

INSIDE THE > HSSP < 2026



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Since its inception in 2018, the Health Systems Strengthening Programme (HSSP) has been the cornerstone of our mission to transform the Jamaican healthcare landscape. Today, we stand at a pivotal juncture where our vision for a modern, technology-driven, and patient-centered health system is becoming a tangible reality.

The progress we have made is not only visible in the concrete blocks being laid at several facilities under the programme, but in the enhanced quality of life that Jamaicans are already experiencing. Under Component 1, we are breathing new life into our physical infrastructure. I am pleased to announce that by summer 2026, we will see the completion of construction of three critical St. Catherine health centres, followed by the landmark completion of the Spanish Town Hospital in early 2027.

However, modern buildings and advanced tools are only part of the equation. As your Minister, I am making a direct appeal to you to meet us halfway by taking control of your health. We are building the facilities and implementing the technology, but you are the most important link in this chain. The only way for us to beat non-communicable diseases like hypertension and diabetes is if we all take greater personal responsibility for our health and wellness.

As much as you can, do your part. Take small steps to improve your diet, engage in regular physical activity, and protect and care for your mental health. And if you can manage to help even one person in your family or community along with you, support them to live a healthier life, too.

These world-class facilities are here to support you, but the journey to a healthier Jamaica begins with the choices you make every day. We're transforming the sector so that you can transform your life.

**DR. THE HON.
CHRISTOPHER
TUFTON, CD, MP**

Minister of Health and
Wellness



PERMANENT SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

In the Ministry of Health and Wellness, our priority is the creation of a sustainable framework that supports both the providers and the receivers of healthcare. The HSSP is the engine driving this institutional reform in 13 critical facilities in central Jamaica.

Under this programme, our focus has remained steadfast on improving management, quality, and efficiency across these three health regions. Ultimately, these enhancements are designed to create a more responsive and resilient health system that can adapt to the evolving needs of our communities while maintaining the highest standards of medical excellence. This is especially important in combating Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) that continue to beleaguer our population.

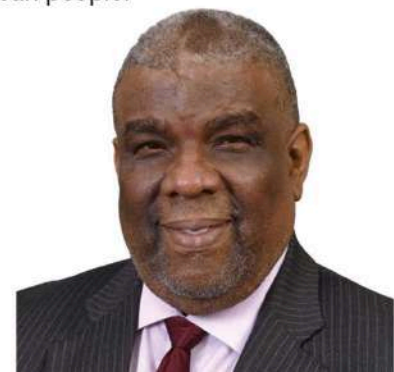
To the teams working within these facilities and across the wider Ministry, I appeal to you to embrace this transformation this project brings about with diligence and an open mind. Real change requires more than just new buildings and software; it requires a shift in culture. I encourage every staff member to take ownership of these new systems and facilities, and play an active role in this modernisation.

I also want to use this opportunity to heartily congratulate the HSSP team for their tireless work and the milestones achieved thus far. Your dedication is the reason we are seeing such profound progress. I encourage you to stay the course and see this project through to its completion.

As we look toward the milestones in this fiscal year, let us remain unified in our mission. We are not just building facilities; we are building a legacy of excellence for the Jamaican people.

**MR. ERROL
GREENE, OD, JP**

Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Health and
Wellness



PROGRAMME MANAGER'S MESSAGE

As the Programme Manager of the HSSP, it is my privilege to report that our collective efforts are yielding significant results in 2026 and beyond. This programme was designed to address the specific challenges of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through an integrated approach, and we are currently seeing the "ground-up" transformation of our health service delivery.

This year will be a season of celebration as we hand over the three St. Catherine health centres. Looking further ahead to early 2027, the massive expansion of the Spanish Town Hospital and the new builds in May Pen, Brown's Town and Ocho Rios will significantly increase our clinical and diagnostic capacity. We're also looking forward to making significant progress in our remaining facilities in this fiscal year.

On the digital side, the HSSP has been successfully bridging the gap between technology and health, as part of our 'connected' approach to health management under the Chronic Care Connect pilot. The Jamaica Moves Mobile application is now a key tool that allows persons to take control of their health, and the successful e-Care implementation has set a blueprint for national scale-up.

We are also excited about the JHLS IV, which is being conducted under our programme. With research concluding at the end of this year, we are on the verge of uncovering the data that will define the future of Jamaican healthcare.

Our technical teams and partners have worked tirelessly to ensure that our infrastructure projects remain on track, and our goal for the remainder of 2026 and into 2027 is clear: to maintain this momentum and deliver a strengthened, integrated health system that every Jamaican can be proud of.

**MR. ORETT
CLARKE, JP**
Programme Manager, HSSP



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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Health Systems Strengthening Programme (HSSP) is a national initiative under the Ministry of Health and Wellness that is aimed at improving the prevention and care management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) across Jamaica. Launched in 2018, the programme seeks to enhance the health and well-being of the Jamaican population by strengthening policies that address NCD risk factors and implementing a chronic care model that improves access to high-quality, integrated primary and hospital services.

