medium term results-based budgeting for regional and head office officers.
- Preparation of quarterly SLA assessment reports for the RHAs and NHF

Priorities for FY 2022–23

- Preparation of policy document for 10-year financing plan for health
- Renewal development of Service Level Agreements for RHAs and development of new ones for the five professional councils
- Development of Monitoring and Evaluation Policy
- Conduct two evaluation research of Ministry's programmes, policies or projects
- Development of Human Resources for Health Strategic Plan
- Provide technical supervision under the UNICEF/PAHO/MOHW joint agreement in the following components:
 - Human Resources for Health
 - Health Technology Assessment
 - Governance for the MOHW and RHAs
 - Fiscal space for health
 - National health accounts
- Implementing strategy to integrate management accounting in the RHAs



Policy Coordination

Major achievements for FY 2021–22

1. Forty-one Cabinet Submissions and Notes and three Ministry Papers were prepared. Of note, these included:
 - a. Appointment of 20 Hospital Committees, 5 Management Boards and 5 Councils
 - b. Establishment of the National Healthcare Enhancement Foundation Limited
 - c. Submission of NFPB's Annual Report for 2018–2019 and 2019–2020
 - d. Submission of NHF Annual Report for 2019–2020 and 2020–2021
 - e. Ministry's position on Front-of-Package Labelling
 - f. Candidature for Jamaica to the Executive Board of WHO
 - g. Approval of 21 Award of Contracts, which included:
 - i. Rehabilitation of Phase 2B and Phase 3 of CRH
 - ii. Installation and Commissioning of Neurological Microscope at the UHWI;
 - iii. Redevelopment and Modernisation of the UHWI
 - iv. Supply and installation of X-Ray Machines (SERHA)
 - v. Construction of New Ward at the Chapelton Community Hospital
 - vi. Construction of Administrative Building at St. Ann Health Department
 - vii. Provision of JADEP Pharmaceuticals
 - viii. Provision of Anti-Retroviral Drugs
 - ix. Provision of Reagents and Consumables island-wide
2. Policy support was also provided which resulted in the following:
 - a. Tabling of the Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy and Strategic
 - b. Action Plan (2019–2024) and the Tobacco Control Bill by Minister of Health and Wellness in December 2020;
 - c. Cabinet approval for the integration of the NCDA as a Department into the Ministry;
 - d. Cabinet approval for the transfer of the St. Joseph's Hospital to SERHA;

- e. Cabinet approval for the exemption of fees at public pharmacies for all persons with Sickle Cell Disease.
- f. Development of the National Policy for the Reduction of the Harmful Use of Alcohol and towards its tabling in the Houses of Parliament as a Green Paper for public consultations subject to amendments recommended by Cabinet.


Priorities for FY 2022–23

1. Preparation of Cabinet Submissions, Notes and Ministry Papers. Of note, the Cabinet Submissions for the Harmful Use of Alcohol Policy and 10-year health financing plan
2. The Policy Coordinating Unit will strengthen its role in the following areas:
 - Sensitise Public Procurement Offices of the MOHW and its entities on requirements for preparing Cabinet Submissions regarding Award of Contracts.
 - Assess the compliance of the Ministry and its portfolio entities in accordance with the PBMA Act and other statutory obligations.





CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION



Formerly the Human Resources Management & Administration Division, the Corporate Services Division was officially inaugurated in November of 2021. This long-awaited restructuring has resulted in expanded and rebranded corporate services to the Ministry to include services such as organizational development, performance management and employee relations. The Division offers the following services:


1. Administration
 - a. Security & Transport
 - b. Office Services & inventory
 - c. Property Management & Maintenance
2. Documentation, Information & Access Services
3. Public Procurement
4. Human Resources Management & Development
 - a. Staffing
 - b. Employee Relations
 - c. Organizational Development & Performance Management
 - d. Training & Development
5. Information & Communication Technology
6. Transformation Initiatives
7. Staff Welfare project

During the 2021- 2022 financial year the Division supported the Ministry as it delivered its response to the COVID 19 pandemic. The staff of each Branch and Unit have contributed significantly to the access of the public to health services as well as supported the staff as they managed the pandemic.

This was a year of transforming initiatives to prepare structures and systems for operating in a post covid era.

Human Resources Management & Development (HRMD)

The HRMD Branch is responsible to provide staffing and training support to the Ministry and the RHA's. A major staffing accomplishment was the recruitment, processing, and placement of Cuban medical professionals to support our COVID-19 response. During the year 65 Cubans were contracted to support health care delivery.



The Training Department successfully piloted a virtual learning initiative targeted at 80 administrative staff. The department through this Ministry continues to provide financial support for the specialist training of 45 doctors who are studying both locally and abroad. Moreover, the Training Unit executed a summer internship programme that engaged approximately 150 students so that they gain the necessary experiences, lessons, and tools to boost their employability. The Inservice Education Centre (which is a part of the Training Dept.) continues to offer specialist training to nurses in areas such as Nursing Administration & Psychiatry to respond to not only our “brain drain” but also to our urgent health needs. To date, the In-service Unit had a cohort of 54 nurses completing the nursing administration programme whereas 30 nurses completed the psychiatric programme. Finally, thirty (30) candidates from the Kingston School of Nursing completed their studies in the Post Basic Midwifery and were all successful in the qualifying examination.


The Ministry and the HRMD Branch is proud of our progress with the implementation of MYHR+ as we digitize our human resource data to increase accessibility and the convenience of our staff to HR services. The department was able to update approximately 550 staff members’ leave to give them the ability to access their information via MYHR+. This period saw the piloting of the use of the electronic leave application and claim submitting phases of MYHR+. We expect full rollout in the next financial year.

We are confident as well that the preparatory work that was done through the PMAS Champion initiative will continue to support the implementation and roll out of our Performance Management & Appraisal System.

Documentation Information & Access Services

The Documentation Information & Access Services Unit’s focus is to preserve the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) institutional memory by efficient record keeping and providing easy access to information.

For the year 2021, the unit developed a Cloud Library to house documents and publications created by the MOHW to make them more accessible and discoverable, enabling the easy and quick dissemination of information to its users. Approximately 80 records have been uploaded to date.



The unit gained approval for the Implementation of the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) Records and Information Management Project Charter, which will guide the way forward for the implementation of a standardized Records and Information Management System in the MOHW.

In addition, the unit actively contributed to the development of the National Health Research Repository by digitizing and uploading COVID, related documents acquired to ensure the preservation and promulgation of Jamaican Health Research in digital format.

Administration

During the period under review, Administration Branch assisted with Covid-19 activities by coordinating with EMSSB, the Regions, KSA Health Department, the JCF, JDF, and ODPEM along with the Private Sector, Stakeholders in Partnership with the Government of Jamaica Vaccination Programme to action the national vaccination efforts.

The Transport Unit received two Yutong Buses which were donated by the Chinese government. These buses were retrofitted to be utilized to assist with the COVID-19 vaccination programme. As well we supported approximately 60 vaccination sites with mobile and ambulance support.


Our Stores Unit managed the receipt and distribution of over 300k syringes, vaccination cards and hospital supplies.

Our security unit was critical in the provision of standing orders for the security of quarantine sites and other security assessments for regional and private sector vaccination pop up site visits.

Public Procurement

In Financial Year 2021-2022, the Public Procurement Branch procured goods, services and works to facilitate the implementation of several projects.

Goods and supplies were procured to facilitate the COVID-19 Vaccine Programme. A procurement process was initiated to obtain a three-year framework agreement for the supply of Medical Oxygen for the Savanna-La-Mar Hospital and the Spanish Town Hospital. The process is currently at the Public Procurement Commission (PPC) for endorsement of award of a framework agreement and then approval by the Cabinet.



A procurement process was initiated for the Supply of Maintenance Services for Cancer Treatment Equipment at St. Joseph's Hospital and the Cornwall Regional Hospital.

The Branch has managed a spend of over \$3,907,799,815.88 during the period.

