



# **MOBILISING FOR 2025 A CARIBBEAN CIVIL SOCIETY NCD FORUM**

July 6-7, 2023

Courtyard Marriott Hotel | Bridgetown, Barbados

## **CONCEPT NOTE & PROGRAMME**

**PARTNERS:** Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

**SUPPORTERS:** CIBC First Caribbean COMTRUST | Sagicor Life Inc.

## Background

**Mobilising for 2025 – A Caribbean Civil Society NCD Forum**, represents a reconvening of face-to-face meetings of HCC member organisations and partners. The aim of the Forum is to bring together HCC member civil society organisations (CSOs) and key stakeholders to discuss non-communicable (NCD) (including mental, neurological and substance use disorders – MNSDs)<sup>1</sup> prevention and control priorities in the Caribbean. Participants will reflect on the current situation, progress and challenges, and map a path forward to place the region back on track to meet SDG NCD Target 3.4: *Noncommunicable diseases and mental health: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.*

Much work is needed, as the most recent [2022 NCD Progress Monitor](#) showed that the [Caribbean](#) was significantly off track across most areas, including risk factor interventions ([WHO Best Buys and Other Recommended Interventions](#)) and treatment indicators (management guidelines and drug therapies). As a result, the NCD-related health and socioeconomic toll on our fragile economies continue to rise as we face the interconnected challenges of climate change and food insecurity, exacerbated in our Small Island Developing States (SIDS) settings. From June 14-16, 2023 high-level officials from across the SIDS convened in Barbados for the [SIDS Ministerial Conference on NCDs and Mental Health](#) where they united to endorse the bold action-oriented [2023 Bridgetown Declaration on NCDs and Mental Health](#). The **Declaration** recognises the key health and development threats of NCDs, commercial determinants and climate change, and presents concrete actions to tackle these threats as a SIDS community through a SIDS NCDs Roadmap.

The diverse array of civil society actors impacted by NCDs - including those representing all chronic diseases, key groups such as people living with NCDs (PWLNCDs), young people, related lived experiences, climate change, food systems, and academia – have played, and continue to play, a critical role in driving and supporting rights-based, equitable, evidence-informed NCD responses across the region.

This Forum of civil society and key partners is situated at an important juncture, on the heels of the *SIDS Ministerial Conference on NCDs and Mental Health*, overlapping with the 45<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, and preceding the [2023 UN High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage](#). As we look towards 2025 - the next major NCD milestone when the global NCD community will reconvene for the 4th UN High Level Meeting on NCDs - the HCC is seeking to mobilise Caribbean civil society around a transformative new NCD agenda<sup>2</sup> which is people-centred, grounded in human rights and equity, and which prioritises evidence-informed prevention policies (guided by the updated Appendix 3 of the WHO Best Buys and Recommended Interventions) while improving the quality of treatment and care through strengthened health systems.

The HCC is also currently developing its 2023 Strategic Plan. This meeting provides an opportunity for HCC members and key stakeholders to provide input into the strategic direction of the organisation.

The Forum is preceded by HCCs meeting on **“Accelerating the Removal of Ultra-processed products in Caribbean Schools”**, scheduled to be held on July 4-5, 2023 in Barbados. The goal of the meeting is to *support harmonised regional acceleration of robust evidence-informed policies which remove ultra-processed products from school settings, by bringing together diverse stakeholders including those*

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<sup>1</sup> “NCDs” throughout this document includes MNSDs (mental, neurological and substance use disorders).

<sup>2</sup> HCC Transformative New NCD Agenda Available at <https://www.healthycaribbean.org/category/transformative-new-agenda-for-ncds/>.

*from government, civil society and academia.* Outcomes of the preceding meeting will feed into the Caribbean Civil Society NCD Forum.

## **Meeting Goals, Objectives & Expected Outcomes**

### **Goal**

To bring together HCC member civil society organisations and key stakeholders to discuss Caribbean NCD (including MNSTDs) prevention and control priorities and actions.

