



Media Release

Headline: The Healthy Caribbean Coalition Congratulates the Winners of the HCC for the Television and Print Categories Healthy Nutrition Food Policy Awards at the Caribbean Broadcasting Union's 36th Caribbean Media Awards

Bridgetown, Barbados, 9 September 2025. The Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) congratulates the **Barbados Government Information Service (BGIS)** with the production entitled: **This is My Life: Stories From People Living With NCDs** – by **Olvin Forde, Esther Jones, Melissa Rollock, and Aaron Greenidge** for the Healthy Nutrition Food Policy Award – Television; and the **RJRGLEANER Communications Group**, with the published article: **Youth Advocates Hungry For School Nutrition Policy**, by **Sashana Small**, for the Healthy Nutrition Food Policy Award – Print, at the 36th Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) Caribbean Media Awards (CMAs) held on August 20th, 2025 at the Hilton Resort, in Barbados. The HCC will provide a bursary of Barbados Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) to each category winner to support further content development.

In addition, the HCC in partnership with the CBU, hosted a Partners Showcase on August 18th, 2025, as part of the activities for the 56th Annual General Assembly (AGA). The event served as an opportunity to sensitise the delegates attending the Assembly.

The HCC/CBU partnership is in its third consecutive year, as a category sponsor, for this flagship annual event. This year, the HCC was also able to support the travel and accommodation expenses for one of the delegates attending the CBU AGA and CMAs. This was in recognition of the role the media has played in amplifying the role of healthy nutrition food policies in creating an environment which is conducive for individuals to attain the highest standard of good health and wellness. Mrs. Sheena Warner-Edwards,



HCCs Communications Officer, who represented the HCC throughout the AGA and CMAs, noted, “it would be impossible to reach the people of the Caribbean region if the media was not engaged. Therefore, the HCC thought it pertinent to partner with the CBU and to support the media in its efforts to spread the health policy message, engage in training opportunities, be the point agency to provide the media with factual health information around NCDs and mental health in the effort to reduce misinformation and disinformation and to attend high-value events, all of which strengthens the quality of outputs produced by the media”.

The Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) was informally established in 2008, arising out of the 2007 Declaration of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The HCC was then officially registered as a not-for-profit organisation in 2012. The HCC is the only Caribbean NCD alliance of over 80 health and non-health civil society organisations (CSOs). In the Caribbean, the five major NCDs – cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and mental health and neurological disorders – and the five common risk factors – tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, physical inactivity, unhealthy diet, and air pollution – are the leading causes of death and illness.

The HCC works closely with regional and international leaders in NCD prevention and control to leverage the power of civil society by strengthening and supporting its membership in the implementation of programmes aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality associated with NCDs.

End.