Information & Communication Technologies

We are proud of our contribution to the software infrastructure of the Ministry's COVID response. We provided extensive support for the use of the CommCare and Dlvoc systems that are being used to collect patient vaccination data. We have also developed and deployed the MOHW Vaccine reporting application, which is used nationally to give Covid-19 vaccination updates. We are integral as well in the Vaccination API deployed to allow verification of vaccination statuses used by the Ministry of Finance.

Our team of dedicated technicians also implemented the long-awaited upgrade of the MYUC FLOW IP Telephony System that is currently being used within the Head Office locations.

Staff Welfare Programme

The Staff Welfare Programme (November 2020 – October 2021) was designed to significantly reduce if not to reverse the negative pressures that were borne by the human resources in health as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This Programme of Staff Welfare promoted the health and well-being for Human Resources in Health, as the MOHW's response. The programme is built on five (5) pillars: Human Resource Management, Psychosocial Support, Rest and Relaxation, COVID Support and Wellness.

An excerpt of achievements under the programme are as follows:

- Establishment of a staff Helpline 888-463-6825
- Provision of Office Spa days and discounts at major wellness companies
- Complimentary stays at All -inclusive Hotels
- Provision of staff testing sites and quick results
- Provision of COVID care packages for staff members positive for COVID -19
- Discounted membership for staff at Gym


- Regular social settings for staff
- Spiritual and Financial presentations to staff
- A baseline study of staff engagement conducted and reported in 2021

PRIORITY PROGRAMMES FOR 2022 – 2023

- Implementation of Microsoft Exchange Email Solution
- Deployment of a new and improved WIFI services
- Upgrading the ICT infrastructure at the National Public Health Laboratory.
- Improvement of the Local Area Network (LAN) for the MOHW head offices.
- Complete the ICT Disaster Recovery Policy Plan for the MOHW head offices.
- Major ICT support for the strengthening of the IS4H/HSSP projects
- Complete installation of Proxy Patrol Tour Guard system at Ministry of Health locations.
- Installation of cameras to Ministry of Health Buildings.
- Improve access control to all MOHW Buildings.
- Installation of tablets/ computers at the main entrances of all buildings.
- Establish a Control Monitoring Room for our surveillance system
- Full implementation of visitors pass system
- To obtain a three (3) year framework agreement for the Supply of Medical Oxygen for the Savanna-La-Mar Hospital and the Spanish Town Hospital.
- To obtain a three (3) year contract for the Supply of Maintenance Services for Cancer Treatment Equipment at the St. Joseph's Hospital and the Cornwall Regional Hospital.
- To obtain long term contracts for additional goods and services
- Implementation of the new Records & Information Management System
- Full implementation of Phase 2 of the MyHR+ system
- Certification of MOHW leadership team in Change Management
- Full rollout of our Performance Management system inclusive of management and staff training in the use of the system
- To implement MOHW staff welfare/wellness plan
- Development of communication systems implemented to increase staff knowledge and awareness of Human Resource Policies and Programs



INTERNAL AUDIT



The primary objective of the Internal Audit Unit is to examine and evaluate whether the Ministry's framework of risk management, control, and governance processes are adequate and functioning effectively. In addition, the Internal Audit Unit should advise and recommend improvements in the governance, internal controls, and risk management processes/systems to Senior Management.

The following audits were conducted during the period April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

- ◆ Audit of Termination of employment for one hundred and thirty-four (134) staff assigned to St. Joseph's Hospital.
- ◆ Annual Board of Survey for the end of the financial year 2021/2022.
- ◆ A Special Audit of the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme was conducted for the four regional Health Authorities.
- ◆ Operational Audit of the Department of Government Chemist
- ◆ Verification for costing for revision of salaries and allowances for Pesticides Control Authority for thirteen (13) staff.
- ◆ Verification for costing for revision of salaries and allowances for the National Council on Drug Abuse.
- ◆ Verification for costing for revision of salaries and allowances for Bellevue Hospital for approximately four hundred (400) staff.
- ◆ Verification for costing for revision of salaries and allowances for Government Chemist Department for twenty-five (25) staff.
- ◆ Verification for costing for revision of salaries and allowances for the Ministry of Health and Wellness for the following groups:

Medical Consultant (HPC/MO) Level 4-8

Medical Officer (HPC/MO) Level 1-3

Dental Surgeon Series (HPC/DS 6)

Legal Officer (JLG/LO 1-6)

Medical Technologist Series (HPC/MDT 1-7) – 93 Staff

Pharmacy Series (HPC/PHS 1-7)

Dietician Nurses

Allied Health Series 1-4

- ◆ Pre-audit activities were conducted for one hundred and forty-one (141) files that include gratuity, indebtedness, leave entitlement, widow and orphan, salary arrears, and seniority payments. All files were completed and submitted to the Finance and Accounts Department for payment.

Divisional Staff Complement

The Establishment Act staff cadre for the Internal Audit Unit is 17. Currently, 12 persons are within the Unit. Four (4) positions were advertised and three (3) positions were filled. The existing five (5) vacancies will be filled within the financial year 2022/2023.

Way Forward

- ◆ Focus on conducting routine and special audits for the financial year. Reduce the verification of pre-audit activities within the Unit focusing on final payment.
- ◆ Ensure that Senior Management submits Management Responses for all audit conduct and that the responses are submitted within the requisite time.
- ◆ Conduct follow-up audits to ascertain whether the management responses accepted were implemented.





FINANCE & ACCOUNTS DIVISION



Final Accounts & Reporting Unit

The Final Accounts and Reporting Unit within the Finance Division of the Ministry of Health and Wellness has the portfolio of reviewing, preparing, and submitting all the Ministry's financial statements, as required to the requisite stakeholders, as mandated by the Financial Administration Audit Act. In the division, duties are assigned to each Unit of which the Final Accounts and Reporting Unit is charged with preparing monthly statements and annual reports for submission to the Auditor General, Ministry of Finance, and Accountant General. To date, the Unit has submitted financial statements for the financial year 2021/2022 for both the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the Bellevue Hospital.

The Unit is rated on a quarterly basis by the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service and has been making considerable strides to maintain and improve our ratings. However, in order to achieve set goals, challenges are often faced such as reconciliation of bank accounts in a timely manner and incomplete processing of vouchers on the system, which will prevent the closing of the accounting period in order to print and submit the Financial Statements. However, systems are being put in place to eliminate the slow processing of said documents.

The Final Accounts and Reporting Unit remain focused as we strive for excellence and continue to liaise with the relevant stakeholders to ensure the bank statements are submitted within the stipulated timeframe and that the relevant Directors within the division are held to a high standard to ensure that all vouchers on the GFMS System are cleared in a timely manner.

Project Accounting Unit Report

For the year Financial Year 2021-2022, the Unit was responsible for six (6) capital projects:-

1. Programme for Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (PROMAC) in Jamaica

The unit managed the administrative activities for this project which ended and was audited, with no adverse findings against the Ministry.



2. **Support for the National HIV/AIDS Response in Jamaica**

This project is still active, utilizing 70.9% of the approved vote.

3. **Technical Support to Reduce Teenage Pregnancy**

There was no activity for this project.

4. **Western Child Adolescent Hospital**

This project is active utilizing 99.8% of the approved vote.

5. **Prevention and Care Management of Non-Communicable Diseases Programme**

This project is in its third year and has utilized 88.8% of the approved vote.

6. **Redevelopment of Cornwall Regional Hospital**

This project has restarted and is in Phase 2B, it has utilized 95.7% of the approved vote.


The plan for 2022-2023 is to continue to manage the capital projects financed by the Consolidated Fund and the multilateral/bilateral agencies.

This financial year the unit will be responsible for five (5) projects:-

1. Support for the National HIV/AIDS Response in Jamaica
2. Western Child Adolescent Hospital
3. Prevention and Care Management of Non-Communicable Diseases Programme
4. Redevelopment of Cornwall Regional Hospital
5. Redevelopment and Modernisation of the University Hospital of the West Indies.