HSSP focuses its efforts through targeted interventions at 13 pilot sites in central Jamaica, and is structured around three main components:

Component 1: Infrastructure upgrades and equipment procurement to improve the primary and secondary health services networks.

Component 2: Strengthening the management, quality, and efficiency of healthcare delivery.

Component 3: Supporting programme administration, evaluation, and key capabilities in monitoring, risk mitigation, change management, communications, and social impact.

The programme is financed through an initial loan agreement of US \$50 million with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), US \$87 million in additional funding from the Government of Jamaica, and a US \$10 million investment grant from the European Union (EU), secured in 2022. Together, these contributions will see a total of approximately US \$148 million invested in transforming Jamaica's health sector by 2030.

Under Component 1, infrastructure upgrades have already been completed at Chapleton Community Hospital, with work progressing at Spanish Town Hospital and three health centres in St. Catherine. Construction is also in full swing at two new health centres in St. Ann, and a new Outpatient Department building at May Pen Hospital. Critical diagnostic imaging equipment has also been delivered under this component to five health centres.

Under Component 2, the programme has completed installation of the Electronic Health Records (EHR) system e-Care at all 13 pilot sites and implemented managed network services in 98 health facilities islandwide. The Jamaica Moves mobile health application has also been developed under this component. Now in progress are Chronic Care Connect pilot and the research for the Jamaica Health and Lifestyle IV.

The facilities currently benefiting from HSSP investments are:

- Spanish Town Hospital
- May Pen Hospital
- St. Ann's Bay Regional Hospital
- St. Jago Park Health Centre
- Old Harbour Health Centre
- Greater Portmore Health Centre
- May Pen East (Main Street) Health Centre
- May Pen West (Denbigh) Health Centre
- Mocho Health Centre
- Chapleton Community Hospital
- St. Ann's Bay Health Centre
- Ocho Rios Health Centre
- Brown's Town Health Centre



SPANISH TOWN HOSPITAL

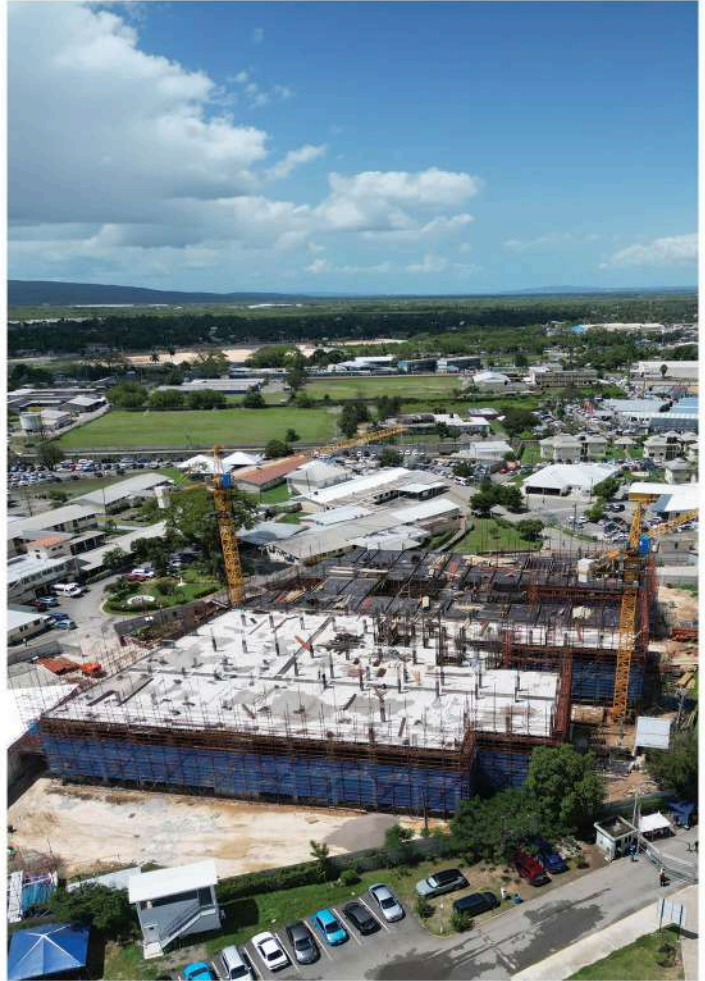
The redevelopment of Spanish Town Hospital is the flagship project under the HSSP, and it represents a landmark achievement in Jamaica's journey toward a more modern, resilient healthcare system. Valued at approximately J\$5.5 billion, this ambitious project is being executed by Jiangsu Zhenhuai Construction Group Company Ltd. This investment is fundamentally upgrading the quality of life for the residents of St. Catherine and its surrounding parishes.

