

JAMAICA

SECTOR: Health

PROJECT NAME: Health Sector Reform Program

(1028/OC-JA)

TOTAL COST: \$25.7 million

FINANCING:

IDB \$17.7 million

LOCAL \$ 8.0 million

DATE OF APPROVAL: July 16, 1997

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The program will improve financial sustainability, equity, efficiency and quality of health services. The overall goal of the reform is to improve the sector's ability to cope with new epidemiological challenges in a sustainable manner.

The program consists of the following components: (a) development of a National Health Insurance Plan (NHIP) as a more sustainable and equitable health financing strategy; (b) strengthening of the policy-making and regulatory roles of the Ministry of Health (MOH), combined with the decentralization of operational responsibilities to lower levels, resulting in greater accountability and efficiency; (c) improvement in human resource management to assure greater quality and efficiency in services, and the adaptation of training programs in line with new sectoral needs; (d) strengthening of health promotion and selected critical gaps in service delivery; and (e) preinvestment studies to improve the rationalization of the country's network of health facilities.

CONSULTANTS: Insurance and management specialists will be hired as consultants to undertake the following activities: (a) revise the financial model, as well as risk management, and the legal and regulatory framework (international competitive bidding-ICB); (b) design a services package and handle accreditation and quality assurance (ICB); (c) define provider reimbursement mechanisms (ICB); (d) target public subsidiaries and update baseline information; (e) review and prepare operational

procedures for the restructured MOH (national competitive bidding-NCB); and (f) review and prepare operational procedures for regional health authorities and parishes (ICB).

GOODS AND EQUIPMENT: The following items will be procured: (a) vehicles for two regional maintenance units (ICB, Lot 1); (b) computer equipment, including hardware and software (NCB, Lot 2); and (c) tools and equipment for hospital equipment maintenance (NCB, Lot 3).

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