Management Accounts Unit

The unit's objective is to ensure the implementation of the Ministry's Budget is done in accordance with the approved Corporate Plan and to provide timely and accurate information to all stakeholders.



The approved Budget for MOWH for 2021-2022 was \$98b. Of this amount, the MOHW utilized 98% of the budget for 2021-2022.

It should be noted that included within the Budget was COVID- 19 of \$12.1b. \$2.056B was in relation to Grants, Contribution & Subsidies and \$10.1b was in relation to Compensation of Employees and Use of Goods & Services. The COVID-19 Budget was fully utilized.

During the year, the unit received 7096 commitments at a Value of \$101.8B and processed 6833 commitments valuing \$98.4B or 96%.

Way Forward:


- Ensure reports are prepared and submitted in a timely manner. Incorporate methods of tracking commitments.
- Ensure undischarged commitments remain at a minimum 20% of outstanding invoices 60 days and over.
- Increase communication with Programme managers to ensure Cash Flows are submitted in a timely manner.
- Improve relationships with all stakeholders both internally and externally.
- Identify training gaps within the unit ensuring that the staff is fully equipped in carrying out their duties.

Finance & Accounts Unit

The Finance and Accounts Unit comprises of two (2) units namely, Salaries and Disbursements (HO) and the accounting personnel at the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL/Blood Bank) outstations. Finance and Accounts is a service department to the ministry and the country by extension.

Our performance for the financial year 2021/2022:

- ◆ Processing of timely payrolls for all units, particularly those which went "LIVE" utilizing the MYHR+ Self Service portals.
- ◆ Completed filing of statutory obligations for the year 2021 – TAJ website.

- 
- ◆ Timely execution of salary deductions on behalf of staff on a monthly basis.
 - ◆ Daily lodgements of all revenue collected – 100% completion.
 - ◆ Processed payments within a timely manner.

Plans for 2022/2023:

Staff Welfare in empowering team members we will be embarking on:


- ◆ Training for all team members to be enrolled in the Government Accounting and Supervisory Management.
- ◆ Staff to receive sensitization sessions from the Tax Administration of Jamaica.
- ◆ Staff development to include employee recognition and formalize birthday club
- ◆ Staff rotation to enhance further growth of each team member.
- ◆ Community Project – staff to participate by “giving back” to the community.

Productivity

- ◆ Our goals for the new F/Y 2022/2023 – we want to accomplish more than we did in the previous years:
- ◆ Full roll-out of the restructured filing system to ensure proper record management and enable efficient tracking and retrieval of records. Thus ensuring a clean audit by way of reduced audit queries. First phase completed – June 2022.
- ◆ Zero tolerance for any incidence of overpayments and or late payments.
- ◆ Salary deductions to be transmitted before the pay date of each month effective July 2022.
- ◆ Full production of the payroll system utilizing the full suite of the MYHR+ software



NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING BOARD



The National Family Planning Board's (NFPB) contribution to the government's Strategic Priority is to endeavor to implement quality Sexual and Reproductive Health services in order that all Jamaicans may be empowered to achieve their fullest potential.

Priority actions/tasks for 2021/2022 and Achievements of the Programme


Ensure the availability of a range of contraceptive supplies

Mygesty (injectable) and Levoplant (implant) – Both contraceptive methods introduced to the method mix as the predecessors Depo Provera and Jadelle, were no longer available through the suppliers. For the period April 2021 – March 2022, the following were issued to the RHAs and distributed to our client:

- Depo Provera 3753
- Mygesty Injection 163,232
Jadelle Implant 1,223 kits i.e. 12,230
- Levoplant 1,636 kits i.e. 16,360

Other method of contraceptives distributed included:

- Famy Depo, 42,812 dose
 - Female condoms, 500 pieces
 - Male condoms, 3,680,941pieces
-
- **Conduct survey and disseminate results of the Reproductive Health Survey**
Data collection completed, report being prepared by STATIN and is due in May 2022.
 - **Rebrand the Marge Roper Counselling Service to facilitate and promote youth access**
Rebranding – Marge Roper Counselling Service rebranded to attract adolescents and youth – new name is 'Yute Expression'. WhatsApp line, logo, commercials, IG Lives, competitions, and animations created.



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Rebranding – Marge Roper Counselling Service rebranded to attract adolescents and youth – new name is 'Yute Expression'. WhatsApp line, logo, commercials, IG Lives, competitions, and animations created.

- 37 medical practitioner and 2 midwives trained in Jadelle implant (a long-acting reversible contraceptive) insertion and removal exceeding original target of 15 health care providers (primary and secondary care) to attend to adolescents.
- 540 adolescents under 19 years old, fitted with contraceptive implants and given condoms to reduce risk of repeat or first-time pregnancies. The target of 500 was surpassed.
- An additional 200 implants donated to the VJH Adolescent Health Clinic since high number of insertions done at this institution
- Media campaign developed “Live life before you give life” 2 TV and 1 radio ad on LACRC - Jadelle. Social media infographics developed and placed.

Improve HIV and syphilis testing

- HIV Self-testing (HIVST) – The initiative was introduced to help the programme achieve the first of the United Nations’ 90–90–90 treatment targets – for 90% of all people with HIV to know their status by 2020. 28 private pharmacies and 2 private practitioners across the island partnered with the NFPB. Pharmacies and practitioners were already involved in the network for delivery of HIV treatment and care in the HIV response (offering testing and counselling and/ or ARV)
- CDC supported the initiation of pilot strategies to reach key populations of MSM & Transgender i.e. Social Network Strategy & MalEgo – These two strategies yielded the following outputs:
 - MalEgo, there were 5 activities conducted across 4 RHAs which applied principles from the MalEgo strategy resulted in reach to 344 new MSMs reached, 225 (65.4%) tested with 8 (3.6%) being HIV reactive and 11 (4.9%) syphilis reactive.
 - The Social Network Strategy is aimed at serving users who have never interacted with the public health system, diversified the days that HIV testing is accessible e.g. weekend. For the period January 2022- to March 2022, a total of 118 participants were tested for HIV and Syphilis.

Responding to COVID – HIVSTI/FP promotion

- **Pivot during COVID to link messages** – Promoted condom use for HIV/STI/FP Prevention expanded communication channels to include the NFPB online platforms. Messages on contraceptives and adherence messages for persons living with HIV (PLHIV). The location to access contraceptives and agencies that provided for persons affected by gender-based violence were also included in messaging
- **Introduction of online appointment systems** for person desiring FP services from the nurse, counsellor as well as HIV and syphilis tests.

Promoting Long-acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCS) –

Training of health care providers in provision of FP services/LARC

- 102 sets of IUCD insertion and removal equipment provided to 102 health care providers trained in IUCD insertion in 89 health facilities across 4 RHAs. 81 midwives and 11 Public Health Nurses trained in LARC in 5x 1-day online
- sessions.
183 health care workers trained in 16 online workshops – 38 Midwives, 31
- Registered Nurses, 36 SRH CSO Peer Educators, 73 Practical Nurses
37 Obstetricians/Gynaecologists sensitised on Counselling clients on the
- Jadelle implant.
44 health care providers – Community Outreach Workers from 4RHAs
- CSOs trained in Provider Initiated Testing and Counselling (PITC) utilising hybrid approach pivot necessary owing to COVID

Priority plans for 2022/2023

- Coordinate the restructuring of the HIV prevention Programme
Continued collaboration with MOHW for integration of the NFPB as Family Planning services Division in the MOHW
- Develop the National Strategic Plan for Family Planning
Continued collaboration with MOHW on development of the SRH Policy.
- Train MDA reps in Human Rights Principles to reduce stigma and discrimination GOJ service delivery points
- Develop SOP and build capacity of representatives of CSOs and RHAs to implement HIV/STI/FP interventions.

