



PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

Financial Year 2023/2024

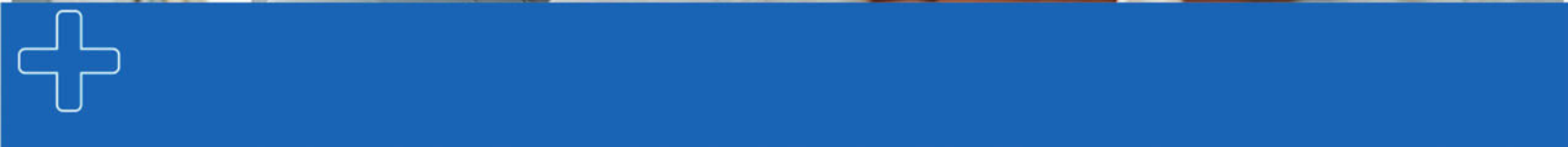


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INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) has remained steadfast in its pursuit of excellence, continuously striving to enhance the accessibility, quality, and effectiveness of healthcare services for all Jamaicans. This Performance Highlights Report for financial year 2023-24 encapsulates the diligent efforts, achievements, and challenges encountered by the Ministry in its unwavering mission to safeguard the health and well-being of the Jamaican populace.

This report serves as a comprehensive overview of the Ministry's performance against its established Operational Plan for the recently concluded financial year highlighting some key areas of focus, encompassing healthcare infrastructure, disease prevention and control, mental health services, and health system's strengthening and resilience. It offers an analysis of the Ministry's accomplishments, initiatives undertaken, and progress made towards advancing strategic goals outlined in Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Plan.

The lessons learnt and insights gleaned from the experiences of the past financial year will be incorporated and used in bolstering the Ministry's commitment to fostering a culture of health and wellness, increasing accessibility to and equity in the delivery of healthcare and ensuring the resilience of the public health system to meet the needs of its citizens.

MOHW PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

Amidst the backdrop of the local and global health landscape, the Ministry achieved 71% of 176 deliverables outlined in its Operational Plan FY 2023-24 which represents an improvement from the prior financial year. The Ministry has established a minimum operational performance standard of 75% for all Divisions, Units and Departments captured in its Operational Plan. Whilst recognising there is much work left to be done to attain this minimum standard, the effort of the respective divisions, units, and departments are applauded as a step in the right direction as improvements in performance were observed across the board. The following section of the report highlights the progress and accomplishments made by these functional units for select initiatives undertaken by the Ministry for the FY 2023-24.

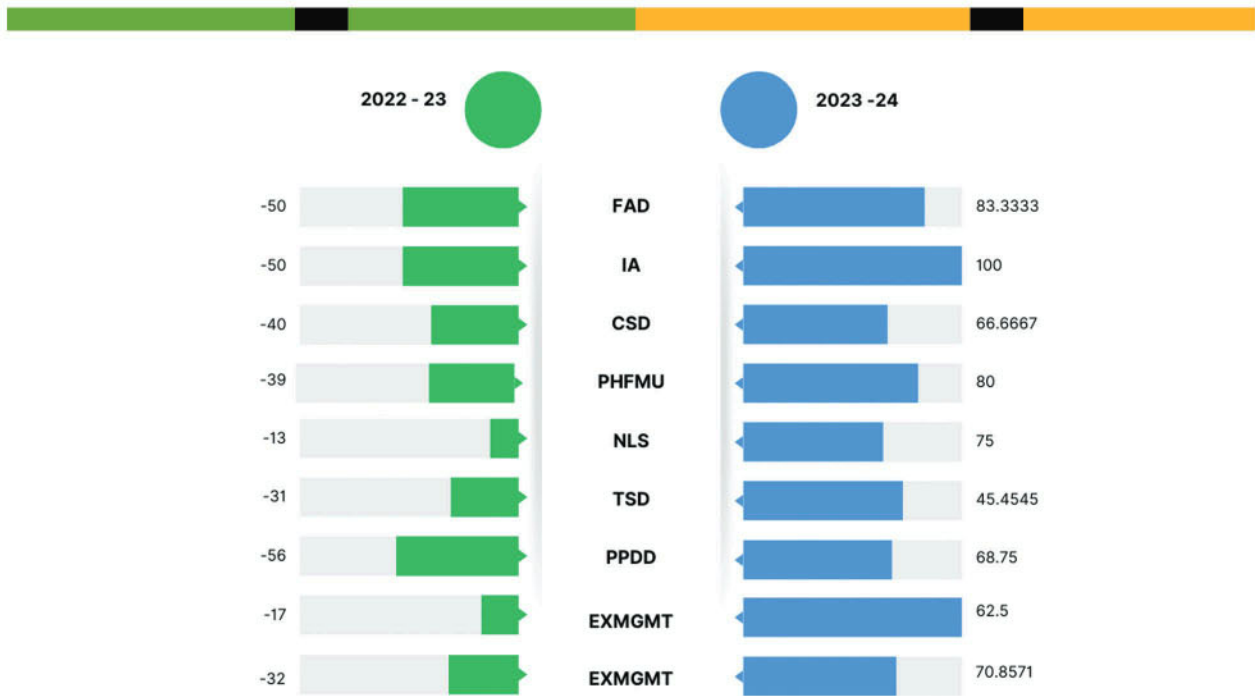


Figure 1: MOHW Performance Comparison: 2022-23 & 2023-24

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

TOTAL OUTPUTS FOR FY 2023-24	% OUTPUTS MET
24	63%
Direction of Change: ↑	

The **Executive Management** Division 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 of Health and Wellness. It includes the Office of the Honourable Minister, the Office of the Permanent Secretary, the Legal Services Unit, the Public Relations and Communication Unit and Internal Audit Unit. In contrast to the prior financial year, there was a noticeable increase of 46 percentage points in the performance for the Division. The Executive Management Division managed several key projects for the 2023-2024 financial year which included:

PROJECT CODE CARE

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Safeguarding access to Equitable, Comprehensive and Quality Healthcare.

Strategic Outcome:

Modernised and efficient hospitals, specialized care centres and support services

Focus

Reduction of waiting time for elective surgeries to less than 6 months for public health sector clients

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- KPH Operating Theatre technical drawings completed
- 1,100 backlogged elective surgeries conducted
- 8 PPP contracts for outsourcing elective surgeries completed
- 12 nursing missions held

Status

2 of 4 met

Project CODE CARE was launched in the prior financial year to provide surgeries to clients waiting for elective procedures. This was to be done through outsourcing of elective surgeries, procurement of surgical equipment and sundries and infrastructural improvements of select hospital operating theatres.

During the year, significant progress was made in the procurement and preparatory assessment for the rehabilitation of four operating theatres at the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH). Submission to the Public Procurement Commission (PPC) for approval of the contract for the design of select operating theatres is underway. Preliminary assessments at eight operating theatres at other facilities were also initiated. This effort marked a pivotal step toward enhancing healthcare infrastructure and service delivery.

The PPP contracts for the outsourcing of elective surgeries was maintained throughout the period. Surgical sets and medical disposables, valued at J\$184 million were procured and handed over to the Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) and supported the conduct of elective surgeries. However, there were administrative issues and resistance from some medical professionals which prevented the attainment of the targeted nursing missions. Despite the challenges encountered with this aspect of the project, the targeted volume of elective surgeries was attained. To date, 2,685 elective surgeries have been done under Project Code Care; of this 59% (1,588) were done during this financial year. This highlights the tangible impact of this initiative in improving healthcare access and outcomes for public patients

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

The stewardship capacity of the ministry of health & wellness is strengthened to improve leadership and governance to achieve universal access to health and universal health coverage

Strategic Outcome:

Effective stewardship

Focus

To advance key pieces of legislative to strengthen implementation and enforcement of the WHO FCTC, improve health service delivery, advance the public bodies rationalization initiatives.

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- National Council on Drug Abuse Repeal Bill submitted to Legislative Committee.
- National Family Planning Board Repeal Bill submitted to Legislative Committee.
- Tobacco legislation debated and finalized.
- Cabinet Submission made for amendments to the Nursing and Midwives Act for legal recognition and prescriptive authority of select nursing groups.
- Food and Drugs (amendment) Bill submitted to Legislative Committee.

Status

3 of 5 met

National Family Planning Board and National Council on Drug Abuse Repeal Bills:

House of Representatives approved legislation that combined the National Family Planning Board (NFPB) and the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA) into the MOHW as a division and agency respectively. Both the National Council on Drug Abuse (Repeal) Bill 2023 and the National Family Planning Board (Repeal) Bill 2023 were passed with a single amendment. This integration was part of the Government's efforts to streamline public bodies as part of the Public Sector Transformation Programme, aimed at enhancing efficiency. The consolidation signifies a more strategic approach to planning and executing the roles of both entities, beyond merely a recommendation by the Transformation Unit. Two pieces of legislation that integrated the National Family Planning Board and the National Council on Drug Abuse into the MOHW were laid before the Senate. Both Bills were gazetted on December 18, 2023, with an effective repeal date of July 31, 2024.

Nursing and Midwives Act: The amendments to the Nursing and Midwives Act in Jamaica marked a pivotal moment in the country's healthcare landscape, particularly for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) such as Family Nurse Practitioners and Mental Health Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners. These changes represented a comprehensive overhaul aimed at integrating APRNs more effectively into the healthcare system, granting them expanded authority and recognition, including prescriptive rights under specific conditions. The amendments outlined stringent requirements for APRNs registration and licensure, overseen by the Nursing Council of Jamaica, to ensure adherence to training standards and continuing education. While initially focusing on Family Nurse Practitioners and Mental Health Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners, the amendments also acknowledged the critical role of nurse anaesthetists, aiming to formalize their licensure and registration. Overall, these reforms aligned with Jamaica's vision for health and laid the foundation for a more inclusive and efficient healthcare system, ultimately driving positive health outcomes for the nation.

Tobacco Legislation: The Tobacco Control Bill, introduced by the Jamaican Government in 2020, aimed to enact comprehensive legislation restricting all aspects of tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship. Its goal was to protect Jamaicans' health, reduce exposure to second-hand smoke, and align with global tobacco control standards set by the World Health Organization. The Bill addressed gaps in existing regulations and sought to comply with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Treaty. After tabling in Parliament, it underwent stakeholder consultations and Cabinet approval, with provisions for effective enforcement and alignment with international best practices. Youth vulnerability to tobacco use was highlighted, alongside alarming statistics on NCD prevalence in Jamaica. A draft report on the Bill's deliberations by a Joint Select Committee has been received.

Food and Drugs Amendment Bill: As of the fourth quarter, the Food and Drugs Amendment Bill, which grants authority for the regulation of foods, drugs, cosmetics, and medical devices, covering both domestically manufactured and imported products, was still in progress. Follow-up activities are underway with the Attorney General's Department (AGD) to obtain their response.

LEASING OF MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING EQUIPMENT

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Making reliable and modern infrastructure available for health service delivery

Strategic Outcome:

Provide and maintain an adequate health infrastructure to ensure efficient and cost-effective service delivery

Purpose

Provide medical diagnostic imaging equipment at public hospitals

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

Lease agreement finalized for provision of MRI, CT scans, and ultrasounds machines at Type A & B facilities

Status

Not met

Functional and accessible medical equipment is essential for the public healthcare system as it supports preventative services, diagnosis and treatment and enables a standard quality of care in the delivery of healthcare services. The Ministry is pursuing several strategies to ensure the accessibility of medical diagnostic imaging equipment. Establishing a lease agreement for the provision of major medical diagnostic imaging equipment for placement at public hospitals across the RHAs was one such strategy advanced during the year. Specifications for medical diagnostic imaging equipment to be placed at Type A and B hospitals was determined through extensive stakeholder consultations. The quantity of medical diagnostic imaging equipment for leasing and their placement within the regions has been settled; this incorporates 49 pieces of equipment inclusive of CT scanners, MRIs and ultrasounds.

An international tender was launched with a deadline for submission of bids in the new financial year. A Bidders conference for prospective bidders was hosted. This proactive approach aimed to engage prospective bidders to gather feedback, and address any issues, uncertainties or concerns surrounding the draft lease agreement and the bidding documents. By facilitating open dialogue and addressing concerns raised during the conference, a more inclusive and collaborative process was obtained which improved transparency and built consensus. This will result in an effective lease agreement for all parties involved. In the upcoming financial year, the Ministry will conclude the procurement process and targets to have the lease agreement in effect to the benefit of

INTERNAL AUDIT

TOTAL OUTPUTS FOR FY 2023-24	% OUTPUTS MET
2	100%
Direction of Change: ↑	

The role of the Internal Audit Unit is to advise and recommend improvements in the governance, internal controls and risk management processes within the Ministry to ensure they are adequate and effective. The performance for the Unit doubled in comparison to the 2022/2023 period.

