

ANNUAL REPORT ON PERFORMANCE FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-2022



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
AND WELLNESS

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ACRONYMS

AHC	Area Health Centres	MOHW	Ministry of Health and Wellness
BSMHCC	Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre	MIH	Mauritius Institute of Health
CDCU	Communicable Disease Control Unit	NAS	National AIDS Secretariat
CHC	Community Health Centre	NBTS	National Blood Transfusion Service
CSD	Central Supplies Division	NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
DHIS2	District Health Information Software 2	NHA	National Health Accounts
DOSS	Department of Operations Support Services	NPP	National Population Policy
EHEU	Environmental Health Engineering Unit	OHU	Occupational Health Unit
ENT	Ear, Nose and Throat	OAW	Orthopaedic Appliances Workshop
EPI	Expanded Programme of Immunization	PEP	Post Exposure Prophylaxis
FY	Financial Year	PLHIV	People Living with HIV
GAD	Government Analyst Division	PrEP	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	PHC	Primary Health Care
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	PHFS	Public Health and Food Safety
GFATM	Global Fund against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria	PWID	People Who Inject Drugs
HIEC	Health Information and Education Unit	PWUD	People Who Use Drugs
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
HSSP	Health Sector Strategic Plan	REHSIMUS	Reinforcing the Health Systems in Mauritius
IPC	Infection Prevention and Control	VBCD	Vector Biology Control Diseases
LIMS	Laboratory Information Management System	WHO	World Health Organization
MIDAS	Mauritius Intensive Diabetes Action Study	YEPAD	Youth Empowerment Programme Against Drugs
MST	Methadone Substitution Therapy		

FOREWORD



It is with a sense of pride that my Ministry is publishing the Annual Report on Performance of the Ministry of Health and Wellness for the Financial Year 2021-2022, in line with the requirement of the Finance and Audit Act.

The Budget for FY 2021-2022 was crafted under the theme **“Better Together”** which guided the strategies implemented by the Ministry of Health and Wellness during the FY under review.

In spite of yet another challenging year, the Government has sailed through the difficult times brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic by adapting our strategies to the changing situation and reviewing our priorities to further strengthen our health system including free COVID-19 vaccination. We are, now, in a stronger position to sustain progress made and thrive for a better and more resilient future.

During Financial year 2021-2022, a number of innovations have been brought. Primary Coronary Intervention (PCI) was introduced at Dr A.G Jeetoo Hospital and Victoria Hospital. A new Neo natal ICU has been set up at Victoria Hospital. Preconception clinics have been introduced in Area Health Centres and echography services for pregnant women have been scaled up. A Fertility Clinic has been set up at the SSRN Hospital and new therapies for the management of neonatal care have been introduced. In the same vein, a new Female Rehabilitation Centre, (Orchidée), has been set up at the Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre. Revision of current policies and amendments to legislations on tobacco and alcohol have been brought to curb the incidence of Non Communicable Diseases.

To further improve the universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, the Household income ceiling eligibility criterion was revised from Rs 50,000 to Rs 100,000 to increase accessibility for overseas treatment of patients.

Government is making yet another major stride in sustaining its provision of all the required infrastructure and equipment to protect our healthcare personnel and better respond to the needs of our population. Our country will soon witness the materialisation of major infrastructural projects like the New Cancer Centre, New Teaching Hospital at Flacq, New Eye Hospital at Réduit and new Mediclinics and Area Health Centres. With regard to the digitalisation of the public health sector, the Ministry of Health and Wellness. has made sufficient progress on E-Health with the support of the United Nations Development Programme.

I wish to acknowledge the support of the staff of my Ministry and the different stakeholders in the elaboration of this report. I am fully confident that the Ministry will continue to set higher benchmarks and fulfil its mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kailesh'.

Dr Kailesh Kumar Singh JAGUTPAL
Minister of Health and Wellness

29 November 2022

MESSAGE FROM SENIOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE



I am particularly honoured to present the Annual Report 2021-2022 covering the achievements and progress made by the Ministry of Health and Wellness in line with our national, regional and international commitments.

For the period under review, Government's allocation to health care was Rs 14.5 billion amounting to a per capita Government expenditure on health at Rs 11,000. In spite of globally rising health costs, Government through this Budget and the preceding one, has been sustaining its investments to shore up public health systems so that it can continue to provide high quality healthcare to Mauritians.

During the past year, the implementation of the Health Sector Strategic Plan (2020-2024) was pursued. A comprehensive set of actions were initiated under this plan in order to enhance our health services delivery with profound emphasis on customer care, enhancement of primary health care, health promotion, preventive medicine and specialised services.

In view to reinforce the resilience of an interlocking set of primary, secondary and specialized healthcare services, the Ministry has undertaken a series of commendable initiatives during the FY 2021-2022. Following wide consultation meetings with relevant stakeholders, a number of Action Plans and Policies were introduced, including the National Population Policy (NPP) 2021-2024, the National Cancer Control Programme Action Plan 2022-2025, the Tobacco Control Action Plan 2022-2027, the National Breastfeeding Action Plan 2022-2027 and the National Action Plan on Oral Health 2022-2027. The implementation of these policies is underway through the setting up of relevant Steering Committees and with the collaboration of numerous stakeholders.

In addition, a number of services have been introduced or scaled up namely, Emergency Resuscitation Units, a new Methadone Day Care Centre and a new Rehabilitation Centre at Brown Sequad Mental Health Care Centre, systematic Hepatitis B and C screening as well as the setting up of a national centre for Gastroenterology and Hepatology. For services which are not available in public hospitals, additional partnerships with the private sector have been introduced for patients to avail of treatment in private hospitals.

Amidst a range of other healthcare projects implemented, the continuous fight against the COVID-19 pandemic remained at the forefront of the Ministry's concerns during FY 2021-2022, especially with the focus on surveillance and the vaccination of our population against COVID-19. Our response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been dynamic with constant evolution brought about by the adoption of international best practices such as the WHO Infection Prevention Control (IPC) Guidelines adapted to the Mauritian context with publication of our country's National IPC Guidelines, introduction of sequencing for detection of COVID-19 variants and training of staff in bio-informatics.

I remain confident that my Ministry will continue to build on the health gains already achieved and will continue to work towards protecting what matters most, that is, healthcare and well-being of all our citizens.

I would like to seize this occasion to thank all stakeholders for their invaluable contribution. I would also like to place on record the effort and commitment of all staff of the Ministry who have provided dedicated support to patients through direct customer care or through diligent performance of their administrative duties. I wish also to salute the remarkable contribution of Mrs. D. Allagapen, former Senior Chief Executive and Mr. P. Mawah, Permanent Secretary, during part of the period under review. I extend my appreciation and also sincerely thank the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness for his perseverance and guidance.

C. R. Seewooruthun (Mrs)
Senior Chief Executive - Ministry of Health and Wellness

HIGHLIGHTS FY 2021-2022



Main Health Indicators

- ❖ Life Expectancy at birth was **74 years**
- ❖ Maternal Mortality Ratio was **54 per 100,000** live births in 2021 compared to the global SDG target of 70
- ❖ **Rs. 11, 453** Per capita Government Expenditure on Health
- ❖ **8,773,393** contacts with public health institutions

Primary Health Care

114 Community Health Centres (CHCs),
19 Area Health Centres (AHCs),
6 Mediclinics, **2** Community Hospitals

- ❖ **4.7 million** attendances recorded for treatment and follow-up
- ❖ **176,000** attendances recorded at Maternal and Child Health Clinics
- ❖ **150,000** Immunizations performed on children



Hospital Services

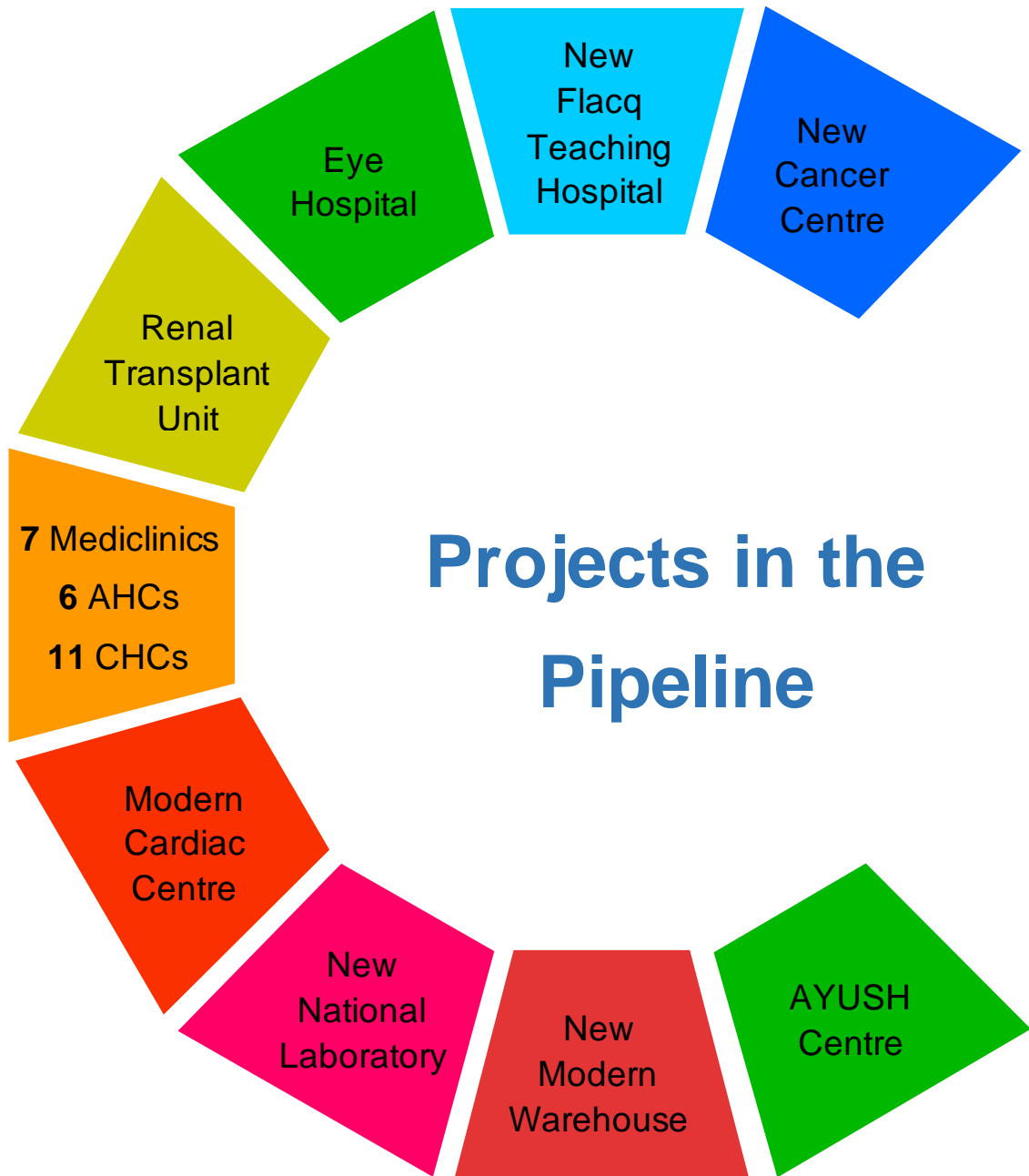
5 Regional Hospitals, **2** District Hospitals
and **6** Specialised Hospitals

- ❖ **2.6 million** cases seen by doctor
- ❖ **45,700** surgical operations performed
- ❖ **224,700** haemodialysis performed on Government patients

COVID-19 Responses

- ❖ Vaccination: **930,828** (1st dose) **903,978** (2nd dose), **644,540** (1st Booster dose) (Cumulative from Jan 2021)
- ❖ **37,547** positive cases and **36,804** recovered as at 30 June 2022.





PART I

ABOUT THE MINISTRY

1.1 VISION AND MISSION

OUR VISION

- *A healthy nation with a constantly improving quality of life and well-being.*

OUR MISSION

- *Reinforce our health services into a modern high performing quality health system that is patient- centred, accessible, equitable, efficient and innovative.*
- *Improve quality of life and well-being of the population through the prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases, promote healthy lifestyles and an environment conducive to health.*
- *Harness the full potential of Information and Communication Technology to empower people to live healthy lives.*
- *Ensure that the available human, financial and physical resources lead to the achievement of better health outcomes.*
- *Facilitate the development of the Republic of Mauritius into a medical and knowledge hub and support the advancement of health tourism.*

1.2 ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

The Ministry of Health and Wellness has the overall responsibility of ensuring that quality and equitable health services are accessible to the entire population at all times. Its policy is to continually improve the delivery of health care by promoting greater efficiency and effectiveness while laying emphasis on customer satisfaction. The Ministry is also responsible to promote healthy lifestyle.

The role and functions of the Ministry of Health and Wellness are to:

- *Develop a comprehensive health service in order to meet the health needs of the population;*
- *Investigate the influence of physical environment and psychosocial domestic factors on the incidence of human diseases and disability;*
- *Plan and carry out measures for the promotion of health;*
- *Institute and maintain measures for the prevention of diseases including Non-Communicable Diseases and the epidemiological surveillance of important communicable diseases;*
- *Provide facilities for the treatment of diseases, including mental disease by maintenance of hospital and dispensary services;*
- *Make provisions for the rehabilitation of the disabled;*
- *Control the practice of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and allied health professionals*
- *Provide facilities for the training of Nursing Officers, Midwives, ancillary hospital and laboratory staff and Health Inspectors;*
- *Advise local government authorities regarding their health services and to inspect those services;*
- *Prepare and publish reports and statistical data and other information relating to health;*
- *Implement a Family Planning, Maternal and Child Health Programme;*
- *Initiate and conduct operational bio-medical health studies of diseases of major importance in the country.*

1.3 GENDER STATEMENT



In Mauritius, Government demonstrates staunch political will for universal health coverage with emphasis on people-centred services, accessibility to more specialised medicine and improvement in the quality of care for all throughout their life course. Thus, Government provides free affordable quality health services, from primary care to specialised services to the population, without any discrimination based on their income, **gender**, race and religion.

The needs and concerns of all the population are considered in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, plans and projects on health. The Ministry is also committed to a gender-inclusive and equitable workplace and encourages a culture that enables all employees to thrive, irrespective of gender. The informational approach to gender equity is to demonstrate that the government health delivery system caters equally for men and women. For example, available statistics indicate that, in 2021, 53 % of admissions in government hospitals and 51% of first attendance at primary health care centres consisted of girls and women.

The foundation for health and well-being throughout the life course is being laid through the necessary provision of maternal, neonatal and child health services. Maternal Mortality Ratio is 54 per 100,000 live births and lower when compared to the global target of 70. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel was 99.8% in 2021 in spite of the COVID-19 lockdown period. Life expectancy at birth for both sexes has improved and is presently 70.4 years and 77.3 years, for male and female respectively in 2021.

The Ministry also acknowledges that women and girls have specific health needs throughout their lifespan, including emotional needs, sexual, maternal and reproductive health, prevention of cancers, menopause and pathology of ageing.

A comprehensive set of actions has been identified to improve the health of women and children under the Health Sector Strategic Plan 2020-2024. In addition, the Ministry has elaborated a National Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy 2022 and an Implementation Plan 2022 – 2027, the emphasis being on Sexual and Reproductive Health. One of the focuses of the strategies is to improve Women's Health through various activities such as screening, awareness and sensitisation. Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights will help promote, protect and support Women's Rights. The Ministry is also emphasizing on gender related clinical conditions such as breast cancer, cervical cancer, menopause, preconception care and safe motherhood.

The focus is also changing from treatment to prevention to health promotion through more awareness campaigns. The aim of these campaigns is to empower women with scientific and sound information so that they can make the best health decisions for them and their families.

1.4 OUR PEOPLE



The head of the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) is the Senior Chief Executive, who is responsible for the overall administration and general supervision of all Departments and other Bodies falling under the aegis of the Ministry. The Senior Chief Executive is assisted in her functions and duties by two Permanent Secretaries and the Director General Health Services. The personnel of the Ministry also include officers from the Administrative Cadre, Medical Cadre, Analyst Cadre, Health Promotion and Research Cadre, Statistical Cadre, Health Records Cadre, Human Resources Management Cadre, Financial Operations Cadre, Procurement and Supply Cadre and other technical cadres as well as officers belonging to the general services grades.

The health workforce in Mauritius is composed of medical doctors, nurses and midwives, dentists, pharmacists and other paramedical professionals. In addition, non-medical staff provides administrative support for the day-to-day running of the health services. Around 15,000 officers in 375 different grades are employed by the Ministry of Health and Wellness, of whom 85% are technical staff who are responsible for delivery of services and 15% are support staff. Skilled personnel are available in a variety of medical specialities.

In 2021, there were 3,775 doctors in the country, out of whom 1,681, including 376 specialists, were working in the public sector. In addition, 218 doctors, including those recruited during the COVID-19 Pandemic, as well as 72 nurses, were employed on contract basis. The number of doctors per 10,000 population was 29.9 in the country. Out of the total number of 449 dentists, 70 were employed by Government and 379 were working in the private sector. The number of dentists per 10,000 population stood at 3.6 in 2021. 555 pharmacists were registered as at end of 2021, out of whom 35 were working in the public health institutions and 520 were practicing in the private sector. The number of pharmacists per 10,000 population was 4.4.

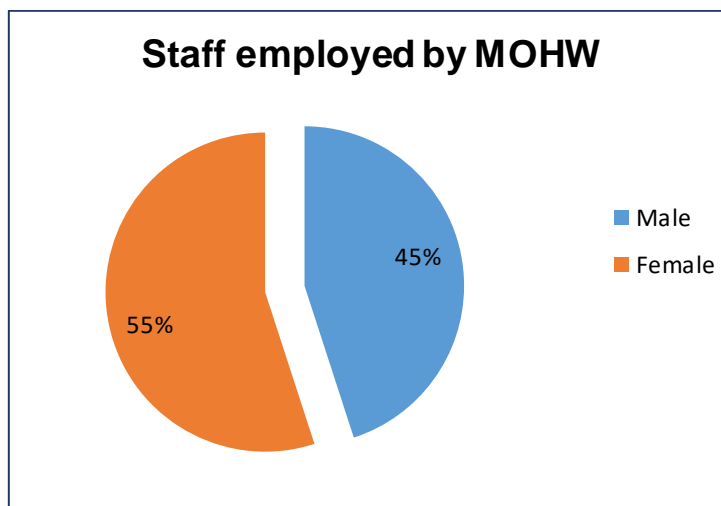
Qualified nurses and midwives working in the public sector in 2021 numbered 3,711. Other paramedical personnel in the public sector included 2,116 Hospital Care Attendants, 956 Health Care Assistants (General), 235 Medical Laboratory Technologists, 180 Pharmacy Technicians (including Store Manager) and 378 Health Records personnel.

During the FY 2021/2022, there was recruitment/promotion of some 1,551 officers from different cadres including one Director General Health Services, 4 Directors Health Services, 3 Regional Health Directors, 5 Medical Superintendents, 12 Consultants in Charge, 28

Specialists/ SS, 203 Medical Health Officers/SMHO, 58 Pre-registration house officers, 20 Community Physicians, 7 Dental Surgeons, 8 Medical laboratory Technologists/SMLT, 6 Bio-medical Engineering Technicians, 3 Directors, Nursing, 2 Deputy Directors, Nursing, 5 Regional Nursing Administrators, 3 Nursing Administrators, 24 Nursing Supervisors, 59 Ward Managers, 53 Charge Nurses, 37 officers from Medical Imaging Technologist cadre (including 30 as Trainee), 14 officers from Radiation Therapist cadre, 2 Nuclear Medicine Technologists, 27 officers from Medical Imaging Assistant cadre, 9 Specialised Nurses, 9 Specialised Health Care Assistants, 112 Health Care Assistants/ SHCA, 40 officers from the midwifery cadre (including 22 Trainee), Pharmacy Technician cadre, Health Records cadre, Public Health and Food Safety Inspectorate, General workers, Attendants Hospital Services (on shift) amongst others.

In that particular period, some 274 officers have retired from different cadres including, one Director General Health Services, one Director Health Services, 3 Medical Superintendents, 9 Consultants in Charge, 3 Specialists/ SS, 9 Medical Health Officers/SMHO, 3 Regional Public Health Superintendents, 2 Regional Dental Superintendents, 7 officers from Medical Laboratory Technologist cadre, 3 Directors, Nursing, 1 Deputy Director, Nursing, 2 Regional Nursing Administrators, 13 Nursing Administrators, 23 Nursing Supervisors, 23 Ward Managers, 9 Charge Nurses, 4 officers from Medical Imaging Technologist cadre, 2 Health Care Assistant/ SHCA, Pharmacy Technician cadre, Health Records cadre, Public Health and Food Safety Inspectorate, General workers, Attendants Hospital Services amongst others.

The percentage of public health workforce in terms of gender is as follows:



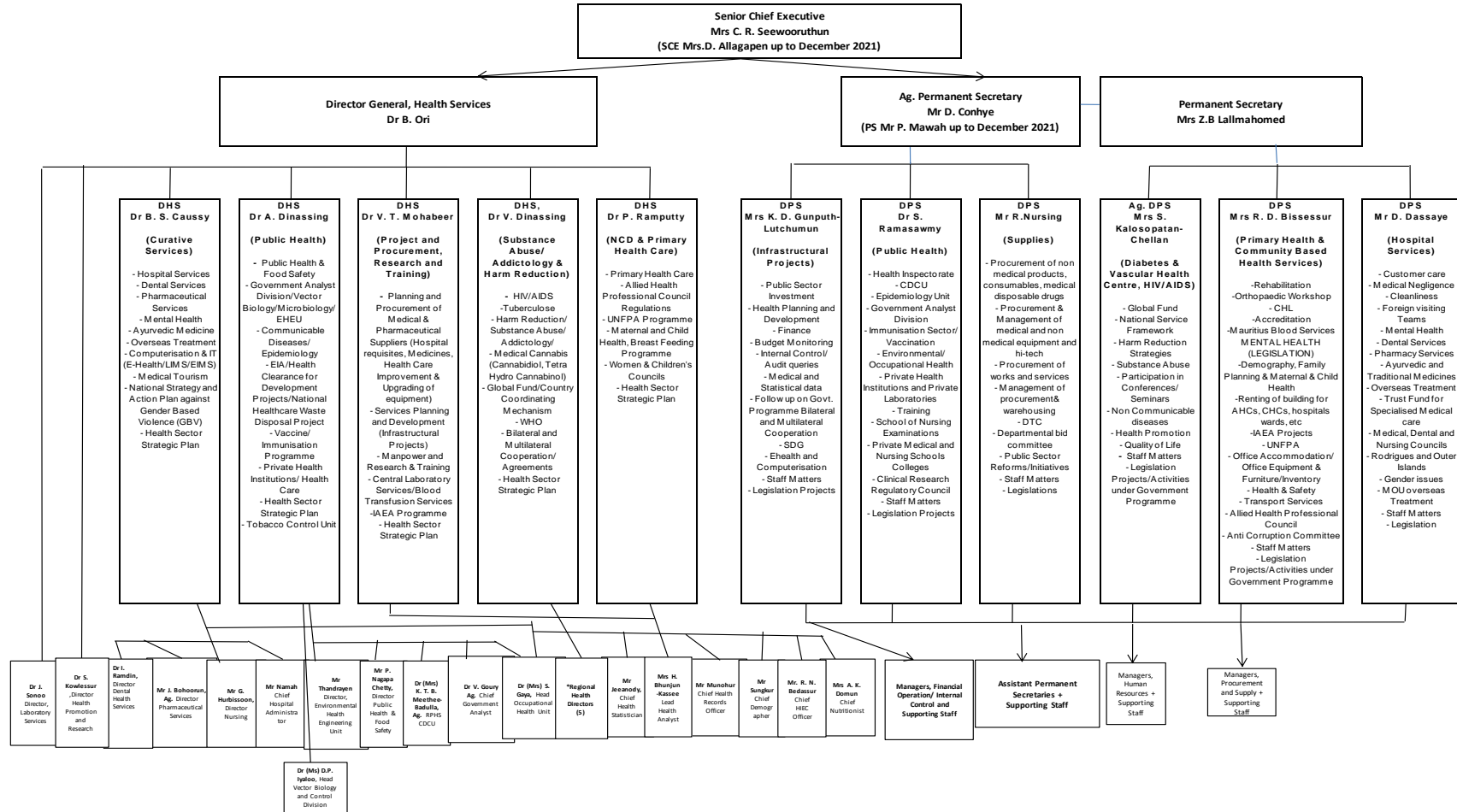
Further classification of the workforce by gender across hierarchy levels is as follows:

Staff in Post (FY 2021/22)	Number		
	Male	Female	Total
Top Management (Salary \geq Rs110,000)	(78%)	(22%)	65
Middle Management (Rs47,000 \leq Salary \leq Rs100,000)	(53%)	(47%)	2,501
Support (Salary < Rs47,000)	(43%)	(57%)	10,234
Overall	(45%)	(55%)	12,800

Source: MOHW Budget FY 2022-2023

1.5 ORGANISATIONAL CHART

Ministry of Health and Wellness - Organisation Chart (FY 2021-2022)



*Regional Health Directors (RHD) -

Regions:

1. Dr A. G. Jeetoo Hospital
2. SSRN Hospital
3. Dr Bruno Cheong Hospital
4. J. Nehru Hospital
5. Victoria Hospital

- Dr R. Jugduth, RHD
- Dr P. Gungadin, RHD
- Dr M. Khodaboccus, RHD
- Dr I. D. I. Nawoor, RHD
- Dr D. Gopal, RHD

DHS - Director Health Services, DPS - Deputy Permanent Secretary, NCD - Non-Communicable Diseases, CDCU - Communicable Diseases Control Unit

Note: All Permanent Secretaries, DPS and DHS are responsible for the implementation of the Health Sector Strategic Plan 2020-2024

1.6 KEY LEGISLATIONS

- Public Health Act 1925
- Pharmacy Act 1983
- Mauritius Institute of Health Act 1989
- Ayurvedic and Other Traditional Medicine Act 1989
- Private Health Institutions Act 1990
- Trust Fund for Specialized Medical Care Act 1992
- Mental Health Care Act 1998
- Dental Council Act 1999
- Medical Council Act 1999
- Dangerous Drugs Act 2000
- Nursing Council Act 2003
- Dangerous Chemicals Control Act 2004
- HIV and AIDS Act 2006
- Mauritius Blood Service Act 2010
- Clinical Trials Act 2011
- Pharmacy Council Act 2015
- Allied Health Professionals Council Act 2017
- Mauritius Family Planning & Welfare Association Act 2018
- Human Tissue (Removal, Preservation and Transplant) Act 2018
- Quarantine Act 2020
- Mental Health Care Act (Amendment) 2021
- Optical Council Act 2021
- Food Act 2022

1.7 PACKAGE OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES

(i) Primary Healthcare Level

Community Health Centres (CHC)	Area Health Centres (AHC)	Additional Services (Mediclinics)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diagnosis and treatment of common diseases and injuries ▪ Referral to hospitals ▪ Follow up of referrals from hospitals ▪ NCD Clinics ▪ Dispensing of medications ▪ Antenatal clinics ▪ Well baby clinics ▪ Cash gift scheme ▪ Immunisation ▪ Family Planning ▪ Health education ▪ Nutrition education and counselling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All services provided at CHCs ▪ Dental Clinics ▪ School Health ▪ NCD Screening ▪ Diabetic clinics ▪ Specialist sessions ▪ Food Handlers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All services provided at AHCs ▪ X Ray facilities ▪ Laboratory services

(ii) List of Hospital Services

▪ Accident & Emergency	▪ HIV and AIDS Services
▪ Autism	▪ Paediatrics
▪ Cardiology/Cardiac Surgery	▪ Neurosurgery
▪ Dental services	▪ Oncology and Radiotherapy
▪ Dermatology	▪ Ophthalmology
▪ Diabetes/Endocrinology	▪ Oral and Maxillofacial surgery
▪ Diagnostic Laboratory Investigations	▪ Orthopaedics
▪ Ear, nose and throat services	▪ Paediatric Surgery
▪ Fertility clinic	▪ Plastic Surgery
▪ General Surgery	▪ Psychology
▪ Gastro-enterology	▪ Psychiatry
▪ General Medicine	▪ Respiratory Medicine
▪ Gynaecology and obstetrics	▪ Rheumatology
▪ Imaging facilities including CT scan& MRI	▪ Social Care Services including therapy
▪ Intensive Care Services	▪ Traditional Medicines Services
▪ Infectious Diseases management	▪ Occupational and Physiotherapy
▪ Nephrology including Renal dialysis/transplant	▪ Neonatal Intensive Care Services
▪ Anaesthesia	▪ Bariatric Surgeries
▪ Geriatric Services	▪ Laparoscopy Ovarian Cystectomy
▪ Spinal Surgeries	▪ Laparoscopy Ectopic Surgeries
▪ Endovenous Laser Varicose Vein Surgeries	▪ COVID-19 Testing and Treatment Centres (Provisional services depending on the pandemic situation)

1.8 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

In Mauritius, Government is committed to leave no one behind concerning access to quality healthcare. Under a visionary and transformational leadership, Government as in preceding years, stood guided by one sole objective that is, putting the health and the wellness of our citizens as a top priority. Public investments have been sustained to continue providing free universal access to quality health care services from primary to specialized care to the population, regardless of income, gender, race and religion.