### **Objectives**

1. To strengthen relationships and revitalise knowledge and resource-sharing networks within HCC CSO membership – including among CSOs working in specific disease areas – and with other key stakeholders in the wider regional NCD community, taking into consideration meaningful engagement of people living with NCDs and young people.
2. To share experiences, recent developments and priorities across the NCDs and their risk factors, taking into consideration the principles of human rights and equity.
3. To explore key strategies to drive national and regional momentum in the NCD response, focusing on strengthening prevention, addressing the commercial determinants of health and supporting whole-of-government and whole-of-society responses.
4. To map out HCC's priority actions for the next strategic period, considering the SIDS 2023 Bridgetown Declaration on NCDs and Mental Health and key milestones such as the 2025 UN High Level Meeting and the 2030 SDGs.

### **Expected Outcomes**

1. Strengthened relationships within HCC CSO membership (including among disease-specific organisations, PLWNCDs and young people) and with other key stakeholders.
2. Experiences, recent developments and priorities shared across the NCDs and their risk factors, taking into consideration the perspectives of PLWNCDs, young people and the principles of human rights and equity.
3. Key strategies explored to drive national and regional momentum in the NCD response with a focus on strengthening prevention, addressing the commercial determinants of health and supporting whole-of-government and whole-of-society responses.
4. HCC's priority actions mapped out for the next strategic period.

## **Participants & Beneficiaries**

HCC member civil society organisations, people living with NCDs, young people, and public sector representatives. Other key stakeholders including representatives of academia, media and regional organisations including PAHO and CARPHA.

## **Sponsors**

This meeting is supported through funding from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

## **Supporters**

The work of the HCC would not be possible without the ongoing support from Sagicor Life Inc. and COMTRUST (CIBC First Caribbean).

## The Programme

# MOBILISING FOR 2025 A CARIBBEAN CIVIL SOCIETY NCD FORUM

## PROGRAMME – DAY 1

JULY 6-7, 2023 | COURTYARD MARRIOTT, BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS (*times in AST*)

<b>8.30 - 9.00</b>	<b>REGISTRATION</b>	
	<b>OPENING</b>	<b>MODERATOR:</b> <b>Sir Trevor Hassell</b> <i>President, HCC</i>
9.00 – 9.15	<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Sir Trevor Hassell</b> <i>HCC</i>
9.15 - 9.45	<b>Official Opening Welcome Remarks</b>	<b>Dr. The Honourable Sonia Browne</b> <i>Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Barbados</i>  <b>Dr. Gloria Giraldo</b> <i>Advisor, NCDs and Mental Health Pan American Health Organization, Barbados</i>
9.45 - 10.00	<b>Status of NCDs in the Caribbean, Frameworks for Action including WHO Best Buys and Other Recommended Interventions</b>	<b>Dr. Gloria Giraldo</b> <i>PAHO</i>
<b>10.00 - 11.00</b>	<b>MENTAL HEALTH ROUNDTABLE</b>  <i>Session Objective: To bring together regional mental health stakeholders to share successes, challenges and priorities in addressing mental health in the region.</i>	<b>MODERATOR:</b> <b>Ms. Chelsea Jordan</b> <i>Vice President of Operations, Let's Unpack it</i>
10.00 – 10.45	<b>Testimonial – Mr. Pierre Cooke Jr</b> <i>(2 min)</i>  <b>Spotlight on Mental Health: UNICEF/HCC/HCY Regional Mapping of Youth Mental Health Services</b> <b>Ms. Danielle Walwyn, Co-lead HCC Youth Mental Health Call to Action and Co-consultant on the Regional Mapping, HCC/ HCY</b> <i>(7 min)</i>  <b>Panel Discussion</b> <i>(35 min)</i>	<b>Panellists</b>  <b>Mr. Pierre Cooke Jr.</b> <i>HCC Youth Voices Technical Advisor, Healthy Caribbean Youth</i>  <b>Ms. Danielle Walwyn</b> <i>Healthy Caribbean Youth</i>  <b>Ms. Pamela Brereton</b> <i>President, Barbados Alzheimer's Association</i>