At the heart of this transformation is a state-of-the-art six-storey tower spanning over 17,000 square metres. Designed to alleviate overcrowding and introduce specialized care, the new facility will house:

- **Emergency & Urgent Care:** A modern Accident and Emergency Department with a dedicated Ambulance Bay and Triage Area.
- **Advanced Diagnostics:** Comprehensive MRI, CT Scan, and X-ray services, alongside a new Laboratory Wing for Haematology, Serology, and Immunology.
- **Specialised Units:** An Endoscopy Unit, an Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and six fully equipped Operating Theatres.
- **Expanded Wards:** General and special wards, including dedicated Isolation Rooms for infectious disease management.

These upgrades will allow Spanish Town Hospital to transition into a "Type A" facility, bringing new and expanded specialist services like urology, oncology, cardiology, and psychiatry closer to home for thousands of Jamaicans.

At the end of April 2026, the structural frame of the building advanced to third floor level. The structural frames of the fourth and fifth floors are scheduled to be completed by the end of summer. Once the vertical structure is complete, the focus will shift to intensive internal works and architectural finishes, which are slated for completion by March 2027.



Following the building's completion, the facility will undergo the final stages of medical equipment installation and staffing to prepare for an official opening, in coordination with the South East Regional Health Authority.



ST. JAGO PARK COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTRE

The expansion and refurbishment of the St. Jago Park Health Centre will provide a major boost to the health infrastructure available to the residents of Spanish Town and its environs. The upgrades at the facility includes the construction of a new 634-square-metre building and the renovation of the existing 1,300-square-metre facility. At the end of April 2026, the project was 83% complete.

Once fully operational, the centre will offer expanded services, including maternal and child health services, a state-of-the-art laboratory and phlebotomy services to ensure faster clinical results, dedicated clinics for diabetes and hypertension management featuring specialised diabetic retinopathy screening, and a modernised dental department alongside a mental health care unit to provide integrated support for the community.

These improvements are expected to address chronic illnesses and emerging healthcare demands in the parish, and enhance the quality of care received by over 6000 Jamaicans who use this health centre monthly.

Valued at approximately J\$704 million, this project is funded primarily through an investment grant from the European Union (EU) and is being executed by the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC). Construction of this facility, as well as rehabilitation of the existing building, is expected to be completed in the summer.



GREATER PORTMORE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTRE

The expansion of the Greater Portmore Health Centre will significantly increase service capacity for one of Jamaica's most densely populated areas. At the end of April 2026, construction here was 89% complete, with work moving quickly into the final stages of landscaping and internal retrofitting.

This project, which is being carried out by the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), will upgrade the existing facility from a Type 3 to a Type 5 Comprehensive Health Centre.

Key service enhancements include the addition of a comprehensive X-ray department and full laboratory services, a dedicated physiotherapy department featuring specific examination and exercise rooms, an asthma bay, an oral rehydration unit, isolation facilities, and multiple treatment rooms. The facility also features new administrative offices, staff lounges, training rooms, and a conference room to support both service delivery and the professional development of the healthcare workforce.

conference room to support both service delivery and the professional development of the healthcare workforce.

Works at this facility, valued at approximately J\$660 million, are also funded largely by the European Union (EU) investment grant, with additional support from the Government of Jamaica for equipment, furniture and sewage works.



OLD HARBOUR COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTRE

The new facility being built to replace the existing Old Harbour Health Centre is a massive undertaking, representing an investment of nearly J\$1 billion. This project is primarily funded through an investment grant from the European Union (EU), with the Government of Jamaica providing the necessary support for medical equipment and furnishings.

As of April 2026, the facility has reached 88% completion, with the structural frame and roof sheeting complete. The new Old Harbour Comprehensive Health Centre, located on East Street in Old Harbour, is a 2000-square-metre state-of-the-art facility that will replace the current Old Harbour Health Centre, a type 3 facility that is hindered by space constraints.

The new comprehensive clinic will offer a wide range of primary healthcare services, including specialist clinics, and critical services such as pharmacy, laboratory, ECG, phlebotomy, X-ray, physiotherapy, and screenings for ophthalmology and audiometry. In response to the growing demand for healthcare in the area, the new centre will also house dedicated sections for dentistry, mental health, and maternal and child health.

The centre is expected to significantly enhance the Old Harbour's ability to manage chronic illnesses and improve overall public health outcomes as the fastest growing Town in the country. This will also enhance operations at the Spanish Town and May Pen Hospitals, as residents can now access more non-emergency services closer to home.



BUILDING *better*



IMPROVING LIVES FOR A QUARTER MILLION JAMAICANS

Geographically, the Greater Portmore, St Jago Park and Old Harbour Health centres are positioned to offer primary care to a combined total of more than quarter million Jamaicans. However, currently, they only receive a combined total of approximately 154,000 visits annually.

With the expanded spaces and additional services, it is anticipated that these facilities will be able to meet the growing demand, including the more 24,000 persons who are referred from these facilities to Spanish Town Hospital for lab services, ultrasound and simple x-rays annually. The facilities will also be able to absorb patients who turn to private care for these services.

