FIRST SESSION OF THE 12TH PARLIAMENT

FINANCIAL SCRUTINY UNIT

OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT 
OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

HEAD 28: 
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

TOTAL ALLOCATION: $5,468,280,312
9.63% of the National Budget

A summary of the Ministry’s expenditure, divisions and projects. 
Financial Scrutiny Unit
Publication

An electronic copy of this Guide can be found on the Parliament website: www.ttparliament.org

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to:
The Secretary
Standing Finance Committee
Office of the Parliament
Parliamentary Complex
Cabildo Building
St Vincent Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
Tel: (868) 624-7275; Fax: (868) 625-4672
Email: standingfinance@ttparliament.org
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About this Guide

This guide provides a summary of expenditure for the Ministry of Health (MoH) for the period 2014-2021. It provides Members of Parliament and stakeholders with an overview of the Ministry’s responsibilities. The primary purpose of this guide is to consolidate the information contained within the various Budget Documents pertaining to the Ministry of Health, and provide readers with an analysis of same. This guide is based primarily on:

- the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure;
- the Estimates of Development Programme;
- the Public Sector Investment Programme; and
- the Auditor General’s Report on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the fiscal year 2019.
**Head 28: Ministry of Health**

**Ministry Overview**
The Ministry of Health is the national authority charged with oversight of the entire health system in Trinidad and Tobago. It plays a central role in the protection of the population’s health and in ensuring that all organisations and institutions that produce health goods and services conform to standards of safety.

**Vision**
The Ministry of Health is a people-centred, caring, proactive institution that assures standards of excellence are achieved by all stakeholders that promote, protect and improve the health status of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

**Mission**
The Ministry of Health’s mission is to provide effective leadership for the health sector by focusing on evidence-based policy making; planning; monitoring; evaluation; collaboration and regulation. The Ministry of Health establishes national priorities for health and ensures an enabling environment for the delivery of a broad range of high quality, people-centred services from a mix of public and private providers.

**Core Values**
The critical values required to ensure accomplishment and fulfilment of our Vision and Mission are:

- **Professionalism** - The Ministry We will ensure the most efficient and effective delivery of health services by trained and competent health personnel.
- **Total Quality** - Commitment to excellence in our health care systems and all services.
- **Client-centeredness** - We emphasize the delivery of health services that are responsive to consumer needs and preferences.
- **Evidence-based** - Relying upon research and information-driven decision-making at all levels.
- **Visionary** - Providing proactive leadership to the sector.

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The Ministry of Health’s Responsibilities
Responsibility for the provision of health care services in Trinidad and Tobago was devolved from the Ministry of Health to Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) with the passing of the Regional Health Authorities Act No. 5 in 1994. RHAs are autonomous bodies that own and operate health facilities in their respective Regions. There are currently five (5) RHAs which deliver public health care services to the population which include the:

- **North West Regional Health Authority**\(^2\) (NWRHA) provides health services to approximately 500,000 persons residing in the catchment area bounded by St. Joseph in the east to Las Cuevas in the north, the Churchill Roosevelt Highway in the south and Carenage in the west. The Authority has oversight of 3 hospitals (Port of Spain General Hospital, St Ann’s Hospital and St James Medical Complex) and 18 health centres;

- **North Central Regional Health Authority**\(^3\) (NCRHA) is the parent entity governing the Primary Healthcare Clusters of Arima, Chaguanas and St. Joseph. The Secondary Care Facilities of the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex (EWMSC), Mt. Hope Women’s Hospital (MHWH) and the Caura Hospital. The Authority has oversight of 2 primary care facilities (Arima Health Facility and Chaguanas Health Facility) and 15 health centres, providing services to approximately 351,137 inhabitants. The catchment area includes the healthcare clusters of Arima, Chaguanas and St. Joseph, Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, Mt. Hope Women’s Hospital and the Caura Hospital;

- **South West Regional Health Authority**\(^4\) (SWRHA) provides services to approximately 600,000 inhabitants to a catchment area bounded by Freeport in the north-west, Icacos in the south-west, Moruga in the south-east and Tabaquite in the north-east. The authority has oversight of 2 hospitals, 3 district health facilities, 31 health centres and 2 extended care centres;

\(^2\) NWRHA website, accessed October 4, 2020: [http://www.nwrha.co.tt/](http://www.nwrha.co.tt/)
\(^3\) NCRHA website, accessed October 4, 2020: [https://ncrha.co.tt/](https://ncrha.co.tt/)
\(^4\) SWRHA website, accessed October 4, 2020: [http://www.swrha.co.tt/](http://www.swrha.co.tt/)
• **Eastern Regional Health Authority**\(^5\) (ERHA) provides health care in one hospital and 16 health and outreach centres for the catchment population of approximately 120,000 from Matelot in the North to Guayaguayare, Rio Claro and Brothers Road in the South to Valencia in the East; and

• **Tobago Regional Health Authority**\(^6\) (TRHA) provides health care services through the Scarborough General Hospital and 19 primary care facilities\(^7\). The TRHA falls under the purview of the Tobago House Assembly.

While the Ministry of Health does not directly run health facilities, it is required to play a key role in ensuring that they are properly run, by setting policies, goals and targets for regions based on assessment of real health needs.

**Improving Health Care Management**

The Ministry of Health is firmly dedicated to continuously improving public health by increasing our resources to meet health care needs through:

- Significant improvements in the management and delivery of Emergency Services.
- Adoption of a comprehensive and strategic approach towards the development of human resources for the health sector.
- Ensuring that there is synergy and accountability through the institutional strengthening of the Regional Health Authorities and our Vertical Services.

**Meeting the Tertiary Care Needs of Society’s Vulnerable**

The Ministry of Health stands committed to meet the tertiary care needs of our society’s most vulnerable. Some of the ways through which we are achieving this objective are:

1. **The Children’s Life Fund**: This special fund is designed to provide finance for life-saving surgeries for our nation’s precious children and was launched in 2010.

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\(^5\) ERHA website, accessed October 4, 2020: [http://www.erha.co.tt/](http://www.erha.co.tt/)

\(^6\) TRHA website, accessed October 4, 2020: [https://trha.co.tt/delta/index.html](https://trha.co.tt/delta/index.html)

2. External patient Programme: This programme, which was launched in 2014, funds essential surgeries at private health facilities.

Supporting patients’ rights and services through health quality standards, policies and legislation
The Ministry of Health fully endorses and subscribes to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Charter of Patients’ Rights and Obligations. Each Regional Health Authority oversees and runs a Quality/Customer Service Unit which aims as addressing the needs and concerns of the population. Additionally, our senior citizens are assured of the respect they deserve and thus, are given preferred treatment at all public health institutions and pharmacies.

Improvement of the physical infrastructure of public health care facilities.
The physical infrastructures of all public health facilities are consistently reviewed and upgraded, where necessary to ensure that they are fully capable facilitating first class health care for citizens.

Reducing the prevalence of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS
The Ministry of Health has continued to push and promote free, confidential HIV testing throughout Trinidad and Tobago in public spaces and through our public health facilities.

Addressing Chronic Diseases and Mental Health
The promotion of primary health care is the Ministry’s main strategy to deal with the scourge of chronic disease in Trinidad and Tobago. We have been placing particular emphasis on wellness and health promotion to promote healthier lifestyles and self-empowerment among citizens.

