



2-5

Major Achievements For The
Ministry Of Health & Wellness

6

Overview

6-7

Executive Management

8-10

Policy, Planning & Development Division

11-12

Internal Audit Unit

13

Finance & Accounts Division

14-17

Corporate Services Division

18-20

Projects Unit

21-22

Standards & Regulation Division

23-29

Technical Services Division

30-32

National Family Planning Board

33-38

Major Development In The Regions

CONTENT





MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS



PROJECT CODECARE

Project CODE CARE was instituted during the financial year to reduce the wait time for elective surgeries. Project components include rehabilitation of select hospital operating theatres, procurement of surgical equipment and sundries, and the conduct of elective surgeries. Eight public-private partnership contracts have been signed for outsourcing of elective surgeries. There have been two nursing missions. In December, there was a nursing mission at the Noel Holmes Hospital in Hanover and in January 2023 a nursing mission at the Bustamante Hospital for Children, Kingston Public Hospital and National Chest Hospital. Approximately 311 elective surgeries have been performed to date.



+ ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS/ICT BUILD OUT

In February 2023, the Ministry of Health & Wellness hosted the official signing ceremony for the implementation of an Electronic Health Records (EHR) System for Jamaica, a historic move in public health for the island.

The system, which turns on the philosophy of 'one patient, one record', sees the transition to a paperless system for patient records and the upload and sharing of these records among healthcare providers for the seamless and collaborative delivery of care.



The implementation of the system, whose features include a patient-registration system for appointment setting and assignment of patients in the triage process of a facility – will mean shorter wait times for patients; less cost in providing services; increased productivity; reduced staff frustration; and increased service satisfaction levels.

Other features that help to make that possible include a seamless interface of critical diagnostic imaging that will enable healthcare professionals to see x-rays and CT scans on computers and tablets provided within the facilities.



+ SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH LITERACY PROGRAMME

The Ministry of Health & Wellness, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Youth, launched the School Mental Health Literacy Programme last October. The programme has since seen the training of more than 500 school professionals who are, in turn, training others to impart the learning to more than 21,000 grade-nine students across 177 schools islandwide. The programme provides training in understanding how to optimise and maintain good mental health; understanding mental disorders and their treatments; decreasing stigma; and enhancing help-seeking efficacy, which is knowing when and where to get help and having the skills necessary to promote self-care and to obtain good care.





HEALTHCARE WORKERS APPRECIATION MONTH

The Ministry of Health and Wellness launched the inaugural observation of Healthcare Workers Appreciation Month in July 2022.



The launch event saw the unveiling of the official proclamation, given under the hand of the Governor General of Jamaica, designating the month of July to be celebrated as Healthcare Workers Appreciation Month.



The month-long celebrations featured a series of events and activities at the parish, regional and national levels, including the observance of National Healthcare Workers Appreciation Day on Wednesday, July 13.



START RIGHT: A MATERNAL AND NEWBORN CARE INITIATIVE

The Ministry of Health and Wellness is responding to the needs of vulnerable mothers with the roll-out of a maternal care programme across the public health system.



In collaboration with the American Friends of Jamaica (AFJ) and JAHJAH Foundation, Start Right will provide a range of care supplies for newborns and deliver improved diagnostic services across public health facilities through modern, state-of-the-art ultrasound technology; and specialized training for healthcare providers.



Under the auspices of the Minister of State, the Hon. Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn, OD, MP, the programme's emphasis on obstetrics and maternal/newborn care comes as the Ministry seeks to support high-risk, low-income pregnant women and mitigate Jamaica's maternal and neonatal mortality ratio.





OVERVIEW

The Ministry of Health & Wellness is focused on developing and implementing national strategies for improving health and wellness; delivering effective quality health services; setting standards and regulations; and carrying out essential public health functions. At the same time, we are vested in promoting intersectoral action for health. We have outlined in the Vision for Health 2030 Plan, our goals and outcomes for the next 10 years, which the Ministry is committed to achieving. This vision, along with our Strategic Business and Corporate Plans are aligned to the Vision 2030 Jamaica: National Development Plan, which establishes the overall direction and targets for the Government of Jamaica. The full implementation of the priority plans and the successful outcomes will redound to the best health outcome for all.



EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

The Executive Management provides executive oversight, leadership and strategic direction for the development, implementation and administration of health policies, programmes and projects to advance the vision and mission of the Ministry.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23

Advance Legislative Reform Programme

- Comprehensive legislative review was conducted; the findings of which were used to amend the Ministry's Legislative Agenda
- The Tobacco Control Bill is being reviewed by the Joint Select Committee of Parliament
- Negotiations on the draft Food and Amendment Bill and accompanying Regulations are advanced

Business Plan developed for Paediatric Cardiac Centre at Bustamante Hospital for Children

- Consultant engaged for development of Business Plan. Business Model Option Analysis Report completed.

Implementation of MyHr+ in the Regional Health Authorities (RHAs)

- Training of Human Resources and Payroll staff has been completed for all regions. All regions have completed the digitising and inputting of information into the system has been completed. Sensitisation sessions and training for general staff completed.



OTHER NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

Project CODE CARE was instituted during the financial year to reduce the wait time for elective surgeries. Project components include rehabilitation of select hospital operating theatres, procurement of surgical equipment and sundries, and the conduct of elective surgeries. Eight public-private partnership contracts have been signed for outsourcing of elective surgeries. There have been two nursing missions.

In December, there was a nursing mission at the Noel Holmes Hospital in Hanover and in January 2023 a nursing mission at the Bustamante Hospital for Children, Kingston Public Hospital and National Chest Hospital. Approximately 311 elective surgeries have been performed to date.



PRIORITIES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24

- Business Plan for Paediatric Cardiac Centre at Bustamante Hospital for Children
- Implementation of Payroll Module of MyHR+ in all 4 RHAs
- Monitoring of the PAHO Technical Assistance Cooperation with emphasis on the following:
 - Development of draft policy for Health Technology Assessment
 - Human Resources for Health Plan drafted
- Implementation of CODE CARE:
 - Rehabilitation of 20 operating theatres in 8 facilities
 - Renewed public private partnership (PPP) for outsourcing of elective surgeries
2,000 backlogged elective surgeries
12 nursing missions
- Prototype for Electronic Immunization Registry (EIR) System
- Legislative Programme
 - Tobacco Control Bill: The Promulgation of this Bill is to enable Jamaica to be in compliance with its international obligations under the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) by making provisions for the restriction of the use of tobacco products and relevant products (including e-cigarettes and other novel tobacco products) and the adoption and implementation of tobacco control policies. The WHO FCTC aims to protect the population from the harmful effects of tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke. The Joint Select Committee of Parliament is still reviewing the Bill. The aim is for the Joint Select Committee to complete their review of the Bill so that same may progress to the steps in the Parliamentary process.
 - Food and Drugs (Amendment) Bill: These amendments are to allow for the effective regulation of Natural Health Products, including nutraceuticals.
 - National Family Planning Board Act and National Council on Drug Abuse Act: These legislation are to be repealed in order to conclude the process of rationalising these two Public Bodies as part of the Public Sector Transformation Programme. The National Council on Drug Abuse will be integrated within the Ministry of Health and Wellness as a Department of the Ministry. The National Family Planning Board on the other hand will be integrated as a Division of the Ministry.