Physiotherapy is one of the new additional services that is expected to introduce thousands more visits to these facilities each year for treatment of acute injuries, post-surgery rehabilitation, chronic neck and back pain, arthritis, chronic venous ulcers, and other conditions.



Every building under the HSSP is designed to the highest global standards, and we strictly adhere to international benchmarks for safety, weather resilience, and environmental sustainability. All our facilities are engineered to ensure that persons with disabilities can navigate and access healthcare services with dignity and ease. Visit hssp.gov.jm to learn more about our Environmental and Social Policy Framework.

MAY PEN HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT BUILDING

The construction of the new Outpatient Department (OPD) building at May Pen Hospital is the cornerstone of the HSSP's impact in Clarendon, and the wider Southern Regional Health Authority. At the end of April 2026, the project had surpassed the 10% completion mark, with foundational work progressing steadily.

The new state-of-the-art facility is designed to revolutionise the patient experience by separating outpatient services from the main hospital's emergency and inpatient flow. It will offer a wide range of services, including general consultations, specialised clinics, cardiology, laboratory services, and minor procedures.

Representing more than J\$600 million in investment, this project is being executed by Jiangsu Zhenhuai Construction Group Co. Ltd. Extensive preparatory work has already been completed at this facility under the HSSP, including perimeter fencing, the relocation of the main entrance, and a critical upgrade to the hospital's sewage network.

The most recent milestones at this site include the completion of reinforced concrete and concrete masonry foundation work and preparation for constructing the concrete slab for the ground floor.

As a Type-C hospital, May Pen serves residents from St. Catherine, St. Ann, and Manchester. The hospital's workforce has grown significantly, from 2,000 employees in 2016 to more than 3,000 in 2025, making this modern infrastructure essential to support the facility's expanding role in the national health system.

By streamlining patient flow and enhancing comfort, this new development ensures that the residents of Clarendon and surrounding parishes can access high-quality specialist care in a modern, efficient setting.



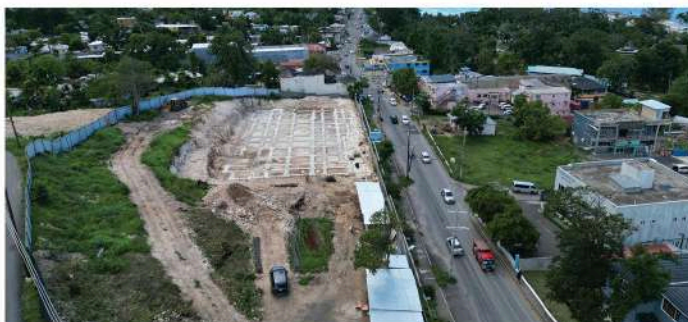
OCHO RIOS HEALTH CENTRE

The brand new Ocho Rios Health Centre, being developed along the Pineapple Mainroad in St. Ann, is a transformative project for the North East Regional Health Authority, designed to meet the growing needs of one of Jamaica's most vital tourism and commercial hubs. At the end of April 2026, the project was almost 10% complete, as the steel substructure began to take shape.

The brand-new two-storey facility is being developed as a climate-smart and resilient building, ensuring that healthcare remains accessible and the structure remains operational even during extreme weather events. Representing a significant investment of approximately J\$818.5 million, the project is being executed by Cenitech Engineering Solutions.

When completed, the facility will offer a vast improvement in service delivery for both residents and visitors, including modernised units for maternal health, general curative services, and men's health.

The introduction of ultrasound, laboratory services, and a modernised dental suite will be complemented by dedicated units for community mental health care and nutrition counseling to combat the rising burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).



A high-capacity NHF Drug Serv pharmacy will also be integrated to streamline the prescription process in the region. Construction at this facility is expected to be completed in early 2027.

BROWN'S TOWN HEALTH CENTRE

A new chapter is being written on the original site of the Brown's Town Health Centre, where the HSSP's landmark investment is modernising primary care infrastructure to serve the community for generations to come. As of late April 2026, the project was close to 10 % completion, with construction teams focusing on the critical foundational phases of this state-of-the-art facility.

To facilitate this massive development and ensure uninterrupted care, health services were temporarily relocated to the Brown's Town Community College campus, an interim location that was retrofitted at a cost of over J\$80 million. The new facility is being built by Jiangsu Zhenhuai Construction Group Co. Ltd under a contract valued at approximately J\$789 million.

With the old buildings on the site completely demolished, the new centre is being built to function as a major primary care hub for residents of Brown's Town and surrounding areas. Services will include urgent care, maternal and child health, dentistry, and mental health services, alongside dedicated pharmacy and laboratory areas.

Construction of the new facility is expected to be completed in early 2027, after which it will be furnished, equipped and staffed to welcome the return of operations to that location.



CHAPELTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

The revitalised Chapelton Community Hospital is the first project that was completed under the Health Systems Strengthening Programme, and highlights the power of strategic partnerships.

