



## TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

January 2020 – December 2020

Below is a summary of activities undertaken during the course of the 2020.

1. HCC President attended the **Yale TCC** Developing an implementation strategy for deployment of Emergency NCD Kits in the Caribbean. January Stakeholder Meeting. New Haven, Connecticut. *January 14-15, 2020.*
2. HCC Executive Director and GHAI team members attended the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados meeting: **Exploring Enhanced approaches to increased taxation on sugar sweetened beverages in Barbados.** Barbados. *January 17, 2020.*
3. HCC Executive Director and President virtually attended the **GHAI Jamaica Strategic Planning Meeting.** Kingston, Jamaica. *January 20-21, 2019*
4. HCC President accepted invitation to become a member of the **International Advisory Board for SPECTRUM.** *January 2020.*
5. HCC OVOV Peer Trainer, Ms. Asha Samaroo and HCC Board Member, Dr. Karen Sealey, hosted the second of two Caribbean **NCD Alliance Our Views, Our Voices (OVOV) Peer-led Advocacy Training Workshop.** Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago. *January 23-24, 2020.*
6. HCC released meeting report: [Accelerating Nutrition Policies in the Caribbean: Creating Supportive Environments for Healthy Children.](#) *January 28, 2020.*
7. The 25<sup>th</sup> Virtual Meeting of HCC Board of Directors. *January 29, 2020.*
8. HCC hosted the third webinar in the HCC [Childhood Obesity Prevention Webinar Series: Exploring The Pursuit of Effective Public Health Policies Through A Trade Lens](#) featuring HCC Policy Advisor Nicole Foster. *January 30, 2020.*
9. HCC third phase of funding from the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) to support regional work in the area of childhood obesity prevention: **Caribbean Civil Society Tackling Childhood Obesity: Creating Healthier Countries, Communities and Schools through Policy Advocacy PART III.** *February 1, 2020.*



10. HCC welcomed **new team member**, Ms. Danielle Walwyn, full-time **Advocacy Officer** on the Global Health Advocacy Incubator Food Policy Project. *February 1, 2020.*
11. HCC Board Member, Mr. Michael Diamond, represented the HCC at the **CARPHA Effective Partnership Training**. *February 3-5, 2020.*
12. HCC and Caribbean contingent attend the attended the **Third Global NCD Alliance Forum: Bridging the Gap**. Sharjah, UAE. *February 9-11, 2020.*
  - a. The Caribbean team consisted of:
    - i. HCC President/ NCD Alliance Board member
    - ii. HCC Executive Director
    - iii. HCC Youth Technical Advisor /NCD Child/NCDA Young Leader
    - iv. HCC Board Member/ Chair of the Trinidad and Tobago NCD Alliance
    - v. HCC Our Views Our Voices Trainer, Diabetes Association of Trinidad and Tobago (HCC member) representative
    - vi. Caribbean Sporting and Development Agency (HCC member) director
    - vii. Heart Foundation of Jamaica, Executive Director/NCDA Board member
    - viii. Student researcher George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre/ NCD Child/NCDA Young Leader
  - b. Summary of roles:
    - i. HCC Executive Director member of the Forum Planning Committee.
    - ii. HCC President/NCD Alliance Board member, Chair Opening Plenary: Bridging the gaps, seizing the moment for NCD prevention and control.
    - iii. HCC Executive Director Workshop Speaker: The power of data to fuel systems reform for NCD's: leveraging evidence to achieve planetary and human health.
    - iv. HCC Executive Director Workshop Speaker: Win-win interventions: leveraging policy to address NCDs and reduce gender inequities in health.
    - v. HCC Board Member/ Chair of the Trinidad and Tobago NCD Alliance, Speaker: Our views, our voices event ImPatient for change: the Power of Lived Experiences in Bridging the Gap for NCD's.



