

## Jamaica Teams with Neighbours to Improve Diabetic Care

The Ministry of Health has teamed with several neighbouring countries, and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), on a 'Quality of Diabetes Care Improvement Project'.

Giving an update on the project on Wednesday (November 11), at a Health Fair at the Mandeville Comprehensive Clinic, Medical Officer of Health for Manchester, Dr. Beverly Wright, said that the goal of the project is to improve the quality of life for people with diabetes. The project involves the design, implementation and evaluation of quality improvement measures for diabetes care in seven health centres in Jamaica: St. Jago, Maxfield, Kingston and St. Andrew Comprehensive, Windward Road, St. Ann's Bay, Montego Bay Type V, and the Manchester Comprehensive clinics.

Partnering countries are: Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, St. Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. "All of them received nutrition education and 50% had individualised nutrition assessment and counselling. Training of caregivers was done in blood sugar measurement and use of machines," Dr. Wright said. She stated that strengthening of relationship with caregivers is part of the project, as well as continued diabetes education and self-management. The piloting of the Jamaican leg of the project was done at the Mandeville Comprehensive Clinic.