POLICY, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The core functions of the Policy, Planning and Development Division are:

- coordinate, research, advise and provide technical support for the policy development process aligned to the Ministry's vision, mission and strategic direction;
- provide guidance and leadership of the integrated strategic management system and health sector development planning processes;
- provide guidance in the development of project designs and proposals;
- implement a robust enterprise risk management system;
- lead and manage the delivery of digital health, informatics and ICT policies, programmes and projects across the health system.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23



POLICY AGENDA

Cabinet Approval of the development of a Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy Cabinet Approval of the Repeal of the Leprosy Act



INITIATION OF ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

Contract with vendor The Phoenix Partnership – Leeds (TPP) signed for piloting of Electronic Health Records (EHR) in select public health care facilities. The official signing ceremony was held February 28, 2023.



HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Jamaica Health Care Reporting Visualisation System (JaHRVis) implemented in health departments and hospitals for the collection, collation and storage of primary and secondary care data.



BOARDS' CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMPLIANCE

Mechanism for assessing Boards compliance with the PBMA Act and other statutory obligations established.



IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS (SLA)

Assessments of Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) implementation of SLA 2020/21-2022/23 conducted.

SLAs for the period 2023/24-2025/26 drafted. Consultations with key stakeholders have commenced to refine and finalise priority areas and indicators for the period.



OTHER NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

Procurement officers and other relevant officers of the RHAs trained in preparing Cabinet Submissions for the award of Contracts in order to build capacity within the RHAs and increase efficiency in the approval process.



Secure Data Centre for hosting established at the eGov Data Centre with Managed Network Services.



Upgraded ICT infrastructure and installation of end user devices for 13 IDB Project sites and others.



Digital Health Platform in Proof of Concept mode – demonstrates integrated patient demographics from legacy PAS, National Digital Health Number linked to medical record number, patient health records, clinician and patient view of the portal, patient consent and patient sharing of health records.



Registry of health institutions with unique identifiers established.



Jamaica is the 45th Member country of SNOMED International. Initial steps taken to establish National Terminology Release Centre in Jamaica.





PRIORITIES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24





INTERNAL AUDIT UNIT

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.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23

Bellevue Hospital- Annual Stock Count Audit	2021 to 2022
Annual Board of Survey	2012/2022 and 2022/2023
Southern Regional Health Authority – Special Audit of the Donation of an Ambulance by the Embassy of Japan to the Mandeville Regional Hospital	
Bellevue Hospital - Operational Audit	January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022
Audit of Incentive Allowance	January 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021
Audit of Outsourcing Radiology Services	September 1, 2019 to March 31, 2022
Audit of the Fleet Management System	April 1, 2020 to July 30, 2021
Audit of Special Payment in lieu of Vacation Leave	December 31, 2021
Verification of overpayment of honorarium for one officer	March 16, 2020 to April 30, 2021

+ OTHER NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

Pre-audit activities were conducted for 113 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.

+ PRIORITIES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24

- Execution of the approved Audit Plan
- Development of Annual Risk-Based Audit Plan





FINANCE & ACCOUNTS DIVISION

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23

Deliverables for FY 2022-23	Achievements (as at February 2023)
Cash Management System	78% of invoices processed with lead time
Financial Management	Financial statements completed and submitted to Ministry of Finance and the Public Service
Paperless transaction for salaries calculation	Sixty-one percent (61%) of claims received via the MyHR+ platform.



PRIORITIES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24

- Paperless transaction for salaries calculation
- Payments completed within lead time



CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

The Corporate Services Division offers the following services:

1

Administration

- Security & Transport
- Office Services & inventory
- Property Management &



2

Documentation, Information & Access Services



3

Public Procurement



4

HR Management & Development

- Staffing
- Employee Relations
- Organizational Development & Performance Management
- Training & Development



5

Information & Communication Technology



6

Transformation Initiatives



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23

Streamlined Procurement System

- Procurement plan completed for the Ministry for upcoming financial year
- Procurement tracking system developed for monitoring of procurement activities and improved stakeholder communication. This has served to provide tangible targets and expectation on the timeline for procurement activities. Basic procurement sessions have been conducted with the staff of the Ministry to improve procurement planning. The staff complement and the capacity of the staff was increased with 3 additional positions in a team-based structure to support peer to peer engagement.

Improved use of Information Communication Technology (ICT)

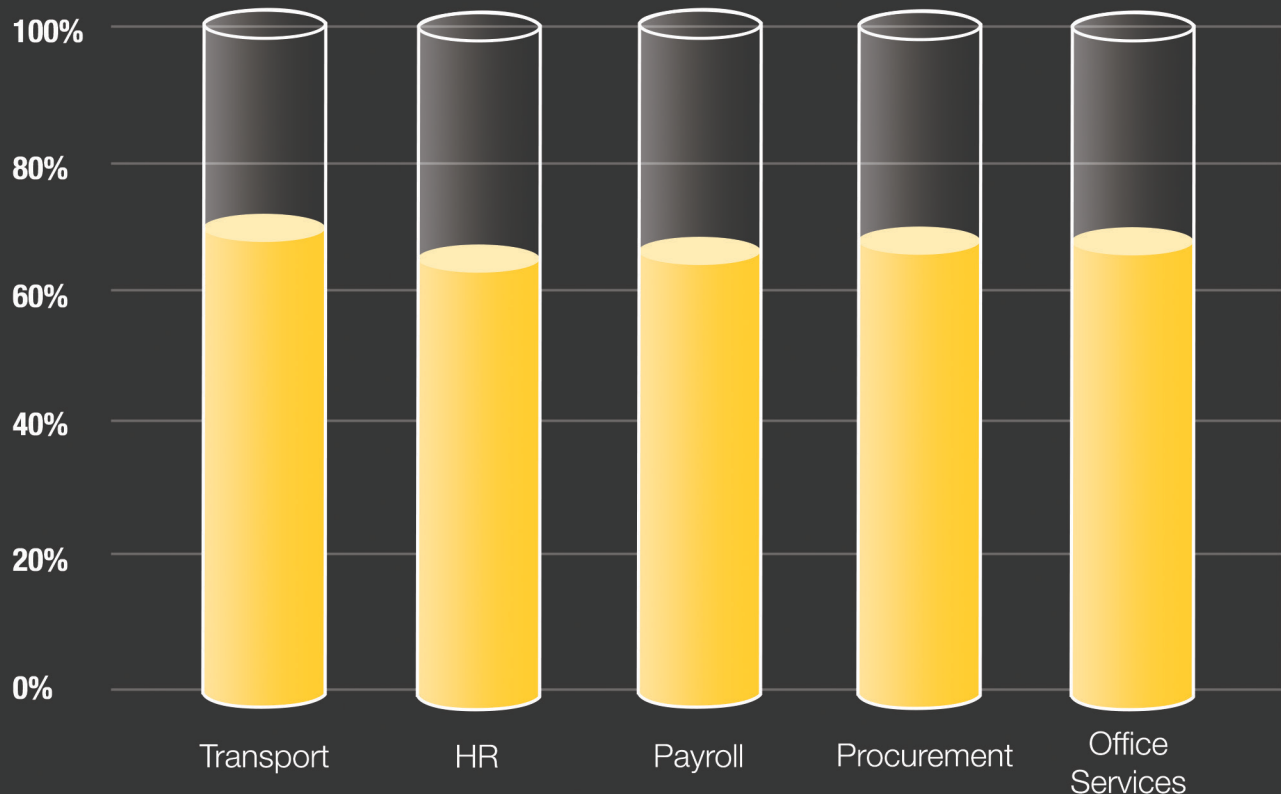
An assessment of computers and laptops within the Ministry's corporate office was initiated. To date, 134 computers across the 16 units have been assessed; recommendations were made for the replacement of 25 machines.

