TWG Perspectives: Priority Areas for HCC NCD Advocacy Action

HCC Advocacy Technical Working Group (TWG)

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Preamble

• Advocacy areas evidence based
  – Experiences of TWG as members of Caribbean NCD Civil Society Organisations
  – Findings of the Civil Society Regional Status Report
• Important to Identify Lessons Learned
  – Document advocacy experiences
  – Learn from each others’ experiences
  – Translate experiences/approaches/strategies
• CSOs are effective as watchdogs placing pressure on entities (gvt’t, orgs) to meet national and regional commitments
Overview of TWG Priority Areas

• General
• Risk Factors
  – Tobacco use
  – Unhealthy diet
  – Physical inactivity
  – Harmful use of alcohol
• NCD Area
  – Cardiovascular diseases
  – Cancers
  – Chronic respiratory
  – Diseases and diabetes
• Monitoring & Evaluation
General

• Civil Society (HCC umbrella org) should be represented in regional entities such as CARICOM & CARPHA
• Support the Port of Spain Declaration
• Improved national implementation/coordination mechanisms
  – NCD Commissions
  – National NCD Alliances
• CSOs should have a greater role/accountability in implementation of NCD programmes
  – Reduces burden on overcommitted government resources and allows CSOs to demonstrate capacity to be credible implementation partners
    • This may require capacity building in key areas such as governance, financial management and project management
• Strengthened/ coordinated support of Caribbean Wellness Day
Tobacco Use

• Caribbean Governments should honour FCTC commitments [POS 2007-2-9]
• All Caribbean countries are party to the FCTC (except Haiti & Cuba) however only a small number have actually implemented legislation which addresses Articles in FCTC in particular:
  – Smoke free spaces
  – Product warning labeling
  – Bans on advertising, promotion & sponsorship
  – Raise taxes on Tobacco
Unhealthy Diets

• **Labeling** of food products [POS 2007-15/17]
  – Those manufactured locally should be properly labeled
  – Imported Foods should be labeled in English
  – Role of CARICOM in setting standards

• Promote development of **policies on marketing** of foods & non-alcoholic beverages high in saturated fats, trans-fatty acids, free sugars, or salt to **children** [POS 2007/15]

• Promote the development of **policies** and standards promoting **healthy eating in schools/ school meals** [POS 2007-13]

• Promote the development of **policies** on sales of unhealthy foods on or near schools
Physical Inactivity

• Develop policies to increase physical activity in schools in keeping with WHO Recommended levels of physical activity for children aged 5 - 17 years [POS 2007-11/12]
Harmful Use of Alcohol

• Strengthen core group of Caribbean alcohol advocates
• Promote the development of regional/national Alcohol Policies
NCD Areas

- Cardiovascular Diseases
- Cancers
  - Cervical Cancer building on the Caribbean Cervical Cancer Electronic Petition
  - Breast Cancer
  - Prostate Cancer
- Chronic Respiratory Diseases
- Diabetes
Monitoring & Evaluation

- Strengthened surveillance systems
  - National NCD Registries
  - Centralised reporting
  - CSO reporting esp. when CSO activities feed into indicators (ie. service delivery etc.)

- Support research
  - Play an active role in all stages of research cycle (community based research)
Thank you