

Case Study – Health

PROMAC –Programme for the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality



Caption: Health Minister Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (centre), examines equipment handed over to the Mandeville Regional Hospital under the Programme for the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (PROMAC), on June 24.

Facts and Figures:

Jamaica was allocated €22.0 million (J\$3.3 billion) to support the reduction of maternal and child mortality

Duration: 2013-2020

Context

Available data indicates that globally some 1,000 women die each day while giving birth. While Jamaica has made progress in reducing its maternal mortality ratio over the years, there are still challenges. Jamaica's commitment under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was to reduce maternal mortality from 110/100,000 to 27.5/100,000 live births; and under 5 years mortality from 20/1,000 (2000) to 9/1000 by 2015. However, by the end of the 2010 -2014 period the average maternal mortality rate stood at 93.6/100,000 live births. The infant mortality rate in 2011 stood at 19 per 1000 and the child mortality rate was at 25 per 1000. Jamaica is now working towards the targets that have been set by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) specifically Goal 3 –Ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages.

Objective:

- Reduce the incidence of neonatal deaths due to lack of access to high dependency care
- Reduce the incidence of maternal deaths due to lack of access to emergency obstetric care
- Improve the quality of management of high risk pregnancies at both tertiary and primary care levels
- Improve the population's health seeking behaviour regarding maternal and child health
- Enhance public awareness and understanding of health care processes and patient's rights and;
- Strengthen the institutional capacity of the ministry of health and Regional health Authorities

Text Box

Mandeville Regional Hospital Gets Equipment to Prevent Maternal and Neonatal Deaths

Specialized equipment valued at €580,000 or about JMD\$80 million was presented to the Mandeville Regional Hospital in Manchester on June 24, 2016. Mandeville Regional is one of six referral hospitals in Jamaica where High Dependency Units (HDU) are being established to offer specialized maternal and neonatal care under the Programme for the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (PROMAC), funded by the European Union. Others include the Victoria Jubilee, Cornwall Regional, Spanish Town and St Ann's Bay Hospitals and the Bustamante Hospital for Children.

The equipment will contribute to improvements in the care of women with high risk pregnancies throughout the pregnancy, during childbirth and the postpartum period and also of new-borns by providing highly specialized radiographic technology, critical care ventilation and specialized patient monitoring.

"The supply of specialized hospital equipment and technologies to support the operation of the Mandeville Regional Hospital neonatal HDU is a major step in continuing the process to upgrade maternal and neonatal health services in Jamaica to world class standards," Health Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, said at the handing over ceremony.

In addition to the supply of medical equipment and improvement of physical infrastructure, PROMAC will also facilitate research and training. PROMAC is the first major EU funded project that focuses specifically on the health sector. The programme is being implemented jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ).

Outputs

- Eleven maternal and neonatal High Dependency Units (HDUs) constructed in hospitals across the island
- Radiographic, laboratory and other specialized HDU equipment supplied to these facilities.
- To date, over 1000 staff including specialist nurses, doctors, nutritionists, midwives, public health nurses and Community Health Aides have been trained under PROMAC.
- Public education initiatives have been undertaken and a €300,000 national level Health Seeking Behaviour programme will shortly be implemented.