AUDIT FUNCTION

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Increased and improved health financing for equity and efficiency.

Strategic Outcome:

Improved efficiency of how funds provided to the public health sector is allocated and utilized for the delivery of health care services

Focus

Ensure Ministry’s governance, internal control and risk management processes are effective

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- 9 audit reports for backlogged Appropriation Accounts submitted
- 80% of Audit Plan effected

Status

Not met

The audit plan was developed and approved by the Audit Committee and the Ministry for execution. The standard of 80% of audits effected was maintained throughout the period under review. Improvements in management responses and addressing deficiencies were observed.

The Ministry has also made progress in addressing its backlogged Appropriation Accounts. For the financial year, 11 audit reports for backlogged Appropriation Accounts including for the Ministry, Bellevue Hospital and Government Chemist Department were completed. Efforts will continue in bringing the Ministry’s Appropriation Accounts current.

TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION

TOTAL OUTPUTS FOR FY 2023-24	% OUTPUTS MET
68	73%
Direction of Change: ↑	

The Technical Services Division core responsibility is ensuring that healthcare policies and programmes are appropriate to meet the needs of the population and that quality standards are maintained at all levels of the healthcare system. There was an appreciable increase in the performance of the Technical Services Division, where outputs delivered for the reporting period improved by 42 percentage points.

HEALTH CARE REFORM (PRIMARY & SECONDARY)

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Goal 1 - Safeguarding Access to Equitable, Comprehensive and Quality Health Care

Goal 4 - Human Resources for Health Sufficient in Numbers & Competencies

Strategic Outcome:

Outcome 1.1 - Revised and Renewed Primary Care Model in all Health Centres and Health Departments

Focus

Adaptation of the healthcare system to evolving needs of the Jamaican population emphasizing integration, coordination, and a renewed focus on population-based and individual care services to ensure equitable access and responsiveness to diverse health needs across all life stages.

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- 50% Consultation Reports on proposed Primary Health Care services reviewed
- Two secondary care workforce documents completed
- Two primary care workforce documents completed

Status

1 of 3 targets met

The primary healthcare system is currently undergoing a critical reform aimed at addressing persistent health challenges and adapting to evolving health needs since the last significant reform in 1978. The structure and delivery of primary healthcare services have largely remained unchanged, with a predominant focus on hospital-based care expansions. Recognizing that significant demographic and epidemiological transitions have occurred over the past decades, there is a clear imperative to reevaluate and enhance the primary healthcare framework. The existing system, though geographically accessible, has struggled to achieve seamless patient movement, continuity of care, and effective information sharing. Moreover, shifts in disease profiles towards non-communicable diseases and an aging population underscore the necessity for updated approaches to disease management and prevention. This reform initiative seeks to fundamentally transform primary healthcare by emphasizing integration, coordination across public and private sectors, and a renewed focus on both population-based and individual care services. By implementing these changes, the sector aims to ensure equitable access to comprehensive healthcare services that are responsive to the diverse needs of its population at all life stages.

The reform of primary care services being pursued by the Ministry envisages the introduction of new services and expansion of existing services. During the FY 2023/24, 53% (9/17) of the consultation reports regarding proposed primary care services were reviewed and scheduled amendments slated for completion in the fiscal year 2024/25. The remaining consultation reports are earmarked for review in the upcoming financial period. This will guide deliberations around the feasibility of services to be provided and inform the development of micro plans for the agreed services.

In tandem, strides have been made towards a holistic healthcare strategy with the completion and presentation of the Secondary Care Model Document during the Minister's Sectoral Presentation in the first quarter of the 2023/24 FY. A combined Cabinet Submission has been developed and circulated for stakeholder feedback seeking Cabinet's approval for the Primary and Secondary Care Models.

In the realm of workforce planning, substantive advancements have been achieved with the drafting of the Nursing/Midwifery workforce plan in March 2024. Additionally, the Physician workforce document, showcased during the Minister's Sectoral Presentation and subsequently submitted to MOFPS, has led to the allocation of physician posts and the initiation of recruitment processes. The Physiotherapy workforce document, however, has been deferred pending increased human resource.

STRENGTHENING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Safeguarding access to Equitable, Comprehensive and Quality Healthcare

Strategic Outcome:

Improved population health status

Focus

Strengthen community mental health services

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

Strengthen community mental health services

Status

Met

Increasing access to mental health services remains a focus for the Ministry. The Problem Management Plus (PM+), developed and tested by WHO, is a scalable psychological intervention for adults experiencing stress and anxiety. It is particularly useful in communities that do not have many specialists. The intervention is developed to assist people with mild depression, anxiety, and stress, whether exposure to adversity has caused or contributed to these problems. During the financial year 271 persons were trained in the PM+ intervention. This includes 217 providers and 54 Supervisors. The total number of persons who have received care or been engaged is 49.

EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Safeguarding access to Equitable, Comprehensive and Quality Healthcare

Strategic Outcome:

Improved population health status

Focus

Optimizing vaccine coverage and strengthening the effectiveness of the immunization programme in safeguarding public health.

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- EPI Manual volume I, II and III revised.
- Business case and system specification for EIR System prepared
- 80% of children classified as dropouts from the immunization schedule identified and immunized

Status

2 of 3 met

During the fiscal year 2023/24, the Ministry embarked on a project to revise the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) manual, aiming to ensure alignment with updated guidelines, incorporate new vaccine information, enhance programme efficiency, address emerging health threats, maintain quality, and adapt to changing population needs. Of note, the revised EPI manual integrates the Standard Operating Procedure for cold chain management. With support from UNICEF, all three volumes of the EPI Manual have been revised; these will be disseminated, and all regions sensitised accordingly.

Furthermore, during the same period, the Ministry embarked on establishing an Electronic Immunization Record (EIR) system. This initiative aimed to address current challenges in manual immunization record-keeping, including data inaccuracies and inefficient tracking of vaccine coverage. The objectives of the EIR system were focused on improving immunization coverage rates, reducing vaccine-preventable diseases, and enhancing data accuracy and accessibility for healthcare providers and policymakers. The anticipated benefits of the EIR system included improved data quality, enhanced monitoring and evaluation capabilities, reduced administrative burden, and better decision-making for immunization programmes. To date, the business case and system specification have been developed and will be advanced in the new financial year.

Declining levels of immunization have been observed for some antigens on the Immunization Schedule. Regional efforts were focussed on identifying dropouts (children with missed vaccinations) and administering missed vaccines. Regrettably, the target of identifying and immunizing 80% of children categorized as dropouts from the immunization schedule was not achieved. Stakeholder reviews noted concerns with documentation and data accuracy, access to schools and inability to locate children. Establishment of the EIR will address some of these concerns. A Catch-up Vaccination Report and Plan was developed and discussed with Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) for implementation, aiming to improve the coverage of immunization services and address gaps in the immunization schedule.

MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Safeguarding access to Equitable, Comprehensive and Quality Healthcare

Strategic Outcome:

Improved population health status

Focus

Strengthen medical waste management practices and infrastructure

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- Reduced equipment downtime.
- 100% Audit Action Plans submitted to stakeholders
- Medical waste management feasibility study completed
- Consultancy services in place for revision of National Guidelines on Medical Waste Management.
- Consultancy services in place for revision of the National Medical Waste Management Policy.
- Medical waste management equipment procured for one facility

Status

4 of 6 met



The Strengthening Medical Waste Management Project represents a pivotal initiative aimed at tackling the pressing need for effective management of medical waste across healthcare facilities. With a steadfast commitment to safeguarding public health and environmental integrity, this project is dedicated to implementing robust strategies and systems for the safe handling, treatment, and disposal of medical waste.

As the fourth quarter ended, equipment downtime for critical medical waste management equipment stood at 16%; this underscores a notable operational hurdle that demands urgent attention. The preparation of the Audit Action Plan and Non-Conformance Reports for key ministry and regional stakeholders following a comprehensive audit of medical waste management practices and systems shows the commitment of the Ministry towards improving compliance with medical waste management standards and addressing identified deficiencies. Follow-up assessments are slated to gauge the efficacy of executed actions within an agreed timeframe.

In strengthening medical waste management across the health sector, the completion of the Situational Analysis for a Feasibility Study on medical waste management, the formal signing of contracts for consultancy services aimed at revising the National Guidelines on Medical Waste Management and the National Medical Waste Management Policy and the approval by the Public Procurement Committee (PPC), highlights the government's proactive governance and strategic planning endeavours for the period of review. These activities will progress into the new financial year and will result in the gradual improvement in environmentally sound medical waste management practices across the health regions.



HIV/STI PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Safeguarding access to Equitable, Comprehensive and Quality Healthcare.

Strategic Outcome:

Improved population health status

Focus

HIV/STI Prevention and Control

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- 50% of Type 3 health centres (HCs) validated for HIV Service Delivery
- Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Programme Handbook developed.
- Elimination of Mother-to-Child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV and Syphilis Validation Report prepared.
- 70% disbursement of donor funds (Global Fund, UCSF, C-TECH)

Status

4 of 4 met

Throughout the year 2023/2024, significant strides were made to advance the prevention and control of HIV and STIs. Following the gradual introduction of HIV services in health services in previous financial years, the focus for FY 2023/24 was to assess the quality of HIV services delivered by these facilities. For the period, 52% of Type 3 health centres offering HIV services were assessed. Action plans to address deficiencies identified are being developed for sharing with stakeholders.

In supporting the introduction of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for reducing HIV infection amongst high-risk groups, the PrEP Handbook was developed and stakeholders sensitised as part of efforts to strengthen programme management.

Jamaica, as a PAHO Member State, is committed to the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis. The country's HIV mother-to-child transmission rate for the last four years has showed a decline to under 2%, the annual national targets, and other indicators are also within the targeted levels. For the past financial years, the country has been making progress towards being recognised for the EMTCT of HIV and syphilis. Within this financial year, the EMTCT Validation Report was completed and submitted to PAHO; PAHO has conducted the validation process, and the formal notification of Jamaica's certification is pending.

NCD NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLANS

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Safeguarding access to Equitable, Comprehensive and Quality Healthcare

Strategic Outcome:

Improved population health status

Purpose

National Strategic and Action Plan for the prevention and control of NCDs focuses on the sub-plans for cancer, elimination of cervical cancer and injuries prevention.

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- NCD Strategic Plan submitted.
- Injuries Strategic Plan submitted.
- Cancer Strategic Plan submitted.

Status

3 of 3 met

The NCD National Strategic Plan, alongside its associated sub-plans focusing on cancer and injuries, constitutes a holistic framework aimed at tackling the intricate challenges presented by Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). These strategic blueprints, seek to address the escalating burden of NCDs and serve as navigational tools for action on a national scale. By delineating precise objectives, interventions, and resource allocation strategies, the NCD Strategic Plan and its sub-plans aim to steer collaborative endeavours spanning multiple sectors, with a primary focus on NCD prevention, treatment, and management. Embracing collaborative partnerships and evidence-driven methodologies, these plans aspire to alleviate the repercussions of NCDs on public health and overall well-being, nurturing healthier communities nationwide.

INCREASING NUTRITIONAL AWARENESS

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Safeguarding access to Equitable, Comprehensive and Quality Healthcare.

Strategic Outcome:

Improved population health status

Purpose

Increase population awareness on nutritional matters for more informed nutritional choices

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- Increase population awareness on nutritional matters for more informed nutritional choices

Status

2 of 2 met

Nutritional choices are a significant risk factor for NCDs. The Ministry's focus remains on educating the population on the importance of making appropriate nutritional choices and highlighting healthier options. Complementing the re-launch of the Better for You Menu and the Jamaica Moves initiative, two multi-year educational campaigns were launched during the year focussing on nutritional facts label and eliminating the use of trans fats in foods.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Safeguarding access to Equitable, Comprehensive and Quality Healthcare

Strategic Outcome:

Improved population health status

Focus

Reduce transmission of mosquito-borne diseases

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- 80% of surveyed high-risk communities with Breteau index <25%

Status

Met

In September 2023, the Ministry declared a dengue outbreak. The National Response Plan was activated which resulted in an intensification of vector control measures and supporting actions across all regions. This included the engagement of temporary vector control workers to support health education, inspection and treatment of premises, fogging of communities and clean-up efforts.

As at March 2024, the Breteau index for surveyed high-risk communities stood at 20.4%, within the operational target of less than 25%. Actions continued towards the implementation of the Sterilised Insect Technique (SIT) project. The radiation source for the sterilisation of the male aedes aegypti mosquitoes is in transit and stakeholder consultations to inform the communication campaign ahead of the release of sterilised mosquitoes in pilot communities has commenced.