The Human Resource (HR) Factor
The Health Sector in Trinidad and Tobago has been experiencing shortages and challenges with the supply of medical and allied professionals. The Ministry of Health has adopted a comprehensive and strategic approach towards the development of human resources for the health sector, which involves attracting foreign based nationals who may be considering returning home.
Services Provided

The Ministry of Health provides the following services to the citizens of the Trinidad and Tobago:

- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention;
- Ambulance (Dial 811);
- Audiology Services;
- Blood Transfusion / Donation;
- Cancer Care & Treatment;
- Chemistry, Food & Drugs Division;
- Children's Life Fund;
- The Chronic Disease Assistance Programme;
- Health Education;
- County Medical Officers of Health;
- Dental Services;
- Disaster Preparedness;
- Environment Health;
- External Patient Programme;
- Hansen's Disease Treatment;
- Health Screening in Schools;
- Immunization;
- Insect Vector Control Division;
- Interdisciplinary Child Development;
- Mental Health;
- Pharmacy/ Drug Inspectorate;
- Non-communicable Diseases (NCD);
- Nutrition;
- Occupational Health and Safety;
- Public Health Inspectors;
- Trinidad Public Health Laboratory;
- Sexual and Reproductive Health;
- Tobacco Control;
- Veterinary Public Health;
- Women's Health.

Statutory Boards and Other Bodies (Other than RHAs)

- Boards regulating the Practice of Medicine and Related Professions;
- Children’s LIFE Fund Board of Management;
- Dental Council of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Drug Advisory Committee;

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• Emergency Medical Personnel Council of Trinidad and Tobago;
• Food Advisory Committee;
• Medical Council of Trinidad and Tobago;
• National Emergency Ambulance Service Authority;
• Nurses and Midwives Council of Trinidad and Tobago;
• Opticians Council of Trinidad and Tobago;
• Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Board;
• Pharmacy Council of Trinidad and Tobago;
• Princess Elizabeth Home for Handicapped Children;
• Enterprises: Couva Medical and Multi – Training Facility Company Limited (Minority Owned)

Health Facilities

The Ministry of Health oversees and manages the services provided by the following public health facilities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aranguez Health Centre</td>
<td>NWRHA</td>
<td>Mason Hall Health Centre</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arima Health Facility</td>
<td>NCRHA</td>
<td>Matelot Outreach Centre</td>
<td>ERHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arouca Health Centre</td>
<td>NCRHA</td>
<td>Matura Outreach Centre</td>
<td>ERHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barataria Health Centre</td>
<td>NWRHA</td>
<td>Mayaro District Health Facility</td>
<td>ERHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belle Garden Health Centre</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
<td>Moriah Health Centre</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel Health Centre</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
<td>Moruga Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biche Outreach Centre</td>
<td>ERHA</td>
<td>Morvant Health Centre</td>
<td>NWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Rock Outreach Centre</td>
<td>ERHA</td>
<td>Mt. Hope Women's Hospital</td>
<td>NCRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blanchisseuse and Brasso Seco Health Centre</td>
<td>NCRHA</td>
<td>Mt. St. George Health Centre</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloody Bay Outreach Centre</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
<td>Oxford Street Health Centre</td>
<td>NWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brothers Road Outreach Centre</td>
<td>ERHA</td>
<td>Palo Seco Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buccoo Health Centre</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
<td>Parlatuvier Health Centre</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canaan Health Centre</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
<td>Pembroke Health Centre</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carenage Health Centre</td>
<td>NWRHA</td>
<td>Pembroke Street Health Centre</td>
<td>NWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castara Health Centre</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
<td>Penal Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital Name</th>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Authority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caura Hospital</td>
<td>NCRHA</td>
<td>Penal Rock Road Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedros Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
<td>Petit Valley Health Centre</td>
<td>NWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaguanas District Health Facility</td>
<td>NCRHA</td>
<td>Pleasantville Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlottesville Health Centre</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
<td>Plymouth Health Centre</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chatham Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
<td>Point Fortin Area Hospital</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claxton Bay Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
<td>Point Fortin Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coryal Outreach Centre</td>
<td>ERHA</td>
<td>Port-of-Spain General Hospital</td>
<td>NWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couva District Health Facility</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
<td>Princes Town Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumana Outreach Centre</td>
<td>ERHA</td>
<td>Rio Claro Health Centre</td>
<td>ERHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumuto Outreach Centre</td>
<td>ERHA</td>
<td>Rochard Douglas Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cunupia Health Centre</td>
<td>NCRHA</td>
<td>Roxborough Health Centre</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debe Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
<td>Roy Joseph Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaford Health Centre</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
<td>San Fernando General/Teaching Hospital</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diego Martin Health Centre</td>
<td>NWRHA</td>
<td>San Juan Health Centre</td>
<td>NWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Socorro Health Centre</td>
<td>NWRHA</td>
<td>San Rafael Health Centre</td>
<td>NCRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex</td>
<td>NCRHA</td>
<td>San Souci Outreach Centre</td>
<td>ERHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
<td>Sangre Grande Health Centre</td>
<td>ERHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planagin Town Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
<td>Sangre Grande Hospital</td>
<td>ERHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freeport Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
<td>Santa Cruz Health Centre</td>
<td>NWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fyzabad Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
<td>Scarborough General Hospital</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gasparillo Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
<td>Scarborough Health Centre</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Street Health Centre</td>
<td>NWRHA</td>
<td>Siparia District Health Facility</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gran Couva Bay Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
<td>South Oropouche Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grande Riviere Outreach Centre</td>
<td>ERHA</td>
<td>Speyside Health Centre</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granville Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
<td>St. Ann's Hospital (Mental Health)</td>
<td>NWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guapo Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
<td>St. Helena Health Centre</td>
<td>NCRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guayaguayare Outreach Centre</td>
<td>ERHA</td>
<td>St. James District Health Facility</td>
<td>NWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Icacos Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
<td>St. Joseph Enhanced Health Centre</td>
<td>NCRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Walk Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
<td>Ste. Madeleine Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L'Anse Fourmi Outreach Centre</td>
<td>TRHA</td>
<td>Success Lavantille Health Centre</td>
<td>NWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Brea Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
<td>Tabaquite Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Horqueta Health Centre</td>
<td>NCRHA</td>
<td>Tableland Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Romaine Health Centre</td>
<td>SWRHA</td>
<td>Tacarigua Extended Care Facility</td>
<td>NCRHA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Las Cuevas Health Centre | NWRHA | Tacarigua Health Centre | NCRHA
Las Lomas Health Centre | NCRHA | Talparo Health Centre | NCRHA
Lenga Health Centre | SWRHA | Toco Health Centre & 24 hours A&E | ERHA
Les Coteaux Health Centre | TRHA | Todd’s Road Health Centre | SWRHA
Macoya Health Centre | NCRHA | Tunapuna Health Centre | NCRHA
Maloney Health Centre | NCRHA | Upper Lavantille Health Centre | NWRHA
Manzanilla Outreach Centre | ERHA | Valencia Outreach Centre | ERHA
Marabella Health Centre | SWRHA | Williamsville Health Centre | SWRHA
Maraval Health Centre | NWRHA | Woodbrook Health Centre | NWRHA

Minister: The Honourable Terrence Deyalsingh, MP

Permanent Secretary (Accounting Officer): Mr. Asif Ali

Deputy Permanent Secretaries: Ms. Brenda Jeffers and Ms. Maragaret Morales

Chief Medical Officer: Dr. Roshan Parasram

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Auditor General Report Findings for the Fiscal year 2019

Ref: Auditor General’s Report pgs. 42, 58, 59, 78, 81, 94-97 & 127

28 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH

ACCOUNTS OF ACCOUNTING OFFICERS
THE AUDIT OF EXPENDITURE

VEHICLE CONTROL

Inspection Certificates for 98 vehicles were not provided for audit examination. It was reported that most of these vehicles were not functional but this status was not reflected in the remarks column of the Motor Vehicle Listing Register.

