

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH
AUTHORITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR APRIL 2012 TO MARCH
2013**

The Ministry Paper on the Annual Report of the Southern Regional Health Authority for the Financial Year 2012/2013 is being tabled for information in the Parliament.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Southern Regional Health Authority is managed by a Board of Management which is established in keeping with Section 4(1) of the National Health Services Act. Subject to any directions from the Minister, the functions of the Board shall be to plan, administer and control the services of the Authority so as to ensure that the best interests of the Region, in the delivery of public health services, are served.

1.2 The mission of the Southern Regional Health Authority is to ensure the delivery of quality health care services to a population of over 600,000 persons residing in the parishes of Clarendon, Manchester, and St. Elizabeth. Services are offered from seventy-six (76) health centres, two (2) rural maternity centres and six (6) hospitals including one (1) community hospital.

2. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

2.1 TECHNICAL REPORT

2.1.1 Environmental Health

Water Quality

During the period under review, the Region continued its efforts to maintain water quality by 100% inspection and sampling of water supplies managed and operated by the National Water Commission; 94% inspection and 78% sampling of private individuals and companies;

and 82% inspection and 48% sampling of those operated by the Parish Councils.

Food Handling Establishments

Approximately 82% of applications (3,525) for food handlers' permits were recommended for licensing, recording a similar rate as the previous year. All 23,390 clients who were trained at 603 Food Handlers training sessions were issued with permits.

Occupational Health and Safety

During the period under review, a total of 1,321 worksites were inspected, approximately 6,403 employees were suspected to have been exposed to 2,635 environmental hazards. This figure represents a significant decline when compared to the previous year where approximately 4,152 hazards were indentified, exposing 6,828 workers. The hazards discovered form part of the routine inspection process.

2.1.2 Dental Services

Dental care was provided to 7.6% of the Region's population at 18 dental facilities and two School clinics, through a cadre of 43 staff members in partnership with four teams of volunteers.

2.1.3 Surveillance

Fever surveillance is used to identify suspected cases of dengue fever and malaria. During the period under review, there was an increase in the number of fever cases by 179% mainly due to the dengue fever outbreak.

The Southern Region reported 153 cases of accidental poisoning in the reporting year, an increase of 9% over the 2011-2012 period.

Suspected cases of leptospirosis moved to 263 from 314, reflecting a decrease of 16% over the previous year.

2.1.4 Maternal Deaths

Maternal death is classified as death of a woman between the age of 15-49 years old who died during pregnancy or had delivered 42 days prior to her death. There were ten (10) maternal deaths reported when compared to nine (9) in the previous reporting period.

2.1.5 HIV/STI/AIDS

Commercial Sex Workers – Approximately seventy one (71) sex workers were trained in empowerment workshops during the period under review.

Out of School Youth Programme – A total of One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eleven (1,811) Out of School youths were reached. Condoms distributed among them totalled Eleven Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty-six (11,556), a 27% reduction when compared to the previous year.

Safer Sex Week – Approximately Seven Hundred and Forty persons were tested for HIV during Safer Sex Week's activities in 2013, representing 46% reduction over the 2012 period.

World Aids Day – A total of Nine Hundred and Thirty-Eight (938) persons were tested for HIV, a 58% increase in the number of persons tested in the previous period. Of this figure, one male and one female were tested positive from the parish of Clarendon.

2.1.6 Family Health

Immunization

All antigens delivered under the expanded immunization programme were on/above the coverage target.

Antenatal Clinics

Visits to antenatal clinics fell from 39,224 in the previous period to 37,220 in the period under review. The target 22% for the first trimester visit was surpassed in all the quarters.

Postnatal Clinics

Total visits to postnatal clinics by mothers (94.3% - 7,824) and by babies (95.2% - 7,902) surpassed the 80% target. Exclusive breast feeding was 52.5% registering a marginal decrease of 0.4% when compared to the previous period. However, the target of 65% was surpassed.

Family Planning Acceptors attending postnatal clinics registered a total of 5,753 (73.5%), surpassing the target of 70%. This number recorded an increase over the previous period (5,507 – 68.1%).

2.1.7 Hospital Services

Services were offered from five (5) hospitals – Mandeville Regional; May Pen, Black River, Percy Junor and Lionel Town Hospitals. For the period under review, the Region had a bed complement of 622, with overall occupancy rate of 77 ranging from 35 at Lionel Town to 81 at the Mandeville Regional Hospital.

During the period under review, total hospital admissions were 34,879 and discharges were reported to 35,211, resulting in a decline of 1,279 and 1,162 respectively.

2.2 HUMAN RESOURCES

During the period under review, a total of 188 persons were recruited by the Region, resulting in a significant decrease when compared with the previous reporting period of 253 persons recruited.

A total of 15 Cuban nurses were assigned to assist the Region in areas of Primary Care, Operating Theatre, Intensive Care and Accident and Emergency.

During the year, increased vigilance was employed in ensuring the appointment of staff who met the criteria. In this regard there was a 71% increase in the number of persons who were appointed when compared to the previous year. Much emphasis was placed on training and human development to ensure optimum levels of human resource capacities.

2.3 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Various strategies were implemented to increase the level of efficiency within the Fleet Department which involved fleet audits being conducted to ensure compliance with the Fleet Guidelines. In-house maintenance significantly minimized outsourced jobs, resulting in savings of approximately \$4.3 million. Additionally, partnership with Petroleum Company of Jamaica resulted in implementation of energy saving projects for lighting, including the installation of perimeter lights at May Pen Hospital. Repair jobs were undertaken on critical equipment.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS

3.1 The emoluments paid to the Board of Directors and Senior Managers of the Southern Regional Health Authority for the period under review, have been included on pages 23-25 of the Annual Report.

3.2 Total Income to the Region amounted to just over \$5.434B which included:

- i. Government Grants of just over \$5.354B;
- ii. Patient Fees, \$60.1M;
- iii. Deferred Income, 1.9M;
- iv. Interest Income, 469K; and
- v. Other Income at \$16.9M.

Total expenses including finance costs amounted to \$5.884B, resulting in a deficit of just under \$452M.

3.3 The Auditors, KPMG Chartered Accountants, have advised that there are contingent liabilities, some from previous years, in respect of which either no provision or the adequacy of amounts provided is uncertain in the financial statements.

The Auditors have concluded that except for the effects of any necessary adjustments, the financial statements gave a true and fair view of the Authority's financial position as at March 31, 2013.



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Minister of Health

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