STATE PARTY ANNUAL REPORT

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

The stewardship capacity of the ministry of health & wellness is strengthened to improve leadership and governance to achieve universal access to health and universal health coverage:

Strategic Outcome:

Full implementation of the core capacities of the International Health Regulations (IHR)

Focus

Prevent, detect, assess, notify, and respond to public health risks and emergencies

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- State Party Annual Reporting (SPAR) for IHR completed

Status

Met

The SPAR is aimed at enhancing the ability of all States Parties, to prevent, detect, assess, notify, and respond to public health risks and emergencies. Under the IHR 2005, States Parties are required to establish and sustain basic capacities for surveillance and response to potential public health events with international significance. The effectiveness of the IHR in safeguarding global public health relies on their comprehensive adoption, implementation, and adherence by all States Parties.

The SPAR report for Jamaica was finalized, a Cabinet Note prepared and the report was subsequently uploaded to the WHO IHF MEF portal. This comprehensive report offers a detailed assessment of Jamaica's public health capacities as mandated by the regulations, encompassing elements such as the national health system structure, legislative frameworks, core capacity assessments, surveillance systems, response capabilities, laboratory services, risk communication strategies, training initiatives, international partnerships, challenges faced, and insights gained.

JAMAICA HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE SURVEY (JHLS)

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

The stewardship capacity of the ministry of health & wellness is strengthened to improve leadership and governance to achieve universal access to health and universal health coverage:

Strategic Outcome:

Evidence-based policy, planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation

Focus

Currency of data on health status of Jamaicans

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- Consultant engaged to develop JHLS Study design

Status

Not met

The JHLS is a periodic survey conducted by the MOHW to assess the health status and lifestyle behaviours of Jamaicans. It was last administered in 2016/2017. The survey provides essential data to guide public health policies and programmes, helping to inform strategies for prevention, treatment and control of diseases. The JHLS collects a comprehensive range of data including demographic information, as well as data on chronic diseases (like diabetes and hypertension), lifestyle behaviours (such as tobacco and alcohol use), nutrition and dietary patterns, physical activity levels, healthcare access and utilization, mental health status, and environmental health factors.

Administration of the next cycle of the JHLS is being supported by the Inter-American Development Bank through the Health Systems Strengthening Programme. The focus for the year was the engagement of consultancy services for the design and conduct of the survey. The procurement period was protracted and will extend into the new financial year.

SECOND CHANCE SMILES

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Safeguarding access to Equitable, Comprehensive and Quality Healthcare.

Strategic Outcome:

Improved population health status

Focus

Dental prostheses rehabilitation for 10,000 beneficiaries including the elderly and PATH beneficiaries and persons living with diabetes over the lifetime of the initiative

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- 3,600 dentures delivered

Status

Met

Second Chance Smiles, a dental prostheses rehabilitation initiative, was announced in May 2023. For the period under review, the operational target was to provide 3,600 dentures to beneficiaries including the elderly, PATH beneficiaries and persons living with diabetes.

Overall, for the year, 4,697 dentures have been delivered benefitting approximately 2,000 Jamaicans. Bottlenecks in laboratory services and disruptions in the dental materials supply chain were encountered but were mitigated through engaging other private laboratories to assist with production and recruiting health volunteers for additional support.

PROJECT & HEALTH FACILITIES MAINTENANCE BRANCH

TOTAL OUTPUTS FOR FY 2023-24	% OUTPUTS MET
16	75%
Direction of Change: ↑	

The Projects and Health Facilities and Maintenance Branch is responsible for overseeing capital projects and infrastructure works and establishing standards for and monitoring the maintenance of facilities and medical equipment across the public health sector. In comparison to the prior financial year, a significant increase in performance of 62 percentage points was recorded for the Projects and Health Facilities Maintenance Branch for the period 2023/24.



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE POLICY

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Making Reliable and Modern Infrastructure Available for Health Service Delivery

Strategic Outcome:

Best practice aligned standards for construction and maintenance of health facilities established and maintained

Focus

Strengthen preventative maintenance for medical equipment

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- 8 facilities maintenance and improvement plans developed (2 per region: 1 hospital and 1 health centre)
- Implementation session held in two regions

Status

2 of 2 Met

The Medical Equipment Maintenance Policy was launched in the prior financial year. This policy provides guidelines for the regular maintenance, calibration and repair of all medical equipment across the regions. Its goal is to ensure functional equipment through scheduled preventative care and prompt issue resolution which helps to provide effective patient care. It forms a part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to strengthen preventative maintenance in the public health sector.

The focus for this year was to work with the RHAs to develop, implement and monitor maintenance and improvement plans for medical equipment which was attained. Monitoring of these plans continue and the Ministry will continue to support the region in implementing this operational policy.

EQUIPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE OPERATIONAL POLICIES

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Making Reliable and Modern Infrastructure Available for Health Service Delivery

Strategic Outcome:

Best practice aligned standards for construction and maintenance of health facilities established and maintained

Focus

Strengthen preventative/corrective maintenance for equipment across RHAs

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- Built Environment and Electrical Maintenance Policy drafted
- Electro-Mechanical Maintenance Policy drafted
- Health Infrastructure Building Guidelines drafted

Status

3 of 3 Met

Regular maintenance and inspections help ensure proper functioning of the built structures, electrical systems, medical equipment etc. that are needed to deliver quality care. The Built Environment and Electrical Maintenance Policy establishes guidelines for conducting preventative and corrective maintenance of the systems across all regional healthcare facilities. Its goals are to mitigate risks like electrical failures, ensure facilities are safe and compliant and with defined maintenance schedules etc.

The Electro-Mechanical Maintenance Policy establishes procedures for maintaining important electro-mechanical systems like generators, pumps and medical gas systems aim to prevent breakdowns through preventative upkeep.

The Health Infrastructure Building Guidelines establishes standards for the planning, design and construction of new healthcare facilities and renovations. The aim is to ensure all infrastructure meets regulatory requirements as well as technical, functional and aesthetic needs for service delivery.

All three operational policies/guidelines have been drafted through a stakeholder consultative process and the draft documents shared with the regions for feedback. These documents will be finalised in the new financial year.

CORNWALL REGIONAL HOSPITAL REHABILITATION

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Making reliable and modern infrastructure available for health service delivery

Strategic Outcome:

Provide and maintain an adequate health infrastructure to ensure efficient and cost-effective service delivery

Focus

Rehabilitating the CRH to include ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems; mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) systems; information and communications technology (ICT) and equipping the institution with state-of-the-art infrastructure.

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- Phase 3 Sectional Completion

Status

Not met

The CRH Rehabilitation project's final phase began on October 16, 2023 - broken into two main components, a six-month design stage and a construction and equipping stage, which is scheduled to last twenty-four months.

The design stage is now 54% complete – with on-site work including demolition and yard preparation which will accommodate project material storage and parking among others. Simultaneously, specifications for all medical equipment have been submitted for review and approval. Construction of the Administration Department Section will be prioritized to ensure early reoccupation of the building. The project will continue to be monitored to ensure the schedule, budget, procurement activities are maintained, and all risks are managed.

WESTERN CHILDREN & ADOLESCENT HOSPITAL

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Making Reliable and Modern Infrastructure Available for Health Service Delivery

Strategic Outcome:

Provide and Maintain an Adequate Health Infrastructure to Ensure Efficient and Cost-Effective Service Delivery

Focus

Provide increased access to and availability of specialised paediatric and adolescent care

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- 50% project completion over 12 months
- Appropriate status reports submitted on time

Status

2 of 2 Met

The Western Children & Adolescent Hospital will be the first of its kind in the English-speaking Caribbean, offering specialist medical care for children and young people up to the age of 18 years. It will complement the Bustamante Hospital for Children by providing increased access to specialised paediatric and adolescent care. Ground was broken for the Western Children and Adolescent Hospital on October 23, 2019.

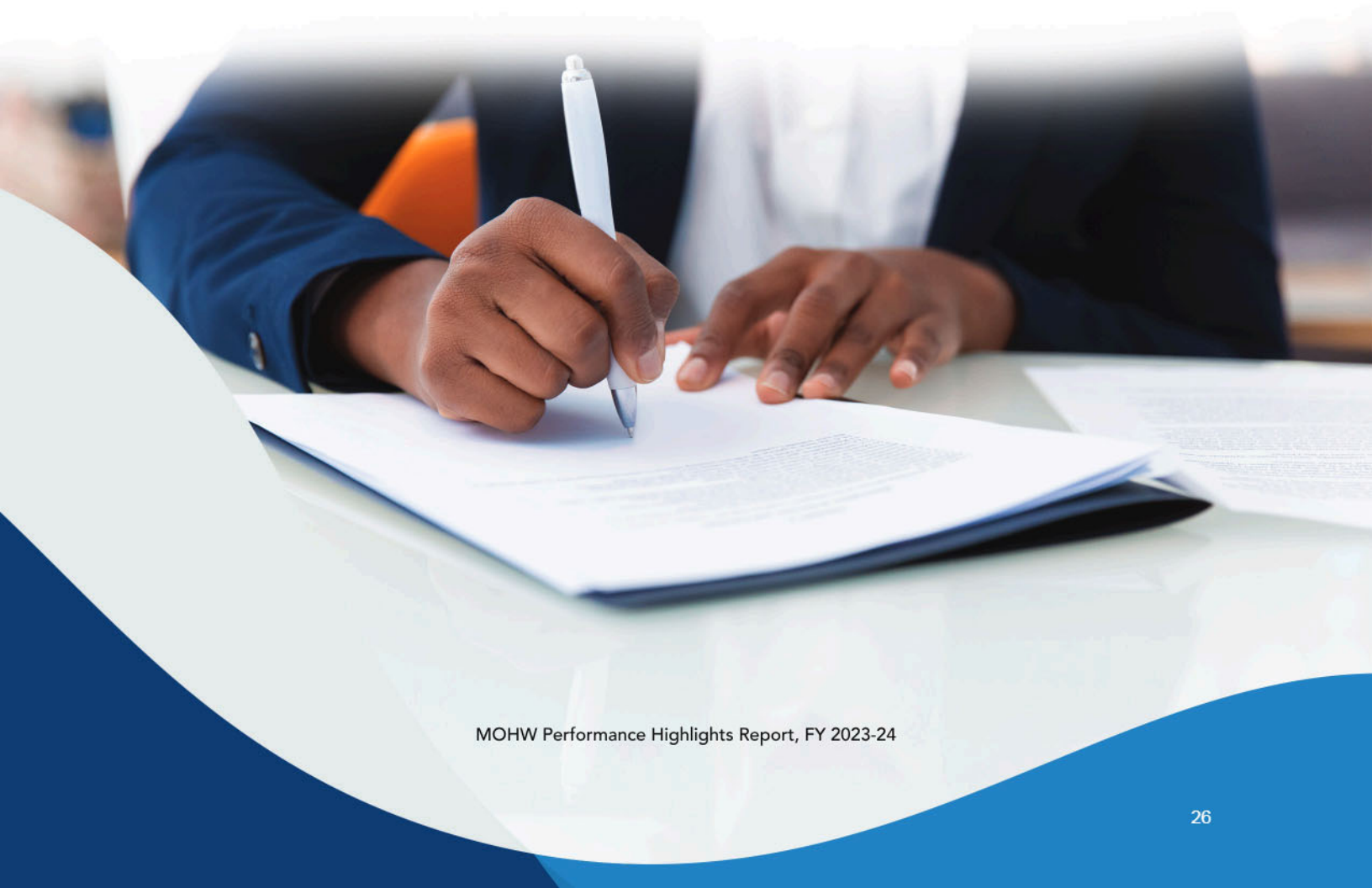
On completion, the six-storey hospital will have a 220-bed capacity and an in-house pharmacy, an emergency room, and a dialysis room, plus administrative offices, a food court, and accommodation for employees. Building works up to the end of December 2023, including site clearance and widening of the road leading to the construction site, utility relocation and reconnection, and security services, have been completed. Phases I and II parking facilities have been completed, as well as structural works for the main building and the nurses' residence. For the upcoming financial year: structural works completion for the morgue and underground water tanks are scheduled, completion of all external works, and procurement of furniture, instalment of equipment in the main building, and nurses' residence are planned as well.

The project will continue to be monitored to ensure the schedule, budget, procurement activities are maintained, and all risks are managed.

POLICY, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

TOTAL OUTPUTS FOR FY 2023-24	% OUTPUTS MET
16	69%
Direction of Change: ↑	

The Policy, Planning, and Development Division (PPDD) facilitates and supports evidence-based policy development and provides policy recommendations for improving Jamaica's health system, monitoring and evaluation, the analysis of strategic developmental changes and strengthening of Information Systems for Health. The PPDD experienced a moderate performance increase for the period when compared to financial year 2022/2023.



SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

The stewardship capacity of the Ministry of Health is strengthened to improve leadership and governance to achieve universal access to health and universal health coverage

Strategic Outcome:

Efficient and effective organizational and management structure of the public health system

Focus

Strengthened quality and delivery of services in portfolio entities

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- RHAs SLAs finalized by the end of Q1 FY 2023/2024
- 5 SLAs for the professional councils finalized
- 4 SLA verification exercises conducted,

Status

3 of 3 Met

The Service Level Agreements (SLAs) are performance contracts between the Ministry and the RHAs. The SLAs aim to ensure the balanced provision of quality services within the context of available resources to the residents and referred population of the RHAs by focusing on their priority health needs; setting targets for improvement in key areas of performance and quality; ensuring that health service resources are well-managed and that the best value for money is obtained; setting out the responsibilities of the Ministry and RHAs in achieving their agreed targets; and ensuring good governance of the health services.

At the beginning of the period, SLAs for all regions were signed and came into effect. During the latter part of the year, verification exercises were conducted in all regions to assess the implementation of the SLAs. Dissemination sessions were held in all 4 regions to present the findings and discuss recommended actions to address areas of concern.

With respect to the professional councils, SLAs have been developed for all and the signing ceremony is projected for the new financial year. Development of SLAs with other portfolio entities of the Ministry will be initiated in the new financial year.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES EVALUATION

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

The stewardship capacity of the Ministry of Health is strengthened to improve leadership and governance to achieve universal access to health and universal health coverage

Strategic Outcome:

Evidence-based policy, planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation

Focus

Improve use of evidence in decision-making

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- 1 evaluation of health programme or project conducted

Status

Met

The Public-Private Partnership for Non-Communicable Diseases (PPP4NCD) programme was created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to help manage patients with diabetes and hypertension while reducing their risk of exposure at public health centres. The programme referred patients to private physicians for routine care covered by the National Health Fund. An evaluation of the PPP4NCDs was undertaken during the financial year to assess its impact; key findings of the evaluation were as follows.

Clinical outcomes between PPP4NCDs patients and those receiving usual care at health centres were compared. While PPP4NCDs physicians better adhered to guidelines and documentation practices, there was no significant difference in COVID-19 incidence between the groups. Usual care patients saw better control of blood pressure over time compared to increases under PPP4NCD. Both groups had similar control of blood glucose levels. A cost-effectiveness analysis also found the usual care programme to be more cost-effective.

Considering the technical results, recommendations included discontinuing the PPP4NCDs programme given its lack of sustained value beyond the pandemic. Improving guideline adherence at health centres and oversight of clinical standards by regional authorities were also advised. The operational challenges with point-of-care HbA1c testing in clinics necessitates further review and strategy development.

The evaluation report concluded that the programme had only moderate implementation fidelity and faced challenges in enrolling enough participants.

CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

TOTAL OUTPUTS FOR FY 2023-24	% OUTPUTS MET
16	80%
Direction of Change: ↑	

The Corporate Services Division comprising of key branches such as Administration, Human Resources, Procurement and ICT aims to improve efficiency and service quality through its work. Driven by its vision and mission and guided by its 3R service values of being Relevant, Responsive and Reliable, the Division has centred its key results around People, Processes and Progress.

Initiatives to better understand customer satisfaction, analyse and streamline processes, and modernize service delivery seek to continuously enhance support provided to colleagues and stakeholders across the Ministry. In contrast to the prior financial year, the Division recorded a sizeable performance improvement for the reporting period.



MOHW RESTRUCTURING

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

The stewardship capacity of the Ministry of Health is strengthened to improve leadership and governance to achieve universal access to health and universal health coverage

Strategic Outcome:

Efficient and effective organizational and management structure of the public health system

Focus

Improve organisational efficiency

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- 30% of NFPB transition plan implemented
- 30% of NCDA transition plan implemented
- Organizational development consultant engaged for restructuring of Standards & Regulation Division

Status

3 of 3 Met

With the healthcare landscape evolving, the MOHW through restructuring, seeks to establish an adaptive organization that can maximize its ability to effectively serve the public. The aim is to streamline coordination between departments via establishing new roles, optimizing resources. The re-engineering of processes, job functions will support productivity and further the Ministry's goals and address the needs of Jamaicans.

Significant progress has been achieved in implementing the transition plans for the NFPB and NCDA with 70% and 60% of activities in the plans executed respectively.

The organisational review of the Standards and Regulation Division, supported via a consultancy, has commenced. Stakeholder consultations were held in the latter part of the period which will inform recommendations for the new structure.

FINANCE & ACCOUNTS DIVISION

TOTAL OUTPUTS FOR FY 2023-24	% OUTPUTS MET
6	83%
Direction of Change: ↑	

The Finance and Accounts Division ensures the financial management systems and processes are in compliance with GoJ' s policies and procedures and supports the administration and execution of programmes towards advancing the Ministry's vision and mission. There was a noticeable increase in the performance of the Division when contrasted against the 2022/2023 financial year.



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Increased and improved health financing for equity and efficiency

Strategic Outcome:

Improved efficiency of how funds provided to the public health sector is allocated and utilized for the delivery of health care services

Focus

To responsibly manage public funds through planning and transparency, in compliance with regulations.

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- 85% of payments completed within 72 hours (per quarter)
- Less than 20% of commitments 60 days and above in arrears (per quarter)
- 36 financial statements completed and submitted to MoFPS on time

Status

3 of 3 Met

The goal of financial management within the Ministry of Health and Wellness is to guarantee that public monies are spent wisely and responsibly. Effective financial stewardship emphasizes value for money through planning, procurement, expenditure, and transparency. Compliance with financial regulations and international standards for internal controls, risk management and record keeping supports the MOHW's mission by enabling responsible oversight and allocation of resources to ultimately achieve health outcomes and priorities.

Processing of payments has seen notable achievements with an average of 91% completed within 72 hours. An average of 13% of commitments outstanding over 60 days was maintained. A key area for improvement is processing of foreign exchange payments. Overseas payments in particular experience longer timeframes, taking approximately 6 months on average before commitments are actioned.

STANDARDS & REGULATION DIVISION

TOTAL OUTPUTS FOR FY 2023-24	% OUTPUTS MET
9	67%
Direction of Change: ↑	

The Standards & Regulation Division provides quality assurance services for the management of the health sector. This involves developing standards, maintaining an effective complaints management system, regulating the importation and distribution of designated products and regulating the operations of designated private healthcare facilities. When compared to the prior financial year, the Division showed considerable improvements in its performance for the reporting period.



IMPORT PERMITS

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

The stewardship capacity of the Ministry of Health is strengthened to improve leadership and governance to achieve universal access to health and universal health coverage

Strategic Outcome:

Effective stewardship and governance of the health sector at all levels

Focus

Optimise processing of import permits

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- 75% of permit applications processed within 3 working days

Status

Met

The Ministry continued support of the GoJ's trade facilitation initiatives. Processing of import permits for medical supplies, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals and other healthcare related sundries is conducted by the Ministry. There exists a standard for the processing of permit applications on a quarterly basis. This standard was maintained and exceeded throughout the financial year.



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY & BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICES

TOTAL OUTPUTS FOR FY 2023-24	% OUTPUTS MET
11	45%
Direction of Change: ↑	

The National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) plays a key role in disease surveillance and diagnosis, outbreak response, and monitoring of infectious diseases, including COVID-19 testing and management. Similarly,

The National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS) oversees the collection, testing, processing, and distribution of blood and blood products to hospitals and healthcare facilities across the country. NBTS is responsible for ensuring the safety and adequacy of the blood supply, establishing donor recruitment initiatives, and quality assurance measures. Demonstrable improvements were noted in the performance for the NPHL and the NBTS for the reporting period.



Improvement in Tests Turnaround time

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Safeguarding access to equitable, comprehensive and quality health care

Strategic Outcome:

All hospitals, specialized care centres and support services are modernized to provide efficient and quality service in an aesthetically pleasing environment

Focus

Optimize turnaround times for tests to support timely clinical decisions

2023-2024 Operational Target(s)

- 80% of routine pap smears results provided within 3 months
- Comprehensive plan for creation of posts for MTs, LTAs, clerical staff
- 80% of results for urgent histopathology samples provided within maximum 42 days

Status

2 of 3 Met

One of the key initiatives for the laboratory in the 2023-2024 financial year was to optimize turnaround times for test results with emphasis on pap smears, microbiology, and histopathology. Improving turnaround times supports timely clinical decisions and improve patient outcomes.

In support of optimising turnaround time for the results of tests, the Ministry has supported the training of two cytotechnologists which will conclude in July 2024. A comprehensive proposal recommending the establishment of additional posts has also been prepared; following the conclusion of internal deliberations, a submission will be made to the MOFPS. Regarding the target for urgent histopathology samples, 72% of these results were done within the lead time of 42 days. Staffing constraints, equipment downtime and availability of reagents and medical sundries adversely affected turnaround times. Going forward, strategies will be effected to address these concerns and improve turnaround times.

SPECIAL FOCUS

ENHANCING HEALTH CARE SERVICE DELIVERY PROJECT

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Safeguarding access to Equitable, Comprehensive and Quality Healthcare.

Strategic Outcome:

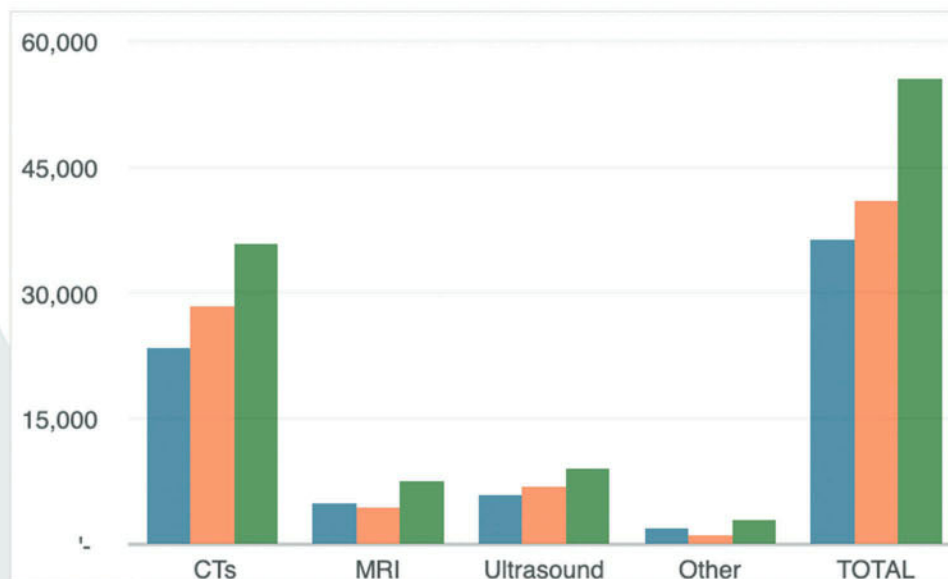
Improved population health status

Focus

Diagnostic services to support treatment and reduce waiting time

Initiated in September 2019, the Enhancing Health Care Services Delivery (EHCS D) Project continues to facilitate the outsourcing of diagnostic services to support appropriate and timely treatment of public patients. Since inception, over 150,000 diagnostics tests have been done and approximately J\$5.5 billion has been disbursed to diagnostic providers. Over the past three years, from 2021 – 2023, there has been a 53% increase in diagnostic tests done, with CT scans as the most requested test. Approximately 50% of tests for the three-year period were for patients within SERHA. Lesser proportion of requests were documented from NERHA (14%), SRHA (20%), WRHA (15%) and Bellevue Hospital and University Hospital of the West Indies (0.3%).

Figure 2: Diagnostic Tests done by Type under the EHCS D Project, 2021-2023



New Limb, New Life

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Safeguarding access to Equitable, Comprehensive and Quality Healthcare.