Responding to COVID – HIVSTI/FP promotion

- Utilize technology and non-traditional approaches to Increase access to
- SRH information for hard-to-reach populations (adolescents, youths, other vulnerable and key populations) and enhance on-the-ground activities.
- Strategies to incentivize acceptance of FP commodities and HIV and syphilis testing of hard to reach populations
- Conduct Media Recall Survey and Roll out campaigns to address stigma and discrimination, HIV self-testing, PrEP.
- Scale up HIV Self-testing and roll out to public sector facilities.
- Disseminate RHS findings to inform programmes
- Conduct Research on Men's Sexual Health
- Collaboration with donor partners for continued implementation of:
 - Youth and adolescent programmes -UNICEF
 - Key and vulnerable populations- CDC, UNAIDS, UNFPA.





TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION



Health Services Planning & Integration Branch

Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services

Accomplishments for 2021

- 1) Successful bid for PAHO supported project as a Sustainable Development Goal -3 Thematic Challenge.

CAMH project was entitled: Training in Multisystemic therapy for Management of Youth at Risk.

Implementation began in 2021- comprised

- In service training of clinicians in the Child Guidance clinics in multimodal, multisystemic therapy for at risk youth
- Training in use of psychometric instruments purchased
- Acquisition of electronic equipment to support data collection and training.

- 2) Preparatory work for establishment of U Matter Chat/text line

Plans for 2022

- Launch of U-Matter Chat/Text line... accomplished in March 2022
- Confirmation of Funding Support for Telemedicine for Child Guidance Practitioners
- Proposal for Warnath International (NGO managing a US State Department Grant to counter Child Trafficking) to refurbish a part of the Ewarton Health Centre for use as a Child Friendly Space for Child Guidance Clinics
- Support to be requested from PAHO to contract a consultant to create a development plan for CAMH services island wide along with research for feasible funding opportunities
- Re-introduction of School Mental Health Literacy programme to MoEY by means of contracting the services of a consultant.



Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Achievements

- Mental Health Guidance provided with respect to COVID in various for a
- Reorganisation of the Bellevue Hospital has had further discussions to include the SERHA
- TWG Mental Health and Psychosocial support
- Mental Health Campaign

Plans for 2022

- Staffing structure for mental health services will be fully developed
- Reorganisation of the Bellevue Hospital services will be further developed
- Mental Health capacity will be built up

Health Systems Support and Monitoring

The Health System Support and Monitoring (HSSM) Unit is one of three units in the Health System Planning and Integration Unit. The unit has three main service streams:

- A. Development and review of Manuals and protocols that guide service delivery
 - a. COVID-19 protocols and trainings produced and reviewed as required
 - b. Health Infrastructure building standards (Developed and reviewed)
 - c. Diabetic retinopathy manual (formatted and reviewed)
 - d. Development and review of Manuals and protocols that guide service delivery
- B. Clinical quality assurance monitoring
 - a. 7 facilities were audited over the period. The Accident and Emergency area was the focus. Reports have been submitted to the Director HSPI
 - b. 3 private facilities were assessed with the SRD for their registration under the nursing homes act. (Omega medical in Westmoreland, Windsor Wellness and Nephcare dialysis in Kingston)

The goal was to see if these facilities are undertaking the necessary IPC protocols that match the areas of operation.

C. Human Resource for Health

- a. Training on COVID-19 protocols for the regions
Training for vaccine roll out to private doctors
- b. Provide technical support to a wide cross section of government and other agencies on medical technical issues.
- c. Participated in Patient Safety workshop and Respiratory
- d. Protection Programme workshop

Activities for 22/23

- **QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:** Create a TOR for engagement of a quality specialist to perform gap analysis for processes to be standardized
- **QUALITY ASSURANCE AUDITS:** Develop a plan for the year with defined objects and outcomes for the audits. Conduct 7 audits per quarter
- **POLICY AND MANUAL DEVELOPMENT:** Create a manual database. Training in an effort to standardize protocols and guidelines
- **INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAMME:** Strengthen the IPC programme through leadership, policy development and engagement. Update aspects of the IPC manual: HH, Cleaning and disinfection, Develop a Respiratory protection programme protocol, Train HCW in Respiratory Protection Programme, Develop a CSSD sterilization protocol
- **SPECIAL PROJECTS:** Provide technical support for the development of the ear health programme in primary care. Installation of the Mammography units at the CRH and SJH NCTC. Serve a Project counterpart for the IAEA projects 9005 and 6015 for 2022-25

Physiotherapy Services

Despite budgetary constraints and redirection of funding the following were Major achievements for 2021

- Additional Physiotherapist was employed at the Annotto Bay Hospital for six (6) months.

- Additional Physiotherapist was employed at the Percy Junor Hospital increasing the complement to two (2).
- Physiotherapists provided uninterrupted care to Covid 19 patients who were isolated at the respective facilities.
- Uninterrupted Physiotherapy Service (with necessary Operational Adjustments) during the Covid 19 Pandemic and accompanying waves.
- Private one on one ' Fireside Chat ' with close to 90 % of Physiotherapists at Government run hospitals to ascertain how they were coping in the
- Pandemic / Concerns / Fears.

Plans for 2022 / 2023.

- Complete microplan and institute a Pilot Study for physiotherapy programme in primary care.
- Supportive advocacy for Additional Staff and Operational procedures for new Physiotherapy Department under construction at the Annotto Bay Hospital.
- Supportive advocacy for proper additional space for the Physiotherapy
- Service at the Princess Margaret Hospital.
- Complete Status update on Physiotherapy Equipment.
- Continue Monitoring visits.

Radiology Services

Major Achievements

- Restoration of the MRI unit started. The unit has been down for more than four years. The unit currently requires additional parts and additional funding is being awaited.
- Donations through the government received to aid in the COVID response. The donation included six mobile X-ray machines, six ultrasound units, lead barriers, laser film printers and film. The hospitals to benefit included
- National Chest, Kingston Public, Cornwall Regional, St. Ann's Bay, Bustamante and Mandeville Regional.

- Through the IAEA, training of twenty-five radiographers received training in Radiation Training and protection in Interventional Radiology. The training was done as partial fulfillment of IAEA project JAM 6014. The training module was conducted between October 21 -23, 2021
- Six Radiographers received training using the train the trainer mechanism as radiation safety officers. The training module was conducted by the IAEA and was conducted November 1-5, 2021.
- Based on the mandate by the HSRA for licensing, two of the current nineteen government Radiology facilities have been licensed. The Kingston Public Hospital and Cornwall Regional Hospitals received their licenses in December 2021.

Family Health Unit

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH – SAFE MOTHERHOOD – Achievements


- The interim guideline for COVID-19 pregnant patient was revised and disseminated
- The implementation plan for the protocols and standard operating procedures for treatment of victims of sexual offences was developed and submitted
- The second Annual National Perinatal review was conducted, with approximately 1,200 participants
- Hosted the Inaugural World Patient Safety Day (September 2021)

Plans for 2022

- Advocate for a web-based database for the pregnant woman
- Introduce the 'Near Missed' system for reporting
- Review the decision for the perinatal information system (SIPS) database

PERINATAL HEALTH – Achievements

- The 2nd Annual Perinatal review was held and it incorporated neonatal quality of care
- The interim guidelines for the COVID-19 exposed neonate were revised

- 
- An Excel reporting template was developed for clinical indicators for neonatal health

Plans for 2022

- Empower mothers, families and communities to demand quality newborn care
- Strengthen programme-tracking measures

EARLY STIMULATION PROGRAMME – Achievements

- All 13 parishes have trained CHAs for the home visiting programme
Remote delivery of the home visiting programme was instated in six parishes
- Evaluation of the modified phase 1 home visiting programme was completed

Plans for 2022

- Extend remote/blended delivery of the home visiting programme to all 13 parishes
- Review the clinic roll out of the programme

MANAGEMENT OF CHILDHOOD DISEASES – Rheumatic Fever – Achievements

- Increased national coverage rate to 71%
- The total number of persons on the register decreased by 20% over the previous year
- Twenty-two (22) RF programme audits were conducted and the non-conformance reports shared with the institutions
- The 5th National Annual RF/RHD programme review was conducted with over 300 participants