Over the past eleven years, the budget allocated to the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) has increased by 91.8% from Rs 7.56 billion in 2010 to reach Rs 14.5 billion in FY 2021-2022. Per capita government expenditure on health which was approximately Rs 5,888 in 2010, increased to around Rs 11,453 in FY 2021-2022. Government's allocation to health as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product was around 3.4% for the period under review.

Moreover, during the FY 2021-2022, the implementation of the Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP) 2020-2024 has been receiving commitment at the highest level through the progress monitoring by a Ministerial Committee and the presentation of a progress report to Cabinet. The HSSP conforms to Government's policy in the health sector, which aims at achieving the highest standards of good health among the population.

In line with the HSSP, the Ministry introduced a number of Action Plans and Policies, namely the National Population Policy (NPP) 2021-2024, the National Cancer Control Programme Action Plan 2022-2025, the Tobacco Control Action Plan 2022-2027, the National Breastfeeding Action Plan 2022-2027, the National Action Plan on Oral Health 2022-2027. Relevant Steering Committees have been set up to monitor implementation of these Action Plans in collaboration with private stakeholders and the civil society.

Clinical Guidelines have been developed in 35 specialities by Specialist Doctors to standardise the provision of health care in the different fields and have been disseminated on the virtual library of the Mauritius Institute of Health plus the website of the Ministry. For improved care to patients and adherence to Clinical Guidelines, the Ministry has initiated Clinical Audits in all Regional Hospitals in Outpatient Departments, at the General Surgery unit and the Gynaecology and Obstetrics department since February 2022.

Moreover, revision of current policies and amendments to legislations on tobacco and alcohol in order to scale up the prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases and their risk factors were also made.

In terms of neonatal and women health, a number of sensitisation sessions were conducted to improve women's health and their well-being such as benefits of ante-natal and post-natal care, family planning services, screening for breast and cervical cancer and also awareness raising on the complications related due to backstreet abortion. Preconception clinics have also been introduced in Area Health Centres, echography services for pregnant women have been scaled up for the early detection of foetal abnormalities and complications, a policy on attendances for ante-natal care and breast feeding has been adopted, an Assisted Reproductive Technology Centre (Fertility Clinic) has been set up at the SSRN Hospital and new therapies for the management of neonatal care (Nitric oxide Therapy, Cooling Thermo-Regulation Therapy) have

been introduced. Moreover, the protocols for management of obstetric cases and complications upon admission in labour ward were revised.

In addition, a number of services have been introduced or scaled up namely Emergency Resuscitation Units, a new Methadone Day Care Centre and a new Rehabilitation Centre at Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre, systematic Hepatis B and C screening and the setting up of a national centre for Gastroenterology and Hepatology. For services which are not available in public hospitals, Public Private Partnership has been introduced for patients to avail of the treatment in private hospitals.

With a view to ease the access to essential health services and improve financial protection, the household income ceiling eligibility criteria has been revised from Rs 50,000 to Rs 100, 000 to increase accessibility for overseas treatment of patients who are not operable locally.

With a view to tackling risks associated with infectious diseases, the MOHW implemented guidelines on Infection Prevention and Control in all public healthcare institutions. Twelve Ultra-Cold Chain freezers were also acquired with the support from the European Union (EU) to strengthen logistics for effective cold chain in the event of infectious diseases and for storage of vaccines.

During the FY 2021-2022, the Ministry maintained the COVID-19 vaccination programme as one of its key strategies to control the pandemic. Although the aim of the government was to vaccinate 60% of the Mauritian population by September 2021, the target was reached as early as 13th August 2021, with 753,260 Mauritians (60.2%) already inoculated with one dose of COVID-19 vaccine before the deadline set by the government. The campaign allowed vaccinated Mauritians to return to normal life during and after lifting of sanitary protocols and to kick-start the economy back.

As part of the efforts to tackle substance abuse among young people, 14 sessions of the Youth Empowerment Programme Against Drugs (YEPAD) were held in collaboration with National Drug Secretariat in different regions targeting 357 participants. Moreover, to provide a holistic care and treatment to patients, the WHO Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST) programme was implemented and patients with high scores were referred to psychiatrist in Regional Hospitals.

Massive investment in the construction of new public health infrastructure and the upgrading of existing ones is ongoing in order to scale up the provision of advanced healthcare services to the population as well as reinforce the primary health care service delivery at community level. The ongoing public health infrastructure projects include the construction of the new Cancer Hospital (Phase II), the New Flacq Teaching Hospital, the New Eye Hospital, 4 Mediclinics and 5 Community Health Centres. Projects in the pipeline include the construction of Renal Transplant Unit at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, a Modern Warehouse for the storage of Pharmaceutical Products and other Medical Consumables at Côte D'or, a National Health Laboratory Services Centre at Côte D'or, State-of-the-Art Cardiac Centre on a "Design, Finance, Build and Maintain" model at Côte D'Or, 2 Mediclinics and 4 Area Health Centres.

With regard to the digitalisation of the public health sector, the Ministry has since progressed with the implementation of E-Health with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The COVID-19 Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) is live in all Flu

Clinics. Moreover, the Mauritius All-in-One Travel Digital Form for incoming passengers has reached 69.9% usage by end of June 2022.

In the same line, following the signature of the Project Portfolio Document on E-Health initiatives, as part of a market engagement, the UNDP launched an Expression of Interest for its implementation in public hospitals. The UNDP is finalising the Request for Proposals document for E-Health. In parallel, the Ministry is undertaking site readiness through the provision of Local Area Network (LAN) connectivity across all public health institutions.

In December 2020, the European Union had agreed to provide EUR 7.9 million as budgetary support to MOHW through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development under the Reinforcing the Health Systems in Mauritius (REHSIMUS) Project. Out of the total amount, some EUR 3.9 million was disbursed at the initial stage of the Project. One of the conditions for the disbursement of the remaining EUR 3.9 million in this Financial Year was continued commitment from Government to support and implement the HSSP 2020-2024. The Ministry has reported to the EU on the successful implementation of the REHSIMUS indicators. The EU has therefore released the final disbursement of EUR 3.9 million of the budgetary support.

As far as utilization of the public health services is concerned, in 2021, a total of 4.7 million attendances were recorded at the 141 primary health care institutions for the treatment of common diseases and minor injuries. Outpatient and inpatient services provided by hospitals, on the round the clock basis and 7 days a week, extend to surgical, rehabilitation, palliative, geriatric, new born and post-natal care facilities. Hospitals represent the main concentration of health resources, professional skills, drugs, infrastructure and medical equipment. A total of 2.6 million cases were seen by doctor at the public hospitals and some 149,259 patients were admitted for treatment in 2021. Furthermore, 224,681 renal dialysis sessions were carried out in 2021.

Moreover, the number of doctors per 10,000 population was 29.9 in the country, the number of dentists per 10,000 population stood at 3.6 in 2021 and the number of pharmacists per 10,000 population was 4.4.

Investment in health has paid rewarding dividends mostly in terms of an enhancement in the health status of the population. Mauritius has already achieved some of the health-related Sustainable Development Goals targets set for 2030. Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births was 9.7, Under 5 Mortality Rate was 15.3 per 1,000 live births and maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births was 54 in the year 2021. The percentage of the population with access to affordable medicines and vaccines on a sustainable basis is close to 100.

1.9 MAJOR CHALLENGES

Mauritius is often cited as a reference on the international arena for its remarkable achievements in improving the health status of its population. Nevertheless, despite being exemplary and having accomplished noteworthy health indicators, Mauritius still faces certain challenges, which include the growing burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), the complex health needs of the ageing population and the rising expectations of patients for more patient-centred and improved quality of care. In addition, there is the need to ensure the maintenance of health infrastructure (Building and Equipment) and improving implementation rate of new infrastructure projects, to build further the capacity of the health workforce and to expedite the digitalisation of health services to meet the new demand of the public health sector.

The main NCDs affecting the population include diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and cancer. The rise of these diseases and the chronic conditions associated with them are responsible for the largest share of morbidity, mortality and disability and present a major challenge to the health of the nation and to the health system at large. NCDs account for 88.7% of all deaths. Unhealthy habits among the population such as smoking and alcohol abuse, eating the wrong foods and a sedentary life style have contributed to the high prevalence of NCDs in the country.

Nevertheless, there is a strong political commitment to tackle NCDs and a number of fiscal measures and regulatory frameworks are in place. Regular surveys on NCDs and their risk factors are conducted and National Action Plans with multi-sectoral involvement have been developed and are being implemented. The main challenges include strong inter-sectoral coordination, behavioural change through community empowerment, and enforcement of regulations on tobacco and alcohol.

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) had increased to 14.9 (per 1,000 live births) in 2020 (representing 200 infant deaths) from its lowest rate of 11.8 in 2016. In 2021, the IMR was reduced to 13.8 per 1,000 live births. The MOHW is implementing strategies to further reduce the Infant Mortality Rate.

Adolescent Health is becoming a high priority as most of the social ill are picked up at this age. The establishment of adolescent ward in each of the 5 Regional Hospitals is becoming a necessity and accompanying this group by a dedicated paediatric team till the age of 16 years is an immediate necessity.

The population of Mauritius is ageing due to sustained low fertility level and increasing life expectancy, which in turn is resulting to lower proportion of children and higher proportion of elders in the population. The proportion of the mid-year population aged 60 years and above is projected to increase from 18.3% in 2020 to 28.6% in 2040 and 37.0% in 2060 for the island of Mauritius. Conversely, the proportion of the population aged 0-14 years is projected to decrease from 16.7% in 2020 to 13.6% in 2040 and 11.1% in 2060. The proportion of the population aged 15-59 years is projected to decrease from 65.0% in 2020 to 57.9% in 2040 and 51.9% in 2060. In this context, a population policy has been formulated which focuses on four socio-demographic patterns in Mauritius today, and proposes actions to be undertaken by Government to enhance the positive impact of such trends on development, and correspondingly, reduce social and economic risks. Government is also envisaging to have fertility clinics in all Regional Hospitals.

The country is also not spared from the resurgence of infectious diseases and emerging ones such as the COVID-19 and Monkeypox which remain continuous threats to the island.

Government is also highly determined to respond to changing patterns of communicable diseases and to sustain the implementation of measures to counter the spread of COVID-19 pandemic in the country. Appearance of variants and detection of same posed additional challenge to the health system. Government has adopted novel measures such as PCR testing, genomic sequencing and vaccination to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In line with the ongoing global economic and health crisis, healthcare costs in Mauritius will continue to rise as the country is highly dependent on the importation of goods, including pharmaceutical products, vaccines, hospital consumables, Personal Protective Equipment and medical equipment. In addition, fluctuations in the foreign exchange rates negatively impacts on healthcare costs. The high prevalence of NCDs and long-term treatment for chronic diseases, increasing demand for geriatric services and advances in medical technologies are also considered as the primary drivers of increasing health care costs in Mauritius.

Another upcoming challenge is the sustainability of the HIV Expenditures as the country is in a transition period with regard to the Global Fund (GF) Grant and eventually new sources of financing will have to be determined with the phasing out of this grant. Moreover, the “Loss to Follow up HIV/AIDS Cases” also represent a challenge to the Ministry. The AIDS Unit is continuously tracking patients not attending Day Care Centres for Immuno-suppressed (DCCIs) so that they can be re-engaged into treatment and care services.

1.10 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HEALTH SECTOR STRATEGIC PLAN (HSSP) 2020-2024

The development of a Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP) for the period 2020-2024 in close collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), conforms to Government's policy in the health sector, which aims at achieving the highest standards of good health among the population.

The main objective of the HSSP 2020-2024 is to ensure the enhancement of health sector development in the Republic of Mauritius, including Rodrigues and the Outer Islands, in order to further improve positive health outcomes for the individual, the family, the community and the economy at large. The Plan contains 26 Strategic Goals and some 362 Strategic Actions to be implemented under the following 21 thematic areas:

Thematic Areas under HSSP 2020-2024	
1. Integrated Primary Health Care Services	10. School Health
2. Community Empowerment	11. Emergency Preparedness and Response
3. Hospital and Allied Services	12. Occupational Health
4. Quality Healthcare	13. Health Information System
5. Non-Communicable Diseases and their Risk Factors	14. Health Research
6. Mental Health	15. Human Resources for Health
7. Substance Use and Addiction	16. Access to Quality Medicine and Health Technologies
8. Communicable Diseases: Vector-Borne, HIV and AIDS, Hepatitis C and Coronavirus, COVID-19	17. Food Safety
9. Health through the Life Course ((i) Maternal Health, (ii) Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health, (iii) Women Health, (iv) Family Planning Services, (v) Vaccination, (vi) Elderly Care)	18. Healthcare Financing
	19. Intersectoral Collaboration and Public Private Partnership
	20. Governance
	21. Medical Hub

The implementation of the HSSP 2020-2024 is receiving commitment at the highest level through the progress monitoring by a Ministerial Committee and the presentation of a progress report to Cabinet. In this context, 21 Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) have been set up at the level of the Ministry for the implementation of the HSSP 2020-2024.

Some 26 Operational Plans have been worked out with more than 600 activities identified by the different TWGS. During the FY 2021-2022, a first round of progress monitoring was undertaken in order to gauge the level of implementation of the Plan. On 29th October 2021, Cabinet was accordingly apprised of the status and progress achieved on activities identified under the 26 operational plans.

1.11 MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Mauritius mostly capitalised on its lessons learnt from the first wave to address the second wave of COVID-19. Important strategies which proved to be effective during the first wave such as the sanitary restrictions, isolation of all people with COVID-19 in treatment centres were maintained. The laboratory testing capacities were also expanded and this allowed for more contact tracing and targeted testing. Innovative measures were also adopted for the national response. More important, COVID-19 vaccination was considered as a game changer in Mauritius and this campaign started in January 2021 continued in the FY 2021-2022.

To contribute to the management of the COVID-19 outbreak in Mauritius, several responsibilities have been entrusted to the NCD, Health Promotion and Research Unit namely: Training for trainers on sensitization campaign on coronavirus, Hotline Service 8924 and 141, Rapid Antigen Test for Detection of COVID-19, PCR Test at airport and COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.

During FY 2021-2022, 37,547 positive cases of COVID-19 were detected in Mauritius through PCR Testing. All necessary treatments were provided to these patients and 36,804 recoveries were recorded as at 30 June 2022. During the same period, 18,330 persons were quarantined as they were suspected cases of COVID-19. The measures adopted by Mauritius were in line with the 10 pillars delineated in the WHO COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan.

1.11.1 COVID-19 MEASURES IMPLEMENTED DURING FY 2021-2022

COVID-19 RESPONSES DURING FY 2021-2022
Country-level coordination, planning and monitoring
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The High-Level committee on COVID-19 chaired by the Prime Minister demonstrating strong political commitment in COVID-19 response.- Adoption of WHO guidelines. Evolving preparedness and response plans to adapt to the dynamic global and local context. Response was guided by “National Response and Contingency Plan in the eventuality of a resurgence of COVID-19 circulation in Mauritius”.- The COVID-19 Act 2020 and the Quarantine Act 2020 were applied.- Government adopted prompt actions and measures to secure additional funding or new sources of funding for the COVID-19 health response.- Securing vaccines for immunisation of the population against COVID-19.- Availing of drugs for treatment of COVID-19 patients.- Reinforcing the public health sector with additional equipment including ICU beds and ventilators.
Risk communication and community engagement
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Significant sensitisation campaign on COVID-19 by the MOHW across wide range of media with the close collaboration of key stakeholders for maximum reach.- Necessary press conferences on COVID-19 for credible and transparent information sharing- Sustained the use of diverse platforms for diffusion of communication such as the hotline 8924, daily press conferences, the Facebook pages and websites (e.g. be Safe Moris) for maximum reach.
Surveillance, rapid-response teams, and case investigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Multiple surveillance systems namely surveillance at borders, community surveillance, hospital and laboratory surveillance.- Early increase in surveillance at points of entry of incoming passengers and community surveillance by health inspectors for 14 days.- Sustained operations at Flu Clinics/COVID-19 testing centres in separate structures within regional hospital compound.- Thermal cameras have been installed in the waiting area of Accident and Emergency Departments of Regional Hospitals to screen all incoming patients for fever.- Efficient and prompt case investigation and scaled up contact tracing.- Self-isolation of identified and vaccinated contacts of infected people with testing done once and follow-up by public health inspectors.- Targeted testing done in high-risk population.
Points of entry, international travel and transport
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Early quarantine measures for incoming passengers with high-risk characteristics.- Implementation of the Mauritius All-in-One Travel Digital Form for diseases surveillance for incoming passengers

- Supervising the operations of the Airport Health Laboratory for COVID-19 screening at the Airport

National laboratories

- Significant increase in national testing capacities with additional laboratories conducting PCR tests. COVID-19 PCR tests conducted in Rodrigues Island.
- Genomic sequencing sustained.
- COVID-19 LIMS fully operational and data entry up to date National LIMS and Passenger LIMS in progress.
- Smooth procurement and good stock of laboratory reagents and consumables.
- Adequate training provided to laboratory staff and necessary laboratory equipment acquired.

Infection prevention and control (IPC)

- Consolidated efforts to train Health care personnel in IPC with the training of trainers and cascade trainings done in regional hospitals.
- Strict IPC measures implemented for the safety of the health care workers such as provision of adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Routine PCR test done upon admission of inpatient or before planned surgery.

Case management

- Systematic isolation of all persons infected with COVID-19 in treatment centres, including asymptomatic patients and free COVID-19 treatment.
- High quality and optimum care were provided due to strategic sorting of patients, latest modern technologies and local expertise.
- Newly devised COVID-19 case management procedures and protocols for each specialty in medicine were applied.
- Continuous training and support for health personnel in treatment centres.
- Knowledge exchange with international experts on latest updates about testing and treatment about COVID-19.

Operational support and logistics

- Centralised storage of medicals materials for COVID-19 response for better stock management, monitoring and distribution.
- Good monitoring of stock, forecast and planning of procurement for PPE.
- Mobilization of support from the bilateral and multilateral agencies for support in terms of resources for the response.
- Additional doctors and nurses were recruited.

Maintaining essential health services and systems

- Maintained essential services and implemented IPC measure to protect inpatients and outpatients.
- Protocol for safe blood collection at community level was set up and implemented. It also incorporated the blood donors' eligibility following COVID-19 vaccination.

1.11.2 COVID-19 VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

In order to further strengthen the fight against COVID-19 in Mauritius, a National Deployment Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccines was devised in collaboration with the WHO in December 2020. As per the Plan, a COVID-19 Vaccination Committee was set up to make recommendations on vaccination policy and advise on all scientific and technical topics related to vaccines and immunisation.

In December 2020, the High-Level Committee on COVID-19 assigned the responsibility of planning, implementing and managing the National COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Mauritius, to the Non-communicable diseases (NCD), Health Promotion and Research Unit of the MOHW.

In this context, 800 staff of different grades were trained to be knowledgeable and skilled in cold chain management, preparation and administration of COVID-19 vaccines. Regular training were organised throughout the vaccination campaign, as and when the country was due to receive the different vaccines.

The COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign was launched on 26 January 2021 on a priority basis. Frontliners, such as, personnel from healthcare sector, police force, hotel sector, airport and seaport were vaccinated first, followed by senior citizens and adults with comorbidities, teaching and non-teaching staff, personnel of other ministries and parastatal bodies. Subsequently, the vaccination campaign was extended to all citizens and residents over the age of 18 including long-term international visitors who hold the Premium Visa. Daily press communique was broadcasted in the National Television and radio to communicate the venue and date for the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

The aim of the Government was to vaccinate 60% of the Mauritian population by September 2021. To reach this target, it was calculated that a minimum of 15,000 persons had to be vaccinated daily. 17 fixed vaccination sites were set up with a capacity to vaccinate a minimum of 800 persons/day/site. In addition, for more community outreach and to increase response rate, 10 mobile teams were set up to vaccinate about 800 persons/day/team to meet the daily target of 15,000 per day. With the logistical arrangements and a strong mobilisation campaign, the target was reached as early as 13th August 2021, with 753,260 Mauritians (60.2%) already inoculated with one dose of COVID-19 vaccine before the deadline set by the government.

Subsequently, the High Committee level decided to extent the COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign to the elderly population. The MOHW in the collaboration with Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity organised pick up points to transport the elderly to the vaccination centers. In addition, mini mobile teams were created to administer COVID-19 vaccines to bed-ridden participants, residents of homes and charitable institutions as well as prison in-mates.

Mauritius received its first consignment of Pfizer BioNTech in September 2021, following which the vaccination campaign was extended to adolescents aged 12 to 17 years. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, a calendar was established to carry out the vaccination in 188 private and state secondary schools and MITD to which 11 mobile teams were deployed to. In addition, vaccination centre at Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium, Reduit was earmarked for the vaccination of unschooled adolescents.

In October 2021, the administration of a first booster dose was launched for adults who had already received a primary course of COVID-19 vaccine 4 months prior. In collaboration with MEXA, AHRIM, EDB, Business Mauritius and Ministry of Public service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms, mobile teams were deployed to worksites for first booster dose administration.

A donation of Paediatric Pfizer vaccine was received in May 2022 with the aim to vaccinate children aged 5 to 11 years. In line with the sensitization campaign on the importance of COVID-19 vaccination, officers of the vaccination teams carried out talks with Director of Zones, Headmasters, teachers and members of the Parent Teachers Association. The vaccination campaign was launched on 23rd of May 2022, following a calendar established in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology. 7 mobile vaccination teams carried out the programme in 292 private and public primary educational institutions. Similarly, to vaccination of unschooled adolescents, children aged 5 to 11 years not attending any schools were directed to the vaccination centre at Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium, Reduit.

In April 2022, the administration of the second booster dose was started, initially targeting high risk patients and senior citizens, and then was ultimately opened to all adults as from August 2022.

As at 30th June 2022, due to the decreasing number of COVID-19 positive cases and the high vaccine coverage in Mauritius, the Vaccination strategy was reorganised out as follows:

- 12 fixed vaccination¹ teams were administrating 1st dose of Pfizer Vaccine to adolescent aged 12 to 17 years, 1st dose, 2nd dose and Booster Dose of Pfizer and Moderna Vaccine for all persons aged 18 years and above who received their 2nd dose (AstraZeneca / Covishield, Covaxin, Sinopharm, Sputnik, Pfizer and Moderna Vaccine) and single dose of Johnson and Johnson Vaccine and 2nd Booster Dose of Pfizer Vaccine for all persons aged 18 years and above who received their booster dose following a single dose (Johnson and Johnson Vaccine) and who received their booster dose (AstraZeneca / Covishield, Covaxin, Sinopharm, Sputnik, Pfizer and Moderna Vaccine) four months ago.
- 5 Mobile Teams were deployed in 5 Regional Hospitals for the administration of Booster Dose (Pfizer Vaccine) for persons with severe health problems as per guidelines and health personnel and also administrating 1st dose (Moderna Vaccine) for in and out patients and 2nd Booster Dose of Pfizer / Moderna Vaccine for High Risk Patient & all persons aged 59 years and above who received their booster dose following a single dose (Johnson and Johnson Vaccine) and who received their booster dose (AstraZeneca / Covishield, Covaxin, Sinopharm, Sputnik, Pfizer and Moderna Vaccine).
- 7 Mobile Teams were deployed in the primary schools to vaccinate children aged 5 to 11 years with the Paediatric Pfizer Vaccine
- 1 Mobile Team was deployed to homes and private charitable institutions.

