COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PORT OF SPAIN DECLARATION

The Caribbean's number one killer: noncommunicable diseases

The Caribbean has the highest mortality from NCDs in the world. In 2019, NCDs killed 11 out of 13 people in the region. These diseases also account for 73% of the region’s healthcare expenditure. By 2040, NCDs will likely cause 80% of all deaths in the region. The epidemic has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disrupted healthcare systems and led to increased inequalities and disparities.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE MANDATES OF THE DECLARATION

The Port of Spain Declaration, adopted by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Ministerial Council in 2000, is a landmark agreement that sets out goals and indicators to combat noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in the region. The declaration calls for member states to take action to reduce the burden of NCDs, including through the implementation of evidence-based strategies.

NCD PROGRESS MONITORING AND LONG-TERM COMMITMENT

According to the NCD Progress Monitoring Framework, CARICOM has made significant progress towards achieving the targets set in the Port of Spain Declaration. However, more work is needed to fully address the NCD epidemic in the region.

HCCS PRIORITY AREAS TO PREVENT AND CONTROL NCDS IN THE CARIBBEAN UNION

HCCs are key partners in the collaborative approach to addressing NCDS in the region, working closely with governments and other stakeholders to implement evidence-based strategies.

10 POINT PLAN

1. Increase awareness and education on NCD prevention
2. Strengthen primary care services
3. Improve access to mental health services
4. Promote healthy diets and physical activity
5. Increase tobacco control initiatives
6. Reduce alcohol consumption
7. Implement strategies to prevent non-communicable diseases
8. Strengthen data collection and surveillance
9. Enhance community involvement in NCD prevention
10. Increase funding for NCD research and prevention programs

BITE-SIZED FACTS

1. In 2019, NCDs killed 11 out of 13 people in the Caribbean
2. By 2040, NCDs will likely cause 80% of all deaths in the region
3. The Port of Spain Declaration sets out goals and indicators to combat NCDs in the region
4. CARICOM has made significant progress towards achieving the targets set in the Port of Spain Declaration
5. HCCs are key partners in the collaborative approach to addressing NCDS in the region