Caribbean Public Health Agency

Preventing disease
Promoting and protecting health
Determining and Implementing Policy (CARICOM commitments) at Regional and National Level

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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
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)
Preventing disease, promoting and protecting health
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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
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._
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
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

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