- vi. HCC Board Member/ Chair of the Trinidad and Tobago NCD Alliance, Speaker: Beyond the declaration: maximizing political momentum on you HCC for NCD's and mental health.
  - vii. HCC Youth Technical Advisor (NCD Child/NCDA Young Leader), Moderator: Elevating the youth NCD narrative to high-level stakeholders.
  - viii. HCC Youth Technical Advisor (NCD Child/NCDA Young Leader), Panellist: Plenary 3: *Enhancing accountability for all people with NCDs everywhere through transformative and inclusive governance.*
  - ix. HCC/NCD Child/ University of Edinburgh, Healthy Latin America Coalition: *David versus Goliath: strategies for managing conflict of interest in countering industry interference in public health policy.*
    - 1. HCC President/NCD Alliance Board Member, Co-Moderator.
    - 2. Heart Foundation of Jamaica, Executive Director/NCDA Board member, Speaker.
  - x. HCC/World Obesity Federation Joint Workshop: *Transforming the narrative of childhood obesity.*
    - 1. Youth Technical Advisor (NCD Child/NCDA Young Leader), Speaker.
  - c. HCC won NCD Alliance [Sharjah Award for Excellence in NCD Civil Society Action](#) in the area of accountability for work on Civil Society Accountability Framework for Childhood Obesity Prevention Policies in the Caribbean presented at the *Third Global NCD Alliance Forum: Bridging the Gap*. Sharjah, UAE. February 9-11, 2020.
13. HCC published an [Open Letter Calling on CARICOM Heads of State and Government to take a closer look at processed food imports as part of an ambitious plan to reduce the food import bill by 25% in the next five years](#). February 28, 2020.
14. HCC Executive Director attended PAHO **Subregional Workshop on the Use of Law to address Noncommunicable Diseases in the Caribbean**: March 3-5, 2020.
15. HCC released World Obesity Day [Press Release](#). March 4, 2020.



16. HCC published an [Open Letter to CARICOM Heads of State and Government Calling for Urgent Action to Protect those Living with NCDs from COVID-19](#). *March 27, 2020.*
17. HCC vacated Secretariat located in the offices of Caribbean Catalyst Inc on River Road, St. Michael, Barbados. *March 2020.*
18. HCC and the OECS engage in joint Backyard Gardening Initiative. *April 2020.*
19. HCC launched the [HCC COVID-19 Advocacy and Communication Strategy](#). *April 4, 2020.*
20. HCC and the OECS Commission released a joint statement: [Strengthening Food and Nutrition Security in the Caribbean: A Legacy Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). *April 14, 2020.*
21. HCC President attended a virtual meeting of the Board of the NCD Alliance. *April 27, 2020.*
22. HCC renewed **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)** for the period 2020 – 2024. *April 28, 2020.*
23. The 26<sup>th</sup> Virtual Meeting of HCC Board of Directors. *April 28, 2020.*
24. HCC Executive Director invited to be a member of the WHO Global Coordinating Mechanism (GCM) on the Prevention and Control of NCDs NCD Lab on **Women and NCDs**. *May, 2020.*
25. HCC hosted a training on **Identifying, Mitigating and Managing Conflict of Interest in The Caribbean HCC Capacity Building Series for CSOs PART I: Introduction to Conflict of Interest for NCD Prevention and Control** as part of HCC's Capacity Building Series for CSOs. *May 13, 2020.*
26. HCC President and Executive Director attended virtual sessions of the **73<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly**. *May 18-19, 2020.*
27. HCC Op-Ed/ blog launched, written by HCC President Sir Trevor Hassell entitled: [Food Security – Time to change the way we produce and consume healthy food in the Caribbean](#). *May 27, 2020.*
28. HCC Youth Technical Advisor, Pierre Cooke Jr released [World No Tobacco Day 2020 Video message](#). *May 31, 2020.*