ACCOUNTS OF RECEIVERS OF REVENUE
STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

AUDIT OF REVENUE

HE1 – PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF HEALTH

SECURITY OF CASH

- Cash was not stored in a fireproof vault as required by financial directives.

DEPOSITS

- Cash was not deposited on a daily basis as required by financial directives. For example, revenue collected between the periods 26th October 2018 to 29th November, 2018 was not deposited until 30th November 2018, twenty-one working days later.

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The number of deposits per month is reflected in the table below:

**Details of Daily Deposits per Month**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTHS DEPOSITED</th>
<th>NO. OF DEPOSITS PER MONTH</th>
<th>TOTALS FOR THE MONTH ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 2018</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>175,305.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2018</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>84,580.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2018</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>93,835.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2019</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>71,440.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2019</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>67,040.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2019</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>144,315.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2019</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>59,540.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2019</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>29,364.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2019</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>32,275.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2019</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>90,805.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2019</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>27,810.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2019</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16,155.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>40</strong></td>
<td><strong>892,464.21</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Reconciliation Statements of revenue collected were not seen for the period October 2018 to August 2019. As at August 2019, revenue received at the District Revenue Services on behalf of the Ministry of Health in the amount of $786,790.00 could not be verified as the relevant documents were not provided for audit examination.
SPECIAL AUDIT: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT
LIMITATIONS

Audit was unable to verify the responses submitted by some Ministries and Departments due to the measures undertaken by the Government because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This restricted the amount of fieldwork conducted. The six ministries and departments are as follows:

- Ministry of Health.
- Ministry of Finance - Treasury Division – status of IFMIS and EFT.
- Ministry of National Security - Immigration Division.
- Ministry of Education – Funding and Grants Administration Division – GATE.
- Ministry of Works and Transport - Licensing Division.
- Ministry of Public Administration.

COLLABORATION AND INTEGRATION

- Evidence of collaboration among ministries and departments in the acquisition of information systems was not seen in that, the same application was acquired separately by different ministries/departments. For example, both the Ministries of National Security and Health independently procured the Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS) system.
- Ministries/Departments continued to use different applications to perform similar functions. This was evident in the number of standalone systems in use, there were 71 standalone systems in use at 12 Ministries and Departments. Additionally, the Ministry of Health was using twenty standalone systems for various functions, most requiring the same personal data from patients.
FOLLOW-UP ON AUDIT OF IT GOVERNANCE AND GENERAL CONTROLS AT REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES

The following is the status of the implementation of the corrective actions taken by the Ministry of Health (MoH) in resolving the issues identified by the Auditor General of IT General Controls.

RESPONSES AS REPORTED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendations as per 2017 Audit Report</th>
<th>Corrective Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Ministry of Health (MoH) should take an active role in monitoring the selection and implementation of standardized IT solutions at the RHAs in order to achieve value for money and to allow for comparability and analysis of data by the Ministry and RHAs.</td>
<td>In February 2019, the Ministry of Health (MoH) reconvened the Health ICT Committee. This Committee proactively looks at the business needs of the Regional Health Authorities (RHA), identifies gaps and develops intervention plans to address the gaps. The Committee is also standardizing ICT Systems, Polices, Procedures, Structure, etc as well as collaborates on ICT solutions being implemented across the RHAs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A feasibility study should be conducted prior to the acquisition of any new information system.</td>
<td>Through the Health ICT Committee, a notification will be sent to the RHAs that a feasibility study must be conducted prior to the acquisition of any new information system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ministry of Health and the RHAs should collaborate to ensure the effective integration of information systems across the RHAs to achieve synergies and efficiency in the delivery of services to its clients.</td>
<td>Through the Health ICT Managers Committee, the MoH and RHAs will collaborate and provide feedback on the implementation of new systems and advice will be given as required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The MoH should ensure that IT controls and structures are properly implemented across the RHAs to protect the integrity and confidentiality of data, safeguard the IT assets and to secure continuity of operations.</td>
<td>Through the Health ICT Committee, the standardization of the Policies, Procedures and Guidelines to ensure data confidentiality, data security, Business continuity as well as safeguarding ICT Assets has begun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The respective RHAs should develop/update their IT Strategic Plan to ensure that IT risks and resources are managed appropriately.</td>
<td>Through the Health ICT Committee, the MOH will assist the RHAs with the development of their ICT Strategic Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The RHAs in collaboration with the Ministry should develop policies and procedures which adhere to international IT standards.</td>
<td>Through the Health ICT Managers Committee, the MOH and the RHAs has started developing policies and procedures to ensure adherence to international Health ICT standards such as HIPAA, GDPR. The Ministry of Health will rely on the Ministry of Public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Administration** to ensure adherence to ICT Standards such as ISO 27001, 27031, etc.

**Efforts should be made to have a standardized structure with established positions for the IT Units in order to retain qualified and experienced IT staff.**

Through the Health ICT Committee, a standardized structure was developed on November 29th 2019 and was submitted to RHAs for review and non-objection.

The RHAs, in collaboration with the MoH, should develop Business Continuity and Disaster Preparedness Plans after identifying critical IT assets and processes through a Business Impact Review.

Through the Health ICT Committee, an ICT Service Continuity Plan for MoH and RHA will be developed as it relates to ICT in the RHAs.

The RHAs should develop guidelines to make staff aware and ensure compliance with IT-related legislation.

The Ministry of Health and the Regional Health Authorities will use the intranet for promotion of IT-related policies and legislation.

The Internal Audit Units of the RHAs should be strengthened with the required skills and resources so that regular reviews of IT security and controls are undertaken.

The Ministry of Health though the Health ICT Committee will recommend training for RHA and MoH staff on Certified Information System Auditor.

The Ministry in collaboration with the RHAs should consider the development of a similar system for the management of pharmaceuticals at the RHAs.

The Ministry of Health is currently implementing a Logistics Management System to all public Health Pharmacies. This integrated system will link C40 and the pharmacies of the public health facilities providing visibility across the supply chain.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Ministry of Health is commended for the initiatives taken to address some of the deficiencies identified and is encouraged to continue in its efforts. This would ensure the IT assets are protected whilst ensuring confidentiality, integrity and availability of data to increase efficiency and effectiveness in delivering services to its clients.

**ACCOUNTS OF THE TREASURY**

**STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE**

**ACTUAL EXPENDITURE**


Table 6.3 highlights those areas where expenditure was in excess of one billion dollars and reflects the percentage of total expenditure incurred.
### Table 6.3: Actual Expenditure in Excess of $1Bn

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEAD OF EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>Revised Estimates</th>
<th>Actual expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 Tobago House of Assembly</td>
<td>2,194,344,308.48</td>
<td>4.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Ministry of Finance</td>
<td>6,644,866,532.99</td>
<td>12.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Charges on Account of the Public Debt</td>
<td>8,230,354,829.78</td>
<td>15.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Pensions and Gratuities</td>
<td>3,252,449,260.68</td>
<td>5.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Ministry of Education</td>
<td>5,431,914,892.08</td>
<td>9.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Ministry of Health</td>
<td>4,755,450,505.89</td>
<td>8.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39 Ministry of Public Utilities</td>
<td>2,687,575,883.59</td>
<td>4.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42 Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government</td>
<td>2,085,294,861.51</td>
<td>3.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43 Ministry of Works and Transport</td>
<td>2,125,433,975.74</td>
<td>3.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 Ministry of Housing and Urban Development</td>
<td>1,419,755,726.09</td>
<td>2.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64 Trinidad and Tobago Police Service</td>
<td>2,173,353,389.73</td>
<td>3.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78 Ministry of Social Development and Family Services</td>
<td>5,109,027,839.86</td>
<td>9.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUB-TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>49,607,720,617.16</strong></td>
<td><strong>90.86</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Ministries and Departments</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,973,466,497.83</strong></td>
<td><strong>9.14</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>54,581,187,114.99</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP), which represents the capital expenditure component of the National Budget, is the instrument used by Government to effect its vision and policies. It is a budgeting and strategic planning tool made up of projects and programmes, designed to realise the goals set out in the Government’s overarching policy.

