Information needs assessment
CSOs working in NCDs in the Caribbean: Preliminary findings

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22 April 2016
The **UK Health Forum** is a charitable alliance of professional and public interest organisations working to reduce the risk of avoidable non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by developing evidence-based public health **policy** and supporting its implementation through advocacy, **modelling** and **information** provision.
What is an information need?

“the motivation people think and feel to seek information”

an information need is the awareness of an individual that they are experiencing an uncertainty which requires a ‘stimulus’, or piece of information in order to resolve that uncertainty, and also the individual must be equipped to recognise the existence of their uncertainty.

Benefits of INAs

- Prominence of best current evidence to support decision making
- Help to identify areas for development
- Support decision-making
- Justify spending on information provision

Aims of this INA

- Support public health ncd priorities of CSOs of the Caribbean
- Explore how evidence is used
- Explore any unique challenges that exist and any barriers to information
- Highlight opportunities and possible solutions
How do you access the information that you need?
What do you use that information for?

- Personal development, 76%
- Keeping up-to-date, 84%
- Teaching/training, 66%
- Report writing, 52%
- Grant proposals/Bid writing, 34%
- Campaign development, 42%
- Policy making, 40%
- Other, 12%

What do you use that information for?
What barriers do you experience in accessing information?

- Uncertain where to look for information, 22
- Registration/participation fees, 48
- Cost of subscription, 44
- Internet access, 16
- Cost of travel, 39
- Lack of time, 39
- Bias in information available, 20
• 87% access information from other countries to use in local setting

• 50/50 whether information on health situation in their country is readily available

How could collaboration be improved?
What is a Community of Practice?

• Enable collaboration, sharing, best practice and professional development in online environment
• Can be open or closed to a particular group of people

What would be your main reason for joining a CoP?

• Keeping up to date (n=58)
• Sharing information (n=55)
• Linking with peers (n=45)
• Other (n=7)

What do we know about CoPs?

• Composed of observers, passive and creative contributors
• High levels of reading activity, low levels of posting
• Online environment where users feel comfortable
• Success in CoP ‘champion’ and administration/facilitation
• Supported by face-to-face meetings
Confidence in information literacy skills

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very confident</th>
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<th>Neutral</th>
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What information resources would make your life easier?
Recommenda(tions

• Increased sharing of information and collaboration between organisation and countries by introducing Communities of Practice
• Find ways to make meetings more accessible eg. live streaming, video presentations
• Training in critical appraisal and IT
• Further research to gain a deeper understanding of barriers to information
Thank you

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