29. HCC President attended a virtual meeting of the Board of the NCD Alliance. *June 8, 2020.*
30. HCC hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of **Regional Network (RN) of Chairs of CARICOM National NCD Commissions (NNCDCs) or their equivalents.** *June 16, 2020.*
31. HCC hosted the first webinar of HCCs special COVID-19 and NCDs in the Caribbean series entitled: [Civil Society Roundtable COVID-19 and NCDs in the Caribbean.](#) *June 19, 2020.*
32. Ms. Diana Gittens longstanding contributor to the HCC, invited to become a member of the **Global Advisory Committee of the Our Views, Our Voices initiative of the NCD Alliance and people living with NCDs** for the June 2020 – December 2021 term (replacing HCC Our Views Our Voices Technical Advisor Tara Lisa Persaud). *June 24, 2020.*
33. HCC hosted the second webinar of HCCs special COVID-19 and NCDs in the Caribbean series entitled: [The Future Talks: COVID-19 and NCDs in the Caribbean.](#) *June 26, 2020.*
34. The 27<sup>th</sup> Virtual Meeting of HCC Board of Directors. *June 30, 2020.*
35. HCC Tobacco Control Advisor, Barbara McGaw, invited to be a member of the **CROSO Regional Technical Sub-Committee (RTC) for Requirements for Tobacco** for the DCRS 60: 201X Requirements for Tobacco Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship. *July 7, 2020.*
36. HCC Member Organisation Belize Cancer Society (BCS) Blog: [A BCS Perspective: Cancer and COVID-19.](#) *July 2, 2020.*
37. HCC hosted a training on **Identifying, Mitigating and Managing Conflict of Interest in The Caribbean HCC Capacity Building Series for CSOs PART II: Developing a Conflict of Interest Policy for your Organisation** as part of HCC's Capacity Building Series for CSOs. *July 22, 2020.*
38. HCC and CIBC FirstCaribbean hosted a **webinar** entitled **Staying Healthy During the Pandemic.** *July 24, 2020.*
39. HCC renewed [MOU with COMTRUST \(CIBC FirstCaribbean Bank\)](#) for an additional three (3) years to support workplace wellness across the Caribbean. *July 29, 2020.*



40. HCC awarded the NCD Alliance Civil Society Solidarity Fund (SF) grant on NCDs and COVID-19 aimed at accelerating the response to the pandemic under Category 2: *Developing a comprehensive and cohesive NCD advocacy and communications strategy for the COVID-19 response* to implement the project **A New Transformative NCD Agenda for Building Back Better in the Caribbean**. July 2020.
41. HCC relocated Secretariat to Sagicor Life Inc Offices. August 2020.
42. HCC Press Release: [Stunning Outcome Amidst COVID-19 As Mexico and Chile Deliver Healthy Results on Policies for Front of Package Labelling on Packaged Foods and Beverages](#). August 1, 2020.
43. HCC Board of Directors [Paid Tribute to the Former Honorable Prime Minister of Barbados Owen Arthur for his contribution to the CARICOM NCD Response](#). August 3, 2020.
44. HCC releases [International Youth Day Video](#). August 12, 2020.
45. HCC hosted the fourth webinar of HCCs special COVID-19 and NCDs in the Caribbean series entitled: [Weighing the Impact of COVID-19: Nutrition, Overweight, Obesity and NCDs](#). August 27, 2020.
46. HCC and Sagicor Life Inc. hosted one **webinar** entitled: **Staying Healthy During the Pandemic**. September 2, 2020.
47. HCC launched regional campaign entitled: [It's Time to Act on NCDs, Time to Act on Childhood Obesity](#) as part of the NCD Alliance's annual Global Week for Action on NCDs campaign. September 7, 2020.
48. HCC and CIBC FirstCaribbean hosted a **webinar** entitled **Workplace Wellness During the Pandemic and Beyond**. September 24, 2020.
49. HCC hosted the fifth webinar of HCCs special COVID-19 and NCDs in the Caribbean series entitled: [Re-opening Schools: Shared perspectives on navigating mental health during COVID-19](#). September 25, 2020.
50. HCC launched blog written by HCC Patron Sir George Alleyne entitled: [NCDs and COVID-19: Reciprocal Burdens](#). September 26, 2020.
51. HCC President attended the Virtual **58<sup>th</sup> Directing Council / 168<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Health Organisation/ 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the**