Officially reopened in late 2022 following a massive multi-partner overhaul, this facility saw its final HSSP-funded internal reconfigurations completed in early 2024, marking the full transition of the hospital into a modern centre of excellence for North Clarendon.

The HSSP's specific contribution involved a J\$50 million investment focused on the specialised build-out and reconfiguration of approximately 253 square metres of internal space. This work was critical in creating dedicated spaces for the Maternal and Child Health Department, the Mental Health Department, and the Public Health Inspector's Department. By providing these essential services with purpose-built spaces, the HSSP ensured that the community hospital could deliver high-quality, integrated care in a setting that respects the dignity of both patients and providers.

These HSSP upgrades were part of a wider, comprehensive redevelopment of the 120-year-old institution, which saw a total investment of over J\$300 million. Other contributors to this include philanthropist Beverly Nichols and her Push-Start Foundation, who donated US\$1 million, alongside significant contributions from the CHASE Fund and the National Health Fund.

As a result of this collective effort, the community hospital now boasts a new 20-bed ward, which effectively doubled its inpatient capacity, as well as a restored minor operating theatre, a new pharmacy, and modern nutrition and laundry departments.



The facility also features upgraded electrical, plumbing, and medical gas systems, a new standby generator, and improved parking and security fencing. Serving over 50,000 residents across communities such as Summerfield, Frankfield, and Rock River, the Chapelton Community Hospital now stands as a primary care jewel, fully equipped with the e-Care digital infrastructure to provide seamless, modern healthcare for the people of Clarendon.

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING EQUIPMENT

A significant leap in diagnostic capability was achieved following the official commissioning of 20 pieces of advanced imaging equipment across five public health centres. Valued at approximately J\$69.5 million, the investment includes handheld ultrasound devices and state-of-the-art Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) machines for specialised dental and facial X-rays.

Supported by the EU's investment grant into the HSSP, the initiative also included J\$11 million in preparatory works to ensure facilities met international safety standards. St. Ann's Bay, Greater Portmore, and May Pen West health centres received the full diagnostic suites, while St. Jago Park and Mocho health centres were equipped with ultrasound and viewing technologies. With staff already trained and equipment installed, these tools are now actively reducing the need for hospital referrals by providing high-quality



imaging directly within the community.

The equipment was officially handed over to the Regional Health Authorities last year in a ceremony attended by the Delegation of the European Union in Jamaica, who commissioned the units alongside the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

ST. ANN'S BAY REGIONAL HOSPITAL

The expansion of St. Ann's Bay Regional Hospital is set to significantly elevate the facility's clinical capacity through the construction of a new two-storey outpatient building and a dedicated ICU-HDU block under the HSSP.

Spanning over 3,000 square metres of total infrastructure works will house essential services including Haemodialysis, Chemotherapy, Endoscopy, and Physiotherapy, alongside expanded Laboratory and Pharmacy departments. A critical addition to the campus will be the new ICU-HDU building for adults, strategically connected to the existing surgical block and operating theatres to ensure rapid access to life-saving care. Additionally, the current outpatient building will be repurposed and refurbished specifically for X-ray and imaging services, creating a specialised diagnostic hub in close proximity to the Accident and Emergency department.



ST. ANN'S BAY HEALTH CENTRE

To alleviate the heavy patient load on the neighboring hospital, the St. Ann's Bay Health Centre is slated to be upgraded from a Type III to a Type V Comprehensive facility. This project involves a mix of remodeling the current Health Department building and constructing a new extension to create over 1,000 square metres of modern clinical space.

Patient flow will be redesigned to support a wide array of services, including ultrasound, X-ray, mental health, and physiotherapy. Ahead of the major construction, the facility has already seen the installation of a high-tech Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) machine under the HSSP, vastly improving the site's diagnostic imaging capabilities for the people of St. Ann.

MAY PEN WEST HEALTH CENTRE

Currently a Type III facility, May Pen West is destined to become a Type V Comprehensive health centre through the construction of a new 985-square-metre, two-storey building via the HSSP.

This expansion, which will connect directly to the north-eastern section of the existing centre, is designed to provide adequate waiting areas and modernised treatment rooms for the growing population of Clarendon. The expanded laboratory within the new building is specifically being designed to support the service needs of both the health centre and the adjacent May Pen Hospital.

Preparatory works are already well underway, including the completion of a secure perimeter wall. Diagnostic services have been bolstered by the installation of a CBCT machine on-site.



MAY PEN EAST HEALTH CENTRE

The proposed May Pen East Health Centre is envisioned as a major District-type facility that will also serve as the new home for the parish Health Department. The 2,285-square-metre, two-storey structure will offer comprehensive care, including a dental suite, mental health services, and an Emergency Operating Centre equipped with a resuscitation bay and asthma bay. The project is currently in the land acquisition stage.