Plans for 2022

- Explore solutions to the request for ECHO and cardiology services for the patients
- Conduct the 6th National Annual RF/RHD programme review



SICKLE CELL DISEASE PROGRAMME – Achievements

- The two subcommittees were formed and is led by the Director, Non-Communicable Disease & Injury Prevention and the Director, National Public Health Laboratory, Haematology
- CAIHR prescriptions now at Drug Serve Pharmacies and additional drugs placed on the NHF list
- Six (6) ECHO training sessions were conducted in collaboration with CAIHR
The total number of missed babies was 139 for 2021, compared to 598 in 2020 and 7,043 in 2019

Plans for 2022

- Facilitate the locating of missed babies
- Advocate for an electronic web-based database for reporting

ADOLESCENT HEALTH – Achievements

- A total of thirty-six (36) signs have been installed in adolescent clinics across all parishes
- Approximately three thousand, three hundred and fifty (3,350) young persons accessed services from the Hub These services included:
 - 2,326 were engaged in rap sessions
- A virtual health fair was held on Friday 10 December 2021, under the theme “Let’s Flex and Chill” the Virtual Edition and now has approximately 4,000 followers on Instagram
- The 11th Annual National Adolescent Health workshop was conducted
Day 1 attendance 179 healthcare workers and 102 on day 2
- A baseline assessment of selected risk factors of pregnancy among high school students in eastern Jamaica, was completed and circulated for feedback
- The study of perinatal children infected with HIV was finalized and disseminated
- The St. Thomas Teen Hub project now has an assigned contractor



Plans for 2022

- Facilitate the Ground- breaking ceremony operationalization of the St. Thomas Teen Hub
- Facilitate the refurbishing of the Kingston Teen Hub in collaboration with the Kiwanians

MEN'S HEALTH

Plans for 2022

- Develop a strategic plan for men's health
- Hire a consultant in collaboration with PAHO to conduct the situation analysis

ELDERLY HEALTH – Achievements

- Developed messages to encourage the elderly to take the COVID-19 and influenza vaccines

Plans for 2022

- Get sign off on the National Strategic Plan for ageing
Conduct stakeholder consultation for the establishment of elderly health clinics in Primary Care



VACCINES EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION (EPI)

Table 1: Showing the Preliminary Coverage Data for 2021

Antigen	Target Population		Jan – Dec 2021 Target	Prelim. Coverage*		Deficit
BCG	0 – 11 months	32,925*	95 – 100%	31,995	97%	0%, Target met
Polio3				29,479	90%	5 –10%
DPT3				29,553	90%	5 –10%
HepB3				29,466	89%	6 –11%
HIB3				29,519	90%	5 –10%
MMR1	12 – 23 months	33,875	95 – 100%	29,748	88%	7–12%
MMR2				28,917	85%	10–15%

*Preliminary target based on live birth data for Registrar General Department distribution reports for 2020 and 2021

- A total of 2,845 doses of influenza vaccine was given
Eight hundred and forty-seven doses of the HPV vaccine were administered
- The National Polio annual report for 2020, was submitted
- The Joint Reporting and the PAHO 173 Forms were prepared and submitted
- The National Coordinating Committee for the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccine met weekly
- Cold chain audits commenced with forty-four sites completed
Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials were developed and circulated for COVID-19 and influenza vaccines
- Vaccination Week in the Americas was celebrated in April 2021, Jamaica conducted a total of 119 vaccination sessions targeting the elderly and other vulnerable populations administering 9,888 doses of vaccines
- Training for Hepatitis B birth dose roll out was completed
- The EPI database was maintained
- Jamaica received 300 long range vaccine carriers, twenty-four -20°C vaccine freezers, two 2-8°C refrigerators, two ultra-low vaccine freezers and two vaccination buses

- A total of 116,971 vials of vaccine were removed from storage and destroyed
- The National Events Supposedly Attributed to Vaccination or Immunization (ESAVI) committee was established
- Second dose of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) was introduced in August 2021
- Training for 2,229 public and private sector healthcare workers was conducted to facilitate the COVID-19 vaccination roll out
- A total of 1,227,237 doses of COVID-19 vaccines were administered
- A total of 114 COVID-19 sensitization sessions were conducted reaching over 25,995 persons. The sessions were transmitted on YouTube, Facebook, Tweeter and Instagram
- The Let's Talk Vax programme was facilitated by the FHU and was aired on eight to ten radio stations weekly
- The web-based vaccination supplies stock management (wVSSM) was upgraded

Plans for 2022

- Engage in mop up activities to facilitate vaccination of drop outs
- Conduct supervisory visits to ensure accurate documentation
- Complete the upgrade of the EPI database
- Advocate for the installation of the mobile feature of the wVSSM
- Lobby for a consultant to draft the adult vaccination policy for Jamaica
- Continue to provide technical guidance for the COVID-19 vaccine roll out
- Prepare forecast for vaccine and supplies need for 2023
- Celebrate Vaccination Week in the Americas 2022
- Close at least 20% of the ESAVI cases and provide feedback to the field
- Engage other categories of healthcare providers to be a part of the vaccination programme
- Facilitate the offering of COVID-19 vaccine routinely in health centres
- Restructure the HPV vaccination programme
- Facilitate mop up activities for the routine childhood vaccination programme



QUALITY ASSURANCE - Achievements

- 100 % of vaccines entering the island were assessed before acceptance in the national stores and confirmation of arrival provided to suppliers
- Regional Nurses and Senior Public Health Nurses conducted parish and district audits for all parishes utilizing tools provided by FHU and reports discussed at the Regional EPI quarterly meeting attended by a representative from FHU (Programme Officer)
- Wed-based Vaccine Supplies Stock Management (wVSSM) System was adequately monitored and all related matters from the field were addressed within 24 hours of receipt

Plans for 2022

- Complete cold chain audit
- Conduct audits in facilities in the more remote areas
- Lobby for dedicated vaccine rooms at the parish health department

Compassionate Fund Unit

Achievements

The compassionate Fund Unit has received:

- \$185,360,394.43 from National health Fund
- \$60,000,000.00 from the Ministry of Health and Wellness recurrent budget
- 1187 clients were assisted through the project

Plans for 2022/2023

- Assist needful clients: 257 patients have already applied and are awaiting for funds
- Build capacity and increase staffing within the Unit to adequately assist and process applications
- A restructuring of the unit will inform the establishment of posts within the project in order to provide project stability as well as job security for the staff



Director's Office

Achievements

- Medical Interns both locally trained and foreign trained were placed in all regions in hospitals accredited for the supervision of interns.
- Senior House Officers were placed across all regions, were employed within the 4 health authorities where they would have been supervised in specialty areas and primary care.
- Requests for consideration of persons employed to Ministries Departments and Agencies, for Special Sick Leave, Injury Leave and the convening of Medical Boards as appropriate; were processed, responses provided and recommendations made.

