

# Major Investments in Health

The Government has made significant investments to strengthen the health infrastructure and the quality of patient care over the last four years. For the 2015/16 financial year, the Ministry of Health received \$50.9 billion, approximately \$7.2 billion more than the previous year, as the country continues to build a solid foundation for a healthier Jamaica.

The development of the primary health care infrastructure continued into 2015 in partnership with Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), CHASE Fund and the Sugar Transformation Programme. To date, refurbishing work has been completed on over 117 health centres.

During the 2014/15 financial year, the MOH completed work on:

- Claremont Centre of Excellence at a cost of **\$64.3 million**

- Exchange Health Centre at a cost of **\$57 million** with the help of the CHASE Fund
- Santa Cruz Centre of Excellence Phase 2 at a cost of **\$113 million**
- Junction Health Centre at a cost of **\$10.1 million**
- Golden Spring Health Centre at a cost of **\$41.4 million** with support from JSIF and CHASE
- James Hill Health Centre at a cost of **\$46.8 million**
- Nannyville Health Centre at a cost of **\$51.5 million**



The upgrading of the Rowlandsfield Health Centre was funded through the Sugar Transformation Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries with support from the European Union.

## Patient Care

Last year, there were **1,637,910** visits to Primary Health Care facilities; **707,501** outpatient hospital visits and **1,380,749** hospital visits. The facilities also dispensed **2,968,227** pharmacy items; conducted **5,968,227** lab tests and **66,321** surgeries.

- Between January and October this year, 24,432 persons have been enrolled for the NHF Card. There have been 3.2 million claims by 219,001 NHF Card beneficiaries who received \$3.1 billion in subsidies for the 16 chronic non-communicable conditions covered.
- The NHF has now introduced same day card printing which allows beneficiaries visiting its head office to receive cards within 15 minutes.
- Sickle Cell Disease has been added to the Individual Benefits Programme.
- Eleven (11) DrugServ pharmacies were refurbished by the NHF at a cost of \$100M, resulting in more comfortable waiting areas, greater client satisfaction and improvement in staff morale.
- The NHF launched a Mobile Screening Unit which facilitated 59,357 tests across the island between January and October this year.
- The NHF completed the installation of new Pharmacy Inventory Management System (PIMS) at all thirteen (13) NHF Pharmacies along with support services required for effective use, including improved Internet access. This resulted in several gains:
  - Central system for management of stock; real time data can be retrieved from any one of the pharmacies or all of them at once.

- Greater efficiency in inventory management so that each item can be accounted for by lot number or batch number.
- Each patient has a specific system generated identification number. This significantly reduces the chance of a patient visiting more than one of the facilities, in a bid to hoard medications.
- The system produces reports for forward planning such as usage pattern of Vital Essential and Necessary (VEN) List items by category.



New state-of-the-art 64 slide Computer Tomography machine, installed at Hargreaves Memorial Hospital.

## More Ambulances

In June, the MOH signed a contract with Toyota Jamaica to acquire 10 ambulances to augment the existing fleet. The procurement is also far advanced for another six (6) ambulances being sourced through the Programme for the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (PROMAC). Two more new ambulances will be procured through the CHASE Fund.



## Cancer Care Centres

In May 2015, the Ministry signed a contract valued at US\$14.4 million with Varian Medical Systems from the United States to establish two cancer treatment centres. Training is also included in the contract. The two locations are the Cornwall Regional Hospital in Montego Bay

and the St. Joseph's Hospital in Kingston. Equipment for each site includes one linear accelerator, one CT simulator, one C-arm mobile X-ray unit and one brachytherapy machine with Treatment Planning System and related Quality Assurance equipment.

## Centres of Excellence

Strategic investments were made in the establishment of four primary health care centres of excellence at an initial cost of \$100 million.

One such facility was established in each Regional Health Authority – Claremont in St. Ann, Isaac Barrant in St. Thomas, Darliston in Westmoreland and Santa Cruz in St. Eliz-

abeth. All have been officially opened and community members are now enjoying the upgraded services. Phase 2 of the project is now underway and involves additional infrastructure improvements and acquiring equipment valuing \$268 million which is to be provided through the National Health Fund.

## Secondary Care

More than **\$1.28 billion** has been spent on upgrading fifteen (15) hospitals in 2015/16. The hospitals include:

- St. Ann's Bay Regional – **\$170 million**
- Port Antonio – **\$58.9 million**
- Mandeville Regional – **\$166.6 million**
- Percy Junor – **\$18.4 million**
- May Pen – **\$67.7 million**
- Black River – **\$13.4 million**
- Kingston Public & Victoria Jubilee – **\$221.2 million**
- Bustamante – **\$195.8 million**
- Bellevue – **\$53 million**
- Princess Margaret – **\$60 million**
- Linstead – **\$55.7 million**
- Cornwall Regional – **\$51.5 million**
- Falmouth – **\$75 million**
- Noel Holmes – **\$45.6 million**

## Primary Health Care Policy

- Cabinet approved a policy that should further boost Jamaica's primary health care system. The policy aims to help to realign the primary health care network and infrastructure to address the population shift. This will ease the pressure on the secondary care/ hospital system.

## 10-Year Development Plan



The MOH has received grant funding of US\$250,000 to develop a ten (10) year strategic plan for advancing health care services in Jamaica. The strategy will be guided by a multi-sectoral group that will provide guidance to the technical team. This will include external and local consultants with support from PAHO, Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and other agencies.

In photo Health Minister, Hon. Horace Dalley (2<sup>nd</sup> right), signs a

copy of the technical cooperation agreement during a signing ceremony at the Terra Nova Hotel.

Also participating, from left, are: Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) Director General, Colin Bullock; Labour and Social Security Minister, Hon. Dr. Fenton Ferguson; and the IDB's Chief of Operations, Harold Arzu. Standing is Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Dr. Kevin Harvey.

## Other Achievements

- The Ministry is implementing a five-year National Strategic and Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) 2013-2018.
- Workers in the Regional Health Authorities, are collecting data on cancer as part of the new islandwide Cancer Registry.
- There is an agreement with the Radiation Oncology Centre of Jamaica to provide radiation treatment to cancer patients at no cost to them.
- With the assistance of PAHO and the Brazilian Government's support, the MOH procured a High Performance Liquid Chromatography machine for the Sickle Cell Unit of the University of the West Indies to screen all pregnant women and newborns for sickle cell disease.
- The MOH launched the Food Based Dietary Guidelines with the aim to improve nutritional well-being and food consumption.
- A Physical Activity Guide and Toolkit for the Workplace as well as the Physical Activity Daily Guide for Health Care Providers have been launched as part of efforts to promote healthier lifestyle practices and combat some of the health problems facing Jamaicans.
- Jamaica became the first country outside of the United States to receive membership in the American Board of Dental Examiners. Locally trained dentists can now be certified at the highest level.
- A Joint Needs Assessment was conducted in collaboration with PAHO and WHO to identify gaps in the full implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and an Implementation & Communication Plan for the Public Health (Tobacco Control) Regulations, 2013. Jamaica has received funding from the Convention Secretariat of the WHO FCTC to the tune of US\$29,000 to assist in further implementation of the Treaty.

