



Caribbean Civil Society Health Systems Strengthening Meeting

“Strengthening Health Systems, Supporting NCD Action”

Kindly facilitated by Ministry of Health of the Commonwealth of Dominica & The Dominica Cancer Society

October 22nd 2014, Fort Young Hotel, Dominica

CONCEPT NOTE

This meeting is supported by the NCD Alliance and generously made possible by a grant from Medtronic Philanthropy



The NCD Alliance
Putting non-communicable diseases
on the global agenda

The NCD Alliance was founded by:



**International
Diabetes
Federation**



**International Union Against
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease**
Health solutions for the poor



**WORLD HEART
FEDERATION®**

Background

In September 2013, the Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) was awarded a grant under the NCD Alliance (NCDA) programme **“Strengthening Health Systems, Supporting NCD Action”**. The programme is aimed at strengthening national and regional civil society NCD advocacy efforts in Brazil, South Africa and key Caribbean Community Countries (CARICOM) to raise demand and advocate to governments to strengthen health systems through an integrated approach to action on NCDs.

The deliverables of the grant include: hosting a multi-stakeholder NCD meeting; production of a Civil Society NCD Regional Status Report; production and implementation of a Civil Society Advocacy Plan; and hosting of this health systems strengthening (HSS) multi-stakeholder meeting on October 22nd, 2014.

The WHO Global Action Plan, for the Prevention and Control of NCDs, 2013-2014 identifies **“Strengthening and orienting health systems to address the prevention and control of NCDs and the underlying social determinants through people centred primary health care and universal health coverage”** as one of the approaches to achieve the overarching goal of a 25% relative reduction in risk of premature mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases by 2025. Further, the Outcome Document from the 2014 UN GA NCD Review calls on countries to strengthen and reorient health systems to address the prevention and control of NCDs and the underlying social determinants through people-centred primary health care and universal health coverage throughout the life cycle.

The WHO has set 6 core strategies (six building blocks) in its approach to health systems strengthening, namely: health delivery, healthy workforce, health information systems, equitable access to medicines and technologies, health care financing, leadership and governance. See http://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf. The Chronic Care model is another framework that has application in NCD Health System Strengthening. <http://www.who.int/chp/knowledge/publications/icccglobalreport.pdf?ua=1>.

In the Caribbean health care is provided by public sector, private health sector and by civil society organisations (CSOs); thus all three of these sectors have made valuable contributions towards health systems. In some Caribbean countries, CSOs provide a significant proportion of health care services in some territories. Health services provided by the CSOs need to be acknowledged and CSOs generally need to be engaged in the dialogue about health systems strengthening - not only as service providers but also as CSO representatives of the people for whom the health care is provided. It is timely for a multi-sectoral meeting on specific aspects of health systems improvement to be held with the engagement and participation of civil society including patient advocacy groups.

The HCC NCD Regional Status Report (RSR), released at the NCD Child meeting held in Port of Spain March 2014, reported gaps in health systems which impacted negatively on NCD prevention and control. Building on the momentum created by the RSR, this meeting will be the catalyst for greater understanding of key issues around HSS and provide a roadmap for civil society led HSS advocacy working in partnership with public and private health care providers.

Meeting Objectives & Expected Outcomes

The **goal** of this meeting is to encourage a greater understanding of what HSS means in the Caribbean and provide a platform for evidence-informed CSO-led NCD advocacy within the context of HSS.

The **Objectives** are:

1. To share experiences and lessons learned in the delivery of NCD care provided by the public health, private health and civil society sectors of the community.
2. To showcase best practices in HSS and NCDs.
3. To identify and discuss HSS barriers and challenges with regards to NCDs.
4. To make recommendations for the way forward in addressing HSS barriers and building upon lessons learned and best practices.
5. To build CSO advocacy capacity around HSS.
6. To support a CSO 'Statement of Commitment' for improvements in HSS as an important part of addressing NCDs.

Cross cutting themes will include integration, patient empowerment and multi-sectoral collaboration.

The **Expected Outcomes** are:

1. Civil society, public health sector and private health sector, better aware and informed of issues related to HSS in their own areas of health care delivery and that of others.
2. CSO 'Statement of commitment' for HSS improvements.

Participants & Beneficiaries

Participants at the workshop will be representatives of: Caribbean civil society organisations; regional governments; and private health care providers.

Project Management

The workshop is being organised by the HCC.

Sponsors & Partners

This meeting is supported by the NCD Alliance and generously made possible by a grant from Medtronic Philanthropy. Official Meeting Partners include: The Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA). The meeting was kindly facilitated the Ministry of Health of the Commonwealth of Dominica and the Dominica Cancer Society. The work of HCC would not be possible without the kind core support of Sagicor Life Inc. Barbados.

Programme

Activities at the workshop will include presentations, facilitated discussions, a breakout group discussion and a plenary session. Participants will spend the morning session reviewing and discussing the principles and practices of HSS with examples of best practices. The afternoon will be spent in breakout groups and a plenary session, followed by a summary of specific next steps, led by CSOs, and informed by the outcomes of the NCD RSR.