A CIVIL SOCIETY CALL TO URGENT ACTION
FOR THE CARIBBEAN REGION TO ACCELERATE NUTRITION POLICIES FOR THE CREATION OF HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS FOR CARIBBEAN CHILDREN

THE CALL
This HIC is calling on the Caribbean to work across sectors to partner to advance the urgent implementation of the following:

1. HANDYHIGHS OF FRONT OF PACKAGE NUTRITION WARNING LABELLING to empower consumers to make healthy food choices
2. BANNING THE SALE AND MARKETING OF SWEET BEVERAGES IN SCHOOLS, SETTINGS and ensuring the availability of free flushing water to reduce the consumption of these beverages among children.
3. TAXING OF SUGAR SWEETENED BEVERAGES at least 20% to reduce the consumption of these beverages among children.

THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM
CARICOM Heads of Government and State acknowledged the scale and severity of the problem and the need for urgent action.

2016
25TH CARICOM SUMMIT - BARRANCAPARVA
A pledge was made to address the epidemic of childhood obesity in the region.

2017
25TH CARICOM SUMMIT - ORACLE
Children and address the epidemic of childhood obesity in the region.

2018
119TH SINTER CARICOM HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING

The context
Publications with population-based data on childhood obesity, both national and international, show the scale of the problem:

- In the Caribbean, over 30% of children are overweight, with the highest levels of obesity and obesity-related conditions in the region.
- Childhood obesity is a major public health problem, contributing to a range of health outcomes, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer.
- Obesity is associated with a range of social and economic costs, including increased healthcare costs, lost productivity, and reduced quality of life.

In the face of these challenges, civil society and governments have a responsibility to address this issue in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.

THE PRIORITY POLICIES

1. IMPOSSIBLE MAKING THE FOOD ENVIRONMENT HEALTHIER: making healthy food environments from birth to adulthood
2. TACKLING THE BALL OF FACTORS: addressing all determinants of infant and child obesity
3. HEALTHY NUTRITION: addressing all policies, from birth to adulthood

KEY ACTIONS ACROSS SECTORS
Against the backdrop of the above, the HIC is calling on the following key actors to play their respective roles:

SUPPORT (and incentivize) the implementation of policies with population-based data on childhood obesity, both national and international, show the scale of the problem:

- National and regional governments, as key policy makers and implementers of nutrition policies.
- Industry, as it is responsible for the production and marketing of processed foods and beverages.
- Civil society, as it has the capacity to mobilize public support and advocate for change.

PROTECT FROM POLICY PRESSURE to ensure best and highest evidence-based, effective nutrition policies.

- By removing obstacles to evidence-based policy making, including industry interference and obstruction in healthy food and beverage production and marketing.
- By promoting the formation of national ncd alliances and working with national ncd alliances to accelerate the development and implementation of nutrition policies.

WE AS CIVIL SOCIETY COMMIT TO:

- Supporting and advocating for the implementation of policies to create healthy food environments from birth to adulthood.
- Ensuring that policies are evidence-based and effective in addressing the root causes of childhood obesity.
- Advocating for the implementation of policies to create healthy food environments from birth to adulthood.

The time to act is now

- We call on governments to take urgent action to address the epidemic of childhood obesity in the Caribbean.
- We call on civil society to mobilize support and advocate for change.
- We call on industry to take responsibility and contribute to the development of healthy food environments.

Follow the Healthy Caribbean Coalition on:

Support the Healthy Caribbean Coalition and Social Determinants of Health:

- By choosing healthy food and beverages.
- By supporting policies that promote healthy food environments.
- By engaging in social movements that advocate for healthy food environments.