



Remarks

Strengthening Health Systems in Jamaica

*Contract Signing for the IDB Health Systems
Strengthening project for the 10-Year Health sector
Development plan*

By

Colin Bullock

Director General

Planning Institute of Jamaica

Terra Nova Hotel

November 11, 2015

Salutations

- The Honourable Horace Dalley, Minister of Health
- Dr. The Honourable Peter Phillips, Minister of Finance and Planning
- Members of the Inter-American Development Bank Delegation
- Representatives of the public and private sectors, civil society organizations
- Distinguished Guests
- Members of the media
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning.

Globally, a healthy population is recognized as a requirement for and an outcome of sustainable and inclusive development. This is articulated in sustainable development goal three of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which states, “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”.

Health is paramount in the empowerment of Jamaicans to achieve their fullest potential as espoused in Vision 2030 Jamaica with implications for human resource productivity and economic growth. A healthy and stable population can only be achieved through a strong health system which delivers quality services to all people, when and where they need them¹. Vision 2030 Jamaica promotes a health care system that is affordable and accessible; with fully equipped facilities and a highly skilled health workforce. This Vision is further articulated in the Medium Term Socio Economic Framework (MTF) which outlines the strategic priorities of the GOJ on a three year basis.

¹ WHO characterization of a good health system

In achieving this vision, the Medium Term Socio- Economic Policy Framework (MTF) 2015-2018 will build on progress made since 2009 when plan implementation commenced. Some key elements of priority strategic approach for the medium term are:

- a needs-based health care delivery, including primary health care renewal;
- sustainable health financing;
- effective disease surveillance, mitigation and risk reduction;
- maintenance of an adequate health work-force;
- effective governance and risk management;
- preventative medicine through nutrition and the promotion of healthy lifestyles;
- enhancing systems for the diagnosis treatment and care of non-communicable diseases;
- the employment of effective partnerships in health care maintenance and delivery.

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) continues to be the main source of financing for the health sector. Within the context of financial constraints induced by public debt however, the issue of sustainable health financing remains a major challenge. This then defines a need for international development partner support for major investment in programmes and projects for health systems strengthening as consistent with the achievement of the National Development Plan and goal 3 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The mandate of the PIOJ includes interfacing with International Development Partners to ensure that financial and technical assistance provided is distributed in keeping with the strategic objectives and priorities of the Government of Jamaica. This mandate is consistent with the GOJ's thrust to foster public-private partnerships with the local private sector and the international community to implement plans and programmes associated with its strategic priorities including attaining international commitments such as those outlined in the Millennium Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The formulation of a ten year development plan for the Health sector is timely, as the GOJ seeks to improve quality, equity and access of health care for all Jamaicans. The PIOJ is therefore pleased to be participating in today's signing ceremony for the **Strengthening of Health Systems in Jamaica Project** being developed with the support of the Inter-American Development bank. The project is aligned with the priorities for achieving the desired health results for the Jamaican people as presented in MTF 2015-2018. It focuses on strengthening the health system in Jamaica through strategic planning for improved integrated health care service delivery with focus on primary health care renewal and strengthening the structures and systems for health promotion and screening for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) both in primary and secondary health care.

The IDB has since 1989 consistently supported Health Sector enhancement in Jamaica through loan and grant financing and technical support. This support has been embodied in a number of initiatives including:-

1. Health services rationalization project² -valued at US\$70.5 M

² the funds were used to procure surgical and medical instruments.

2. Health Sector Reform Programme³ -valued at US\$17.7 M

3. Institutional Strengthening of the MOH to improve national surveillance, prevention and control of infectious diseases.

The IDB has also contributed to HIV/AIDS Treatment and Prevention.

On behalf of the PIOJ, I thank the IDB for its partnership and support of national development in Jamaica, and in particular this grant financing which goes a long way to further strengthen the health system. The PIOJ is committed to the successful execution of the programme and looks forward to the transformative impact it will have on the health sector, and the livelihoods and productivity of the Jamaican people.

³ For the procurement of biomedical and mechanical tools and equipment; vehicles for 2 regional maintenance units; computer equipment (hardware and software) and tools and equipment for hospital equipment and maintenance.