Strategic Outcome:

Improved population health status

Focus

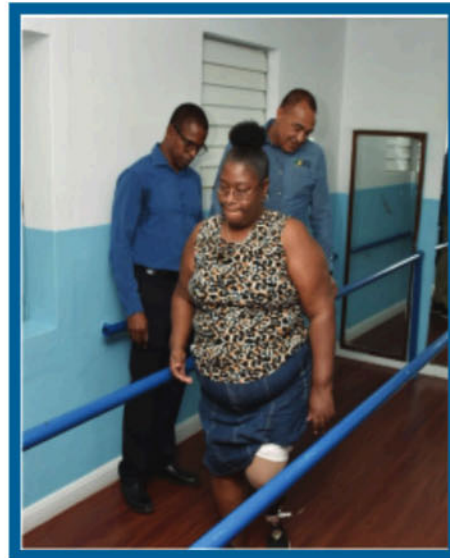
Enhance eligible individuals' mobility, independence and well-being through the provision of prosthetic devices

New Limb, New Life is a collaborative partnership between the Ministry and the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities (JCPD) to provide prosthetic devices to eligible individuals to enhance their mobility, independence and well-being. Eligibility criteria include:

- Loss of limb due to diabetes, arterial disease, trauma and cancer. There is consideration, on a case-by-case basis, for individuals who have lost a limb as a result of birth defects
- Registered with the JCPD
- Suitability for prosthetic limb as determined via assessment at the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre or by a qualified orthopaedic surgeon
- Applications accompanied by invoice from reputable supplier of prosthetic limbs
- Vulnerability assessment conducted by the JCPD

The Ministry's Compassionate Fund Committee has approved 58 applications valuing J\$24,177,400. The greater proportion of applications were for persons who lost limbs due to diabetes (45%). Of the applications received, 16 persons have received their prosthetic devices whilst the remaining persons are in the process of being fitted for their devices. Approximately \$6 million has been disbursed to Surgix Jamaica Limited and Tutu Prosthetics Limited for the 16 applicants in receipt of their prosthetics. The handover ceremony to these main suppliers was held in February 2024.

Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (centre), Minister of Health and Wellness, and Dr. Rory Dixon (left), Senior Medical Officer, Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre, observe as Ms. Juliet Smith, who is one of the beneficiaries under the Ministry's New Limb, New Life Programme, test an artificial leg at the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre on June 8., 2023.



Dr. The Hon. Christopher Tufton (centre) Minister of Health and Wellness, presents a cheque to Mr. Winfield Boban (second from right), Managing Director of Surgix Jamaica, one of two suppliers of prostheses under the New Limb, New Life initiative. Dr. Tufton is flanked by (from left) Dr. the Hon. Norman Dunn, Minister of State, Ministry of Labour & Social Security; the Hon. Parnell Charles Jr, Minister of Labour & Social Security; and Dr. Christine Hendricks (first from right), Executive Director, Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities.



New beneficiary being assisted for the Ministry's New Limb, New Life' programme.

Know Your Numbers

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Safeguarding access to Equitable, Comprehensive and Quality Healthcare.

Strategic Outcome:

Improved population health status

Focus

Increased screening for common NCDs and linkage to care

Over the nine months period from May 2023 – January 2024, the Know Your Numbers screening initiative has made considerable efforts towards achieving the respective national and regional test-based targets set out by the Ministry of Health and Wellness. At the national level, a total of 75,457 tests have been conducted as of the end of January 2024, representing 15.1% of the target (500,000 tests) set to be achieved nationally over a period of 18 months.

Provisional data on the disaggregation of tests by sex indicates that out of the total 75,457 tests conducted between May 2023 and January 2024. Among the RHAs, a total of 42,754 tests were recorded, revealing that 13,948 (32.6%) were conducted on males and 28,806 (67.4%) on females.

The breakdown of the targets achieved over the testing period May 2023 – January 2024 for each screening test targeted is as follows:

- Of the total 100,000 blood glucose tests targeted, 24,825 (25.8%) tests have been conducted to date.
- Of the total 25,000 blood cholesterol tests targeted, 4,887 (19.6%) tests have been conducted to date.
- Of the total 200,000 blood pressure tests targeted, 31,209 (15.6%) tests have been conducted to date.
- Of the total 175,000 body mass index tests targeted, 14,536 (8.3%) tests have been conducted to date.

At the regional level, the NERHA has made the most progress towards achieving its respective regional target. To date, they have conducted a total of 25,376 tests which represents 37.2% of their targeted 68,225 tests to be conducted. The WRHA follows with 21.1% (18,973) of 90,085 targeted tests completed to date. Notably, there has been slower progress made by the SRHA and the SERHA who have so far achieved 13.4% (target of 108,031) and 7% (target of 233,659) of their respective regional targets.

As at the reporting period, six (6) major health screenings have been done in Falmouth, Junction, Linstead, Kingston, Ocho Rios and Montego Bay. For the twelve (12) major screening events, the initial target was for a minimum of four hundred (400) persons per event, however, this target has been increased to 600 persons.



BETTER FOR YOU

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Safeguarding access to Equitable, Comprehensive and Quality Healthcare

Strategic Outcome:

Improved population health status

Focus

Increase population awareness of healthier meal options

The Better For You Initiative, originally launched in May 2021, was relaunched in March 2024. The focus of this initiative remains on making Jamaicans aware of healthier meal options and encouraging nutritional changes. The relaunch saw the announcement of the campaign brand ambassador and the addition of several restaurants including Subway, Wendy's, Tai Tai Ice Cream Rolls and Little Caesar's Pizza. Healthier options are distinguished by the Better for You Logo on participating restaurants' menu boards. Going forward, the Ministry seeks to partner with hotels and caterers to offer Better for You meeting and conference packages to support workplace wellness programmes.



St. Thomas Teen Hub

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Safeguarding access to Equitable, Comprehensive and Quality Healthcare

Strategic Outcome:

Improved population health status

Focus

Expansion of Adolescent Friendly Services

St. Thomas was selected as the second Teen Hub location within the SERHA. The initiative was funded by the European Union and implemented in partnership with the United Nations, through the Spotlight Initiative focusing on combatting gender-based violence and supporting vulnerable youth in the region. This decision was motivated by the distressing prevalence of child abuse and sexual violence in the area. The Teen Hub aims to provide additional support to young individuals by complementing existing assistance received at school and home, thereby addressing gaps in services.

The St. Thomas Teen Hub was officially inaugurated on June 9, 2023, and commenced operations to serve adolescents and young people residing in the parish of St. Thomas and surrounding areas. The services provided by the St. Thomas Teen Hub includes homework and research assistance, health screening, counselling, career guidance, and sexual and reproductive health services.



Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Oxygen-Generating Plants

Vision for Health 2030 Strategic Goal

Safeguarding access to Equitable, Comprehensive and Quality Healthcare

Strategic Outcome:

Improved population health status

Focus

increase availability of medical oxygen at hospitals

FHI360, in collaboration with the MoHW and USAID, initiated the Piped Medical Oxygen Installation project to enhance medical oxygen infrastructure at Kingston Public Hospital (KPH) /Victoria Jubilee Hospital (VJH) and Annotto Bay Hospital (ANH). The project aims to improve healthcare capacity and response to medical emergencies, particularly through the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The project aimed to:

- install vacuum insulated evaporator (VIE) liquid oxygen systems at designated hospitals
- Set-up piping infrastructure to connect VIE systems to bedside medical oxygen
- Provide warranty, maintenance and support for installed systems
- Train relevant staff on system operation and maintenance

During the 2023-2024 period, significant progress was made enhancing oxygen supply infrastructure across key facilities. Assessment, procurement and development of project documents were completed for piping and installation works at Kingston Public Hospital/Victoria Jubilee Hospital and Annotto Bay Hospital. IGL Limited executed piping installation between June and July 2023, also addressing previously uncovered areas by converting outlets to Diameter Index Safety System specifications. VIE Liquid Oxygen Systems were then installed at the hospitals in December 2023 and January 2024. Staff training on system operation and preventative maintenance is scheduled for completion by March 2024. Warranty agreements remain active with IGL since January 2024, covering piping infrastructure for three years and VIE Systems for five. Planned preventative and corrective maintenance continues to be conducted as needed to support reliable oxygen delivery.

REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES HIGHLIGHT NORTH-EAST REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

Programme Delivery

- Over 900 healthcare worker positions including Medical Technologists, Nutritionists and Medical Records roles transitioned to permanent status with Ministry of Finance approval.
- St. Ann's Bay Hospital received Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative certification in December 2023, increasing the region's percentage of certified facilities to 80%.
- Dengue Prevention Control Plan implemented resulting in a decline in the Breteau indices across the region to an average 24.7. This is within the national target of <25 % "PITCH IT to 95" initiative targeting unsuppressed males in St Ann continued engaging 24 males with 23 (96%) being retained in care and on ART at the end of 2023 with 88% being virally suppressed.
- Two additional pharmacies are now dispensing ARV drugs bringing the total to eleven (11) private pharmacies dispensing ART in the NERHA.
- There are now 14 private doctors offering care to PLHIV in the NERHA, 13 through Health Connect Jamaica and 1 through the Ministry of Health and Wellness Public Private initiative.
- The Jamaica Moves in Schools commemorative event, National School Moves Day (NSMD) was observed on April 28, 2023. Sixty-seven schools participated in the National School Moves Day across the region.
- NSMD introduced a competitive component to and the region entered four (4) schools in a "Dare to Move Challenge" competition, 3 from the Primary school category (Annotto Bay Primary, Winner, Scott Hall Primary, Runner-up and Mount Joseph Primary) and one high school (Annotto Bay High, runner-up).

The SABRH laboratory received accreditation re-certification January 10, 2023, following the second annual surveillance assessment. The lab has been accredited since May 24, 2021.

- NERHA's annual Stroke Camp held in October 2023 showed maximal improvements for all patients with deficits in areas such as coordination, balance, hand function and independence.

Investment in Infrastructure and Equipment

For the financial year, NERHA invested \$1,644,095,768.42 on infrastructure improvements and equipment. This included:

- Renovation Works at The Retreat Health Centre In St Mary
- Rehabilitative Works at the Annotto Bay District Health Centre in St Mary
- Refurbishing and equipping of Dietary at Annotto Bay Hospital in St Mary
- Construction Of Special Care Nursery at Annotto Bay Hospital in St Mary (in progress)
- Purchase Of New Digital Radiology Unit and Refurbishing Of Radiology And Laboratory At Port Maria Hospital In St Mary
- Construction of Buff Bay District Health Centre in Portland
- Purchase and Installation of New Industrial Washers at Port Antonio and Port Maria Hospitals
- Construction of Administrative Building at St Ann Health Department in St Ann
- Rehabilitative Works at The Alexandria Community Hospital in St Ann (in progress)
- Purchase Of Defibrillators and Tabletop Sterilizers for Facilities
- Supply And Installation of Dental Equipment at Facilities
- Rehabilitative Works at Operating Theatre Suites 1 & 2 At St Ann's Bay Regional Hospital
- Purchase And Retrofitting of Ambulances







SOUTH EAST REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (SERHA)

Investment in Medical Equipment

- Contract with Arel Limited to supply, install and maintain a total of six X-ray machines at a cost of J\$453,448,559.67. Three new x-ray units have been installed at the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH) and one machine each is to be installed at the Bustamante Hospital for Children, Spanish Town Hospital and the National Chest Hospital.



Photo showing a box with the X-Ray Main Disconnect Panel, which provides emergency shut down, undervoltage protection and overcurrent protection for the machine.



Image showing the box with one of the beds that will be used to examine patients in the X-ray units at KPH

- A major highlight for the Victoria Jubilee Hospital was the acquisition of major equipment for the Special Care Nursery (SCN), namely: five (5) ventilators (SERHA), \$8.5M in donations from the Bob and Rita Marley Foundation, four (4) Resuscitaire® machines, two (2) Incubators, fourteen (14) suction machines, four (4) T-piece resuscitators and ten (10) suction glass bottles. There were improvements in the acquisition of sundries and equipment through emergency procurement.

Expanded Service Provision

- Adolescent health clinics opened at the Edna Manley and Maxfield Park Centres. The adolescent health clinic at the Edna Manley Health Centre is held every fourth Friday, monthly, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and the Maxfield Park Health Centre is held every first Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The services offered at the clinic include health promotion in general medical care, sexual and reproductive health, oral health, counselling, general physician services, dental services by referral, and reproductive health. Children ages 10 to 19 are invited to attend the adolescent health clinics for their regular checkups.

- The Kingston Public Hospital resumed the full function of the Gastroenterology service. The Upper and Lower GI endoscopes were also repaired. Kingston Public Hospital remains the only hospital in the public sector of Jamaica to provide this service.

Redevelopment of Spanish Town Hospital

Medical services at the Spanish Town Hospital - the largest 'type B' facility in the island is set to be transformed with the redevelopment of the 430-bed facility. This was announced during the official groundbreaking ceremony on January 16, 2024. The renovation works, valued at around \$5.5 billion Jamaican dollars, will see the building of a state-of-the-art, six-storey facility spanning more than 17,000 square metres. As a result, patient care delivery at the facility will expand to new services including urology, oncology, cardiology, gastroenterology, ophthalmology, and psychiatry.

It will be equipped with technology including electronic access to patient medical records. The move is in keeping with making available reliable and modern infrastructure for health service delivery, a goal articulated in the Ministry of Health and Wellness' Vision for Health 2030 Ten-Year Strategic Plan. The Redevelopment is being implemented by the Government of Jamaica through financial support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). A total of USD \$148 million dollars has been allocated for the Health Systems Strengthening Programme (HSSP), of which the Government of Jamaica has committed USD \$87 million dollars.



Architect's rendering of the front elevation of the upgraded Spanish Town Hospital.



