CIVIL SOCIETY ACTION PLAN 2017-2021

PREVENTING CHILDHOOD OBESITY IN THE CARIBBEAN

Enabling Caribbean civil society’s contribution to national and regional action for healthier, happier children.

TAXATION OF SWEET BEVERAGES

HEALTHY NUTRITION POLICIES = HEALTHY CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO AFFORDABLE HEALTHY FOODS AND BEVERAGES

The HCC is calling on CARICOM Governments to implement taxes on sweet beverages of at least 20% and subsidise healthy foods as part of a package of policies to tackle obesity.

CARICOM Heads of Government have committed to “elevating taxes” on foods high in sugar, salt and trans-fats.

And this figure is rising!

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are particularly hard hit by this crisis which is largely fueled by unhealthy diets linked to the overconsumption of ultra-processed foods.

Excess sugar consumption is a major cause of overweight and obesity and its related diseases. Sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB) are the primary source of sugar in the diets of Caribbean children and adolescents.

On average 66% of Caribbean children 13-15 drank carbonated soft drinks one or more times per day during the past 30 days. These drinks are ultra-processed, energy-dense and nutrient-poor.

HCC recommends a package of policies to tackle childhood obesity.

September 2019