		<p><b>Dr. Jozelle Miller</b> Health Psychologist, Ministry of Health, St Vincent and the Grenadines</p> <p><b>Ms. Michron Robinson</b> HSFB Barbados Childhood Obesity Prevention Youth Advocate &amp; Journalist <b>*Virtual Participation</b></p>
10.45 - 11.00	<b>Q&amp;A (15 min)</b>	<b>Moderator</b>
<b>11.00 - 11.30</b>	<b>HEALTH / PHYSICAL ACTIVITY BREAK</b> <b>GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER ICEBREAKER</b>	
<b>11.30 – 12.30</b>	<p><b>CANCER ROUNDTABLE</b></p> <p><i>Session Objective: To bring together regional cancer stakeholders to share successes, challenges and priorities in the prevention and control of cancer in the region.</i></p>	<p><b>MODERATOR:</b> <b>Ms. Laura Tucker Longsworth</b> HCC Board of Directors</p>
11.30 – 12.15	<p><b>Spotlight on Cancer: HPV Pilot in Antigua and Barbuda</b> <b>*Virtual Presentation</b> <b>Valerie Williams, NCD Focal Point Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Health and the Environment (7 min)</b></p> <p><b>Panel Discussion (35 min)</b></p>	<p><b>Panellists</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Valerie Williams</b> NCD Focal Point Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Health and the Environment <b>*Virtual Participation</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Sonia Nixon</b> President, Grenada Cancer Society</p> <p><b>Dr. Dawn Gayapersad</b> Barbados Cancer Support Services, Director HCC</p> <p><b>Ms. Diana Gittens</b> Member of the HCC PLWNCDS Advisory Committee</p> <p><b>Dr. Kimberley Dunkley</b> Regional NCD Coordinator South East Regional Health Authority, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Jamaica</p>
12.15 - 12.30	<b>Q&amp;A (15 min)</b>	<b>Moderator</b>
<b>12.30 - 1.30</b>	<b>LUNCH &amp; GROUP PHOTO</b>	

<b>1.30 – 2.30</b>	<p><b>DIABETES ROUNDTABLE</b></p> <p><i>Session Objective: To bring together regional Diabetes stakeholders to share successes, challenges and priorities in the prevention and control of diabetes in the region.</i></p>	<p><b>MODERATOR:</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Andrew Dhanoo</b> <i>President, Diabetes Association of Trinidad and Tobago</i></p>
1.30 - 2.15	<p><b>Testimonial: Ms. Xarriah Nicholls</b> <i>(2min)</i></p> <p><b>Spotlight on Diabetes: The role of CARPHA in supporting the Global Diabetes Compact - CARPHA Diabetes Toolkit</b> <b>Dr. Heather Armstrong</b> <i>CARPHA</i> <i>(7 min)</i></p> <p><b>Panel Discussion</b> <i>(35 min)</i></p>	<p><b>Panellists</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Heather Armstrong</b> <i>Head, Chronic Disease and Injury Chronic Disease and Injury Department Office of the Executive Director, CARPHA</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Charity Dublin</b> <i>Youth advocate</i> <i>Vice President, ABDA</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Xarriah Nicholls</b> <i>Member of HCC PLWNCDS Advisory Committee, HCY</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Alisha Honore-Felix</b> <i>President, Dominica Diabetes Association</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Colette Cunningham-Myrie</b> <i>Diabetes Association of Jamaica</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Lachmie Lall</b> <i>Programme Director, Non-communicable Diseases, Guyana</i></p>
2.15 - 2.30	<b>Q&amp;A</b> <i>(15 min)</i>	<b>Moderator</b>
<b>2.30 – 3.30</b>	<p><b>HYPERTENSION AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES ROUNDTABLE</b></p> <p><i>Session Objective: To bring together regional HTN/CVD stakeholders to share successes, challenges and priorities in the prevention and control of hypertension and cardiovascular disease in the region.</i></p>	<p><b>MODERATOR:</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Kenneth Connell</b> <i>Vice-President, HCC</i></p>
2.30 - 3.15	<p><b>Spotlight on Hypertension: HEARTS in the Caribbean</b> <b>Dr. Kenneth Connell, Vice President HCC; Deputy Dean Recruitment &amp; Outreach, University of the West Indies</b> <i>(7 min)</i></p>	<p><b>Panellists</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Debbie Chen</b> <i>Executive Director, Heart Foundation of Jamaica</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Kedhma Dorh</b></p>