MOCHO HEALTH CENTRE

The Mocho Health Centre is set for an upgrade from its current Type II status to a District-type health centre. This project focuses on the extensive refurbishing and reconfiguration of approximately 434 square metres of internal space, with a specific emphasis on clinical outpatient areas and emergency rooms. In a move toward greater technical efficiency, the designs for this facility are currently being managed in-house by a specialised team. Of the remaining five facilities, ground is expected to be broken at this facility first.

CHRONIC CARE CONNECT

Chronic Care Connect represents the very core of the Health Systems Strengthening Programme (HSSP). While the new buildings, digital tools, and research are impressive on their own, they are all designed with one central purpose: to create an environment where the chronic care model can thrive.

All HSSP initiatives, from the infrastructure projects and Electronic Health Records (EHR) to the Jamaica Moves mobile app and the Jamaica Health and Lifestyle Survey, are linked to one goal: the reduction of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Jamaica.

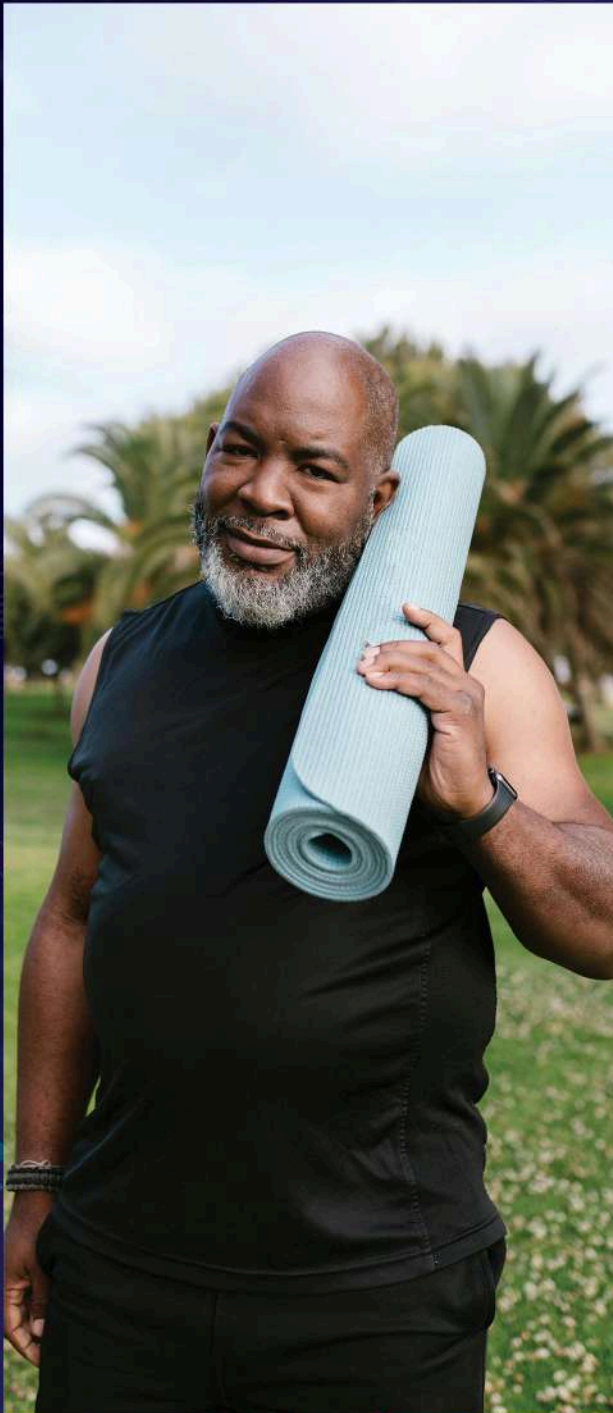
What is Chronic Care Connect?

Chronic Care Connect is a proactive, patient-centered approach to managing chronic diseases. This model of care is being implemented in other countries globally, and represents a shift to encourage a proactive, 360 degree approach to the care of those living with chronic illnesses. In Jamaica, under the HSSP, we are piloting this model with those living with diabetes and hypertension. It is the "why" behind all our investments. We are building state-of-the-art facilities like the Spanish Town Hospital and the Old Harbour Health Centre to provide the physical space for this model. We have implemented e-Care to give doctors the clinical information they need to support patient decisions instantly. We've built the Jamaica Moves app to help patients to monitor their health on their own.

This May, we will launch the Chronic Care Connect Pilot, a landmark one-year study involving 600 patients across six HSSP pilot sites. Participants, who have volunteered to participate, will experience changes in the way they interact with their health centres for the management of their conditions. They will also receive additional support with exercise, nutrition, footcare, and health technology, as well as targeted education to promote behaviour change. Their clinic visits will become 'One-Stop Shops' for their conditions, where they will benefit from multiple consultations, screenings, and education opportunities during a single, streamlined visit.