Improved customer service rating

Customer service survey completed with average satisfaction score of 68%

- Customer service trainings have been held at both the academic level and the corporate (meeting) level. Areas of weaknesses identified in the survey have been reviewed and a team established to review and respond to the process or structural issues identified.
- The Follow-up survey will be administered in March 2023.

Customer Service Satisfaction Survey Scores



REDUCED DOWNTIME OF FLEET

Baseline for fleet downtime determined and improvement targets established. Fleet management system being procured for implementation in the new financial year.

STRENGTHENED HUMAN RESOURCE SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

- The Ministry's recruitment process has been reviewed and modified moving the working days to complete the process from 85 days to 60 days. The standard of 80% of vacancies filled within 60 working days was attained for the third quarter of the financial year. With the institutionalisation of the revised recruitment processes, there should be greater consistency in maintaining the performance standard.
- The Leave Policy has been developed which has a stipulation to reduce the accumulation of leave beyond the maximum. Recommendation implemented for the special leave payment to reduce the number of staff over their leave maximum ahead of the Policy's implementation; 76 persons were paid for 2 years leave.
- Succession Policy prepared and ready for discussion by the Human Resources Executive Committee (HREC)
- All requests for job letters are processed using MyHR+ and 50% of leave applications for units that are live are processed on MyHR+

UP-TO-DATE INVENTORY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- In conjunction with the Ministry of Finance and Public Service (MOFPS), plans are in train for the Ministry's Inventory Management System to be upgraded by the end of the financial year. The relevant officers will be trained in using the upgraded system.
- Most assets purchased during the financial year have been inventoried.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT APPRAISAL SYSTEM (PMAS) WITHIN THE MOHW CORPORATE STRUCTURE



This is the inaugural year for the Ministry's formal Performance Management Appraisal System (PMAS). This was instituted at the start of the financial year. Work plans are in place for most staff and compliance with mid-year assessments is at 60%.

CHANGE MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR SENIOR HEALTH LEADERS

We have successfully completed our international certification programme in Change Management through PROSCI (Canada). The training programme was conducted between May 30 and June 9, 2023. We trained 58 staff in the categories of People Managers, Directors/Divisional Heads and Regional Directors. We also facilitated a local change management training programme with

TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMMES

- Restructuring of the Corporate Services Division and the Policy, Planning and Development Division have been completed.
- The restructuring for Epidemiology, Projects/HFMU and Standards and Regulations are at various stages in the procurement process with Epidemiology having completed the review process and being ready to submit for review by the Ministry of Finance.



PRIORITIES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24

- Improved procurement management
- Improved fleet management
- Continue the review and transformation of the Ministry's Corporate Structure with emphasis on the Technical Services Division, Standards and Regulation Division
- Advance the integration of the National Family Planning Board as a division and the National Council on Drug Abuse as a department of the Ministry
- Improve use of MyHR+
- Implement Service Excellence Plan



PROJECTS UNIT



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23

CORNWALL REGIONAL HOSPITAL REHABILITATION



Phased 2B of Cornwall Regional Hospital Rehabilitation completed. This includes:

- Demolition works
- Structural Remediation
- Introduction of architectural elements including roof coverings to Atria
- Structural repairs to the façade

Phase 2B at 82% completion. Major works completed to date include:

- The demolition of existing, defunct incinerator walls, as well as other non-structural steel reinforced masonry walls and partitions;
- Structural repairs to basement columns and shear walls and spalling concrete walls;
- Removal of waterproofing layers from existing roofs; and
- Placement of new screed and installation of roof drains and pipes in preparation for new insulation and waterproofing.
- Structural repair and surface preparation of entire façade
- Additional Demolition to include ICU

80% of Project Implementation Unit staff contracted. This includes:

- Project Management Consultant
- Procurement Consultant
- Financial Officer
- Project Officer
- Quantity Surveyor
- Clerk of Works
- Administrative Assistant
- Project Administrator
- Safety, Health, and Environmental Officer

CORNWALL REGIONAL HOSPITAL REHABILITATION (CONTINUED)



Phase 3 - Rehabilitation and redevelopment of the entire building and related civil works on all 11 levels from basement to the roof to include the following:

- Architectural Design
- Construction
- Medical build-out
- Non-medical Build-out
- MEP & Structural Engineering works
- Provision of Equipment & Furniture
- Testing and Commissioning

- The procurement of hospital equipment and furniture was incorporated in the design and build RFP. The contractor will supply, install and commission based on the design for infrastructure improvement.

- Pre-tender meeting with the contractor was held in September 2022. It was recommended that the team visit ZDA Construction Limited (model site) to determine the level of specification for the Hospital in order to facilitate accurate pricing metrics. A local team led by the Project Manager visited Shanghai, China from 25 November to 16 December 2022 to investigate ZDA's resources in the delivery of the expected output, by interacting directly with designers, manufacturers, and distributors of those output components in order to inform the three primary forces in the project (time, cost and quality). This was done to facilitate a targeted and sound RFP response, thereby reducing the need for protracted deliberation.

- Draft Design & Build Request for Proposal (RFP) prepared
- TOR for the engagement of the service provider to prepare the final RFP and contract document preparation.

