

This is Us

Monitoring Evaluation & Research Unit

2018



THE MERRs
Magnificent, Efficient & Resilient Researchers



Check out the MER Director at the MoH's Sports.



I-Scream -4-Ice-Cream



Breast Cancer Awareness Day



Do you know who the two tallest non-contractual persons in the organization are? Well, meet tallest female, Dr. Crawford, and tallest male, Mr. Joseph.



Fun

While we the MERRs love and find fulfilment in what we do, we bear in mind an adage from the mid-1600s, which stated that “all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.” So here we are at Devon House, taking a few minutes from



our busy schedule to eat the third best ice-cream in the World.

The MER team arranged, in collaboration with the Communications and Public Relations Unit, for the presentation of members of the Heart Foundation of Jamaica to educate the NFPB on the implication of sugar and salt consumption. This is with a mindfulness of the Honourable Minister’s initiative (in collaboration with the HFJ) and campaign re “Are You Drinking Yourself Sick?”



Dr. Tazhmoye Crawford

ADDRESS

The National Family Board, a very important statutory body under the Ministry of Health, was established in 1967 and is currently under a restructuring phase. This means different things to different people, and of course, like any form of reengineering, could have implications, personally and otherwise. Slimming of the State is by no means unique to the Government of Jamaica, nor to our current era, but it is usually an avenue used, according to officials across the World, to enable ‘efficiency’ at best.

I have every confident that regardless of the outcome, growth and prosperity have already been charted for the

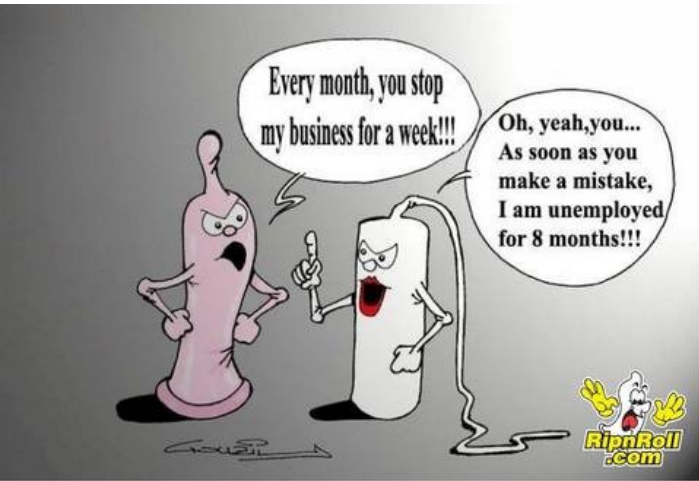
M.E.R team. This is because the majority endeavors to always poise themselves for greatness through cross-training, being avid readers, keeping abreast with current events, and being emotionally intelligent. The team, at all times, under my leadership, has been quite visionary and ensures on a daily basis, that it executes tasks beyond its job descriptions.

One of my favourite quotes about work comes from the prophet Khalil Gibran, who posited, “Work is love made visible. And if you cannot work with love but only with distaste, it is better that you should leave your work and sit at the gate of the temple and take alms of those who work with joy... For to be idle is to become a stranger unto the seasons, and to step out of life's procession...”

The MER team prides itself in distinctive competence, and so where-ever we are placed (despite the discontent of possible separation), we shall undoubtedly shine.

What Have We Been Up To

Ever wonder what have the MERRs (Magnificently efficient and resilient researchers) have been up to since their last newsletter of October 2017?



Monitoring

Monitoring of family planning clinics, and EEHR and HPP HIV site visits continues with strategic guidance and stringent reporting in

being monitored to enable efficient sustainability of the roll-out of the Unique Identification



an effort to enable further programme strengthening. The District Health Information System2 is also one of the components

Code. The key aim is quality readiness.

