

Summary of the WHO-AIMS Project Proposal to Strengthen the Mental Health System in Jamaica

This project proposal is based on the results of a comprehensive assessment of the mental health system of Jamaica using the WHO-AIMS instrument, which will soon be posted on the WHO website -

http://www.who.int/mental_health/who_aims_country_reports/en/index.html

Title of Project: Strengthening the community Mental Health Service

Objectives: The overall objective of this proposed project is to improve the existing community mental health services. The aim is to achieve this by:

1. Strengthening the community outreach team
2. Treating and rehabilitating patients with severe, persistent mental illness in the community more effectively, and reducing admission to hospitals
3. Raising awareness, preventing mental disorders and promoting mental health through public education.

Expected Outcomes: This project proposal outlines a number of specific outcomes, including:

1. 17 mobile community mental health teams will be established (one per parish/zone)
2. 95% of non-compliant patients will be stabilised and maintained in their community
3. All schizophrenic patients will be assessed on a monthly basis
4. Patients in crisis will be responded to within 12 hours
5. A 20% reduction in the number of homeless people who are exposed to various risk factors
6. A 10% increase in the number of rehabilitated patients
7. A decrease in the number of patients who are readmitted to hospital.

Expected Impact: There are two identified levels of expected impact of this project:

System Level:

1. An increase in the number of patients seen overall, with fewer patients requiring hospital admission
2. Increased patient follow-up, resulting in improved patient compliance
3. Improved ability of mental health offices to monitor and provide adequate treatment to their patients
4. Increase in the educational and promotional activities resulting in a reduction in stigma and improve the public knowledge on maintaining good mental health

User Level:

1. Improved accessibility of services in the parish/community
2. Improved client satisfaction.

For further information on this project and resource requirements please contact:

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