

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOUTH EAST REGIONAL HEALTH
AUTHORITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR
JULY 1, 2008 – JUNE 30, 2009**

1. Introduction

1.1 The South East Regional Health Authority comprises the parishes of St. Catherine, St. Thomas and Kingston & St. Andrew. Health care services were delivered from ten (10) Hospitals, eighty-nine (89) Health Centres and three (3) Health Departments. Of the ten hospitals within the Region, six (6) are specialist or national referral hospitals.

2. Key Performance Indicators

2.1 Visits to Hospitals

Visits to the Accident and Emergency (Casualty) totalled 270,065, representing an increase of 25,576 or 10.46% over the previous period. Of this total, 78,759 patients were admitted, an increase of 2,638 or 3.46% over the previous year's figures. It must be noted that the data only captures those registered and does not speak to those who visited but were asked to seek health care at the primary care facilities, as their conditions were neither accidents nor emergencies.

A total of 32,220 surgeries were performed during the period under review, compared to 14,645 surgeries performed in the corresponding period last year.

2.2 Births

A total of 15,947 babies were born across the Region, with 8,437 live births at the Victoria Jubilee Hospital and 5,753 at Spanish Town Hospital.

2.3 Influenza A H1N1

The first two confirmed cases in Jamaica occurred in May 2009 in the parishes of St. Catherine and Kingston & St. Andrew. Responses to the pandemic included training and sensitisation of staff at all levels, daily monitoring and reporting of fever and respiratory symptoms in Primary and Secondary Care facilities, the identification of isolation facilities, enhanced port surveillance, and national distribution of the recommended anti-viral medication to all health departments and hospitals.

2.4 Environmental Health

The Region received a little over three thousand applications for Food Handling Establishments. There were more applications processed than were received. This is due to the fact that some applications were not processed in the previous reporting period July 2007 – June 2008.

3. Support Services

3.1 Infrastructure and Equipment Upgrade

Seventeen (17) new dialysis machines valued at more than a quarter million US dollars were purchased in collaboration with the National Health Fund. The entire 5th floor of the Victoria Jubilee Hospital was renovated to accommodate forty-eight (48) beds.

The Spanish Government donated US\$500,000 to the Spanish Town Hospital for the construction of the King of Spain physiotherapy wing at the hospital. The Katie Hoo Haemodialysis Unit was opened during the year. This was a gift from Mr. Ernest Hoo, philanthropist and businessman. Consequently, haemodialysis has been added to

the list of services offered at the hospital. A new Accident and Emergency Department (A&E) was also constructed at the hospital at a cost of \$78 million.

3.2 Financial Statements and Audited Financial Accounts

The Region had a total operating income of \$9.57B, representing an 11% increase of \$979M from the previous review period. With the introduction of the abolition of user fees, with effect from April 1, 2008, Fee Income for 2009 decreased from \$391M in 2008 to \$64.2M in 2009. However, Government's Subvention increased by \$1.3B over the previous financial year.

The Auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers were unable to satisfactorily verify the value of outstanding vacation leave and the value of inventory (including that of certain gifts in its possession) as at June 30, 2009. Except for the possible effects of such adjustments, if any, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at June 30, 2009.

The Auditors have concluded that proper accounting records had been kept and the accompanying financial statements are in agreement therewith and provide the information in the manner so required by the National Health Services Act.



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Minister of Health

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