



# Outcomes from the United Nations High Level Meeting for the people of the Caribbean: a blue print for action.

## Background

The Caribbean is the region of the Americas most affected by chronic diseases which contribute almost 50 percent of disability-adjusted life years lost in the Region.

The Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) is the sole regional civil society organization established to tackle NCDs as a direct response to the Heads of Government of CARICOM Summit: *Uniting to stop the epidemic of NCDs*.

The HCC has just completed a mobile phone text advocacy campaign in which **470,000 messages of support** have been received from persons across 17 Caribbean Countries in support of the UNHLM and the increased prevention and management of NCDs.



## **The Healthy Caribbean Coalition advocates for the following outcomes from the United Nations High Level Meeting**

### **Leadership**

Engage partnership of the HCC with appropriate organizations so that the experiences, relationships fostered, and methods of communication developed during the Get the Message campaign can be used to strengthen the HCC and its network organizations and allow for more effective advocacy, education and information, leading to enhanced care.

### **Prevention**

- a. Technical and other assistance with the execution of an HCC Caribbean-wide advocacy initiative that aims to make the Caribbean “tobacco smoke free” by the year 2016 in support of the Framework Convention on Tobacco.
- b. Assistance with the setting and achieving of specific timelines and targets to reduce daily salt intake to 5 grams or less daily.

### **Diagnostics and Treatment**

Enhanced early diagnosis and treatment thus reducing NCDs progressing into costly, crippling complications and premature death. The HCC seeks the establishment of well documented, cost effective means to diagnose and treat NCDs which should be available to all.

### **Health Systems**

Increased continuing education programs for primary health care workers to assist with prevention, diagnosis and routine treatment of NCDs.

### **Resources**

Mechanisms put in place and financial and other assistance provided to strengthen capacity and long-term sustainability of the HCC and other Caribbean civil society organizations, especially health NGOs, so that they can meaningfully contribute to the “whole of society” approach to addressing NCDs.

Assistance towards the development of educational programming related to NCDs specifically tailored to the youth as well as those living with NCDs to effectively increase knowledge and improve attitudes, beliefs and practices on NCDs. Including initiatives that target childhood obesity and encourage physical activity.

### **Research**

Increase funding towards ethnographic and clinical research of NCDs to enhance our common understanding of the unique challenges of NCDs to our region.

### **Human Rights/Vulnerability**

We urge Caribbean leaders to address the fact that people with NCDs often suffer discrimination and stigma in the community. These practices must be ended to enable persons with NCDs to lead full and productive lives.

### **Monitoring/Follow-up**

The NCD epidemic has grown in little more than one generation but will require a long-term commitment to resolve it. Implementation of the commitments made at the Summit will need to be closely monitored. The HCC proposes that the Caribbean convene a multi-sectoral high level review of progress made in responding to NCDs in the year 2014, two years prior to an anticipated similar UN review of progress.