- Regional Committee of the World Health Organisation for the Americas** and made an **intervention** during Agenda Item 4.2 (COVID-19 Pandemic in the Region of the Americas). *September 28-29, 2020.*
52. HCC hosted a training on **Digital Advocacy Training for the CSO Action Team Network: Implementing Mandatory FOPL** as part of HCC's Capacity Building Series for CSOs. *September 29, 2020.*
  53. HCC awarded a **grant from Vital Strategies** to implement a 15-month project aimed at supporting the accelerated implementation of healthy food policy in the Caribbean. *September 2020.*
  54. HCC President attended the Virtual **Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD)**. *September 24-25, 2020.*
  55. HCC President and Executive Director wrote a letter to **Mr. Michael Fakhri, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food** and **Ms. Tlaleng Mofokeng, Special Rapporteur on the Right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health** in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) congratulating them on their recent appointment. *September 28, 2020.*
  56. The 28<sup>th</sup> Virtual Meeting of HCC Board of Directors. *September 29, 2020.*
  57. HCC Youth Technical Advisor, Pierre Cooke Jr participated in a **WHO/ NCD Child joint webinar** entitled: [Promoting the health and wellbeing of young people during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). *October 2, 2020.*
  58. **Healthy Caribbean Youth** officially formed with inaugural meeting led by HCC Youth Technical Advisor Pierre Cooke Jr and HCC Advocacy Officer, Danielle Walwyn. *October 3, 2020.*
  59. HCC Executive Director presented virtually at **NCD Advocacy Institute Training** on meaningful involvement of people living with NCDs. *October 8, 2020.*
  60. HCC Youth Technical Advisor, Pierre Cooke Jr, sent a **high-level advocacy letter to WHO Director General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, following the WHO/ NCD Child joint webinar held on October 2, 2020. *October 10, 2020.*





61. HCC finalized **HCC Individual and Organisational Conflict of Interest Policy: A guide for identifying, preventing, mitigating and managing conflict of interest in NCD prevention and control in the context of Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean – Working Document**. *October 20, 2020.*
62. HCC Op-Ed written by HCC Executive Director Maisha Hutton entitled: [Public Health Before Industry Profits – Consumers Right to Know What’s in our Food](#). *October 16, 2020.*
63. HCC President attended and presented virtually at **PAHO/WHO Advisory Group (TAG) on Advancing the Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) Agenda in the Caribbean**. The presentation was entitled: *How should PAHO and Civil society address the commercial determinants of NCDs now and post-Covid*. *October 20, 2020.*
64. HCC GHAI project team attended the 2-day virtual regional strategic planning meetings. *October 26-27, 2020.*
65. HCC signed a 3<sup>rd</sup> **Letter of Agreement (LoA) with PAHO** for the project entitled: **Strengthening civil society’s contribution to building back better for NCD prevention and control in response to the COVID-19 pandemic**. *October 27, 2020.*
66. HCC releases video [Do You Want to Know What’s in Your Food?](#) to promote the introduction of front of package nutrition warning labels. *October 30, 2020.*
67. HCC in collaboration with PAHO and other partners hosted a joint special webinar entitled: [The Human Rights Approach to Front of Package Labelling in the Caribbean](#). *November 9, 2020.*
68. HCC President and Executive Director attended virtual sessions of the **73<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly**. *November 9-14, 2020.*
69. HCC, in partnership with the Rotary District 2030 and the Caribbean Association of Nutritionists and Dieticians (CANDi) hosted a joint special webinar within the COVID-19 and NCDs Caribbean series entitled: [Transforming the way we eat: The relationship between agriculture, food and nutrition and NCDs](#). *November 13, 2020.*
70. HCC Executive Director invited to serve as a member of the **Governing Council of NCD Child**. *November 13, 2020.*





71. HCC published an [Open Letter Calling on CARICOM Heads of State and Government and Ministers of Health calling on them to commit to the Elimination of Cervical Cancer](#) in support of the WHO Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer. *November 17, 2020.*
72. HCC President and Advocacy Officer, Ms. Danielle Walwyn, presented at the Barbados Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition World Children’s Day **Webinar: People before Profits and Politics – What has COVID-19 taught us?** *November 20, 2020.*
73. HCC hosted the [5<sup>th</sup> Annual Caribbean Alcohol Reduction Day \(CARD\): Alcohol and COVID-19](#). The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual CARD was hosted in partnership with PAHO, CARPHA and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission. *November 24, 2020.*
  - a. The [Webinar](#) moderated by HCC Executive Director with introductory remarks from Dr. Tamu Davidson, Head of Chronic Disease and Injury Department at CARPHA and presentations from: Dr. Maristela Monteiro, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Advisor at PAHO; Dr. John Dillet, Consultant Psychiatrist, Mental Health Professional, The Bahamas; Ms. Safiya Clarke-Mendes, Recent MHP Graduate, HCC Volunteer Researcher, Youth Advocate; and Professor Rohan Maharaj, HCC Alcohol Policy Advisor and Professor of Family Medicine of University of the West Indies. The webinar was attended by over 100 individuals.
  - b. Infographics were also launched and can be found on the CARD 2020 webpage.
    - i. [Alcohol and COVID-19: What you should know](#)
    - ii. [Alcohol and COVID-19: The way forward](#)
74. HCC President invited to sit on a Review Committee for the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)’s new [Research Ideas Competition](#). *November 25, 2020.*
75. HCC Executive Director attended the first meeting of the **Governing Council of NCD Child**. *November 25, 2020.*
76. HCC was awarded the NCD Alliance 2020 Act on NCDs Campaign Fuel Award in recognition of HCC’s Global Week for Action on NCDs campaign [It’s Time to Act on NCDs, Time to Act on Childhood Obesity](#). *November 25, 2020.*



77. HCC President attended the reconvening of the Virtual **Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD)**. *November 25-26, 2020.*
78. HCC Project Assistant and member of Healthy Caribbean Youth, Kerrie Barker, released a blog for Barbados Independent Day entitled: [If Left to Chance, Gains Achieved in the Caribbean since Independence can be Wiped out BY NCDs.](#) *November 28, 2020.*
79. HCC President and Board Member, Dr. Karen Sealey attended and presented, respectively, at the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) **Expert Group Meeting on addressing non-communicable diseases in the Caribbean in fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the SAMOA Pathway**. *November 30, 2020.*
80. HCC welcomed **new team member**, Ms. Shanoy Coombs, part-time **Communications Consultant** on the Vital Strategies Food Policy Project. *December 1, 2020.*
81. HCC hosted a regional media training: **Public Health Matters and FOPL: A Journalist Sensitization and Panel Discussion**. *December 3, 2020.*
82. HCC President, HCC Executive Director, HCC Policy Advisor, Mrs. Nicole Foster, HCC Trade and Policy Advisor Mr. Vincent Atkins, and HCC Board Member Dr. Carlene Radix held a virtual meeting with **Ms. Tlaleng Mofokeng, Special Rapporteur on the Right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health** in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). *December 7, 2020.*
83. Sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) HCC General Assembly. *December 8, 2020.*
84. HCC Alcohol Advisor, Professor Rohan Maharaj, submitted an HCC intervention via the WHO in response to the **web-based consultation on a working document for development of an action plan to strengthen implementation of the Global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol**. *December 8, 2020.*
85. HCC President attended a virtual meeting of the Board of the NCD Alliance. *December 18, 2020.*



For more information visit our website at [www.healthycaribbean.org](http://www.healthycaribbean.org). or contact us at [hcc@healthycaribbean.org](mailto:hcc@healthycaribbean.org).