THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PARTNERS’ FORUM
FOR ACTION ON NCDS

Healthy Caribbean Coalition Meeting
May 27-29th, 2012
Knutsford Court Hotel, Kingston

Presentation by
Yvonne Lewis
Director Health Education Division
What is the Partners Forum Working Committee for Action on NCDs (PAFCNCDs)

Cabinet Appointed

Mechanism for multi-sectoral action on NCDs and an all of Government and civil society approach to population health and development (Bangkok Charter on Health Promotion)

Focused on creating synergies and catalyzing environmental, social and policy changes that promote health and prevent chronic diseases.
Heart disease, cancer, diabetes and cerebrovascular disease, account for over 60% of all deaths annually, in Trinidad and Tobago.
Trinidad and Tobago has one of the highest mortality rates for Diabetes in the Caribbean.

PAHO Basic Health Indicators 2009
DM – diabetes; IHD – Heart disease; CVA – stroke

From the Office of Yvonne Lewis.
Director, Health Education Division
Trinidad and Tobago Population Risk Factor Profile by Gender (STEPS Survey, 2011)

Chart Title

- Overweight or obese
- Smoke tobacco
- Alcohol
- Sedentary

Legend:
- Both Sexes
- Male
- Female

From the Office of Yvonne Lewis.
Director, Health Education Division
Overall 23% primary school students were overweight or obese: 24% males and 21% females

Overall 25% secondary school students were overweight or obese: 27% males and 24% females

From the Office of Yvonne Lewis. Director, Health Education Division
How Did We Get Here

2007
- CARIOM Heads of Government Summit on NCDs
- Declaration of Port of Spain

2008
- Cabinet appoint Technical Advisory Committee on CNCD (TAC)

2009
- Launch of the Pan American Forum on NCDs by PAHO
- Partners Forum Exploratory Meeting in T&T

2010
- Multi-sector Partners Forum High Level Meeting in T&T
- Drafting of proposal to Cabinet for establishment of Partner’s Forum for action on NCDs

2011
- UNHLM on NCDs attended by Prime Minister
- UN Declaration on NCDs
- Cabinet appoint Partners Forum Committee on NCDs (PAFCNCD)

2012
- Sensitisation of the Forum conducted
- Development of work plan for the PAFCNCD

From the Office of Yvonne Lewis, Director, Health Education Division
✓ The impact of NCDs on our population can no longer be viewed solely as a health crisis
✓ The majority of NCD risks do not have a medical origin and therefore require non-medical solutions involving the engagement of other sectors
✓ NCDs are economic and development issues.
✓ A significant portion of GDP is being utilised to treat and rehabilitate persons with NCDs
Basis for establishment of Priorities: Declaration of POS

- **Resolution #2**: Establishment of National Commissions on NCDs or analogous bodies to plan and co-ordinate the comprehensive prevention and control of chronic diseases

- **Resolution #7**: Endorsement of the efforts of the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and regional inter-governmental agencies to enhance food security and our strong support for the elimination of trans fats from the diet of our citizens, using CFNI as focal point for guidance and public education

From the Office of Yvonne Lewis.
Director, Health Education Division
Resolution #5: That our Ministries of Health in collaboration with other sectors establish comprehensive plans for screening and management of chronic diseases ...
Who makes up the PAFCNCDs

Trinidad and Tobago’s Partners Forum

MOH

PAHO/WHO

NGOs and Civil Society

Public Sector

Private Sector & Academia
Government / Public Sector
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Local Government
- Ministry of Trade & Industry
- Ministry of Legal Affairs
- Ministry of Education

Private Sector
- TTMA
- Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Commerce
- American Chamber of Commerce
- BPTT
- PETROTRIN
- Employers Consultative Assoc.
- Beacon Insurance Company Ltd
- TSTT
- National Gas Company
- The Association of Insurance Companies (ATTIC)

NGOs / Civil Society
- National Parent Teachers’ Association (NPTA)
- Diabetes Association of Trinidad and Tobago
- TTANDI
- Network of NGOs
- Trinidad and Tobago Cancer Society

International/Regional Bodies/Academic
- PAHO/WHO
- CFNI
- UWI
The goal of the Trinidad and Tobago Partners Forum

- To act as both a catalyst and a mechanism for multi-sectoral action to promote health and reduce the burden of chronic diseases on the population.
What TORs?

