



Evaluation of the 2007 CARICOM Port of Spain NCD Declaration

HIGHLIGHTS & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
HEALTH MINISTERS TO ACCELERATE ACTION

EVALUATION OF THE 2007 CARICOM NCD SUMMIT DECLARATION TO ACCELERATE ACTION



The 2007 Port of Spain Declaration on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is approaching its 10th anniversary. With its partners, the University of the West Indies has completed an evaluation of the successes and challenges in attaining the Declaration's commitments. In February 2016 a regional workshop brought together stakeholders from a broad range of sectors to review and validate the findings and make recommendations to accelerate further implementation.

HIGHLIGHTS

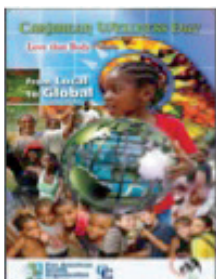
National and regional trends in NCD mortality, morbidity and risk factors

- Mortality in the Caribbean from NCDs is the highest in the Americas. 40% of NCD deaths occur prematurely, in those under 70, and are potentially preventable.
- Heart attacks, stroke and diabetes cause most premature deaths, followed by cancers. Life expectancy varies: 61 years in Haiti to 75 years in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and the Bahamas.
- Hypertension is the leading risk factor for death. Our diabetes prevalence is double global rates.
- NCD risk factors such as unhealthy food, physical inactivity, obesity and alcohol consumption are rising. There is higher obesity and diabetes in women; higher smoking and binge drinking in men.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) has been ratified, but implementation is lagging.

Policy responses to NCDs and lessons learned

- NCDs need to be given a higher political priority.
- There are widely differing levels of implementation of Summit Declaration mandates, related to country size, resources and burden of NCDs.
- The all-of-society and all-of-government response required for NCDs needs strengthening.
- Indicators with the lowest levels of implementation concern diet, schools and communications.
- Indicators with clear guidance for action and support from regional or international organisations have the highest levels of implementation – risk factor surveillance (PAHO/Caribbean Public Health Agency support); Caribbean Wellness Day (PAHO, CARICOM); the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO).
- The performance of regional institutions identified to support implementation has been variable.

International impact of the Declaration



- The NCD Summit had significant influence on shaping global governance of chronic diseases, paving the way for the 2011 United Nations High-Level Meeting (UNHLM) on NCDs.
- Over half of the 27 CARICOM Summit commitments were reflected in the UNHLM NCD Declaration.
- Caribbean Wellness Day/Week has been promoted by PAHO in the region of the Americas.

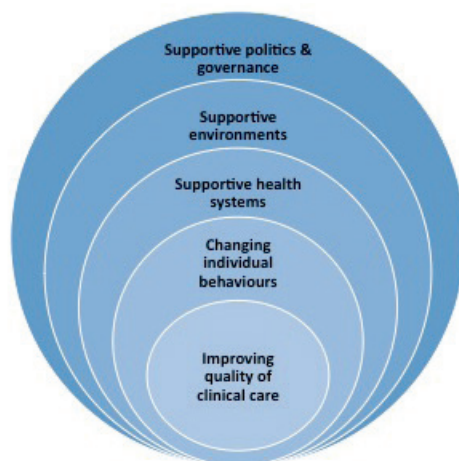
Investing in health and wealth: Potential role of tobacco and alcohol taxes



- According to a study in three countries, Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago: revenue generated from further increasing taxes on tobacco and alcohol could exceed US\$ 37 million. This is 300% more than the estimated US\$ 12.6 million cost of World Health Organization ‘best buy’ NCD interventions for these populations.
- 2014 taxation on tobacco ranges from 17% in St. Vincent & Grenadines to 63% of sale price in St. Lucia. The PAHO/WHO target is 75% of sale price.

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STRATEGIES FOR MULTILEVEL NCD ACTION



Examples of other actions needed

	Level of intervention		
Category of intervention	Regional multisectoral interventions	National multisectoral interventions	National interventions within sectors
Supportive politics and governance	Health in all policies at CARICOM organs – COTED, COFCOR; Regional public goods for NCDs	NCD Commissions – all-of-society; Inter-Ministerial Task Force on NCDs – all-of-government	Health included on overseas development/ aid agenda; At least 6% GDP for health
Supportive environment	Ban import of trans fats; Caribbean 100% smoke-free; Align with other Small Island Developing States on food insecurity, fair trade	Health in all policies; Safe, attractive facilities for physical activity	Ban advertising unhealthy foods to children; Improve CSO advocacy
Supportive health systems	Production of regionwide guidance on structures and contents of care	Earmark tobacco taxes for health	Chronic care model; Workplace wellness programmes
Changing individual behaviours	Implement regional standards on cigarette pack labelling; Agree regionwide food labelling	Multisectoral risk factor campaigns, e.g. salt reduction	Taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages
Improving quality of clinical care	Use PAHO revolving fund for regional purchase of high- quality generic drugs for NCDs	Audit outcomes of Treatment Guidelines in private and public health sectors	Enhance hypertension and diabetes quality of care

Ministers of Health are uniquely placed to both oversee actions within the health sector and advocate for actions across sectors. While there will be interventions needed at multiple levels in many sectors, perhaps these key Ministers can best enhance the NCD response through the actions below.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACCELERATING ACTION FOR MINISTERS OF HEALTH (Draft for discussion)

CARICOM Ministers of Health are requested to:

1. Enhance politics and governance by:

- a. Ensuring there is a dedicated NCD focal point in the Ministry of Health.
- b. Formally reviving the Regional NCD Secretariat and monitoring its outputs of regional public goods, blueprints and toolkits.
- c. Introducing social health insurance to facilitate quality health services, universal access and universal coverage for at least a basic package for all residents.
- d. Ensuring that health imperatives are included on the overseas development agenda and requests for development aid, where appropriate.
- e. Supporting a new Port of Spain 10th Anniversary Declaration for Heads of Government.

2. Enhance supportive environments by:

- a. Recognising that the “Rights of the Child to Health” includes the right to live in a non-obesogenic environment; institute a ban on advertising and promotion of unhealthy foods in schools, as recommended by the United Nations Task Force on Childhood Obesity.
- b. Promoting greater food security by aligning with other Small Island Developing States to address vulnerabilities to natural disasters and climate change.
- c. Advocating for taxation to reduce consumption of unhealthy products.

3. Enhance health systems by:

- a. Prioritising clinical quality of care especially for hypertension and diabetes, including in the workplace, along with regional purchase of high-quality generic NCD drugs recommended by WHO.

Visit our website at www.onecaribbeanhealth.org for full Evidence Briefs from the evaluation, recommendations for accelerating action and much more on NCDs.



¹The evaluation was led by UWI, on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre