



Rapid Assessment of the School Nutrition Policy Environment

In Select Caribbean Countries
November 2019



REGIONAL REPORT

RAPID ASSESSMENT OF THE SCHOOL NUTRITION POLICY ENVIRONMENT

IN SELECT CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

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Introduction

Supporting regional advocacy for action around school nutrition policies

1 in 3 Caribbean children in the region are either overweight or obese and this number is rising against the backdrop of the Caribbean having some of the highest adult obesity rates in the world¹. Unhealthy diets driven by globalization and our exposure to an increasingly obesogenic food environment contributes to childhood overweight and obesity in the population which leads to adult overweight and obesity and the early onset of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

In an effort to tackle childhood obesity several evidence-based policy recommendations, intended to create a healthier nutrition environment for children, have been made by the World Health Organization (WHO) and The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). These recommendations are reflected in the [PAHO Plan of Action for the Prevention of Obesity in Children and Adolescents](#)² and the WHO [Report of the Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity, Implementation Plan: Executive Summary](#)³. The implementation of the aforementioned PAHO Plan of Action for the Prevention of Obesity in Children and Adolescents, across the Americas including the Caribbean, is being monitored and reported on periodically⁴. The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) has also done work in this area having developed the CARPHA [Plan of Action for Promoting Healthy Weights in the Caribbean: Prevention and Control of Childhood Obesity, 2014 – 2019](#)⁵ and The [CARPHA 6 Point Policy Package \(6PP\)](#)⁶ which further endorses these global and regional recommendations. In 2017 the HCC launched the [Civil Society Action Plan 2017-2021: Preventing Childhood Obesity in the Caribbean](#) (CSAP) to provide a framework and

¹ HCC Civil Society Action Plan 2017-2021: Preventing Childhood Obesity in the Caribbean. - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/civil-society-action-plan/>

² Plan of Action for the Prevention of Obesity in Children and Adolescents - <https://www.paho.org/hq/dmdocuments/2015/Obesity-Plan-Of-Action-Child-Eng-2015.pdf>

³ WHO Report of the Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity Implementation plan: Executive Summary - <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/259349/WHO-NMH-PND-ECHO-17.1-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

⁴ Interactive tool for the Plan of Action for the Prevention of Obesity in Children and Adolescents – Midterm review results (2018) - http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14471:obesity-plan-of-action-midterm-review-results-2018&Itemid=40498&lang=fr

⁵ Safeguarding Our Future Development - Plan of Action for Promoting Health Weights in the Caribbean: Prevention and Control of Childhood Obesity 2014-2019 - <http://carpha.org/Portals/0/docs/HealthyWeights.pdf>

⁶ Promoting Healthy Diets, Food Security, and Sustainable Development in the Caribbean Through Joint Policy Action CARICOM Technical Brief – High Level Meeting to Develop a Roadmap on a Multi-sectoral Action in Countries to Prevent Childhood Obesity through improved Food and Nutrition Security - <http://carpha.org/Portals/0/articles/documents/CARPHABriefversionPromotingHealthyDietsTechnicalBrief.pdf>

blueprint for civil society led-action in support of national and regional responses to childhood obesity prevention. Across all of these global and regional frameworks, there exists a core set of evidence-based policies recommended to tackle overweight and obesity in children. These proposed policies include: taxes on sweet beverages; interpretive front-of-pack labelling, supported by public education of both adults and children for nutrition literacy; and the elimination of the provision or sale and marketing of unhealthy foods, such as sweet beverages and energy-dense, nutrient-poor foods, in the school environment. The HCC CSAP has as one of its priority policy asks, **the banning of the sale and marketing of unhealthy foods (including sweet beverages such as Sugar Sweetened Beverages (SSBs), Energy Dense Nutrient Poor (EDNP) and High Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS) foods in school environments.**

CARICOM Heads of Government and Member States also recognize the need for an urgent response to the childhood obesity crisis facing the Caribbean and have repeatedly pledged their commitment to taking actions which support the creation of healthier nutrition environments. In 2018, at the 39th Summit, CARICOM Heads of State and Government endorsed a number of priorities for the 3rd UN High Level Meeting on NCDs including: *“implementing policies geared to preventing childhood obesity, including health-promoting school environments and Front of Package (FOP) labelling”*. In July 2019, the Government of Barbados successfully advocated for the inclusion of school-based health promotion interventions for childhood obesity, as well as teacher training on NCDs, into the Inter-American Education Agenda under Agenda Item ‘Education and Health’. This was done in the context of the 10th Inter-American Ministerial Meeting on Education, held on July 10th, 2019 under the auspices of the Organisation of American States (OAS).

However, translating those pledges into action has been challenging. For example, bans or restrictions on the sale of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) in schools have only been implemented in three (3) out of twenty (20) CARICOM countries:

1. Bermuda implemented a policy banning the sale of SSBs in schools (2006)⁷.
2. Trinidad and Tobago implemented a policy banning the sale of SSBs in schools (2017)⁸

⁷ Government of Bermuda – Ministry of Education and Department of Health Partnership - Healthy Schools Vendine Machine & Cafeteria Policy - <https://www.gov.bm/sites/default/files/Healthy%20Schools%20Vending%20Machine%20%20Cafeteria%20Policy%202006.pdf>

⁸ No ‘sweet’ drinks in schools - <https://newsday.co.tt/2017/08/28/no-sweet-drinks-in-schools/>

3. Jamaica implemented a policy restricting the sale of SSBs in schools (2019)⁹.

In direct response to the widening gap between political commitments and policy implementation - in September 2019, arising out of a regional multisectoral meeting, the HCC launched [A Civil Society Call to Urgent Action for the Caribbean Region to Accelerate Nutrition Policies for the Creation of Healthy Environments for Caribbean Children](#) to demand urgent action to halt the rise of overweight and obesity among children in the Caribbean through the implementation of priority policies including school policies.

With the support of The Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi) Project, the HCC has mapped the current school nutrition policy environment in order to inform civil society advocacy for strong national healthy nutrition policies in school settings. This rapid assessment of the school nutrition policy environment was conducted in **8 countries** to:

1. Provide regional advocates and key stakeholders with a snapshot of the progress made by a subset of countries, that have expressed interest in implementing healthy school nutrition policies.
2. Identify factors affecting local nutrition environments which can be leveraged for advocacy purposes.

⁹ Interim Guidelines for Beverages in Schools - Jamaica - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/documents/Jamaica-Interim-Guidelines-for-Beverages-in-Schools.pdf>

Objectives

The objectives of this rapid assessment were to give regional advocates and key stakeholders a snapshot of the status of secondary factors that shape the school nutrition policy environment for leveraging advocacy efforts; and to track the status of school nutrition policy implementation in the following **4 primary policy** areas in **8 countries**:

1. Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the **SALE of SSBs** in and around schools.
2. Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the **SALE of unhealthy foods** that are EDNP or HFSS in and around all schools.
3. Government regulation of policy banning or restricting the **MARKETING of SSBs** in and around all schools.
4. Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the **MARKETING of unhealthy foods** that are EDNP or HFSS in and around all schools.

Method

The rapid assessment of primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition policy environment was conducted for 8 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahamas, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

A school nutrition policy environment report template outlining primary policies and secondary factors shaping the environment was developed prior to conducting the assessment. The template was developed based on current evidence and the HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard (COPS)¹⁰. Guided by the report template a rapid assessment of primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition

¹⁰ Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/country-scorecard.php>

policy environment was then conducted from March to May 2019 for each country of interest. Country reports, based on the school nutrition country report template, were then prepared for each country assessed.

Further insight into primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition policy environment was gained by receiving feedback on country reports from key stakeholders from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and regional CSO partners between June and September 2019 in the 8 countries of interest. Stakeholders in a few countries declined. Country reports were updated as needed based on stakeholder feedback and used to inform this regional report. The regional report was reviewed by stakeholders from CARPHA, PAHO and The Food and Agriculture Organization of The United Nations (FAO) between September and October 2019.

Data Sources

Primary data sources for this report were the HCC COPS¹¹ and key stakeholders. Data sources were included as footnotes in all country reports where possible. In some cases feedback included from key stakeholders may not have had a publicly available data source. A list of stakeholders who reviewed the country and/or regional reports and/or provided feedback is included in Appendix I of this regional report for reference.

¹¹ Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/country-scorecard.php>

Findings

Table 1: Grid showing presence or absence of primary policies of interest shaping the regional school nutrition environment at policy level in the 8 selected countries.

KEY	
YES, PRESENT IN AND AROUND SCHOOLS	
ABSENT /NO	
YES, PRESENT BUT APPLIES TO ENVIRONMENT IN SCHOOLS BUT NOT AROUND SCHOOLS	
LEVEL OF POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO SCHOOL NUTRITION POLICIES/ REGULATIONS	
LOW : 0 Primary National school nutrition policies / regulations present	L
MEDIUM : 1-2 Primary National school nutrition policies / regulations present	M
HIGH : 3-4 Primary National school nutrition policies/regulations present	H

PRIMARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES	COUNTRY							
	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	BAHAMAS	BARBADOS	GRENADA	JAMAICA	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	ST. LUCIA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the SALE of SSBs in and around schools.								
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the SALE of unhealthy foods that are energy dense and nutrient poor (EDNP) in and around all schools.								
Government regulation of policy banning or restricting the MARKETING of SSBs in and around all schools.								
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the MARKETING of unhealthy foods that are energy dense and nutrient poor (EDNP) in and around all schools.								
Level of political commitment to primary national school nutrition policies (Low/Medium/High)	L	M	L	L	M	L	L	M

*See appendices for detailed country report

Table 1 Summary

As of October 2019:

- Three of the eight countries assessed had a Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the sale of SSBs in schools – Bahamas^{12 13}, Jamaica¹⁴ and Trinidad and Tobago¹⁵ (Table 1). Please note these policies do not apply to vendors around schools. The presence of these policies demonstrated medium political commitment to introducing primary school nutrition policies of interest in these countries.
- Bahamas was the only country considered that had a Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the sale of unhealthy foods that are EDNP in all schools^{16 17} (Table 1). Please note this policy does not apply to vendors around schools.
- Five of the eight countries assessed had not introduced any of the primary national school nutrition environment policies of interest – Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Lucia (Table 1). This indicated low political commitment to introducing the primary school nutrition policies of interest in these countries.
- None of the countries considered had a Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the marketing of SSBs or unhealthy foods that are EDNP in and around all schools (Table 1).
- No country assessed had introduced more than two primary national school nutrition environment policies of interest (Table 1). This indicated low to medium political commitment to introducing policies/ regulations banning the sale and marketing of SSBs and EDNP foods in and around schools in countries assessed.
- Please note this assessment only considered whether a policy was present or absent not its level of implementation.

¹² Compulsory Standards for HEALTHY LUNCH MEALS in BAHAMIAN SCHOOLS -

<https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/documents/GBL-SCHOOL-LUNCH-Final-Documents.pdf>

¹³ Compulsory Standards for TUCK SHOPS in Bahamian Schools - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/documents/GBL-TUCK-SHOP-Manual-Final-Documents.pdf>

¹⁴ Ministry of Education, Youth and Information Jamaica - Interim Guidelines for Beverages in Schools -

<https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/documents/Jamaica-Interim-Guidelines-for-Beverages-in-Schools.pdf>

¹⁵ Trinidad and Tobago Newsday Article – ‘No ‘sweet’ drinks in schools - <https://newsday.co.tt/2017/08/28/no-sweet-drinks-in-schools/>

¹⁶ Compulsory Standards for HEALTHY LUNCH MEALS in BAHAMIAN SCHOOLS -

<https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/documents/GBL-SCHOOL-LUNCH-Final-Documents.pdf>

¹⁷ Compulsory Standards for TUCK SHOPS in Bahamian Schools - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/documents/GBL-TUCK-SHOP-Manual-Final-Documents.pdf>

Table 2: Snapshot of secondary policies and factors shaping the regional school nutrition environment at policy level in the 8 selected countries.

KEY	
PRESENT /YES	
DON'T KNOW	
ABSENT /NO	

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	COUNTRY							
	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	BAHAMAS	BARBADOS	GRENADA	JAMAICA	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	ST. LUCIA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
Government Policies or Factors								
Sugar sweetened beverage (SSB) tax								
National childhood obesity prevention plan								
Government nutrition policy or guidelines specifically for all schools								
Government nutrition policy or guideline ensuring free potable water is available at all schools.								
National programme or initiative encouraging all schools to improve the school nutrition environment in some way.								
Public health planning restrictions on how close vendors can be to schools.								
An active Chronic Non-Communicable Disease Commission (NNCDC).								
Public policymaker announcements of plans to develop or implement school nutrition environment policies.								
National health campaign or programme tackling obesity and NCD related issues.								
School/ Institution Level Policies or Factors								
Schools instituting their own policies or programmes to improve their school nutrition environment.								
Civil Society Led Initiatives								
Advocacy groups calling for healthier school nutrition environment.								
Academic entities engaged in related research.								
An active National Vendors Association (Civil Society)								
An active National Parent Teacher Association								
An active National Principals Association								
Presence of international/ regional organisations to provide technical support. (PAHO, FAO, CARPHA, UNDP etc.)								

***See appendices for detailed country reports.**

APPENDIX I

STAKEHOLDER LIST

Stakeholders from the public sector, civil society and other regional health and nutrition organisations who reviewed and/or provided feedback for country and/or regional reports.

STAKEHOLDER		AFFILIATION	COUNTRY / REGION
1	Samantha Moitt	Ministry of Health	ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
2	Juanita James	Antigua and Barbuda Diabetes and Hypertension Association	
3	Andrea Airall	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology	
4	Cherita Moxey	Ministry of Health	THE BAHAMAS
5	Camelta Barnes	Ministry of Health / Healthy Lifestyles Team (HaLT)	
6	Arthur Phillips	Ministry of Health and Wellness	BARBADOS
7	Francine Charles	Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados (HSFB)	
8	Hedda Phillips-Boyce	Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training / HSFB Childhood Obesity Prevention Champion	
9	Damian Greaves	Grenada National Non-communicable Disease Commission	GRENADA
10	Vonetta Nurse	Heart Foundation of Jamaica (HFJ)	JAMAICA
11	Simone Spence	Ministry of Health and Wellness	
12	Abi Begho	Lake Health and Wellbeing	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS
13	Contacts from Ministry of Health Nevis – via Abi Begho	Ministry of Health – Nevis	
14	Lisa Hunt-Mitchell	Ministry of Health	SAINT LUCIA
15	Ronnie Bissessar	Trinidad and Tobago Heart Foundation	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
16	Andrew Dhanoo	Diabetes Association of Trinidad and Tobago (DATT)	
17	Yvonne Lewis	Ministry of Health	
18	Christine Bocage	Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)	CARIBBEAN
19	Fransen Jean	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	
20	Audrey Morris	Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)	
21	Leendert Nederveen	Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)	

APPENDIX II

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Rapid Assessment of the School Nutrition Policy Environment

Introduction

The Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi) Project is currently focused on the school nutrition environment especially the sale and marketing of Sugar Sweetened Beverages (SSBs), Energy Dense Nutrient Poor (EDNP) and High Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS) foods in schools. A rapid assessment of the school nutrition policy environment in Antigua and Barbuda was undertaken to gain insight into policies and other factors shaping the local school nutrition landscape. These findings can be used to guide tailored approaches to advocating for tackling childhood obesity in Antigua and Barbuda through healthy school nutrition policies.

Method

The rapid assessment of primary and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition policy environment was conducted for 8 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahamas, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

A school nutrition policy environment report template outlining primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition environment was developed prior to conducting the assessment. The template was developed based on current evidence and the HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard (COPS)¹⁸. Guided by the report template a rapid assessment of primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition policy environment in **Antigua and Barbuda** was conducted from March to May 2019. This data was used to prepare the local school nutrition policy country report.

Further insight into primary and secondary policies/ factors in the local school nutrition environment was gained by receiving feedback on country reports from key stakeholders from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and local CSO partners, where possible, between June and September 2019. Local stakeholders from the public sector (Ministries of Health and Education) and civil society were contacted for feedback however some declined.

