



A Regional Alliance of Caribbean Health NGOs and civil society organizations with the remit to combat chronic diseases (NCDs) and their associated risk factors and conditions.

The Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) is a registered non-governmental organisation formed in 2008. Membership of the HCC presently consists of more than 60 Caribbean-based health NGOs and over 65 not-for-profit organisations. The HCC has in excess of 350 individual members based in the Caribbean and across the globe.

Mission

The mission of the HCC is to harness the power of civil society, in collaboration with government, private enterprise, academia, and international partners, as appropriate, in the development and implementation of plans for the prevention and management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among Caribbean people.

Vision

The reduction of death and disability from NCDs among people in the Caribbean.

Values or Guiding principles

The HCC is an inclusive Caribbean civil society network providing opportunity for civil society organisations (CSOs) and public, private organizations both nationally and regionally, and their members, with core values of transparency and integrity to come together in response to the pandemic of NCDs. It is an alliance that upholds and pursues the strongest democratic principles and gives significant consideration to equity issues, favouring the more vulnerable and disadvantaged. It provides encouragement towards the exchange of experience and knowledge through the provision of an environment that enhances personal and professional development that empowers people.

Strategic Objectives, 2012-2016

The HCC 2012-2016 Strategic Plan has four strategic priority areas: **Advocacy; Enhancing Communication; Capacity Building; and Promoting mHealth and eHealth.** The strategic objectives are to: 1. Contribute and participate in all aspects of advocacy as a tool for influencing positive change around NCDs through mobilisation of Caribbean people and the creation of a mass movement aimed at responding to the NCDs; 2. Develop effective methods of communication for and among members of the Coalition and the people of the Region; 3. Build capacity among health NGOs and civil society in the Region; and 4. Promote eHealth and mHealth to contribute to NCD public education campaigns and programmes. These four strategic priority areas reflect that the HCC is a regional alliance with the expressed purpose of adding value to civil society in the Caribbean, and empowering people, specifically in the response to NCDs. It further reflects the HCC's mandate to encourage and foster the execution of NCD projects and programmes in-country, undertaken and led by regional civil society organizations.

Organisational Structure

The HCC is a regional organisation with a Secretariat located in Barbados. Our core staff consists of a full-time Executive Director, a part time Information Technology Coordinator and long-term volunteers in the following areas: mobile Health, e Health and social media, social media content, and public relations and marketing.

The HCC is governed by a Board of Directors - all passionate experts in the field of NCD prevention based throughout the Caribbean, and are elected every 2 years. Professor Sir Trevor Hassell is Chairman of the Board. Sir George Alleyne, Director Emeritus of PAHO is Patron of the HCC, and Dr. James Hospedales, Executive Director Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), is Special Advisor to the HCC.

The HCC has five categories of membership: 1. Organization Member (Caribbean Health NGOs); 2. Individual Member (Caribbean); 3. Associate member (Caribbean), Not-for-profit organizations; 4. Supporting member (Caribbean), For-profit

organizations, based in the Caribbean Region; and 5. Supporting member (International), an individual, health NGO, Not-for-profit or For-profit organization, based outside of the Caribbean Region.

Our network connects CSOs and individuals with an interest in addressing NCDs in the Caribbean. The HCC is committed to a 'whole of society' approach which engages multiple, diverse stakeholders around priority NCD issues, creating shared visions and growing strong partnerships to realize collective goals. The HCC is in *Official Relations* with PAHO and has strong linkages with CARPHA and UWI. Participatory approaches underpin our activities to ensure that our membership is at the core, driving the strategic focus of the HCC. The HCC's relationship with its members is highly interactive with ongoing sharing of organisational activities to facilitate wide regional and global dissemination of good practices, awareness building and cross-fertilization. The HCC works closely with national, regional and international leaders in NCD prevention to leverage the power of civil society by strengthening and supporting our membership in the implementation of programmes aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality associated with NCDs.

Snapshot of Current and Recent Projects

1. **'Strengthening Health Systems, Supporting NCD Action'** as National Implementing Partner for this NCD Alliance grant programme aimed at actively supporting regional CSO-led NCD advocacy and action through advocacy efforts to monitor national progress on NCDs and advocate for improved NCD policies and the strengthening of health systems.
2. **Caribbean Civil Society Alcohol Advocacy Capacity Strengthening Initiative** aimed at creating a cadre of highly trained alcohol policy and prevention advocates. This includes the establishment of an online platform for Caribbean alcohol advocates: Caribbean Alcohol Policy Action Network (CARIBAPAN). Supporters include United Kingdom Health Forum (UKHF), Health Action Partnership International (HAPI) and the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO).
3. **Global Standardized Hypertension Treatment Project (GSHTP)** aims to support the development of a strategy and framework for standardizing hypertension medication treatment to have worldwide applicability. The HCC is the project manager for this, the first pilot in the Caribbean and globally. The GSHTP is an initiative of the CDC and PAHO. Local Barbados collaborators include UWI and the Ministry of Health.
4. **Caribbean Civil Society Cervical Cancer Advocacy Initiative** funded by the American Cancer Society Meet the Targets Grant, includes the following key outputs: Civil Society Cervical Cancer Advocacy Capacity Building of 20 regional Cancer Societies; development of tools (Advocacy Handbook & Planning Tool for Civil Society and Social Media How-to-Guide for Civil Society); collaboration with PAHO to produce a Caribbean Cervical Cancer Situation Assessment; supporting civil society in the development and implementation of cervical cancer advocacy initiatives using tools developed through participatory approaches; establishment of a platform for collective Caribbean Cervical Cancer Advocacy - The Caribbean Cancer Alliance; and supporting regional advocacy at the individual and organisational level through the Caribbean Cervical Cancer Electronic Petition (CCCEP) demanding increased Caribbean women's access to affordable Cervical Cancer screening (~13,000 signatures to date).
5. **The American Cancer Society** Meet the Targets grant is currently funding expanded cervical cancer screening, education and referral as well as documentation of the civil society led tobacco control experience in the Caribbean.
6. **Caribbean Civil Society Cervical Cancer Prevention Initiative (C4PI)** funded by the Australian Government Direct Assistance Programme (DAP) strengthens Caribbean civil society capacity around cervical cancer prevention, treatment and control through the implementation of multi-country cervical cancer prevention initiatives aimed at building the capacity of key Caribbean civil society actors to respond more effectively to the community-based needs for cervical cancer prevention, treatment and control.
7. **The BPCCA – 'Blood Pressure Control Through Community Action'** funded by the Australian Government Direct Assistance Program (DAP), aims to strengthen the capacity of HCC member CSOs to more effectively deliver interventions aimed at contributing to a WHO determined set of nine voluntary global NCD targets including reduction in raised blood pressure by 25% by the year 2025. The proposal funds civil society organisation (CSO) projects of hypertension detection and management.
8. The **NCD Commissions Strengthening Project (NCD CSP)** is a collaborative effort of the HCC and the Commonwealth Secretariat, working to strengthen the multisectoral response to NCDs in the Caribbean, including contributing to the strengthening of National NCD Commissions in the Caribbean.

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