Plans for 2022

- Senior House Officer Programme will be reviewed
- Jamaica Cuban Eye Care Programme (now suspended) will be reviewed further
Medical Board Process will be reviewed
- National Wound Care Programme will be developed



Emergency, Disaster Management & Special Services Branch

Major achievements for FY 2021-22

With programme activities for FY 2021/2022 focusing on the COVID19 Response, a significant proportion being aligned to pre-COVID19 programmatic activities, the major achievements reflect improved capacities that will be sustained in the post-COVID19 context. Among them is the importance of building and institutionalizing health systems resilience and the demonstration of the importance of health in all policies strategy. Tangible achievements are as follows:

ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRAMME	PRIORITY OPERATIONAL AREA (FY 2021/22)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health component explicit in Border Sector Operations through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the implementation of the Health ETA System under the PICA Border Strengthening Project; ▪ ICT Upgrade at International Airports (NMIA, SIA) for Advancing traveler information to Port Health Stations and IHR NFP Contact Point in real time ▪ Health & Safety as specified area of Operational Control for Cruise Operations 2. Attainment of Standard IPC Requirements at Authorized Ports of Entry 3. Maintenance of currency of IHR related information through Monthly Publication of IHR Bulletin, Travel Advisory 4. Sustained participation in global review process for IHR(2005) through WHO Working Group on Pandemic Preparedness and Response (WGPR) and Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) 	<p>National Health Security/IHR-International Health Regulations;</p> <p>(Collaboration with Port Health)</p> <p>International Travel and Health Programme</p>	Implementation of Core Capacities of IHR(2005)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Establishment of In-Service Continuing Education of EMTs assigned to Public PHEMS 6. Safe deployment in accordance with enhanced standards of Emergency Medical Transportation as part of COVID19 Response 7. Road map for attainment of Jamaica Emergency Medical Teams in accordance with WHO International Standards defined 8. Satisfactory installations of Health & Medical 	<p>Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services (PHEMS)</p> <p>Emergency Medical Care</p>	<p>Standardization of PHEMS</p> <p>Implementation of PAHO/WHO EMT-Initiative</p>

ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRAMME	PRIORITY OPERATIONAL AREA (FY 2021/22)
Component of GOJ Special Services	Special Services	
<p>9. Enhanced coordination capacity for Health Aspect of Emergency and Disaster Response through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dedicated Office space for HEOC activities ▪ ICT Hardware Upgrade with expansion of devices inventory, enterprise license at National and Sub-National (Parish) Levels <p>10. Improved capacity of HEOC Support Station through increased HR complement and expanded communication device inventory</p> <p>11. Improved information management capacity through implementation of Geospatial technology in Health Facilities Status in Emergency and Disaster Monitoring Tool (ArcGIS)</p> <p>12. Increased Resiliency Quotient of Health Facilities in the public system through retrofitting of prioritized facilities (17 of 20) by project implementation support to the Smart Health Care Facilities in the Caribbean, and Improving Climate Data and Information Management Projects, and becoming one of 50 signatories to UNFCCC COP26 Health Programme</p> <p>13. Improved Surge Capacity of Health Care Facilities through acquisition of inventory for deployable Field Hospital (Tent and equipment, trained installation personnel, maintenance equipment)</p> <p>14. Enhanced training capacity for Core In-Service EDM Training Programme through retrofitting of Training Facility and upgrade of training material (MCMS, ICS, EOC, Resuscitation)</p>	<p>Disaster Risk Management</p> <p>-DRR (Smart Programme)</p> <p>-HEOC</p>	<p>Implementation of PAHO DRR POA 2016-2021</p> <p>MOHW Transformation Programme – Digitalisation</p> <p>Climate Action in Health</p>

Major Plans FY 2022/2023

The programme activities for FY 2022/2023 will seek to reinforce and expand the scope of the major achievements of FY2021/22.

Planned Activities	PROGRAMME	PRIORITY OPERATIONAL AREA (FY 2021/22)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Document programme elements of MOHW Health Security/IHR Programme Support activities to improve Core Capacity with respect to Chemical Hazards and Zoonoses; as well as additional indicator areas in updated WHO IHR M&E Conduct IHR Audit of Authorized Ports of Entry per schedule Monthly Publication of IHR Bulletin Issuance of Travel Advisory as required Sustain participation in global review process for IHR(2005) through WHO Working Group on Pandemic Preparedness and Response (WGPR) and Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) Support Health component of Border Sector Operations through Go-Live Phase of the implementation of the Health ETA System under the PICA Border Strengthening Project; 	<p>National Health Security/IHR- International Health Regulations; (Collaboration with Port Health)</p> <p>International Travel and Health Programme</p>	Implementation of Core Capacities of IHR(2005)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforce implementation of Revised Triage System (ESI-5) Resumption of Resuscitation Training Programme Sustain In-Service Continuing Education of EMTs assigned to Public PHEMS Advance expansion of coverage of the Public EMS Advance institutional governance structure for Emergency Medical Care with focus on PHEMS Conduct Quality of Care Audits for PHEMS (Medevac by JDF Air Wing, MOH/JFB EMS, Private Ambulance Services and Acute Care Facilities including Accident & Emergency Units Advance establishment of Jamaica Emergency Medical Teams in accordance with WHO International Standards for Humanitarian Assistance Satisfactory installations of Health & Medical Component of GOJ Special Services as required 	<p>Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services (PHEMS)</p> <p>Emergency Medical Care</p> <p>Special Services</p>	<p>Standardization of PHEMS</p> <p>Implementation of PAHO/WHO EMT-Initiative</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Advance preparation of MOHW All-Hazards Response Plan Resume Core In-Service EDM Training Programme (MCMS, ICS, EOC, Resuscitation) 	<p>Disaster Risk Management</p> <p>-DRR</p>	Implementation of Follow-On PAHO DRR POA

Planned Activities	PROGRAMME	PRIORITY OPERATIONAL AREA (FY 2021/22)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Sustain coordination capacity for Health Aspect of Emergency and Disaster Response through Simulation Exercise of Health Facilities Status in Emergency and Disaster Monitoring Tool (ArcGIS) 12. Document programme elements of MOHW Smart Programme 13. Advance completion of the Health Chapter of the National Adaptation Plan (H-NAP) under the UNFCCC Jamaica COP26 Health Programme 	(Smart Programme) -HEOC	MOHW Transformation Programme – Digitalisation Climate Action in Health



Health Promotion & Protection Branch

HIV/STI/Tb Unit

Achievements 2021/2022

- Reduction in the EMTCT rates for HIV and Syphilis (on target to achieve elimination status)
- Treatment Sites Information system (TSIS 2.0) Update
- Treatment Readiness Assessment Tool (TRAT) Digitized
- Development of manuals and SOP's
- Data Quality Assessment Audit 2021
- Social Media interventions initiated for MSM/TGW focused & General Youth focused
- Research conducted to inform a transition plan and policy for HIV positive adolescents to transition from paediatric to adult based care.
- Treatment Sites Information system (TSIS 2.0) Update
- Treatment Readiness Assessment Tool (TRAT) Digitized
Guiding documents and protocols for treatment care and support completed:
- Reduction in viral load turnaround time due to the implementation of DISA
- (WRHA, SRHA and most SERHA sites)

Major Plans 2022/2023

- Develop a social media campaign for Pre exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).
- Pilot a peer mentorship programme in the South East Region to build capacity of adolescents living with HIV.
- Digitization of PMTCT Registers

National Food Industry Task Force

1. Better for You Menu Launched (The Better For You menu initiative was launched on May 17, 2021 with 8 Quick Service Restaurants (QSRs) involved in the launch:

2. Wendy's, Restaurant Associates Ltd., Popeye's, Little Caesars, Burger King, Juicy Patties, Island Grill



Major activities Planned for 2022

- Public Education Campaign on Front of Package Labelling
 1. Elimination of Industrially produced Trans Fats from the food supply; Preparatory work towards development of legislation, including conducting a regulatory impact assessment
- Expansion of Better For You

Nutrition Unit

Achievements 2021/2022

- Implementation of the National Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy
- Commemoration of National Breastfeeding Week, September 18–24
- Development of video feature on the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative
- Manuals. Reproduced and distributed 300 manuals.
- Trained 28 persons as trainers in the new BFHI curriculum developed by WHO
- Established 7 new community Infant and support groups
- Developed, printed and distributed complementary feeding tips posters

- Implementation of National Food-based Dietary Guidelines
- Commemoration of Caribbean Nutrition Day on June 28
- Developed communication plan for nutrition facts panel
- Monitored implementation of interim guidelines for beverages in health facilities

Plans for 2022–2023

- Development of Protocol for the Nutritional Management of Renal Diseases, Cardiovascular Diseases, HIV and Covid-19.