¹1. Anjalay Stadium, Mapou; 2. Riviere du Rempart Youth Centre, 3. Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium, Reduit, 4. Riviere des Anguilles Village Hall, 5. Plaza, Rose Hill, 6. Dr. James Burty David Gymnasium, Curepipe, 7. Germain Comamond Gymnasium, Bambous, 8. PlaineVerte Youth Centre, 9. Central Flacq Multipurpose Complex, 10. Riche Mare Community Centre, 11. Paillote Municipal Gymnasium, 12. Unicity Office Park, Riviere Noire Rd, Medine

- 4 mini-mobile teams were carrying out vaccination (Johnson and Johnson Vaccine) for bed ridden patients.
- 1 Mobile Team was administering.
- 1st and 2nd doses and booster doses of Pfizer and Moderna Vaccine to detainees.
- Booster dose PfiZer and Moderna Vaccine to Prison Officers.

The NCD, Health Promotion and Research Unit was also responsible for the implementation of COVID-19 vaccination campaign in 15 private clinics and Rodrigues. The programme was also implemented in Agalega in October 2021 and March 2022.

At the start of the vaccination campaign in January 2021, the data entry onto the DHIS-2 software was carried out by the NCD, Health Promotion and Research Unit. The software was then shifted to the COVAC System. By November -December 2021 when the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation took over the work, the NCD, Health Promotion and Research Unit had already overseen 141,163 data entries on DHIS-2 and 88,978 data entries on the COVAC System. The Unit is still responsible on monitoring the distribution of the Registration and Consent forms from the vaccination points to the data entry points.

Furthermore, any lost COVID-19 vaccination cards issues and verification of the vaccination cards are dealt by the NCD, Health Promotion and Research Unit.

Vaccination Programme as at 30th June 2022:

- Number of adults who received a 1st dose: 930,828
- Number of adults who received a 2nd dose: 903,978
- Number of adults who received a 1st booster dose: 644,540
- Number of adults who received a 2nd booster dose: 9,646
- Number of adolescent aged 12 to 17 years who received a 1stdose: 80,412
- Number of adolescent aged 12 to 17 years who received a 2nddose: 74,071
- Number of children aged 5 to 11 years who received a first dose of Paediatric Pfizer: 12,993
- Number of children aged 5 to 11 years who received a second dose of Paediatric Pfizer:5

Agalega

- Administration of 1st dose as at 20th June 2022: 1,212
- Persons who are fully vaccinated as at 20 June 2022: 1,212
- Person who received the booster dose as at 20 June 2022: 1,567
- Administration of 1st dose of Pfizer to adolescent aged 12 to 17 years as at 20th June 2022: 27
- Administration of 2nd dose of Pfizer to students aged 12 to 17 years as at 20th June 2022: 25

Hotline Services

To provide appropriate assistance to the queries of the population, calls were received through the hotline service (8924) and (141). The Ministry was informed about the evolution of the situation and a list of caller's names, addresses, and contact numbers, nature of complaints and actions taken were submitted on a daily basis.

Hotline Service 8924

Staff of the NCD, Health Promotion and Research Unit - Specialized Nurses (Health Promotion), Nursing Officers, Specialized Health Care Assistants (Health Promotion), Medical and Health Officers, Community Physicians were trained to provide a 24-hr service to answer queries from the Mauritian population and advised them appropriately. Calls received throughout the island of Mauritius are handled professionally by officers who provide appropriate assistance to the queries of the population at large.

Total number of calls received as at 30 June 2022: 1,230,158

Hotline 141 for Vaccination Campaign

A Hotline Service (141) has been set up at the Head Quarters to answer to all the queries regarding COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign. This platform provides the population information about the vaccination programme as well as advice on a range of COVID-19 vaccines available.

Total number of calls received as at 30 June 2022: 149,165

Virtual Workshops, workshops and training regarding COVID-19 vaccination campaign

The NCD, Health Promotion and Research Unit was delegated to attend various virtual meeting with regards to COVID 19 vaccination in collaboration with World Health Organization and other renowned organization for the better management of roll out of vaccination campaign since the November / December 2020.

Additionally, NCD, Health Promotion and Research Unit, has organized 6 half-day Training programme for 300 Health Care workers on COVID-19 Vaccination which encompasses the following topics:

- Importance and types of Vaccines
- Training on Consent Form, Registration form, Guidelines and Administrative of vaccine
- Supply Chain Management and Thawing of vaccine
- Communication strategies
- Waste management
- Adverse effect
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Implementation of the vaccination campaign, staffing pattern, role of staff, team management and target population
- Basic life support

The program was even delivered to the 269 newly recruited doctors by the MOHW.

Sensitisation Campaign

The NCD, Health Promotion and Research Unit in collaboration with Prime Minister's Office and Government Information System is actively involved in the sensitisation campaign on COVID-19 prevention.

With a view to encourage Mauritians to adopt the new normal in order to protect their health the following activities were being carried out:

1. In Collaboration with MBC various series were Broadcasted on Radio and TV Spots at peak hours and TV Programs (e.g Priorité Santé Program) were broadcasted with the objectives to promote COVID-19 Vaccination Programme among the population and encourage them to wear masks properly and keep physical distancing measures.
2. Several pamphlets on "Prendre soins de notre santé Mentale" were being distributed in to the general public attending Vaccination Centres.
3. Production and distribution of flyers on "Comment Utiliser un Masque correctement" and "GESTES BARYER".
4. Updated information of COVID-19 on Facebook page and in BE SAFE MAURITIUS application.

PART II



ACHIEVEMENTS BY DEPARTMENTS



2.1 ACHIEVEMENTS BY DEPARTMENTS

The Ministry manages one among the largest fractions (around 8%) of the National Budget. Public funds are spent under the Ministry's budget in order to provide quality and patient-centric health services to the population. The public health sector operates under a complex and elaborated structure comprising public officers from different grades and having a wide range of skills ranging from those of the medical field to administration. Besides the provision of medical services, other key functions, such as ensuring the right health infrastructure and the procurement of drugs and medical equipment, are carried in the most efficient manner to ensure the enhancement of health sector development in the Republic of Mauritius.

The achievements of the different level units of care for the FY 2021-2022 operating under the Ministry have been elaborated in this part of the Annual Report.

2.1.1 PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Primary Health Care (PHC) services are provided through a network of 19 Area Health Centres, 114 Community Health Centres, 6 Medi-Clinics, 2 Community Hospitals and other satellite PHC institutions. The network of PHC facilities is such as to enhance accessibility to primary care within a radius of 3 km.

In 2021, a total of 4.7 million attendances were recorded at the 141 primary health care institutions for the treatment of common diseases and minor injuries. **TABLE I** gives an indication of the total number of attendances recorded in all the PHC institutions at the level of the five Health Regions.

Table I: Attendances at PHC Institutions 2021

REGIONS	ATTENDANCES
Health Region 1 PHCS (under Dr A.G Jeetoo Hospital)	1,134,336
Health Region 2 PHCS (under SSRN Hospital)	1,284,159
Health Region 3 PHCS (under Dr. Bruno Cheong Hospital)	829,271
Health Region 4 PHCS (under J. Nehru Hospital)	681,868
Health Region 5 PHCS (under Victoria Hospital)	743,510
TOTAL	4,673,144

In 2021, 96 pre-primary schools were visited and 2,006 children were screened for common illness and dental carries. 210 children were referred to PHC institutions for vaccination. **TABLE II** highlights on the activities undertaken at the level of primary schools in 2021.

Table II: Summary on Primary School Health Activity 2021

ACTIVITY AND RESULT	ISLAND OF MAURITIUS
No. of schools visited	294
No. of children screened	24,665
No. found with nits and lice	753
No. found with dental problems	1,955
No. of children referred to dentist	1,294
VISION SURVEY (Std III, V & VI)	
No. of children screened	7,466
No. with defective vision	412
No. referred to specialists	259
IMMUNIZATIONS PERFORMED	
TDaP/IPV (New entrants)	9,802
TDaP (School leavers)	10,742

The activities carried out in 2021 by the Maternal and Child Health Services are given below:

Table III: Maternal and Child Health Activities in Public Sector – 2021

ACTIVITY	NUMBER
DOMICILIARY VISITS BY MIDWIFE/NURSE	
ANTENATAL	1,332
POSTNATAL	1,770
CASES REFERRED TO HEALTH CENTRES & HOSPITALS	
BY DOCTOR FOR SPECIALISED TREATMENT	8,438
EXAMINATIONS CARRIED OUT AT CLINIC	
ANTENATAL EXAMINATIONS BY MIDWIFE/NURSE	
First attendances	8,415
Subsequent attendances	36,673
ANTENATAL EXAMINATIONS BY DOCTOR*	
First attendances	8,695
Subsequent attendances	34,864
POSTNATAL EXAMINATIONS BY DOCTOR	
First attendances	3,795
Subsequent attendances	2,054
CHILDREN SEEN FOR GROWTH MONITORING	
Number of attendances	64,406

EXAM. OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS BY DOCTOR	
First attendances	5,156
Subsequent attendances	11,550
TOTAL ATTENDANCES AT CLINIC	175,608
*Include cases examined by specialists at first and subsequent attendances.	
*Excluding activities carried out at Regional Hospital	

Source: Health Statistics Report 2021

The table below provides the number of haemodialysis performed on government hospital patients for the period 2018 – 2021

Table IV: Haemodialysis Performed for Government Hospital Patients

HOSPITAL/CENTRE	NUMBER OF HAEMODIALYSIS PERFORMED			
	2018	2019	2020	2021
DR A.G. JEETOO	26,534	38,317	41,802	41,373
SSSRN	33,019	34,679	36,264	29,858
DR. BRUNO CHEONG	31,244	31,661	32,387	33,395
J. NEHRU	20,173	20,555	24,825	30,128
VICTORIA	33,800	29,324	27,346	24,645
SOUILLAC	13,178	13,199	11,090	12,169
LONG MOUNTAIN HOSPITAL	-	-	-	10,719*
SUB TOTAL	157,948	167,735	173,714	182,287
PRIVATE*	51,827	41,139	42,206	42,394
TOTAL	209,775	208,874	215,920	224,681

* As from 25 February 2021

Source: Health Statistics Report 2021

At the end of 2021, there were 1,208 patients on dialysis in the 5 regional hospitals, Long Mountain Hospital and Souillac Hospital; another 250 government hospital patients were on dialysis in private centres, making a total of 1,458 patients as compared to 1,403 and 1,532 as at the end of 2019 and 2020 respectively.

For the year 2021, 173 patients have benefitted assistance for treatment abroad.

TREATMENT	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Eye	12	15	14	16	3	8
Neurosurgical	46	45	47	79	49	53
Cardiac	8	36	43	63	48	47
Other*	51	103	235	158	76	65
Total number of patients	117	199	339	316	176	173

Source: Health Statistic Report 2021, (* Leukaemia, orthopaedics, ENT, Cancer, Radiotherapy)

2.1.2 HOSPITAL SERVICES INCLUDING TERTIARY HEALTH CARE

Curative services of Public Health Institutions are provided by 5 Regional Hospitals, and 2 District Hospitals. They are supported by 7 specialised hospitals, namely, one psychiatric hospital, one for chest diseases, one for eye diseases, one for ear, nose and throat (E.N.T.) diseases, 2 Cardiac Centres and a new Cancer Hospital.

Services include emergency cases which are handled by the SAMU service and the Accident and Emergency departments of hospitals while chronic cases are seen at the Unsorted OPD of hospitals and primary health care centres. Specialised services are available on appointment provided by more than 23 specialties.

8,773,393 visits took place at the essential public health service points from 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 meaning that 23,971 cases were handled on average per day.

Accident and Emergency Departments of hospitals have catered for some 2,553 patients per day amounting to 931,910 visits for the whole financial year. Sorted outpatients on appointment arose to 915,338 visits followed by 818,547 unsorted visits without appointment. Hospitals have thus catered for 7,303 outpatient cases per day.

Cases handled by individual hospitals during FY 2021-2022 are hereunder spelt out.

Regional Hospitals	Accident and Emergency Department	Sorted OPD	Unsorted OPD	Flu Clinics	Admissions	Surgeries
Dr A G Jeetoo	156,637	140,138	77,901	112,699	29,479	7,063
SSRN	127,318	-	57,942	102,539	24,909	4,717
Dr. B. Cheong	93,809	98,929	73,793	71,396	20,455	4,317
J Nehru	102,266	112,408	40,588	76,640	22,380	4,207
Victoria	138,789	222,718	76,461	105,091	30,655	7,401
TOTAL	618,819	574,193	326,685	468,365	127,878	27,705

District and Specialised Hospitals	Accident and Emergency Department	Sorted OPD	Admissions	Surgeries
Mahebourg	31,813	15,441*	2,186	-
Souillac	57,172	23,410	4,775	2,589
Brown Sequard	15,583	14,320	3,116	-
S Bharati Eye	102,486	56,337	7,045	7,189
ENT Centre	45,522	6,421	1,948	6,639
Poudre D'or/Chest Clinic	-	10,247	281	
Cardiac Centre	-	21,350	4,742	1,559
Long Mountain	30,126	8,961	-	-

Yves Cantin	30,389	2,592	-	-
New Cancer Centre	-	24,178	-	-
TOTAL	313,091	183,257	24,093	17,976

*23,497 unsorted OPD cases were also handled by Mahebourg Hospital

Overall attendances at dental services were 223,150 including 200,039 visits encountered at General Dental Services, 7,120 at Oral Surgery, 8,715 at Orthodontics and 7,276 at endodontics.

Ayurvedic Service was carried out at six service points and 44,257 attendances were recorded at these clinics.

A wide range of Support Services provided professional back-up to doctors which included Audiology and Speech Therapy, Clinical Psychology, Hydrotherapy, Hyperbar, Medical Social Service, Diet and Nutrition, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry and Foot Care, Occupational Health Service, Orthopaedics Workshop, Retinal Screening and Smoking Cessation Clinics among others. They have catered for some 320,600 cases and the main ones are highlighted hereunder.

Services	Number of Cases
Audiology	9,985
Speech Therapy	7,230
Clinical Psychology	13,610
Medical Social Service	25,809
Nutrition service	34,358
Occupational Health Service	7,101
Occupational Therapy	22,313
Orthopaedic Workshop	9,452
Physiotherapy	98,739
Podiatry	40,004
Foot care	1,769
Retinal Screening	30,003
Smoking Cessation Clinics	1,898

171 wards were available in public hospitals as at June 2022 with 3,620 available beds including 54 intensive care beds for adults and 29 for neonates. 153,823 admissions were registered in the FY. Overall bed occupancy has gone up to 69.7% with the highest of 79.9%, 79.7% and 74.2% at Dr A G Jeetoo Hospital, Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre and Victoria Hospital respectively.

Regional Hospitals, Souillac Hospital, S. Bharati Eye Hospital, ENT Centre and the Cardiac Centre have carried out 45,681 surgeries. These included 895 open heart surgeries, 7,051 cataract surgeries, 860 lithotripsy and 319 arterio-venous fistula cases. Additionally, 4,758 cardiac angiographies/angioplastries were carried out.

The Laboratory Service has reported on 14 million tests for the period 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. The Radiology Department has carried out 683,130 X-ray examinations including 34,135 CT-Scans and 5,132 MRIs in 2021.

Some other examinations and tests conducted are as follows.

Type of Test	Number of Tests
Chemotherapy	14,439
Electroconvulsive Therapy	239
Electroencephalography	1,521
Endoscopy	8,721
Laser (Ophthalmology)	4,639
Nuclear Medicine	1,320
Pacemaker implant	221
Stress Test	3,684

The Ministry of Health and Wellness is providing two new services at the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (SSR) National Hospital, namely an Assisted Reproductive Technology Centre (Fertility Clinic) and an Epidural Service for women in labour since 14 February 2022. The Fertility Clinic provides a holistic approach to those couples who are facing difficulties to conceive based on the assessment, diagnosis and treatment modalities. Existing advanced reproduction techniques such as artificial insemination and in-vitro fertilisation are available to couples requiring the service. Since its operation the number of monthly sessions undertaken and attendances recorded at the clinic are as follows:

Month	Session	New Case	Follow Up	Total Attendance
February	3	2	2	4
March	8	21	1	22
April	8	22	12	34
May	9	20	22	42
June	9	20	31	51
July	5	12	12	24
August	8	20	26	46
September	8	10	33	43
Total	58	127	139	266

On top of hospitals, primary health care centres have also contributed for 1,606,279 consultations by doctors. 1,216,340 cases attended for general consultation during normal working hours and another 266,352 cases attended after normal working hours sessions, on Sundays and public holidays. Specialist clinics catered for 36,431 cases while other services such as Family Planning, Cash Gift, Screening programmes, Nutrition and Foot Care clinics have attended to 87,156 cases. Primary health care centres have thus catered for some 4,401 cases on average daily.

In addition, 3,108,214 cases attended the primary health care services for collection of blood, renewal of drugs, sugar and HBP tests, Electrocardiogram (ECG), Nebulisation and other cases seen by nursing officers.

During FY 2021-2022, 37,547 positive cases of COVID-19 were detected in Mauritius. All necessary treatments were provided to these patients and 36,804 recoveries were recorded as at 30 June 2022. During the same period, 18,330 persons were quarantined as they were suspected cases of COVID-19.

2.1.3 PHARMACY SERVICES

The Pharmacy Department of the Ministry overlooks the Pharmacy Services of both the Public and the Private sector. The main duties and responsibilities are to ensure that

- (a) the population at large have access to drugs which are of required Quality, safety and efficacy.
- (b) the Practice of Pharmacy is in line with the Pharmacy Act 1983, Dangerous Drugs Act 2000 and the Pharmacy Council Act 2015.

The Pharmacy Department of the Ministry is supported by 37 Government Pharmacists and 97 Pharmacy Technicians posted at different points of Service throughout the Island. Pharmacists are posted at the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Central Supplies Division, Main and Specialised Hospital Pharmacies whereas the Pharmacy Technicians ensure the dispensing activities at Hospital Pharmacies, Area Health Centres, CHCS, and Mediclinics.

The Medicines list of the Ministry incorporates the Essential Medicines recommended by the World Health Organization and is continuously updated by the pool of technical experts. The Pharmacovigilance Department of the Ministry is being upgraded and shall henceforth ensure that medications in use in the country are closely monitored for safety.

The Pharmacy Board is responsible for the exercise of control over the manufacture, importation, distribution and sale of medications in the country. Moreover, the Board is also responsible for the grant of licence for the operation of retail and wholesale pharmacies. Presently there are 380 Community Pharmacies operating throughout the Island and 45 Wholesale Pharmacies.

The Pharmacy Council regulate and control the profession of Pharmacists and also promote the advancement in the field of Pharmacy. Among others, the Pharmacy Council register Pharmacists and Pre-registered trainees, exercise and maintain discipline in the profession of pharmacists. As at date, there are 555 Pharmacists registered with the Pharmacy Council of Mauritius.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

The following activities have been undertaken by the unit during the period under review:

- **Single Prescription Pad for Schedule II and III Dangerous Drugs.**

A Single prescription pad is henceforth used for the prescription of Schedule II and III drugs. This initiative shall help in exercising better control of Scheduled medications being prescribed by private practitioners.

- **Real Time Monitoring of Dangerous Drugs and Precursors.**

The Pharmacy department has aligned itself as per the report of the Commission of enquiry on drugs and through the electronic platform is able to have a real time scrutiny of prescriptions and dispensing of named medications.

- **Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Pooled Procurement Initiative.**

The SIDS have now been able to initiate the first procurement exercise for pharmaceuticals and shall shortly proceed for the evaluation of bids received. This initiative is being supported by the Pharmacy Services of the MOHW and will definitely improve the availability of rare medications /items difficult to source.

- **Review of Conditions of Tender - Pharmaceuticals - Procurement Unit - MOHW.**

The tender conditions for Pharmaceuticals have been revisited and needful done to provide more clarity to bidders, ensure more transparency, and improve bidders' participation.

- **Review of Acceptable shelf life for drugs purchased by the Ministry.**

The Acceptable shelf life is now 75% to 80% of the maximum shelf life for Pharmaceuticals. This shall impact positively in prompt availability of medications.

- **Extension of the Electronic Informatics Management System (EIMS) facilities to AHCS and CHCS.**

The Ministry is presently extending the provision of the EIMS to AHCS and CHCS. This shall allow a real stock monitoring of medications held by the Ministry.

- **Other Initiatives**

(i) Re-introduction of Committee of needs prior to finalization of procurement quantities for Pharmaceuticals in the Public Sector.

(ii) The Committee of needs for Pharmaceuticals have been introduced successfully and will benefit the Ministry to Minimize stock outs as well as wastage due to expiry.

(iii) A better monitoring mechanism has been put in place at the Central Supplies Division and communication has been positively improved among the stakeholders.

(iv) The Contract Management department for Pharmaceuticals has been reinforced.

2.1.4 DENTAL SERVICES

The policy in Oral Health Care is to improve access, quality and delivery of Dental Services by, *inter-alia*, reducing waiting time, putting emphasis on customer care and using latest medical technologies.

As at date, the total number of Dental Clinics was 55 (including in Rodrigues and Agalega) at Hospital and Primary Health Care level providing routine dental care and 13 Specialised Dental Clinics (Oral Surgery, Orthodontics and Endodontics) in 4 Regional Hospitals. At Dr. Bruno Cheong Hospital, these Specialised Services are covered by Specialists from SSRN Hospital for the time being.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

- **Development and implementation of a National Plan of Action for Oral Health:**

A National Plan of Action for Oral Health for the next 5 years has been finalised and launched on 01 June 2022. The main objectives of the Action Plan are:

- (i) Oral Health Promotion mainly to improve Oral Health literacy;
- (ii) Integration of Oral Health into National Health Policy;
- (iii) Oral Health preventive strategies as opposed to approaches that emphasise treatment of existing disease with a view to strengthening prevention and early intervention programmes;
- (iv) Consideration of workforce models that maximise efficiency;
- (v) Infrastructural development and facilities;
- (vi) Development of accurate surveillance systems to define the oral disease burden which will improve population data on Oral Health status and enhance Oral Health promotion research;
- (vii) Evaluating and monitoring the concentration of fluoride for caries control;
- (viii) Phasing down the use of mercury in dental amalgam;
- (ix) Oral Health rehabilitation strategies; and
- (x) Oral Health research approaches.

- **In the context of Oral Health Promotion, an Oral Health Month was launched in June 2022 whereby the following activities were ongoing:**

1. Distribution of an Oral Health Kit comprising of a pamphlet, bookmark, toothpaste and toothbrush) to approximately 76, 000 primary students in Mauritius, Rodrigues and Agalega.
2. Sensitisation and awareness campaigns on Oral Health in schools targeting primary students in collaboration with Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology.

3. Demonstration of tooth brushing techniques and flossing for good oral hygiene.
 4. Social Media Campaign whereby a smile contest has been organised targeting children and gift vouchers have been offered to winners.
 5. Production and broadcast of a video on Oral Health through MBC.
 6. Oral Health talks on MBC Radio and TV channels both in Creole and Bhojpuri.
 7. Nutritional guidelines on diet for optimum Oral Health in collaboration with the Nutrition Unit of this Ministry.
- **Attendance (Mauritius):**
 - 216,791 Persons
 - Specialised Dental Services - 18,158 attendances
 - Oral Health Promotion Programme - 224,428 attendances
 - 162 persons were seen during 3 visits in Agalega
 - **Waiting time:**
 - (i) Routine dental treatment - 4 weeks;
 - (ii) Specialised Dental treatment - 6 weeks
 - **Agalega:** 456 patients were seen during 4 visits.
 - **Dental Clinics**
 - (i) Several Dental Clinics are being upgraded such as Petite Riviere AHC, Victoria Hospital, Grand Bay CHC, Bel Air AHC.
 - (ii) A child-friendly set up has been adopted in the Dental Clinic at Odette Leal CHC to make it more welcoming to the children. Approval has been obtained for incorporating a child-friendly set up in the dental clinic at Rose Belle CHC.
 - To further improve accessibility to Oral Health Care to the population, more Dental Clinics will be set up in Mediclinics at Stanley, Bel Air, Quartier Militaire soon.
 - **Decentralisation of Specialised Dental Services**
 1. Specialised Dental Services (Endodontics) are currently being shifted from New Souillac Hospital to Tyack AHC to make it more accessible to the people.
 2. Further, it is proposed to set up Endodontic Services at Goodlands Mediclinic, Baie du Tombeau CHC, and in Black River Region.

2.1.5 PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY INSPECTORATE

The Public Health and Food Safety (PHFS) Inspectorate Unit is responsible for the protection of public health in order to promote a healthy living environment. It enforces, *inter-alia*, the Public Health Act 1925, the Food Act 2022, the Quarantine Act 2020 and its Regulations, the Dangerous Chemicals Control Act as subsequently amended and other related Regulations including the International Health Regulations. Its objective is to sustain measures for the prevention and control of communicable diseases, environmental sanitation, and food safety.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

A. PUBLIC HEALTH

Environmental Sanitation

Statistics as regards Environmental Sanitation is given in the table hereunder.

Item	July 2021 – June 2022
No. of premises inspected	58,195
No. of Sanitary notices served	2,740
No. of Notices served (water nuisances)	3,103
No. of Statement of Nuisances issued	921
No. of complaints attended	3,316
No. of contraventions established for environmental sanitation	42
No. of cases sentenced in District Courts	32
Revenue from Fines paid in District Courts	(as fine) Rs 48,300 + (as costs) Rs 3,300

Prevention and control of epidemic-prone communicable diseases (Vector-borne diseases)

Statistics as regards to communicable diseases and larviciding are given in the table hereunder.

Item	July 2021 – June 2022
Communicable Diseases	
No. of cases of Dengue reported	Imported – 2 Local - 0
No. of cases of Chikungunya reported	0
No. of passengers visited for Dengue and Chikungunya surveillance	94,941
No. of cases of Filariasis detected amongst Expatriate Workers	Imported – 201 Local - 0
No. of Imported cases of Malaria notified	Imported - 23

	Introduced - 1 Local - 4
No. of Incoming passengers visited for Malaria surveillance	119,715
No. of blood smears sent to laboratory to test for Malaria parasite	29,373
No. of cases of Zika reported	0
No. of passengers visited for Zika surveillance	14,499
Larviciding	
No. of premises covered during larviciding (including Permanent breeding places and residences covered during outbreak or sporadic cases of Dengue, and Malaria)	366,792
Amount of chemical larvicide used (Temephos – common name Abate)	142.881 litres

Activities carried out by the PHFS Inspectorate as regards COVID-19

The following activities were carried out by Officers of the Public Health and Food Safety Inspectorate (PHFS) in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Health surveillance of passengers and crew members according to existing protocols and through the use of the Mauritius All-in-One Travel Digital Platform. This includes health surveillance of passengers after their period of quarantine;
2. Health surveillance of expatriate workers;
3. Participating in Contact tracing with medical teams;
4. Supervision of transfer of passengers from Souillac Hospital to other Quarantine Centres;
5. Supervision of disinfection of COVID-19 Isolation facilities, COVID-19 Flu Clinics/Treatment Centres, Hospitals, Area Health Centres, Community Health Centres, Private clinics, Markets, Police Stations, Police Officers' barracks and Expatriate Lodging Accommodations. This also includes ambulances and other vehicles for conveyance of passengers;
6. Performing the burial/cremation of corpses of persons who have died of COVID-19 and supervision of their disinfection.
7. Sensitization of members of the public in relation to COVID-19 prevention;
8. As from 18 March 2021, the responsibility to pick up and convey COVID-19 contacts to Quarantine Centres was entrusted to the PHFS Inspectorate;
9. Tracing out contacts in cases where they are untraceable or to permit swabbing to be carried out by the Medical Teams;

Statistics in respect of COVID-19 is given in the table hereunder.

Item	July 2021 – June 2022
AIRPORT	
No. of planes landed	5,186
No. of incoming passengers placed under COVID-19 surveillance	665,557
PORT	
No. of passengers screened for Coronavirus (COVID-19)	279
No. of passengers placed under Coronavirus (COVID-19) surveillance	0
No. of crew screened for Coronavirus (COVID-19)	27,108
No. of crew placed under Coronavirus (COVID-19) surveillance	27,108
DISINFECTIONS of Quarantine centres, vehicles, etc	
No. of Disinfections carried out using Sodium Hypochlorite solution ('Eau de Javel' (0.5% concentration)	Daily
Amount of 'Eau de Javel' disinfectant used	2,180.875 litres
SENSITIZATION	
No. of Sensitization sessions carried out	41
PCR TEST at the PORT	
No. of PCR Test done	4,961
Revenue collected for performing Test (Rs)	Rs 14,751,000
COVID-19 CONTACTS picked up and escorted to Quarantine Centres	
No. of COVID-19 contacts escorted to Quarantine Centres by PH&FSIs	7,744

B. FOOD SAFETY CONTROL

Food Hygiene

Item	July 2021 – June 2022
No. of Food premises inspected	21,394
No. of Improvement Notices served	2,849
No. of Prohibition Orders issued	51
No. of Notice prior to Emergency Closing Order issued	5
No. of food complaints attended	410
No. of Contraventions established	414
No. of cases sentenced in District Courts	289
Revenue from Fines paid in District Courts	(as fine) Rs 602,050+ as costs Rs 28,900

Food Seizures

Statistics in respect of food seizures is given in the table hereunder.

Food seized	July 2021 – June 2022 (In Kg)
Meat & meat products	10,476.6
Fish & fish products	88,453.6
Milk & milk products	1,313.3
Vegetables & Fruits	15.9
Canned foods, bottles & others (eggs)	215,100.4
Food seized destroyed under the supervision of Officers of the Public Health and Food Safety Inspectorate	347.625 (Tons)

(At Port, Airport and at regional levels)

Reason of seizure - Not fit for human consumption /Not in compliance to Food Regulations

Food Sampling

Statistics in respect of food sampling is given in the table hereunder.

Item	July 2021 – June 2022
No. of food samples taken for chemical analysis	437
No. of food samples taken for microbiological examination	1,331
No. of samples taken for Toxicological, forensic examinations, etc.	214
Total No. of samples taken for analysis	1,982

Food Handlers Training

Statistics in respect of food handlers training is given in the table hereunder.

Item	July 2021 – June 2022
No. of food handler's training sessions delivered	509
No. of food handlers examined	37,111
Food Handler's Training upon request from private food establishments against payment	July 2021 – June 2022
No. of food handler's training sessions delivered upon request from private food establishments against payment	88
Revenue collected for delivering Food Handler's Training upon private food establishments	Rs 1,080,000

Food Poisoning

The number of food poisoning cases whereby Inquiries carried out by PH&FS was 28 in FY 2021-2022.

Pre-Market Approval Permit (PMAP)

One Pre-Market Approval Permit has been issued during the FY 2021-2022.

Food Import Unit

Statistics regarding the activities of the Food Import Unit is given in the table hereunder.

Item	July 2021 – June 2022
Containers of foodstuffs examined/released	
No. of containers of foodstuffs examined/released by FIU at the Port	25,460
Food Sampling by FIU * (already included in table above)	
No. of food samples taken for chemical analysis	242
No. of food samples taken for microbiological examination	282
TOTAL no. of food samples	524
Foodstuffs not granted release	
Foodstuffs not granted release at Port & bonded warehouses	2600.438 kg
Revenue collected for fumigation of containers	
Revenue collected in respect of fumigation of food containers (Rs)	Rs 1,791,000

Squad Operations

Squad operations are done to target activities which are normally unreachable or not in operation during normal working hours. Such activities include cooking and selling of food by roadside, 'grillade', and also food establishments like restaurants, bakeries etc.

Item	July 2021 – June 2022
No. of Squad operations carried out	3,156
No. of food inspections carried out	21,394
No. of Improvement notices issued/served	2,849
No. of Prohibition Orders served	49
No. of Contraventions established	46

School Canteens

Statistics in respect of school canteens is given in the table hereunder.

Item	July 2021 – June 2022
No. of Visits effected	1,105
No. of Contraventions established	414
No. of cases sentenced in District Courts	289
Revenue from Fines paid in District Courts	Rs 602,050

C. TOBACCO CONTROL

Statistics in respect of tobacco control is given in the table hereunder.

Item	July 2021 – June 2022
No. of Visits effected	15,671
No. of Contraventions established	29
No. of cases sentenced in District Courts	7
Revenue from Fines paid in District Courts	Rs 14,500

D. PORT HEALTH ACTIVITIES

General Port Health activities

Statistics as regards general Port Health activities is given in the table hereunder.

Item	July 2021- June 2022
General	
No. of ships given pratique	2,580
No. of Sick Persons from Incoming Ships Referred To RPHS	141
Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate	
No. of ships visited for issue of Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate	429
De-ratting of ships	
No. of deratting of ships performed	24
Fumigation of ships	
No. of ships fumigated	6
No. of holds of ships fumigated	33
TOTAL no. of containers of food fumigated	2,739
REVENUE COLLECTED for de-ratting and fumigation services	
Revenue collected in respect of services offered at the Port (viz. fumigation of food containers, deratting of vessels and Ship Sanitation Certificates)	Rs 2,008,900

Rodent Control

Statistics pertaining to rodent control is given in the table hereunder.

Item	July 2021 – June 2022
No. of complaints attended	35
No. of visits carried out	8,913
No. of rats caught/ killed	4,527
No. of specimens forwarded to laboratory for detection of plague disease (N.B. All were negative for plague)	46
No. of Sensitization programs effected	41

E. LODGING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR EXPATRIATE WORKERS (Dormitories)

Statistics in respect of dormitories is given in the table hereunder.

Item	July 2021 – June 2022
No. of dormitories inspected	1,671
No. of dormitories in good sanitary condition during 1st visit	863
No. of dormitories issued with list of requirements for compliance	808
No. of Health Clearances issued	692

F. CREMATION / EXHUMATION

Statistics concerning cremation and exhumation is given in the table hereunder.

Item	July 2021 – June 2022
No. of cremation permits issued by Health Offices	6,572
No. of private cremation sites visited	30
No. of exhumations attended	8
No. of Unclaimed dead bodies for which needful done for interment by Health Offices after completion of formalities by Police	26
No. of COVID-19 Deaths escorted to Bigara Cemetery, Curepipe (Burial and cremation)	1,379

G. REVIEW OF LEGISLATIONS

- Involvement of Public Health and Food Safety Inspectorate in the review of Food Regulations.
- International standards of the CODEX Alimentarius are being considered in the new set of Food Legislations and a WHO Consultant is working on the setting up of the Food Standards Agency.
- Involvement of Public Health and Food Safety Inspectorate in the revision of current policies and amendments to legislations on tobacco and alcohol (Alcohol Regulations and Tobacco Regulations promulgated in July 2021 and June 2022, respectively).

2.1.6 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ENGINEERING UNIT (EHEU)

In Mauritius, the management of public health risks such as unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, noise, and odor pollution, require institutional and technical capacities in order to assess, correct, control, and prevent those risks in the environment that can potentially affect adversely the health of present and future generations. As the Environment Protection Act (2002), the responsibility to manage these public health risks falls under the purview of the EHEU of Ministry of Health and Wellness.

The Professional Cadre of the EHEU also assists the Project Implementation Unit of the Ministry as regards to conception and implementation of civil construction related to projects of the Ministry. In this respect, this unit also participates in evaluation, preparation of Terms of Reference for major projects and attending site visits/meetings with consultants and contractors.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

Drinking-Water Quality Monitoring: In order to ensure that the drinking water being supplied conforms to the established norms, the Ministry of Health and Wellness conducts independent tests on daily drinking-water samples collected along the water distribution line and whereby various parameters (Bacteriological and Physico-Chemical) are monitored during analyses, and from July 2021 to end June 2022 - a total of 4,547 drinking water samples have been taken and analysed.

Noise Monitoring: The Ministry has nine (9) sound level meters to measure the noise intensity levels in decibels [dB (A)Leq]. The Ministry has also set up a squad for noise monitoring after office hours and same is in operation since the beginning of July 2009. From July 2021 to end June 2022 the said squad has carried out a total 78 noise assessments after office hours in addition to attending to 403 noise complaints received for the same period.

Other activities for monitoring of Environmental Hazards: To ensure that proper environmental sanitation is maintained, odour complaints are attended to, and visits are carried out at wastewater and water treatment plants. From July 2021 to end June 2022:

- 268 odour complaints have been received and attended to.
- 258 visits have been carried out to wastewater treatment plants and 245 visits have been carried out in respect of water treatment plant.
- 18 applications for Government Projects have been processed.
- 44 applications for Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and 13 applications for Preliminary Environment Report (PER) have been processed and 163 Ex-post monitoring for EIA/PER and other classified trades have been carried out.
- 511 Morcellement applications have been processed.

2.1.7 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH UNIT

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Act 2005, the Occupational Health Unit which operates under the aegis of the MOHW, caters for workers employed in the public sector. The Dangerous Chemicals Control Board, the Migrant Worker Section and the PER Section are other sections that fall under the Occupational Health Unit.

The aim of an Occupational Health Service is to have a healthy workforce.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

- Medical surveillance of workers -Total number of workers medically examined: 7,045
- Medical Examination of Civil Servants-Total number of civil servants examined: 4,674
- Medical Boards-Total number of employees seen to ascertain fitness to discharge duties of their post following injury or disease: 410
- Approval of advance sick leaves for employees of Government Sector and parastatal bodies: 953
- Health Quality Laboratory Activities- Total of No specialized tests done: 361
- Migrant workers Section
 - The number of applications submitted for Provisional Medical Clearances: 20,415
 - The number of Provisional Medical Clearances issued: 20803 (includes pending applications from before July 2021)
- Injuries Committee
 - Number of Public Officers interviewed following injuries at work: 139
 - Number of officers from Local Authority: 0
- The Dangerous Chemicals Control Board
 - Number of Board Meetings: 10
 - Number of Clearances given for chemicals: 6,966
 - Site visits to Industrial Premises and Chemical Storage Facilities: 52
- Site visits by Occupational Health Physicians to evaluate workplace hazards to which workers are exposed to: 4
- Participation in various Committees/forums including:
 - Pharmacovigilance Committee at the Ministry of Health and Wellness
 - Advisory Council for Occupational Safety and Health at Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment and Training
 - Mauritius Standard Bureau: Chemical Standard Committee and Sub Committee on Paints
 - Enhancement of Working Environment at Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms.

- Ecological Agriculture Plan of Action for Mauritius and Rodrigues, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security
- Technical committees on Industrial, Agricultural and Consumer Chemicals
- Minamata Convention at the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and Sustainable Development.
- Asbestos (EDC Houses) at the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and Sustainable Development
- Labour Advisory Council, Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment and Training
- Risk Assessment Committee, Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms.

2.1.8 COMMUNICABLE DISEASES CONTROL UNIT (CDCU)

The Communicable Disease Control Unit (CDCU) at national level is under the supervision of the RPHS of CDCU and Director Health Services (Preventive). It serves as the primary agency for the control and prevention of communicable diseases. CDCU manages and coordinates the work at the regional level, is responsible for the analysis and interpretation of data, submission of reports, which are essential for the planning, implementation and evaluation of appropriate public health measures.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022:

Table V: Vector-Borne and Other Diseases

VECTOR-BORNE AND OTHER DISEASES		
	2021	Jan - June 2022
Vector-borne diseases		
Number of passengers placed under malaria surveillance	45,600	83,321
Number of blood smears (slides) taken	13,794	23,507
Number of cases of malaria detected	16	11(imported)
Number of passengers placed under Dengue/Chikungunya surveillance	36,635	65,153
Number of cases of Dengue detected	1	1
Number of cases of Chikungunya detected	Nil	Nil
Number of passengers placed under surveillance for Zika Virus	7,147	9,337
Number of cases of Zika detected	Nil	Nil
Number of Filariasis cases detected (all imported)	126	115
Other diseases on surveillance at points of entry (Port and airport)		
Number of passengers placed under surveillance for Avian Flu/ MERS-CoV	56,320	-
Number of passengers placed under surveillance for Corona Virus	175,330	-
Number of passengers placed under surveillance for cholera	11,935	-

Consumables used		
Amount of larvicide (Temephos) used	148.01 L	75.881 L
Amount of fogging solution used	80 L	3.38 L
Amount of indoor residual spraying solution used	90 L	55.4 L

Expanded Programme of Immunization

Under the Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI), the following activities have been carried out during the period 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022:

Babies, infants, toddlers and children have been vaccinated against 13 antigens: for girls 13 antigens and boys 12 antigens.

- a) 10,081 doses of BCG were administered to babies against Tuberculosis infection;
- b) 19,502 doses of Rotavirus were administered to babies against diarrhoea (Rotavirus infection);
- c) 30,856 doses of Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine were administered to babies against Pneumococcal infection;
- d) 36,848 doses of Hexavalent vaccines were administered to babies against the six killing diseases. (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus Toxoid, Haemophilus Influenzae type b, Hepatitis B and Inactivated Polio Virus) in a single injection which has been introduced in January 2018;
- e) 7,371 booster doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis and Inactivated Polio Vaccine (DTaP-IPV) were administered to school children;
- f) 24,629 doses of MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) were administered to babies;
- g) 6,707 doses of Human Papillo virus vaccine were administered to Primary school girls of Grade V and Grade VI to protect against Cervical cancer; and
- h) 8,011 doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis (Tdap) were administered to Grade V and VI school children.

2.1.9 GOVERNMENT ANALYST DIVISION (GAD)

The Government Analyst Division (GAD) is the Chemistry Laboratory of the MOHW and falls under the directorate of Public Health of the Ministry. The GAD caters for both public and private entities. Private firms and individuals are charged fees for services from GAD.

The activities at the Division include: Food analysis as per Food Act 2022, Alcohol analysis as per Exercise Act, Drinking water analysis as per Environmental Protection Act 2002, Toxicological screening for body fluids from patients in poisoning cases, Heavy metals in Biomedical samples, Determination of blood cholinesterase level for sprayer men, Heavy metals in Body fluids for industrial workers, Dialysis water quality from Haemodialysis Unit, Methadone quality for Harm Reduction Unit, Determination of alcoholic strength, Determination of Sugar content in foods, Samples submitted by the Dangerous Chemical Control Board, Quality Control of Pharmaceuticals, Analysis of food samples served during official banquets.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022:

- From July 2021 to June 2022, GAD has analysed 2,957 samples which correspond to about 30,000 test parameters. Analysis for private customers has generated Rs1,475,850.
 - The GAD has obtained accreditation to the ISO 17025:2017 Quality Management system standard as certified by the MAURITAS in April 2022. The division is accredited to the following Testing fields: Food Testing and chemical.
 - The GAD has implemented the Electronic Inventory Management System (EIMS) at the Division.
- Statistics of activities at GAD in terms of samples analysed are as tabulated:

Type of Analysis	Private Entities	Public Entities
Toxicology	72	1,411
Trace metals in body fluids	143	25
Cholinesterase	408	113
Food	164	427
Drinking water	-	133
Dialysis water	-	62
Pharmaceuticals	-	14
Total	787	2,185

2.1.10 VECTOR BIOLOGY CONTROL DISEASES (VBCD)

The responsibilities of vector studies, surveillance and strategical control are vested to the Vector Biology and Control Division (VBCD) of the MOHW. The overarching objective of the Division is to gear Mauritius to be free from resurging/newly emerging vector-borne diseases and to prone efficient control of existing vectors of such diseases in the country.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

- (a) 467 mosquito surveys were conducted across the island. During those surveys, 69,011 potential mosquito breeding sites were inspected of which 61,222 and 1,263 sites were respectively positive for larvae of *Anopheles gambiae* (malaria vector), *Culexquinquefasciatus* (filariasis vector) and *Aedesalbopictus* (vector of Chinkungunya and Dengue). Adult *Aedesalbopictus* mosquitoes collected during those surveys were sent to the Virology Unit at Candos for viral screening (CHIK and Dengue).
- (b) 4 mosquito night catches were conducted during which a change in biting behaviour of mosquito vectors was confirmed. Extended night-catch surveys revealed that active biting time for *Aedesalbopictus*, *Culexquinquefasciatus* and *Anopheles arabiensis* were respectively from 3 pm to 8 pm, 7 pm to 5 am and 6 pm to 5 am. Species-wise, these would be the ideal time periods to deploy fogging operation in the field

- (c) 39 surveys involving other insects of entomological importance (such as bed bugs, fleas, ticks, mites, bird lice, etc.) were conducted upon request and recommendations submitted to the appropriate stakeholders for abatement of nuisances.
- (d) 10 entomological exhibits from suspected criminal cases submitted by the Police Forensic Department were processed/identified to help the Police to investigate the approximate time of death. VBCD staff are sometimes summoned in Court to depone as a witness and hence provide assistance in the investigation of criminal cases.
- (e) 8 food specimens submitted to the VBCD by the Health Inspectorates, were examined for insect infestation and reported thereon. VBCD staff are also summoned in Court to depone as a witness.
- (f) 5 surveys around animal points were conducted in collaboration with the Livestock and Veterinary Division to investigate the prevalence of disease vectors (notably mosquitoes and biting midges) around animal points in Mauritius (notably Salazie Sheep Farm, Melrose Cattle Farm, Seaport, Domaine La Grave and Rivulet Terre Rouge Bird Estuary).
- (g) A weekly surveillance system for *Aedes albopictus* (vector of Chikungunya and Dengue) was established and 10 Mark Release Recapture experiments were carried in Champ de Mars region to investigate the abundance and dispersal of the mosquito vector. Laboratory production of sterile male *Aedes albopictus* was also upscaled from 60 000 to 100 000 males per week to meet the objectives of four projects investigating the use of the Sterile Insect Technique to reduce the incidence of *Ae. albopictus* mosquitoes in a pilot site in Port Louis.
- (h) 69, 36, 497, 49, 5 and 2 adults specimens of *Anophelesgambiae*, *Culexquinquefasciatus*, *Aedes Albopictus*, *Orthopodomyia Arboricolis*, *Lutziatigripes* and *Culextritaeniorhynchus* were collected and submitted to the University of Mauritius under the DEEPTERA project.
- (i) 30 artificial mosquito breeding sites were established in the seaport area and serviced on a weekly basis to investigate for the presence of the malaria vector *Anopheles stephensis*.
- (j) 78, 17, and 16 adult mosquitoes of *Aedes*, *Anopheles* and *Culex* were collected in Mauritius and respectively sent to the CDC (Atlanta) and the IRD (France) for species identification by PCR. So far, species identified are *Ae. albopictus*, *Ae. Mascarensis*, *An. coustani*, *An. Arabiensis*, *An. Merus*, and *Cu. quinquefasciatus*. No recently introduced additional mosquito species have been detected during the PCR analysis.

2.1.11 PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY UNIT

The Procurement and Supply Unit of the MOHW is responsible for the planning, management, acquisition, maintenance, storage, stock control and distribution of hi-tech medical equipment, other medical equipment, surgical items, pharmaceutical products as well as other goods, works and services required. The Unit is broadly subdivided into the Pharmaceutical and Non-Pharmaceutical Sections. There is also a Clearing and Forwarding Unit for customs clearances at the Airport and Seaport, a Stock Control Unit and a Procurement Unit in each of the Regional Hospitals. As per the

recent budget, Government has approved the construction of a modern warehouse of International Standard for essential medicines and medical consumables at Cote-D'or.

➤ **Procurement of Pharmaceutical Items**

The Procurement of Pharmaceutical Items Section deals mainly with the purchase of drugs, vaccines and active pharmaceutical ingredients.

Procurement of Pharmaceutical Products

Financial Year	Amount Spent (Rs)
2018-2019	1,313,965,409
2019-2020	1,288,291,496
2020-2021	1,010,186,687
2021-2022	1,210,284,540

In addition to the above, some USD 9,098,400 (Rs 400 million) has been disbursed mainly from the vaccination fund for the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines, from the period July 2021 to June 2022.

➤ **Procurement of Non-Pharmaceutical Items**

The Procurement of Non-Pharmaceutical Items Section deals with all procurements other than drugs and vaccines such as medical equipment, consumables, reagents, among others.

Procurement of Non-Pharmaceutical Products

Financial Year	Amount Spent (Rs)
2018-2019	1,195,248,691
2019-2020	1,472,923,164
2020-2021	1,290,321,832
2021-2022	1,219,218,398

The Procurement Section is also responsible to ensure proper storage and distribution of all items procured to relevant health institution. The Central Supplies Division is responsible for stocking and monitoring the overall stock of pharmaceutical products and other consumables, such as gloves, masks and suture materials, amongst others.

In order to avoid cases of shortage, the Stock Control Unit monitors and apprise management of the requirements for replenishment of the stock of relevant items.

2.1.12 NCDs, HEALTH PROMOTION AND RESEARCH UNIT

The NCD, Health Promotion and Research Unit (NCDHPRU) is responsible to organise, coordinate and execute health intervention programmes pertaining to prevention of NCDs and health promotion activities as well as to improve quality of life and well-being of the population through promotion of healthy lifestyles. The objectives of the Unit are to:

- Screen and provide health education to as many people as possible at worksites, secondary schools and outreach regions and for the community at large;
- Promote the health status by means of nutritional intervention and increased physical activity; organize sensitization campaigns, talks and counselling sessions to prevent the development of NCDs and offer opportunities for lifestyle management;
- Provide strategies for screening, educating and monitoring people; provide necessary infrastructure to enhance physical activity; and mobilize the community and enlist their participation.

This Unit also conducts Research/Studies/Trials in all matters related to NCDs that include Life styles diseases such as Obesity, Diabetes, Hypertension, Cardiovascular problems, Drug, alcohol, smoking and Substance abuse among others. Other NCDs like Cancer and chronic respiratory diseases are also included in our research trials.

Some examples of Research studies undertaken by the Unit include the Development and Evaluation of a Technology-Assisted Diabetes Prevention Programme in Mauritius (SMS survey), Mauritius Intensive Diabetes Action Study (MIDAS), Mauritius NCD Survey 2021, Mauritius Nutrition Survey, the Prediction of Long COVID-19 Metabolic Profiling in the Mauritius Population Survey, Global Blood Pressure Survey - May Measurement Month. Surveys in pipeline include Rodrigues NCD Survey and the Rodrigues Nutrition Survey.

The Unit also assists in the preparation and implementation of National Action plans like:

- National Action plan to reduce the harmful use of alcohol
- National Action plan for Tobacco Control
- National Cancer Control Programme
- Physical Activity guidelines and policies

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

1. NCD Screening Programme

NCD Screening Programme is being carried out for persons aged 18 years and above at worksites and localities in the community throughout the island on a regular basis. This ensures an early detection of NCDs as well as prevention and treatment of the diseases. Much emphasis is being laid on the risk factors and complications of the diseases.

Activities carried out are: registration; measurement of height, weight and waist, and body mass index (BMI) calculations to detect underweight, overweight and obesity; blood pressure measurement to detect high blood pressure; blood test to detect diabetes through the Mauritius Diabetes Risk Score; test for visual acuity; consultation; counselling / health education; referral

and follow up of positive cases; and issue of health cards. The NCD Screening Programme also consists of an intensive health promotion campaign.

Due to COVID-19 conditions screening activities were not conducted in 2021. Number of persons reached for the period January 2022 to 30 June 2022: 14, 342

2. Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Programme

Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Programme is being carried out for married or sexually active aged women aged 25 to 65 years according to guidelines laid by experts for early detection and treatment.

Due to COVID-19 conditions screening activities was not conducted in 2021. However, for the period of January 2022 to 30 June 2022: (i) 6078 persons were screened for Breast cancer; (ii) 4339 persons were screened for Cervical cancer.

3. School Health Programme

Screening Programme for students of secondary schools is being carried out at the secondary schools (public and private) for students of Grade 7, 9 and 12. The activities carried out are: registration; height and weight measurement and BMI calculation to detect underweight, overweight and obesity; blood pressure measurement to detect hypertension; blood test to detect diabetes for students found to be obese with a family history of diabetes; test for visual acuity, consultation; counselling / health education; referral and follow up of positive cases; and issue of health cards. The Programme also comprises health promotion activities.

Due to COVID-19 conditions screening activities was not conducted in 2021. Some 21, 797 students of Grade 7, Grade 9 and Grade 12 were screened for the period January – June 2022

It is to be noted that in all our screening activities, whether in schools, communities and workplace health education/talks are delivered on the following topics: Healthy lifestyles, benefits of Physical activity, risks factors associated with smoking, alcohol consumption and drug abuse.

4. Health Promotion Club

The objective of setting Health Promotion Clubs is to focus on the promotion of healthy lifestyles, providing an environment conducive to health, maintain health equity and the prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases. In collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office, for the year 2022, some 30 health promotion clubs are targeted to be set up at different worksites. The activities involved are:

- i. To carry out sensitization campaign through talks on: physical activity, healthy eating, tobacco cessation, alcohol and substance abuse, mental health awareness
- ii. To carry out pre-set physical activity and stress management sessions by a trained instructor.
- iii. To carry out demonstration on healthy snacks and lunch preparation
- iv. Radio/TV Broadcasts to sensitize the community on NCDs
- v. To carry out healthy weight loss competition
- vi. To promote home/community garden activities to encourage healthy eating and promote sustainability

5. TV/Radio programmes

A special TV programme known as “Tou Korek” is mounted in collaboration with the Prime Minister’s Office with the aim to sensitize the population on NCDs and to decrease the number of people suffering from NCDs. For the year 2022, around 6 programme sessions will be organized in order to sensitize people on importance of physical activity, non-communicable diseases and its risks factors, healthy eating habits and negative health impact of stress.

6. Workshops for Housewives

In the year 2021, workshops were organized for the empowerment of Housewives on Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyle. The objectives of the workshop were to encourage housewives to adopt a healthy lifestyle and to empower housewives with the required knowledge and skills for choosing as well as preparing healthy foods/ meals for their families, to teach housewives how to take anthropometric measurements (height, weight and waist circumference), and to show housewives how to calculate Body Mass Index (BMI), indicator to determine underweight, overweight and obesity. So far, this activity has been carried out in 30 localities wherein 1500 housewives have been trained and empowered.

7. Adolescent Health Programme

According to the recommendations based on the findings of the Global School-Based Health Survey Mauritius 2017, it has been decided to establish a new programme under the aegis of NCDHPRU bearing the name- Adolescent Health Programme. The proposed activities are:

- i. Prevention of the risk factors for non-communicable diseases
- ii. HIV prevention
- iii. Sexual health Education and Sexually transmitted infections prevention
- iv. Diet and physical activity
- v. Sensitization against Tobacco, Alcohol and psychoactive substance
- vi. Violence and injury prevention
- vii. Prevention of mental health problems and promotion of mental health
- viii. Nutrition – Balance diet
- ix. Helping Children and Adolescents Manage Chronic Conditions

This new programme will be further developed with a detailed action plan in collaboration with other Units within the Ministry, Ministry of Education, Tertiary education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare and Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation.

8. Celebration of National/International Health Events

Health Events	Dates	Theme for the Year 2022
World Cancer Day	04 February	Close the care gap
World Health Day	07 April	Protecting Health from Climate Change
World No Tobacco Day	31 May	Tobacco: Threat to our environment.
International Day of Yoga	21 June	Yoga For Well-Being
International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	26 June	Share Facts On Drugs, Save Lives

9. Research Studies

(i) The MOHW in collaboration with Diabetes Research Foundation, Chennai and Mauritius Telecom is conducting a study on **‘Development and Evaluation of a Technology-Assisted Diabetes Prevention Programme in Mauritius’ – (SMS Study)** to evaluate the impact of text messaging (SMS messages) for the prevention of diabetes in the Mauritian population who are at high risk of developing diabetes. The main objective of the survey is to design and pilot a diabetes prevention programme for people with pre-diabetes which is based on lifestyle modification and specific to the needs of Mauritius.

Analysis of data was done and a preliminary report was disseminated in April 2022.

(ii) This Ministry in collaboration with the Monash University, Australia; University of Helsinki, Finland and Department of Cardiology and Endocrinology, Denmark is conducting the **Mauritius Intensive Diabetes Action Study (MIDAS)**.

The main aim of the study is to reduce the risk for major cardiovascular diseases (CVD) events over a two-year period with mortality, microvascular complications and hospitalization for heart failure as secondary endpoints. Analysis of data was done and a preliminary report will be prepared to be disseminated in the near future.

(iii) **Patients’ and families’ retrospective, subjective evaluation of patients with neurological disability’s deterioration during lockdown in Mauritius:** The Ministry of Health and Wellness in collaboration with the NEURAM Foundation has carried out a survey entitled “Investigating the impact of confinement due to the COVID-19 pandemic on Mauritius with Acquired Brain Injuries (ABI) and Spinal Cord Injuries (SCI). This Survey is an extension of the World Federation for Neuro Rehabilitation’s Survey. The main objective of this survey is to impart about the experience of neurological rehabilitation professionals who provide neurological rehabilitation to victims of COVID-19 with neurological complications. Data Analysis is being carried out and the reported is planned to be disseminated by end of year 2022.

(iv) Mauritius and Rodrigues NCD Surveys 2020/2021

The Mauritius NCD Survey 2020/2021 is the 7th NCD Survey. This NCD survey provides the current prevalence of NCDs and appropriate intervention strategies that will help reduce disease and risk factor prevalence and improve disease control.

The main objective of the survey is to determine the prevalence and study the trends in the prevalence of Type 2 diabetes, Hypertension, Cardiovascular diseases and their associated risk factors in the Mauritian population. The survey assessment has been completed in October – November 2021.

The Rodrigues NCD Survey has started in 2022. The enumeration exercise was carried out in April/May 2022 and it is envisaged to undertake the field survey in October/November 2022. Around 2000 participants will be targeted.

(v) The NCDHPRU has been preparing and planning the **National Nutrition Survey** to be carried out in October/November 2022. The main objective of the Survey is to study food consumption patterns and assess the nutritional status of the population with a view to address the problem of NCDs in the country.

This Survey will serve to update national data on the population's BMI and waist circumference, selected blood biochemistry/parameters not included in national NCD surveys, food consumption patterns and trends in dietary intake and physical activity levels. Baseline data will be available regarding nutritional status and dietary habits of the under-five group in this country as well on breastfeeding practices and prevalence. It will also serve the purpose of monitoring and evaluating progress made by comparing data with the previous nutrition surveys. This survey will also help to evaluate the on-going Nutrition programmes as specified in the National Plan of Action on Nutrition 2016-2020.

(vi) The Ministry of Health and Wellness in collaboration with the Monash University of Australia has started an important study relating to COVID-19 in Mauritius entitled '**The Prediction of Long COVID Metabolic Profiling in the Mauritius Population**' this year. The main aim of the study is to determine the metabolic abnormalities in individuals with or without diabetes who have been infected by SARS-Cov-2, the virus of COVID-19.

This study will enable to develop models that will lead to improved survival rates in high-risk groups to reduce morbidity and mortality, and to improve the quality of life of people with COVID-19 infections. It will better predict disease progression and tailor treatment and can improve understanding of long-term impacts of COVID-19 on the health of affected individuals as well as on long term benefit in terms of both the health and economic burden to the Mauritian community. This survey is expected to involve around 300 participants for a 3-year period.

(vii) **Global Blood Pressure Survey - May Measurement Month:** This study is carried out throughout the month of May every year by the Ministry in collaboration with the International Society of Hypertension and the World Hypertension League. Its main aim is to raise awareness regarding high blood pressure. Some 4000 persons are being screened for High Blood Pressure under this study.

10. COVID-19 Management and Vaccination

The unit has been actively involved in the management, sensitization and prevention of COVID-19. NCDHPRU was deployed in a series of activities to combat COVID-19 such as:

- Hotline services
- PCR tests at Airport
- Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19 detection.
- Sensitization campaign to curb to propagation of COVID-19 infection.
- National Vaccination programme against COVID-19.

(Please refer to Section on COVID-19 Management and COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign above for more details on work performed by the unit)

2.1.13 SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND MATERNAL, NEONATAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) Unit is a Public Health Office in the Ministry of Health and Wellness that consists of various programmes that are strategically placed to address Maternal Neonatal Child Health as well as Sexual and Reproductive health and rights including adolescent sexual health. The unit is committed to promote and advance reproductive health and rights, especially for women and young people.

The different programmes that make up the SRH Unit are as follows: (i) Family Planning; (ii) Safe Motherhood; (iii) Infant and Child Health; (iv) Breastfeeding; (v) Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health; (vi) Cancers of the Reproductive Tract among Females; (vii) Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health; (viii) Male Sexual Dysfunctions and (ix) Geriatrics.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

1. Preconception Care

Preconception care clinics have been implemented at Primary Health Centres (Mediclinics and Area Health Centres) with the goal of improving maternal health and pregnancy outcomes in terms of a healthy baby. In this context, several activities have been conducted and include training of health professionals, HIEC materials (videos, pamphlets and booklets), Guidelines for health professionals, Sensitisation sessions for NGOs, Awareness sessions with public officers and tertiary level students. A Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness Day was also organized on 11 June 2022.

2. Implementation of National SRH Plan of Action 2018 – 2021

Several activities have been conducted under this action plan and include training for health professionals on modern methods of contraception, on sexual health of older adults. HIEC materials (pamphlets and short videos) have been developed on antenatal care, postnatal care, care of new-born, postpartum depression, abortion, teenage pregnancy and menstruation.

3. Development of National Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy 2022 and National Sexual and Reproductive Health Implementation Plan 2022 – 2027

Activities conducted for the development of this policy includes consultative workshops and validation workshop and a mission to Rodrigues where workshops were conducted on Preconception Care and Breastfeeding as well.

4. Development of National Breastfeeding Action Plan 2022 – 2027

The purpose is to gradually increase the percentage of exclusive breastfeeding from 20% to 50% by 2027, to meet the global target. Activities for the development of action plan include 3 short videos and 1 consultative workshop.

2.1.14 MENTAL HEALTH

In Mauritius, mental health care is accessible to each and every one through decentralization. Psychiatric services are dispensed at Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre (BSMHCC) as well as in the five regional hospitals and some Area Health Centres/Community Health Centres. The services at BSMHCC consist of a 250 bedded facility for the treatment of acute cases and it can cater for around 500 patients in long stay wards.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

- One day Care Centre at Triolet for children suffering autism spectrum disorder operational since 2022. This centre is attached to SSRNH.
- One De-addiction and Rehabilitation Ward (Frangipane) for Male Substance Abusers (Drug Addict) was opened at BSMHCC in 2021. This ward offers inpatient treatment, day care and rehabilitation.
- One De-addiction and Rehabilitation Ward (Orchidee) for Female Substance Abusers (Drug Addict) was opened at BSMHCC in 2022. This ward offers inpatient treatment, day care and rehabilitation.
- Community Psychiatric Nursing has started at SSRNH in 2022.
- Mental Health Act was Amended in 2021.
- A Medical Laboratory providing routine lab test was opened on 02 August 2021 at BSMHCC.
- Four more Psychologists have been recruited during the FY 2021/2022, making it a total of 16 Psychologists in post.
- One additional Psychiatrist has been recruited and posted in Addictology Unit which has been restructured.
- The Strategic Actions for Mental Health under the HSSP 2020-2024 is currently being implemented.
- For the Financial Year 2021-2022, there has been 28,248 consultations at BSMHCC, out of which 1,713 new cases and 3,145 admissions.
- Training programme was conducted for Health Care Assistants, Ward Assistants and Attendants in 2021 at the request of the Mental Health Board.

2.1.15 NATIONAL AIDS SECRETARIAT

The main function of National AIDS Secretariat (NAS) is to coordinate the multi-sectoral response to HIV and AIDS. Therefore, under this role, the NAS synchronises and integrates all the activities of different actors in the national response including line ministries, departments and agencies, NGOs and Civil Society Organisation amongst others and all resources for the purpose of funding national response (in particular resources from international NGOs or agencies).

It also ensures harmonization of all plans in the country are aligned to that of the Government National HIV Action Plan and that there is a robust Monitoring and Evaluation System under one National AIDS Coordinating body.

The NAS organizes development of internal and external guidelines of processes to ensure effective implementation of the response and identifies gaps in the resources and develop strategies to fill them.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

It is estimated that about 14 000 persons were living with the HIV in 2021. The HIV prevalence among the key population groups representing the key drivers of the epidemic in the Republic in Mauritius has continued to decline. Between 2010 to 2021, the HIV incidence has declined by 34 %.

Men still constitute the greater proportion of the adults living with HIV despite a more rapid decline in new HIV infections is observed among the men.

New HIV infections among children aged 0 – 14 years decreased by 51% during the same period. As per the UNAIDS HIV estimates, between 2012 and 2021, HIV related deaths among all age groups increased by 23% with more men dying than women. However, between the same period, HIV related deaths among children declined by 52%.

The following measures have been undertaken to improve the national AIDS response to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030:

- A multisectoral, rights-based and patient-centred approach has been adopted to develop the National HIV Action Plan 2023 – 2027 which bears all the stakeholders' shared vision to achieve zero new HIV infections and zero deaths within a setting of an inclusive environment free from stigma and discrimination.
- The Multi-Sectoral Committee, chaired by the Minister of Health and Wellness has the main objectives to tackle the cross-sectional issues and tackle the challenges of the programme as HIV is not only a health concern but it is also a developmental issue.
- Adoption of 'HIV Testing as Prevention' – a mix of HIV Testing Services (HTS) is used for HIV screening purposes. The Mauritius HIV Testing Services and Policy has been developed and it includes the use of a variety HIV Testing Service approaches thereby reducing the missed opportunities of people getting to know their status.
- Further decentralisation of the HIV services which exist at the eight (8) point of care since 2016 through setting up of one additional One-Stop Shop at Bouloux Area Health Centre.
- The management protocol of the people living with and affected by HIV has been updated. It introduces safer paediatric formulations and earlier infant diagnosis for better health outcomes through improved adherence rate and reduction in AIDS mortality.
- Integrating HIV services with non-HIV services has started with the management of co-infected HIV-Hepatitis C patients by the doctors of the AIDS Unit. Capacity-building of the HIV doctors in the management of Sexually Transmitted Infections has been carried out to improve the quality care.

- Combination HIV prevention programmes using a mix of behavioural, biological and structural interventions including treatment as prevention (Test and Treat Strategy). Furthermore, HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) and Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission program are being implemented.
- IEC materials have been developed along with the use of video spots to promote the HIV services and preventive measures such as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis.
- The Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance survey has been conducted in November 2021 to monitor the trend of HIV, Hepatitis C, Hepatitis C and syphilis among men who have sex with men.
- Technical Working Groups in Behavioural Change Communication, Monitoring and Evaluation and treatment, care and support have constituted to reinforce the collaboration with the NGOs – PILS, AILES, CUT, Parapli Rouz, YQA and CAEC to respond to the needs of the various vulnerable HIV groups.
- Access to additional fund under the COVID-19 Response Mechanism of the Global Fund has led to upgrading of the services provided by the Central Health Laboratories and communication materials for NGOs not involved in the fight against HIV.
- The sustainability plan for HIV programmes funded by the Global Fund is being discussed with the National Social Inclusion Foundation which will partly support the NGOs.

2.1.16 AIDS UNIT

The AIDS Unit provides prevention activities and clinical services to People living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) in the country including prison settings and Rodrigues Island. The unit also provides Testing and Counselling for HIV, STIs and viral hepatitis in the community at large, health institutions and workplace.

Moreover, young adolescents are being sensitized early in schools. Pregnant PLHIV are also closely followed from Ante-natal care clinic until delivery. There is ongoing promotion of male and female condoms as primary and secondary prevention.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

- **HIV Testing and Treatment - Antiretroviral Treatment (ART)**

115,431 tests have been conducted (87,446 ELISA and 27,985 RDTs) from July 2021-June 2022. A total of 6,597 HIV tests have been conducted through the mobile caravan around the island, including the community, beach testing, commercial sites and deprived areas. Out of these tests, 32 positive cases have been detected.

From July 2021-June 2022, a total of 4,135 tests have been conducted at Casualty level, among which 20 were found positive.

For the reporting period, 358 new HIV cases have been detected (210 male, 148 female).

There were 4,253 PLHIV on Antiretroviral drugs by June 2022. The adherence rate was approximately 72%.

- **HIV Prevention Programmes for the Key Populations**

From July 2021 to June 2022, prevention programmes were conducted among the Key Populations. 3,028 Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), 3,668 Female Sex Workers (FSW) and 1,664 Transgender (TG) have been reached respectively. Among those reached, 662 MSM, 721 FSW and 378 TGs were tested for HIV. In prisons, 7,844 HIV tests have been conducted during the same period.

- **HIV Preventive Measure**

In the period between July 2021 and June 2022, 347,135 male and 19,638 female condoms have been distributed and 51,309 Lubricant gels have been supplied.

- **Community awareness on HIV and AIDS**

Since the reopening of schools in February 2022, a total of 11,254 adolescents have been reached through school intervention sessions. 500 out-of-school/vulnerable youths have been reached through awareness programmes. Awareness and testing sessions have been carried out among 500 students in tertiary institutions. 930 Adolescent Girls and Young Women have been sensitized regarding HIV/AIDS throughout the island. Workshops and training sessions for 350 health care professionals have been carried out on HIV Testing, PMTCT, Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

- **Co-infected HIV/Hepatitis C**

As at June 2022, 434 PLHIV co-infected with Hepatitis C have already been treated while 355 were on treatment.

2.1.17 HARM REDUCTION UNIT (HRU)

The HRU's vision is mainly to curb HIV epidemics among people who use drugs and break the cycle of drugs by aligning efforts along with all stakeholders concerned toward sustainable drug policies focusing on health, human rights, peace and security. The Main functions and services provided are as follows:

- Needle Exchange Programme
- Methadone Substitution Therapy
- Drug Prevention Programme/
- Mass Media Campaign
- Rehabilitation and Detoxification Programme
- Psycho-social support and counselling

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

- Opening of a Residential Rehabilitation/Detoxification Centre and Methadone Day Care Centre in the yard of Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre at Beau-Bassin known as the Frangipane Centre on 24th July 2021.
- Female Residential Rehabilitation-Detoxification Centre and Female Methadone Day Care Centre, Orchidée Centre was inaugurated in 2022 and is based on a similar concept as that of Frangipane Centre.
- A Drug Addiction Unit has been set up in each Health Region. Addiction Units are found at Long Mountain Hospital, Dr. B. C. Hospital - Flacq, Dr. A. G. Jeetoo Hospital, Victoria Hospital and Mahebourg Hospital where all the services provided are based on a combination of psychosocial and pharmaco-therapies including detoxification, after-care and involve family, friends and social workers.
- The major drug of concern was reported to be New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) known as synthetic drugs and from January to May 2022, the five Addiction Units have recorded an attendance of around 2180.
- Methadone Substitution Therapy - Over 9,000 People Who Inject Drugs (PWIDS) have been induced on methadone since its introduction in 2006 and as at date around 6,900 beneficiaries are on the maintenance programme and accessing their daily doses at 48 dispensing points throughout the country including the 4 sites within the prisons. In order to offer a comprehensive package of services to methadone beneficiaries, five (5) Drop-in Centres for methadone beneficiaries have been set up in different health regions across the island.
- For Needle Exchange Programme, 45 sites are operational throughout the island in areas where there is concentration of Injecting Drug Users. 37 sites are run by the MOHW through mobile caravans and 8 sites are run by NGOs. For FY 2021 - 2022, the total number of distribution is as follows:
 - a) Syringes : 354027
 - b) Needles : 361641
- Drug Use Prevention programme: Awareness and educational sessions in schools reached 71 students; Sensitization programmes in the Community - 277 participants; Workplace reached 1020 participants; Youth Empowerment Programme Against Drugs (YEPAD) - 17 sessions reaching 441 participants; Series of Workshops against synthetic drug and other drugs - 12 workshops reaching 298 participants.
- In Mass Media Campaign, the components comprise the following: Rear of bus advertisement, Billboards, TV/ Radio Spots and Online Social Media Platforms (Facebook/ Instagram). Main Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are as follows as at end of June 2022:
 - a) 1,524,958 video views on social media platforms
 - b) 1,219 comments on social media platforms
 - c) 600+ Broadcast on TV and Radio
 - d) 17,584 content likes on social media platforms

2.1.18 NUTRITION UNIT

The Nutrition Unit of the MOHW is involved in the prevention and control of Non-Communicable Diseases and the promotion of healthy eating habits. The unit is composed of a Chief Nutritionist, 2 Principal Nutritionists and 14 Nutritionists/Senior Nutritionists and it advises on all matters relating to nutrition and on the formulation of health nutrition policies, amongst others.

Diet counselling is provided by the Nutritionists to both outpatients and inpatients on therapeutic diets at hospital level. This service is also extended to the Community through the Area and Community Health Centres. Health Promotion activities including talks on nutrition and healthy eating habits are targeted to all age groups.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

- **Empowerment of housewives on Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyle**

A series of one-day workshops have been conducted throughout the island for housewives. The aim of the workshop is to empower Mauritian housewives with the required knowledge and skills for choosing and preparing healthy meals for their families and how to maintain a healthy body weight. This will in turn help protect against all forms of malnutrition as well as the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), including diabetes, heart disease, stroke and certain types of cancers among the Mauritian population.

- **Guidance and Involvement of the Unit in the drafting of Food Regulation 2022:**

It has been proposed that the permissible level of industrially produced Trans Fatty Acids (TFAs) in fats and oils safe for human consumption, (no more than 1.0% of Trans Fatty Acids (TFA) on a fat weight basis). The maximum permissible level of salt in the Mauritian bread (Pain maison, both white and brown) [no more than 1g of salt per 100 g of baked bread].

- **Wheat Flour Fortification**

Mauritius does not have mandatory fortification programme for any food vehicle. However, the country is in the process of programming mandatory fortification of wheat flour with iron, folic acid, zinc and vitamin B12 with the Technical support of SADC. Wheat and wheat products are widely consumed by a large proportion of the Mauritian population, the reason for choosing wheat flour as food vehicle for fortification.

There was the visit of two consultants from the Food Fortification Initiative (FFI) (contracted out by SADC) in February 2022. Subsequently, a landscape analysis report has been submitted to the MOHW. This Ministry has taken cognizance of the report and transmitted same to different stakeholders involved in the national fortification programme.

- **Involvement for Bill on the Establishment of a Food Standards Agency (FSA)**

The Mauritius Food Standards Agency Bill was introduced to the National Parliament. The Mauritius Food Standards Agency Bill aims to guarantee consumers a high degree of safety in

consumption. It will also shed light on the quality of food that is produced, packaged and imported, before being sold on the local market. Consequently, this will promote transparency regarding the functioning of the country's food industry.

2.1.19 TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

Mauritius is one of the rare countries outside India where the practice of Ayurvedic medicines is legalized and governed by a law - the 'Ayurveda and other Traditional Medicine Act-1989'. Under this Act the practice of Ayurveda, Homeopathy and Chinese system of Medicine are recognized and regulated in Mauritius. At present, six Ayurvedic Clinics are providing the following Ayurvedic services to the population:

- Free Consultation and Diagnosis
- Ayurvedic Panchkarma Therapy on prescription
- Advising therapeutic yoga in all required and appropriate cases
- Advising and counselling of patient as per Ayurvedic principles
- Free distribution of Ayurvedic Medicine
- Regular follow-up of all cases depending on its acute or chronic condition

Ayurvedic health services are provided at the outpatient level which is open 6/7 days. Mauritians attend these Ayurvedic clinics for various ailments ranging from hairfall, chronic joint disorders, skin problems like psoriasis, digestive problems, obesity, NCDS and even with complications like cardiovascular diseases, renal diseases, cancer etc.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

- Attendance at Public Ayurveda Clinics average 70 patients daily, with an average of more than 4,000 monthly attendance and an average of 50,000 patients attend the clinics annually.
- The number of annual sick treated cases range between 78,000 to 80,000.
- AYUSH Ministry India has delegated an AYUSH Chair since last one year, who is presently providing his contribution in the academics and also promoting Ayurveda throughout the country at various Institutions and through media.
- In line with the important role of Traditional Medicine in our health system, Government identified 12 acres of land at Cote D'Or City to set up an AYUSH Centre. The assistance of the High Commission of India was sought to enlist the services of a Consultant in AYUSH to assess the feasibility of the Project.
- The expertise of the AYUSH Chair from the University of Mauritius was also solicited. Dr Gulab Chand Pamnani, Associate Professor, National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur India visited Mauritius from 14 to 28 February 2022 to conduct the feasibility study. The feasibility report recommends the setting up of the AYUSH Centre/Hospital in 3 Phases, namely construction of Outpatient, Inpatient and College Blocks.
- In addition, in the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2022, amendments have been brought to broaden the definitions by including the term AYUSH, meaning Ayurveda, Yoga

and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy Systems of Medicine. Amendments were also made to include the terms practitioner and specialist practitioner.

- Working on a training programme for the Ayurvedic Medical Officer (AMOs).

2.1.20 TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL CONTROL UNITS

Tobacco Control Unit

The Tobacco Control Unit is mainly involved in drafting policies with respect to the public health implications and the subsequent impact of tobacco consumption on the population. Mauritius having ratified the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control since 2004, the unit operates to implement the guidelines of the Convention.

Achievements for FY2021-2022

- Issuance of technical clearances regarding tobacco products imported in Mauritius. (6 clearances for Cigars, 10 for Pipe Tobacco and 4 for Cigarettes)
- Sensitization regarding the ill-effects of tobacco and related products.
- The Unit has provided support in the drafting of the National Action Plan on Tobacco Control for 2022-2026. The Unit is in the phase of implementing the Action Plan with the support of our various stakeholders. The main objective of the Action Plan is to achieve a 30% reduction in tobacco consumption in line with the SDGs.
- The Unit has been involved in the preparation of the Public Health (Restrictions on Tobacco Products) Regulations 2022 which has been promulgated on 10 June 2022. This new regulation provides for further restrict tobacco consumption by banning waterpipes, smokeless tobacco products, electronic cigarettes and e-liquids. Furthermore, the implementation of plain packaging of tobacco products has been initiated through the regulations. The importance of plain packaging lies with the restriction over technical display (logos, colours, textures) which could assist importers and manufacturers to advertise the tobacco products.
- Providing support to the 8 Tobacco Cessation Clinics throughout the island.
- Attending to the Toll-free information Quit line for tobacco number 8002011. Some 133 entries were recorded.

Alcohol Control Unit

The alcohol unit focuses on strategies and establishment of frameworks targeted towards alcohol consumption control as a modifiable risk factor of NCDs. The services offered by alcohol unit are directed towards offering specialized care in psychiatric units of regional hospitals to cater for both in-patients and out-patients.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

- Implementation of the strategies under the National Action Plan 2020-2024 to reduce harmful use of Alcohol and awaiting mid-term review in Dec 2022/ Jan 2023. The implementation is under the supervision of the monitoring committee with 5 subcommittees – sensitisation, capacity-building, treatment, rehabilitation and legislation, with multiple stakeholders.
- The alcohol statistics depict a decrease in regular alcohol consumption from 66.2% in males and 41% in 2015 to an overall consumption of 60.8% as per NCD Survey 2021. Moreover, the abusive consumption of alcohol has decreased from 19.1% in 2015 to 15.4% in 2021 – a relative reduction of approx. 4%
- Sensitisation sessions through “Life Enhancement Education Program” with 13 NGOs and the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity.
- Some 659 civil service recruits were trained in alcohol related problems.
- Technical support received from WHO on social media cards for sensitisation on alcohol.
- Launching of Alcohol and Youth booklet in September 2021.
- Launching of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) booklet to commemorate FAS Day on 9th September 2022
- Assistance to the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare for Gender Based Violence Mobile App, LESPWAR and a hotline 139 to support victims of gender-based violence including alcohol as a causal factor.

2.1.21 DIABETES AND VASCULAR HEALTH CENTRE

The Diabetes and Vascular Health Centre (DVHC), situated at New Souillac Hospital, was set up in 2010 in response to the high prevalence of Diabetes in Mauritius as evoked in the National Service Framework for Diabetes (NSFD). The Centre provides holistic care to patients with diabetes and early detection and management of complications of diabetes. DVHC provides a multidisciplinary approach to the management of diabetes under one roof. This one-stop shop approach allows for better patients’ compliance. The following services are provided:

- Specialised care to patients with diabetes by Diabetologists
- Podiatry Care
- Foot Ulcer Management
- Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service (Provided in all 5 Regions)
- Counselling by Nutritionist
- Empowerment programmes for patients with diabetes – Nurse-Led Clinic
- Smoking Cessation Clinic
- In-patient management of diabetes and related complications

The Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service (DRSS) is important as it helps Diabetic patients to detect and manage early Diabetes complications. Each Retinal unit is well equipped with one

retinal camera, one grading station and also trained staffs. A well-defined protocol is established for channelling patients in all these units. All Diabetic Patients are referred at least once a year to the Retinal Units. Pamphlets also used to educate patients on Diabetic Retinopathy.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

- Recruitment of two specialists in Endocrinology/Diabetology
- Restructuring of Diabetes Care in the Primary Health Care Services.
- Improving equity of care by providing Diabetes Specialist Clinics in all Health Regions.
- Training in basic podiatry management imparted to all the Specialised Nurses (Diabetic Foot Care) by foreign team with the support of WHO.
- 3 new digital cameras were procured in 2021 to serve the Retinal Screening Services.
- Podiatry sets were procured in 2022 to serve all the Foot Care Clinics.
- In 2021, estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR) Application has been introduced as a matter of urgency in Primary Health Care Centres (PHC) for Renal Risk Assessment and it is operational since February 2022.
- The number of retinal screening episodes for 2021 is as follows:

Number of Retinal Screening carried out for 2021	
Dr. A.G. Jeetoo Hospital	2,472
Triolet Medi Clinic	7,241
Belvedere Medi Clinic	4,827
J. Nehru Hospital	5,205
Diabetes and Vascular Health Centre	4,319
Floreal Medi Clinic	1,864
Total	25,928

2.1.22 RENAL DIALYSIS SERVICES

Dialysis treatment is provided free of charge to all patients attending Public Health Institutions. Some of the extra number of patients who cannot be accommodated in the Government Hospitals are referred to the Private clinics with whom this Ministry has entered into agreement to provide the service against payment. The Private Clinics are provided with the dialysis consumables kit for each dialysis session. Presently, such treatment is available in seven Government Hospitals and in six Private Clinics.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

- As at June 2022, a total of 1,454 patients were undergoing dialysis treatment. There were 1,204 patients on dialysis in the Government hospitals and 250 Government hospital patients on dialysis in the private clinics.
- A total of 224,681 dialysis sessions were performed in 2021, as follows:
 - In Government Hospitals: 182,287 sessions
 - In the Private Clinics : 42,394 sessions

- The policy of the Ministry is to expand further the dialysis facilities in all hospitals in a view to integrate fully the service into the public hospitals without having recourse to the private in future. In this line, there are several projects which are in the pipeline namely a new Dialysis Unit which will be equipped with 50 dialysis machines at the New Flacq Hospital and the setting up of a Renal and Transplant Unit, combined with a new Dialysis Unit will at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital.
- As far as Rodrigues is concerned, the Dialysis Unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital is equipped with 10 dialysis machines, where 40 patients are undergoing the treatment. Regular visits are carried out by our Nephrologists to Rodrigues. Request has been made for the setting up a second Dialysis Unit in the island, to be located at La Ferme, Rodrigues.
- A kidney transplant is often the treatment of choice for kidney failure, compared with a lifetime on dialysis. Since October 2017 up to now, some 46 patients who have their compatible kidney donors have been sent to India to have their renal transplants and all costs were borne by the Ministry.
- The MOHW is envisaging the future visit of foreign Transplant Surgeon and experts to be in Mauritius to carry out renal transplants, train our surgeons in transplant surgery and to set up our renal transplant unit at Victoria Hospital.

2.1.23 CENTRAL SCHOOL OF NURSING

The Central School of Nursing provides training in nursing care by running Certificate and Diploma courses in Nursing and Midwifery, Top Up programmes leading to Diploma in Nursing, Midwifery, Hospital Nursing Administration Course, Certificate in Clinical Management, Diploma in Mental Health, Post basic certificate in community health nursing and Certificate in Health care assisting and for Ambulance Drivers. It is mandated to deliver these courses for the Ministry with a view to provide qualified nursing personnel for the public health institutions and to some extent for private clinics as well.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

Successfully completed courses	Target groups	No of participants
Hospital Nursing Administration Course (Cohort Jan 2021)	Ward Managers	76
Clinical Nursing Management and Ward Administration (Cohort Nov 2021)	Charge nurses	50
First Aid Course (Cohort Dec 2021)	Ambulance drivers and attendants	27
First Aid Course (Cohort April 2022)	Ambulance drivers and attendants	39

Basic Midwifery Course (Cohort Jan 2020)	Trainee Midwives	29
Running Courses	Target groups	No of participants
Top Up Diploma in Nursing Batch 8 (2022)	Nursing Officers	221 (200 passed paper 1 and Final exam results awaited)
Health Care Assisting Course (May/Sept 2022)	Trainee Health Care Assistant	116
National Diploma in Nursing (Cohort June 2020)	Trainee nurses	14
Post Basic Community Health Nursing (Cohort May 2022)	Nursing Officers	28
Basic Midwifery Course (Cohort July/Sept 2021)	Trainee Midwives	15

2.1.24 TRAINING AND RESEARCH

The Mauritius Institute of Health (MIH)

The Mauritius Institute of Health (MIH) as the Training and Research arm of the Ministry of Health and Wellness since 1989, promotes medical and health professional development and capacity building through the conduct of training programmes to upgrade, enhance and develop the skills of personnel. The MIH also caters for health systems research and acts as a focal point and resource centre for the production, exchange and promotion of health learning and health information material.

Achievements (FY 2021-2022)

Training Programmes and Courses

- 25 Medical Officers/Senior Medical Officers completed their specialisation in Emergency Medicine (a 3-year training programme)
- 26 Nurses posted to Dialysis Units completed a 6-month Certificate in Nephrology in June 2022.
- Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP) Frontline One Health: 1st cohort: 13 September 2021 to December 2021 with 30 successful participants (20 from Ministry of Health and Wellness and 10 from Ministry of Agro-Industry & Food Security).
- 41 candidates successfully completed the National Pharmacy Technician Diploma Course. As from 15 March 2022, 20 trainees are presently following this course. As for the Top-Up Programme Leading to the National Pharmacy Technician Diploma, some 21 trainees have enrolled in March 2022.

- 13 successful candidates have completed the National Diploma in Radiation Therapy Technology in July 2021.
- 21 successful participants, including one from Rodrigues have completed the Certificate Course in Pharmacy Store Management
- National Certificate Level 5 in Physiotherapy Assisting is ongoing with 6 trainees.
- 19 Staff from the Catering Cadre (13 from Ministry of Health and Wellness and 6 from the Mauritius Police Force (MPF) have successfully completed the Training Course in Catering Management
- 19 candidates have passed the National Certificate Level 5 in Community Health Care.
- 2 trainees have successfully completed the Training Course in Electroencephalography (EEG) for EEG Technicians.
- 47 Cooks have successfully completed the Certificate in Cooking and some 14 have enrolled in the ongoing one.

Other Activities

- The MIH acted as Awarding Body for both the School of Nursing/Ministry of Health and Wellness and the Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd (PML).
- A total of 190 doctors attended the 7 Continuing Professional Development sessions.
- 5 Dental CPD Sessions were held during period July 2021 to June 2022 with 148 attendees.
- 208 participants attended the Induction Course for Pre-Registration House Officers.
- A survey on Knowledge, Perception, Preventive Behaviour and Impact of COVID-19 was carried out in the Island of Mauritius – Report submitted to MRIC in May 2021 for dissemination of findings to key stakeholders.

Virtual Health Library Mauritius (VHLM)

The Virtual Health Library Mauritius (VHLM) of the MIH hosts several databases and local reports, research studies, statistics and other documents pertaining to various health concerns, and provides online access to a series of international medical journals, articles, e-books and evidence-based guidelines. The VHLM is accessible to the public and private institutions and individuals. User education and demonstration activities are conducted at the MIH to maximize usage. For the period under review, 4,000 health personnel have been registered under the portal. A total of 180 Clinical Guidelines covering about 35 specific pathologies were hosted on the VHLM.

Research Initiatives

- Mauritius Birth Defects Registry (MBDR) – Ongoing
- Participation of Mauritius in a French/Réunion Inter regional Vector Control (STI) Related Programme (ongoing) – MIH acted as the Service Provider to manage the funds for the project.
- ITC Mauritius Project Proposal
- Assistance to Department of Radiotherapy of Victoria Hospital for the development of a research proposal.

2.1.25 OVERSEAS TREATMENT UNIT

The Overseas Treatment Unit of the Ministry provides financial assistance and all necessary support to patients who have been recommended for treatment abroad by a Medical Board set up in the Regional Hospitals. These patients also have to meet the income eligibility criteria for households as set by the Ministry. Arrangements are made for the patients to be admitted in health institutions in India with which the MOHW has signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Overseas Treatment Scheme also provides the possibility for patients to opt for any medical institutions of their choice in other countries. Patients proceeding to hospital of their choices benefit financial assistance based on the lowest quotation received from the above-mentioned health institutions. They are however granted the equivalent of funds for a ticket equivalent to India airfare. In some severe cases, upon recommendation of the treating doctor, a stretcher is also provided.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

- In 2021, the Overseas Treatment Scheme was reviewed and the income eligibility criteria for households was increased from Rs 50,000 to Rs 100,000.
- In addition, a framework was established with local private clinics to allow patients to undergo treatment locally under the scheme, if treatment is not available in public hospitals. The framework was operationalized in 2022.
- In the budget 2022/2023, the grant amount for patients requiring stretchers during overseas treatment for cases of Neurosurgery and Bone Marrow Transplant was increased by Rs 200,000.
- From 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, 200 patients have benefitted assistance under the Overseas Treatment scheme.
- An amount of approximately Rs 77.7million has been disbursed for their treatment.
- The household income ceiling eligibility criteria to qualify for the assistance is Rs 100,000.
- Financial assistance granted under Overseas Treatment Section for different types of treatment are as follows:
 1. Up to Rs 1,000,000 (inclusive of air fare for patient and one attendant) for the treatment of: Leukaemia, Cochlear Implant, Liver Transplant, Osteosarcoma, Lung transplant
 2. Up to Rs 800,000 (inclusive of air fare for patient and one attendant) for the treatment of all other complicated cases such as Cancer, Neuro Surgery, Orthopaedic, Cardiac, Renal Transplant, etc.
 3. Up to Rs 500,000 for eyes treatment (inclusive of air fare for patient and one attendant).

2.1.26 DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS SUPPORT SERVICES



The Department of Operation Support Services of the MOHW is responsible for the management of all health transport activities including ambulatory service and the provision of adequate logistics accordingly. It also undertakes repairs and maintenance works pertaining to vehicles in its fleet.

The department also attends to repairs, maintenance, refurbishment, extension and renovation works required at public health institutions.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

- Acquisition and installation of GPS Device in 169 additional vehicles of the Ministry's fleet.
- Renovation/Conversion of Les Guibies Depot, Pailles into a medical store currently being used for the storage of medicines
- Provision of all necessary transport services to meet the needs of the Ministry including management of COVID-19 pandemic.

2.1.27 CENTRAL HEALTH LABORATORY



The Central Health Laboratory (CHL) which is the apex body of public laboratory network in the Republic of Mauritius functions as both clinical and public health laboratory. CHL has been highly effective and proactive in responding to the pandemic by providing timely diagnosis, patient monitoring, as well as epidemiologic surveillance.

Currently, the CHL has a test menu of more than 350 tests and this is expected to go up as health services are expanding for example with New Cancer Hospital and upcoming Transplantation Programme.

Health Laboratory Service covers nine departments comprising of Bacteriology, Biochemistry, Blood Transfusion Services, Cytology, Haematology, Histopathology, Parasitology, Virology and Molecular Biology.

It also operates a network of regional and peripheral laboratories. The services provided by regional laboratories include Routine Biochemistry, Blood Bank/Cross Matching, Haematology, Parasitology and Bacteriology (at Dr. AGJH Laboratory only) while peripheral laboratories provide basic Biochemistry, Haematology and Parasitology services

The National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS) is responsible for recruitment of voluntary blood donors through education, information and motivation, collection of blood at fixed and mobile sites, processing of blood into components, testing and supply of blood and blood products to all public and private health institutions in the country.

Achievements of Health Laboratory Services and Blood Transfusion Service for FY 2021-2022 include:

➤ Number of laboratory tests performed

A total of 14 million tests were performed from July 2021 to June 2022 at CHL. Moreover, in 2021, 870 Immunohistochemistry (IHC) tests were done for cancer diagnosis. Seven new IHC markers were introduced to help in better diagnosis of cancer patients, thus bringing the total number of markers available to 44. Earlier most cases requiring IHC were being sent abroad with higher costs and longer turnaround times to obtain results.

➤ Number of pints of blood collected

From 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, a total of 45,890 pints of blood have been collected by National Blood Transfusion Service and 855 mobile collections were organized. Mega Blood Donation was held over a period of four days from 20 to 23 December 2021 in conformance with sanitary precautions and a total of 1,860 pints were collected.

Molecular Biology department has been up scaled for COVID-19 Testing by PCR and GeneXpert testing and Multiplex PCR. Local sequencing has also been introduced and up to June 2022 more than 4,000 samples have been sequenced.

➤ Equipment

The following equipment have been received through donation and procurement at the level of the Ministry:

- New Dual Energy X-ray Absorptiometry (DEXA) for body composition for Cancer Center.
- Two automated immune-analyser for virology department
- Two Nanopore Minion for sequencing
- Chemistry autoanalyzer
- Four GeneExpert for PCR
- One automated coagulometer

➤ **Introduction of New Test**

Decentralization of ACR (Albumin Creatinine Ratio) at regional laboratories (Flacq completed and others in process). Urgent PCR and new tests introduced in biochemistry include Thyroglobulin and anti-Thyroglobulin antibodies for Thyroid cancer patients, Procalcitonin, Vitamin B12 and Folate. Flowcytometry services for phenotyping of haematological malignancies have also been introduced.

➤ **Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)**

COVID LIMS at CHL and Airport Health Laboratory (AHL) has been successfully implemented and currently a stepwise upscaling to National LIMS is underway for Virology and Molecular Biology Module and Biochemistry Module with the support of the United Nations Development Programme.

➤ **Submission of Requirements for New and Additional Infrastructure/Equipment and Staff for Laboratory Services**

Infrastructure and space have been a severe constraint for several years. Due to acute space constraint at CHL (Virology and Molecular Biology departments, NBTS,) a proposal for converting ex Central Nursing School premises opposite Central Health Laboratory to set-up a Public Health Laboratory regrouping Molecular Biology, Virology, parasitology and mycology to cater for Pandemic in coming years has been made.

The CHL has also provided the requirements for equipment to be acquired for the New Flacq Hospital. In addition, the CHL has submitted its requirements for staff to meet shortage of manpower especially for Medical Laboratory Technologists cadre.

2.1.28 SAMU SERVICES

The primary role of the Service d'Aide Médicale Urgente (SAMU) services is to provide on-site pre-hospital medical treatment and stabilize critical and vital emergencies during transport, thus keeping in pace with the concept of the golden hour. The SAMU also perform secondary inter hospital transfers of severely ill patients for CT scans, MRI, Primary and Rescue Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI), etc. as well as aero medical transfers.

The SAMU Control Room 114 which is functional on a 24-hour basis all year round is situated at Victoria hospital. Around 1,000 calls are attended daily and based on an efficient triage system, logistics and a recording system with specially trained staff, the SAMU attends to pre-hospital emergencies. Some 366,587 calls were received on 114 during the FY 2021-2022.

With the specialisation in Emergency Medicine by the Emergency physicians in 2019, a Resuscitation Unit has been added to the Accident and Emergency unit in each of the 5 Regional Hospitals to cater for all vital emergencies including patients with myocardial infarction.

In addition, SAMU staff participates in simulation exercises with other stakeholders and plays a leading role in situations where there are mass casualties during natural or man-made disasters.

It is envisaged to have a better and more appropriate collaboration with the Fire and Rescue services so that the two Departments can work in unison to attend to pre-hospital emergencies more effectively.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

- Primary Outings (For Emergency purposes): 9,454
- Secondary Outings (Transfer from one health institution to another): 4,656
- Number of Normal Ambulance Interventions: 20,314
- Number of aero transfers: 96

2.1.29 ORTHOPAEDIC APPLIANCES WORKSHOP (OAW)

The main objective of the Orthopaedic Workshop is to assist disabled patients overcome their disabilities by fitting them with appropriate orthopaedic appliances. Patients are referred for orthopaedic appliances to the Orthopaedic Appliances Workshop by medical practitioners from all Regional Hospitals including AHCs and Rodrigues.

Services include provision of corrective braces, spinal braces for fracture of spine, night splints for corrective upper and lower limbs, adapted chairs for cerebral palsy, Minerva jacket for fracture of cervical and lower limb prosthesis for amputees.

All these orthopaedic appliances are manufactured with specific materials, orthotics and prosthetics components mostly procured from abroad. The Workshop is divided into five sections namely Prosthesis section, Orthosis section, Leather section, Metal section and Seamstress section.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

- 11, 290 patients have attended the Orthopaedic Appliances Workshop to receive orthopaedic appliances.
- Staff of the OAW also have to attend to patients in regional hospitals once a month. From 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, around 9,582 patients were attended to.
- During the same period, a total of 15, 542 Orthopaedic Appliances were delivered to patients.
- For the period 01 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, Rs 9,975,895.5 have been spent for the purchase of specific materials, orthotics and prosthetics components.
- The Ministry is envisaging to construct a New Orthopaedic Appliance Workshop at Brown Sequad Mental Health Care Centre with a project value of Rs 96 million as per the Budget 2022-2023.

2.1.30 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT

The Ministry has embarked on the implementation of numerous health infrastructural projects whereby new, state-of-the-art and upgraded health infrastructure are being provided for the improvement of health services in Mauritius.

The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) is responsible for the proper implementation of minor infrastructural works and capital projects. Consultancy Services for the implementation of major public health infrastructural projects have been entrusted to Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (India) Ltd., a Government of India enterprise under a G to G Agreement with the Government of India. The Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development (MNICD) also provides technical expertise for the implementation infrastructural projects.

The public health budget increased to Rs. 14.7 billion and includes Rs. 2.5 billion for the construction of *inter-alia*:

Project	Details	Status
New Cancer Centre	New Building with hi-end technical equipment for cancer treatment.	Infrastructural Work Completed
Regional Teaching Hospital at Constance, Flacq	Phase 1 of this project is expected to be completed by February 2023.	Projects awarded/ started
New Eye Hospital at Reduit Triangle	Hospital will be Dedicated to eye care and is presently under construction.	Projects awarded/ started
Renal Transplant Unit at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital	The new fledged renal transplant unit will be dedicated to provide patients a dialysis free life and eliminate the tissue of kidney impairment.	Tender Stage
7 New Mediclinics	The construction of 5 mediclinics is presently underway and is expected to be operational by early 2023. Construction of 2 Mediclinics in Chemin Grenier and Riviere du Rempart are also in the pipeline.	Projects awarded/ started
6 New Area Health Centres	The project to construct AHC at Henrietta, Cap Malheureux, New Grove, Plaine Magnien, Curepipe and Bambous is currently underway.	Projects awarded/ started
11 New Community Health Centres	(i) The construction of 5 new CHCs at St Francois Xavier, Roche Bois, Grand Bay, Pointe Aux Sables and Trou D'eau Douce is presently ongoing and is expected to be completed by end of 2022. (ii) The construction of 6 new CHCs at Camp De Masque, Case Noyale, Piton, Ecroignard, Camp Thorel and Tamarin has also been initiated.	Projects awarded/ started

Projects initiated under Build Operate Transfer (BOT) Scheme	
Status: Transaction advisor has been appointed for the BOT projects.	
Modern Warehouse at Côte D'Or	New warehouse with international standard for the storage of essential drugs, medical consumables, non-medical products and medical equipment.
National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS) Centre at Côte D'Or	New NHLS Centre will become a reference for the region with international norms and standards.
Modern Cardiac Centre at Cote D'Or	The dedicated State-of-the-art Cardiac Centre would have new specialties such as paediatric and congenital cardiac surgeries, interventional paediatric and congenital cardiology, interventional and open vascular surgery, thoracic surgery and hybrid cardiac surgery.

Extension and upgrading of Health Institutions

Furthermore, the Ministry has also embarked on more than 200 projects of upgrading of the existing health infrastructures which, inter-alia, include upgrading works, leakages, extension of existing services, paintings, renovations. Some of the upgrading projects in the pipeline are:

- Construction of a Health Office at Souillac.
- Extension of the Waiting Hall at Subramania Bharti Eye Hospital
- Extension of Rose-Hill Dental Clinic
- Upgrading of Laboratory and Extension of AED and Wards at J.Nehru Hospital
- Conversion of Ex-Radiotherapy Female Ward into a New Dialysis Unit at Victoria Hospital
- Renovation of Microbiology Department, Culture Lab and Extension of Microbiology Laboratory at Victoria Hospital
- Refurbishment of Wards on the 2nd Floor at the new OPD at Victoria Hospital
- Extension of Bramsthan Area Health Centre.
- New Sewerage Treatment Plant at Souillac; and
- Construction of New Haemodialysis Unit at SSRN

2.1.31 PLANNING, FINANCE AND DIGITAL HEALTH (PFDH)

The PFDH unit is responsible for the sound monitoring of measures as announced in the Government Programme 2020-2024 and budget measures which fall under the purview of the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

The Unit oversees the implementation of the following: Government programme 2020-2024, Health Sector Strategic Plan 2020-2024, Preparation and monitoring of budget, Digital Health and computerisation, Internal Control, Audit and Public Accounts Committee, Health Financing and Cost Centres, Bilateral-Regional-Multilateral cooperation and human rights, Efficiency Management Committee, Health records and Medical and statistical data.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

The projects are being implemented by different departments under the purview of the PFDH namely the Health Economics Unit, the Internal Control Unit, the Health Records Department, Health Statistics Unit, the Finance Section and the recently established Digital Health Office.

The main achievements of the Planning and Finance Unit are, *inter-alia*:

- The Go-Live of the Mauritius All-in-One Travel Digital Form for incoming passengers;
- Scaling up of the COVID-19 LIMS to a National LIMS to include the other tests in the virology, molecular biology laboratory, biochemistry, bacteriology and haematology in all Regional Hospitals;
- Coordinating the implementation of activities under the budget support provided by the European Union to the tune of EUR 7.9 million for the project “Reinforcing the Health Sector in Mauritius” – REHSIMUS which aims at reinforcing the national health systems including the response to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and to any other pandemic and public health emergency that may emerge in the future;
- Entering into a co-financing agreement with the United Nations Development Programme to the tune of USD 5,750,999 for the implementation of the Digital Health Transformation Portfolio which comprise implementation of an eHealth solution starting with the Patient Administration System, legal drafting of a Digital Health Law, formulation of a long term digital health transformation strategy framework, institutional assessment for the setting up of a Digital Health Office and site readiness assessment for eHealth implementation;
- Coordinating bilateral-regional-multilateral corporation which includes, *inter-alia*:

Donor Agency	Details on Assistance	Estimated Value of Donation
European Union	Procurement of 450,000 units of Mask 3 Ply, 12 Ultra Cold Chain Freezers and 65 Laptops for vaccination	MUR 9.7 million
Embassy of Israel in Pretoria	COVID-19 equipment and consumables: 2,480 disposable gowns, 2,250 Masks N95, 20,000 Ply masks, 800 face shields, 4 emergency ventilators and 100 pulse oxymeters	Received in kind.
The Royal Consulate-General of Saudi Arabia in Mauritius	150,000 disposable gowns, 188,000 KN95 masks, 1,230,250 surgical masks and 950,000 non-sterile gloves received under the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre	USD 500,000
The Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank	100,000 nurses' caps, 100,000 disposable face masks, 100,000 medical overshoes and 32,000 disposable sterile gloves under the COVID-19 Emergency Response Programme (CERP)	Received in kind.
The United States Agency for International Development	COVID-19 vaccines readiness and roll-out under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) (facilitated by WHO)	USD 464,790

2.1.32 HEALTH RECORDS DEPARTMENT

The Health Records Department comprising an establishment of some 500 officers is headed by the Chief Health Records Officer and supported by Principal Health Records Officers, Senior Health Records Officers, Health Records Officers, Senior Health Records Clerks, Higher Health Records Clerks and Health Records Clerks. It forms part of the emergency services of a hospital which operates on a 24-hour basis and is usually the first point of contact of the patient with the health facilities.