Photo moment with the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, ON, PC, MP (centre), Prime Minister of Jamaica; Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (fourth right), Minister of Health and Wellness; Her Excellency Marianne Van Steen (second right), Ambassador of the European Union to Jamaica; Hon. Icylin M. Golding (third left), Custos Rotulorum of St. Catherine; Mr. Abdon Campbell (second left) Parish Manager, St. Catherine Health Services; Mr. Orett Clarke (third right), Programme Manager, HSSP; Ms. Jacqueline Ellis (fourth left), Chief Executive Officer, Spanish Town Hospital and Mr. Lorenzo Escondeur, IDB.



Signing ceremony held at the ground breaking launch of Spanish Town Hospital Redevelopment Project.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (SRHA)

Thompson Town and Halse Hall Health Centres Adopted

The Thompson Town Health Centre in Clarendon will be receiving \$4 million in support over a four-year period under the Adopt-a-Clinic Programme. Diaspora group Caribbean Angels Inc. adopted the public-health facility on April 28. The Thompson Town Health Centre serves a population of 20,000 from surrounding communities with a staff complement of 12. The facility was opened in the 1950s and is approximately 70 years old. Among the services offered are curative, antenatal, postnatal and child healthcare, home visits, nutrition, wound dressing, food handlers' clinic and contact investigation.

The Halse Hall Health Centre in Clarendon was adopted by the United States (US)-based Atlanta-Jamaica Association (AJA). The partnership, being facilitated under the Government's Adopt-A-Clinic Initiative, was formally announced Friday August 4, 2023. The AJA will sponsor the centre to the tune of \$3 million over the next three years. The first tranche of \$1 million will be used to purchase examination tables, undertake minor

Health Centre Infrastructural Improvements

The Mandeville Comprehensive Health Centre in Manchester has been upgraded to offer improved services and retrofitted with additional safety features to be more resilient to natural disasters. The work was done under the US\$6.5-million Caribbean-wide Smart Health Project, funded through the United Kingdom (UK) Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, with support from the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO). Safety features include the replacement or strengthening of damaged timber roof material, waterproofing, installation of new doors and hurricane windows, replacement of damaged floor finishes and the introduction of antimicrobial surfaces in critical areas.

The electrical network was upgraded, firefighting equipment installed, and fire-detection devices put in. The green areas at the facility were improved to provide more efficient cooling and ventilation. A rainwater harvesting system has also been installed at the Centre with both above ground and underground tanks, stormwater drains improved, and LED lights, solar and water heaters installed to lower operating expenditure.

The upgraded and retrofitted Santa Cruz Health Centre in St. Elizabeth was officially handed over January 2024. This state-of-the-art centre has been designated a “smart facility”, with the capability to respond effectively to crises while maintaining core functions during disasters and public health threats, exemplifying the ongoing efforts to fortify the country’s health system. Work at the Santa Cruz facility encompassed both structural and non-structural improvements, with a focus on promoting sustainability. On the structural side, notable additions included a new reinforced concrete roof covering the walkway between buildings two and three, and a new reinforced concrete walkway and lightweight timber roof connecting all buildings. Non-structural enhancements involved the installation of hurricane shutters on all windows, the incorporation of two 1,000-gallon potable water storage tanks with a booster pump, and the implementation of various safety measures. These safety measures include a new fire alarm and public address (PA) system, fire extinguishers, signage and fire hose reels.

The Broadleaf Health Centre in Manchester was reopened after major renovation and expansion works through funding support from the Jamaica Bauxite Institute. The work was completed for just over \$10 million and was officially opened on August 22, 2023. The Broadleaf Health Centre provides antenatal and postnatal care, family planning services, and more. Work done at the health centre included expansion of the waiting area, additional space to accommodate staff, storage area renovated, parking area created, restroom repaired, termite infestation treated, water storage drum with water pump installed, building painted and perimeter fence erected.

Hospital Infrastructural Improvements & Service Provision

A digital retrofit system valued at J\$37 million was commissioned in July 2023 at the Black River Hospital. Benefits derived from this system include faster image acquisition, better workflow, superior image quality, less radiation exposure for patients, better monitoring of patient radiation dose, reduced operation cost, faster image distribution and less storage needs.

A renal anaemia clinic was implemented at the Mandeville Regional Hospital in Manchester to manage and monitor renal patients. Anaemia issues amongst renal patients led to increasing levels of hospitalization with SRHA. The clinic is the only one of its kind on the island and is open every Wednesday. The anaemia clinic serves some 179 patients, who are provided with blood and iron transfusion and erythropoietin injections to assist with keeping their blood levels within the normal range.

The May Pen Hospital is the first public health facility to benefit from the introduction of an Electronic Health Records (EHR) system in Jamaica. The EHR is a health information system with functionalities in patient registration, outpatient scheduling, inpatient and outpatient clinical documentation, patient flow and care planning, among other functionalities. The system's implementation will mean shorter wait times for patients; less cost in providing services; increased productivity; reduced staff frustration; and increased service satisfaction levels.



WESTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (WRHA)

Adopt-A-Clinic

- Petrojam Limited has committed \$1 million annually for the next three years to the Montego Bay Type 5 Health Centre
- The Ulster Spring Health Centre was adopted by the Jamaica Association of New Jersey at a value of JMD\$3m over three years. Adoption Ceremony was held on Sept 15, 2023
- The Grange Hill Health Centre was adopted by the Kadeen Mairs Family. A commitment of \$1,000,000/yr. for 5 years or \$5,000,000 total over 5 years was made. Adoption Ceremony was held on October 6, 2023

Investment in Biomedical Equipment

- Autoclaves were provided and installed at multiple health centres, including Falmouth, Albert Town, Lucea, Catherine Hall, and Grange Hill. Savanna La Mar Hospital received a central autoclave to support sterilization processes efficiently.
- Dental compressor installations were completed at Falmouth Health Centre, improving dental care capabilities within the region. Dental delivery units and suction were installed at various health centres, enhancing dental services accessibility
- Significant efforts were also directed towards repairing x-ray units at Cornwall Regional Hospital, Savanna La Mar Hospital, Noel Holmes Hospital, and Falmouth Hospital, ensuring the availability of diagnostic services.
- New anaesthesia machines were deployed at Cornwall Regional Hospital and Noel Holmes Hospital.
- Installation of medical gases in specific wards at Falmouth Hospital.

Investment in Other Equipment

Laundry Equipment

- In support of hospital hygiene and efficiency, the Authority provided and installed essential laundry equipment at key facilities. This included the installation of a 150 lbs UNIMAC dryer at Falmouth Hospital and a 450 lbs Milnor barrier washer at Cornwall Regional Hospital. These installations are critical for maintaining clean and sanitized linens, contributing to infection control protocols within the healthcare settings.

HVAC System and Electromechanical Equipment

- To optimize environmental conditions within hospital operating theatres and departments, WRHA supplied and installed various HVAC systems and electromechanical equipment. This included the provision of two 30-ton Condenser units for Falmouth and Cornwall Regional Hospital operating theatres. Additionally, two 5-ton Fresh Air Package units were installed at Cornwall Regional Hospital's Operating Theatre, supported by a comprehensive service contract.
- Furthermore, a 10-ton air conditioning unit was deployed at Savanna La Mar Hospital's Accident & Emergency (A&E) department, ensuring a comfortable and controlled environment for patients and staff.

Vaccine Storage and Refrigeration

- Recognizing the importance of vaccine storage and cold chain management, the Authority deployed essential refrigeration units across the region. A total of 35 vaccinerefrigerators were strategically placed, with plans for the installation of four additional units to further support vaccination efforts.
- Additionally, nine vaccine generators were successfully installed during the reporting period, with ongoing installations aimed at strengthening the region's vaccine storage infrastructure.

Medical Equipment and Supplies Donations

Various organizations and entities made impactful donations of medical equipment and supplies to healthcare facilities within the WRHA. These donations include:

- Forty-eight wheelchairs and other medical supplies, 35 over-bed tables, two stretchers, two paediatric beds, and one examination table were donated by Food for the Poor
- USA's non-profit healthcare provider, Northwell Health donated a Cardiotocograph machine to the Noel Holmes Hospital
- Global Surgeries at the University of Toronto donated to the Savanna-La-Mar Hospital, 29 Hospital Beds, over 30 Mattresses and PPEs
- The Usain Bolt Foundation donated \$235,385.39 to purchase paint and other supplies for the renovation of the Deeside and Sherwood Health Centres in Trelawny
- The Jamaica Awareness Association of California (JAAC) medical mission team donated a Laparoscopic Tower valued at US\$250,000 along with instruments and supplies to the Falmouth Hospital.
- The Sandals Foundation has donated an emergency stretcher and over-bed tables to the Falmouth Hospital. The donation is valued at over \$1.3 million dollars.
- Rotary International, through a partnership with the Negril Rotary Club, donated medical equipment including a bassinet, blood pressure machines, glucose meters, baby scale, etc, valued over JMD \$4M to the Negril Health Centre
- The Falmouth Public General Hospital in Trelawny received a \$15-million grant from the Japanese Government for the purchase of an ambulance under its Grassroots Project.
- The Trelawny Corporative Credit Union donated two stretchers to the Falmouth Public General Hospital
- Project Cure, the world's largest distributor of donated medical equipment and supplies globally (<https://projectcure.org/>), donated a 40 feet container of medical supplies and small medical equipment. The donation is valued, for custom clearance purposes, at USD586, 596.91

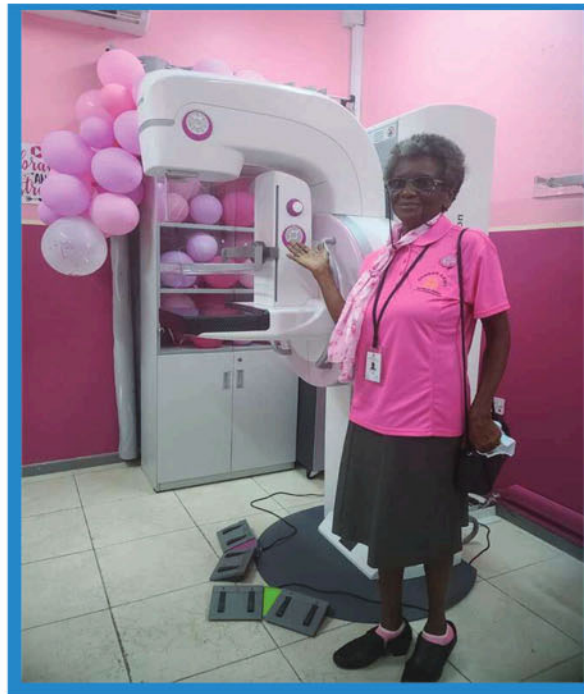
Capital Projects for FY 2023/2024

Table 1 Showing WRHA Capital Projects

#	Projects	Funding Agency	Facility/ Parish	Project Cost	Total Cost	Status
1	Perimeter Fencing and Walkway – Hopewell Health Centre	NHF	Hanover	J\$4,859,120.00	J\$22,971,879.50	Completed
2	Renovation of Lucea Health Centre Cottage	NHF		On-going (30%)		
3	Road Rehabilitation Project – Lucea Health Centre	MOHW		On-going (45%)		
4	Paving of Staff Carpark – Noel Holmes Hospital	John Galt Insurance Co. Ltd		Completed		
5	Retrofitting of medical sundries container	NHF		Completed		
6	Fencing and Paving Project – Cambridge Health Centre	NHF		Completed		
7	Paving of Catherine Hall Health Centre	NHF		Completed		
8	Renovation of Catherine Hall Health Centre Patient Bathrooms	NHF		Completed		
9	Electrical Upgrade – Cambridge Health Centre	NHF				
10	External works at Adelphi Health Centre (Perimeter fencing)	NHF	St. James	J\$11,871,780.00	J\$95,280,175.60	On-going (60%)
11	Renovation of Catadupa Health Centre (Roof repairs, Retiling, Cupboards)	NHF	On-going (95%)			
12	Partial Fencing of Greenpond Health Centre	NHF	On-going (70%)			
13	Renovation of Glendevon Health Centre	CHASE Fund	Completed			