Evaluation

The following evaluations were conducted

- Impact evaluation of the Hold-On-Hold-Off, Abstain, Get the Skills Intervention Programme. This was fashioned from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee Model (OECD-DAC), within the context of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.
- Impact evaluation of the capacity of health



Capacity Building

The MER team not just conducts training, but also seek to uplift themselves by participating in courses. Some of these were:

- The STATIN’s workshop on Improving
- Data Quality in Jamaica, Jamaica Statistical Society Symposium, and
- UNAIDS’ Results-Based Management

NFPB-MoH Re-Integration Document

As part of the insertion into the NFPB-MoH Re-integration document, specific gaps were identified and ways to address same were highlighted. These gaps, which were identified by the MER team were the absence of family policy; absence of mainstreaming family-friendly services into policies, plans, programmes and projects; absence of measuring family well-being; and limited (or lack thereof) statistics regarding the progress of family by type, socio-economics and (dis) able abilities. Of important note is, it was stated that absolutely no Ministry, Department or Agency in Jamaica was poised to adequately address matters regarding family within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) commitments, save for the NFPB.

Motivation



Employees of the Quarters for the MER Unit, over the period was deservedly awarded to Messrs. Jovani Campbell and Collin Dosunmu (October-December, 2017), Messrs. Andre Black and Ghanesh Graham (January-March, 2018), Messrs. Andre Black and Collin Dosunmu (April-June, 2018), Messrs. Andre Black and Collin Dosunmu (July-September, 2018). In addition,

Mr. Andre Black earned the Employee of the Quarter for the period April-June, 2018 for the organisation overall. Of note too is that Mr. Black earned Employee of the Year for the Unit, and special recognition was extended to Mr. Marvin Joseph for his remarkable workmanship in not just improvement in work quality, but an attitude whereby he builds on criticism, thus made himself a better employee and a better man.




UNDERSTANDING SEXUAL HEALTH

A healthy sexuality is the ability to embrace and enjoy our sexuality throughout our lives. It is an important part of our physical and emotional health.

Being sexually healthy means:

-  Understanding that sexuality is a natural part of life and involves more than sexual behavior.
-  Recognizing and respecting the sexual rights we all share.
-  Having access to sexual health information, education, and care.
-  Making an effort to prevent unintended pregnancies and STDs and seek care and treatment when needed.
-  Being able to experience sexual pleasure, satisfaction, and intimacy when desired.
-  Being able to communicate about sexual health with others including sexual partners and healthcare providers.

 UTEPHealthyMiners
 UTEP_hm
 Healthy_miners

For more information visit: ASHASEXUALHEALTH.ORG

the behalf of the NFPB, the National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence in Jamaica (2017-2027)



Tazhmoye received GBV Action Plan from The Hon Minister Olivia 'Babsy' Grange

The team is also instrumental in ensuring the successful data collection and reporting regarding the organisation's very important thematic days such as World AIDS Day, Safer Sex Week, and Regional Testing Day.



The M.E.R Team along with the Chairperson of the N.F.P.B



Messrs. Emilio Goscott and Marvin Joseph ironing out the data collection kinks

Evaluation Cont.

care professionals regarding training which the MER team conducted in Contraceptive Forecasting Methodologies. Here the Kirkpatrick Model was found useful.

- Process evaluation of the National Integrated Strategic Plan 2014-2019 (under a consultancy arrangement – in collaboration with MoH's HIV/STI/Tb Unit, UNAIDS, PIOJ, CVC)

Contraceptive Logistics Management Information System (CLMIS)

The team was successful at enabling the strengthening of the CLMIS through stringent monitoring, training and reporting, thus resulted in improvement in storage, record-keeping, forecasting, *inter alia*. Note that the findings from the CLMIS survey which the team had conducted, helped in the strengthening possibilities and led to the revision of the contraceptive registers and log books which were distributed to 318 health centres.

Reporting and Mapping

The Unit, given its modus operandi, provided technical guidance and steers the development of the following reports:

- Quarterly Performance
- Global AIDS Monitoring
- National Commitments and Policy Instrument
- Parliament's Public Administration and Appropriations Committee
- Jamaica Survey of Living Condition
- Jamaica Economic and Social Survey
- World Health Assembly
- Directing Council
- United Nation's General Assembly
- Montevideo Consensus (per areas pertinent to the NFPB: rights, needs, re-



GAM Validation



sponsibilities and requirements of girls, boys, adolescents and youths, and universal access to SRH services.