It primarily provides clerical support to medical professionals through the registration of patients. It is also the custodian of medical data ensuring compliance to data protection and information governance. The second core activity is Health Information Management, starting with collection of data up to transforming them into sound information.

In the implementation of e-health, the Health Records Department would be closely involved in the management of the Patient Administration System and National Health Information System.

During the FY 2021-2022, the department has formulated the forty-seventh volume of the Government Health Services Statistics Report 2020 with regard to activities of the major health service departments of public health institutions. The health service delivery and medical data contained in the report represent a useful tool for decision-making and policy formulation to administration and also support research projects.

2.1.33 HEALTH STATISTICS UNIT

The Health Statistics Unit, headed by the Chief Health Statistician, provides evidence-based information on the health care delivery systems of the public and private sectors in Mauritius as well as Rodrigues.

Health Statistics, which include data on population and vital events, mortality, morbidity, health services and health systems, are also used for the purpose of reporting to various local, regional and international agencies. These data are also used to formulate policies, design strategies and evaluate health performances.

Health indicators compiled are useful for monitoring progress towards the national health targets, including those formulated in the Health Sector Strategic Plan 2020-2024 as well as international health goals such as the SDGs. Furthermore, the annual Health Statistics Reports are sole scientific documents which can be used to study the evolution of the health status of the population since independence.

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly impacted on the collection, compilation, and publication of accurate health statistics. Nevertheless, the Unit has been able to gather data for the year 2020 and 2021 though with some delay. As a matter of fact, the number of outpatients seen by a doctor in all public health institutions has decreased from 5.5 million in 2019 to 4.5 million in 2020 and to 4.4 million in 2021.

During the FY 2021-2022, the Health Statistics Report 2021 was being compiled and it is now available on the website of the Ministry of Health and Wellness. The Reports for the year 2020

and 2021 provide evidence of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health care delivery systems in Mauritius as well as in Rodrigues.

Data compiled by the Health Statistics Unit during the financial year 2021-2022 are published in the annual reports of Statistics Mauritius (SM), namely, in that of Environment Statistics, Gender Statistics and Demography Statistics. Health indicators, published in the “Mauritius in Figures” and the “Tableau de Bord”, are available on the website of SM. The Health Statistics Unit has also contributed in the compilation of health-related Sustainable Development Goals indicators included in the complete SDG dataset maintain by SM. Furthermore, the Unit has closely collaborated with the Health Economics Unit in various enterprises such as the formulation of the SDG 3 Action Plan.

Data collected by the Health Statistics Unit have been submitted as inputs for the drafting of responses of several Parliamentary Questions. Quarterly data have been used to report on the Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) documented in the Budget 2021-2022. In addition, health statistics for the year 2020 and 2021 have been extensively used for the situational analysis required for the formulation of various Action Plans such as the National Cancer Control Plan. Furthermore, staff of the Health Statistics Unit was responsible for the data management and analysis of various research projects such as NCD 2021 survey and the Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance (IBBS) Surveys which have been carried out among high-risk groups.

2.1.34 HEALTH ECONOMICS UNIT

The main function of the Health Economics Unit (HEU) is to develop and deliver health economic analysis for the formulation of health development projects. During the FY 2021-2022, the Unit was manned by a Lead Health Analyst, two Senior Health Analysts and two Support Officers.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

Development of National Health Accounts (NHA): The HEU started the development of the NHA 2020 during the FY 2021-2022. NHA provide a systematic description of the financial flows related to the consumption of healthcare goods and services in a country for a given period of time.

Information was collected from both the public and private health stakeholders through questionnaires. The assistance of WHO Consultants were sought for the extrapolation of survey data and the development of NHA Matrices. The HEU is presently finalising the NHA 2020 Report.

Monitoring of Progress on the Implementation of the Health Sector Strategic Plan 2020-2024: The HSSP 2020-2024 makes provision for the submission of reports at regular intervals on the status of progress made on the implementation of Strategic Actions. In this respect, 21 Thematic Working Groups have been set up at the level of the Ministry. These groups are required to act as coordination mechanisms and develop Operational Plans for the 26 Strategic Goals of the HSSP 2020-2024. 26 Operational Plans have thus been elaborated with over 600 activities

identified by the different TWGs. These Operational Plans chart out the roadmap for health sector development and outline activities that will address health challenges.

The Health Economics Unit of the MOHW had the overall responsibility to liaise with these TWGs, obtain the status of implementation of the operational plans and the preparation of the progress report to be presented to Cabinet. The first progress report was presented to Cabinet in October 2021.

Formulation of the Annual Report on Performance for the Ministry: The HEU had the responsibility to liaise with all the different units of the MOHW and to take stock of the achievements, challenges and trends and way forward for the Ministry. Based on the information received from the different units, two Annual Performance Reports for the FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021, respectively, were formulated and submitted to the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development during the period under review.

Estimated Costing of different Action Plans: A number of Action Plans and Policies have been developed by MOHW including the National Cancer Control Programme Action Plan 2022-2025, the Tobacco Control Action Plan 2022-2027, the National Breastfeeding Action Plan 2022-2027, the Infection Prevention Control Action Plan, the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Implementation Plan 2022 – 2027, the National Plan for ICOPE (Integrated care for older people) and the National Action Plan on Oral Health 2022-2027.

Based on the requirements of the user departments, the estimated indicative costing exercises were undertaken for the activities identified under these action plans.

Institutionalize Hospital Cost Centre Project: The HEU has been liaising with the consultants from African Development Bank (AfDB) under the technical assistance for Cost Centre Project. A concept paper to review the Cost Centre tool for selected services has been validated.

Monitoring of indicators for the Budgetary Support under the EU REHSIMUS Project: The European Union (EU) had agreed to provide EUR 7.9 million to the MOHW as budgetary support through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (MOFEPD) under the Reinforcing the Health Systems in Mauritius (REHSIMUS) Project. The HEU had the responsibility to liaise with all the units implementing the indicators under the EU project at the MOHW and provide all supporting justifications and evidence to the MOFEPD and the EU. The MOHW has reported to the EU on the successful implementation of the REHSIMUS indicators. The EU has therefore released the final disbursements of the budgetary support.

Other Activities

- Sustainable Development Goal 3 Monitoring of Indicators jointly with the Health Statistics Unit.
- Support to PIU for Budget Preparation including formulation of Strategic Overview.
- Preparations of Inputs for different Ministries, International Bodies and Attending webinars (e.g. WHO, AU Agenda 2063, WTO, SADC, WB, Trade-in -Services).
- Filling of survey questionnaire from different institutions.

- Preparation of Inputs and participation in WHO Regional Committee for Africa in August 2021.
- As regards to health care financing, with the support of the WHO, the Assessment of Health Care Financing Mechanism was completed.
- Preparations of Inputs for internal stakeholders on areas such as mental health, UHC, procurement and WHO Biennium.

2.1.35 DEMOGRAPHIC/EVALUATION UNIT

The demographic/evaluation unit is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the national family planning programme. The unit collects family planning statistics from all government health service points and two non-governmental organizations, namely Action Familiale and Mauritius Family Planning and Welfare Association. The demographic/evaluation unit has been instrumental in helping the Government in establishing targets for its population policy. The unit also coordinates with all government departments and organizations involved in population-related issues.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

- 1. Monthly bulletin on reproductive health service statistics:** A monthly bulletin on reproductive health service statistics is issued that gives information about the number of clients at Government clinics and NGOs. This publication is important for the monitoring of the family planning programme.
- 2. Family Planning and Demographic Yearbook:** The monthly bulletins are compiled into a Family Planning and Demographic Yearbook giving family planning data for Government clinics and NGOs as well as data on population, vital statistics, and the health service points.
- 3. Updating the catchment area and the population size for the health service points of the Republic of Mauritius:** The catchment area and population size for all health points for the Republic of Mauritius have been updated to include figures for 2021.
- 4. Celebration of World Population Day 2021:** The World Population Day is an annual event celebrated worldwide on 11 July. The theme for the event in 2021 was "**Rights and Choices are the answer: Whether baby boom or bust, the solution lies in prioritizing the reproductive health and rights of all people**". The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has chosen this theme for World Population Day since the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has exposed weaknesses in health care systems globally, and has caused serious gaps and challenges in the provision of sexual and reproductive health information and services. At the same time, COVID-19 has exacerbated gender inequities and gender-based violence, with increased incidence of violence during lockdowns in many countries. In this context a one-day refresher training for 35 midwives was organized on 12 July 2021.

5. Activities carried out under United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in 2021:

- 60 midwives were trained on the management of antenatal and postnatal care.
- 106 doctors were trained to identify health issues among the ageing population.
- A one-day workshop was organised for 36 personnel from Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology who work with special needs students to develop standard of procedures for detection and health assessment of learners at schools, guidelines for screening and assessment for special needs education.
- 206 young people were sensitised on preconception health (knowledge, attitudes and behaviours) and to encourage childbearing at an opportune time for good maternal and child health outcomes. Sensitisation campaigns to promote preconception care on Facebook has been initiated.
- Production and dissemination of short video on the benefits of breastfeeding.
- Conceptualisation, design and production of two short videos on reducing dementia risk, risk of falls, osteoporosis, fractures and loss of mobility.
- Production of pamphlets on menopause, erectile dysfunctions, preconception care and booklets on STIs.
- Infrastructural work and purchase of equipment to be used partly in the fertility clinic to enhance service delivery.

6. ICOPE (Integrated Care for Older People): Elaboration of a National Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE) Strategic and Action Plan 2022-2026 which is in line with the Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP) 2020-2024 and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

7. Population policy: A population policy has been formulated which focuses on four socio-demographic patterns in Mauritius today, and proposes government actions to enhance the positive impact of such trends on development, and correspondingly, reduce social and economic risks:

- 1) capitalize on the high proportion of workers for two more decades, and create economic opportunities for young people;
- 2) enable family welfare to assure young families to have the number of children they desire;
- 3) prepare for an older society by promoting active and healthy ageing; and
- 4) foster social justice and environmental sustainability.

2.1.36 HEALTH INFORMATION EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION UNIT

The Health Information Education and Communication (HIEC) Unit is responsible for the design of population-wide public information, education and communication to support the implementation of the various national action plan/strategies and to inform/educate the population about health issues. Information, education and communication materials like posters, stickers,

pamphlets, leaflets, and banners are produced and distributed to health centres in all districts and also to the community. Awareness and sensitization campaigns are carried out through regular Mass Media campaigns on priority health issues and they are ongoing throughout the year.

Achievements for FY 2021-2022

- **Production of HIEC Materials**

A. Booklets:	B. Pamphlets:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dialysis, 2. Les Infections Sexuellement Transmissibles, 3. No Alcohol for Youth, 4. L'Alcool et la grossesse 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teenage pregnancy 2. Les règles 3. Abortion 4. La depression post-partum 5. La Menopause 6. L'Andropause/La dysfonction erectile 7. Les soins pré-nataux 8. Les soins après accouchement 9. Soins preconceptionnels (reprint) 10. Un beau sourire reflète une bonne santé

- **Production of Information card on decentralised specialist services** in district hospitals for Mahebourg and Souillac Hospitals in collaboration with the Mauritius Post Ltd.
- **Production and broadcast of TV/radio spots** on decentralised specialist services.
- **Mass media campaign on Drug Prevention:** 2nd phase of Mass Media and Facebook campaign on Drug Prevention during one month at national level that also used billboards, rear bus advertising, radio and TV spots, and other platforms to sensitise Mauritians on the effects of drugs.
- **Oral Health Campaign:** An oral health month was carried out in the month of June 2022 targeting Primary school children who were sensitized on oral health by dentists, nutritionist and HIEC officers. It also consisted of distribution of free Oral Health kit to each of approximately 80,000 students of Primary level. The kit consisted of toothbrush, toothpaste and pamphlet
- **Launching of 4 Prep videos and pamphlets:** A series of 4 videos have been produced and will be broadcasted at MBC on PreP.
- **Production of 10,000 posters** - 5 keys to safer food which are being used in health promotion campaigns in shopping malls throughout Mauritius.
- **Production of Banners:** (i) Cancer - 25 (ii) Oral Health.

2.2 STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGET MEASURES (RECAP)

Table VI: Status on Implementation of Budget Measures

Vote 18-1 : Ministry of Health and Wellness					
Outcome		Outcome Indicator	Target 2021/22	Actual 2021/22	Remarks
An efficient and effective care delivery system		Percentage of eligible population vaccinated against COVID-19	> 60 %	77 %	
		Mortality rate due to NCDs per 100,000 population	< 550	650	The National Service Framework for NCDs and the Integrated Action Plan for NCDs are being finalised and will be implemented.
		Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	13.7	12.4	From July 2021 to June 2022, a total of 153 infant deaths were registered out of 12,368 live births.
Delivery Unit	Main Service	Key Performance Indicator	Target 2021/2022	Actual 2021/2022	Remarks
Hospital and Specialised Services	Reduce prevalence of NCDs	Percentage completion of the National NCD screening Survey 2021	80%	100%	
		Percentage of works completed for the New Cancer Centre	100%	97%	Work almost completed and New Cancer Centre expected to be operational by early 2023; Procurement of furniture and equipment underway and Safety Assessment Report being revised.
	Improve neonatal services	Number of neonatal ICU ventilators (Cumulative)	42	45	
Primary Health Care	Enhance primary health care services to provide more people-centred services	Number of new Medi-clinics/AHCs/CHCs constructed	5	Refer to Appendix 1	As at end August 2022, percentage of works completed at the following Mediclinics/AHCs/CHC: (i) Stanley Mediclinic - 67% (ii) Coromandel Mediclinic - 92% (iii) Bel Air Mediclinic - 86% (iv) Quartier Militaire - 65% Works completed at Grand Bay CHC and handing over of site made on 04 July 2022; procurement of furniture and equipment in progress.
		Food Standards Agency (FSA) set up	April 2022	-	Mauritius Food Standard Agency Bill was introduced in the National Assembly on 12 July 2022; and the Bill passed in National Assembly on 27 October 2022 and assented by the President of the Republic of Mauritius on 31 October 2022. Moreover, the Food Act was passed in the National Assembly on 05 July 2022 and assented by the President of the Republic of Mauritius on 06 July 2022

	Strengthen Laboratory services	Percentage of laboratory results available within 24 hours	90%	90%	
Management And Administration	Digitalise health services through an effective eHealth system	Enlistment of Service Provider for e-Health system	April 2022	Refer to Appendix 1	The Ministry signed a Project Portfolio on eHealth initiatives with the UNDP on 26 January 2022. A two phase of procurement was adopted with EOI for market engagement followed by RFP. For the EOI, out of 20 shortlisted bids, 8 were found meeting all requirements. UNDP is expected to float the RFP by November 2022 and award of contract is expected by February 2023

Source for Actual 2021/2022: Implementing Units at MOHW and Planning and Finance Unit at MOHW and Budget 2022/2023

2.3 RISK MANAGEMENT, CITIZEN ORIENTED INITIATIVES AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Risk Management

The Ministry has set up various committees to identify risk areas and weaknesses. A prioritization process has been established so that the issues with the highest probability of risks/impacts are addressed promptly. Risk Management is carried out through the Internal Control Unit, the Audit Committee and the Anti-Corruption Committee.

Internal Control Unit

The Function of the Internal Audit is to enhance and protect the organizational value by providing an independent and objective assurance and consulting services. It helps the Ministry in accomplishing its objectives by bringing a systematic and disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of organisation's governance, risk management and control processes.

As per the Annual Internal Audit Plan for the FY 2021-2022, a total of 16 auditable areas were planned excluding follow up audits. 11 audits have been completed which represents 69% achievement of the Annual Internal Audit Plan.

Two follow-up exercises were carried out during the FY 2021-2022 for a total of 13 Internal Audit Reports issued in the FY 2020-2021 comprising of 314 recommendations. 205 recommendations representing 65% of the requests were implemented successfully and 24% is in progress of implementation by the auditees or/and Management.

Significant time was spent on special assignments received from the MOHW (11 Special Requests) and two were received from MOFED, which held priority over other audit exercises. Out of the 12 Special Requests, 11 Assignments, representing 92% were completed during the FY 2021-2022 and one was rollover to FY 2022-23.

Anti-Corruption Committee

The Ministry in collaboration with the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) is working on the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Framework. In this connection, an Anti-Corruption Committee and various regional sub committees have been set up to identify risk areas and weaknesses. These Committees have come up with appropriate measures to better control corruption risks identified in the respective Units and Departments.

Moreover, in budget 2020/2021 Government approved the setting up of three Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Ministries and Departments and the implementation of the referred KPIs was monitored by the Public Sector Transformation Bureau. One of the KPIs was the conduct of Corruption Risk Assessments (CRAs). Two Sections namely the Human Resource Section and Procurement and Supply Section were identified at the MOHW for this purpose.

For FY 2021/2022, Ministries and Departments had to implement at least 75% of the recommendations regarding the CRAs that was carried out at the Human Resource Section and Procurement and Supply Section in the previous financial year.

At the end of the financial year 2021/2022, the Ministry has completed 50% of the different recommendations and the remaining are being addressed.

Parliamentary Questions and Private Notice Questions

During the FY 2021/2022, the Hon Minister of Health and Wellness has responded to some 249 Parliamentary Questions requiring oral answers and 7 Private Notice Questions, especially on the Ministry's policies and actions related to the COVID-19.

These questions and answers represent important means used by members of Parliament to ensure the Government is accountable to the Parliament for its policies and actions and, through the Parliament, to the nation.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee supports the monitoring and reviewing of both risk control and governance processes. The Committee supervises the entire audit and reporting processes and ensures that weaknesses in the system raised by both the Internal Control Unit and the National Audit Office are looked into and that their recommendations are complied with.

The Audit Committee has had five meetings during FY 2021-2022. Specific meetings were held with management and departments falling under MOHW, to discuss amongst others, issues reported by the Director of Audit (DOA), review of queries raised and follow up on the DOA's recommendations and identify remedial actions to be taken. The Implementation Plan to address shortcomings identified in audit reports and status of remedial actions has been provided in the following table.

2.3.1 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO ADDRESS SHORTCOMINGS IDENTIFIED IN AUDIT REPORTS AND STATUS OF REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Issues	DOA Comments	Proposed Measures	Unit/Agencies Responsible	Status of Actions taken/ Implementation Date
13.1 Medical Equipment- Impact on Health Services	<p>Observations:</p> <p>a) Purchase under Annual Plan not effected</p> <p>b) Repeated Requests for the same ME were made by Hospitals but were not entertained, or took a long time for Hospitals to obtain them</p> <p>c) Unavailability of ME due to Breakdown or Non-acquisition of Important ME giving rise to Long Waiting lists for Diagnosis</p>	<p>The Ministry is in the process of consolidating the records on medical equipment for prompt maintenance to avoid disruption of health services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The backlog has been cleared General services staff have been posted in the different units of the procurement section. <p>A Committee of Needs has been set up which would have as its responsibilities to come up with a Procurement Plan for the Financial year 2022/2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In case of breakdown and pending repairs, patients requiring urgent attention are redirected to other public hospitals and even to private clinics at times. Extra session have been given to staff to complete waiting list of procedures for angiography,etc. 	DHS & DPS procurement	<p>100 % Complete</p> <p>100 %</p> <p>100 %</p>

	d) Lapses in the Procurement Process adopted by the Ministry resulted in Delays in the Acquisition of ME urgently required and/or Value for Money has not been obtained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a circular had already been issued to that effect. • the register of evaluators has recently been updated • Tenders for radiology equipment will be launched after the exercise for electrical works is initiated after ascertaining availability of funds. 	DPS Procurement & DHS Procurement DHS Procurement	
	e) ME were being used before commissioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry has revised its bidding documents and has amended the delivery clause under GCC 26.1 as follows: “In the event any part is found to be faulty at time of commissioning, the date of replacement of the faulty part will be considered as the effective date of delivery of the equipment.” 		
	f) Lack of Oversight from the Ministry over Usage and Maintenance of ME which hampered the Smooth Running of the Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidating of records which will help in tracking maintenance requirements 	DPS Procurement DHS Procurement	75 %
	g) Absence of Important Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter has been issued to all RHDs to setup the Asset Register on 28 April 2022 	DPS responsible for Asset Management	60 %
	h) ME Remaining Idle during their Warranty Period		Follow up by RHDs & DHS Ongoing Process	
	i) Faulty ME and Unserviceable Items Representing Serious Health Hazards and Occupying Unnecessary Space were not Disposed of in the Absence of a Disposal Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The disposal of unserviceable items, including medical equipment beyond the threshold value of Rs 25,000 is effected through the appointment of a Board of Survey (BOS). 		

<p>13.2 Renal Health Services- Gaps in Overall Management</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry is in the process of consolidating the records on medi • Patient information leaflets have been launched on 10 March 2022 • Frequent programmes are being broadcast in the media comprising intervention of Nephrologists and Doctors • New applications on mobile are being developed to monitor the Urea Reduction Ratio (URR) of CKD patients. • Certificate course in Nephrology completed in May 2022 • The Ministry is working on the improvement of the Renal Services • Two additional nephrologists have been recruited in April 2022 • The Ministry is expanding the dialysis services of our Govt hospitals with a view to accommodate all patients in the public sector • 2 Vascular Surgeons as well general Surgeons are doing AV fistula to reduce the waiting list to a minimum • 90 New Machines have been procured in 2021 to replace among others old ones more than 10 years and additional 80 Machines are being procured in year 2022 		
<p>13.3 Regulatory Controls over Medical Products are Inadequate to ensure that they are Supplied in a safe Effective and Ethical Manner to the Public</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second draft on the Medical and Health Care Product Bill is available already but same has to be vetted by the SLO. This new legislation will take on board medical devices, cosmetics, health supplements as well as traditional medicines 	<p>Ag Director Pharmaceutical Services and the Pharmacy Board</p>	

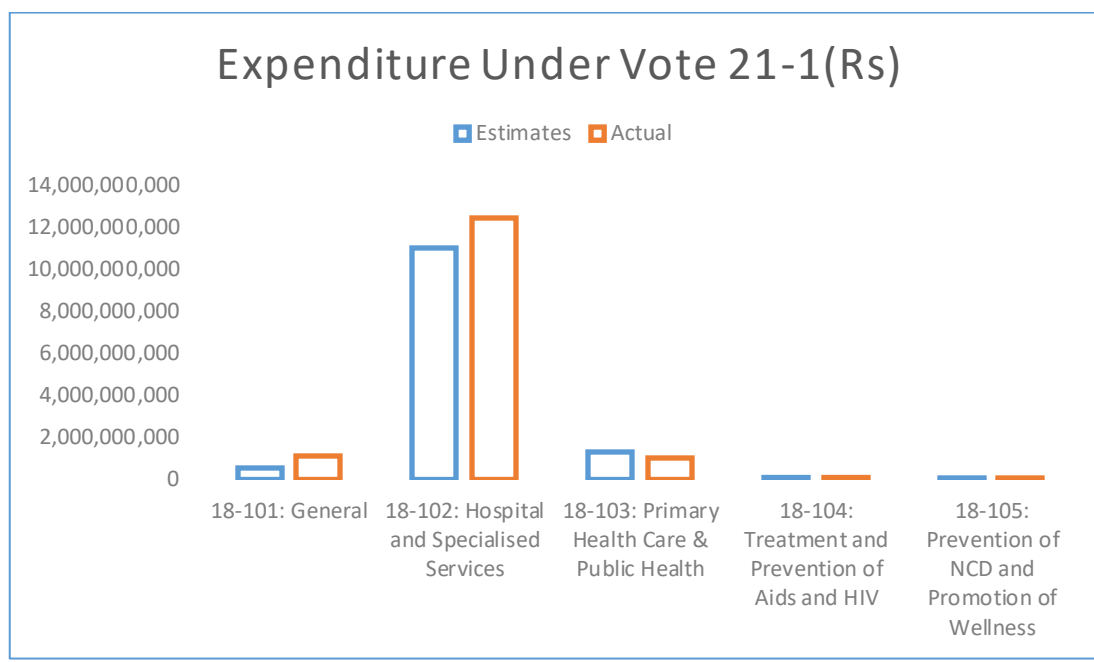
PART III



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

3.1 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The actual and estimated amount of expenditure for the FY 2021/2022 is as follows:



3.1.1 STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE UNDER VOTE 21-1

Table VII: Statement of Expenditure Under Vote 21-1

		2020-2021	2021-2022	2021-2022
		Actual	Estimates	Actual
	18-1 HEALTH AND WELLNESS	12,973,063,480	13,114,000,000	14,721,692,876
	18-101: GENERAL	821,116,690	595,900,000	1,097,131,020
20	Allowance to Minister	2,400,000	2,400,000	2,400,000
21	Comp of Employees	393,960,295	256,800,000	253,665,760
22	Goods & Services	263,124,086	61,000,000	604,703,463
26	Grants	25,771,982	29,400,000	28,002,002
27	Social Benefits	78,993,650	90,000,000	89,477,000
28	Other Expenses	2,868,600	4,100,000	2,779,200
31	Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	53,998,077	152,200,000	116,103,595
	18-102: Hospital and Specialised Services	10,891,859,545	10,982,700,000	12,449,236,834
21	Comp of Employees	6,399,045,492	5,992,400,000	6,524,606,555

22	Goods & Services	3,334,051,465	2,867,000,000	4,289,594,410
26	Grants	279,000,000	265,000,000	339,000,000
31	Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	879,762,588	1,858,300,000	1,296,035,869
	18-103: Primary Health Care & Public Health	1,086,028,384	1,339,800,000	1,008,736,710
21	Comp of Employees	790,210,365	790,100,000	672,547,427
22	Goods & Services	182,340,272	183,700,000	182,279,644
31	Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	113,477,747	366,000,000	153,909,639
	18-104: Treatment and Prevention of Aids and HIV	67,614,946	79,800,000	62,927,770
21	Comp of Employees	25,784,684	27,500,000	25,585,707
22	Goods & Services	41,830,262	52,300,000	37,342,063
	18-105: PREVENTION OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PROMOTION OF WELLNESS	106,443,915	115,800,000	103,660,542
21	Comp of Employees	66,642,047	72,300,000	71,019,612
22	Goods & Services	38,868,298	43,000,000	32,640,930
31	Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	933,570	500,000	
		12,973,063,480	13,114,000,000	14,721,692,876

Analysis of Changes

Over the past two years, in addition to the normal health mandate, MOHW has also been involved in completely new COVID-19-related interventions which led to higher unpredicted costs in this sector. Healthcare costs in Mauritius will continue to rise as the country is highly dependent on the importation of goods, such as pharmaceutical products, vaccinations, medical consumables and equipment.