	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b> (35 min)</p>	<p><i>President, St. Lucia Diabetes and Hypertension Association</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Janice Ollivier-Creese</b> <i>President, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Diabetes and Hypertension Association</i></p> <p><b>Mr. Ronnie Bissessar</b> <i>President, Trinidad and Tobago Heart Foundation, HCC Board Member</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Shana Cyr-Philbert</b> <i>NCD Focal Point, Ministry of Health, Wellness and Elderly Affairs, St Lucia</i></p>
3.15 - 3.30	<b>Q&amp;A</b> (15 min)	<b>Moderator</b>
<b>3.30 – 3.45</b>	<b>HEALTH / PHYSICAL ACTIVITY BREAK</b>	
<b>3.45 – 4.30</b>	<p><b>TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL CONTROL POLICY ROUNDTABLE</b></p> <p><i>Session Objective: To bring together regional tobacco and alcohol control stakeholders to share challenges, successes and priorities in addressing these risk factors.</i></p>	<p><b>MODERATOR:</b> <b>Ms. Debbie Chen</b> <i>Executive Director, HFJ; JCTC</i></p>
3.45 – 4.20	<p><b>Vaping and Youth in the Caribbean – Video</b> (3 min)</p> <p><b>Spotlight on Tobacco: Smoke Free by 2022 - Where are we with the FCTC? Challenges and Opportunities</b> <b>Ms. Debbie Chen, JCTC, HFJ</b> (7 min)</p> <p><b>Panel Discussion</b> (20 min)</p>	<p><b>Panellists</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Asante LeBlanc</b> <i>President, Trinidad and Tobago Cancer Society</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Samantha Moitt</b> <i>Tobacco Control and Nutrition Focal Point, Ministry of Health and the Environment, Antigua and Barbuda</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Marissa Carty</b> <i>NCD Focal Point, Ministry of Health, St Kitts and Nevis</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Dorial Quintyne</b> <i>Healthy Caribbean Youth, Youth Advocate</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Maisha Hutton</b> <i>HCC</i></p>
4.20 – 4.30	<b>Q&amp;A</b> (10 min)	<b>Moderator</b>
<b>4.30 – 5.00</b>	<b>PHYSICAL ACTIVITY UPDATES</b>	<p><b>MODERATOR:</b> <b>Ms. Danielle Walwyn</b></p>