#	Projects	Funding Agency	Facility/ Parish	Project Cost	Total Cost	Status
14	Renovation of Salt Spring Health Centre (CHASE Fund)	CHASE Fund	Trelawny	J\$11,700,000.00	J\$71,740,669.00	Completed
15	Accident & Emergency and X-ray Roof Repairs	NHF		J\$9,792,680.00		Completed
16	Termite treatment of Ulster Spring Health Centre	NHF		J\$1,454,202.00		Completed
17	Rehabilitation of Ulster Spring Health Centre	NHF		J\$5,146,372.00		On-going
18	Rehabilitation of Ulster Spring Health Centre Cottage	NHF		J\$3,628,300.00		Completed
19	Renovation of Albert Town Health Centre Cottage	NHF		J\$4,700,000.00		Completed
20	Rehabilitation of Walkway Covering	NHF		J\$47,019,115.00		On-going (55%)
21	Perimeter Fencing – Whitehouse Health Centre	NHF		J\$3,921,655.00		Completed
22	Medical Records Storage Extension	NHF		J\$4,578,830.00		Completed
23	Road Rehabilitation Project – Savanna-lamar Public General Hospital	MOHW		Westmoreland		J\$22,994,020.00
24	Roof Project – Maternity, Isolation and Doctors	WRHA	J\$6,626,600.00	Completed		
25	Roof Repair Block's A, B & C	WRHA	J\$12,084,700.07	Completed		
26	Walkway and Ramp Covering Block D Oncology and Dialysis	WRHA	J\$424,100.00	Completed		
27	Ophthalmology Container Clinic Structural Steel Roof (Phase 1 and 2)	NHF	J\$11,840,860.00	Completed		

#	Projects	Funding Agency	Facility/ Parish	Project Cost	Total Cost	Status
28	Procurement of retrofitted container for patient bathrooms at Accident & Emergency Department – Cornwall Regional Hospital	NHF	Cornwall Regional Hospital	J\$3,560,860.00	J\$41,030,420.07	Completed
29.	Repairs to Operating Theatre	WRHA		J\$5,890,300.00		Completed
30.	Radiology Services Improvement	WRHA		J\$6,875,100.00		Completed
31	Retiling of Renal Unit	WRHA		J\$354,500.00		Completed
Overall Total				J\$269,144,249.17		



Sister Melvorn Stewart, Chaplain of CRH

Expansion in Services

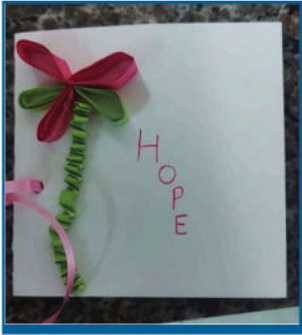
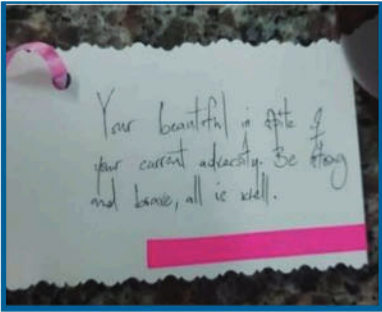
- The Eye Theatre at Cornwall Regional Hospital was commissioned in November 2023. Cataract, glaucoma and pterygium excision surgeries are now available
- Mammography machine was commissioned and launched in October 2023

Compassionate Care

- 177 staff members trained in customer service
 - 45 new Customer Service Personnel have been hired throughout the region
 - 19 staff members were trained in the Complaints Management System
 - 16 Quality Assessments done with recommendations to enhance basic infrastructure of several health facilities
- Cambridge Health Centre had its Compassionate Care Launch on November 1, 2023
- The Tree of Hope initiative was introduced at the Cornwall Regional Hospital Oncology unit. To commemorate breast cancer awareness, Mega Mart. Kingston donated a tree and cards of hope were hand-made. Staff members wrote hopeful messages that would serve as encouragement to patients. The cards were used as ornaments on the tree



Tree of Hope Initiative



Regional Customer Service Unit and Other members of the team that made this initiative

The University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI)

128-Slice Philips Incisive CT Scanner

- Installation of a 128-Slice Philips Incisive CT Scanner in the Radiology Department, to provide the latest in imaging technology to patients in Jamaica and the Region. The patient-centric scanner accommodates a wide range of exams and delivers faster, more reliable CT imaging, leading to valuable clinical insights. It uses an advanced X-ray technique known as computed tomography, which makes it possible for radiologists to view bones, organs, blood vessels and even the heart in extraordinary detail. Successively, this helps to diagnose a wide variety of conditions earlier and faster than ever before.



Upper Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and ERCP



Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) is a procedure that combines upper gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy and x-rays to find and treat problems of the bile and pancreatic ducts.

A new chiller unit - \$55M was procured to provide fresh air to facilitate the opening of the 13-Bed intensive Care Unit

New Advanced Ventilation for ICU



First Minimally Invasive Heart Valve Procedure in The Interventional Suite



This procedure avoids patients from having open-heart surgery. These minimally invasivetechniques allow many patients to go home either the same day or within a few days of their procedure. Avoiding the cost and morbidity of a prolonged ICU/hospital stay and, of course, no big scar on chest.



Training and Research

- In the year 2023, 14 Medical Doctors were trained from the territories and 330 DM including Honorary Residents and Fellows.
- Three (3) Fellowship requests were facilitated in:
 1. Spine Programme at University of Toronto
 2. Nuclear Pharmacy at Kings College London
 3. Transfusion Medicine at National Institute of Health Maryland and St. George's College Hospital London
- Training and development opportunities facilitated for four hundred and fifty-seven (457) members of staff in the areas of Customer Service, Post Basic Nursing Training, BSc, Associate, MSc Degrees, and Certificate Courses.



NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DRUG ABUSE

Research Updates

WHO/PAHO St. Catherine Study

- Baseline completed in 23 St. Catherine Schools in May 2023 (3,041 students)
- Data to Action Workshop Conducted in September 2023 among intervention school representatives.
- Priority areas: Mental Health, Violence, Physical Activity, Protective Factors
- Action Plan Developed and being implemented.
- WHO supporting interventions for 2 years.
- Follow-up studies in 23 schools in 2026
- Baseline results presented to Health and Education Ministers

National Drug Prevalence Survey

- Prevalence and patterns of psychoactive substance use among 12-65 year olds
 - Representative at the parish and national levels
 - Completion was delayed due to data quality issues in 2 parishes. Teams re-deployed to collect data.
 - Completion expected in 2 months.
 - Dissemination schedules for July 2024
- Early Warning System on Drug Launched
- February 2, 2024
 - Over 15 participating public health and public security institutions participating
 - TOR & Protocols developed
 - Capacity building needs identified
 - National sensitization needs of health and law enforcement networks determined
 - Need for legislative framework to address New Psychoactive Substances, Cannabis products, Psilocybin products and other emerging substances

The Global Situation

- NPS has become a global phenomenon with 134 countries and territories from all regions of the world having reported one or more NPS.
- Up to December 2021, 1,124 substances have been reported to the UNODC Early Warning Advisory (EWA) on NPS by Governments, laboratories and partner organizations.
- NPS available on the market have similar effects as substances under international control such as cannabis, cocaine, heroin, LSD, MDMA (ecstasy) or methamphetamine.
- The majority of NPS reported are stimulants, followed by synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists and classic hallucinogens.
- Notable increase in synthetic opioids in recent years.

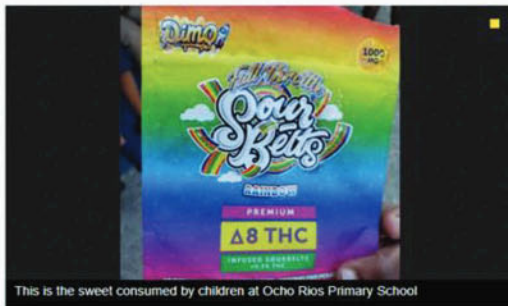
NPS Challenges

- Lack of knowledge about safety and toxicity, risks and consequences
- Users' unawareness about what they consume
- Increase in associated overdoses and fatal cases
- Substances that are outside of the international control
- Difficulties in identifying the substances chemically

Changing Context: Liquid Molly

Dozens of Ocho Rios Primary students rushed to hospital after falling ill

3:31 pm, Mon October 2, 2023



Cops raise alarm over students' pill parties

... Drugs also being hidden in resealed snacks

Share this Story: Like 48 Tweet in Share 11

Published: Thursday | April 7, 2022 | 12:06 AM | Ruddy Mathison/Gleaner Writer

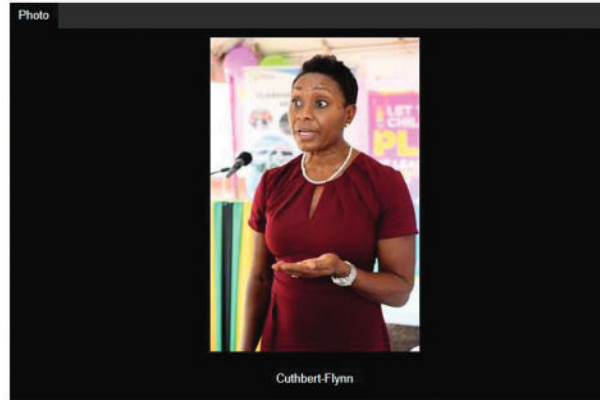


Students have been finding more creative ways to sneak contraband into schools to satisfy their urges for drugs and

OFFICIAL EWS LAUNCH FEBRUARY 2, 2024

Jamaica launches early warning system on drugs

February 05, 2024 | Share on  Like 0  Post  



In a landmark event signalling a united front against the rising threat of new psychoactive substances, Jamaica has become the fourth country in the Caribbean, along with Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, to launch an early warning system on drugs.

JAMAICA on Friday became the fourth Caribbean country to establish an early warning system (EWS) on drugs, joining Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The EWS will function as an institutional network of key stakeholders tasked with issuing alerts about new psychotropic substances, developing rapid and effective responses, and maintaining a surveillance system using information from multiple sources, including epidemiologists.

National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA) will collaborate with 15 organisations, chiefly across public health and national security, to curtail drug abuse and illicit trafficking in Jamaica.

Addressing Friday's launch at Jamaica Pegasus hotel in New Kingston, minister of state in the Ministry of National Security Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn said the rise in new psychotropic substances poses a significant threat to Jamaica, primarily because of the country's geographic location.

"The country is very vulnerable to drug trafficking and trans-shipment syndicates. The introduction of new drugs is very unpredictable, is poorly understood, and presents distinctive requirements, not only for drug treatment and public health but also for law enforcement," she explained.

Cuthbert-Flynn said that in 2022 the Government was alerted to a growing trend in the use of Molly among youth, and in October 2023 approximately 60 students of Ocho Rios Primary School in St Ann

OFFICIAL EWS LAUNCH FEBRUARY 2, 2024



Ambassador, Adam Namm

Executive Secretary
of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control
Commission of the Organization of
American States

UPCOMING RESEARCH INITIATIVE

3-COUNTRY RAPID ASSESSMENT ON SYNTHETIC DRUGS



Objectives

- Describe the trafficking, sale, distribution, and use of synthetic and other emerging drugs
- Review the national response to synthetic and other emerging drugs.
- Provide recommendations on how countries can better monitor and respond to these emerging drug threats through the use of EWS and other approaches.

Mixed Methods

- Secondary analysis of previous studies, reports, and available data (law enforcement, public health, drug treatment, etc.)
- Qualitative data (interviews with experts/key informants).
- Data from the results of forensic analyses of samples of NPS and other drugs submitted to national laboratories.

Collaborating Agencies

- National Drug Council/National Drug Observatories (Main partners)
- Early Warning Systems
- Law enforcement agencies (police, customs, etc.)
- Forensic labs
- Drug treatment facilities
- Drug Prevention agencies and other social interventions
- Universities
- Timeframe March to July 2024

CLIENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT YEAR TO DATE TARGETS

• Strategies implemented this year thus far has reached over 154,000 persons and included public education, standardized evidence-based prevention and treatment programmes, and training of stakeholders in prevention and treatment interventions to expand reach. There are eleven (11) key indicators, and they were met as outlined below:

- ☐ 9 met – 100% or more
- ☐ 2 met – 89% to 99%
- ☐ 3 met – less than 50%

Major Activity/Initiative	Intended Results	Performance Measures	Current Actuals (April 2023 - March 2024)	% Target/Met
Conduct public education campaigns	Public education campaign conducted	# of Public education campaigns conducted	1	33.3%
		3 campaigns conducted		
	Presentations conducted	# of persons reached through presentations, etc. and online engagement	154,413	96.5% met
	Pre-post tests conducted. Pre-post tests conducted	65% increase in knowledge	74.5%	Over 100% met
	Social media campaigns conducted	# of persons reached through social media	2,705,638	Over 100% met
		1,200,000 persons reached		
Build the capacity of children through prevention programmes	Universal, selective, and indicated prevention programmes conducted	# of children engaged in prevention programmes	3,662	Over 100% met
		2,200 children enrolled in programmes		
	Intention to use instrument administered	% decrease in intention to use psychoactive substances	-	0%
Capacity building of workforce team to deliver evidence-based prevention programmes	ISSUP prevention training conducted	# of team members trained in International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP) Universal Prevention Curriculum (UPC) modules	Not yet available online	0%
		4 Team members trained		
Targeted treatment programmes and interventions delivered.	Conduct primary treatment programmes	# of persons in treatment	1,163	89% met
		1,300 persons in treatment		
	Evaluation of treatment programmes conducted.	% of persons progressing in treatment	79%	Over 100% met
		79% of persons progressing		
	SBIRT training conducted	# of persons trained in Screening Brief Intervention & Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)	626	Over 100% met
		250 Stakeholders trained		
	ISSUP treatment training conducted	# of team members trained in ISSUP Universal Treatment Curriculum (UTC) modules	6	Over 100% met
		4 team members trained in UTC		

Treatment Update

- During the period April 2023 to March 2024, the NCDCA engaged 1,163 clients (81% new, 19% repeat) in treatment.
- Clients were referred from schools, workplaces, government programmes (Child Diversion, Probation, mental health clinics, Drug Treatment Courts), families and self-referrals.
- The clientele was comprised of adults 32.5% and children 67.5%.
- 79% of clients progressed.
- 3,880 sessions were conducted (3,115 Individual, 690 Family and 75 Group) with 1,452 drug tests (580 positive, 872 negative) administered across all categories.