The country report for **Antigua and Barbuda** was used to inform a regional report which compiled country report data from the 8 countries of interest. The regional report was shared with stakeholders at the

¹⁸ Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/about-the-scorecard.php>

Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for review and feedback.

Findings

Findings presented across tables 1 and 2 are itemised below:

1. Table 1: Snapshot of primary policies shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Antigua & Barbuda.
2. Table 2: Snapshot of secondary policies and factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Antigua & Barbuda.

Table 1: Snapshot of primary policies shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Antigua and Barbuda.

PRIMARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES	
POLICY	STATUS* (Present/ Absent)
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the SALE of SSBs in and around schools.	ABSENT. No policy or regulation present.
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the SALE of unhealthy foods that are energy dense and nutrient poor (EDNP) or high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) in and around all schools.	ABSENT. No policy or regulation present.
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the MARKETING of SSBs in and around all schools.	ABSENT. No policy or regulation present.
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the MARKETING of unhealthy foods that are energy dense and nutrient poor (EDNP) or high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) in and around all schools.	ABSENT. No policy or regulation present.
Level of political commitment* to primary national school nutrition environment policies	LOW

Important notes regarding table 1.

Policy Status: If a policy is present note which Ministry owns the policy and the document mechanics. For example, policy developed collaboratively with health and education but implemented and monitored by the latter.

***Level of political commitment is classified as below:**

Low: 0 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.

Medium: 1-2 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.

High: 3-4 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.

Table 2: Snapshot of secondary policies and factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Antigua & Barbuda.

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present / Absent/ Don't Know)
Government Policies or Factors	
Sugar sweetened beverage (SSB) tax.	ABSENT To be introduced in 2019.
National childhood obesity prevention plan.	ABSENT
Government nutrition policy or guidelines specifically for all schools.	ABSENT Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy in final draft and will be submitted to cabinet soon.
Government regulation or policy ensuring free potable water is available at all schools.	DON'T KNOW Do not know if a policy is present. Potable water is available in all schools but is adversely affected/disrupted by drought and there is a perception that pipe borne water may not be safe. Water fountains are being installed in selected schools by Rotary Club of Antigua Sundown and the Swiss Embassy.
National programme or initiative encouraging all schools to improve the school nutrition environment in some way.	ABSENT
Planning ¹⁹ restrictions on how close vendors can be to schools.	ABSENT
An active Chronic Non-communicable Disease Commission (NNCDC)	ABSENT NNCDC was in development as of October 2017 but no further action has been taken since ²⁰ . There is an NCD Committee which still meets regularly and plans/conducts various health promotion activities but the NNCCDC is still pending and broader representation is needed as the current Wellness Committee is mainly comprised of members from Ministry of Health and health-related entities.
Public policymaker announcements of plans to develop or implement school nutrition environment policies.	PRESENT Prime Minister Hon. Gaston Browne announced that an SSB tax will be introduced in the 2019 budget presentation ²¹ .

¹⁹ **Planning*** - Refers to the Public Health planning department, usually situated within the local Ministry of Health

²⁰ Antigua & Barbuda National NCD Commission - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/the-antigua-and-barbuda-nncdc/>

²¹ Antigua PM Browne presents budgets, warns tax dodgers - <https://www.stlucianewsonline.com/antigua-pm-browne-presents-budget-warns-tax-dodgers/>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present / Absent/ Don't Know)
National health campaign or programme tackling obesity and related NCD issues.	ABSENT
Other	PRESENT Provision for healthy school options in schools through the National School Meals Programme in all public pre and primary schools.
School/ Institution Level Policies or Factors	
Schools instituting their own policies or programmes to improve their school nutrition environment.	PRESENT Some private schools do not allow vendors on or near the school compound. Many pre-schools have established their own policies/programmes to improve their school nutrition environment.
Civil Society Led Initiatives	
Advocacy groups calling for healthier school nutrition environment.	PRESENT Antigua & Barbuda Diabetes Association (ABDA) ²² has been advocating for a suite of childhood obesity prevention policies, including healthy school nutrition policies as a member of the HCC Regional CSO Action team ²³ . ABDA have also been participating in their local processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocating for the imminent SSB tax to be at least 20% • Advocating for mandatory Front-Of-Package Warning Labels in the revision of the CROSQ Standard on labelling of pre-packaged foods currently underway. HCC Civil Society Action Plan 2017-2021 is focused on childhood obesity and the HCC has been supporting regional advocacy efforts around childhood obesity prevention, including school nutrition policies. The HCC has a Childhood Obesity Prevention Portal with a variety of resources ²⁴ .
Academic entities engaged in related research.	DON'T KNOW American University of Antigua (AUA) has hosted workshops for children for obesity awareness day ²⁵ but it is not known whether they are conducting related research.

²² Antigua & Barbuda Diabetes Association (ABDA) - <http://antiguadiabetes.com>

²³ ABDA – Member of the CSO Regional Action Team - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cso-regional-action-team-for-cop/>

²⁴ HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Portal - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/childhood-obesity-prevention/>

²⁵ AUA World Obesity Day Workshop - <https://www.auamed.org/news/workshop-obesity-awareness-day/>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present / Absent/ Don't Know)
An active National Vendors Association (Civil Society)	ABSENT
An active National Parent Teacher Association.	PRESENT National Parents' Teachers Association (NPTA) still active as of September 2018 ²⁶ .
An active National Principals Association.	ABSENT However, Principals in primary schools do meet regularly in zones.
Presence of international/ regional organisations to provide technical support.	PRESENT PAHO, UNICEF, FAO, UNDP, CARPHA etc.
Other	-

Summary of factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level

1.1 Barriers:

Lack of public awareness about the extent of the problem and its causes and resulting buy-in for systemic population level policy solutions.

1.2 Facilitators:

- Government /Public Sector
 - Government signalled it will be introducing a tax on sugar sweetened beverages during the 2019 budget presentation. The details are being worked out. A situational analysis was conducted and baseline data on SSBs and tax structures was collected (Report prepared by PAHO Consultant in 2017)
 - The Early Childhood sector tends to police the snacks that the children consume and insist on water and fruits however this practise is very limited at the primary level.
- Civil Society Sector Advocates and Potential Partners
 - The work of civil society actors such as the Antigua & Barbuda Diabetes Association continue to raise awareness around the dangers of excess sugar consumption at public and policymaker level.
 - Rotary Club – improving access to potable water in schools.

²⁶ Antigua Observer Article – ‘ Students should be included in decision making says PTA head’ - <https://antiguaobserver.com/students-should-be-included-in-decision-making-says-pta-head/>

- International and regional organisations such as PAHO, UNICEF, CARPHA and FAO are important sources of technical assistance.
- Regional²⁷
 - Bermuda has implemented a ban on SSBs in schools.
 - Trinidad has implemented a ban on SSBs in Schools.
 - Jamaica recently introduced a restriction on SSBs in schools.
 - Bahamas now looking to enforce standards limiting the sale of SSBs and unhealthy snacks in schools.
 - SSB taxes have been implemented Barbados, Bermuda and Dominica.

1.3 Political levers:

Policy makers have shown a level of commitment to creating a healthier nutrition environment.

- In July 2018, The Hon. Gaston Browne Prime Minister of Antigua & Barbuda endorsed tackling childhood obesity through policies fostering health-promoting school environments and front-of-package labelling (FOPL). The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda attended the 39th regular meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (HOG) of the Caribbean Community in July 2018. All HoGs in attendance endorsed advocating for six priority areas at the 3rd UN High Level Meeting on NCDs which included implementing policies geared to preventing childhood obesity such as creating health-promoting school environments and introducing FOPL²⁸.
- A June 2018 Antigua Observer Article noted that the Government of Antigua & Barbuda was considering passing legislation to reduce the consumption of sugars in the population before quoting, Hon. Molwyn Joseph Minister of Health publicly stated that *“Too many of our young people in schools who are supposed to be athletic, are overweight and obese, simply because of wrong diets and specifically because of the high-volume consumption of sugary drinks,”*²⁹. This article suggests the Government recognises that excess SSB consumption by young people is a problem that needs to be rectified.
- In January 2019, while presenting the 2019/2020 budget Prime Minister Gaston Browne announced that a tax on SSBs would be introduced that year to tackle NCDs in Antigua & Barbuda. This suggests that the Government recognises the impact of excess SSB consumption on the development of NCDs. It also serves as an opportunity to make the argument for removing SSBs from the school environment to further protect the most at risk in the population – the youth.
- There is an opportunity to influence the goods that the vendors sell on the school compound since the Education Act (Part 12: Section 172.)³⁰ is devoted to vendors on school premises and has two clauses

²⁷ HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Regional Scorecard Country Grid - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/country-scorecard.php>

²⁸ Communiqué issued at the conclusion of the thirty-ninth regular meeting of The Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community - <https://caricom.org/cochog/view/communique-issued-at-the-conclusion-of-the-thirty-ninth-regular-meeting-of-the-conference-of-heads-of-government-of-the-caribbean-community>

²⁹ Antigua Observer Article – ‘Government takes the fight to health issues’ - <https://antiguaobserver.com/government-takes-the-fight-to-health-issues/>

³⁰ Antigua and Barbuda Education Act, 2008 - <https://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/sites/planipolis/files/ressources/antigua-ed-act-2008.pdf>

that highlight vendors requiring permission from the Director of Education to ply their trade. Clauses included below:

“(1) No person shall sell or offer for sale any services, goods, food, beverages or any other item on school premises without the written permission of the Director of Education. ”

“(2) A person who wishes to sell or offer for sale services, goods, food, beverages or any other item on the premises of a public school or assisted private school shall apply in writing to the Director of Education through the principal of the particular school, for permission to do so.”

Advocates for healthy school policies can use this piece of legislation to make the case for a ban on the sale of unhealthy foods and beverages in and around schools being well within the power of policymakers and school administration, as they can decide who can sell on school property and what they can sell.

- **Section 5.5 - Statement 3 of the *Antigua and Barbuda Food & Nutrition Security Policy, 2012*³¹ makes reference to the food environment in schools as follows:**

"Developing and implementing a framework and/or measures for promoting the responsible marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children, in order to reduce the availability to them of foods high in saturated fats, trans-fatty acids, free sugars, and salt"

This policy statement can be used to make the case for the implementation of healthy school policies including a ban on the sale and marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages in schools. This policy document has been circulating since 2012 and as of September 2019 some of the policies outlined still had not been implemented.

- **Antigua and Barbuda Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Policy and Action Plan 2015-2019, Section 3.3.3 – Risk reduction states:**

" Implement Child Friendly School Initiative to prevent and reduce obesity to protect children from /(of) marketing of foods and non- alcoholic beverages high in saturated fats, trans fatty acids, free sugars"

This action plan activity can be used as leverage in making the case for the implementation of healthy school policies including a ban on the sale and marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages in schools. Healthy school policies are part of the Antigua and Barbuda Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Policy and Action Plan 2015-2019 and should be implemented.

³¹ Antigua and Barbuda Food and Nutrition Security Policy 2012 - <https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/sites/default/files/ATG%202012%20FoodNutritionSecurityPolicyAG.pdf>

APPENDIX III

BAHAMAS

Rapid Assessment of the School Nutrition Policy Environment

Introduction

The Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi) Project is currently focused on the school nutrition environment especially the sale and marketing of Sugar Sweetened Beverages (SSBs), Energy Dense Nutrient Poor (EDNP) and High Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS) foods in schools. A rapid assessment of the school nutrition policy environment in Bahamas was undertaken to gain insight into policies and other factors shaping the local school nutrition landscape. These findings can be used to guide tailored approaches to advocating for tackling childhood obesity in the Bahamas through healthy school nutrition policies.

Method

The rapid assessment of primary and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition policy environment was conducted for 8 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahamas, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

A school nutrition policy environment report template outlining primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition environment was developed prior to conducting the assessment. The template was developed based on current evidence and the HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard (COPS)³². Guided by the report template a rapid assessment of primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition policy environment in **the Bahamas** was conducted from March to May 2019. This data was used to prepare the local school nutrition policy country report.

Further insight into primary and secondary policies/ factors in the local school nutrition environment was gained by receiving feedback on country reports from key stakeholders from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and local CSO partners, where possible, between June and September 2019. Local stakeholders from the public sector (Ministries of Health and Education) and civil society were contacted for feedback however some declined.

The country report for **The Bahamas** was used to inform a regional report which compiled country report data from the 8 countries of interest. The regional report was shared with stakeholders at the Caribbean

³² Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/country-scorecard.php>

Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for review and feedback.

Findings

Findings presented across table 1 and 2 are itemised below:

1. Table 1: Snapshot of primary policies shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in the Bahamas
2. Table 2: Snapshot of secondary policies and factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in the Bahamas.

Table 1: Snapshot of primary policies shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in The Bahamas.

PRIMARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES	
POLICY	STATUS* (Present/ Absent)
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the SALE of SSBs in and around schools.	<p>PRESENT</p> <p>Compulsory Standards for Healthy Lunch Meals in Bahamian Schools³³ and Compulsory Standards for Tuck Shops in Bahamian Schools³⁴ exist but there have been challenges with compliance.³⁵. Note policy does not extend to vendors operating close to schools but off school premises.</p> <p>The two standards were developed collaboratively by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, The School Lunch Vendors Association. The Ministry of Education is responsible for implementation and the Minister of Education, Hon Jeffrey L Lloyd, recently announced that an implementation team is being put together to enforce the standards which ban the sale of SSBs in and around schools³⁵.</p>

³³ Compulsory Standards for HEALTHY LUNCH MEALS in BAHAMIAN SCHOOLS - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/documents/GBL-SCHOOL-LUNCH-Final-Document.pdf>

³⁴ Compulsory Standards for TUCK SHOPS in Bahamian Schools - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/documents/GBL-TUCK-SHOP-Manual-Final-Document.pdf>

³⁵ Video Clip showing Hon. J. Lloyd's comments on the implementation of healthy school policies - <https://www.dropbox.com/s/3wt65jqf1d2gk7l/jlloyd.MP4?dl=0>

PRIMARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES	
POLICY	STATUS* (Present/ Absent)
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the SALE of unhealthy foods that are energy dense and nutrient poor (EDNP) or high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) in and around all schools.	<p>PRESENT</p> <p>Compulsory Standards for Healthy Lunch Meals in Bahamian Schools³³ and Compulsory Standards for Tuck Shops in Bahamian Schools³⁴ exist and have been implemented but there have been challenges with compliance³⁵. Note policy does not extend to vendors operating close to schools but off school premises.</p> <p>The two standards were developed collaboratively by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, The School Lunch Vendors Association and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) but they are yet to be implemented. The Ministry of Education is responsible for implementation and the Minister of Education, Hon Jeffrey L Lloyd, recently announced that an implementation team is being put together to enforce the standards which ban the sale of foods of Minimal Nutritional Value³⁶.</p>
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the MARKETING of SSBs in and around all schools.	<p>ABSENT</p> <p>No policy or regulation present.</p>
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the MARKETING of unhealthy foods that are energy dense and nutrient poor (EDNP) or high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) in and around all schools.	<p>ABSENT</p> <p>No policy or regulation present.</p>
Level of political commitment* to primary national school nutrition environment policies	MEDIUM

Important notes regarding table 1.

Policy Status: If a policy is present note which Ministry owns the policy and the document mechanics. For example, policy developed collaboratively with health and education but implemented and monitored by the latter.

***Level of political commitment is classified as below:**

Low: 0 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.

Medium: 1-2 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.

High: 3-4 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.

³⁶ Video Clip showing Hon. J. Lloyd's comments on the implementation of healthy school policies - <https://www.dropbox.com/s/3wt65jqf1d2gk7l/jlloyd.MP4?dl=0>

Table 2: Snapshot of secondary policies and factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in the Bahamas.

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present / Absent/ Don't Know)
Government Policies or Factors	
Sugar sweetened beverage (SSB) tax.	ABSENT Policy drafted in 2016, and widely circulated though it has not yet been approved.
National Childhood obesity prevention plan	ABSENT
Government nutrition policy or guidelines specifically for all schools.	PRESENT Compulsory Standards for Healthy Lunch Meals in Bahamian Schools ³⁷ and Compulsory Standards for Tuck Shops in Bahamian Schools ³⁸ exist and will soon be implemented and enforced
Government regulation or policy ensuring free potable water is available at all schools.	ABSENT
National programme or initiative encouraging all schools to improve the school nutrition environment in some way.	ABSENT
Planning ³⁹ restrictions on how close vendors can be to schools.	PRESENT Ministry of Education has a policy with a specified distance that vendors should maintain but enforcement is weak.
An active Chronic Non-communicable Disease Commission (NNCDC).	PRESENT Healthy Bahamas Coalition is active ⁴⁰ .
Public policymaker announcements of plans to develop or implement school	PRESENT In August 2019 Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. Duane Sands, announced that the Ministry of Health will ban the sale of sugary drinks from all of its nationwide institutions. ⁴¹

³⁷ Compulsory Standards for HEALTHY LUNCH MEALS in BAHAMIAN SCHOOLS -

<https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/documents/GBL-SCHOOL-LUNCH-Final-Document.pdf>

³⁸ Compulsory Standards for TUCK SHOPS in BAHAMIAN SCHOOLS - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/documents/GBL-TUCK-SHOP-Manual-Final-Document.pdf>

³⁹ **Planning*** - Refers to the Public Health planning department, usually situated within the local Ministry of Health

⁴⁰ Healthy Bahamas Coalition -- <https://healthybahamascoalition.com/home>

⁴¹ Childhood Obesity Sparks Drinks Ban - <http://www.tribune242.com/news/2019/aug/19/childhood-obesity-sparks-drinks-ban/>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present / Absent/ Don't Know)
nutrition environment policies.	<p>In June 2019, the Minister of Health declared war on NCDs and announced that his ministry will aggressively study the world's experience with sugar sin taxes to inform an evidence-based recommendation⁴².</p> <p>In March 2019, Minister of Education, Hon Jeffrey L Lloyd, announced that an implementation team is being put together to enforce the Compulsory Standards for Healthy Lunch Meals in Bahamian Schools and Compulsory Standards for Tuck Shops in Bahamian Schools which effectively bans the sale of sugar sweetened beverages in schools⁴³.</p>
National health campaign or programme tackling obesity and related NCD issues.	<p>PRESENT</p> <p>The novel and innovative Whatcha Cookin' series was specifically geared to tackling NCDs from a practical knowledge and empowerment perspective⁴⁴.</p> <p>In 2018, the Ministry of Health launched BahamasFit, a pilot programme to encourage physical activity.</p> <p>"Eat Wise Be Wise" was introduced by the office of the Wife of The Prime Minister</p> <p>In June 2019, the Minister of Health announced plans to introduce "Bahamas Moves", the Bahamian version of the regional Caribbean Moves initiative patterned off of Jamaica Moves⁴⁵.</p>
Other	
School/ Institution Level Policies or Factors	
Schools instituting their own policies or programmes to improve their school nutrition environment.	<p>PRESENT</p> <p>Individual schools have partnered with NGO's and CSO's to implement various initiatives such as backyard gardening, water days, fruit days, etc.</p>

⁴² Minister Declares War On NCDs - <http://jonesbahamas.com/minister-declares-war-on-ncds/>

⁴³ Video Clip showing Hon. J. Lloyd's comments on the implementation of healthy school policies - <https://www.dropbox.com/s/3wt65jqf1d2gk7l/jlloyd.MP4?dl=0>

⁴⁴ About the Whatcha Cookin' Wellness Initiative – <https://www.dropbox.com/s/zt4v3k260rcqs4r/Whatcha%20Cookin%20Teaser%20%28FINAL%29.pdf?dl=0>

⁴⁵ Minister Declares War On NCDs - <http://jonesbahamas.com/minister-declares-war-on-ncds/>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present / Absent/ Don't Know)
Civil Society Led Initiatives	
Advocacy groups (Civil society organisations) calling for healthier school nutrition environment.	<p>PRESENT</p> <p>Cancer Society of the Bahamas (CSOB) Healthy Lifestyles Team (HaLT) advocates for a healthier school nutrition environment and engage in numerous projects and initiatives that support childhood obesity prevention. CSOB has been key to sensitising the Bahamian public and policymakers about the health implications of obesity and various factors that contribute to the problem including excess sugar consumption⁴⁶.</p> <p>CSOB is a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the HCC CSO Regional Action Team working to further the regional childhood obesity prevention agenda⁴⁷. • Grantee on the 2018 Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) Childhood Obesity Prevention project advocating for increased water consumption and raising awareness around the dangers of excess SSB consumption⁴⁸. HaLT leadership is fully engaged with Bahamian Policymakers in the Health and Education Sectors. • Instrumental in advocating for the implementation of policies banning the sale of SSBs and unhealthy foods in and around schools. • Now advocating for an SSB tax. <p>The Healthy Caribbean Coalition's My Healthy Caribbean School⁴⁹ platform is live for Bahamas. MHCS empowers the school community to call for a healthier school environment with respect to nutrition and physical activity and offers insight into the local school environment with respect to these factors.</p> <p>HCC Civil Society Action Plan 2017-2021 is focused on childhood obesity and the HCC has been supporting regional advocacy efforts around childhood obesity prevention, including school nutrition</p>

⁴⁶ Healthy Lifestyles Team – HaLT Bahamas - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Nonprofit-Organization/Healthy-Lifestyle-Team-HaLT-Bahamas-2383530805005918/>

⁴⁷ HaLT – Member of the CSO Regional Action Team - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cso-regional-action-team-for-cop/>

⁴⁸ Cancer Society of the Bahamas Caribbean Development Bank Childhood Obesity Prevention Project - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/project-csob/>

⁴⁹ My Healthy Caribbean School - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/my-healthy-school.php>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present / Absent/ Don't Know)
	policies. The HCC has a Childhood Obesity Prevention Portal with a variety of resources ⁵⁰ .
Academic entities engaged in related research.	DON'T KNOW
An active National Vendors Association (Civil Society)	ABSENT
An active National Parent Teacher Association.	ABSENT However, most schools in The Bahamas have active PTAs.
An active National Principals Association.	PRESENT
Presence of international/ regional organisations to provide technical support.	PRESENT PAHO, UNICEF, FAO, CARPHA, UNDP etc.
Other	-

Summary of factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level

1.1 Barriers:

- *Government/ Public Sector*
 - Issues with compliance, monitoring and evaluation of implemented healthy school policies. The standards outlining restrictions on the sale of SSBs and unhealthy foods in schools have been implemented by the Ministry of Education but there have been challenges around compliance by all schools and lunch vendors, and a lack of monitoring and evaluation amongst other issues.
 - There have been recent talks of moving towards effectively implementing the standards so they can have the desired effect.

1.2 Facilitators:

- *Government /Public Sector*
 - Government has already developed and implemented (albeit with poor enforcement) standards outlining restrictions on the sale of SSBs and unhealthy foods in schools showing an interest in improving the school nutrition environment. The Government taking steps to improve enforcement.

⁵⁰ HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Portal - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/childhood-obesity-prevention/>

- The Bahamas is actively implementing its National NCD Strategy and Action Plan titled “Wellness in The Nation” (2017 – 2022). The Action Plan features areas that address the school environment.
- Partnerships with CSO’s such as Bahamas Cancer Society in the fight against childhood obesity with a focus of reduction of SSBs in schools.
- Civil Society Sector Advocates and Potential Partners
 - The work of CSOB’s HaLT around childhood obesity prevention including educational outreach, sensitisation and engagement of the Government and key policymakers continues to be key to pushing for healthier school and wider local nutrition environments. CSOB’s work includes advocacy around excess SSB consumption, encouragement of increased water consumption, restrictions on the sale of unhealthy foods and beverages in schools and SSB taxes.
 - International/ regional organisations such as PAHO, UNICEF, CARPHA and FAO are important sources of technical assistance.
- Regional⁵¹
 - Bermuda has implemented a ban on SSBs in schools.
 - Trinidad has implemented a ban on SSBs in Schools.
 - Jamaica recently introduced a restriction on SSBs in schools.
 - SSB taxes in place in Barbados, Bermuda and Dominica.

1.3 Political Levers:

- The Bahamas has its National NCD Strategy and Action Plan titled “Wellness in The Nation” (2017 – 2022), that is actively being implemented. The Action Plan features areas that are specific to the school environment however it is yet to be implemented. This plan can be used as leverage to remind Governments of their commitments.
- In August 2019, the Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. Duane Sands announced that the Ministry of Health will ban the sale of sugary drinks from all nationwide institutions showing a commitment to creating a healthier nutrition environment⁵².
- In June 2019, Minister of Health, declared war on NCDs and announced that his ministry will aggressively study the world’s experience with sugar sin taxes for an evidence-based recommendation showing a commitment to tackling NCDs⁵³.
- In June 2019, the Minister of Health declared that Bahamas was at war against NCDs and acknowledged the contribution of obesity and poor nutrition to rising NCD rates. He vowed to investigate the link between poor nutrition and violence and to aggressively consider the impact of using sin taxes to curb unhealthy consumption^{54,55}. This shows a commitment by the Ministry of Health to encourage better nutrition in the Bahamian community.

⁵¹ HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Regional Scorecard Country Grid - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/country-scorecard.php>

⁵² Childhood Obesity Sparks Drinks Ban - <http://www.tribune242.com/news/2019/aug/19/childhood-obesity-sparks-drinks-ban/>

⁵³ Minister Declares War On NCDs - <http://jonesbahamas.com/minister-declares-war-on-ncds/>

⁵⁴ Gun violence is top cause of death for men - <http://www.tribune242.com/news/2019/jun/14/gun-violence-top-cause-death-men/>

⁵⁵ Minister Declares War On NCDs - <http://jonesbahamas.com/minister-declares-war-on-ncds/>

- In June 2019, the Minister of Health also announced that Bahamas Moves will be introduced to encourage physical activity in Bahamian Communities.

APPENDIX IV

BARBADOS

Rapid Assessment of the School Nutrition Policy Environment

Introduction

The Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi) Project is currently focused on the school nutrition environment especially the sale and marketing of Sugar Sweetened Beverages (SSBs), Energy Dense Nutrient Poor (EDNP) and High Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS) foods in schools. A rapid assessment of the school nutrition policy environment in Barbados was undertaken to gain insight into policies and other factors shaping the local school nutrition landscape. These findings can be used to guide tailored approaches to advocating for tackling childhood obesity in Barbados through healthy school nutrition policies.

Method

The rapid assessment of primary and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition policy environment was conducted for 8 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahamas, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

A school nutrition policy environment report template outlining primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition environment was developed prior to conducting the assessment. The template was developed based on current evidence and the HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard (COPS)⁵⁶. Guided by the report template a rapid assessment of primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition policy environment in **Barbados** was conducted from March to May 2019. This data was used to prepare the local school nutrition policy country report.

Further insight into primary and secondary policies/ factors in the local school nutrition environment was gained by receiving feedback on country reports from key stakeholders from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and local CSO partners, where possible, between June and September 2019. Local stakeholders from the public sector (Ministries of Health and Education) and civil society were contacted for feedback however some declined.

The country report for **Barbados** was used to inform a regional report which compiled country report data from the 8 countries of interest. The regional report was shared with stakeholders at the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for review and feedback.

⁵⁶ Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/country-scorecard.php>

Findings

Findings presented across tables 1 and 2 are itemised below:

1. Table 1: Snapshot of primary policies shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Barbados
2. Table 2: Snapshot of secondary policies and factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Barbados

Table 1: Snapshot of primary policies shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Barbados

PRIMARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES	
POLICY	STATUS* (Present/ Absent)
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the SALE of SSBs in and around schools.	ABSENT No regulation or policy present.
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the SALE of unhealthy foods that are energy dense and nutrient poor (EDNP) or high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) in and around all schools.	ABSENT No regulation or policy present.
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the MARKETING of SSBs in and around all schools.	ABSENT No regulation or policy present.
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the MARKETING of unhealthy foods that are energy dense and nutrient poor (EDNP) or high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) in and around all schools.	ABSENT No regulation or policy present.
Level of political commitment* to primary national school nutrition environment policies	LOW

*Important notes regarding table 1.

Policy Status: If a policy is present note which Ministry owns the policy and the document mechanics. For example, policy developed collaboratively with health and education but implemented and monitored by the latter.

***Level of political commitment is classified as below:**

Low: 0 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.

Medium: 1-2 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.

High: 3-4 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.

Table 2: Snapshot of secondary policies and factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Barbados

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present / Absent / Don't Know)
Government Policies or Factors	
Sugar sweetened beverage (SSB) tax.	PRESENT 10% tax on SSBs implemented in 2015. ⁵⁷
National childhood obesity prevention plan	PRESENT National Plan of Action for Childhood Obesity Prevention and Control (2015-2018) Barbados-Childhood Obesity Prevention Program (B-CHOPP) present ⁵⁸ .
Government nutrition policy or guidelines specifically for all schools.	PRESENT In 2009 The National Nutrition Centre of the Ministry of Health and Wellness Barbados produced the “Nutritious & Healthy Foods in Schools Nutritional & Practical Guidelines for Barbados” in collaboration with Ministry of Education ⁵⁹ . This was approved by Cabinet. These guidelines were updated in 2015 however they are not mandatory.
Government regulation or policy ensuring free potable water is available at all schools.	ABSENT
National programme or initiative encouraging all schools to improve the school nutrition environment in some way.	PRESENT The Ministry of Education, Technology and Vocational Training (METVT) sent out a memo in September 2018 encouraging voluntary ‘Water Wednesday’s and ‘Fruit Friday’s’ in over 90 schools to encourage healthier lifestyles. ⁶⁰ It is alleged that the guidelines were rescinded but directives were given for guidance to be developed. A document for canteens is reportedly being developed.
Planning ⁶¹ restrictions on how close vendors can be to schools.	ABSENT

⁵⁷ Excise Tax Act: Act 2015-32 - [https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/documents/BAR-Excise-Tax-\(Amendment\)-\(No.%203\)-Regulations-2017.pdf](https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/documents/BAR-Excise-Tax-(Amendment)-(No.%203)-Regulations-2017.pdf)

⁵⁸ National Plan of Action for Childhood Obesity Prevention and Control (2015-2018) Barbados – Childhood Obesity Prevention Program (B-CHOPP) - <https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/sites/default/files/BRB%202015%20National%20Plan%20of%20Action%20for%20Childhood%20Obesity.pdf>

⁵⁹ Nutritious & Healthy Foods in Schools Nutritional & Practical Guidelines for Barbados http://nutritioncentre.health.gov.bb/public/uploaded_files/GNHFSAug2015.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2lZex-JEjv4bT2lWuqmx7qAoiCLZ7w-8A7PAM_4dblSzH2foGEYVeAnM

⁶⁰ Sweet Move Nation News Article - <http://www.nationnews.com/nationnews/news/197850/sweet>

⁶¹ Planning* - Refers to the Public Health planning department, usually situated within the local Ministry of Health

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present / Absent / Don't Know)
An active Chronic Non-communicable Disease Commission (NNCDC)	PRESENT The Barbados National Commission for Chronic Non-communicable Diseases (CNCDS). ⁶² The commission is currently chaired by Sir Trevor Hassell who is also the President of the Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC).
Public policymaker announcements of plans to develop or implement school nutrition environment policies.	PRESENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November 2018, Senator The Hon. Lucille Moe, Acting Minister of Education, Technology and Vocational Training (METVT) announced that her Ministry would be moving to modify the menu for the School Meals Programme in Barbados. She stated the METVT would be looking closely at the meals sold to students by vendors and canteens to ensure more nutritious meals are sold to students. She also noted that children need a healthy diet and physical activity to be successful in the school environment.⁶³ In November 2018, Minister of Health and Wellness, Lt. Col. The Hon. Jeffrey Bostic publicly announced that the officers from his Ministry and the METVT were working closely on the implementation of policies and programmes, in connection with the National Plan for Childhood Obesity, including improving the National School Meals Programme to facilitate the adoption of dietary guidelines for healthy and nutritious foods for children.⁶³
National health campaign or programme tackling obesity and related NCD issues.	PRESENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health and Wellness launched Barbados Moves in October 2018⁶⁴. The National Task Force on Wellness of the Ministry of Health and Wellness continues to hold regular community events encouraging Barbadians to get moving to combat non-communicable diseases. Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados launched their Switch It Up: Protect Our Children mass media campaign for childhood obesity prevention on the 24th May, 2019^{65,66,67}. The “Switch It Up” campaign was created to continue efforts to prevent childhood obesity in Barbados by identifying obesity, type 2 diabetes, and

⁶² Barbados National Commission For Chronic Non-communicable Diseases (CNCDS) - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/barbados-national-commission-for-cncds/>

⁶³ ‘Schools’ Menu will be modified - <https://www.barbadosadvocate.com/news/‘schools’-menus-will-be-modified/>

⁶⁴ GIS Article ‘Caribbean Unites to Fight NCDs’ - <https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/caribbean-unites-to-fight-ncds/>

⁶⁵ Instagram post from Switch It Up Campaign Launch - <https://www.instagram.com/p/Bx8Vq-8AhDe/>

⁶⁶ NCDs Pricetag 64 Million - <https://barbadostoday.bb/2019/05/25/ncds-pricetag-64-million/>

⁶⁷ Efforts on to reduce sugar intake by children - <https://gallery.mailchimp.com/86b3a4248c2aece5f837b09a3/images/5dedddda-2051-4386-a75e-81676419fb86.png>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present / Absent / Don't Know)
	tooth decay as consequences of excess sugary drinks consumption. This phase of the HSFB Childhood Obesity Prevention (COP) Programme at the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Barbados also highlights the responsibility of parents/guardians and policy makers to protect children from the health harms of excess sugary drinks consumption by providing healthier drink options, and supporting a restriction on the sale and marketing of sugary drinks to children in school ⁶⁸ .
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health and Wellness is continuing to roll out an Oral Health Education project which seeks to improve dental health and educates children on the effect their diet has on oral health ⁶⁹.
School/ Institution Level Policies or Factors	
Schools instituting their own policies or programmes to improve their school nutrition environment.	PRESENT Some schools already have or plan to institute their own programmes/ initiatives. For example, Gordon Walters Primary School has not allowed SSBs to be sold on the premises or brought to school for the last 3 years. ⁷⁰ Some schools have instituted “Water Wednesdays” and “Fruit Fridays” .
Civil Society Led Initiatives	
Advocacy groups (Civil society organisations) calling for healthier school nutrition environment.	PRESENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heart & Stroke Foundation of Barbados (HSFB) has been advocating for childhood obesity prevention policies including healthy school nutrition policies and has engaged in several projects and initiatives in support of those efforts^{71,72,73}. HSFB Childhood Obesity Public Opinion Poll⁷⁴ findings were released in March 2019 and indicated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vast majority (92%) of Barbadians polled support having National Policies/ Guidelines to ensure a healthy school environment.

⁶⁸ Childhood Obesity Coalition Letter calling for SSB Ban - <https://www.facebook.com/barbadosheartandstroke/photos/pb.357930957617512.-2207520000.1559158630./2183590928384830/?type=3&theater>

⁶⁹ GIS Article- ‘Bright Smiles’ - <https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/caribbean-unites-to-fight-ncds/>

⁷⁰ Gordon Walters Primary Embraces Healthy Eating -

<https://www.facebook.com/barbadosheartandstroke/photos/a.759919524085318/2179291778814745/?type=3&theater>

⁷¹ HSFB CDB Childhood Obesity Prevention Project - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/project-hsfb/>

⁷² Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition Consultation - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/childhood-obesity-prevention-coalition-consultation/>

⁷³ HSFB – Member of the CSO Regional Action Team - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cso-regional-action-team-for-cop/>

⁷⁴ Heart & Stroke Foundation of Barbados Obesity Opinion Poll - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/heart-and-stroke-foundation-of-barbados-obesity-opinion-poll/>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present / Absent / Don't Know)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 72% of those polled showed strong support for policies creating a healthier school nutrition environment including restricting the sale and marketing/advertising of unhealthy food and beverage products in schools. ○ 99% of Barbadians polled thought that the Government needed to take action to reduce obesity and NCDs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HSFB launched their Switch It Up: Protect Our Children mass media campaign for childhood obesity prevention on the 24th May, 2019^{75,76,77}. ● Six schools have signed on to be model schools for the HSFB Childhood obesity prevention programme.^{78,79,80,81}. ● The Barbados Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition, led by HSFB, was informally created in July 2018 and officially launched in May 2019, Child Month. The primary objective of this group in the short term is to promote school policies.⁸² Coalition member - Barbados Muslim Association plans to outfit every school with a water cooler to the tune of Bds\$35,000 (starting with approximately 12 schools this year). This work has already started⁸³. ● Healthy Caribbean Coalition's My Healthy Caribbean School (MHCS)⁸⁴ platform is live for Barbados. MHCS empowers the school community to call for a healthier school environment with respect to nutrition and physical activity and offers insight into the local school environment with respect to these factors.

⁷⁵ Video from Switch It Up Campaign Launch - <https://www.instagram.com/p/Bx8Vq-8AhDe/>

⁷⁶ NCDs Pricetag 64 Million - <https://barbadostoday.bb/2019/05/25/ncds-pricetag-64-million/>

⁷⁷ Efforts on to reduce sugar intake by children - <https://gallery.mailchimp.com/86b3a4248c2aece5f837b09a3/images/5dedddda-2051-4386-a75e-81676419fb86.png>

⁷⁸ SMS Principal signs on to HSFB Model Schools Programme -

<https://www.facebook.com/barbadosheartandstroke/photos/a.759919524085318/2150674038343186/?type=3&theater>

⁷⁹ QC Principal Signs on to HSFB Model Schools Programme -

<https://www.facebook.com/barbadosheartandstroke/photos/a.759919524085318/2151230644954192/?type=3&theater>

⁸⁰ RW Primary Signs on to HSFB Model Schools Programme -

<https://www.facebook.com/barbadosheartandstroke/photos/a.366594446751163/2089047504505840/?type=3&theater>

⁸¹ Rock Christian Primary Signs on to HSFB Model Schools Programme -

<https://www.facebook.com/barbadosheartandstroke/photos/a.759919524085318/2160735600670363/?type=3&theater>

⁸² Barbados Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition Letter calling on Government to restrict the sale of SSBs in and around schools -

<https://www.facebook.com/barbadosheartandstroke/photos/a.366594446751163/2183590928384830/?type=3&theater>

⁸³ Barbados Muslim Association water cooler donation -

<https://www.facebook.com/barbadosheartandstroke/photos/a.759919524085318/2128425100568080/?type=3&theater>

⁸⁴ My Healthy Caribbean School - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/my-healthy-school.php>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present / Absent / Don't Know)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCC Civil Society Action Plan 2017-2021 is focused on childhood obesity and the HCC has been supporting regional advocacy efforts around childhood obesity prevention, including school nutrition policies. The HCC has a Childhood Obesity Prevention Portal with a variety of resources ⁸⁵.
Academic entities engaged in related research.	<p>PRESENT</p> <p>The George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre (GA-CDRC) is a sub grantee on the Global Health Advocacy Initiative Project providing research support for the HSFB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GA-CDRC and Caribbean Institute for Health Research (CAIHR) have been examining aspects of the school food environment. University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill, Public Health Group has also looked at the barriers and facilitators of obesity in youth.
An active National Vendors Association (Civil Society)	<p>PRESENT</p> <p>Barbados Association of Retailers, Vendors and Entrepreneurs (BARVEN) is active.</p>
An active National Parent Teacher Association.	<p>PRESENT</p> <p>Barbados National Council of Parent - Teacher Associations Inc.⁸⁶ is active.</p>
An active National Principals Association.	<p>PRESENT</p> <p>Barbados Association of Principals of Public Secondary Schools' (BAPPSS) is active. Association of Principals of Public Primary Schools (APPPS) also active.</p>
Presence of international/ regional organisations to provide technical support.	<p>PRESENT</p> <p>PAHO, UNICEF, FAO, CARPHA, UNDP etc.</p>
Other	

⁸⁵ HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Portal - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/childhood-obesity-prevention/>

⁸⁶ Barbados National Council of Parent Teacher Associations Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/bncptainc>

Summary of factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level

1.1 Barriers:

- Government/ Public Sector

Competing Political Priorities: The Government of Barbados is operating within a challenging economic environment and heavily focussed on satisfying the requirements and meeting targets related to the IMF restructuring programme. The administration is just one year old (May 2019) and is under tremendous political pressure to stabilise the economy.

- Competing priorities within the school environment: School administrators note that there are several urgent priorities within the schools which will often take precedence over healthy eating including violence and poverty.
- Continued political rhetoric at the highest levels about ‘personal responsibility’: Political leaders continue to reference the importance of children making the right decisions about the foods they consume. However, they ignore the highly obesogenic environments in which children live and go to school and the fact that children do not have the mental decision-making capacity to choose the healthy options.

- Private Sector

- Government sanctioned marketing in schools: Many local fast food restaurants brazenly market their ultra-processed fast foods to children within the public and private school environments creating brand loyalty from as young as 3 years old. Interviews with key stakeholders in the public sector indicate that previous attempts to remove these entities have been unsuccessful.
- Sponsorship of sporting events and sporting equipment and other school supplies: Barbados is currently in a tough economic position and many food and beverage industry actors engage in corporate political activity that influences policy development including sponsorship which provides schools with much needed materials and equipment. The relationships many food and beverage companies have built with schools and the Government can be problematic because these companies are now well placed to directly and indirectly influence policy and public opinion.

- Lack of public awareness about the extent of the problem and its causes and resulting buy-in for systemic population level policy solutions.

1.2 Facilitators:

- Government /Public Sector

- Officers in the Ministry of Health and Wellness support policies which foster wider creation of a healthy nutrition environment⁸⁷. The Ministry of Health and Wellness Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Kenneth George, has publicly called for sugar-sweetened beverages taxes to be increased to 20% or 30%. The Senior Medical Officer of Health NCDs, Dr. E. Arthur Phillips, has also called for mandatory Front-Of-Package Labelling.

⁸⁷ Nation News Article ‘Call For Higher Sweet Drinks Tax’ - <http://www.nationnews.com/nationnews/news/239121/sweet-drink-tax>

- The Ministry of Education, Technology and Vocational Training (METVT) demonstrated its interest in healthy school policies by encouraging voluntary 'Water Wednesdays' and 'Fruit Fridays' in schools across the island and indicating that they will be modifying the school meals menu to include more nutritious foods. Officers in the Ministry have expressed support for local childhood obesity prevention initiatives as has Senator The Hon. Lucille Moe while acting as Minister of Education.
- There is a policy position at the METVT regarding the Schools Positive Behaviour Management Programme (SPBMP). It is an approach which emphasizes the reinforcement of positive behaviours and aims to create student centered environments. Some schools are working towards creating healthy nutrition environments under this programme.
- The Education Officer responsible for Food and Nutrition in the Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training, Hedda Phillips-Boyce, advocates for healthy eating⁸⁸ and is also a HSFB Childhood Obesity Prevention Champion⁸⁹. She is strategically positioned to advocate for school nutrition policies from within the Ministry of Education.
- The presence of an active Chronic Non-Communicable Disease Commission (NNCDC) is also beneficial as they are uniquely positioned to serve as a gateway to the Ministry of Health and Wellness and other actors.
- Civil Society Sector Advocates and Potential Partners
 - The presence of organisations such as the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Barbados sensitising and educating the public, Government and school communities about the drivers of childhood obesity – including SSB consumption is a facilitator. HSFB is advocating for school nutrition policies that help foster an environment that supports, promotes and encourages healthier choices:
 - HSFB conducted National polls indicating strong public support for childhood obesity prevention policies (see Table 2 above).
 - HSFB "Switch It Up" mass media campaign.
 - Formation of the Barbados National Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition led by HSFB.
 - Local Presence of the HCC and its President who is a significant national influencer (Chair of the National NCD Commission and well-respected opinion leader).
 - My Healthy Caribbean School platform can provide data which shows the state of the school environment and could potentially be used to monitor the implementation of policies going forward.
 - Barbados has a Vendor's Association, National Parent Teacher Association and two National Principals Associations. All three of these associations are active. These are key stakeholders to engage when advocating for the implementation of school nutrition policies as members of these associations have the power drive change in the school community.
- HSFB polls indicate that the public perceives obesity and overweight among children as a priority which requires policy level action.
- Barbados Moves along with other programmes, such as those encouraging good dental health, encourage healthier lifestyles.

⁸⁸ BGIS 'Students Given Lesson in Healthy Eating' - <https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/students-given-lesson-in-healthy-eating/>

⁸⁹ Hedda Phillips Boyce HSFB COP Champion - <https://www.instagram.com/p/BxSO5DBgKQ-/>

- International and regional organizations such as PAHO, UNICEF, CARPHA and FAO are important sources of technical assistance.
- Regional⁹⁰
 - Bermuda has implemented a ban on SSBs in schools.
 - Trinidad has implemented a ban on SSBs in Schools.
 - Jamaica recently introduced a restriction on SSBs in schools.
 - Bahamas now looking to enforce standards limiting the sale of SSBs and unhealthy snacks in schools.
- SSB taxes already in place in Barbados, Bermuda and Dominica.

1.3 Political Levers:

- In July 2018, The Hon. Mia Amor Mottley Prime Minister of Barbados endorsed tackling childhood obesity through policies fostering health-promoting school environments and front-of-package labelling (FOPL). The Prime Minister of Barbados attended the 39th regular meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (HOG) of the Caribbean Community in July 2018. All HOGs in attendance endorsed advocating for six priority areas at the 3rd UN High Level Meeting on NCDs which included implementing policies geared at preventing childhood obesity such as creating health-promoting school environments and introducing FOPL⁹¹. This was essentially a public endorsement of healthy school policies.
- The Governor General of Barbados, Dame Sandra Mason, supports childhood obesity prevention initiatives, is HSFB Patron and signed the HSFB accord regarding tackling Childhood Obesity in 2018.
- The Minister of Health and Wellness, Lt. Col. The Hon. Jeffrey D. Bostic, has shown support for childhood obesity prevention initiatives. He attended UNHLM3 and in October 2018 he endorsed the HCC led healthy schools initiative and appealed to students to make healthier food choices⁹².
- Senator Dr. Crystal Haynes is an active HSFB and HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Champion who can make the case for healthy school policies in the Upper House^{93,94}.
- Public support for healthy school policies – HSFB public opinion poll findings suggest Barbadians are ready to support and want the current Government to take action to create a healthier school nutrition environment by implementing healthy school policies.
- The findings of the CADRES Public Opinion Poll on Childhood Obesity Commissioned by the HSFB shows the public supports the Government implementing healthy school policies. These findings help strengthen the argument that politicians now have the political cover and support of the population necessary to introduce healthy school policies.