	<i>Session Objective: To bring together regional physical activity stakeholders to share challenges, successes and priorities in addressing this risk factor.</i>	<i>Advocacy Officer, HCC; Lead Healthy Caribbean Youth</i>
4.30 – 4.45	<p><b>Presentations</b> (15 min)</p> <p><b>Spotlight on Achieving Physical Activity Targets – Translating Global to Local</b> <b>Danielle Walwyn, HCC</b> (5 min)</p> <p><b>Spotlight on Caribbean Moves</b> <b>Dr. Heather Armstrong, Head, Chronic Disease and Injury Chronic Disease and Injury Department Office of the Executive Director, CARPHA</b> (5 min)</p>	
4.45 – 5.00	<b>Q&amp;A (15 min)</b>	<b>Moderator</b>
<b>5.00 – 5.30</b>	<p><b>CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH UPDATES</b></p> <p><i>Session Objective: To highlight the connections between climate change and health/NCDs with a view to identifying priorities for integrating the climate and NCD agendas.</i></p>	<b>MODERATOR: Sir Trevor Hassell</b>
5.00 – 5.15	<p><b>Presentations</b> (15 min)</p> <p><b>Climate Change and Health – Key Issues</b> <b>Dr. James Hospedales, Founder and Director, Earth Medic, Earth Nurse</b> <b>*Virtual Presentation</b> (10 min)</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience – CSO Lived Experiences</b> <b>Ms. Yvonne Alexander,</b> <i>President, Dominica Cancer Society</i> (5 min)</p>	
5.15 - 5.30	<b>Q&amp;A (15 min)</b>	<b>Moderator</b>
5.30 - 5.35	<b>Wrap up and Close</b>	<b>Sir Trevor Hassell</b>
<b>5.35</b>	<b>CLOSING</b>	



# MOBILISING FOR 2025 A CARIBBEAN CIVIL SOCIETY NCD FORUM

## PROGRAMME – DAY 2

JULY 6-7, 2023 | COURTYARD MARRIOTT, BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS (times in AST)

9.00 – 9.15	<b>Welcome and Interactive Recap and Overview of Day 2</b>	<b>Mrs. Maisha Hutton</b> <i>HCC</i>
<b>9.15 – 10.45</b>	<b>UNHEALTHY DIETS ROUNDTABLE</b>  Session Objective: To share successes, challenges and priorities in addressing unhealthy diets in the Caribbean.	<b>MODERATOR:</b> <b>Dr. Madhuvanti Murphy</b> <i>Senior Lecturer in Qualitative Research Methods, The George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre (GA-CDRC), UWI</i>
9.15 - 10.15	<b>Interactive Session</b> <i>(60 min)</i>  <b>Spotlight on FOPWL – A Foundational and enabling policy for healthy food environments</b> <b>Dr. Fabio da Silva Gomes,</b> <b>*Virtual Presentation</b> <i>Nutrition and Physical Activity Advisor, PAHO</i> <i>(10 min)</i>  <b>HCC Food Donation Protocols &amp; July 4-5 Meeting Report Back</b> <b>Maisha Hutton, HCC</b> <i>(5 min)</i>  <b>Panel Discussion</b> <i>(40 min)</i>	<b>Panellists</b>  <b>Mr. Brian Payne</b> <i>Dept. Nutrition Officer (ag)</i> <i>National Nutrition Centre</i> <i>Ministry of Health and Wellness,</i> <i>Barbados</i>  <b>Dr. Fidel Cuellar</b> <i>Deputy Director of Public Health and Wellness, Belize</i>  <b>Professor Alafia Samuels</b> <i>UWI</i>  <b>Ms. Sheena Warner-Edwards</b> <i>HCC Communications Officer</i>  <b>Ms. Kerissa Shillingford,</b> <i>Nutritionist, Ministry of Health, Wellness and Social Services, Dominica</i> <b>*Virtual Participation</b>
10.15 – 10.45	<b>Q&amp;A</b> <i>(30 min)</i>	<b>Moderator</b>
<b>10.45 - 11.15</b>	<b>HEALTH BREAK – PHYSICAL ACTIVITY</b>	
<b>11.15 – 11.45</b>	<b>NCDS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY</b>	
11.15 – 11.30	<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Ms. Nicole Foster</b>

