



Strengthening The Multi-Sectoral Response to NCDs in the Caribbean NATIONAL NCD COMMISSIONS

In Partnership with the Barbados Ministry of Health

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CONCEPT NOTE



Background

In 2007, Heads of Government of CARICOM Countries held a Summit on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) at the end of which the “Declaration of Port of Spain, Uniting to Stop the Epidemic of NCDs” was issued. The Declaration called for, inter alia, the establishment of National NCD Commissions (NNCDCs) in member countries as a multi-sector approach at the national level to address NCDs. Arising out of that Summit the Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) was established as a regional NCD alliance aimed at providing a multi-sectoral civil society response at the regional level. NNCCDCs have subsequently been established in some Caribbean countries with varying levels of effectiveness and the HCC has played a strong role in advancing the multi-sectoral action regionally and in-country.

A Civil Society Regional Status Report titled “Responses to NCDs in the Caribbean Community” conducted by the HCC in 2014 revealed that Governments of the Region have accepted the concept of a ‘whole of Government’ response, but national health frameworks for policy implementation are weak in the majority of CARICOM countries. The report positively highlighted that almost all CARICOM countries have ratified the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) but noted that few have implemented the provisions of the Treaty, or put in place programmes for treatment of tobacco dependency or enacted legislation banning sponsorship and advertising of tobacco products. Attention was drawn in the report to the fact that no national policies against advertising of unhealthy foods to children, and none against the harmful use of alcohol and national population salt reduction initiatives exist in the Caribbean except possibly for a single country. Community based physical activity is encouraged and supported, and some countries have put specific policies in place to this end. Fairly robust health systems provide services for NCDs in most CARICOM countries, with the majority providing medications for NCDs at highly subsidised cost at point of delivery.

More recently, with further support of the NCD Alliance and the Commonwealth Secretariat the HCC undertook an “*Assessment of National NCD Commissions in the Caribbean: Recommendations for more effective multi-sectoral mechanisms in response to NCDs*”. This report scheduled to be published this year, includes detailed findings and assessments of National NCD Commissions, shared examples of case studies of functioning National NCD Commissions, detailed lessons learned, provided recommendations for structure and roles of Commissions together with specific outputs.

Supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat, the HCC is presently producing a report entitled “*Implementation Framework for National NCD Commissions: Contributing NCD policy development in the Caribbean*”. This report, together with the outcomes of a private sector NCD meeting hosted by the HCC on June 4th, 2015, will be used to inform the scope of technical assistance aimed at selected National NCD Commissions.

Meeting Goal, Objectives & Expected Outcomes

The **goal** of this meeting is to broaden the ‘whole of society’, multi-sectoral response to NCDs in the Caribbean through the strengthening of National NCD Commissions in CARICOM countries and the development of a NNCCDCs implementation framework.

The **objectives** of the meeting are to:

1. Broadly discuss past, current and future models for multisectoral NCD action in the Caribbean.
2. Share the HCC report on NCD Commissions in CARICOM and discuss recommendations for further development of NCD Commissions or their equivalents in the region.
3. Share and discuss the draft of Report on the role of the private sector in the multi-sectoral response to NCDs.
4. Share, discuss and finalise NNCDs Implementation Framework.
5. Discuss the scope of technical support for the strengthening of NCD Commissions in 2 selected countries on a pilot basis.

The **outputs and expected outcomes** are:

1. Increased awareness of the multi-sectoral response to NCDs in the Caribbean with a focus on NCD Commissions and their equivalents.
2. Finalisation of the National NCD Commission Implementation Framework.
3. Consensus on the scope of technical support for the strengthening of selected NCD Commissions.

Participants & Beneficiaries

Participants at the meeting will be representatives of: National NCD Commissions; Caribbean civil society organisations including academia; regional governments; regional public health institutions; and the private sector.

Sponsors & Partners

This meeting is supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat. Official meeting partners include the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO); the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA); the NCD Alliance and the Barbados Ministry of Health. Further support for this meeting has been provided by the Courtyard by Marriott Bridgetown, Barbados. The work of the HCC would not be possible without the kind support of Sagikor Life Inc.