⁹⁰ HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Regional Scorecard Country Grid - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/country-scorecard.php>

⁹¹ Communiqué issued at the conclusion of the thirty-ninth regular meeting of The Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community - <https://caricom.org/cochog/view/communique-issued-at-the-conclusion-of-the-thirty-ninth-regular-meeting-of-the-conference-of-heads-of-government-of-the-caribbean-community>

⁹² Childhood Obesity Prevention Message Taken to Caribbean Schools - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/childhood-obesity-prevention-message-taken-to-caribbean-schools/>

⁹³ Senator Dr. Crystal Haynes educating students about the amount of sugar in SBBs through “Sugar Game” - <https://www.instagram.com/p/Bpry0jOhTmL/>

⁹⁴ Senator Dr. Crystal Haynes HSFB COP Champion - <https://www.instagram.com/p/BxZ0tUKgUkS/>

- Following the release of the CADRES Poll HCC and HSFB leadership held separate meetings with Hon. Ryan Straughn, Minister in the Ministry of Finance⁹⁵ and Lt. Col. The Hon. Jeffrey Bostic Minister of Health and Wellness⁹⁶ to discuss public concerns about childhood obesity and the policies which are needed to combat the issue. Both Ministers expressed support for childhood obesity prevention initiatives.
- HCC and HSFB leadership also met with management at the Ministry of Education, Technology and Vocational Training (METVT) in April 2019 including, Chief Education Officer Karen Best; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Janet Phillips and Joy Adamson, Deputy Chief Education Officer⁹⁷ The meeting was productive and MOETVT leadership continues to express support for childhood obesity prevention initiatives underway^{98,99,100}.
- On March 20th 2019, The Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment made the following statement during the 2019 Budgetary Proposals and Financial Statement address¹⁰¹ :

“Barbados is suffering from the rapid growth of non-communicable diseases, like hyper-tension and diabetes. It is essential that we change our diets and lifestyles. We are working with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to promote the consumption of fresh vegetables and discourage the consumption of processed foods and or foods with high sugar content, using fiscal measures. Barbados already has a sugar tax which currently falls disproportionately on locally produced goods. We will make sure its coverage is more even across local and imported goods and then we will consider a further extension. We expect this initiative will provide a fillip to locally grown fresh vegetables.

Sir, we will also start speaking with fast food establishments and with the Pine Hill Dairy to ensure that in the manufacturing of their juices or in the preparation of the foods that they will adhere to using healthier ingredients and reduce sugar content help us in this battle against obesity (especially among children) and diabetes. We believe that a conversation is preferable to a heavy hand but believe you me Mr. Speaker, if we have to go there we will use fiscal measures to achieve this.” -The Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados

⁹⁵ HCC and HSFB meet with Minister in the Ministry of Finance, Hon. Ryan Straughn - <https://www.instagram.com/p/BvCfMT6gA6R/>

⁹⁶ HSFB and HCC meet with Minister of Health and Wellness Lt. Col. Hon. Jeffrey Bostic and his team - <https://www.instagram.com/p/Bvmr7jKglkJ/>

⁹⁷ HCC, HSFB and Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocation Training Leadership - <https://www.instagram.com/p/Bwm3yqqBWCO/>

⁹⁸ HSFB Event at Gordon Walters Primary attended by Deputy Chief Education Officer and Acting Minister of Education - <https://www.facebook.com/barbadosheartandstroke/photos/a.759919524085318/2128331590577431/?type=3&theater>

⁹⁹ HSFB Switch It Up Campaign Launch – Minister of Education (Ag.) supporting initiative - <https://www.facebook.com/barbadosheartandstroke/photos/a.2176367362440520/2176368615773728/?type=3&theater>

¹⁰⁰ Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Team supporting Switch It Up Campaign Launch - <https://www.facebook.com/barbadosheartandstroke/videos/341596473224550/>

¹⁰¹ The Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, Q.C., M.P. Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment: Budgetary Proposals and Financial Statement, 2019. Pp. 41 - <https://www.barbadosparliament.com/uploads/document/9490e69647396a5d559bf968c298daab.pdf>

While not directly related to school nutrition policies this statement demonstrates that the Government has publicly committed to tackling childhood obesity in general and creating a local nutrition environment that encourages healthier choices and is open to using policy to create that environment if necessary.

- The Prime Minister of Barbados has also made public statements pledging to lead by example in the fight against NCDs plaguing Barbados by changing her diet and lifestyle.¹⁰²

Again, not directly related to nutrition policies these statements acknowledge the importance of tackling the problem of obesity.

¹⁰² Hon. Mia Amor Mottley Statement - <https://www.instagram.com/p/BvRW78dg1HX/>

APPENDIX V

GRENADA

Rapid Assessment of the School Nutrition Policy Environment

Introduction

The Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi) Project is currently focused on the school nutrition environment especially the sale and marketing of Sugar Sweetened Beverages (SSBs), Energy Dense Nutrient Poor (EDNP) and High Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS) foods in schools. A rapid assessment of the school nutrition policy environment in Grenada was undertaken to gain insight into policies and other factors shaping the local school nutrition landscape. These findings can be used to guide tailored approaches to advocating for tackling childhood obesity in Grenada through healthy school nutrition policies.

Method

The rapid assessment of primary and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition policy environment was conducted for 8 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahamas, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

A school nutrition policy environment report template outlining primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition environment was developed prior to conducting the assessment. The template was developed based on current evidence and the HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard (COPS)¹⁰³. Guided by the report template a rapid assessment of primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition policy environment in **Grenada** was conducted from March to May 2019. This data was used to prepare the local school nutrition policy country report.

Further insight into primary and secondary policies/ factors in the local school nutrition environment was gained by receiving feedback on country reports from key stakeholders from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and local CSO partners, where possible, between June and September 2019. Local stakeholders from the public sector (Ministries of Health and Education) and civil society were contacted for feedback however some declined.

The country report for **Grenada** was used to inform a regional report which compiled country report data from the 8 countries of interest. The regional report was shared with stakeholders at the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for review and feedback.

¹⁰³ Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard -<https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/country-scorecard.php>

Findings

Findings presented across tables 1 and 2 are itemised below:

1. Table 1: Snapshot of primary policies shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Grenada.
2. Table 2: Snapshot of secondary policies and factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Grenada.

Table 1: Snapshot of primary policies shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in the Grenada

PRIMARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES	
POLICY	STATUS* (Present/ Absent)
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the SALE of SSBs in and around schools.	ABSENT No policy or regulation present.
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the SALE of unhealthy foods that are energy dense and nutrient poor (EDNP) or high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) in and around all schools.	ABSENT No policy or regulation present.
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the MARKETING of SSBs in and around all schools.	ABSENT No policy or regulation present.
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the MARKETING of unhealthy foods that are energy dense and nutrient poor (EDNP) or high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) in and around all schools.	ABSENT No policy or regulation present.
Level of political commitment* to primary national school nutrition environment policies	LOW

*Important notes regarding table 1.

Policy Status: If a policy is present note which Ministry owns the policy and the document mechanics. For example, policy developed collaboratively with health and education but implemented and monitored by the latter.

***Level of political commitment is classified as below:**

Low: 0 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.

Medium: 1-2 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.

High: 3-4 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present

Table 2: Snapshot of secondary policies and factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Grenada

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present/ Absent/ Don't Know)
Sugar sweetened beverage (SSB) tax	ABSENT
National Childhood obesity prevention plan	ABSENT However, Objective 3 of the Grenada Food and Nutrition Security plan of action 2013-2019 outlines a framework for tackling obesity specifically ¹⁰⁴ .
Government nutrition policy or guidelines specifically for all schools.	PRESENT National School Nutrition Policy for Grenada, 2015 prepared by The Ministry of Education and the Grenada Food and Nutrition Council in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) ¹⁰⁵ . The school Nutrition Policy is in the budding stages of implementation ¹⁰⁶ . Additionally, a Cabinet submission for banning SSBs and Hard Candy was prepared for submission or was submitted for submission to Cabinet – through MOE - in recent times but no outcome yet.
Government regulation or policy ensuring free potable water is available at all schools.	DON'T KNOW We do not know if there is a policy. Government pays for public schools and Private schools pay for water (Information from National Water and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA) Grenada).
National programme or initiative encouraging all schools to improve the school nutrition environment in some way.	ABSENT However, the Grenada Food and Nutrition Council (GFNC) has been working with the schools on a routine basis in monitoring and guiding the School Feeding Programme. New menus were recently sent to all schools through the Ministry of Education School Feeding Department.

¹⁰⁴ Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Plan of Action 2013-2018 -

<https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/sites/default/files/GRD%202013%20Food%20and%20nutrition%20security%20plan%20of%20action.pdf>

¹⁰⁵ National School Nutrition Policy for Grenada, 2015 -

[https://extranet.who.int/ncdccc/Data/GRD_B11_Grenada%20Schools%20nutrition%20policy%20Final%20Submission%20\(1\)2017.docx](https://extranet.who.int/ncdccc/Data/GRD_B11_Grenada%20Schools%20nutrition%20policy%20Final%20Submission%20(1)2017.docx)

¹⁰⁶ School Nutrition Policy A Reality - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=KiKuW5OyBuY>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present/ Absent/ Don't Know)
	With Assistance from PAHO the GFNC has been conducting training with cooks, vendors and tuck-shop operators for preparation of healthier- low sugar/fat/salt items for the children while in school.
Planning ¹⁰⁷ restrictions on how close vendors can be to schools	ABSENT
An active Chronic Non-communicable Disease Commission (NNCDC).	PRESENT The Grenada National Chronic Non-Communicable Disease Commission is active ¹⁰⁸ and has been advocating for the implementation of a suite of childhood obesity prevention policies, including healthy school policies ¹⁰⁹ . In 2019, the Commission hosted a national consultation to develop a National Anti-Childhood Obesity Action Plan for Grenada ^{110,111} . The Commission has been advocating for the implementation of COP policies to create a healthier nutrition environment including healthy school policies. The Commission is part of the HCC Regional CSO Action Team for Childhood Obesity Prevention ¹¹² .
Public policymaker announcements of plans to develop or implement school nutrition environment policies.	ABSENT
National health campaign or programme tackling obesity and related NCD issues.	ABSENT
Other	
School/ Institution Level Policies or Factors	
Schools instituting their own policies or programmes to improve their school nutrition environment.	PRESENT Several schools have banned soda and some other items as part of school -based initiatives.

¹⁰⁷ **Planning*** - Refers to the Public Health planning department, usually situated within the local Ministry of Health

¹⁰⁸ Grenada National Chronic Non-Communicable Disease Commission - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/the-grenada-national-chronic-non-communicable-disease-commission/>

¹⁰⁹ Grenada National Chronic Non-Communicable Disease Commission – Member of the CSO Regional Action Team - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cso-regional-action-team-for-cop/>

¹¹⁰ Now Grenada – “Multi-sectoral approach to tackling childhood obesity “ - <http://www.nowgrenada.com/2019/01/multi-sectorial-approach-to-tackle-childhood-obesity/>,

¹¹¹ Grenada National NCD Commission Hosts a National Consultation on Childhood Obesity: <https://us10.campaign-archive.com/?u=ed61694edb82f72792f2c093d&id=410b71a92f>

¹¹² HCC CSO Regional Action Team - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cso-regional-action-team-for-cop/>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present/ Absent/ Don't Know)
Civil Society Led Initiatives	
Advocacy groups (Civil society organisations) calling for healthier school nutrition environment.	DON'T KNOW HCC Civil Society Action Plan 2017-2021 is focused on childhood obesity and the HCC has been supporting regional advocacy efforts around childhood obesity prevention, including school nutrition policies. The HCC has a Childhood Obesity Prevention Portal with a variety of resources ¹¹³ .
Academic entities engaged in related research.	ABSENT
An active National Vendors Association (Civil Society)	DON'T KNOW
Active National Parent Teacher Association	DON'T KNOW
An active National Principals Association	PRESENT The Grenada Association of Principals of Secondary Schools is active.
Presence of international/ regional organisations to provide technical support.	PRESENT PAHO, UNICEF, FAO, CARPHA, UNDP, etc.
Other	PRESENT National Consultation on Childhood Obesity (NNCDC). NNCDC held a Schools Nutrition Policy National Consultation in January 2019 ¹¹⁴ . Policies emerging out of this event are pending.

Summary of factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level

1.1 Barriers:

- Insufficient public awareness about the extent of the problem and its causes and resulting buy-in for systemic population level policy solutions.

¹¹³ HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Portal - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/childhood-obesity-prevention/>

¹¹⁴ Grenada National NCD Commission Hosts a National Consultation on Childhood Obesity: <https://us10.campaign-archive.com/?u=ed61694edb82f72792f2c093d&id=410b71a92f>

1.2 Facilitators:

- Government / Public Sector
 - Mr. Stroude – Head of School Services, has confirmed that a Cabinet submission has been prepared and submitted for ban of the SSBs and hard candies, recently however there has been no response on that as yet.
 - The NNCDCC continues to raise awareness around childhood obesity prevention amongst the Grenadian population and policymakers and advance childhood obesity prevention policy . In early 2019 they held a National Consultation on the Anti-Childhood Obesity Action Plan for Grenada and sought input from a variety of stakeholders.
- Civil Society and other potential partners
 - International and regional organizations such as PAHO, UNICEF, CARPHA and FAO are important sources of technical assistance.
- Regional¹¹⁵
 - Bermuda has implemented a ban on SSBs in schools.
 - Trinidad has implemented a ban on SSBs in Schools.
 - Jamaica recently introduced a restriction on SSBs in schools.
 - Bahamas now looking to enforce standards limiting the sale of SSBs and unhealthy snacks in schools.
 - SSB taxes in place in Barbados, Bermuda and Dominica.

¹¹⁵ HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Regional Scorecard Country Grid - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/country-scorecard.php>

APPENDIX VI

JAMAICA

Rapid Assessment of the School Nutrition Policy Environment

Introduction

The Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi) Project is currently focused on the school nutrition environment especially the sale and marketing of Sugar Sweetened Beverages (SSBs), Energy Dense Nutrient Poor (EDNP) and High Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS) foods in schools. A rapid assessment of the school nutrition policy environment in Jamaica was undertaken to gain insight into policies and other factors shaping the local school nutrition landscape. These findings can be used to guide tailored approaches to advocating for tackling childhood obesity in Jamaica through healthy school nutrition policies.

Method

The rapid assessment of primary and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition policy environment was conducted for 8 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahamas, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

A school nutrition policy environment report template outlining primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition environment was developed prior to conducting the assessment. The template was developed based on current evidence and the HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard (COPS)¹¹⁶. Guided by the report template a rapid assessment of primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition policy environment in **Jamaica** was conducted from March to May 2019. This data was used to prepare the local school nutrition policy country report.

Further insight into primary and secondary policies/ factors in the local school nutrition environment was gained by receiving feedback on country reports from key stakeholders from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and local CSO partners, where possible, between June and September 2019. Local stakeholders from the public sector (Ministries of Health and Education) and civil society were contacted for feedback however some declined.

The country report for **Jamaica** was used to inform a regional report which compiled country report data from the 8 countries of interest. The regional report was shared with stakeholders at the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for review and feedback.

¹¹⁶ Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard -<https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/country-scorecard.php>

Findings

Findings presented across tables 1 and 2 are itemised below:

1. Table 1: Snapshot of primary policies shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Jamaica
2. Table 2: Snapshot of secondary policies and factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Jamaica

Table 1: Snapshot of primary policies shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Jamaica.

PRIMARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES	
POLICY	STATUS* (Present/ Absent)
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the SALE of SSBs in and around schools.	<p>PRESENT</p> <p>Jamaica's Ministry of Education, Youth and Information (MOEYI) and the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) implemented mandatory Interim Guidelines for Beverages in Schools¹¹⁷ which restrict the sale of SSBs in all schools. These guidelines precede the completion of the National School Nutrition Policy (NSNP) and National School Nutrition Standards (NSNS). These guidelines have been actively implemented in all schools but are not enforced.</p> <p>The Interim Guidelines for Beverages in Schools are a collaboration between the MOHW and the MOEYI. Implementation is mandated by the MOEYI. Monitoring is collaborative (MOHW and MOEYI) and data analysis and reporting is the responsibility of the MOHW.</p>
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the SALE of unhealthy foods that are energy dense and nutrient poor (EDNP) or high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) in and around all schools.	<p>ABSENT</p> <p>No policy or regulation present. The National School Nutrition Standards (NSNS) are currently being developed by the MOH The National School Nutrition Standards (NSNS) are currently being developed by the MOHW to define the types of food which are no longer allowed or are restricted, in order to replace food high in fat, sugar and salt with more nutritious food and drinks, to ensure nourishing food is served more frequently and to improve school lunches. The standards will apply to all providers of meals and non-meal items (snacks and beverages) such as canteens, concessionaires, vendors including parents/ guardians, teachers and school administration.</p>

¹¹⁷ Ministry of Education, Youth and Information Jamaica - Interim Guidelines for Beverages in Schools - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/documents/Jamaica-Interim-Guidelines-for-Beverages-in-Schools.pdf>

PRIMARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES	
POLICY	STATUS* (Present/ Absent)
	The NSNP and NSNS will be sent as a joint submission to Cabinet, for approval. As of October 2019, this was expected to be done soon. Joint submission is between the MOEYI and the MOHW.
Government regulation of policy banning or restricting the MARKETING of SSBs in and around all schools.	ABSENT No policy or regulation present. The NSNS includes recommendations for marketing of HFSS foods in the school environment, including sponsorships, grants and donations by HFSS Brands. This includes restricted SSBs. If the NSNS and NSNP are approved by cabinet, the marketing recommendations will be implemented in the schools.
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the MARKETING of unhealthy foods that are energy dense and nutrient poor (EDNP) or high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) in and around all schools.	ABSENT No policy or regulation present. The NSNS includes recommendations for marketing of HFSS foods in the school environment, including sponsorships, grants and donations by HFSS Brands. If the NSNS and NSNP are approved by cabinet, the marketing recommendations will be implemented in the schools.
Level of political commitment* to primary national school nutrition environment policies	MEDIUM

Important notes regarding table 1.

Policy Status: If a policy is present note which Ministry owns the policy and the document mechanics. For example, policy developed collaboratively with health and education but implemented and monitored by the latter.

***Level of political commitment is classified as below:**

Low: 0 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.

Medium: 1-2 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.

High: 3-4 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present

Table 2: Snapshot of secondary policies and factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Jamaica

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present/ Absent / Don't Know)
Government Policies or Factors	
Sugar sweetened beverage (SSB) tax.	ABSENT
National Childhood obesity prevention plan.	ABSENT
Government nutrition policy or guidelines specifically for all schools.	<p>ABSENT</p> <p>Jamaica's National School Feeding Programme is a social support system that provides breakfast and lunch to students from low income households.</p> <p>The Food and Nutrition Security Policy 2013 calls for a more holistic policy for schools' nutrition environments, including through curricula, national guidelines for the preparation and sale of food, initiatives to increase the amount of local food products provided in schools, marketing campaigns, recruitment and qualified nutrition officers and more.</p> <p>The National School Nutrition Standards (NSNS) are currently being developed by the MOHW and will support the implementation of nutritional aspects of the National School Nutrition Policy (NSNP) currently being finalized by the MOEYI. ¹¹⁸ The NSNS will eventually be incorporated into the existing National School Feeding Programme. ¹¹⁹ These nutrition guidelines are almost ready for cabinet submission.</p> <p>Jamaica's Ministry of Education, Youth and Information (MOEYI) and the MOHW implemented mandatory Interim Guidelines for Beverages in Schools¹²⁰ which restrict the sale of SSBs in all schools. These guidelines have been actively implemented in all schools but are not enforced.</p>
Government regulation or policy ensuring free potable	<p>DON'T KNOW</p> <p>The Food and Nutrition Security Policy 2013 recommends implementation of school-based programmes in line with WHOs</p>

¹¹⁸ Ministry of Education, Youth and Information Jamaica - Interim Guidelines for Beverages in Schools -

<https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/documents/Jamaica-Interim-Guidelines-for-Beverages-in-Schools.pdf>

¹¹⁹ National School Nutrition Policy Being Finalized - <https://jis.gov.jm/national-school-nutrition-policy-being-finalized/>

¹²⁰ Ministry of Education, Youth and Information Jamaica - Interim Guidelines for Beverages in Schools -

<https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/documents/Jamaica-Interim-Guidelines-for-Beverages-in-Schools.pdf>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present/ Absent / Don't Know)
water is available at all schools.	<p>health-promoting schools initiative which includes provision of safe drinking water in schools however there is no policy for the availability of free potable water at all schools.</p> <p>Under the Public Health Act, water safety and availability in schools is checked by Public Health Inspectors; certificates of analysis of water quality can be requested from the municipal supplier (National Water Commission) to confirm potability of water.</p>
National programme or initiative encouraging all schools to improve the school nutrition environment in some way.	<p>PRESENT</p> <p>The Jamaica Moves in Schools Initiative, led by the Ministry of Health and Wellness is underway in some schools and intends to expand into more schools.¹²¹ The aim of the programme is to strengthen the capacity of the school community to become a healthy setting for learning and working. A major objective of the programme is to institutionalise measures in at least 50% of schools that facilitate healthier food options by June 2019.¹²² In June 2019, the MOHW recognised 83 schools for implementing aspects of the Jamaica Moves in Schools healthy lifestyle initiatives¹²³.</p>
Planning ¹²⁴ restrictions on how close vendors can be to schools.	<p>ABSENT</p> <p>This will be incorporated in the National Schools Nutrition Policy</p>
An active Chronic Non-communicable Disease Commission (NNCDC).	<p>ABSENT</p> <p>There is a NCD Commission which needs to be re-activated</p>
Public policymaker announcements of plans to develop or implement school nutrition environment policies	<p>PRESENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In January 2019, Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid, the then Minister of Education, Youth and Information announced that his ministry was finalising the proposed National School Nutrition Policy.¹²⁵ The policy aims to promote healthy eating and physical activity in schools. As of October 2019, the policy was almost ready for submission to cabinet.

¹²¹ Jamaica Moves Programme in Six Schools in Westmoreland - <https://jis.gov.jm/jamaica-moves-programme-in-six-schools-in-westmoreland/>

¹²² Jamaica Moves In Schools Initiative April 2018 - March 2019 - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/documents/Jamaica-Moves-in-School-Programme-updated-June-24-2018.pdf>

¹²³ 83 Schools Awarded For Implementing Healthy Lifestyle Initiatives - <https://jis.gov.jm/83-schools-awarded-for-implementing-healthy-lifestyle-initiatives/>

¹²⁴ **Planning*** - Refers to the Public Health planning department, usually situated within the local Ministry of Health

¹²⁵ National School Nutrition Policy Being Finalized - <https://jis.gov.jm/national-school-nutrition-policy-being-finalized/>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present/ Absent / Don't Know)
National health campaign or programme tackling obesity and related NCD issues.	PRESENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jamaica Moves, a Government led programme which encourages and empowers individuals and communities all over Jamaica to get moving in an effort to fight NCDs. ¹²⁶ The Heart Foundation of Jamaica (HFJ) "Are you drinking yourself sick?" Mass Media Campaign¹²⁷ which raised awareness about the dangerous of excess sugar consumption and the level of sugar in SSBs within the Jamaican population.
Other	
School/ Institution Level Policies or Factors	
Schools instituting their own policies or programmes to improve their school nutrition environment.	PRESENT Many schools do have water and fruit days.
Civil Society Led Initiatives	
Advocacy groups (Civil society organisations) calling for healthier school nutrition environment.	PRESENT Heart Foundation of Jamaica (HFJ) ¹²⁸ has been advocating for a healthier nutrition environment locally and regionally, including the school nutrition environment, and has engaged in outreach, projects and initiatives to support those efforts including sensitising vendors and encouraging water consumption. ^{129,130,131.} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2017, HFJ launched their highly successful. "Are We Drinking Ourselves Sick" ^{132, 133} mass media campaign which raised public awareness around the dangers of excess sugar consumption and encouraging increased water consumption. HFJ was instrumental in advocating for the restriction on the sale of SSBs that came into effect in January, 2019.

¹²⁶ Jamaica Moves - <https://www.jamaicamoves.com>

¹²⁷ HFJ 'Are You Drinking Yourself Sick' Campaign - <https://www.heartfoundationja.org/campaign/are-you-drinking-yourself-sick-campaign/>

¹²⁸ HFJ – Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/heartfoundationja/>

¹²⁹ Heart Foundation of Jamaica Advocacy Reports - <https://www.heartfoundationja.org/advocacy-reports/>

¹³⁰ HFJ– Member of the CSO Regional Action Team - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cso-regional-action-team-for-cop/>

¹³¹ Heart Foundation of Jamaica Caribbean Development Bank Project - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/project-hfj/>

¹³² HFJ 'Are You Drinking Yourself Sick' Campaign - <https://www.heartfoundationja.org/campaign/are-you-drinking-yourself-sick-campaign/>

¹³³ Mass Media Anti-Obesity Campaign To Warn Jamaicans About The Harms Of Sugary Drinks - <https://www.heartfoundationja.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Mass-Media-Anti-Obesity-Campaign-To-Warn-Jamaicans-About-The-Harms-Of-Sugary-Drinks.pdf>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present/ Absent / Don't Know)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HFJ and Vital Strategies conducted an obesity prevention public opinion survey¹³⁴ in 2018 which found that Jamaicans are concerned about their health and the harms of sugary drinks, support government action on obesity and parents are worried about children's access to unhealthy food and drinks in schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strong public support for government action on obesity is increasing. 83% of respondents strongly support healthy foods and beverages being available in schools. 78% support prohibiting the sale of unhealthy food and drinks in school. 71% support a tax on sugary drinks; 81% agree that the tax revenue should be spent on programs to reduce obesity, especially childhood obesity. 91% of respondents agree that there should be clear warning labels on packed food and beverage items. • HFJ led the formation of a National Obesity Prevention Alliance of civil society actors- from the health sector. The alliance amplifies messaging around childhood obesity prevention efforts and has written open letters to the Government of Jamaica in support of restriction on the sale of SSBs in schools and an SSB tax^{135,136}. • HFJ is now focusing its obesity prevention efforts on advocating for an SSB tax^{137,138}. • HFJ is engaged in the local process around front-of-package labelling arising out the proposed revision to the Regional Labelling Standard for pre-packaged foods developed by CROSQ. <p>Healthy Caribbean Coalition's My Healthy Caribbean School¹³⁹ platform is live for Jamaica. MHCS empowers the school community to call for a healthier school environment with respect to nutrition and physical activity and offers insight into the local school environment with respect to these factors.</p>

¹³⁴ KEY FINDINGS – Obesity Prevention Public Opinion Survey, Jamaica - http://109.73.225.157/~hrtf7162/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Obesity_Prevention_Public_Opinion_Survey_Jamaica_-_September_2018.pdf

¹³⁵ Support for restriction of sugary drinks in Jamaica schools. An open letter to the Government of Jamaica. - http://109.73.225.157/~hrtf7162/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/40711•HFJ_Restrict_Sugary_Letter_OBSRVR_25_6x35cm_1.pdf

¹³⁶ CONCERN ABOUT THE OBESITY EPIDEMIC IN JAMAICA. An open letter to the Government of Jamaica. - <http://109.73.225.157/~hrtf7162/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/concern-about-the-obesity-epidemic-in-jamaica.pdf>

¹³⁷ Support our children's health. Support a sugary drinks tax - <https://www.heartfoundationja.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Support-our-childrens-health.-Support-a-sugary-drinks-tax.pdf>

¹³⁸ Heart Foundation to keep pressing for sugary drinks tax , 6th June 2019 - <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20190606/heart-foundation-keep-pressing-sugary-drinks-tax>

¹³⁹ My Healthy Caribbean School - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/my-healthy-school.php>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present/ Absent / Don't Know)
	HCC Civil Society Action Plan 2017-2021 is focused on childhood obesity and the HCC has been supporting regional advocacy efforts around childhood obesity prevention, including school nutrition policies. The HCC has a Childhood Obesity Prevention Portal with a variety of resources ¹⁴⁰ .
Academic entities engaged in related research.	PRESENT Caribbean Institute for Health Research (CAIHR), University of the West Indies, Mona.
An active National Vendors Association (Civil Society)	PRESENT Jamaica Vendors', Higglers' and Markets Association is active.
An active National Parent Teacher Association.	PRESENT. National Parent-Teacher Association of Jamaica ¹⁴¹ is active.
An active National Principals Association.	PRESENT Jamaica Association of Principals of Secondary Schools (JAPSS) is active.
Presence of international/ regional organisations to provide technical support.	PRESENT PAHO, UNICEF, FAO, CARPHA, UNDP, IADB etc.
Other	National Food Industry Task Force (NFITF)

Summary of factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level

1.1 Barriers:

- Government/ Public Sector
 - National Food Industry Task Force (NFITF) is a potentially powerful tool to sensitise industry and catalyse reformulation of locally produced foods and beverages. However, it may have provided greater access and influence to policymakers and decision-makers than advisable. The NFITF may also have created a false sense of security amongst manufacturers leading them to believe they could influence policy making in their favour.

¹⁴⁰ HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Portal - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/childhood-obesity-prevention/>

¹⁴¹ National Parent-Teacher Association of Jamaica - <https://www.facebook.com/NPTAJ/>

- Government continues to engage in partnerships with industry to bring wellness initiatives to school communities. However, this a well recognised way for industry to interfere and influence public opinion and policy implementation¹⁴².
- Private Sector
 - The highly influential and powerful Jamaica Manufacturers and Exporters Association Limited (JMEA) has been extremely vocal in its opposition to nutrition policies namely taxation of sugary beverages and front of package nutrition labelling. They have been less vocal in their opposition to the school SSB restrictions likely because the restrictions are being implemented using a staggered approach which allows them to reformulate their projects over a period of time. In addition the restrictions are not as aggressive as some advocates had hoped and as such there are some loopholes which still make it possible for children to exceed the recommended daily maximum levels of sugar.
- Civil Society/Academic Sector
 - A leading academic and member of a well-respected local NGO has been a vocal opponent to the HFJ's national sugar campaign which positions sugar as problematic nutrient which needs to be reduced in the Jamaican diet. The campaign is the centrepiece and the foundation of wider efforts to promote nutrition policies which tackle high sugar consumption including School policies, SSB taxation and FOPL.

1.2 Facilitators:

- Government/ Public Sector
 - Health Minister Christopher Tufton is extremely engaged around the issue of NCDs and obesity prevention. His flagship initiative Jamaica Moves has been highly successful. He has also championed nutrition policy and spearheaded Jamaica Moves in Schools. One of the key guidelines of the Movement is to restrict the sale of sugary beverages in schools over a 4 -year period (2023).
 - The sale of SSBs in schools was restricted as of January 2019.
 - National Food Industry Task Force (NFITF) is a potentially powerful tool to sensitise industry and catalyse reformulation of locally produced foods and beverages.
- Civil Society Sector Advocates and Potential Partners
 - The presence of organisations such as the Heart Foundation of Jamaica (HFJ) raising awareness around childhood obesity, sensitising and educating the public, Government and school communities about the drivers of childhood obesity helped foster an environment conducive to the implementation of healthy school policies.
 - HFJ opinion polls indicated strong public support healthy school policies (see Table 2 above).
 - HFJ's Mass Media Campaign.
 - Formation of the loose National Obesity Prevention Alliance led by HFJ.

¹⁴² Terrelonge Urges Parents To Ensure That Children Eat Healthy Foods - https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Terrelonge_urges_parents_to_ensure_that_children_eat_healthy_foods?profile=1228

- HFJ surveys indicated that the public would support the implementation of a restriction on SSBs in schools and that policy was successfully implemented. They also suggest the public would support SSB taxation.
- International and regional organizations such as PAHO, UNICEF, CARPHA and FAO are important sources of technical assistance.
- Regional¹⁴³
 - Bermuda has implemented a ban on SSBs in schools.
 - Trinidad has implemented a ban on SSBs in Schools.
 - Bahamas now looking to enforce standards limiting the sale of SSBs and unhealthy snacks in schools.
 - SSB taxes implemented in Barbados, Bermuda and Dominica.