CONSTRUCTION OF WESTERN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENT HOSPITAL

Twenty-five percent (25%) of superstructure completed.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

- Assessment of medical equipment and buildings completed
- Medical equipment maintenance policy developed and Built Environment and Electrical Maintenance Policy drafted. Stakeholder consultations have been held to review and finalise policy.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

Tender Evaluation Report for construction works at the Spanish Town Hospital prepared and submitted to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)



PRIORITIES FOR FY 2023-24

- CRH Rehabilitation Phase 3
- Western Children and Adolescent Hospital
- Implementation and monitoring of medical equipment maintenance policy
- Finalise and implement Built Environment and Electrical Maintenance Policy
- Design sewage treatment systems for health care facilities
- Initiate construction of corporate office for the Ministry





STANDARDS & REGULATION DIVISION

The roles and functions of the division are regulatory and administrative and are executed through three (3) branches; Standards Research and Development; Investigation and Enforcement and Pharmaceutical and Regulatory Affairs. The Division exists to provide quality assurance services for the management of the health sector. This is achieved through the development of standards and technical regulations, maintaining an effective complaint management system, regulating the importation and distribution of designated products, regulating the operations of designated private health care facilities and contributing to policy formulation on health issues.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23

ADVANCING TRADE FACILITATION

PERMITS

- The standard of 70% of import permits processed within three working days was exceeded. As at February 2023, 92% of import permits were processed within the lead time.
- Approved 12,764 permits for importation of pharmaceuticals, vaccines, cosmetics, chemicals, medical devices, natural health products (to include COVID-19 Vaccines and tests)

PRODUCT REGISTRATION

- Granted market approval for 128 pharmaceutical products and over 2,560 product variations for the management of communicable and non-communicable diseases such as cancers, diseases of the cardiovascular, endocrine, muscular skeletal, respiratory and gastrointestinal systems.
- Reviewed and recommended approval for COVID-19 vaccines for use in children 5-11 years.

DIGITISATION OF PRODUCT REGISTRATION PROCESSES

- Phase II (Design Phase) completed
- User Acceptance Testing (UAT) conducted
- “Soft Launch” of portal hosted

ACHIEVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF ISO 9001:2015 QMS CERTIFICATION FOR CORE PROCESSES

- Successful completion of the NCBJ Stage II audit against the ISO 9001:2015 Standard.
- ISO 9001:2015 Certification achieved for Product Registration, Import Permit and Health Facilities Registration Processes.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Complaint Management System (CMS) Response Standard was developed to facilitate greater understanding of the timelines for the various process steps and procedural levels of the CMS.
- The CMS Summary Report Template and the Report Guide were developed for use by the Complaint Handling Officer within the field to streamline reporting on complaint data.
- Implementation and effectiveness of the CMS within health centres was assessed. To date, 19% (14/74) of types 3, 4 and 5 health centres were audited and the reports drafted and dispatched to the RHAs.
- Client Relations Management Committee remained operational. One of the core function of this committee is to strengthen the engagement of stakeholders with the regions. This resulted in the development of the work plan and 4 of the 6 sub working groups being operational.
- CMS Training conducted within SABH, STEHS, WRHA and SERHA. This targeted the HODs, SMOs, DNS, Complaint Handling Officers, Senior Public Health Nurses, Parish Managers, CEOs, and Customer Service Staff within the primary and secondary health care facilities. The training sought to re-sensitize the staff to the CMS to address the factors which impact effective case management, introduce the Response Standard and the CMS Summary Reporting Tool. This resulted in 423 staff within the RHAs being trained.
- Technical Regulations Committee for the Regulation of Medical Devices established in association with the Jamaica Bureau of Standards. Since its establishment, there has been six Committee meetings. A proposal for Technical Regulations for Medical Devices Document has been developed as well as the development of Criteria for Conducting Regulatory Impact Assessment for Medical Devices.
- First draft of Framework for post marketing surveillance programme has been developed.
- Final draft of guidelines completed:
 - Guidelines for the Reporting of Defects and Recall/Withdrawal of Drugs, Medical Devices, Cosmetics, Energy Drinks and Herbal Products;
 - Guidelines on the Management of Pharmaceutical Waste in Jamaica;
 - Permit Handbook;
 - Guidelines for Community and Private Health Facilities.

PRIORITIES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24

- Registration of nursing homes
- Registration of manufacturing facilities
- Processing of import permits
- Continue activities with respect to trade facilitation i.e. Digitization of Product Registration and Import/ Export Permit Processes to improve ease of doing business.
- Maintenance of ISO 9001:2015 QMS Certification for core processes and successfully complete NCBJ Surveillance Audit.
- Implement Product Registration Backlog Project with the aim of reducing product registration backlog
- Engaging a Business Processing Outsourcing entity to facilitate 24 hrs receipt, referral and monitoring of the progress of complaints.



TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION

The core responsibility of the Division is to ensure that health care policies and programmes are appropriate to meet the needs of the population and are delivered at high standards throughout all health care settings. The Division's functions include:

Policy development and research, as well as formulation of strategies, standards, guidelines, programmes and plans to ensure delivery of high-quality healthcare, giving consideration to access, effectiveness, efficiency, responsive and equity.



Promotion of factors which positively impact health development and monitoring and evaluation of the health status of the population in keeping with the policies of the Jamaican government.



Guidance in formulation, ratification, translation and legislation pertaining to International and Regional Imperatives, Agreements, Plans, Strategies and Goals for health and related sectors.



Adherence to the requirements of the 11 Essential Public Health Functions.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23

STRENGTHENED QUALITY ASSURANCE MECHANISMS

Clinical manuals and protocols have been developed and/or updated to improve clinical management. This included clinical manual for diabetic retinopathy and protocols for the management of COVID-19 and monkeypox.

MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEWS

National maternal and perinatal mortality reviews have been held. Ninety-three (93%) of maternal deaths for 2021 were reviewed and classified. Recommendations to improve the management of maternal and child health have been made and strategies are being reviewed and developed

EVIDENCE-BASED DATA AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAMMATIC DECISION-MAKING

- The COVID-19 Research Agenda was developed in response to the need to provide data to guide the COVID-19 outbreak response. The following seven studies were completed:

- Two Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)-led studies on:
 - the Gender-Based Violence Study
 - the Multi-Sectoral Response to COVID-19

- Three manuscripts accepted for CARPHA Conference 2023

- COVID-19 outcomes by wave period
- COVID-19 transmission and
- Vaccine effectiveness

Govia, I., Palmer, T., Stubbs, M., Harris, M., Bogle, D., Miller, S., Walters, C., Muir, S. A., & Bailey, A. (2022, June 30). Vulnerable Group Members Coping with COVID-19 in Jamaica: A Qualitative Study. *Traumatology*. Advance online publication.

