

Bustamante Hospital gets US\$40,000

■ KINGSTON

THE Sandals Foundation has donated US\$40,000 (Ja\$6 million) worth of equipment and resources to help the Corporate Area-based Bustamante Hospital for Children care for critically ill neonates, babies, and children being transferred from areas devastated by Hurricane Melissa.

A suite of machines and supplies, including a neonatal ventilator, infusion pump, blood gas analyser, catheter, blood pressure machine, humidifier, nebuliser/ suction machine, IV Pole, exam light and more, have been purchased by the philanthropic arm of Sandals Resorts International – building the capacity of the island's only specialist paediatric hospital.

'Four of our island's major paediatric centres have been affected by the hurricane, so here at the Bustamante Hospital for Children, we have made a commitment that we will take the paediatric surgical patients, because we have the surgical specialists, the neonates, and any other sub-specialties such as cardiology, renal patients, and more,' said Chief Medical Officer at the Bustamante Hospital for Children Dr Michelle-Ann Dawson.

'It's going to be difficult for parents because some may have to be separated temporarily from their families, but we are also looking at how we can support the parents with care packages, with information, dialogue, and psychological support,' Dawson said .

Within days of the island being hit by the category 5 storm, members of the philanthropic organisation were in dialogue with the Ministry of Health and Wellness to determine critical resources needed to strengthen the services and capacity that were anticipated.

Executive director at the Sandals Foundation, Heidi Clarke, said, 'Our children and healthcare are two areas that resonate with us, especially in times of emergency. Being able to work alongside the Ministry of Health and our doctors and nurses that are working round the clock to serve those most affected– we are very pleased to be able to hand over this equipment that we hope will help in the weeks ahead until our other hospitals are able to recover.'

'We are happy that with your donations yesterday, we were able to give the best care to a preterm neonate 26 weeks gestation weighing only 830g that we accepted last night,' she said.