- Implementation of the National Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy
- Legislation for Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitute
- Workplace support for breastfeeding
- Implementation of Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative

NCDs

- Interpersonal Violence Management Manual produced.
- SCD Ambulatory Care Framework completed
- NCD Website Launch
- Digitization of the DM/HTN audit toolBenefits list



Major Plans 2022/2023

- Gender Based Violence Manual
- Cancer designated as a Class 2 Disease
- Public Private Partnership Programme
- NCD, Injuries and Cancer Strategic Plans
- Point of Care HbA1C Programme roll out
- Screening Clinic Pilot
- Cancer Management Audit Tool
- Digitization of the DM/HTN register

Medical Waste Management Unit

Achievements 2021/2022

1. Final reports from the Consultants presented and accepted by the Directorate.
2. Acceptance of the recommendation from the MWM Consultant of the 440 L Sterilwave Medical Waste Treatment Technology being proposed for the three selected sites. Equipment costs approximately J\$72M

2022/2023

- PIMS project concept and proposal submission
- Site confirmation in 3 regions to house solution
- Training Regionally in Medical Waste Management in collaboration with MWU and HPE

Health Promotion & Education

Achievements

Schools

- 200 healthy lifestyle signs were installed in 100 schools.
- Jamaica Moves in School Coordinator funded by UNICEF supported the advancement of Jamaica Moves in Schools
- JaMoves in School Virtual Tours
- Survey was done with over 4000 parents to assess their readiness for the Pfizer vaccine

Physical Activity

- 4 Regional Physical Activity Specialists came on board to support programme

- Physical Activity web page was developed

COVID-19

- VAX CHAMP Ambassadors initiative launched in communities
- Development of Educational Materials for COVID-19 and Covid-19 vaccination programme
- 4 Special Parish Intervention funded by National Team “community rove”
- Development of TV, Radio and Social Media Ads COVID Vaccination
- Special Christmas Vaccination Communication Campaign

2022/2023

- Healthy Life style community frame work to include healthy lifestyle ambassador and healthy zone
- Capacity building of HR practitioners

Environmental Health Unit

- The unit was instrumental in contributing to the development of protocols and guidelines for the management of COVID-19
- The training of key internal and external personnel on COVID-19 and other environmental health matters
- Finalised agreement on the draft Public Health (Funeral Establishment and Mortuaries) Regulations between MOHW and Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

Institutional Health

- Developed 30 draft Guidelines (vessels, aircrafts, healthcare facilities, cleaning and disinfection, hospitality industry, schools, workplaces, nursing homes, other institutions and morgues) as well as 16 checklists, 2 SOP.
- Developed the major sections of the draft Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) policy for Healthcare facilities.
- Conducted environmental health assessment and audits at Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and Educational Institutions.

Occupational Safety and Health

- Draft Chemicals management guidelines developed in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).
- Health and Safety guidelines to include the Monitoring plan for Cornwall
- Regional Hospital completed.

Plans for 2022–2023

- Revision of key legislations, policies, guidelines and SOPs
- Further Development of policy manual to guide the environmental health programmes
- EHMIS–preparation requirements for the implementation of the system
- Advance the Sterile Insect Technique Programme to include risk communication implementation for the national sensitization of the population
- Hire consultant to review the Vector Control Workforce
- Further Implementation of the IVM plan
- Employment of the Consultant to revise the Developer’s Manual Vol 3 Section 4
- Produce a Quick Reference Guide for Drinking Water Management
- Revised protocol for the certification of Food Handlers.
- Improved Environmental Health compliance at the Points of Entry
- Strengthened Institutional Health Programme to include workplaces in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.




National Epidemiology Branch

Highlight of Achievements for FY 2021–2022

Over the twelve (12) month period under review the National Epidemiology performed exceptionally well in generating timely and accurate information on health to guide decision making and policy direction. The following are highlights of the achievements for the year:

- Preparation and dissemination of 365 daily reports and over 100 special reports including maps to guide Jamaica’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to monitor and evaluate interventions.
Mortality Surveillance – over 80% of maternal deaths reviewed and classified
- Coordinated the 12th Annual National Health Research Conference which held on November 17–19, 2021 under the theme - COVID-19 Year in review: A multidimensional perspective. Over 985 participants logged on over the three Conference days.
- Successful completion of CDC funded Surveillance and Response to Avian and Pandemic Influenza in Jamaica Project.
- Completion of an ICT Gap Analysis to guide the implementation of a Central Health Data Repository.
- Coordinated the implementation of COVID-19 Research Agenda through the Essential National Health Research Committee which resulted in the completion of the following studies:
 - Crawford T, Parchment K, Robinson S. Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic Restrictions on Major Crimes and Sexual Offences in Jamaica: A comparative analysis of crimes reported by the Jamaica Constabulary Force (2014–2020). *International Journal of Social Science and Humanities Research* ISSN 2348–3164 (online) Vol. 9, Issue 2, pp: (162–172), Month: April – June 2021
 - a. Bailey A, Harris M, Bogle D, Jama A, Muir S, Miller S, Walters C, Govia I. Coping with COVID-19: Health Risk Communications and Vulnerable Groups. *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*, 1–6. doi:10.1017/dmp.2021.225



b. Manuscripts in preparation

- i. A Cross-Sectional Analysis of Risk Factors Associated with Severe COVID-19 Outcomes in Jamaica Using National Surveillance Data
 - ii. Factors associated with COVID-19 transmission
 - iii. Factors associated with COVID-19 viral clearance
2. Achieved 100% compliance in the timely submission of the following reports to Internal/Regional Partners:
- a. PAHO Weekly Respiratory Illness Report (FluID)
 - b. PAHO/WHO Covid-19 Weekly Health-Care Worker Report
 - c. CARPHA Syndromic Reports
 - d. Outbreak/alert surveillance reports to EDMSS
3. Completed the following Reports/Publications/Reviews:
- a. Weekly Epidemiology Bulletin – 52 bulletin were successfully published
 - b. VITALs: A Special report on Dengue – document drafted awaiting publication
 - c. Executive Summary. Modeling the Transmission and Control of SARS-CoV-2 in Jamaica. Preliminary (presented to Cabinet – April 19, 2021)
 - d. The Benefits and Impact of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme and the Return to Normal (presented to Cabinet – October 19, 2021)
 - e. SARS-CoV-2 Transmission in Public Gatherings Including Religious Events and Funerals. Literature Review to support the defence of a constitutional challenge to the Government of Jamaica
 - f. Prepared data to support the defence of a constitutional challenge on public gatherings - February 2022
 - g. Sodium/Potassium Fact Sheet based on SALT Study
 - h. Compilation of data for the 2021 Sectoral Presentation

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Cunningham-Myrie C, Theall KP, Younger-Coleman N, Tulloch-Reid M, Wiggan J, McFarlane S, Francis D, Bennett N, Ferguson T, Davidson T, Govia I, Aiken W, Grant A, Webster-Kerr K, Wilks R. Who moves in vulnerable Caribbean neighbourhoods? Positive deviance for Physical Activity: Findings from the Jamaica Health and Lifestyle Survey 2017 (JHLS III). CARPHA 65th Annual Virtual Health Research Conference.