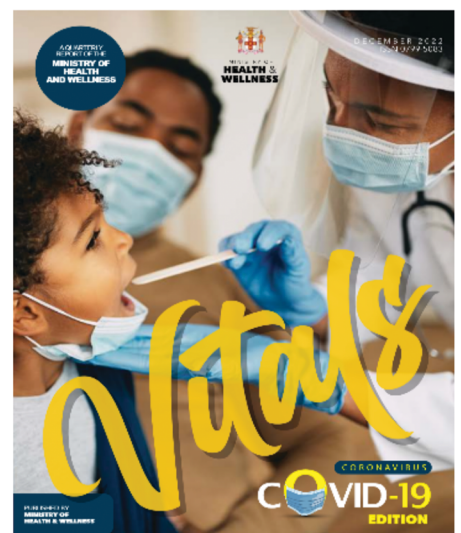
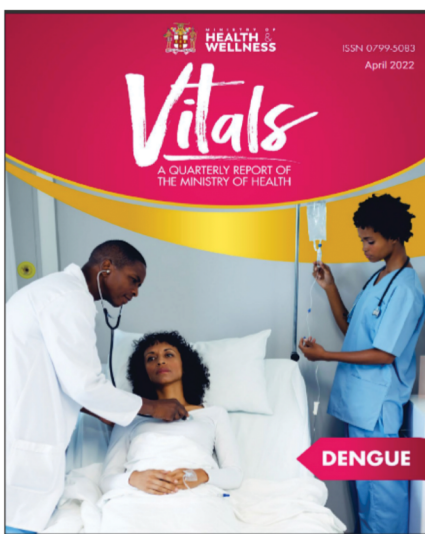
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/trm0000391>.

This was published in a peer reviewed journal.



- National Epidemiology continues to be the central repository and source of epidemiological data and reports used by many local and international partners. The following reports and publication were also completed during the period.

- Weekly Epidemiology Bulletin published
- VITALS: Dengue Edition
- VITALS: Coronavirus Edition
- COVID-19 at a Glance



The National Health Research Agenda is a set of research priority areas that the Ministry will support to inform its policies and programmes. A previous National Health Research Agenda was ratified in 2017. The prioritization exercise for the update of the Research Agenda conducted



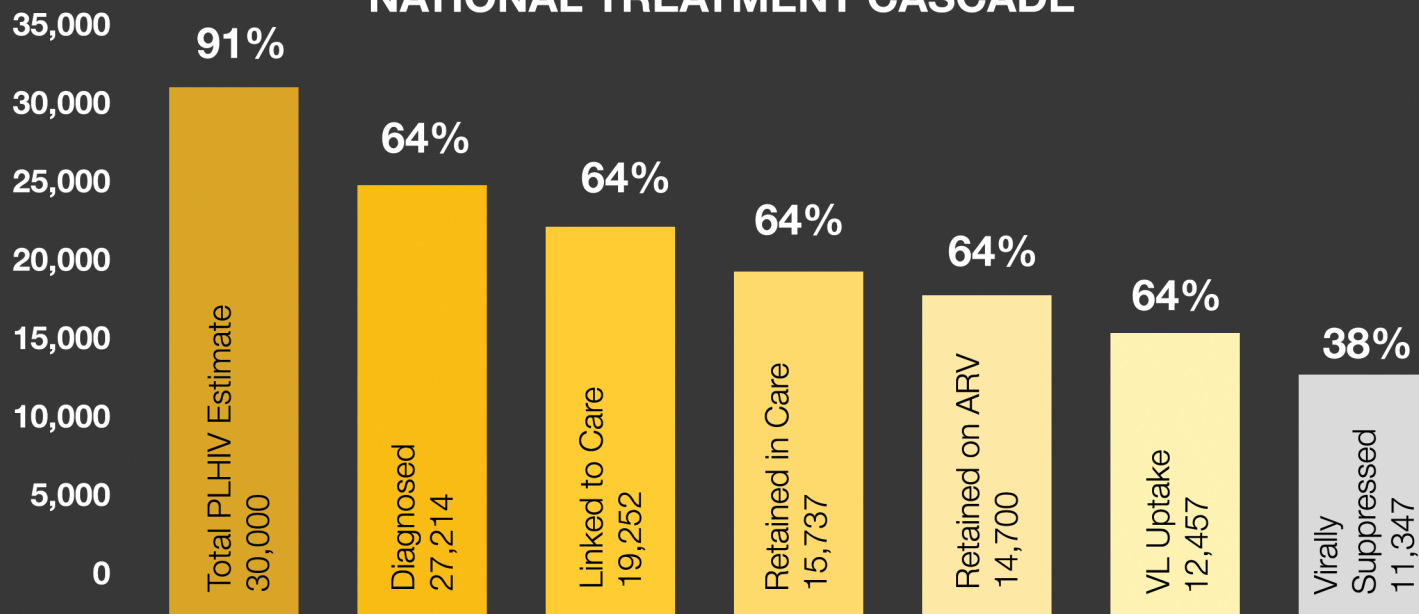
• The 13th Annual National Health Research Conference was held on November 16-18, 2022 under the theme – Combatting Non-Communicable Diseases: Looking to a Healthier Future. The conference continued its virtual format. Attendance over the three days was as follows:

- 888 (attendees) logged on to Zoom
- 982 accessed Conference vFairs platform.
- 2,995 views on JIS/MOHW Facebook, YouTube and Twitter platforms.
- A 10-Year National Survey Plan for Health has been drafted with the relevant indicators that would lead to informing the health-related priorities

HIV 90-90-90 CASCADE

- Jamaica has committed to achieving the UNAIDS 90-90-90 HIV Fast Track Targets where 90% of persons know their status, 90% of persons diagnosed with HIV are on antiretrovirals (ARV), and 90% of persons on ARV are virally suppressed. While the country is not at the point of 90-90-90, progress has been made in improving the proportion of persons aware of their status and linkage to care. The HIV Cascade as at January 2023 was 91-64-38.
- Access to HIV services at the primary level was improved with the validation of Provider-Initiated Testing and Counseling services (PITC) at 12 health centres.