	(15 presentation)	HCC Policy Advisor Attorney at Law Lecturer, and Head of the Law and Health Research Unit, Faculty of Law, Cave Hill Campus, UWI
11.30 – 11.45	<b>Q&amp;A</b> (15 min)	<b>OVERALL Moderator</b>
<b>11.45 – 1.00</b>	<b>COMMERCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH, COI AND POLICY INTERFERENCE</b>  <i>Session Objective: Exploring the impact of the commercial determinants of health, conflicts of interest and policy interference in undermining NCD prevention and control in the Caribbean.</i>	<b>MODERATOR:</b>  <b>Sir Trevor Hassell</b> HCC
11.45 – 12.30	<b>Interactive Session</b> (45 min)  <b>People Over Profit Campaign Video</b> (3 min)  <b>Spotlight on NCDs, CDOH, COI and Policy Interference in the Caribbean</b> <b>Ms. Maisha Hutton,</b> Executive Director, HCC (5 min)  <b>Panel Discussion</b> (35 min)	<b>Panellists</b>  <b>Ms. Maisha Hutton</b> Executive Director, HCC  <b>Ms. Debbie Chen</b> Executive Director, HFJ  <b>Ms. Nicole Foster</b> UWI LHRU, HCC  <b>Dr. Shana Cyr-Philbert</b> NCD Focal Point, Ministry of Health, Wellness and Elderly Affairs, St Lucia  <b>Ms. Kimberley Benjamin</b> Attorney at Law, HCY
12.30 - 1.00	<b>Q&amp;A</b> (30 min)	<b>Moderator</b>
<b>1.00 – 2.00</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
<b>2.00 – 3.30</b>	<b>SUPPORTING NCD COLLABORATION WITHIN AND ACROSS SECTORS</b>  <i>Session Objective: Exploring existing and potential regional and national mechanisms for collaboration including civil society alliances, and whole of society and whole of government platforms such as National NCD Commissions or equivalents.</i>	<b>MODERATORS:</b> <b>Dr. Joy St. John</b> Executive Director, CARPHA <b>Dr. Kenneth Connell</b> Vice President HCC
2.00 – 3.00	<b>Panel Discussion</b> (60 min)	<b>Panellists</b>  <b>Dr. Karen Sealey</b> Founder and Chair TT NCD Alliance

	<p><b>Spotlight on National NCD Commissions in the Caribbean</b>  <b>Sir Trevor Hassell,</b>  <i>President, HCC</i>  <i>(7 min)</i></p>	<p><b>Dr. Trevor Ferguson</b>  <i>Chair of Jamaica National NCD Committee</i></p> <p><b>Mr. Suleiman Bulbulia</b>  <i>Chair of the Barbados National NCD Commission</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Ashanta Ramsey</b>  Health Bahamas Coalition Secretariat  Ministry of Health &amp; Wellness</p> <p><b>Ms. Danielle Walwyn</b>  <i>HCC Advocacy Officer, Healthy Caribbean Youth</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Maria Clapperton</b>  <i>Chair of the Trinidad and Tobago NCD Committee; Director, NCDs and NCD Unit, Ministry of Health, Trinidad and Tobago</i></p> <p><b>*Virtual Participation</b></p>
3.00 - 3.30	<b>Q&amp;A (30 min)</b>	<b>Moderator</b>
<b>3.30 – 3.45</b>	<b>HEALTH BREAK</b>	
<b>3.45 – 5.15</b>	<b>GETTING BACK ON TRACK - MAPPING THE WAY FORWARD TOWARDS 2025</b>	<b>HCC TEAM</b>
3.45 – 5.15	<p><b>GROUP DISCUSSION (90 min)</b>  <i>Mapping out priorities for action for the HCC, HCC members and wider stakeholders</i></p>	<p><b>Moderator</b>  <b>Sir Trevor Hassell</b></p>
<b>5.15 – 5.30</b>	<b>WRAP AND CLOSE</b>	
5.15 – 5.30	<b>WRAP UP AND CLOSE</b>	<b>HCC TEAM</b>
<b>5.30</b>	<b>CLOSE</b>	