

**UNITING TO STOP THE EPIDEMIC OF NCDs IN THE CARIBBEAN
TIME TO ACCELERATE ACTION**

Agenda Setting and Implementation Workshop February 24th and 25th 2016

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

In 2007, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) led the world in holding the first Heads of Government Summit on Non Communicable Disease (NCD) prevention and control. In response to CARICOM member states having the highest prevalence of NCDs – heart attack, stroke and diabetes - in the region of the Americas, the Heads issued the Port of Spain Declaration “Uniting to Stop the Epidemic of NCDs” which helped to lead the way to the United Nations High Level Meeting (UMHLM) in 2011. The POS Declaration mandated responses at regional, national and community levels, and recommended a “whole of government” and “whole of society” multi-sectoral response.

A formal evaluation is being undertaken at the request of the CARICOM governments. This 3-year project (April 2014 – March 2017) is being funded by the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The overarching objective is to evaluate, seven years on, the implementation of the CARICOM NCD Summit Political Declaration in order to learn lessons that will support and accelerate its further implementation and will inform the attainment of the UNHLM NCD commitments. The research is seeking to add knowledge on national and regional implementation and impact of the declaration, and to communicate the knowledge gained to help build capacity to improve the response to NCD in CARICOM member states.

The research part of the evaluation is approaching completion, with the remainder of the project being devoted to disseminating its results and setting the agenda for increased action. The workshop is a key bridge between what has been found in the research phase and setting the policy agenda for the coming years. Recommendations arising out of the workshop will be presented to the World Health Assembly in May and recommendations for action to the CARICOM Heads of Government meeting in July 2016.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

At the end of the meeting, we expect to have:

1. A shared understanding of the policy responses to NCD in CARICOM, both at national and regional levels, including:
 - a. The policy and implementation gaps
 - b. What has worked well and why
 - c. What has worked less well and why
2. Identified actionable and prioritised recommendations for accelerating policy implementation for the prevention and control of NCDs, in particular those:
 - a. Requiring Government action to be put to the next CARICOM Heads of Government meeting
 - b. Requiring multi-sectoral responses
 - c. Providing the core elements of a new CARICOM Strategic Plan of Action (2016-2025)
3. Identified key stakeholders in accelerating the NCD response at international, regional and country level
4. Established the next phase of surveillance and operational research that will:
 - a. Strengthen and rationalize routine monitoring and reporting
 - b. Evaluate the impact of the recommendations agreed for action
5. Moved to re-establish CARICOM as a leader in the global NCD response, including as part of a potential strategic alliance with other Small Island Developing States

INPUTS AND PROCESS

In order to achieve the outputs above, the meeting will:

1. Bring together a wide range of stakeholders from all sectors of Government and Society, including international funding agencies
2. Review the core findings and recommendations from the evaluation study. Topic based evidence briefs from the main technical report will be presented
3. Work in groups to propose policy and implementation recommendations to go to Ministers of health in May and then to CARICOM Heads of Government in July 2016 (currently suggested groups and process below)
4. Explore opportunities for regional and international co-ordination around funding for development, translation and evaluation of policies and related interventions, including targeting organs of CARICOM, such as COTED.

Working groups are proposed on the following themes led by the noted chairpersons:

1. Diet, Food and Food Security: relevant policy on agriculture and trade – **Mr. Barton Clarke**
2. Reducing Alcohol Related Harm – **Dr. Jessie Schutt-Aine**
3. Tobacco Control – **Prof. Sir Trevor Hassell**
4. Promoting Health in Different Settings – **Dr. Sonia Copeland**
5. Financing NCD prevention control – **Mr. Ian Ho-a-shu**
6. Media and Social Communications – **Ms. Joan Tull**
7. Physical Activity and Built Environment – **Mr. Mark Cummings**

In addressing these themes, each group will be asked to specify

- Goals
 - Indicators
 - Policy Packages
 - Core - key commitments that will be formulated and implemented within 3 to 5 years maximum
 - Expanded - additional desirable commitments, the formulation and implementation of which might extend to 2025
- Packages will include
- Policy levers: legislation, regulation, fiscal (taxation/subsidies) measures,
 - Advocacy and communication
 - Required multi-sectoral partners
 - NCD toolkit to assist the region e.g. regionally appropriate guidance / blueprints e.g. model legislation, ready-made communications resources
- How their recommendations build on the gaps and lessons learnt from the evaluation.

Remember that the recommendations should be particularly directed at CARICOM Governments and Institutions, and will be presented to Ministers of Health in May and for the Heads of Government meeting in July.

Expected outputs from each working group

- A *core minimum* package of recommended policy measures and implementation strategies, at both national and regional levels.
 - These are measures that should be met by all national Governments and relevant regional institutions.
- A *desirable* package of recommended policy measures and implementation strategies
 - Where resources allow

LOGISTICS

The workshop is coordinated by Lisa Bayley, lisabayleyposdeval@gmail.com with support from:

- Prof Nigel Unwin – Principal Investigator, CDRC, UWI, Barbados
- Dr. Alafia Samuels – Co-Principal Investigator, Director, CDRC, UWI, Barbados
- Other members of the evaluation team
- The evaluation and workshop is supported by the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- Venue: Trinidad Hilton, Lady Young Road, Port of Spain, Trinidad

OUTLINE OF MEETING PROGRAMME

Day 1 **Wednesday February 24th 2016**

8.30 am Official Opening

9.00 am Summaries of the main findings

Context and overview of the evaluation and aims of this workshop (10 mins)

New findings, and evidence gaps, on recent trends on the burden of NCDs (15 mins)

National policy responses and lessons learnt (25 mins)

Regional policy responses and lessons learnt (20 mins)

International Impact of the 2007 Port of Spain Declaration (10 mins)

Discussant: Dr. Patrick Martin, CMO St. Kitts Nevis

10.30 am Break

11.00 am Moving forward

On-going arrangements for surveillance and monitoring (15 mins)

Financing NCD prevention and control – including potential revenue from alcohol, tobacco, food and beverage taxes (15 mins)

Facilitated discussion, based initially around the final chapter in the technical report, on the broad implications of the findings (45 mins)

Discussant: Hon. Donville Inniss, Minister of Industry, International Business & Commerce, Barbados

12.45 pm Lunch

2.00 pm Working group session

Introduction to the working groups and expected outcomes

4.00 pm Plenary

Brief feedback and discussion on progress from each group (10 mins max per group)

Day 2 Thursday February 25th

8.30 am Review of Day 1 and cross-fertilization

This will be a facilitated discussion, based on feedback given in the plenary the day before.

May entail, as appropriate, some movement between working groups, and of the groups' specific tasks

9.15 am Working groups

Refreshments available throughout, groups decide when to break.

12.30 pm Lunch

1.30 pm Working groups

Finalising presentations for the plenary

2.30 pm Plenary reports

Maximum of 15 minutes per group: 10 minutes for feedback and 5 mins for discussion

4.15 pm Thanks, and a brief review of the next steps

4.30 pm Adjourn

The Plenary sessions on the morning of Day 1 and the afternoon of Day 2 will be broadcast to the region, which will allow a very wide cross section of stakeholders to hear the reports and provide some input to the discussions.