



Caribbean
Public Health
Agency

CARPHA

Preventing disease
Promoting and protecting health

Determining and Implementing Policy (CARICOM commitments) at Regional and National Level

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**HCC Conference: NCD Advocacy, Accountability and
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Overview

- Structure of CARICOM
 - Treaty
 - Organs
 - Institutions
- Caribbean Cooperation in Health (CCH)
- POS Declaration on NCDs
- Lessons learned, reflections, conclusions

CARICOM

- Treaty of Chaguaramas (revised 2001); 15+5 countries
- Heads of Government (Quasi-Cabinet; PM St Kitts & Nevis is lead Head for Health & human development; 2/year meetings)
- Secretariat (SG Irwin LaRocque; ASG HSD Douglas Slater)
- Ministerial Councils
 - Community Council
 - **COHSOD (Human & Social Development)**
 - **COTED (Trade & Economic)**
 - COFCOR (Foreign and Community Relations)
 - COFAP (Finance and Planning)
 - CONSLE (National Security and Law Enforcement)

CARICOM Continued

- Institutions of CARICOM (23): CARPHA, CARDI, CROSQ, CDB, CXC, CCJ, CLIC, UWI, OTN and CSME Units
- CARICOM Strategic Plan 2015-2019 (1st ever):
 - Pillars: SOC (CARPHA, CCJ, CXC, UWI); ECN, ENV, TEC
 - Institutional Clusters responsible for implementation of the Strat Plan,

Policy initiatives in CARICOM

- Initiative can come from:
 - Ministerial Council, e.g., COHSOD
 - Lead Heads
 - Institutions, e.g., CARPHA, CARICOM Sec
 - Member states

CARICAD Study commissioned for CARPHA



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Caribbean Cooperation in Health (CCH)

- Pre-CCH (e.g., SPACGEM)
- CCH-I 1985-95 (Measles elimination)
- CCH-II 1996-2005 (Massive Scale up HIV/AIDS response)
- CCH-III 2006-2015 (NCDs raised to global level; CARPHA established)
- CCH-IV (2016-2025; multi sectoral, all-of-society)



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1st CARICOM SUMMIT on CHRONIC NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO — September 15, 2007

UNITE AGAINST
CHRONIC DISEASES



The CARICOM Heads Summit on NCDs, 2007.

- “We, the Heads of State of the Caribbean Community....”
- 15-point, 27 commitment “Port of Spain Declaration”; multi-sectoral
- **Tobacco** – Ratify and implement the WHO FCTC: taxes, packaging, earmark some revenue for health promotion & disease prevention, ban smoking in public places
- **Alcohol**- use alcohol taxes to finance NCD prevention and control
- **Healthy Diet** - Trade policies on food imports, agriculture policies, Healthy school meals, Food labeling, reduce or eliminate trans fats
- **Physical activity**-physical education in schools; physical activity in work places; improve public facilities for physical activity
- **Health services** - screening and management of NCDs to achieve 80% coverage by 2012; primary and secondary prevention, comprehensive health education
- **Monitoring** - Surveillance of risk factors; monitoring of the actions agreed upon in Declaration (CARICOM Secretariat, CAREC, UWI & PAHO/WHO)
- **Mobilizing Society** - National Commissions on NCDs; including public, private sector and civil society, media and communications industry
- **Caribbean Wellness Day** – Second Saturdays in September



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Raising the Priority of NCDs in the Caribbean: Lessons learned from the POS Summit

- political structure and history of Caribbean cooperation in health
- not a single event but a process
- importance of political processes
- importance of data packaged to “*speak to head, heart, and pocket*”
- collaboration, coordination, and partnerships
- importance of champions

Hospedales, Samuels, Cummings, Gollop, Greene: Rev Panam Salud Publica. 2011;30(4):393–400.



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Cont'd

- *‘Progress moderate due to limited resources and an inadequate mechanism for establishing milestones for “all of government” actions.’*
- *“...did not establish an implementation matrix with clear short- and longer-term targets and milestones for health and, importantly, non-health government agencies.”*
- For countries that had fair implementation...
- Importance of Monitoring
- Importance of Regional support to implementation

Monitoring compliance with high-level commitments in health: the case of the CARICOM Summit on Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases

- Showed the CARICOM monitoring grid can be used to document progress on the WHO NCD indicators quickly and comprehensibly.
- Annual reporting mechanism essential to encourage steady progress and highlight areas needing correction.
- Underscores the importance of accountability mechanisms for encouraging and monitoring compliance with political commitments acquired.

Samuels, Kirton, Guebert. Bull World Health Organ 2014;92:270



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Compliance 'catalysts' for action on Summit commitments (Kirton et al)

- Placement of the issues in Declaration
- Accountability architecture
- Civil society pressure
- Keeping the issue on other high level meeting agendas
- Named agencies responsible
- Champions
- Funding
- Coordination mechanisms

Universal policy implementation requirements

- The policy/law
- Promotion
- Enforcement

A Decade and a Half of Calls for Action – Summary of Political Declarations and Policy Frameworks to Promote Healthier Food Environments in the Caribbean Region

- 2016: Evaluation of the 2007 CARICOM Heads NCD Summit Declaration
- 2016: Forty-First Meeting of the COTED, Economic Sector Related Aspects of Child Obesity Prevention
- 2015: CARICOM Strategic Plan for the Caribbean
- 2014: CARPHA, Plan for Prevention and Control of Childhood Obesity
- 2011: Aruba Declaration on Obesity; Attention to Childhood Obesity
- 2011: CARICOM Regional Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan
- 2011: CARICOM/PAHO Strategic Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of NCDs for Countries of CARICOM
- 2010: CARICOM Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy
- 2009: Liliendaal Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security
- 2007: Declaration of St. Ann: Implementing Agriculture and Food Policies
- 2007: CARICOM Heads, Declaration of POS: Uniting to Stop NCDs
- 2005: Caribbean Commission on Health and Development

HLM to Develop a Roadmap on Multi-Sectoral Action in Countries to Prevent Childhood Obesity through Improved Food and Nutrition Security

- 6-point policy package:
 - Mandatory nutritional labelling;
 - guidelines /standards for school feeding;
 - marketing to children;
 - Product reformulation reducing salt, fat, sugar;
 - trade and fiscal measures;
 - food chain incentives fruit and veg

Caribbean Export Development Agency, CARDI, CARICAD, CARICOM Secretariat (HSD, TEI), CARPHA, CCJ, CDB, CDF, CLIC, CMC, CRFM, CROSQ, CSME, CXC, CARICOM OTN, FAO, HCC, HEU, IICA, OECS, PAHO/WHO, UWI (BARBADOS February 8-10, 2017)



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Nutritional labelling implementation roadmap

- Develop standard for Nutritional labelling (Tech Cttee CROSQ) - DONE
- Approval of Standard by COTED – DONE
- Revise Standard
- Adoption at national level as a voluntary standard
- Mandatory/compulsory via Minister of Trade acting on recommendation of D/NSB, 'Gazetted'
- Capacity building
- Enforcement/monitoring (NSB CSOs)
- Promoting the Standard (CARICOM CSME HCC CARPHA others)
- Consumer communications; traffic light /warning labels
- M&E of implementation (NSBs, CROSQ)

Reflections/Conclusions

- Determining and implementing policy complex and iterative
- Separate determining from implementing; regional from national, while recognising “intermesticity” of the region
- Many factors influence policy
- NCD prevention policies in and out of health sector; government leadership
- Role of leaders, regional institutions, relationships, funding, **civil society**
- CARICOM regional integration processes; CCH-IV
- Learning lessons and adapting; feedback loops; implementation research