NATIONAL TREATMENT CASCADE



- Peer Mentorship programme for Adolescents Living with HIV (ALHIV) implemented in SERHA with eight mentors trained and routinely facilitated support group sessions

IMPLEMENTATION OF NCD PREVENTION PROGRAMME

- A consultant has been engaged to design and conduct a Baseline Survey on Nutrition Facts Panel. This study will provide information on nutritional risk factors to inform interventions to reduce the risk factors of NCDs. The technical proposal has been developed and ethical approval gained for conducting of the study. Training of data collectors is underway.
- The National Physical Activity Specialist and three of the four Regional Physical Activity Specialists (NERHA, SERHA and WRHA) contracted. Seventy-two (72%) of physical activity programmes implemented in targeted schools, workplaces, communities as follows:
 - 96% implementation in schools
 - 50% implementation in communities
 - 71% implementation in workplaces



OTHER NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

HIV

- Reduction in the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission (EMTCT) rates for HIV and Syphilis

IMPACT INDICATORS	TARGET	2020			2021			2022		
		RES	NUM	DEN	RES	NUM	DEN	RES	NUM	DEN
HIV MTCT rate	<2%	1.9%	7	373	1.0%	4	387	1.9%	3	341
Annual rate of new infections per 1000 live births	<0.3	0.2	7	33,654	0.1%	4	32,031	0.1%	3	28,835

Table 2: PMTCT Impact Indicators, 2020 - 2022

- Reduction in viral load turnaround time due to the implementation of DISA (WRHA, SRHA, NERHA and SERHA sites)
- Adolescents Living with HIV (ALHIV) Transition Plan developed and healthcare workers trained
- Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) social media materials developed and posted on all platforms
- Development of Manuals and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for treatment, care and support completed

NUTRITION

• Stakeholder sensitisation sessions on the elimination of industrially produced trans fat from food supply held with:

- Jamaica Manufacturers and Exporters Association (JMEA)
- Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce
- Bureau of Standards, Jamaica (BSJ)
- Heart Foundation of Jamaica (HFJ)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
- National Compliance and Regulatory Authority (NCRA)

Social marketing campaign for the elimination of trans fat was developed

• Partnership with Heart Foundation of Jamaica on Front of Package Labelling Public Education Campaign. A Technical Working Group has also been established to advance efforts related to front of package labelling

• Ms. Toni Ann Lalor, Miss United Nations World 2022 was recruited as Ambassador for the Better For You Menu Initiative.

• Development of Standards of Practice and Care for Nutrition and Dietetics

• Protocols for the Nutritional Management of Renal Diseases, Cardiovascular Diseases, HIV and COVID-19 drafted

- Standards of Practice for Nutrition and Dietetics drafted
- Nutrition standards for infirmaries drafted
- National Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy implemented
- Implementation of communication strategy for IYCF
- Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) Implemented
- Community Infant and Young Child Feeding Support Groups established and monitored
- 15 hospitals monitored

PREVENTION PROGRAMMES

Guidelines for the Management of Gender Based Violence in Health Care Settings - Final Draft completed

Management of Interpersonal Violence: Procedures for Health Care Workers published

Audits conducted on the management of Hypertension, Diabetes and Cervical cancer

NCD, Cancer, Injuries Strategic and Action Plans Advanced Draft completed

2021 Jamaica Injury Surveillance System (JISS) Report

Public Private Partnership Programme implemented

Point of Care HbA1C Programme implemented

Sickle Cell Disease patient passport finalized

National NCD Committee operational

Screening Clinic Pilot implemented



JAMAICA MOVES IN SCHOOL (JMIS)

- Commemoration of National School Moves Day
 - Development of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to support Physical Activity in Schools:
 - Two 5-minute videos were developed as an accompaniment to the Physical Activity Guides on physical activity breaks for Primary and High Schools
 - Interactive child friendly Physical Activity resource tool
 - Capacity Building for Jamaica Moves in School Ambassadors
 - Training of Parent Mentors through collaboration with National Parent Support Commission in physical activity and nutrition
 - Sensitization sessions targeting school administrators and newly appointed process owners re the renewed adoption of the JMIS programme
 - Collaboration with Ministry of Education and Youth on National School Nutrition Policy consultations with key stakeholders to advance from green to white paper

JAMAICA MOVES IN WORKPLACE

- Printing and distribution of Corporate Wellness Manual
- Physical Activity and Nutrition Assessments done for at least 50 workplaces

JAMAICA MOVES IN COMMUNITY

- Established framework and standards for approach in establishing healthy lifestyle initiatives in communities
- Resource materials were developed for Healthy Zones:
- 5 minute video on healthy zones
- Fact sheet on healthy zones
- Capacity building session on the utilization of the community survey tool
- Staged Jamaica Moves Reloaded
- Commemorated Caribbean Wellness Day which included the launch of Caribbean Moves (the initiation of a framework that will facilitate the implementation of a National Moves for each country in the Caribbean)
- Developed Jamaica Moves “Mek a Move” Jingle

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- Launch of Physical Activity Guide for Muslims & Humanity
- Media campaign on the Physical Activity recommendations for children, adults and elderly
- Presented on the advancement of the Promotion of Physical Activity in Jamaica at the 1st International Conference on Physical Activity in Public Health hosted by Brazil
- Development of Physical Activity Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials including:
- Physical Activity and Pregnancy Guide
- Estimated Calories based on Activity Level and Age

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Water Quality

- Audit of the National Potable (Drinking) Water programme for Jamaica
- Solar Operated Rain Water Harvesting System (RWHS) to enhance capacity to deliver services in primary healthcare was implemented in 7 health care facilities (1-Western Kingston; 6 - North Clarendon)
- A Quick Reference Guide developed for the Potable Water Programme

Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)

- Guidelines for Chemicals Management in Indoor facilities developed
- Tools for the Assessment of Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) in Healthcare Facilities developed

JAMAICA MOVES IN WORKPLACE

- Medical Waste Management Consultancy completed and recommendations accepted
- Training of managers from the four (4) regions in Medical Waste Management
- Commencement of procurement for one medical waste treatment equipment
- Procurement process commenced for four consultancies for the following:
- Review and Finalization of the National Policy for Medical Waste Management and National Guidelines on the Management of Medical Waste
- Development of a Communication Strategy and Plan for Medical Waste Management
- Development of a Training Plan for Medical Waste Management
- Conduct a Feasibility Study on Medical Waste Management Systems in Jamaica



PRIORITIES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24

- Primary Care Reform
- Increase the availability and accessibility of safe blood and blood products
- Improve turnaround time for laboratory results
- Completion of NCD Strategic Plans for approval
- Application for validation of Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission (EMTCT)
- National Health Research Agenda updated and disseminated
- Attain and maintain Breteau Index less than 25
- Increase in Type III-V health centres validated to offer HIV prevention, treatment and care



NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING BOARD

The National Family Planning Board provides sexual and reproductive health information and services for Jamaicans. The agency conducts research, develop campaigns, disseminate information, deliver and monitor sexual and reproductive health services and procures and distribute contraceptive commodities.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23

- NFPB's procurement of contraceptive commodities:
 - 5,000,000 pieces of Male Latex Condoms (Pinch, Leave an Inch, Roll)
 - 30,400 boxes of male condoms (Locally)
 - 120,240 cycles of Microgynon Tablets ED
 - 188,000 vials of Medroxyprogesterone Acetate 150mg/ml (Depo Provera)
 - 3,500,000 pieces Male Latex Condoms (Pinch, Leave an Inch, Roll)
- NFPB's distribution of contraceptive commodities:
 - 17,460 doses of Famy Depo Provera
 - 25,044 doses of Mygesty Injection
 - 132,388 doses of Medogen Injection
 - 39,903 cycles of Microgynon Orals
 - 3,056 kits of Copper T 380A IUD
 - 2,744 kits of Levoplant Implant
 - 2,760,180 pieces of Male condoms (GOJ)

ROLL-OUT OF NATIONAL HIV SELF-TESTING PROGRAMME (CDC FUNDED)

- Through a Public Private Partnership, 30 Private Pharmacies, and 1 private practitioner are providing HIVST kits through private sales outlets. The availability of HIVST is being expanded to the public sector and NGO sector. Between May and December 2022, 1,995 kits were distributed. As at January 2023, 236 persons have been trained to increase the access points for increased distribution of the HIVST kits to beneficiaries.