- Fisher L, Ferguson T, Roche K, Guthrie-Dixon N, Younger-Coleman N, Tulloch-Reid MK, McFarlane S, Francis D, Bennett N, Govia I, Cunningham-Myrie C, Aiken W, Wiggan J, Grant A, Davidson T, Webster-Kerr K, Wilks R.J. Chronic Kidney Disease in Jamaica: National Prevalence and Associated Risk Factors from the Jamaica Health and Lifestyle Survey 2016-2017. CARPHA 65th Annual Virtual Health Research Conference.
- Ferguson TS, Younger-Coleman N, Webster-Kerr K, Tulloch-Reid M, Bennett N, Davidson T, Grant A, Gordon-Johnson K, Govia I, Soares-Wynter S, McKenzie J, Walker E, Anderson S, Blake A, Ho J, Edwards S, McFarlane S, Spence S, Wilks R. Sodium and Potassium Consumption in Jamaica: National Estimates from the Jamaica Health and Lifestyle Survey 2016-2017. Submitted for Presentation at CARPHA Virtual Health Conference 2022

Major Plans for FY 2021-2022

The National Epidemiology will continue support the Health Information needs of the Ministry of Health and Wellness and Partners by coordinating the following activities:

Governance

Restructuring of the National Epidemiology Branch

- Retrofitting of Office Facilities – this include the replacement of computer equipment and furniture
- Knowledge Translation Workshop – National Epidemiology will be seeking to partner with PAHO for the execution of this activity which will include the synthesis, dissemination, exchange and ethically sound application of knowledge to improve research activities. This this will lead to greater strengthening the National Epidemiology in the preparation documents such as of policy briefs and research papers.
- Study Tour of GIS and Surveillance Organizations



Modernize and Strengthen Epidemiological System

- Implement of the Electronic Class 1 Notification System – this activity is being partially supported by the CDC HIV CoAg.
- Design and Implement the Framework for the Central Health Data Repository
- Develop National Epidemiology Webpage

Evidenced – based policy, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

- Disburse grant awards to the 2020 Research for Wellness Grant Recipients
- Launch Call for Proposal for 2022 Research for Wellness Grant
- Launch and Execute 2023 JHLS IV Survey –planning of this activities are already underway.
- Coordinate the Implementation of Studies under the COVID-19 Research Agenda
- National Health Research Policy Concept Note
- Draft of a 10 Year Survey Plan
- 13th Annual National Health Research Conference



STANDARDS & REGULATION DIVISION

Pharmaceutical Regulatory Affairs Branch

Pharmaceutical and Regulatory Affairs Branch Achievements for 2021–2022 and Priorities for 2022–2023.

Achievements for financial year 2021-22	
For the 2021-2022 financial year the Pharmaceutical and Regulatory Affairs Branch continued its role in supporting the mandate of the Ministry of Health and Wellness through effective regulation of health products and health facilities.	
Key Activities	Achievements
<p>To increase efficiencies and effectiveness of product and health facilities regulation processes, with special attention to client satisfaction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embarked on the process towards ISO 9001:2015 Certification for core processes – product registration, import/export permit, health facilities regulation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering committee established; Quality Policy and Objectives developed. Internal audits conducted and non-conformances corrected; Risk management plan developed and risk register implemented. Management review conducted. Successful completion of the NCBJ Stage 1 audit against the ISO 9001:2015 Standard. Continuous improvement of procedures implemented.
<p>To facilitate improved access to and availability of healthcare products through the process of products registration and permitting in support of healthcare delivery, to include the Ministry’s Covid-19 management programmes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expediently reviewed and recommended Emergency Use Authorization of Covid-19 Vaccines - Pfizer, Aztra Zeneca, Johnson & Johnson and Sinopharm. Reviewed and recommended approval of shelf-life extension for COVID-19 vaccines as applicable. Reviewed and approved Covid-19 Antigen Tests. Approved permits for importation of pharmaceuticals, vaccines, cosmetics, chemicals, medical

	<p>devices, natural health products to include COVID-19 Vaccines and tests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granted market approval for 143 pharmaceutical products and over 3338 product variations for the management of conditions such as cancers, infections and diseases of the cardiovascular, muscular skeletal, respiratory and gastrointestinal systems.
<p>Under the Government of Jamaica initiative to streamline the process of Border Regulatory Agencies into a more modern and efficient architecture and improve Trade Facilitation, the following activities were undertaken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Digitization of the Product Registration processes under the National Business Process (NBP) Project- JAMPRO. 2. Digitization of import/export permit processes under the Jamaica Single Window for Trade (JSWIFT) Project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBP- Requirement Gathering and Stakeholder Analysis Workshops completed. • Phase 2 (Design Phase) of NBP project ongoing. • Re-engagement and information gathering meetings completed under the JSWIFT project.



Priorities/key initiatives for financial year 2022-23

For the new financial year, PRAB will be focussing on the following priority activities:

- Completion of the activities commenced under trade facilitation i.e. Digitization of Product Registration and Import/ Export Permit Processes to improve ease of doing business.
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Standards, Research & Development Branch

The financial 2021/2022 was focused mainly on the Standards and Regulation Division's journey to ISO 9001:2015 QMS Certification. The Standards Research and Development Branch (STRD) was able to accomplish key priority areas, as outlined below.

Priorities	Achievements
<p>1. Provide support for the implementation of ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System certification in Pharmaceutical and Regulatory Affairs Branch (PRAB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Guidelines • Development of SOPs • Capacity building 	<p>The following documents were finalised and approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stake holder Engagement Plan • Business Continuity Plan (granted temporary approval) • Risk Management Plan • SRD ISO 9001:2015 Quality Manual • Service Level Agreements with Corporate Services, Government Chemists Department, Finance and Accounts Department.
	<p>Approximately 41 standard operating procedure (SOP) documents were developed and approved to enhance the functions in the division.</p>
	<p>Training sessions conducted for the relevant stakeholders internal and external to the division in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Root Cause Analysis • Risk Management • Customer Service • Quality Assurance in Healthcare, and • ISO 9001:2015 QMS • PMAS • Strategic Planning <p>Sensitisation sessions on ESAVI reporting for COVID-19 Vaccine Programme were also conducted.</p>
<p>2. Trade Facilitation</p>	<p>The Branch exceeded the established performance measure in all quarters with regard to the recommendation of Customs Duty Waivers for importation of equipment used in the delivery of healthcare.</p>
<p>3. Supporting MOHW COVID-19 Vaccination Programme</p>	<p>Monitoring of the safety of the various COVID-19 vaccines were done through the passive receipt of ESAVI reports. Over 500 reports were received and coded and reported on.</p>



For the financial year (2022/2023) the STRD will focus on the following priority activities:

- Develop standards, guidelines and SOPs in keeping with the requirements of the Standards and Regulations Division's Quality Policy, and that of the wider Ministry;
- Establish a Technical Regulations Committee that will carry out the role of the development of technical standards for the health sector with the support of the Bureau of Standards Jamaica;

For the financial year (2022/2023) the STRD will focus on the following priority activities:

Develop the framework for the implementation of a structured post marketing surveillance programme



Investigation & Enforcement Branch

To ensure an effective complaint mechanism, the Investigation & Enforcement Branch focused its efforts in the 2021/22 FY on the continual improvement of the Ministry's Complaint Management System (CMS)¹.

This resulted in the following undertakings and achievements:

Key Undertakings

<p>1. The generation of the CMS Self Audit Report for the Public Hospitals, the output report of the self-assessment audits conducted in the FY 2020/21.</p>	<p>The branch was able to complete the implementation of the CMS Self-Assessment Audit instrument within the hospitals and commence this activity within the 10% of the parish health services.</p>
<p>2. The implementation of the CMS Self-Assessment Audit Tool within the Parish Health Services, specifically the types, 3, 4 and 5 Health Centres.</p>	<p>There was a need to adjust the methodology from a self-assessment to the IEB conducting the audits mid-year in response to the surge in COVID 19 cases and the divergence of focus to its management within the RHA.</p>
<p>3. The establishment of the Complaint Management System Review (CMSR) Committee which is mandated to review and revise the mechanics of the CMS to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. It is more client focused b. It complies with and is informed by the requirements of ISO 9001: 2015 standard and ISO 1002:2018 guidelines, respectively. c. The name change results in the soliciting of both positive and negative feedback from our stakeholders and engendering a harmonious client relations management system for health. d. The reintroduction of the quarterly complaint statistics reports to ensure ownership and transparency about the kinds of complaints received, the rate of case closure, the quality issues emanating from complaints received and investigated and actions plan to remedy any gaps in the CMS and the delivery of healthcare. 	<p>To date, the CMSR Committee is operational and has established the Sub-Working Groups to address the following thematic areas of the CMS – Governance, Accessibility & Awareness, Capacity Building, Monitoring & Evaluation, Quality Assurance and Documentation.</p>



For the new financial year (2022/23) the IEB will commence the implementation of the ISO 9001 quality management system; complete the assessment of the levels of implementation and effectiveness of the CMS within the health centres and strengthen the engagement of its stakeholders within the regional health authorities to increase the case resolution rate by 5% relative to the previous FY.





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