DRUG OF IMPACT

- ☐ Ganja - 67% (use- 26%, misuse-41%)
- ☐ Alcohol - 14% (use- 8%, misuse-6%)
- ☐ Tobacco- 10.6% (use- 5.6%, misuse-5%)
- ☐ Cocaine – 1.3% (use- 0.2%, misuse-1.1%)
- ☐ E.N.D.S- 6.7%
- ☐ Prescription Medication- 0.3%
- ☐ Methamphetamine - 0.1%

TRANSITION UPDATES

- Change management initiatives ongoing.
- Staff support measures in place – counselling, regular updates, meetings.
- Draft Organizational Structure preliminarily approved by PS for submission to MOFP.
- Job Descriptions being drafted (80% completed)
- Assets schedule prepared and submitted to MOHW for transfer.
- Agency’s bank accounts to be closed at end of June and funds to Consol.
- Preparation for redundancy exercise in consultation with Board and Union.
- On track for July 31 deadline.



FINANCE

- Requested Budget for F/Y 2023/24 J\$472,296,550
- Budget Received for F/Y 2023/24 J\$326,115,000 which includes \$16,115,000 for Public Education Campaign (Alcohol and Tobacco)
- Requested Budget for F/Y 2024/25 J\$707,713,907

NEXT STEPS

- Interviews for jobs
- Re-employment, diversions, or separation.
- Orientation to MOHW policies, procedures and culture.
- Strengthen team building and networking
- Explore synergies.
- Improve efficiency and productivity

NATIONAL HEALTH FUND

Expanding Coverage on the NHFCARD

The Individual Benefits Programme is the core business of the National Health Fund. It is therefore imperative that the relevance of the programme be maintained through the provision of meaningful benefits to individuals living with the conditions covered on the programme. In October 2023, the NHF added 5 new conditions to the NHFCard.



5 New Conditions added to the NHFCard

The five conditions – Lung Cancer, Colorectal Cancer, Multiple Myeloma, Parkinson’s Disease and Thyroid Disease – bring the number of conditions covered by the NHF to twenty-two (22), and will come with ten new Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) frequently prescribed by physicians, to be used for treatment. The projected cost to support this move is estimated at JMD \$450 million dollars.



MOHW Performance Highlights Report, FY 2023-24

- Total enrolment under the Individual Benefits Programme was 770,513 as at January 31, 2024.
- 1,896,241 enrollees were on the database with hypertension having the highest number recorded -447,503, followed by arthritis-262,591, high cholesterol- 256,141, diabetes- 228,140, vascular conditions- 204,577 and lung cancer having the least number enrolled – 25
- Five new conditions were added to the Individual Benefits programme on October 24, 2023. These include: Thyroid disease, Parkinson’s disease, Multiple Myeloma, Lung Cancer and Colorectal Cancer. To date, total enrolment per the new conditions are as follows: Colorectal–67, Lung-25, Multiple Myeloma-83, Parkinson’s-164, and Thyroid – 667.

HPPR & Customer Care- Positively Impacting Overall Customer Experience

Customer Service Awards

The National Health Fund (NHF) topped the Public Sector Service Excellence Awards, copping four of the eight award categories contested.

The awards won were:

- Operational Excellence for modelling public sector efficiency
- The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award for demonstrating commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion
- The Digital Innovation and Modernisation Award for the use of digital technologies in service, and
- The Customer Experience Award for improvement to public service and enhanced constituent experience

20,000 screened for World Hypertension Day

Hypertension, also known as high blood pressure, is a silent killer that affects millions of people worldwide. In recognition of World Hypertension Day and as part of the observations to commemorate its 20th anniversary, the National Health Fund (NHF) conducted blood pressure screenings for 20-thousand persons across the island. The NHF collaborated with the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Medical Association of Jamaica, nongovernmental organizations, private sector entities, and churches to conduct the blood pressure screenings at more than 165 locations islandwide to help Jamaicans “know their numbers”. The initiative also aimed to raise awareness about high blood pressure, a condition that often goes unnoticed due to its lack of symptoms but can lead to severe health problems such as heart attacks, strokes, and kidney disease.

Drug Serv Pharmacies

Number of prescriptions filled: 2,346,534

Value of items dispensed/distributed: \$6,826,957,427

Service level: 93%

Bustamante Children’s Hospital Gets ISO Certification The Drug Serv Pharmacy at the Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC) managed by the National Health Fund (NHF) is now ISO 9001:2015 certified, following a successful surveillance and scope expansion audit by the National Certification Body of Jamaica (NCBJ). Certification was officially awarded to NHF, and presented to the Drug Serv Pharmacy in May 2023. The scope of certification is the dispensing of pharmaceuticals prescribed by a registered medical practitioner. Drug Serv Bustamante Hospital is now the tenth Drug Serv pharmacy to be certified. Overall, sixteen NHF locations including warehouses, help desks and head office now hold certificates of conformity for the ISO 9001:2015 standard.



Supporting Infrastructural Development in the Public Sector

Completed Projects (\$149.62M)

- Compassionate Care – Total \$17.22M spent
- Percy Junior Hospital - \$10.80M
- Mandeville Hospital - \$6.42M
- Renovation & Upgrading of Chapelton Community Hospital - \$56.25M
- New Boiler & Renovation of Boiler Room at Savanna-la-mar Hospital - \$29M
- Electrical Upgrade of Falmouth General Public Hospital - \$47.15M

THE NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING BOARD

The National Family Planning Board's (NFPB's) 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. Here are the achievements in the fiscal year 2023/2024. Several sponsored Mass Media Campaigns for the promotion of family planning commodities and the prevention of HIV/STI were developed and placed. These included placement of television and radio commercials, billboards, bus shelters and bus wraps. The campaign materials were also placed on the NFPB's and their partners' social media platforms. Other components of some campaigns included capacity building of health care workers to promote and deliver services and provide support in community settings.

The campaigns placed were:

- Champions For Change to support persons living with HIV/AIDS - Tagline: "Be a Champion For Change".
- HIV Self Testing for sexually active males and females - Tagline: "Get Yuh kit, Test Yuh Self."
- Long-acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC) targeting adolescents and youth tagline 19-25 years. Tagline: "LARC Til Yuh Ready".
- Long-acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC) – females 25 to 45 years – Tagline: "LARC, You got the Freedom of Choice".
- Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) -Tagline: "Are You PrEP'ared?".
- 'Yute' Expression's 'Yute' Chatz". - Tagline: Get the FACTS.



Social media strategy: The power of social media influencers in promoting products and services was borne out through the NFPB's collaborations with some of key personalities who have high levels of engagement through their followers. Several popular social media influencers were engaged in the promotion of products for sexual and reproductive health. These collaborations led to greater awareness of the Yute Chatz Chatbot; Condom use and abstinence; and HIV Self-Testing. Some social media influencers engaged for the promotion of HIV self -testing were Tanaania, TC Rebel, and Estafan who detailed their experience using the product.

Co-sponsorship of social media (YouTube) production – The NFPB sponsored Episodes 2 and 8 in Season 3 of "Balla", a teen drama aired on YouTube. Balla Episode 2 hit 115,000 views in less than 10 hours of posting and recorded 436,000 views by the end of March 2024. Episode 8 within the first 10 days of its posting hit 303,000 views and registered 419,000 views at the end of March 2024.

The Reproductive Health Survey 2021 - The Reproductive Health Survey 2021 was completed by STATIN and disseminated at a launch ceremony held in February 2024. The previous survey was completed in 2008. Among the key findings of the survey were:

- Total Fertility Rate (TFR) – Declined from 4.5 (1973-1975) to 1.9 (2021).
- Age specific fertility rate at its lowest among several age cohorts – 15-19 year olds 34 down from 72; among 20-24 year olds 114 down from 124; among 30-34 year olds (75 down from 96) and 35-39 years (43 down from 54), among 40-44 (22 down from 34). Exception is 25-29 year olds which increased from 94 to 99 possibly pursuing education & delayed childbirth.
- Contraceptive prevalence - 72.5% in 2021 (Global target 75% - SDG 3.7).
- Current use of contraceptives by parity, 1997-2021- Contraceptive use increases with the number of children they already have, that is 55% (no children); 55% (1 child); 63% (2 children); 69% (3 children); 74% (4 children).

- Planning status of most recent pregnancy 1989-2021 – Planned 46% (increasing from 25% in 1989 but was 50% in 2008); Mistimed 37% (consistently declining since 1989 when it was 52%); Unwanted 13% (consistently declining since 1989 when it was 20%).
- Condom use –Awareness is universal for females and males. Ever used 80.5% vs 75.7%; used within last 30 days 16.2% vs 12.2%; used within 12 months of survey 28.1% vs 51.8%; effective in preventing pregnancy (effective to very effective) 51.1% vs 65.8%; effective in preventing STIs (effective to very effective) 62.5% vs. 68.8%.
- Correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS and Mother-To-Child-Transmission (MTCT) – Almost universal knowledge that HIV can be asymptomatic (96.9% F; 94.5% M); 61.1% females and 56.5% know no cure exists. 78.4% females and 70.5% males know HIV can be transmitted during pregnancy; 64.9% and 56.8% know it can be transmitted during delivery; 83.3% and 70.8% know it can be transmitted by breastfeeding; and 72.4% and 59.8% know drugs exist to prevent MTCT.

Collaborations with partner agencies – The NFPB collaborated with the Ministries of Education and Youth (MOEY) and Labour and Social Security, to review policy and guidelines for the management of HIV/AIDS in schools and the HIV/AIDS workplace policy respectively. The revised documents are expected at the end of the next fiscal year 2024/2025.

Policy initiatives – Significant work was done with the preparation of the draft concept note for the sexual and reproductive health policy for the MOHW. The draft will be revised by the MOHW executive prior to the development of the cabinet submission.

Draft concept notes were developed for the Policy and Legal Framework for In-vitro Fertilisation (IVF) in collaboration with the Hugh Wynter Fertility Management Unit. Other policy initiatives were the MOHW Operational Anti-Discrimination Policy, and the health sector Gender-based Violence (GBV) Action Plan.

Ensure the availability of a range of contraceptive supplies.

As per forecast, \$46.34 million of contraceptive commodities (male latex condoms, implants, injectables and syringes) were procured. The UNFPA facilitated the procurement process. The quantities and types of commodities distributed to the Regional Health Authorities & private physicians for the fiscal year 2023/2024 are listed below:

Types and Quantities of contraceptive commodities distributed fiscal year 2023/2024.

Commodity	Quantity
Male Condoms	5,013,886 pieces
Injectables	140,944 doses
Microgymon	45,972 cycles
Copper T	2,525 kits
Levoplant	2,875 kits

Improve HIV and syphilis testing

Youth Ambassador Programme (YAP) - the NFPB co-ordinated a 3-month pilot peer-to-peer approach for the Youth Ambassador Programme (YAP) with the implementing partners Children First Agency (CFA) and the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA). Thirty-one (31) adolescents and youths were engaged across both partners, reaching 461 peers (surpassing the expected target of 350), and 191 were referred for HIV screening services through CFA and SRHA. The NFPB developed the training materials to standardize the training.

Yute Chatz Chatbot -The NFPB, in collaboration with UNICEF, developed an adolescent and youthfriendly chatbot aimed at sharing SRH information with this population and making referrals for relevant services. The SRH information included abstinence, STIs, HIV testing and treatment, safer sex, pregnancy, contraceptives, puberty, and mental well-being. Yute Chatz Chatbot is hosted on the UNICEF's U-Report platform it can be accessed via Facebook Messenger @ UREPORTJAMAICA or on WhatsApp and SMS @ 876-838-3897.



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