In spite of these rising costs, Government through the Budget for FY 2021-2022 and the preceding one, has been sustaining its investments to shore up public health systems so that it can continue to provide high quality healthcare to Mauritians, including in the context of COVID-19 response.

A supplementary appropriation to the tune of 2.5 billion was also made for the Ministry for the Financial Year 2021-2022 to cater for expenses namely payments to hotels used as quarantine facilities, payment of allowances and overtime, purchase of additional PCR test kits, rapid antigen test kits and other medical disposals related to COVID-19 and claims in respect of various equipment and supplies that were acquired for laboratory services due to an increase of 63% in the number of immunohistochemistry tests performed, introduction of new tests, increase in expensive tests such as tumour markers, among others.

3.1.2 STATEMENT OF REVENUE

Table VIII: Statement of Revenue

SN	Type of Revenue	Actual 2021/2022 (RS)
1	Pharmacy Licences	1,500,700.00
2	Central Health Laboratory Fees	9,704,495.00
3	HIV & Filarisis	565,980.00
4	Deratting Fees	1,826,110.00
5	Vaccination Fees	2,853,960.00
6	Fumigation and Disinfection Fee	2,012,200.00
7	Sale of Drugs, Serum and Sundry	590,258.30
8	Health - Miscellaneous Sales of Goods and Services	47,095,334.63
9	Licence to run Private Hospitals	1,983,000.00
10	Entertainment Fees	44,000.00
11	Government Analysis Div	1,266,100.00
12	Forfeiture of performance Bond	2,396,346.20
13	Import Permit	2,457,000.00
14	BOND	6,869,612.94
	TOTAL	81,165,097.07

PART IV



WAY FORWARD

4.1 CHALLENGES, PRIORITIES AND THE WAY FORWARD

Globally, the public health sector requires constant development to meet rising expectations. In Mauritius, the Ministry of Health and Wellness is called upon to sustain progress made in the public health sector, address the challenges and thrive for a better and more resilient future for the sector in order to provide the nation with a level of care and services at par with the Government's ambition of a modern Republic. Thus, the Ministry has to keep pace with new health technologies, implement the strategic actions as approved by Government under the Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP) 2020-2024 and the strategic directions of Annual Budgets and also continue investing in the health workforce and health infrastructure.

Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), each led by a Group Chair, undertook a SWOT Analysis, reviewed previous strategies, consulted relevant documents and worked around their respective strategic priority actions and strategic directions entrusted to them to come up with the HSSP 2020-2024. Presently, a comprehensive set of actions is being implemented under this Plan to re-engineer and revamp our health delivery services to address health challenges across the lifespan of citizens. The plan lays a lot of emphasis on customer care, enhancement of primary health care, health promotion, preventive medicine, specialised services and improves our response to the resurgence of communicable diseases.

Based on new challenges being faced, the Ministry also realigns its priorities and strategic directions on a yearly basis together with the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development through the Annual Budgets. Thus, our strategic plan for the FYs 2020/21, FY 2021/2022 and FY 2022/23 set out the direction for the stated period and forms the basis of our business and operational plans. This direction reflects our priorities as well as that of our partners across the region and in Mauritius as well as factors that will affect the health care training, health systems research and documentation needs.

Areas of priorities, *inter-alia*, include the following:

Upscaling Hospital Services: The MOHW envisages to extend existing services as well as introduce new ones with respect to different pathologies. There is the need to extend Neuro Surgery, Cardiac Surgery, Fertility Clinics, Paediatric services, Gastroenterology and upscale the use of advanced technologies such as Linear Accelerators, CT-Scan and MRI and non-invasive medical techniques in the Regional Hospitals and Specialized Hospitals where these services/technologies are lacking. There is also the need to set up facilities in all health regions to integrate patients with autistic spectrum disorder. In this line, additional staffing and further capacity building of medical and non-medical staff will certainly be needed. Additionally, to keep pace with international standards and practice, Mauritius will also have to embark on the application of Artificial Intelligence and use of Robotics in the healthcare thus requiring significant investments in the near future.

The Ministry has recourse to the treatment of patients abroad or in private sector for cases which cannot be treated in the public health system. In order to reduce such spending, it is also envisaged to further train our doctors and/or employ super-specialists to deliver these services, for example at the New Cancer Hospital, the New Renal Transplant Centre, the New Eye Hospital, and New Cardiac Centre.

Adolescent Health is becoming a high priority as most of the social ill are picked up at this age. The Establishment of adolescent ward in each of the 5 regional Hospital is becoming a necessity and accompanying this group by a dedicated paediatric team till the age of 16 years is an immediate necessity.

The population of Mauritius is ageing due to sustained low fertility level and increasing life expectancy, which in turn is resulting to lower proportion of children and higher proportion of elders in the population. In this respect, the Ministry is envisaging to provide facilities at all Regional Hospitals through fertility clinics to couples who want to conceive.

There is also an urgent need to reengineer the respiratory unit within our Health system. Most of the recent epidemics have involved the respiratory system.

In general, the Ministry will have to undertake a survey through an independent body /organisation in order to assess the services in all its aspect - Governance, Finance, Workforce planning and training, clinical standard/Audit of care amongst others so as to have a baseline benchmark for future monitoring.

Enhancing Primary Health Care Services: According to HSSP 2020-2024, as approved by Cabinet, provision has been made for the setting up of Family Doctor Scheme (FDS) to be able to re-engineer the Primary Health Care (PHC) and to respond to today's rising expectations of patients for improved quality of care and service. As such, the FDS will offer patient centred healthcare, enhance preventive care, act as a gatekeeper mechanism for accessing tertiary services at Regional Hospital Level and address the needs of our ageing population. A wider range of services will be made available to support our people through their life course for the welfare and the healthcare of their families.

In the long run, investment in FDS and preventive care are expected to bring down spending on curative services. According to the WHO Global Monitoring Report, the Universal Health Coverage Index for Mauritius was 65 in 2019 and introduction of FDS in Mauritius is expected to raise this index to a higher and more favourable level due to improved access to services.

Reinforcing Public Health Units and prevention of Communicable Diseases: In this volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA) environment, the public health and capacity building domain is called upon to reinvent and reengineer itself. This is a clarion call for a turnaround strategy from a reactive to a proactive perspective, for not only to face the emerging changes and challenges ahead, but rather make change happen with well formulated preparedness plans, crafted on established sanitary procedures and protocols, regulatory framework, along with reinforced training and capacity building, in tune with our shared vision for a healthy nation.

Thus, the Ministry has to sustain its investments in terms of recruitment of personnel, training, rapid response, PCR testing, rapid testing, laboratory equipment and reagents, Personnel Protective Equipment, vaccination, quarantining to better prepare the country to face any future epidemiological situation. The disease surveillance at the points of entry has to be reinforced. There is also the need to re-engineer the human resources for Public Health separately so as to cater for any future pandemic like COVID-19. The public health offices are also not conducive for today's need and expectations and new infrastructure for public health offices are required. Moreover, the National Health Laboratory Services Centre should be set up to support management any future health crisis.

Upscaling Management and Prevention of NCDs: According to latest National Health Accounts, the expenditure on management of NCDs takes up to 60% of the estimated current health expenditure on all diseases in the public sector.

Over the years, Government has sustained the investments on management of NCDs and according to the Mauritius NCD Survey 2021, improvements have been observed in the status of NCDs and their risk factors as compared to the situation in 2015. Nevertheless, NCDs remain a major public health problem in Mauritius and require constant attention.

In the long run, addressing the risk factors of NCDs and increasing investment on prevention of NCDs may lead to a reduction in the expenses involved in treating NCDs and the associated chronic conditions. Thus, strategies to reduce preventable and premature morbidity, mortality and disability due to NCDs will have to increase. Additional resources (financial, manpower and training) will be needed to implement the National NCD Action Plan 2022–2027, consolidate the ongoing NCDs surveillance system, expand the screening services for early detection of NCDs, including mental health and cancer, implement the Tobacco Control Action Plan 2022-2026 and implement the National Cancer Control Programme 2022-2025 amongst others. Moreover, it is also envisaged to set up a Food Standards Agency and to introduce and implement new Food Regulations, specifically for salt, trans-fats and nutrient profile labelling in collaboration with stakeholders.

It has also been noted that Gastro-intestinal cancer is on the rise and is among the major cause of morbidity and Mortality. Dedicated Endoscopy unit with dedicated staff in each regional hospital to early detection and treatment of these cases. Endoscopy has become a basic investigation for all GI pathologies.

There is also a high prevalence of diabetic and number of patients undergoing amputation and the need to supply and maintain orthopaedic shoes and foot prosthesis, the Orthopaedic Workshop is currently being reorganized. A Podo-orthosis unit will be set up with appropriate equipment and trained staff in podo-orthosis.

Promoting IT-enabled Health Solutions: The MOHW has already embarked on the digitalisation of the public health sector through the implementation of Digital Health Solutions. This strategy will strengthen the underpinnings for decision-making and assist the sector to further achieve efficiency gains.

Nevertheless, the concept of “one patient and one record” will only translate into reality if there is parallel investment in IT infrastructures, networking equipment, hardware and software, IT cloud storage, high data security, IT literate health workforce and real time back-office IT support amongst others.

Ensuring Sustainability of the HIV Response: This represents an upcoming challenge as the country is in a transition period with regard to the Global Fund Grant and eventually new sources of financing will have to be determined with the phasing out of this grant.



Promoting Medical Tourism: Health sector has a huge potential to become the next pillar of economy for Mauritius. Medical Education, Medical Tourism and ICT Healthcare are the three key pillars to this end. Medical Tourism would include High-tech Medicine Tourism, Health and wellness Tourism and Silver Economy. The prerequisite for a successful and sustainable Medical Tourism sector rest on the constant availability of skilled Healthcare workforce. Medical education

per se can be tapped as a stand-alone economic pillar. There is the need to build a Health Sector Economy cluster within the MOHW to facilitate the ease of doing Business within this sector in order to achieve these goals.

4.2 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In order to build on the health gains achieved and further improve healthcare services, the Ministry has set out its strategic direction for the next three years. Accordingly, the following strategies will be implemented:

Strategic Directions	Enablers
Reinforce health resilience against infectious diseases including COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the “Action Plan for strengthening the Mauritius public health system and COVID-19 strategic preparedness and response plan” • Implement the Surveillance Outbreak Response Management and Analysis System • Pursue the implementation of Laboratory Information Management System and upgrade the National Blood Transfusion Services software
Upgrade public health infrastructure for improved health care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the National Health Laboratory Services centre, new Cardiac Centre, new Modern Warehouse and new Victoria Hospital with private sector participation • Operationalise the National Cancer Hospital and construct the new Eye Hospital, Flacq Teaching Hospital and Renal Transplant Centre to provide specialised clinical care • Four new Mediclinics and five new Community Health Centres will be operational in FY 2022-2023. Additional Mediclinics, Area Health Centres (AHC) and Community Health Centres (CHC) will be constructed and existing primary healthcare infrastructures upgraded • Establish an AYUSH Centre of Excellence with the collaboration of the Indian Authorities and the World Health Organisation • Set up an entity dedicated for the maintenance and implementation of health infrastructure
Reduce preventable and premature morbidity, mortality and disability due to NCDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement the National NCD Action Plan 2022–2027 and consolidate the ongoing NCDs surveillance system • Expand the screening services for early detection of NCDs, including mental health and cancer • Implement the Tobacco Control Action Plan 2022-2026 • Implement the National Cancer Control Programme 2022-2025

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a new Food Bill, set up the Mauritius Food Standards Agency and promulgate accompanying new Food regulations
<p>Enhance the quality of patient-centred services</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen personalised-patient services, including care for the elderly, palliative care and community-based rehabilitation and psychiatric services • Continuous capacity building for medical and paramedical staff • Expand Primary Healthcare services to provide comprehensive care and treatment to patients • Scale up the existing Fertility Clinic services at the SSRN Hospital and extend these services to other Regional Hospitals • Improve prenatal and neonatal care through 24/7 physical presence of specialist services and expansion of Neonatal ICU care • Enhance logistics for HIV treatment and develop a National Action Plan 2022-2026 • Develop a National Action Plan for Oral Health and Oral Cancer for the period 2022-2027 • Develop and implement a Digital Health Strategy and a Digital Health Law • Implement the Patient Administration System in public health institutions under the e-Health Project • Introduce Medicinal Cannabis for treatment of specific medical conditions
<p>Encourage community participation for wellness of population</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure the collaboration with NGOs and peer to peer patient support groups • Optimise ICT tools in sensitising the population on substance abuse, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health, mental health and oral health • Set up a Drug Offenders Administrative Panel for a holistic approach for victims of substance abuse • Set up facilities in all health regions to integrate patients with autistic spectrum disorder

Source: Budget FY 2022-2023

APPENDIX 1: STATUS UPDATES OF BUDGET MEASURES FY 2021-2022

PROJECT_NO	PSIP*_CODE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVE	OVERALL_PROGRESS_REMARKS
PRJ0001883	F0209	New Cancer Centre at Solferino	Construction of a New Cancer Centre at Solferino	To provide better health services and treatments to cancer patients around the island with state-of-the-art infrastructure	Physical progress 96.50% as at June 2022
PRJ0001884	F0248	Construction of Quartier-Militaire Mediclinic	Construction of a Mediclinic at Quartier-Militaire	To provide a state-of-the-art mediclinic for the inhabitants of the Quartier -Militaire catchment and help in decongesting regional hospitals	Status progress of work as at June 2022 is 63 % completed.
PRJ0001885	F0222	Construction of Bel Air Mediclinic	Construction of a Mediclinic at Bel Air	To provide a state-of-the-art mediclinic for the inhabitants of the Bel Air catchment and help in decongesting regional hospitals	Status progress of work as at June 2022 is 83 % completed
PRJ0001886	F0216	Construction of Coromandel Mediclinic	Construction of a Mediclinic at Coromandel	To provide a state-of-the-art Mediclinic for the inhabitant of the Coromandel catchment and help in decongesting regional hospitals	Status progress of work as at June 2022 is 90 % completed.
PRJ0001889	F0224	Construction of a New Community Health Centre at Pointe aux Sables	Construction of a New Community Health Centre at Pointe aux Sables	To provide a state-of-the-art Community Health Centre for the inhabitant of the Pointe aux Sables and help in decongesting regional hospitals	Status Progress of Work as at June 2022 is 65% Completed.
PRJ0001890	F0203	Construction of Grand-Baie Community Health Centre	Construction of a New Community Health Centre at Grand-Baie	To provide a state-of-the-art Community Health Centre for the inhabitant of Grand-Baie and help in decongesting regional hospitals	Works completed. Handing over done on 04 July 2022.
PRJ0001891	F0250	Construction of St Francois Xavier, Port Louis	Construction of St Francois Xavier, Port Louis	To provide a state-of-the-art Community Health Centre for the inhabitant of St Francois Xavier,	Status progress of work as at June 2022 is 35 % completed

PROJECT_NO	PSIP*_CODE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVE	OVERALL_PROGRESS_REMARKS
		Community Health Centre	Louis Community Health Centre	Port Louis and help in decongesting regional hospitals	
PRJ0001892	F01670 2	Acquisition of High Tech and Other Medical Equipment	Acquisition of High Tech and Other Medical Equipment	Modernising the Medical Equipment and replacement of old and obsolete equipment with High Tech equipment for the different Health Institutions around the island	Contract awarded under Hi-Tech equipment for financial year 2021-2022 for the medical section is Rs 152,360,723.00 as at 14 April 2022.
PRJ0001893	F0265	Construction of Area Health Centre at Henrietta	Construction of Area Health Centre at Henrietta	Construction of Area Health Centre at Henrietta	Awaiting update from MHLUP
PRJ0001894	F0263	Construction of Area Health Centre at Cap Malheureux	Construction of a new Area Health Centre at Cap Malheureux	To provide a state of the art Area Health Centre for the inhabitant of Cap Malheureux and surrounding regions and help in decongesting regional hospitals	Clearance of RAMSAR is awaited.
PRJ0001896	F0264	Construction of Area Health Centre at Plaine Magnien	Construction of a new Area Health Centre at Plaine Magnien	To provide a state-of-the-art Area Health Centre for the inhabitant of Plaine Magnien and surrounding regions and help in decongesting regional hospitals	Tender Doc approved. Revised cost awaited FROM hsccl LTD
PRJ0001897	F0262	Construction of Chemin Grenier Mediclinic	Construction of a Mediclinic at Chemin Grenier	To provide a state-of-the-art mediclinic for the inhabitants of the Chemin Grenier catchment and help in decongesting regional hospitals	On 01 April 2022, MHLUP has been requested to expedite the acquisition of land.
PRJ0001898	F0261	Construction of Grand Bois Mediclinic	Construction of a Mediclinic at Grand Bois	To provide a state of the art mediclinic for the inhabitants of the Grand Bois catchment and help in decongesting regional hospitals	Financial Evaluation submitted by HSCC(I) Ltd under consideration.

PROJECT_NO	PSIP*_CODE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVE	OVERALL_PROGRESS_REMARKS
PRJ0001899	F0284	Development of Vaccine and Pharmaceutical Sector	Investment in potential business ventures for the production of pharmaceutical products, development of new medical devices, technology-based applications for pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals and research and development centres for testing.	Encourage and boost production of pharmaceutical products, medical devices, nutraceuticals, development of R&D Centres for testing and tech based apps in Mauritius and creating a conducive ecosystem to attract investment in the biotech/pharma sector.	Government approved the setting up a high level ministerial committee under the chair of the Hon.PM to look into the development of a High Tech Pharmaceutical and Bio Technology Industry in Mauritius. More so, a technical committee has also been set up under the chair of the FS to look at all the technical and regulatory issues in relation thereto.
PRJ0001900	F0282	New Cardiac Centre at Cote D'Or	New Cardiac Centre at Cote D'Or	New Cardiac Centre at Cote D'Or	Tender launched on 11 May 2022 for enlistment of Transaction Adviser with closing date of 10 June 2022 which has been extended to 11 July 2022.
PRJ0001901	F0283	Day Care Wards for Autistic Children	Construction of Day Care Wards for Autistic Children in the 5 Regions	To provide a safe environment for Autistic children during the day	Region1 : (ex pharmacy building at Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre into in-patient autistic centre) 06 December 2021, preliminary drawings submitted by MNICD which were approved on 10 January 2022 On 19 February 2022, Cost estimate amounting to Rs 14,880,000.00 including a Contingency Sum of Rs 1,353,000.00 and Excluding VAT. Funds confirmed to MNICD on 23 March 2022. Region 2: (Ex AHC of Triolet) inaugurated on 1st of April 2022.

PROJECT_ NO	PSIP*_ CODE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVE	OVERALL_PROGRESS_REMARKS
					Region 3-5: Design is being finalised
PRJ0001902	F0008	E - Health project	Implementation of the e-Health Solution in all Health Institutions around the island	Digitalisation of the health services through the implementation of the e-Health solution for an efficient and effective management and provision of health care services	<p>The Project Portfolio Document on eHealth Initiatives between this Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been signed on 26 January 2022. The UNDP has completed the Expression of Interest (EOI) for the implementation of the Patient Administration System (PAS) of the eHealth and 8 solutions were found to meet the needs of the Ministry.</p> <p>Payment of the first tranche of USD 758,625 was made to the UNDP on 04 March 2022.</p> <p>The UNDP has constituted its Project Management Unit (PMU) for the implementation of the eHealth Project. A team of Digital Health Specialists has been recruited.</p> <p>The MOHW is working on the structure for an in-house Digital Health Office and consultancy services for the setting up of the Digital Health Office is being secured through the UNDP.</p> <p>The UNDP digital health specialists, the MOHW and the MITCI are working on the cost estimates and Request for Proposal documents to float bids for the eHealth system. Bids are expected to be floated by end of August 2022.</p>

PROJECT_NO	PSIP*_CODE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVE	OVERALL_PROGRESS_REMARKS
PRJ0003084	F0233	Modern Warehouse for Storage of Medicines and Medical Equipment at Cote D'or	<p>Design, Finance, Build, Operate and Maintain</p>	<p>Design, Finance, Build, Operate and Maintain</p>	Tender launched on 11 May 2022 for enlistment of Transaction Adviser with closing date of 10 June 2022 which has been extended to 11 July 2022.
PRJ0003082	F0226	National Health Laboratory Services Centre	National Health Laboratory Services Centre	National Health Laboratory Services Centre	Tender launched on 11 May 2022 for enlistment of Transaction Adviser with closing date of 10 June 2022 which has been extended to 11 July 2022.
PRJ0003083	F0227	Modern Eye Hospital at Moka	Construction of a Modern Eye Hospital at Reduit	To provide world class retinal related treatment to the Mauritian through a state-of-the-art Hospital	Notification of Award issued to M/s Varindera Constructions Limited on 18 May 2022.
PRJ0001882	F0228	New Teaching Hospital at Flacq - Phase 1	Construction of a New Teaching Hospital at Flacq	To provide for world class health services through a state-of-the-art hospital to the inhabitants of the Flacq District and to also train and form medical staffs	Extension of Time of time has been approved as recommended by the Consultation 09 March 2022 the revised Completion date is now 28 February 2023 Status progress of work as at June 2022 is 38% completed.
PRJ0001887	F0249	Construction of Stanley Mediclinic	Construction of a Mediclinic at Stanley	To provide a state-of-the-art Mediclinic for the inhabitants of the Stanley catchment and help in decongesting regional hospitals	Status progress of work as at June 2022 is 65% completed
PRJ0001888	F0258	Construction of Community Health Centre at Roche Bois	Construction of Roche Bois Community Health Centre	To provide a state of the art Community Health Centre for the inhabitant of RocheBois and help in decongesting regional hospitals	Status progress of work as at June 2022 is 13 % completed
PRJ0001895	F0266	Construction of Area Health Centre at New Grove	Construction of a new Area Health Centre at New Grove	To provide a state-of-the-art Area Health Centre for the inhabitant of New Grove and surrounding	Preliminary Design approved.

PROJECT_NO	PSIP*_CODE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVE	OVERALL_PROGRESS_REMARKS
				regions and help in decongesting regional hospitals	
PRJ0001903	F0238	Construction of a New Renal Transplant Unit at J. Nehru Hospital	Construction of Renal Transplant Unit at J.N Hospital	To provide for a state-of-the-art Unit to cater for the increasing demand for renal related treatment	As per Evaluation Report, bidder does not meet Technical Specification.
		Refurbishment of 2 Wards for New OPD at Victoria Hospital	Refurbishment of 2 Wards for New OPD at Victoria Hospital	to upgrade the existing OPD at Victoria Hospital	Status progress of work as at June 2022 is 20 % completed
		Extension and Renovation of Pharmacy at J.Nehru Hospital	Extension and Renovation of Pharmacy at J.Nehru Hospital	To upgrade the existing pharmacy Section of the J.N Hospital	Tender exercise is ongoing
254	F0278	New Souillac Health Office	New Souillac Health Office	Present service not in good condition same will be replaced.	Tender Document Awaited from MNICD
254(f)	F0293	New Haemodialysis Building at SSRN (Consultancy)	Construction of a new Haemodialysis unit at the SSRN Hospital	The project contributes in offering haemodialysis services in a more spacious and conducive environment. It will also solve the problems of shortage of beds and will be constructed as per norms taking into consideration measures of Infection Prevention Control as recommended by the WHO	MNICD working on TOR for Consultancy
254(h)	F0285	New Orthopaedic Appliance Workshop at Brown Sequard	Construction of new Orthopaedic Appliances Workshop	to assist disabled patients overcome their disabilities by fitting them with appropriate Orthopaedic Appliances (Orthoses, Prosthesis,	Conceptual design being finalised

PROJECT_NO	PSIP*_CODE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVE	OVERALL_PROGRESS_REMARKS
		Mental Health Care Centre		Orthopaedic Shoes, Insoles, lumbar belt, etc.)	
258(b)	F0292	New Autistic Ward at BSMHCC	Setting up of Inpatient Ward for Autistic Patient at Beau-Bassin	provide specific and specialized care to those patients who are suffering from Autism Spectrum Disorder	MNICD working on drawings
	C1147	Production of Vaccine and Other Pharmaceuticals			
ERP					
PRJ0002576	F0270	Renovation/ Upgrading of Health Establishments	Renovation and Upgrading of Health institutions around the island	To maintain and upkeep all health infrastructure around the island in a functional and modern state at all times	Tender launched for 20 projects. 306 projects completed
PRJ0002577	F0167	Acquisition of High Tech and Other Medical Equipment	Acquisition of High Tech and Other Medical Equipment	Modernising the Medical Equipment and replacement of old and obsolete equipment with High Tech equipment for the different Health Institutions around the island	Bills to be paid after commissioning of equipment
PPP/BOT					
		Warehouse for pharmaceutical products at Cote D'Or	Construction of a new modern state of the art laboratory	To bring under one roof all the medicine, drugs and vaccines stored by the Ministry and storing them as per the recommended storage guidelines (WHO and international manufacturer)	Request for Qualification exercise completed, evaluation for Transaction advisor ongoing, once same is appointed, Tender documents would be drafted

PROJECT_ NO	PSIP*_ CODE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVE	OVERALL_PROGRESS_REMARKS
		National Health Laboratory Services Centre at Cote D'Or	Construction of a new modern state of the art Cardiac Centre	To bring under one roof all the laboratory services provided by the Ministry under a modern and safe environment	Request for Qualification exercise completed, evaluation for Transaction advisor ongoing, once same is appointed, Tender documents would be drafted
		State of the Art Cardiac Centre at Cote D'Or	Construction of a new modern state of the art warehouse for medicine, drugs and vaccines	To response to the increasing demand for heart related treatment using the latest technologies in a modern and safe environment	Request for Qualification exercise completed, evaluation for Transaction advisor ongoing, once same is appointed, Tender documents would be drafted

*PSIP-Public Sector Investment Programme