1.3 Political Levers:

- In June 2019, Minister Tufton announced that the Ministry of Health and Wellness will be doing a study on the salt consumption practices of Jamaicans and will be implementing a salt reduction programme as part of continuous efforts to combat NCDs^{144,145}. This is another piece of evidence showing the Ministry's commitment to tackling NCDs in the Jamaican population
- Health Minister Christopher Tufton is extremely engaged around the issue of NCDs and obesity prevention. His flagship initiative Jamaica Moves has been highly successful. He has also championed nutrition policy and spearheaded Jamaica Moves in Schools; one of the key guidelines of the Movement is to restrict the sale of sugary beverages in schools over a four year period (2023). In May 2019, a newspaper article noted that the Minister may be hoping use an SSB tax to fund the National Health Insurance.

"Tufton may be hoping to use traction from legislation and a vigorous public-education campaign to get public buy-in for a tax on sugar, which has been identified as a key contributor to the prevalence of non-communicable diseases." – The Gleaner ¹⁴⁶

- In January 2019, Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid , Minister Education, Youth and Information at the time announced that his ministry was finalising the proposed National School Nutrition Policy.¹⁴⁷ The policy aims to promote healthy eating and physical activity in schools.
- In July 2018, The Most Hon. Andrew Holness Prime Minister of Jamaica endorsed tackling childhood obesity through policies fostering health-promoting school environments and front-of-package labelling (FOPL). The Prime Minister of Jamaica chaired the 39th regular meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (HOG) of the Caribbean Community in July 2018. All HoGs in attendance endorsed advocating for six priority areas at the 3rd UN High Level Meeting on NCDs which included

¹⁴³ HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Regional Scorecard Country Grid - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/country-scorecard.php>

¹⁴⁴ Health and Wellness Ministry To Implement Salt Reduction Programme - <https://jis.gov.jm/health-and-wellness-ministry-to-implement-salt-reduction-programme/>

¹⁴⁵ Health Ministry to Investigate Salt Consumption in Jamaicans - <https://www.moh.gov.jm/health-ministry-to-investigate-salt-consumption-in-jamaica/>

¹⁴⁶ Weed, Sugar Taxes May Fund National Health Insurance - <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20190508/weed-sugar-taxes-may-fund-national-health-insurance>

¹⁴⁷ National School Nutrition Policy Being Finalized - <https://jis.gov.jm/national-school-nutrition-policy-being-finalized/>

implementing policies geared to preventing childhood obesity such as creating health-promoting school environments and introducing FOPL¹⁴⁸.

¹⁴⁸ Communiqué issued at the conclusion of the thirty-ninth regular meeting of The Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community - <https://caricom.org/cochog/view/communique-issued-at-the-conclusion-of-the-thirty-ninth-regular-meeting-of-the-conference-of-heads-of-government-of-the-caribbean-community>

APPENDIX VII

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

Rapid Assessment of the School Nutrition Policy Environment

Introduction

The Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi) Project is currently focused on the school nutrition environment especially the sale and marketing of Sugar Sweetened Beverages (SSBs), Energy Dense Nutrient Poor (EDNP) and High Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS) foods in schools. A rapid assessment of the school nutrition policy environment in St. Kitts & Nevis was undertaken to gain insight into policies and other factors shaping the local school nutrition landscape. These findings provide insight into the current school nutrition policy environment which can be used to guide tailored approaches to advocating for tackling childhood obesity in St. Kitts & Nevis through healthy school nutrition policies.

Method

The rapid assessment of primary and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition policy environment was conducted for 8 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahamas, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

A school nutrition policy environment report template outlining primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition environment was developed prior to conducting the assessment. The template was developed based on current evidence and the HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard (COPS)¹⁴⁹. Guided by the report template a rapid assessment of primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition policy environment in **St. Kitts and Nevis** was conducted from March to May 2019. This data was used to prepare the local school nutrition policy country report.

Further insight into primary and secondary policies/ factors in the local school nutrition environment was gained by receiving feedback on country reports from key stakeholders from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and local CSO partners, where possible, between June and September 2019. Local stakeholders from the public sector (Ministries of Health and Education) and civil society were contacted for feedback however some declined.

The country report for **St. Kitts and Nevis** was used to inform a regional report which compiled country report data from the 8 countries of interest. The regional report was shared with stakeholders at the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for review and feedback.

¹⁴⁹ Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard -<https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/country-scorecard.php>

Findings

Findings presented across tables 1 and 2 are itemised below:

1. Table 1: Snapshot of primary policies shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in St. Kitts & Nevis.
2. Table 2: Snapshot of secondary policies and factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in St. Kitts & Nevis.

Table 1: Snapshot of primary policies shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in the St. Kitts & Nevis.

PRIMARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES	
POLICY	STATUS* (Present/ Absent)
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the SALE of SSBs in and around schools.	ABSENT No policy or regulation present.
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the SALE of unhealthy foods that are energy dense and nutrient poor (EDNP) or high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) in and around all schools.	ABSENT No policy or regulation present.
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the MARKETING of SSBs in and around all schools.	ABSENT No policy or regulation present.
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the MARKETING of unhealthy foods that are energy dense and nutrient poor (EDNP) or high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) in and around all schools.	ABSENT No policy or regulation present.
Level of political commitment* to primary national school nutrition environment policies	LOW

*Important notes regarding table 1.

Policy status: If a policy is present note which Ministry owns the policy and the document mechanics. For example, policy developed collaboratively with **health and education but implemented and monitored by the latter.**

***Level of political commitment is classified as below:**

- **Low:** 0 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.
- **Medium:** 1-2 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.
- **High:** 3-4 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.

Table 2: Snapshot of secondary policies and factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in St. Kitts & Nevis.

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present / Absent / Don't Know)
Government Policies or Factors	
Sugar sweetened beverage (SSB) tax.	ABSENT The Ministry of Health is currently working on an SSB taxation policy. The Ministry has held a national consultation and focus group. A draft policy will be circulated in the next few months for feedback. Also, various policies are being developed in St Kitts but the specific details of the policy are unknown.
National childhood obesity prevention plan.	ABSENT
Government nutrition policy or guidelines specifically for all schools.	ABSENT
Government regulation or policy ensuring free potable water is available at all schools.	DON'T KNOW Not available in Nevis yet
National programme or initiative encouraging all schools to improve the school nutrition environment in some way.	DON'T KNOW Not done in Nevis
Planning ¹⁵⁰ restrictions on how close vendors can be to schools.	DON'T KNOW Absent in Nevis
An active chronic non-communicable disease commission (NNCDC)	ABSENT

¹⁵⁰ Planning* - Refers to the Public Health planning department, usually situated within the local Ministry of Health

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present / Absent / Don't Know)
Public policymaker announcements of plans to develop or implement school nutrition environment policies.	ABSENT
National health campaign or programme tackling obesity and related NCD issues.	PRESENT Nevis Moves and the National Weight Loss Campaign by FIT. St. Kitts and Nevis in partnership with PAHO is also in the planning stages of launching a salt reduction campaign called SHAKE. St. Kitts and Nevis Moves launched in August 2019. ¹⁵¹
Other	
School/ Institution Level Policies or Factors	
Schools instituting their own policies or programmes to improve their school nutrition environment.	PRESENT There are interventions at a school level in the form of cafeteria rules. For example, no sodas or sweets can be brought into the cafeteria in some schools (Nevis).
Civil Society Led Initiatives	
Advocacy groups (Civil society organisations) calling for healthier school nutrition environment.	PRESENT Lake Health and Wellbeing has been advocating for the implementation of COP policies such as healthier nutrition policy environments, including in schools, as part of the HCC Regional CSO Action Team ¹⁵² . Lake Health and Wellbeing has also been participating in local processes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocating for mandatory Front-Of-Package Warning Labels in the revision of the CROSQ Standard on labelling of pre-packaged foods currently underway. • Has taken part in the St Kitts and Nevis National SSB consultation and focus group HCC Civil Society Action Plan 2017-2021 is focused on childhood obesity and the HCC has been supporting regional advocacy efforts around childhood obesity prevention, including school nutrition policies. The HCC has a Childhood Obesity Prevention Portal with a variety of resources.

¹⁵¹ St. Kitts-Nevis set to launch SKN moves - <https://wicnews.com/caribbean/st-kitts-nevis-set-launch-skn-moves-422421421/>

¹⁵² Lake Health & Wellbeing member of HCC CSO Regional Action Team for Childhood Obesity Prevention - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cso-regional-action-team-for-cop/>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present / Absent / Don't Know)
Academic entities engaged in related research.	DON'T KNOW
An active National Vendors Association (Civil Society).	DON'T KNOW
An active National Parent Teacher Association.	DON'T KNOW. Absent in Nevis.
An active National Principals Association.	DON'T KNOW
Presence of international/ regional organisations to provide technical support.	PRESENT PAHO, CARPHA, UNICEF, FAO, UNDP, Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund etc
Other	Nevis - My Healthy Plate Junior Chef Championship, April 2019 ¹⁵³ . There is also an ongoing MyHealthyPlate Program in all the schools on Nevis for grade 4 students. These same students will be taught about healthy eating over 3 years (that is up to Grade 6). Their BMI will be taken each year.

Summary of factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level

1.1 Barriers:

- Insufficient public awareness about the extent of the problem and its causes and resulting buy-in for systemic population level policy solutions.

1.2 Facilitators:

- Government /Public Sector
 - Health Promotion Unit Nevis, is very active and creates PSAs (public service announcements) to educate the public
 - Ongoing screenings offered to the public by the Ministry's Health Promotion Unit in partnership with Community Nursing, Taiwan ICDF, and local businesses - (A series of workplace screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar, urine dipstick kidney test was done at 9 businesses/organization in May 2019).
 - NCD Coordinator, Ministry of Health, St Kitts, leads all NCD prevention and control activities.

¹⁵³ My Healthy Plate – Nevis -

https://www.facebook.com/pg/hpu.nevis/photos/?tab=album&album_id=2292808861039238&ref=page_internal

- Civil Society Sector Advocates and Potential Partners
 - The presence of organisations such as the Lake Health and Wellbeing raising awareness about childhood obesity, sensitising and educating the public, Government and school communities about the drivers of childhood obesity helps foster an environment conducive to the implementation of healthy school nutrition policies.
 - St Kitts Diabetes Association conduct health education activities and screenings throughout the community including in schools
 - The Taiwan ICDF supports a range of health promotion activities in both St Kitts and Nevis, including activities in the school environment. They have helped with initiatives that promote healthy eating and kidney health initiatives in Nevis.
 - International and regional organisations such as PAHO, CARPHA, UNICEF and FAO are important sources of technical assistance.
 - CARPHA's director praised Prime Minister Harris' intervention on regional health matters including NCDs in June 2019¹⁵⁴
- Regional¹⁵⁵
 - Bermuda has implemented a ban on SSBs in schools.
 - Trinidad has implemented a ban on SSBs in Schools.
 - Jamaica recently introduced a restriction on SSBs in schools.
 - Bahamas now looking to enforce standards limiting the sale of SSBs and unhealthy snacks in schools.
 - SSB taxes in place in Barbados, Bermuda and Dominica.

1.3 Political Levers:

- Prime Minister Harris serves as the lead Head for Health and Human Development in the CARICOM Quasi Cabinet. Tackling NCDs is a major focus of the portfolio which endorses a suite of policy measures including healthy school policies and front-of-package labeling.
- St. Kitts and Nevis Moves Launched August 2019 joining the Caribbean Moves regional movement to tackle NCDs ¹⁵⁶.

¹⁵⁴ CARICOM Director Praises PM Harris' Intervention on Regional Health Matters - <https://www.thedailyherald.sx/regional/88388-carpha-director-praises-pm-harris-intervention-on-regional-health-matters>

¹⁵⁵ HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Regional Scorecard Country Grid - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/country-scorecard.php>

¹⁵⁶ St. Kitts-Nevis set to launch SKN moves - <https://wicnews.com/caribbean/st-kitts-nevis-set-launch-skn-moves-422421421/>

APPENDIX VIII

ST. LUCIA

Rapid Assessment of the School Nutrition Policy Environment

Introduction

The Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi) Project is currently focused on the school nutrition environment especially the sale and marketing of Sugar Sweetened Beverages (SSBs), Energy Dense Nutrient Poor (EDNP) and High Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS) foods in schools. A rapid assessment of the school nutrition policy environment in St. Lucia was undertaken to gain insight into policies and other factors shaping the local school nutrition landscape. These findings can be used to guide tailored approaches to advocating for tackling childhood obesity in St. Lucia through healthy school nutrition policies.

Method

The rapid assessment of primary and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition policy environment was conducted for 8 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahamas, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

A school nutrition policy environment report template outlining primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition environment was developed prior to conducting the assessment. The template was developed based on current evidence and the HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard (COPS)¹⁵⁷. Guided by the report template a rapid assessment of primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition policy environment in **St. Lucia** was conducted from March to May 2019. This data was used to prepare the local school nutrition policy country report.

Further insight into primary and secondary policies/ factors in the local school nutrition environment was gained by receiving feedback on country reports from key stakeholders from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and local CSO partners, where possible, between June and September 2019. Local stakeholders from the public sector (Ministries of Health and Education) and civil society were contacted for feedback however some declined.

The country report for **St. Lucia** was used to inform a regional report which compiled country report data from the 8 countries of interest. The regional report was shared with stakeholders at the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for review and feedback.

¹⁵⁷ Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard -<https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/country-scorecard.php>

Findings

Findings presented across tables 1 and 2 are itemised below:

1. Table 1: Snapshot of primary policies shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in St. Lucia.
2. Table 2: Snapshot of secondary policies and factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in St. Lucia.

Table 1: Snapshot of primary policies shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in the St. Lucia.

PRIMARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES	
POLICY	STATUS* (Present/ Absent)
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the SALE of SSBs in and around schools.	ABSENT No policy or regulation present.
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the SALE of unhealthy foods that are energy dense and nutrient poor (EDNP) or high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) in and around all schools.	ABSENT No policy or regulation present.
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the MARKETING of SSBs in and around all schools.	ABSENT No policy or regulation present.
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the MARKETING of unhealthy foods that are energy dense and nutrient poor (EDNP) or high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) in and around all schools.	ABSENT No policy or regulation present.
Level of political commitment* to primary national school nutrition environment policies	LOW

*Important notes regarding table 1.

Policy status: If a policy is present note which Ministry owns the policy and the document mechanics. For example, policy developed collaboratively with health and education but implemented and monitored by the latter.

*Level of political commitment is classified as below:

- **Low:** 0 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.
- **Medium:** 1-2 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.
- **High:** 3-4 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.

Table 2: Snapshot of secondary policies and factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in St. Lucia.

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present/ Absent)
Sugar sweetened beverage (SSB) tax.	ABSENT
National childhood obesity prevention plan.	ABSENT
Government nutrition policy or guidelines specifically for all schools.	<p>ABSENT</p> <p>As of November 2018, the St. Lucia Ministry of Health held a workshop aimed at developing guidelines for the introduction of a nutritional standard for school meals. The Ministry indicated that they are looking to develop a nutrition policy for all schools in an effort to tackle childhood obesity.¹⁵⁸</p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture through FAO funding has had discussions to develop a School Feeding Policy. The committee met in June 2019 and this was the first activity on the agenda. Funds have been made available to strengthen the school Feeding Program and the development of a policy is the first initiative agreed upon by the committee. This policy will therefore speak to a healthy eating school environment that promotes good nutrition and restricts or regulates what is served and sold at the schools.</p> <p>Nutritional standards for schools are still in draft but will be completed this year.</p>
Government regulation or policy ensuring free potable water is available at all schools.	DON'T KNOW.
National programme or initiative encouraging all	PRESENT.