- Sustainable Development Goals



Dialogue for Development Meeting with Prime Minister Andrew Holness



- Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework, *inter alia*

Surveillance Mapping

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, surveillance mapping continues, slated to be a part of the MoH's 10-year Strategic Plan. The MER team assisted with the mapping activities. The areas that were mapped were in relation to health-related Sustainable Development Goals, Vision 2030, Compendium,



Dialogue for Development Meeting

World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Montevideo Consensus, and Global Non-Communicable Diseases.

Planning

The saying goes, "all you need is the plan, the road map and the courage to press onto your destination" (Earl Nightingale). The team, having recognised the importance of putting hard work to planning continues to provide technical guidance and help in the writing of the NFPB's Strategic Business and Operational Plans; the Contraceptive Forecasting plan, which aims to enable accurate procurement of contraceptive methods for women within the reproductive age group (15-49) across the health regions. The goal of the plan is to ensure that the right amount of contraceptive methods



are available in the right quantity, at the right location and at the right time. There is also the preparation of the National Integrated Strategic Plan (2020-2025); the preparation of Jamaica Country Implementation Plan 2017 – United Nations Multi-

Country Sustainable Development Framework; preparation for Health-in-All-Policies; the medium-term socio-economic policy framework 2018-2021 (MTEF) – this is steered via involvement in the Health and Population Thematic Working Groups, whereby the development and prioritization of a compendium of national health indicators took place. The MTEF aims toward key goal achievements such as Monitoring and Evaluation, Transformational Leadership, and changing of the mind-set of the nation. Other planning during the period involved the State of the World of the World Population event, under the theme: World's Apart: Reproductive Health and Rights in an Age of Inequality. The MER team was successful in arranging for the NFPB's Communication Unit to deliver a presentation on "My Mind and Me: Caring for Myself". Of note too is that the Director of the MER Unit, received on



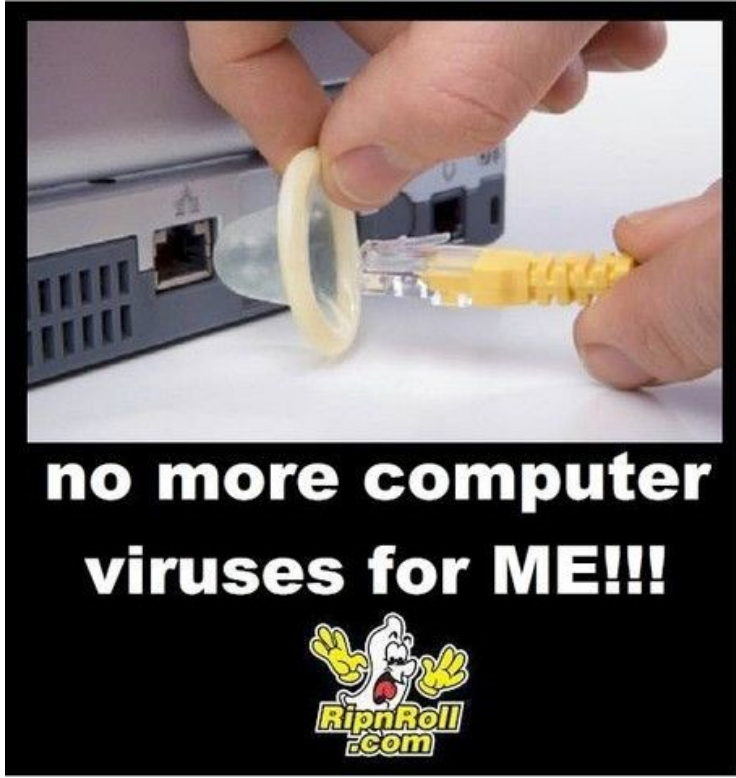
Policies and Protocols

National Population and Development policy

In collaboration with the Planning Institute of Jamaica, the MER team played an integral role in providing information that would enable successful revision of this policy.