Empowering the Patient

Through Chronic Care Connect, the healthcare experience is being transformed from a reactive system into a proactive partnership. By focusing on self-management and community support, we ensure that no patient walks their health journey alone. To facilitate this, we have collaborated with a specialised Social and Behaviour Change Communications (SBCC) firm to finalise a suite of educational content designed to inspire patients to take full charge of their wellness. The findings from this pilot will help to guide the future of chronic care management in Jamaica.



In Progress

JAMAICA MOVES APP

The transformation of Jamaica's health system isn't just happening in our clinics and hospitals; it's happening right on your smartphone. Developed under the Health Systems Strengthening Programme (HSSP) with the vital support of the European Union, the Jamaica Moves mobile health (mHealth) application has been launched for both android and iOS devices.

The app is designed to be a simple but powerful tool for daily health management. It allows you to track your physical activity by counting your steps and provides a secure digital log for your other health data, such as your blood pressure, blood glucose (sugar) levels, and weight. By keeping these records in one place, you no longer have to rely on memory or scraps of paper; instead, you can show your healthcare provider a clear, accurate history of your progress during your next visit.

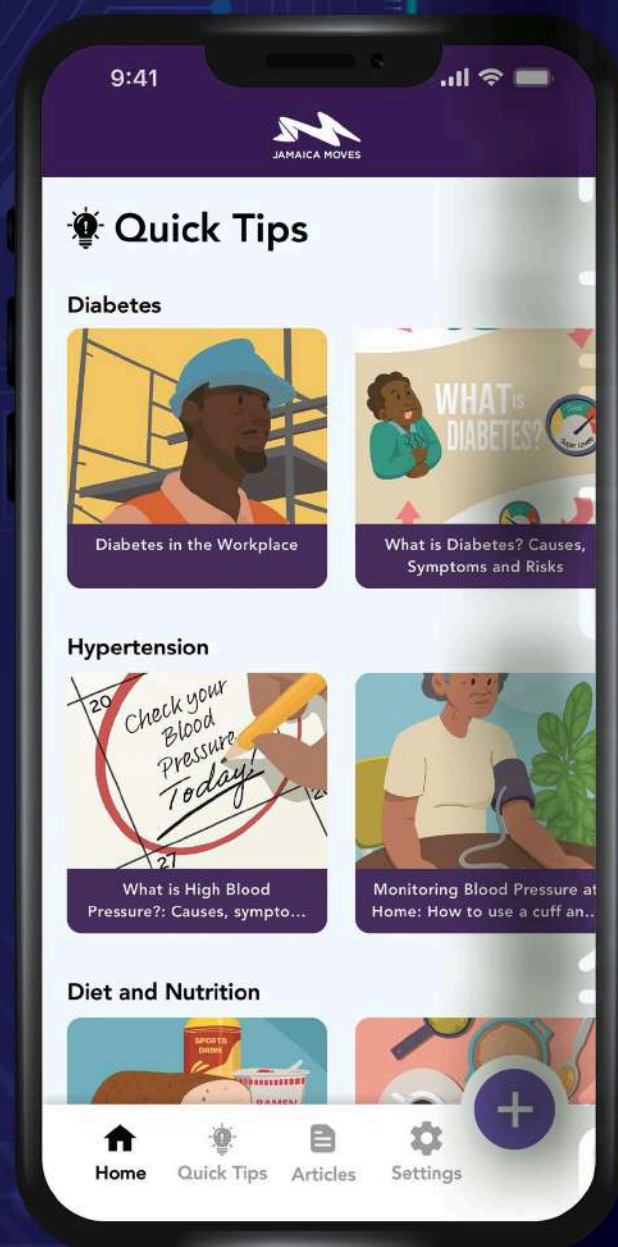
The Jamaica Moves App does more than just watch the numbers; it talks back to you. The app provides helpful feedback on your readings, and has the functionality to send you targeted reminders to keep you motivated to reach your health goals. It also serves as a portable health library, offering quick tips and a wealth of articles on everything from healthy, tasty recipes to stress management.

The Jamaica Moves App was developed by SlashRoots, a social impact organisation focused on using digital tools to build a more inclusive Caribbean. Its presence in the list of initiatives under the HSSP is important, because it's an important piece in the puzzle of preventing and reducing the impact of NCDs.

Download the Jamaica Moves App today and take charge of your journey toward a healthier life.



SCAN TO
DOWNLOAD THE APP



JAMAICA HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE SURVEY IV

As the Ministry of Health and Wellness continues its mission to transform Jamaica's healthcare landscape through the Health Systems Strengthening Programme (HSSP), data remains our most powerful tool. Leading this charge is the fourth iteration of the Jamaica Health and Lifestyle Survey (JHLS-IV), a landmark study commissioned by the Ministry and implemented by the University of the West Indies' Caribbean Institute for Health Research (CAIHR). The team is led by Professor Trevor Ferguson, Dr. Novie Younger Coleman and Dr. Shelly McFarlane.

