

## **Health Services Resilience Programme (BA-U0003) Summary of Investments**

The Health Services Resilience Program aims to reduce the burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and improve mental well-being, thereby decreasing disability and premature mortality in Barbados.

Key Investments include:

### Roseville Halfway House

Location: Colleton, St. Peter

The Roseville Halfway House (RHH), opened in 1990, provided a step-down level of mental health care and was an initiative, established as an expansion of the Psychiatric Hospital's rehabilitation, recovery and community reintegration programme. The Halfway House, was a means of assisting patients with reintegration to community living, facilitate continued treatment and recovery and foster independence and self-management of mental illness by individuals outside the confines of institutionalised care.

The residence was established as a therapeutic community, and was guided by a psychosocial model of rehabilitation which incorporates medical, psychological and social treatment modalities. The objective of the programme was to assist persons in regaining their social skills, emotional confidence and independence, which may have been lost during their hospitalisation. The facility was closed in 2015.

The residents of the RHH benefited and will continue to benefit from 24-hour supervision, general counselling and treatment, training in living skills (cooking, laundry, grooming, money management, communication and social interaction), vocational training and assistance with finding employment or continuing their education.

The re-opening of the RHH supports the target of expanding community mental health services, to provide a safe and supportive environment to aid persons in their transition from hospital care to community living. It will also serve as a vital resource for those persons who are well enough to be discharged, assisting them in the process of rebuilding their lives and managing their mental health pro-actively and effectively.

Having a safe, substance-free, healthy environment with peer support greatly assists persons in stabilising their lives and improve their chances of long-term recovery.

### Geriatric Hospital upgrades (Phase II)

#### Location: Waterford, St. Michael

The existing Geriatric Hospital in Barbados, located at Beckles Road, St. Michael, has served as the main public facility for elderly care for decades. It is now however outdated and overcrowded, with demand outstripping availability of beds.

Barbados has one of the fastest-aging populations in the Caribbean projected at nearly 20% of the population by 2030. This has seen a need to enhance and expand service delivery and its supporting provisions, in a purpose-built setting.

The new Geriatric Hospital at Waterford represents a significant investment in Barbados' health infrastructure. It responds directly to the aging population, NCD burden, and facility resilience needs, ensuring that elderly citizens receive modern, dignified, and sustainable care. It is designed to enhance geriatric care delivery, improve patient outcomes, and promote innovation in service delivery. Key features include:

- Increased bed capacity (over 300 beds)
- Enhanced Therapeutic Infrastructure: i.e therapy pool and occupational therapy spaces.
- Built-in Resilience: Built to withstand 155 mph hurricane winds, seismic events, and climate shocks.
- Sustainability Measure: Solar PV system, advanced wastewater treatment, rainwater harvesting, energy-efficient design.

Phase II of the New Geriatric Hospital will see the addition of over 200 beds.

### National Rehabilitation Centre

#### Location: New Geriatric Hospital Site-Waterford, St. Michael

Barbados faces a growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), trauma-related injuries, mental health challenges, and an aging population. Current rehabilitation

services to address these challenges are oftentimes fragmented, under-resourced, and inaccessible to many citizens.

Establishing a National Rehabilitation Centre would offer cohesive, affordable, and contemporary rehabilitation services, enhancing health outcomes, minimizing disabilities, and fostering social reintegration. It seeks to address the integration of care provision in supporting the disease burden response, address accessibility and reduce long term disability and attendant costs.

### Senior Citizens Village

#### Location: Odle's Glen, St. George

The Senior Citizens Village in St. George will provide affordable shared housing for capable elderly persons who cannot afford private care facilities. This project offers a safe community environment on a 3 acre semi-rural parcel of land near the Frederick Miller Polyclinic. It seeks to construct 15 to 17 single-storey residences and communal spaces for the elderly. This activity is facilitated by the Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affair and seeks to expand community-based elderly care services for those in need.

### Expansion at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's (QEH) Enmore Site

#### Location: Martindale's Road St. Michael

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital is Barbados' primary tertiary care facility.

The Enmore Redevelopment Project is an important initiative designed to enhance QEH facilities and improve the delivery of healthcare services. As part of this process, several departments will be temporarily relocated to facilitate construction and refurbishment works.

This will see the redevelopment of vacated QEH-corridor hospital buildings at Enmore into sub-clinical (i.e. state of the art laboratory, outpatient services), administrative (including finance, human resources), day-care, and parking uses. This development proposes to also include an advanced Oncology Centre for cancer treatment, a burn unit and additional beds (an approximate 40% increase). Staff amenities (i.e. gym and crèche) are also proposed.

This redevelopment aligns with other current modernisation initiatives for the Hospital regarding waste management, morgue ventilation, Information Communication Technology, and medical equipment.

### Digital Health Systems

Supports the necessary digital infrastructure for the Health Services Resilience Programme and to streamline health information. The initiative seeks to enable governance, effective use, interoperability, and protection of the national digital health ecosystem while ensuring patient ownership and access to their health data. It will also see the design and development of a National Health Information Exchange Platform to enable secure, trusted, and patient-centered data sharing across providers and communities.