The PSIP budget document provides a detailed description of the programmes and projects and includes a review of the implementation of projects and programmes in the previous financial year and highlights the major projects and programmes to be implemented in the upcoming financial year.

The Public Sector Investment Programme is intended to:

- the country’s social and economic development goals; and
- enhance the quality of life of all citizens.

HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Particularly in fiscal 2020, the health sector received an increase in its allocation to support the measures instituted by the Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**NOTE:** For a comprehensive summary and analysis of COVID-19 budgetary provisions, please see the COVID-19 Special Budget Guide.

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DELIVERING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE EXCELLENCE
Administration

Public Buildings
Negotiations for the design, construction, outfitting and maintenance of the Administrative Building of the Ministry of Health, utilising a Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT) arrangement between UDECOTT and NH International has commenced.

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST: NURTURING OUR GREATEST ASSET
Construction of New Public Health Facilities
In fiscal 2020, Government sustained its investment in improved public health infrastructure so institutions will be better able to respond to the population’s changing healthcare needs with quality and comprehensive infrastructure.

Arima General Hospital The sum of $76.9 million was expended in fiscal 2020 for the completion of the new Arima General Hospital. The official opening ceremony for the hospital was held on June 9, 2020. This primary inpatient healthcare facility with capacity of 150 beds, was built by the China Railway Caribbean Construction Company and managed by the UDECOTT. The improved public health institution will facilitate the delivery of 24/7 emergency care for the Borough of Arima and environs with a full range of services including radiology, physiotherapy, psychiatry, orthopaedics/burns, optical, obstetrics and gynaecology and surgery.

Point Fortin Hospital
Consistent with Government’s strategic initiative to improve access to healthcare services for the citizenry, the construction of the Point Fortin Hospital was completed in fiscal 2020. A total cost of $47 million was utilised to facilitate the completion works and the opening ceremony was held on July 4, 2020. The 100 bed, three-storey structure in Techier Village will complement the San Fernando General Hospital in serving the southern most areas of the country. It will offer medical services in the areas of general
medicine, general surgery, burns treatment, psychiatry, paediatric/adolescence care, high dependency and accident and emergency.

**Sangre Grande Hospital**
The construction of a new hospital for Sangre Grande is another key initiative for delivering higher standards of healthcare and comprehensive health care services. Mobilisation works for the new 106 bed facility commenced and a total of $22.1 million was expended in fiscal 2020. The hospital is projected to be completed in fiscal 2022.

**Diego Martin Health Centre**
The sum of $20 million was expended to significantly advance the construction of the new Diego Martin Health Centre located on Wendy Fitzwilliam Boulevard. The new healthcare centre is a two-storey building of approximately 2,093 square meters and works are 90 percent complete. The facility is projected to be completed in October 2020 and will provide enhanced access to patient centric health services for the community with features including treatment rooms, a dental clinic, pharmacy, and exercise and storage areas. Furthermore, it will offer imaging services as well as health information services.

**Re-development of Port of Spain General Hospital (POSGH)**
The Port of Spain General Hospital, was established in 1854, is the primary public health care and emergency facility in northern Trinidad. Over time the hospital’s building facilities have deteriorated significantly which has limited the extent to which hospital staff could keep up with advances in medical technology. To this end, the Government embarked on a project for the re-development of the Central Block of the Hospital to be a modern medical teaching facility, with a designed consistent with current hospital building standards and equipped with advanced medical technology. Phase I of the project involved construction of alternate facilities to relocate the occupants of the area identified for the new Central Block. This entailed three (3) major activities as follows:
- relocation of the surgical wards, operating theater and clinical support services to the first floor above the Accident and Emergency Department at the St. James Medical Centre;
- relocation of the central stores, engineering and biomedical departments at POSGH; and
- relocation of the Medical Wards and Clinical Support Services to the College of Science Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAAT) Building located on the POSGH campus.

A total of $100 million was expended for Phase I of the project in fiscal 2020. Works on the relocation of the surgical wards and operating theatre to the St. James Medical Centre were completed and UDeCOTT has handed the project over to the Ministry of Health.

The new secondary healthcare facility at St. James Medical Centre includes an operating theatre outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment, an Intensive Care Unit, a High Dependency Unit and two (2) surgical wards (male and female). The new block has a capacity for 69 beds and both the female and male wards each have an isolation room (for use in the face of infectious diseases.

In fiscal 2020, the construction of a central stores building on the POSGH compound was completed. This facility will house the Biomedical Department, workshops, storage areas and hardware stores. The relocation of staff took place in January 2020.

The third project activity under Phase I was the retrofitting of the old COSTAATT building (which is located on the POSGH compound) to accommodate the relocation of medical wards on the ground and first floors of the building. This relocation arrangement will be used as an interim measure, pending the construction of the new Central Block building, proposed to be completed in 2022. Overall works on the COSTAATT building were completed. This facility can accommodate a total of 83 beds and includes two medical wards, two isolation rooms, a medical supply room and a medical preparation room.

**Purchase of Medical Equipment**

In addition to state of the art facilities, the provision of modern medical equipment is critical to ensuring that healthcare institutions operate at optimum standards. The Medical Equipment Upgrade Programme utilised a total of $55 million for the procurement of
equipment for primary and secondary healthcare facilities under the administration of the four Regional Health Authorities. Some of the major achievements included:

**North West Regional Health Authority**

- new neurosurgery surgical equipment (to replace aged equipment) was supplied to the Port of Spain General Hospital; and
- new operating theatre equipment (which included an anaesthesia machine and an operating theatre table) was supplied to the Maternity Department of Port of Spain General Hospital. The operating theatre table was delivered in October, 2019 and the anaesthetic machine in February, 2020. Commissioning of the anaesthetic machine will be done post the completion of training for staff by an application specialist.

**North Central Regional Health Authority**

- Eight (8) anaesthesia machines and eight haemodialysis machines (used to filter a patient’s blood during dialysis) were procured for the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex.

**Eastern Regional Health Authority**

- critical medical equipment for the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), dialysis, ophthalmology and the laboratory departments of the Sangre Grande Hospital was supplied. The ICU equipment included three (3) transport ventilators, three (3) critical care beds, four (4) ventilators and one (1) portable monitor. A surgical microscope was procured for the ophthalmology department. Installation and testing of some of the equipment are in progress;
- a contract was awarded for the supply, commissioning and maintenance of two (2) computed radiography systems for the Radiology Departments at the Mayaro District Health Facility and Toco Health Centre. This project is 100 percent completed and will facilitate improved radiology services to the communities as computed radiography uses a flexible phosphor imaging plate to capture digital images instead of conventional photographic film.
South West Regional Health Authority

- installation and commissioning of an automated slide strainer and an automated cover slipper were completed to improve the quality and efficiency of testing and healthcare services at the San Fernando General Hospital (SFGH).