- Establish a framework/alliance for joint planning and implementation of actions and policies guided by the Ministry of Health and supported by public sector, private sector, NGOs, civil society and other regional and international partners to reduce the burden of CNCDs in Trinidad and Tobago.

- Identify local, regional and international best practices on public, private, civil society partnerships in support of health
What TORs?

- Mobilise resources from all sectors to support joint actions to reduce the modifiable risk factors of CNCDs, with an emphasis on population based strategies.

- Develop and implement joint, integrated, coordinated actions in support of promoting health, reducing risk factors and improving management of CNCDs.

From the Office of Yvonne Lewis.
Director, Health Education Division
Focus

- Addressing the modifiable biological, environmental and social determinants of CNCDs
- Population based healthy nutrition strategies including -
  - elimination of trans fats
  - reduction of salt and sugar in locally produced foods
  - provision of product information and health education to support healthy lifestyle choices
- Development of supportive environments for population based physical activity
- Smoking cessation
- Workplace wellness

From the Office of Yvonne Lewis.
Director, Health Education Division
Partners Forum Working Committee on NCDs (PFCNCD)

- Healthy Diet and Product Reformulation Sub Committee
- Consumer Education and Wellness Sub-Committee
- Physical Activity Sub-Committee
What actions have been proposed?

- Promote implementation of the WHO recommendations on the marketing of foods and beverages to children, including: foods that are high in saturated fats, trans-fatty acids, sugars, or salt,
Priority #1: Population based nutrition strategies for the elimination of trans fats, reduction of salt and sugar in locally produced foods

- Ministry of Health Adopt the PAHO Trans Fat Free Americas Strategy
- Develop a working model for implementing Trans Fat Free Americas
- Conduct consultations with private sectors for buy in.
- Identify local manufactures to sign up and participate in the Trans Fat Free T&T initiative.
- Broker industry led agreement to reduce trans fats
Priority #1: Population based nutrition strategies for the elimination of trans fats, reduction of salt and sugar in locally produced foods

Partner with NGOs and Consumer Groups to advocate and build support for Trans Fat Free food supply.

Promote consumer awareness on Trans Fat Free products. Strategy in T&T.

Engage partners to conduct research on Trans Fat.

Recommend the development of policy/legislation for trans fat free food supply.
Population based salt reduction strategy developed.

- Partners Forum to request technical co-operation with PAHO and the CARMEN network to learn from the experience of Argentina and Barbados in salt reduction in collaboration manufacturers.

- Conduct consultations with local manufacturers re. sodium and NCDs and industry best practices for reducing salt in foods.

- 2.2 Identify industry partners (eg. Bakers Association, manufactures of high–salt snacks etc.) to participate in production of lower salt foods

- 2.3 Pilot a salt reduction initiative for T&T, with Industry partners.
Priority # 2 Provision of food labeling, product information and health education to support healthy food choices

- Ministry of Health develop labeling guidelines for all locally produced foods through the Chemistry Food and Drug Division

- Recommend development of a simplified food labeling system, like the traffic light system, to identify healthy food options.

- Develop and implement a public health education campaign on reading food labels in collaboration with NGOs and other key stakeholders

- Include reading of food labels in health and family life education and nutrition module for school children
Priority #3: Facilitate establishment of environment to support and promote consistent and sustained physical activity for the general public

- Partner with key stakeholders to install bike racks at malls, businesses places etc, to promote cycling as a form of transportation and physical activity.
- Conduct an assessment of the existing physical activity facilities, parks and grounds, and make recommendations for the creation of health promoting spaces.
- **Work with Mayors and Regional Corporations** to establish healthy spaces for physical activity utilizing PTIs from the Ministry of National Security, interns from UTT and UWI sports training programs and other trained sports personnel.
- Collaborate with Ministry of National Security to utilize Physical Training Instructors (PTIs) in conducting community based physical activity programs.
- Invite the private sector to join with the Partners Forum and the Ministry of Health, to sponsor and support physical activity in communities, through provision of physical activity instructors to be used in parks and recreational grounds to build physical
Thank You

From the Office of Yvonne Lewis.
Director, Health Education Division