Advocate for HIV Self-Testing, Minister of State, the Hon Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn, in the NFPB's commercial

CAPACITY BUILDING IN CONTRACEPTIVE INSERTION, REMOVAL AND MANAGEMENT OF COMPLICATIONS

- 288 health care workers were trained from the RHAs and CSOs in providing services for Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC);
- 13 public health nurses and midwives in IUCD insertion and removal and management of complications;
- 120 midwives sensitised on LARC;
- 30 midwives sensitised on the injectable contraceptive;
- 40 UWI students on contraceptive methods; and 24 in Provider Initiated Testing and Counselling (PITC).



COUNSELLING SERVICE TO PROVIDE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INCLUDING FAMILY PLANNING

The agency continued to address the needs of adolescents and youth (16-24 years). Among the initiatives undertaken in the year were the re-branding of the Marge Roper Counselling Service to include a youth arm titled “Yute Expression”. Yute Expression is specifically positioned on social media to provide advice and accurate SRH information and provide referrals to adolescents and youths 10-15 years (information) 16-24 years (information and referral for HIV and Family planning services to RHA and CSO partners).

TRAINING OF ADOLESCENT STAKEHOLDERS ACROSS THE ISLAND TO INCREASE SRH CONVERSATIONS/SESSIONS WITH YOUTHS

- The Adolescent Strategic Action Plan titled “Re-engagement of Stakeholders” was revised in collaboration with UNICEF.
- An alliance with the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA) resulted in 104 adolescent & youth stakeholders/caregivers being trained in various SRH topics, to respond to the SRH needs of wards of the state. To inform programmes an Adolescent and Youth Rapid Assessment is being pursued.
- An Adolescent Stakeholder Consultation aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of adolescents and youths (10 – 15 and 16-24 years) was undertaken by the National Family Planning Board. It facilitated a series of technical adolescent consultations to explore the gaps in the sexual reproductive health response and identify the strategic approaches necessary to address the needs of the adolescent and youth population. The consultative sessions were conducted at multilevel, with 38 partners and with 49 adolescents and youths from rural and urban parishes, 10 youth leaders and advocates. A validation workshop was executed with approximately 96 stakeholder participants at the activity from government, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), International Development Partner (IDP) stakeholders.

RHAS AND CSOS REACH AND TEST TARGETS FOR HIV

- The NFPB through its HIV Prevention component monitored the RHAs and CSOs performance for reach and testing of key and vulnerable populations. The results reveal they achieved moderate to significant achievements in both reach and test results for the period April 2022 to February 2023. Eighty-seven (87%) of targeted female sex workers (FSW) were reached and among those targeted for testing there was 90% compliance.
- Greater improvements are needed for both reach and test among men who have sex with men; 71% and 74% respectively) as they yielded the highest positivity rate of 2.6% - a similar rate as the transgender population. Within the transgender population reach and test was 78% and 77% respectively. Likewise, reaching (79%) and testing (77%) at-risk youth, ages 16 to 24, continues yielding a positivity rate of 0.1%. Both sexually active males and females, 25-49 years, who were reached and tested in the 11 month period had low positivity rates (0.2 and 0.3 per cent separately)

REACH			TEST			POSITIVE	
TARGET	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED (%)	TARGET	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED (%)	POSITIVE	POSITIVITY
8,467	7,370	87%	7,620	6,853	90%	38	0.6
7,532	5,340	71%	6,780	5,037	74%	133	2.6
384	301	78%	346	266	77%	7	2.6
120,371	26,114	22%	108,335	24,032	22%	60	0.2
113,665	17,426	15%	102,299	14,432	14%	46	0.3
23,227	18,323	79%	20,904	16,041	77%	20	0.1

Table # 3: Engagement of key and vulnerable organizations in HIV testing: know your HIV status

The NFPB utilized traditional and social media for the promotion of its 3 campaigns targeting adolescents and youth. These bear the call to action/taglines “Live Life Before you give Life” “LARC til’ yuh ready” and Yute Expression services; “Know the Truth. Get the F.A.C.T.S.” (that is, Family Planning, Abstinence, Consistent Condom Use, Testing for HIV and Syphilis). Other campaigns promoted on television and radio are HIV Self-testing with the message “Know your HIV status today.”



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2022-23

- Reproductive Health Survey
- Contraceptive commodities forecasting, procurement and dissemination
- Sexual and reproductive health capacity building of key stakeholders
- Increase awareness of sexual and reproductive health knowledge and services



MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGIONS



SOUTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (SRHA)

CHAPELTON HOSPITAL REOPENS

Thousands of residents of Chapelton and surrounding areas in Clarendon are benefitting from improved access to health services following the renovation of the Chapelton Community Hospital at a cost of \$309 million. The project was undertaken through funding by the Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education Fund; Jamaican businesswoman/philanthropist, Beverly Nichols through her Push-Start Foundation and the National Health Fund and was officially reopened on December 6, 2022.



It included extensive rehabilitation of the main building with the termite-damaged timber flooring replaced with a sustainable concrete solution, putting in new structural walls and a new roof, construction of an ambulance bay, upgrading of a ramp to allow for stretcher access, restoration of the minor operating theatre, installation of medical gas and a fire detection and alarm system, and electrical works. The facility now boasts a new 20-bed ward (the Beverly Nichols Pavillion), a new pharmacy, laundry department, linen room, and staff lunchroom, expanded food service department, additional parking and driveway, and is equipped with a standby generator system.



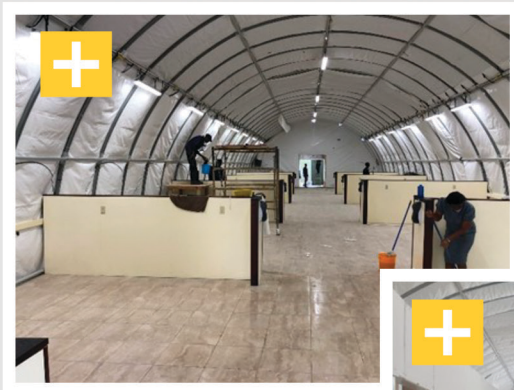
WESTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (WRHA)

COVID WARD CONVERTED TO OUTPATIENT CLINIC

The COVID-19 Ward at the Savanna-la-mar General Hospital was retrofitted and converted to an Outpatient Clinic. The new facilities provided a better opportunity for the staff to be more comfortable and serve our clients in a better environment. Additionally, Electrical upgrade and Walkway Rehabilitation and Renovation of operating Room Theatres & Emergency Room Roofing were done at the Falmouth Public General Hospital.