Specialised Healthcare

The External Patient Programme aims at ensuring quality and timely healthcare to all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago through a public private initiative. This initiative consists of programmes that provide assistance for angiograms, open heart surgery, dialysis, cataract, CT/MRI Scan, vitreoretinal surgeries, corneal transplants and joint replacement surgeries. In 2020, the Renal Dialysis Programme (which falls under the ambit of the External Patient Programme) made dialysis treatment available to 1,258 patients at a cost of $40 million. The Special Programme for the Treatment of Adult Cardiac Disease provided funding for 971 patients to receive cardiac surgical procedures and utilised the sum of $18.3 million.
### The Ministry’s total allocation as a percentage of the National Budget for the period 2014 to 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Allocation</th>
<th>National Budget</th>
<th>Percentage of National Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$2,811,587,904.00</td>
<td>$65,020,886,424.00</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$3,564,593,903.00</td>
<td>$61,966,922,675.00</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$5,085,696,460.00</td>
<td>$56,573,913,053.00</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$4,045,271,997.00</td>
<td>$54,883,153,410.00</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$4,886,922,382.00</td>
<td>$54,211,726,813.00</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$4,755,450,506.00</td>
<td>$54,581,467,181.00</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$4,842,184,649.00</td>
<td>$57,252,443,354.00</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$5,216,280,312.00</td>
<td>$56,788,359,151.00</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Total allocation for the Ministry of Health as a percentage of the National Budget illustrated an increase of 0.7% between the period 2019/2020 and 2020/2021.

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15 For the Fiscal Years 2014-2019, actual figures were used to calculate the Ministry’s total allocation. However, estimates were used to calculate the total allocation for the Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021.

16 Total Allocation for the Ministry of Health = Recurrent Expenditure + Consolidated Fund Expenditure

17 The National Budget = Total Recurrent Expenditure + Development Programme Expenditure: Consolidated Fund
2019/2020 Budget Supplementations

During fiscal 2019/2020, it was necessary to have a Supplementation of Appropriation of resources to fund urgent and critical Recurrent and Capital Expenditure in areas where insufficient or no allocation was provided. The source of these additional funds was the Consolidated Fund. The following statement was made by the Minister of Health during the Standing Finance Committee debate on the Consideration of Proposals for the Supplementation of Appropriation for the fiscal year 2020\textsuperscript{18}:

“This supplementation falls under three major categories; one, for the COVID-19 response to set up the parallel health care system in which to date 589 persons have been treated and/or accommodated. We have spent money on four major headings: consumables, HR, infrastructure and equipment, and this was used to supplement the 2020 allocation. The second major item for expenditure was a loan taken out with NIPDEC for the procurement, storage and distribution of pharmaceuticals and non-pharmaceuticals. The third major area for the supplementation has to do with infrastructure, especially for loans taken out to build and construct the Central Block and, surprisingly, loans for the Arima Hospital, because the Arima Hospital, contrary to folklore, was never built cash from moneys taken from NGC. So these are some of the reasons why we have the supplementation, and I am now prepared to answer any questions.”

The Ministry of Health requested and was granted the following supplementations:

**Recurrent Expenditure - $224,582,640**

1. **02/001/16 – Contract Employment - $3,034,295**
   The sum is required to supplement the 2020 funding to facilitate payment to eleven (11) new Intensive Care Nurses from Cuba; twenty (20) Doctors attached to the Ministry of Health’s Covid-19 Hotline and other staff with effect from May 2020 in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

2. **04/009/02 – North West Regional Health Authority - $16,606,000**

04/009/03 – Eastern Regional Health Authority - $33,113,990
04/009/04 – North Central Regional Health Authority - $129,950,000
04/009/05 – South West Regional Health Authority - $5,000,000

The funds are required to supplement the 2020 allocation to the four (4) Regional Health Authorities to enable the response to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The funds are to meet the cost of consumables, infrastructure and equipment and additional human resource services.

3. 04/009/20 – Interest Payment – Ansa Merchant Bank 11yr Fixed Rate Loan $500Mn ERHA - $13,948,600

The sum is required to service the $500Mn Fixed Rate Loan Facility for the Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA) which was upsized to TT$1Bn to finance expenses related to the Regional Health Authority’s Covid-19 Pandemic projects and programmes and meet expenditure under Goods and Services.

4. 04/011/05 – NIPDEC – RBC Merchant Bank (T&T) Ltd. TT$671.3Mn. 7 year Fixed Rate Loan Notes - $14,000,000

The sum is required to facilitate the payment of interest on a TT$671,320,827 7-year fixed rate loan notes facility for the National Insurance Property Development Company Limited (NIPDEC) which becomes due in September 2020. The loan was acquired to meet the cost of procurement, storage and distribution of pharmaceuticals/non pharmaceutical items.

5. 04/011/06 – UDeCOTT – RBC Royal Bank (T&T) Ltd. US$16.9Mn. 10-year Term Loan – Arima Hospital - $2,837,451

The sum is required to facilitate the payment of interest on a US$16.94Mn 10 year fixed rate loan for completion of Arima Hospital, due July 2020.

6. 04/011/07 – UDeCOTT – FCB Ltd. TT$101.9Mn.11 year Fixed Rate Loan for Redevelopment of the Central Block at POSGH - $2,466,577

The sum is required to facilitate the payment of interest due August 2020 on a TT$101.9Mn Partial refinancing facility for the Central Block – Port of Spain General Hospital.

7. 04/011/08 – UDeCOTT - CIBC First Caribbean International Bank (T&T) Ltd. TT$70.3Mn. 8-year Fixed Rate Loan for Redevelopment of the Central Block at POSGH - $1,671,426
The sum is required to facilitate the payment of interest due in September, 2020 on a TT$70.3Mn Loan for Redevelopment of the Central Block – Port of Spain General Hospital

8. 04/011/09 – UDeCOTT – CIBC First Caribbean International Bank (T&T) Ltd. US$12.4 Mn. 8-year Fixed Rate Loan for Redevelopment of the Central Block at POSGH - $1,954,301
The sum is required to facilitate the payment of interest due in September 2020 on a US$12.4Mn Loan for Redevelopment of the Central Block – Port of Spain General Hospital.
Where the Ministry spends its money

2021 Estimates of Expenditure
The budget allocation of $5,468,280,312 for the Ministry of Health is comprised of:

- The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure in the sum of $4,870,980,312; and
- The Draft Estimates of Development Programme in the sum of $597,300,000:
  - Consolidated Fund in the sum of $345,300,000; and
  - Infrastructure Development Fund of the sum $252,000,000.

The Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure include:

- 01 Personnel Expenditure - $182,840,904;
- 02 Goods and Services - $341,535,727;
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases $2,040,120; and
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies $4,332,853,796.
- 05 Current Transfers to Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies $11,709,765

The Ministry of Health’s:

- Total allocation as a percentage of National Budget = 9.6%;
- Recurrent Expenditure as a percentage of the total Recurrent Expenditure budget is = 8.9%
- Consolidated Fund allocation as a percentage of the total Consolidated Fund allocation is = 15.5%

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21 Head 28 –Ministry of Health, Sub-Item 11- Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) (Infrastructure Development Fund allocation is part of the Ministry of Finance allocation for the financial year. Therefore, the total recurrent expenditure for the Ministry of Health does not include IDF funding.
- Infrastructure Development Fund allocation as a percentage of the total Infrastructure Development Fund is $13.2\%$
Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2014-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 Personnel Expenditure</td>
<td>220,603,677</td>
<td>278,868,433</td>
<td>216,518,511</td>
<td>209,988,122</td>
<td>197,669,889</td>
<td>192,769,120</td>
<td>179,906,990</td>
<td>182,840,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03 Minor Equipment</td>
<td>6,085,354</td>
<td>1,879,985</td>
<td>1,173,337</td>
<td>592,144</td>
<td>662,021</td>
<td>83,711</td>
<td>914,491</td>
<td>2,040,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 Current Transfers and Subsidies</td>
<td>3,118,368,982</td>
<td>3,127,210,887</td>
<td>3,607,476,637</td>
<td>4,113,865,582</td>
<td>3,796,039,753</td>
<td>3,663,695,355</td>
<td>4,103,466,791</td>
<td>4,332,853,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05 Current Transfers to Stat.Brds.&amp;Similar Bodies</td>
<td>9,748,254</td>
<td>12,989,800</td>
<td>10,614,010</td>
<td>11,350,779</td>
<td>10,864,830</td>
<td>10,758,193</td>
<td>11,637,960</td>
<td>11,709,765</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Analysis of Recurrent Expenditure

Recurrent Expenditure refers to the payments for expenses which are incurred during the day-to-day operations of the Ministry for Personnel Expenditure, Goods and Services, Minor Equipment Purchases and Current Transfers and Subsidies. Estimated Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2021 is $4,870,980,312.

- Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2020 was $4,655,849,413 (Revised). Comparing this figure with Fiscal Year 2021, there is an increase of $215,130,899 or 4.62%.

- The largest portion of the allocation has consistently gone to Sub-Head Current Transfers and Subsidies. This allocation of $4,332,853,796 accounts for 88.95% total funding for the Ministry for Fiscal Year 2021.

- Goods and Services received the second largest portion ($341,535,727) of the allocation for 2021. Comparing 2020 to 2021, there was a $18,387,454 (5.11%) decrease.

- In FY 2021, Personnel Expenditure’s estimate of $182,840,904 is 3.75% of the Ministry’s total recurrent allocation.

- Minor Equipment Purchases has consistently received the lowest portion of the total allocation for the Ministry over the period 2014 to 2021. In 2021, the allocation of $2,040,120 accounted for 0.04% of the total funding for the Ministry.

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2018 Actual

- 01 Personnel Expenditure: 10,864,197 (830; 0% - 197,669; 4%)
- 02 Goods and Services: 722,378 (479; 15%)
- 03 Minor Equipment: 662,021 (0%)
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies: 0%
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat.Brds.&Similar Bodies: 0%

Total: 3,796,039 (753; 81%)

2019 Actual

- 01 Personnel Expenditure: 10,758,193 (0% - 192,769; 4%)
- 02 Goods and Services: 749,907,154 (16%)
- 03 Minor Equipment: 83,711 (0%)
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies: 83,711 (0%)
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat.Brds.&Similar Bodies: 0%

Total: 3,663,695,355 (80%)

Legend:
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat.Brds.&Similar Bodies
2020 Revised Estimates

- 01 Personnel Expenditure: 11 637 960 (0%)
- 02 Goods and Services: 359 923 (4%)
- 03 Minor Equipment: 181 000 (8%)
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies: 914 491 (0%)
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat.Brds.&Similar Bodies: 179 906 990 (4%)

Total: 4 103 466 791 (88%)

2021 Estimates

- 01 Personnel Expenditure: 11 709 765 (0%)
- 02 Goods and Services: 341 535 727 (4%)
- 03 Minor Equipment: 182 840 904 (7%)
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies: 2 040 120 (0%)
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat.Brds.&Similar Bodies: 179 906 990 (4%)

Total: 4 332 853 796 (89%)
Recurrent Expenditure Unique to the Ministry of Health

Unique Expenditure refers to expenditure items incurred by the Ministry of Health that may not feature in other Ministries or Departments.

Summary of Ministry of Health's Special Programmes for the period 2014 - 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Programme - HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>5,577,763</td>
<td>5,046,001</td>
<td>6,127,356</td>
<td>2,995,578</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18,300,000</td>
<td>35,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Programme - Treatment of Adult Cardiac Diseases</td>
<td>6,373,012</td>
<td>2,404,257</td>
<td>17,623,796</td>
<td>14,858,987</td>
<td>19,981,823</td>
<td>19,572,616</td>
<td>40,000,000</td>
<td>100,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Programme - Renal Dialysis</td>
<td>28,530,400</td>
<td>20,453,500</td>
<td>18,606,700</td>
<td>23,969,450</td>
<td>42,519,150</td>
<td>43,366,410</td>
<td>58,300,000</td>
<td>135,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40,481,175</td>
<td>27,903,758</td>
<td>42,357,852</td>
<td>41,824,015</td>
<td>62,500,973</td>
<td>62,939,026</td>
<td>58,300,000</td>
<td>135,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recurrent Expenditure Unique to the Ministry of Health for the period 2014-2021

Eastern Regional Health Authority
North Central Regional Health Authority
North West Regional Health Authority
South West Regional Health Authority
Total
Staff and Pay\textsuperscript{25}

The allocation of staff expenditure for the fiscal year 2020/2021 was $321,033,529 which represents a decrease of approximately 0.45\% from the last fiscal year 2019/2020. The following chart provides a breakdown of all expenditure related to staff from 2019-2021.

### Summary of Staff and Pay Expenditure of the Ministry of Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2021 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Expenditure</td>
<td>192 769 120</td>
<td>179 906 990</td>
<td>182 840 904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling and Subsistence</td>
<td>14 128 697</td>
<td>18 476 380</td>
<td>13 210 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniforms</td>
<td>490 364</td>
<td>1 003 530</td>
<td>877 625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract Employment</td>
<td>118 893 127</td>
<td>116 272 370</td>
<td>117 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>3 245 680</td>
<td>104 675</td>
<td>105 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-Term Employment</td>
<td>8 716 684</td>
<td>6 678 740</td>
<td>7 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Graduate Recruitment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees Assistance Programme</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>338 249 860</td>
<td>322 483 185</td>
<td>321 033 529</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- **2019 Actual**
- **2020 Revised Estimate**
- **2021 Estimate**
Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2014-2020

Development Programme is capital expenditure aimed at improving and enhancing development in different areas of Trinidad and Tobago which includes; human resources, economic and social development.

The allocation to the Ministry of Health for development programmes and projects for fiscal year 2021 = $597,300,000. These funds are presented in two parts as follows:

- Funds disbursed directly from the Consolidated Fund = $345,300,000 and represent 57.8% of the total allocation to the Ministry; and
- Funds disbursed from the Infrastructure Development Fund = $252,000,000 and represent 42.2% of the total allocation to the Ministry.