The National Data Confidentiality and Security Protocol

The National Data Confidentiality and Security Protocol, which is steered by the MoH, involves multi-sectoral agencies, including the NFPB. The MER team noted the top 10 foci being policy documentations, governance, review



security practices, responsibilities and training, security breaches, risk assessment, connectivity networks, data collection mechanisms, physical security measures, and data storage policy. As the way forward, a final report is anticipated. There is also slated to be an update of the electronic confidentiality security and access tool, the development of user manual of the open data kit, and updating of paper-based documents.

Surveys

Activities/Interventions by the National Family Planning Board, per Zone of Special Operation (ZOSO) – Mount Salem Community, St. James, Jamaica:

The team provided baseline information, conducted survey (in collaboration with the HPP team), analysed data and produced comprehensive report, which noted: Unintended pregnancy/Unplanned pregnancies, misuse of contraceptive methods, substance abuse, sexual coercion, inconsistent condom use, social vulnerabilities, early sexual debut, multiple partner, transactional sex, and limited knowledge of family planning methods.



Condom Market

The NFPB, in its desire to commission a Condom Market Survey, relied heavily on the MER team to develop the relevant Terms of Reference and coordinate the necessary process that would have been involved. This was to best ascertain the market size, availability, affordability, preferred brand/type, major stakeholders (local suppliers) and respective share within the market. This survey is pending.



Reproductive Health

A 12-page document regarding the Repositioning of the Reproductive Health Survey was developed, with a view to examining instruments of studies and survey in order to ascertain whether they contained sections that were parallel to the Reproductive Health Survey (RHS). Subsequently, the team developed a comprehensive terms of reference and was successful at obtaining first phase commitment for the execution of the RHS.

Why invest in sexual and reproductive health?

- ↓ Fewer unintended pregnancies
- ↓ Fewer maternal and newborn deaths
- ↑ Women have greater control over their reproductive lives

Research

In showcasing the work of the NFPB, the team prided itself (with the endorsement and support of the Executive Director), in transforming reports to meet international journal standards. Two pieces were published in peer reviewed international journals. These were: (1) Strengthening of the Contraceptive Logistic Management Information System in Jamaica – published in the international journal of social science and humanities research. This august piece of work, which denotes policy-research interface, may be accessed at [file:///C:/Users/tcrawford/Downloads/Strengthening%20of%20the%20Contraceptive-6225%20\(3\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/tcrawford/Downloads/Strengthening%20of%20the%20Contraceptive-6225%20(3).pdf) The authors are Tazhmoye Crawford, Sacha-Marie Hill, Andre Black, Damion Grant, and Marvin Joseph. (2) Life after Three Scores and Ten in Jamaica: A Phenomenological Analysis – published in the International Journal of Healthcare Sciences. This scholarly piece of work, which denotes policy-programme-research interface may be accessed at <http://www.researchpublish.com/journal/IJHS/Issue-1-April-2018-September-2018/0> It is authored by Dr. Tazhmoye Crawford.

Last year, the team (Damion Grant, Tazhmoye Crawford and Dorrett McLean) published in the International Journal of Healthcare Sciences, a piece entitled The Incidence of Female Sterilization in a Selected Public Hospital in Jamaica. This piece was officially presented at the Midwife Conference, where it was well received.



Library

“Libraries are an essential part of creating and maintaining an educated and literate population” (Doherty, 2014). The MER Unit, under which remit the Library falls, maintains a special Library service over the many years – serving internal and external stakeholders alike. The latter comprises students of primary, secondary, tertiary educational institutions; teachers, public health providers and individuals of other professions. Through this facility, stakeholders are provided with credible and updated information on SRH matters - in the form of journal articles, book chapters, e-books, health bulletins, pamphlets, and internet search.