Currently in its active field phase, JHLS-IV is designed to assess the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and their associated risk factors among Jamaicans aged 15 and older. While NCDs form the core focus, however, the survey also covers infectious diseases, including COVID-19, HIV and sexually related conditions, as well as mental health, violence and injuries, and broader social factors influencing health.

In addition, in response to the passage of Hurricane Melissa in October 2025, researchers have introduced a new 'Hurricane Melissa Impact' module to examine the storm's effects on social well-being, mental health, and the treatment and control of chronic diseases. This evidence-based approach is critical as it provides the empirical foundation upon which health policies, prevention strategies, and infrastructure investments are built.

Progress on the Ground

Since field operations commenced at the start of 2026, the progress has been steady and encouraging. As of early May, teams have mapped 103 of the planned 247 enumeration districts across 12 parishes. At the end of April, the dedicated field force had already made over 400 household contacts and completed more than 200 in-depth interviews. Most heartening is the low refusal rate, which signals a high level of public trust and a recognition of the survey's importance.

To get a true picture of Jamaica's health, our teams are also performing basic physical checks. So far, over 180 people have had their blood pressure and body measurements (like height and weight) taken. Additionally, the study is collecting important health information through simple finger-prick tests to check for things like blood sugar and cholesterol levels. In some cases, teams are also collecting blood and urine samples for more detailed testing.

Once complete, JHLS-IV will provide updated national estimates on hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and even the long-term impacts of COVID-19. With research expected to conclude by year-end and the final report ready by the end of 2027, the findings will guide the next decade of Jamaican healthcare policy and planning, and help to ensure targeted interventions for generations to come.



Completed

The Health Systems Strengthening Programme HSSP is paving the way in the modernisation of Jamaica's public health sector with the full implementation of e-Care, the Electronic Health Records (EHR) system. Through the completion of this initiative, there is now a seamless digital network across all 13 HSSP pilot sites.

The e-Care system allows healthcare workers to scan and upload existing paper-based files into a permanent digital record, ensuring no history is lost. Clinicians can now record specific details of consultations and treatments administered, while the system provides data visualisations to give a clear picture of a patient's condition over time.

The system also manages complex logistical tasks, such as tracking patients as they move through different departments, and managing operating theatre schedules and equipment availability.

The journey of e-Care began with its first phase at the May Pen Hospital and Clarendon health centres in early 2024, followed by a rollout to Spanish Town Hospital and the St. Catherine health network, and finally extending to St. Ann's Bay Hospital and St. Ann health centres. The implementation reached its final pilot site in early 2025 at the Chapelton Community Hospital.

The system was delivered under the HSSP by the UK-based firm The Phoenix Partnership (TPP) at a cost of over J\$800 million. Based in the UK, TPP is a leading global provider of

E-CARE

Jamaica includes a 15-year support period to ensure the system's long-term success.

Feedback from the facilities has been overwhelmingly positive. Staff report that the "search and find" time for patient records has been virtually eliminated, allowing more time for actual patient care.

For the patients, this means shorter waiting times and knowing their medical information is safe, organised, and always available to their doctors. Additionally, by automating appointment reminders via SMS, the system



MANAGED NETWORK SERVICES

For a modern health system to function, it requires more than just clinical expertise; it needs a resilient "digital nervous system." Under the HSSP, the Ministry of Health and Wellness has made tremendous improvements to this through the Managed Network Services (MNS) project.

With an investment exceeding J\$1.2 billion, high-speed connectivity and infrastructure stability have been established across 98 targeted facilities. This includes major specialist facilities such as the Kingston Public Hospital, Bustamante Hospital for Children, and Bellevue Hospital.

The MNS framework provides enhanced internet connectivity, crucial uninterrupted power supplies (UPS) for networking equipment, and local centralised storage across two primary data centres. This robust infrastructure serves as the high-speed highway that allows the e-Care system to function, enabling healthcare providers to share life-saving patient data instantly across the network.

To complement this digital backbone, the project has also equipped facilities with the necessary hardware, including computers, tablets, and printers to improve operational efficiency. By enhancing the connectivity and reliability of these 96 sites, the HSSP has not only supported its 13 primary pilot facilities, but has strengthened the wider national health network. This helps to ensure that Jamaica's healthcare system remains connected, resilient, and ready for the future.



LET'S STAY CONNECTED

The Health Systems Strengthening Programme (HSSP) focuses on building a resilient healthcare future for all Jamaicans. We recognise that true progress depends on clear, consistent dialogue with our patients, staff, and partners.

Our multidisciplinary team of Change Management, Social, and Communication Specialists works in unison to keep every stakeholder informed. From helping healthcare workers transition to digital tools to engaging with residents near our new construction sites, we prioritise transparency. We ensure that the media, our partners, and the public remain updated on every milestone as we modernise our national health network. Stay involved in the journey. For enquiries, feedback, or further information, please contact us at hsspproject@moh.gov.jm.

Scan the QR code below to visit our website and view our latest progress updates as we transform healthcare for a better future.



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