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### Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2014-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>004 Social Infrastructure - Consolidated Fund</th>
<th>005 Multi-Sectoral and Other Services - Consolidated Fund</th>
<th>004 Social Infrastructure - Infrastructure Development Fund</th>
<th>005 Multi-Sectoral and Other Services - Infrastructure Development Fund</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>83,882,829</td>
<td>48,139,350</td>
<td>300,412,675</td>
<td>1,660,623</td>
<td>434,095,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>53,922,535</td>
<td>27,622,000</td>
<td>421,565,498</td>
<td>1,532,454</td>
<td>504,642,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>91,392,345</td>
<td>23,934,527</td>
<td>367,350,672</td>
<td>1,097,470</td>
<td>483,775,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>86,189,578</td>
<td>33,667,800</td>
<td>228,900,000</td>
<td>905,000</td>
<td>349,662,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>125,169,791</td>
<td>34,137,619</td>
<td>215,778,681</td>
<td>191,812</td>
<td>375,277,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>98,446,164</td>
<td>39,790,809</td>
<td>254,861,839</td>
<td>20,734,948</td>
<td>413,833,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>132,570,000</td>
<td>53,765,236</td>
<td>204,146,732</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>490,481,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>222,200</td>
<td>123,100</td>
<td>210,000</td>
<td>42,000</td>
<td>597,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>434,095,477</strong></td>
<td><strong>504,642,487</strong></td>
<td><strong>483,775,014</strong></td>
<td><strong>349,662,378</strong></td>
<td><strong>490,481,968</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The chart above illustrates the actual and estimated expenditures for different sectors over the years 2014 to 2021.
Health/HIV AIDS
Government has outlined its commitment to the development of the health sector, which is closely aligned to Thematic Area I of the NDS: “Putting People First: Nurturing Our Greatest Asset.” There are two (2) fundamental goals that are pivotal to this process that is having a health care system that is sustainable, modern and delivers a higher standard of healthcare; and one that empowers citizens to lead a healthy lifestyle.

New Public Health Facilities
New Public Health Facilities Improving public health infrastructure remains a priority for Government and continues with the establishment of new facilities across Trinidad and Tobago. These facilities are expected to increase the country’s healthcare capacity and strengthen frontline services. Two (2) facilities that will be focused on in fiscal 2021 will be the construction of the Sangre Grande Hospital and the Diego Martin Health facility. The Sangre Grande Hospital will provide basic primary and secondary healthcare to persons in the community and environs. The addition of this state of the art, three (3)-storey building will create a campus-style facility (with the adjacent existing Sangre Grande Hospital and the Enhanced Health Centre) to improve the quality of services administered by the Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA).

The new building will include a medical ward, surgical ward, trauma and orthopaedic ward, general ward, high dependency and an intensive care unit. The introduction of this hospital will improve the ease of access to health facilities, increase access to a wider range of services available as well as a reduced the burden being placed on other existing hospitals. A total of $55 million will be allocated to facilitate continued works on the construction of the new Sangre Grande Hospital. Funds in the sum of $4 million will

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also be provided to facilitate the completion of the new Diego Martin Health Centre by UDeCOTT within the first quarter of fiscal 2021. The Centre will offer enhanced community-based outpatient services to better serve the western region.

**Improvement of Public Health Infrastructure**

To ensure that health care structures are aligned to international codes and standards as well as meet the population’s changing needs, existing health care facilities are being refurbished and redeveloped. This will allow the public sector to maintain its ability to serve the same capacity of persons annually. In this fiscal period, Government will focus on the re-development of the Port of Spain General Hospital (POSGH) along with facilities across the Regional Health Authorities.

The re-development of POSGH with the construction of the new Central Block building is another key transformational project of the Ministry of Health. An allocation of $40 million will be provided in fiscal 2021 for implementation of phase two (2) of the project, which entails construction of the thirteen (13) storey, five hundred and forty (540) bed tower, towards providing a more contemporary, safe and efficient General Hospital.

In 2021, other existing public health facilities across the four (4) Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) are also earmarked for improvement works under the Physical Investment Programme. Funds totalling $50 million will be allocated to undertake works inclusive, of the following:

- expansion of clinical facilities at the Toco Health Centre;
- expansion of the Accident and Emergency Department and the kitchen at POSGH in support of the new Central Block building;
- electrical upgrade of the main building and nurses hostel at the San Fernando General Hospital (SFGH);
- upgrade of the kitchen (phases four and five) at the SFGH;
- rehabilitation and upgrade of the roofing at the Caura Hospital; and
- upgrade of hospital equipment at the Caura Hospital.
Medical Equipment Upgrade

The ability to deliver modern state of the art care is the direction in which Trinidad and Tobago is heading. This will be realised with the furnishing of medical facilities with the requisite equipment to provide diagnostic services and treatment in response to the population’s health needs. The sum of $50 million will be utilised for the procurement of a wide range of medical equipment, including the following priority items:

- analogue mammography machine and computed radiographic (CR) system for the ERHA;
- medical equipment for ophthalmology and dental clinimobile for the ERHA;
- three (3) anaesthetic machines for the POSGH;
- six (6) cardiac monitors and sixty-five (65) patient beds for St. James Medical Complex;
- thirteen (13) multi-gas monitors and thirteen (13) anaesthetic machines for the main operating theatres at SFGH;
- bronchoscope system (which is used to detect the cause of breathing difficulties and lung problems) for the Intensive Care Unit at SFGH; and
- twenty (20) patient-controlled analgesia pumps for the operating theatre at Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex.

Health Information System

In keeping with Government’s priority of digital transformation, the Ministry of Health will advance efforts towards a more efficient delivery system of healthcare through the establishment of a technology-driven Health Information System (HIS) for the Arima and Point Fortin Hospitals.

The HIS will enable a single IT solution to be implemented across the two (2) RHAs, geared towards effective clinical and healthcare management.
The implementation of the HIS will be based on a phased approach, commencing with the implementation of the system in the new hospitals at Arima and Point Fortin. It is expected, that this will be the first (1st) phase in developing a comprehensive HIS for the entire health sector that will allow health agencies to benefit from an integrated technological framework. Resources in the sum of $20 million will be allocated in 2021 for the procurement of the HIS software.
### Noteworthy Development Programme Estimates in 2019-2021

The table below lists the projects that have experienced irregular variances in estimates for funding received under the Ministry of Health:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-head / Item / Sub-item / Group / Project Desc.</th>
<th>Project - Item</th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2021 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF 004-07A-001</td>
<td>Medical Equipment Upgrade Programme</td>
<td>18,641,000</td>
<td>55,000,000</td>
<td>50,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF 004-07D-002</td>
<td>Special Programme – Treatment of Adult Cardiac Disease</td>
<td>19,572,616</td>
<td>18,300,000</td>
<td>35,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF 004-07D-007</td>
<td>Waiting List for Surgery</td>
<td>3,430,200</td>
<td>15,000,000</td>
<td>15,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF 004-07D-018</td>
<td>Establishment of a Renal Dialysis Centre</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF 005-06A-003</td>
<td>Health Information System for Arima and Point Fortin Hospitals</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF 005-06C-250</td>
<td>Health Services Support Programme</td>
<td>11,353,634</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
<td>60,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF 005-06F-001</td>
<td>Refurbishment and Improvement of Accommodation for the Vertical Division of the Ministry of Health</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,208,897</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project ID</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Budget 1</th>
<th>Budget 2</th>
<th>Budget 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDF-004-07F-007</td>
<td>Construction of the Sangre Grande Hospital</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22,134,726</td>
<td>55,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF-004-07F-008</td>
<td>Construction of Diego Martin Health Centre</td>
<td>20,871,940</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF 004-07F-010</td>
<td>Operationalisation of the Couva Medical and Multi-Training Facility and the San Fernando General Hospital</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF 005-06F-003</td>
<td>Re-Development of Port of Spain Hospital</td>
<td>20,313,761</td>
<td>100,000,000</td>
<td>40,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For the financial year 2017, the following new projects were scheduled for implementation under the Ministry of Health, and as such require further inquiry on the progress of completion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-head /Item /Sub-item /Group /Project Desc.</th>
<th>Project -Item</th>
<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2021 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF 005-06C-250 Health Services Support Programme</td>
<td>3,752,469</td>
<td>11,353,634</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
<td>60,600,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF 005-06F-001 Refurbishment and Improvement of Accommodation for the Vertical Division of the Ministry of Health</td>
<td>5,685,837</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,208,897</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF-004-07F-007 Construction of Sangre Grande Hospital</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22,134,726</td>
<td>55,000,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF-004-07F-008 Construction of Diego Martin Health Centre</td>
<td>777,853</td>
<td>20,871,940</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Status of New Projects from the Financial Year 2018