¹⁵⁸ St. Lucia News Online Article ' Saint Lucia's Health Ministry Developing Nutritional Standards For School Meal' - <https://www.stlucianewsonline.com/saint-lucias-health-ministry-developing-nutritional-standards-for-school-meals/>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present/ Absent)
schools to improve the school nutrition environment in some way.	NUTRITION IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM- Nutrition officers from the Ministry of Health visit about seven schools per month to talk to students on different nutrition- related topics and promote healthy eating. Each year at least one nutrition fair is hosted at a school and the negative impact of junk food on health are highlighted. A variety of media - presentations, skits/ drama, song and PowerPoint presentations are used to inform students. Healthy drinks and snack items are also made available for tasting.
Planning ¹⁵⁹ restrictions on how close vendors can be to schools.	ABSENT There is a Food safety policy which is currently being developed but it is still in its early stages. The consultants met with the Ministry of Health in June 2019 and lamented on the inclusion of nutrition in the policy – highlighting the need to ban unhealthy “junk” food at all schools and restrict the vendors from selling in close proximity to schools or school compounds.
An active Chronic Non-communicable Disease Commission (NNCDC).	PRESENT St. Lucia National Commission on Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases is active ¹⁶⁰ .
Public policymaker announcements of plans to develop or implement school nutrition environment policies.	PRESENT In late 2017 Chief Nutritionist Lisa Hunt-Mitchell at the Ministry of Health and Wellness announced plans to ban soft drinks in schools ¹⁶¹
National health campaign or programme tackling obesity and related NCD issues.	DON'T KNOW
Other	
School/ Institution Level Policies or Factors	
Schools instituting their own policies or programmes to improve their school nutrition environment.	PRESENT

¹⁵⁹ **Planning*** - Refers to the Public Health planning department, usually situated within the local Ministry of Health

¹⁶⁰ National NCD Commissions - St. Lucia National Commission on Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/st-lucia-national-commission-on-chronic-non-communicable-diseases/>

¹⁶¹ Saint Lucia Gov't moves to ban sale of soda on school compounds - <https://www.stlucianewsonline.com/st-lucia-govt-moves-to-ban-sale-of-sodas-on-school-compounds/>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present/ Absent)
	Some principals have taken the initiative to ban unhealthy foods from their schools and even discourage teachers from bringing unhealthy foods at the schools.
Civil Society Led Initiatives	
Advocacy groups (Civil society organisations) calling for healthier school nutrition environment.	<p>PRESENT</p> <p>The St. Lucia Diabetic and Hypertension Association (SLDHA) has been advocating for the implementation of childhood obesity prevention policies including healthy school policies¹⁶². SLDHA is also a member of the HCC CSO Regional Action Team for Childhood Obesity Prevention¹⁶³</p> <p>The St. Lucia Cancer Society embarked on a Primary School Initiative aimed at taking self-empowerment and education to our youth - our most impressionable, and our future: the primary schoolers.¹⁶⁴</p> <p>HCC Civil Society Action Plan 2017-2021 is focused on childhood obesity and the HCC has been supporting regional advocacy efforts around childhood obesity prevention, including school nutrition policies. The HCC has a Childhood Obesity Prevention Portal with a variety of resources¹⁶⁵.</p>
Academic entities engaged in related research.	DON'T KNOW
An active National Vendors Association (Civil Society)	DON'T KNOW
An active National Parent Teacher Association.	DON'T KNOW
An active National Principals Association.	<p>PRESENT</p> <p>National Principals Association of St. Lucia is active¹⁶⁶</p>
Presence of international/ regional organisations to provide technical support.	<p>PRESENT</p> <p>PAHO, UNICEF, FAO, CARPHA, UNDP etc.</p>
Other	

¹⁶² St. Lucia Diabetes and Hypertension Association - <https://sldha.org/>

¹⁶³ Member of the CSO Regional Action Team - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cso-regional-action-team-for-cop/>

¹⁶⁴ Saint Lucia Cancer Society (SLCS) - Primary School Initiative/Programme - "Preparing Them for a Healthy Future" <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/slcs-schools-initiative.pdf>

¹⁶⁵ HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Portal - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/childhood-obesity-prevention/>

¹⁶⁶ National Principals Association of St. Lucia Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Nonprofit-Organization/National-Principals-Association-of-St-Lucia-174691693253605/>

Summary of factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level

1.1 Barriers:

- Insufficient public awareness about the implications of childhood obesity for the development of NCDs into adulthood.

1.2 Facilitators:

- Government/ Public Sector
 - The Ministry of Health and Wellness has been pushing for a ban on sugar drinks in schools for several years and has been meeting with Principals to discuss the best way to reduce the consumption of SSBs among young people to tackle childhood obesity¹⁶⁷ The Nutrition Unit has also been conducting educational sessions to sensitise the school population about the dangers of excess sugar consumption¹⁶⁸
- Civil Society and other potential stakeholders
 - International and regional organisations such as PAHO, CARPHA, UNICEF and FAO are important sources of technical assistance.
- Regional¹⁶⁹
 - Bermuda has implemented a ban on SSBs in schools.
 - Trinidad has implemented a ban on SSBs in Schools.
 - Jamaica recently introduced a restriction on SSBs in schools.
 - Bahamas now looking to enforce standards limiting the sale of SSBs and unhealthy snacks in schools.
 - SSB taxes in place in Barbados, Bermuda and Dominica.

¹⁶⁷ WIC News – St. Lucia moves to ban soft drinks at schools - <https://wicnews.com/caribbean/st-lucia-moves-ban-soft-drinks-schools-36498537/>

¹⁶⁸ The Voice Article – ‘Ministry of Health pushes for ban on sodas and excess sugary treats in schools’ -

<https://thevoiceslu.com/2018/04/ministry-of-health-pushes-for-ban-on-sodas-and-excess-sugary-treats-in-schools/>

¹⁶⁹ HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Regional Scorecard Country Grid - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/country-scorecard.php>

APPENDIX IX

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Rapid Assessment of the School Nutrition Policy Environment

Introduction

The Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi) Project is currently focused on the school nutrition environment especially the sale and marketing of Sugar Sweetened Beverages (SSBs), Energy Dense Nutrient Poor (EDNP) and High Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS) foods in schools. A rapid assessment of the school nutrition policy environment in Trinidad & Tobago was undertaken to gain insight into policies and other factors shaping the local school nutrition landscape. These findings can be used to guide tailored approaches to advocating for tackling childhood obesity in Trinidad & Tobago through healthy school nutrition policies.

Method

The rapid assessment of primary and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition policy environment was conducted for 8 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahamas, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

A school nutrition policy environment report template outlining primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition environment was developed prior to conducting the assessment. The template was developed based on current evidence and the HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard (COPS)¹⁷⁰. Guided by the report template a rapid assessment of primary policies and secondary factors shaping the school nutrition policy environment in **Trinidad and Tobago** was conducted from March to May 2019. This data was used to prepare the local school nutrition policy country report.

Further insight into primary and secondary policies/ factors in the local school nutrition environment was gained by receiving feedback on country reports from key stakeholders from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and local CSO partners, where possible, between June and September 2019. Local stakeholders from the public sector (Ministries of Health and Education) and civil society were contacted for feedback however some declined.

The country report for **Trinidad and Tobago** was used to inform a regional report which compiled country report data from the 8 countries of interest. The regional report was shared with stakeholders at the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for review and feedback.

¹⁷⁰ Childhood Obesity Prevention Scorecard - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/about-the-scorecard.php>

Findings

Findings are itemised in tables 1 and 2 below.

1. Table 1: Snapshot of primary policies shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Trinidad and Tobago.
2. Table 2: Snapshot of secondary policies and factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Trinidad and Tobago.

Table 1: Snapshot of primary policies shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Trinidad and Tobago.

PRIMARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES	
POLICY	STATUS (Present / Absent)
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the SALE of SSBs in and around schools.	<p>PRESENT</p> <p>A policy banning the sale of sugar sweetened beverages in all Government and Government Assisted schools is in place and has been present since late 2017¹⁷¹. The policy is owned by the Ministry of Education and was developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.</p> <p>Note policy does not extend to vendors operating close to schools but off school premises.</p>
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the SALE of unhealthy foods that are energy dense and nutrient poor (EDNP) or high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) in and around all schools.	<p>ABSENT</p> <p>No policy or regulation present.</p>
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the MARKETING of SSBs in and around all schools.	<p>ABSENT</p> <p>No policy or regulation present.</p>
Government regulation or policy banning or restricting the MARKETING of unhealthy foods that are energy dense and nutrient poor (EDNP) or high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) in and around all schools.	<p>ABSENT</p> <p>No policy or regulation present.</p>
Level of political commitment* to primary national school nutrition environment policies	MEDIUM

*Important notes regarding table 1.

Policy status: If a policy is present note which Ministry owns the policy and the document mechanics. For example, policy developed collaboratively with health and education but implemented and monitored by the latter.

¹⁷¹ Trinidad and Tobago Newsday Article – ‘No ‘sweet’ drinks in schools - <https://newsday.co.tt/2017/08/28/no-sweet-drinks-in-schools/>

*Level of political commitment is classified as below:

- **Low:** 0 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.
- **Medium:** 1-2 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.
- **High:** 3-4 Primary National school nutrition environment policies or regulations present.

Table 2: Snapshot of secondary policies and factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level in Trinidad & Tobago.

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present / Absent / Don't Know)
Government Policies or Factors	
Sugar sweetened beverage (SSB) tax.	ABSENT.
National childhood obesity prevention plan.	<p>ABSENT.</p> <p>According to the National Strategic Plan for the Prevention of NCDs 2017-2021 a draft childhood obesity prevention policy has been developed¹⁷². Do not currently know whether it has moved out of the draft stage.</p>
Government nutrition policy or guidelines specifically for all schools.	<p>PRESENT.</p> <p>Trinidad and Tobago has an approved School Feeding Policy. The National Strategic Plan for the Prevention of NCDs 2017-2021 notes that a National Nutrition Standards for Foods Offered to Children was developed¹⁷³. The draft National Nutrition Guidelines for Food Offered to Children in Schools was sent to Cabinet for approval. Subsequently, Cabinet sent it back to the Ministry of Health to ensure it was in alignment with the PAHO Nutrient Profile Model. That review process was completed with support from PAHO, CARPHA and other national stakeholders. As of October 11th, 2019 it was being prepared for re-submission to Cabinet for consideration.</p>
Government regulation or policy ensuring free potable water is available at all schools.	<p>ABSENT.</p> <p>Most schools lack freely accessible watercoolers. However, many children (especially in primary schools) drink water from taps placed around the school.</p>
National programme or initiative encouraging all schools to improve the school	ABSENT

¹⁷² National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases: Trinidad and Tobago 2017-2021 pp. 16 - <http://www.health.gov.tt/downloads/DownloadItem.aspx?id=385>

¹⁷³ National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases: Trinidad and Tobago 2017-2021 pp. 16 - <http://www.health.gov.tt/downloads/DownloadItem.aspx?id=385>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present / Absent / Don't Know)
nutrition environment in some way.	
Planning ¹⁷⁴ restrictions on how close vendors can be to schools.	ABSENT.
An active chronic non-communicable disease commission (NNCDC).	ABSENT. However, the Trinidad and Tobago NCD Alliance (TTNCDA) which has been active since 2017 may be considered a close equivalent ¹⁷⁵ .
Public policymaker announcements of plans to develop or implement healthy school policies.	ABSENT
National health campaign or programme tackling obesity and related NCD issues.	PRESENT. In April 2019, Minister Deyalsingh launched “TT Moves”, a national health and wellness initiative stemming from Caribbean Moves. ¹⁷⁶ This initiative aims to encourage increased physical activity every day and encourage healthier eating in communities in Trinidad and Tobago.
Other	
School/ Institution Level Policies or Factors	
Schools instituting their own policies or programmes to improve their school nutrition environment.	PRESENT. In some pre-school and primary schools, parents are mandated to send only healthy snacks or water in their children's lunch bags.
Civil Society Led Initiatives	
Advocacy groups calling for healthier school nutrition environment.	PRESENT. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diabetes Association of Trinidad and Tobago joined the HCC Regional CSO Action Team for Childhood Obesity Prevention recently in July 2019. The action team is working on school nutrition policies. Healthy Caribbean Coalition's My Healthy Caribbean School¹⁷⁷ platform is live for Trinidad & Tobago. MHCS empowers the school community to call for a healthier school environment

¹⁷⁴ **Planning*** - Refers to the Public Health planning department, usually situated within the local Ministry of Health

¹⁷⁵ Trinidad & Tobago – First National NCD Alliance launched in the Caribbean - <https://ncdalliance.org/news-events/news/trinidad-tobago-first-national-ncd-alliance-launched-in-the-caribbean>

¹⁷⁶ Trinidad and Tobago Newsday Article – ‘Minister Deyalsingh launches ‘TT Moves’ - <https://newsday.co.tt/2019/04/06/minister-deyalsingh-launches-tt-moves/>

¹⁷⁷ My Healthy Caribbean School - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/my-healthy-school.php>

SECONDARY NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS	
POLICY OR FACTOR	STATUS (Present / Absent / Don't Know)
	<p>with respect to nutrition and physical activity and offers insight into the local school environment with respect to these factors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCC Civil Society Action Plan 2017-2021 is focused on childhood obesity and the HCC has been supporting regional advocacy efforts around childhood obesity prevention, including school nutrition policies. The HCC has a Childhood Obesity Prevention Portal with a variety of resources ¹⁷⁸.
Academic entities engaged in related research.	DON'T KNOW
An active National Vendors Association (Civil Society)	ABSENT. However, there appears to be various vendor associations representing vendor groups in different areas.
An active National Parent Teacher Association.	PRESENT. National Parent Teacher Association (NPTA) Trinidad & Tobago is active. ¹⁷⁹
An active National Principals Association.	PRESENT. National Primary Schools Principals Association (NAPSPA) is active ¹⁸⁰ . Association of Principals of Public Secondary Schools T&T is active ¹⁸¹ .
Presence of international/regional organisations to provide technical support.	PRESENT. PAHO, UNICEF, CARPHA, FAO, UNDP etc.
Other	National School Health Policy drafted according to the National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases Trinidad and Tobago 2017-2021 ¹⁸²

¹⁷⁸ HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Portal - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/childhood-obesity-prevention/>

¹⁷⁹ National Parent Teacher Association Trinidad and Tobago - <https://npta.tt>

¹⁸⁰ National Primary Schools Principals Association - <https://www.facebook.com/napspa.principalsassociation/>

¹⁸¹ Association of Principals of Public Secondary Schools T&T - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Education/Association-of-Principals-of-Public-Secondary-Schools-TT-1620191421377045/>

¹⁸² National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases: Trinidad and Tobago 2017-2021 pp 16; <http://www.health.gov.tt/downloads/DownloadItem.aspx?id=385>

Summary of factors shaping the school nutrition environment at policy level

1.1. Barriers:

- Insufficient public awareness around the implications of childhood obesity for the development of NCDs.

1.2. Facilitators:

- *Government/ Public Sector*
 - The Government has already implemented a ban on the sale of SSBs in schools showing a real commitment to developing a healthier school nutrition environment.
- *Civil Society and other potential partners*
 - International and regional organisations such as PAHO, CARPHA, UNICEF and FAO are important sources of technical assistance.
- *Regional*¹⁸³
 - Bermuda has implemented a ban on SSBs in schools.
 - Jamaica recently introduced a restriction on SSBs in schools.
 - Bahamas now looking to enforce standards limiting the sale of SSBs and unhealthy snacks in schools.
 - SSB taxes in place in Barbados, Bermuda and Dominica.

1.3. Political Levers

- In June 2019, the Minister of Health, Hon. Terrence Deyalsingh, urged parents to be committed to the fight against childhood obesity.¹⁸⁴

¹⁸³ HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Regional Scorecard Country Grid - <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/cop/country-scorecard.php>

¹⁸⁴ Parents Must Fight Obesity In Children - <https://newsday.co.tt/2019/06/08/parents-must-fight-obesity-in-children/>

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hcc@healthycaribbean.org

or visit our website
www.healthycaribbean.org

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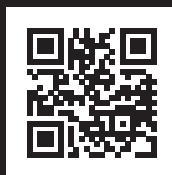
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