RETROFITTING OF COVID WARD TO OUT PATIENT DEPARTMENT AT SAVANNA LA-MAR PUBLIC GENERAL HOSPITAL - PROJECT COST - \$13,243,100

- Scale up of services (2-3 specialty clinics /week instead of one)
- More comfortable environment for Patients, Staff & Visitors
- Centralization of services with greater accessibility to other Hospital services, including Radiology & Lab services
- Reduced strain on Transportation Services
- Quicker response by Medical Staff on the Wards and A&E
- Increased access to Radiology results and faster turn around time for Registration (Health Records)





SOUTH EAST REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (SERHA)

BUSTAMANTE HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN LAUNCH OF THE ANIMAL-ASSISTED RECOVERY AND CARE PROGRAMME

On Tuesday, March 28, 2023, the Ministry of Health and Wellness officially launched its Animal Assisted Recovery and Care Pilot Project at the Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC). The Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, first introduced the project in parliament on November 22, 2022, which is targeted at providing comfort to children at the hospital and aiding in their smooth recovery after major surgeries. Since that announcement, there has been a soft launch of the project, which involved an initial school pilot at the Little Einstein Learning Centre in Seaview Gardens on March 11, 2022; and a staff sensitization and pilot project on May 6, 2022.

Dr. Teddy Barks, a golden retriever, along with a snake and a rabbit, were used in those interventions. The pilot project, which will run for 18 months, is a patient-centered intervention that will complement healthcare delivery for hospitalized paediatric patients undergoing procedures or who require long-term hospitalization at the hospital. The AARC programme is a multi-agency initiative that comprises an expert team of clinical personnel from the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the BHC, and the Veterinary Services Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.





SPANISH TOWN HOSPITAL

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE DIALYSIS UNIT AT THE SPANISH TOWN HOSPITAL

The renal unit at the Spanish Town Hospital (STH) has been equipped with 10 new additional haemodialysis machines since January 2023. The official tour of the new machines was held on February 8, 2023 with the Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, Mr. Errol Greene, Regional Director, SERHA and the management team at the hospital. This brings the current number of functional machines to 18. The STH received 10 refurbished hemodialysis machines, valued at over \$28 million, from a Florida-based entity, Renal Dynamics, which were officially handed over on Monday, September 12, 2022. On Wednesday, September 14, 2022, the Transport Authority, in partnership with the National Health Fund (NHF), handed over three brand new dialysis machines to the institution, which were acquired at a cost of nearly \$13 million. Since the installation of the new machines, the waiting list at the Spanish Town Hospital has been reduced from 400 patients to 79. Of the 10 refurbished machines that were received at the Spanish Town Hospital from Renal Dynamics, five were transferred to the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH).





NORTH EAST REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (NERHA)

RENOVATION OF THE MONEAGUE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

- **Construction of the Car Park**

- Installation of Kerb walling
- Asphaltic covering
- Marking out of car-park
- Modification to the entrance gate for easier and safer access

- **Construction of a New Covered Waiting Area and Public Bathroom Facilities**

- Renovation and Rehabilitation of the Health Centre Building
- Conversion of the waiting area to clinical offices
- Modification and Expansion of the Health Records Department
- Creation of additional bathroom facilities
- Renovation of staff areas
- Replacement of Windows
- Installation of hand wash basins in all offices
- Repairs to the electrical system
- Replacement of defective cupboards
- Replacement of Entrance and office doors
- Extensive Termite treatment

- **Renovation of Pharmacy Service Area**

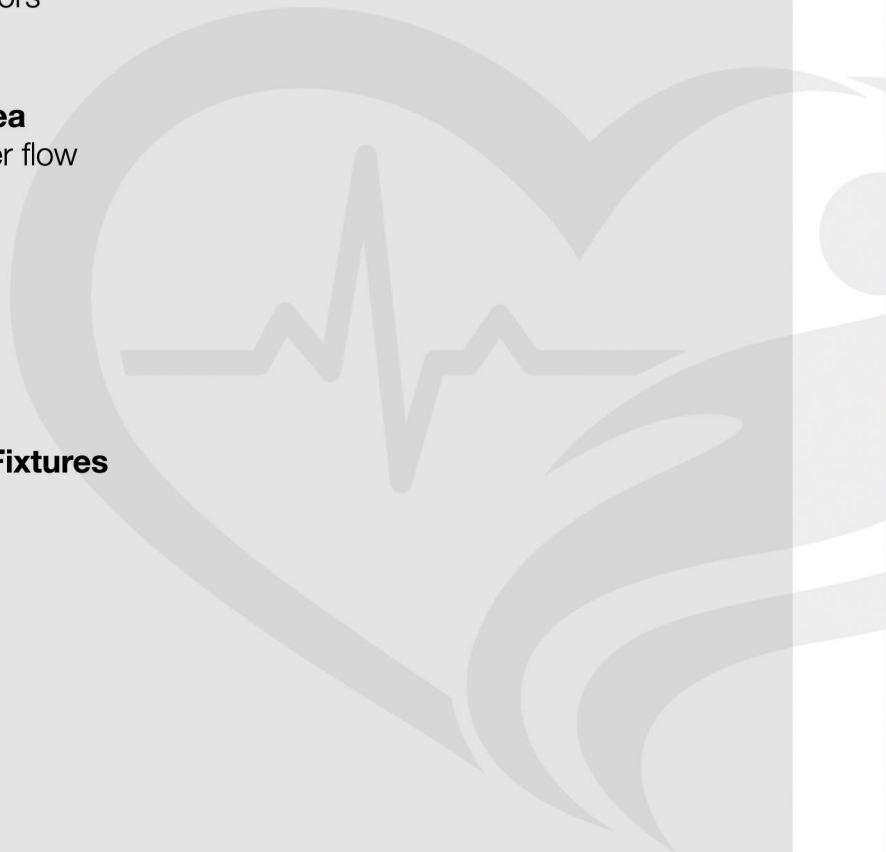
- Improvements to office layout for better flow
- Replacement of windows
- Repairs to the electrical system
- Replacement of defective cupboards

- **Creation of Covered Link-ways**

- Installation of hand-rails

- **Procurement of New Furniture and Fixtures**

- Dexion Shelving for Health Records
- Window Blinds
- Wall Murals with Health Messages
- Desks, chairs, etc



+ BEFORE



+ AFTER





KEEP IN TOUCH

www.moh.gov.jm

contact: 888 - ONE- LOVE (663-5683)

    @themohwgovjm