For the financial year 2018, the following new projects were scheduled for implementation under the Ministry of Health, and as such require further inquiry on the progress of completion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-head / Item / Sub-item / Group / Project Desc. / Project Item</th>
<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2021 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDF 005-06F-002 Outfitting of New Office for the Ministry of Health</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF 005-06F-003 Re-Development of Port of Spain Hospital</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20,313,761</td>
<td>100,000,000</td>
<td>40,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Status of New Projects from the Financial Year 2019

For the financial year 2019, the following new projects were scheduled for implementation under the Ministry of Health, and as such require further inquiry on the progress of completion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-head / Item / Sub-item / Group / Project Desc. / Project - Item</th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2021 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF 004-07A-003 Commissioning and Decommissioning of Arima and Point Fortin Hospitals</td>
<td>11,196</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF 005-06F-002 Construction of the Ministry of Health Administrative Building</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

# Status of New Projects from the Financial Year 2020

The following are new projects that received funding in the 2019/2020 financial year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-head /Item/Sub-item/Group /Project Desc.</th>
<th>Project -Item</th>
<th>2020 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2021 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF 005-06A-002</td>
<td>Disaster Preparedness Coordinating Unit</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF 005-06A-003</td>
<td>Health Information System for Arima and Point Fortin Hospitals</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF 004-07F-009</td>
<td>Construction of CARPHA, NPHL and NBTS Laboratories in Valsayn</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Status of New Projects from the Financial Year 2021

The following are new projects receiving funding in the 2020/2021 financial year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-head /Item /Sub-item /Group /Project Desc.</th>
<th>Project -Item</th>
<th>2021 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF 005-06G-002</td>
<td>Equipping of the Chemistry Food and Drugs Laboratory and Preparatory Work for the National Public Health Laboratory</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Major Programmes and Development for the Period 2019 to 2021

The following table shows a list of the significant expenditure items, based on the proportion of the budgetary allocation assigned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development Programme 2020</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2021 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF 004-07D-003</td>
<td>Special Programme - Renal Dialysis</td>
<td>42,519,150</td>
<td>43,366,410</td>
<td>40,000,000</td>
<td>100,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF 005-06C-250</td>
<td>Health Services Support Programme</td>
<td>3,752,469</td>
<td>11,353,634</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
<td>60,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF 004-07A-001</td>
<td>Medical Equipment Upgrade Programme</td>
<td>37,631,499</td>
<td>18,641,544</td>
<td>55,000,000</td>
<td>50,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF 004-07D-002</td>
<td>Special Programme - Treatment of Adult Cardiac Disease</td>
<td>19,981,823</td>
<td>19,572,616</td>
<td>18,300,000</td>
<td>35,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF 005-06C-234</td>
<td>Hospital Refurbishment Programme</td>
<td>23,512,335</td>
<td>26,324,044</td>
<td>25,000,000</td>
<td>35,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF-004-07F-007</td>
<td>Construction of the Sangre Grande Hospital</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22,134,726</td>
<td>55,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF 004-07-F001</td>
<td>Physical Investments (Hospitals, District Health Facilities, Health Centres)</td>
<td>45,760,591</td>
<td>66,928,687</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
<td>50,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF 004-07F-010</td>
<td>Operationalisation of the Couva Medical and Multi-Training Facility and the San Fernando General Hospital</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF 004-07-F004</td>
<td>Construction of the Arima Hospital</td>
<td>118,364,495</td>
<td>86,237,121</td>
<td>76,861,394</td>
<td>36,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF 004-07-F005</td>
<td>Construction of the Point Fortin Hospital</td>
<td>41,136,043</td>
<td>51,614,033</td>
<td>47,000,000</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF 005-06F-003</td>
<td>Re-Development of Port of Spain General Hospital</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20,313,800</td>
<td>60,000,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1. **13th Report on an Inquiry into the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the National Emergency Ambulance Service**
   - Ministerial Response to the 13th Report from the Ministry of Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue / Objective</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Ministerial Response</th>
<th>Areas requiring funding or follow-up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objective 3: To determine areas of inefficiency in the service and the critical factors/conditions which are required for its success</td>
<td>GMRTT in collaboration with the MoH should conduct a public awareness campaign to sensitise the public about some of the challenges Emergency Medical Response Personnel experience in locating properties that are unmarked or unidentifiable.</td>
<td>The MoH has commenced discussions with GMRTT to embark on a public awareness campaign.</td>
<td>Status update on the start and / or completion of this campaign and the cost involved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We recommend that GMRTT collaborate with the Ministry of Health and the Faculty of Medical Sciences with a view to developing a training programme for EMTs and paramedics for treating with mentally-ill patients.</td>
<td>The Emergency Medical Personnel Council and the MoH will collaborate with the relevant tertiary institutions to develop appropriate training programmes.</td>
<td>The sources of funding for the development of this training programme.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. **15th Report on an Inquiry into the Current Systems and Procedures for Regulating the Operations of Pharmacies and the Practice of Pharmacy in Trinidad and Tobago**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue / Objective</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Ministerial Response</th>
<th>Areas requiring funding or follow-up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objective 2: To evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the Pharmacy Board/Council in executing its mandate</td>
<td>The MOH should determine the cost of implementing online or electronic access to drug information from pharmacies in real time. The practice of e-prescriptions should be an adopted practice to allow for greater accountability through the use of electronic record keeping, particularly within a post Covid19 scenario.</td>
<td>E-Prescriptions for ease of accountability is a robust method but there must be a robust inventory management system to ensure data protection, reliability and credibility of information given the nature of the industry. To effect E-prescribing, legislative amendments are required, which the Ministry of Health will be considering.</td>
<td>Status update on the estimated cost of this measure as determined by the Ministry.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. **12th Report on an Examination of the Current Level of Childhood Obesity and the State’s Interventions to Promote a Healthy Lifestyle Among Children**
   - **Ministerial Response from the Ministry of Health to the 12th Report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue / Objective</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Ministerial Response</th>
<th>Areas requiring funding or follow-up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objective 2: To assess the services and facilities available to counteract and / or alleviate childhood obesity.</td>
<td>Given the importance of environmental (e.g. access to healthy foods, marketing) and family factors (SES, consumption patterns) in childhood obesity, the MoH should give particular attention to the following macro-level interventions: [...] - The consideration of a “sugar tax” on sugar-sweetened beverages</td>
<td>The proposal for the implementation of a sugar taxation system is a project facilitated by the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with the UWI Health Economics Unit and the World Bank. The Ministry of Health has reviewed the recommendations and submitted its comments to the Ministry of Finance in August 2018 for their consideration.</td>
<td>Status update regarding the MoH’s comments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


General Useful Information

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India: [https://mohfw.gov.in/](https://mohfw.gov.in/)
- Department of Health and Social Care, United Kingdom: [https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health)
- Ministry of Health and Wellness, Barbados: [https://www.gov.bb/ministries/health](https://www.gov.bb/ministries/health)