

Accelerating Implementation of the 2007 Port of Spain Declaration on Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs)

GOVERNANCE

The 2007 Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government Summit produced the landmark Port of Spain Declaration on NCDs. An evaluation of successes and challenges in implementing the Declaration's commitments has been undertaken.¹ This fact sheet highlights evaluation results, the current situation and how we can accelerate action.

2007 NCD Declaration mandates: Strengthen regional health institutions, to provide critical leadership for reducing NCD burden as a central priority of the Caribbean Cooperation in Health Initiative with CARICOM and PAHO as the joint Secretariat.... to be the entity responsible for revision of the regional plan for the prevention and control of NCDs, and the monitoring and evaluation of this Declaration; establish National Commissions on NCDs or analogous bodies to coordinate the multi-sectoral collaborative NCD response; programmes for research and surveillance of the risk factors for NCDs with the support of our Universities and PAHO

What we know

National response

- The national and regional response to NCDs is most successful when it is genuinely multisectoral, with government, the private sector and civil society playing their role in implementing Health in all Policies in all-of-society.
- NCDs should be given higher political priority:
 - Well-functioning multisectoral National NCD Commissions need to be more evident.
 - Governments should create mechanisms for genuine inter-ministerial action to address NCDs.

Regional institutions

- The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) became operational in January 2013, and was formed by the amalgamation of five regional health institutions. This has changed the landscape of regional support mechanisms.
- The Healthy Caribbean Coalition, created to lead the civil society response to the 2007 NCD Summit Declaration has been very active regionally and internationally and in supporting health-related civil society organisations in countries.
- Learning from the challenges of Caribbean Cooperation in Health III (CCH III), CCH IV is being formulated to develop effective, priority regional public goods to support the NCD agenda.

Planning, evaluation, research

- The CARICOM Strategic Plan of Action for NCDs needs to be updated.
- Annual evaluations of the Port of Spain NCD Declaration have been done for eight years (2008 – 2015) using a colour-coded grid, with self-reported data from NCD focal points in countries.
- There is an active NCD research agenda in the Universities of the region.

The way forward

- Goal: to achieve a coordinated, harmonised, broad-based all-of-government and all-of-society NCD response in countries and across the region to introduce Health in all Policies.

National Response

- Draft in a ‘league of champions’ to lobby leaders towards sustainable political buy-in.
- Create or enhance country-appropriate organisations to implement Health in All Policies in all sectors through:
 - NCD Commissions or analogous bodies, for the all-of-society response.
 - Inter-Ministerial Task Forces for the all-of-government response.
 - Ensuring that there is a dedicated NCD focal point in the Ministry of Health.
- Introduce social health insurance to facilitate quality health services, universal access and universal coverage for at least a basic package for all residents.
- Prioritise clinical quality of care, especially for hypertension and diabetes, including in the workplace, particularly to screen asymptomatic males.
 - Review and update national drug formularies to rationalise vital and essential NCD drugs.
 - Utilise the PAHO regional drug purchasing machinery to buy high-quality generic NCD drugs recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) to take advantage of economies of scale, recognising that local commercial interests may oppose this.

Regional response

- Re-energise regional leadership and support for the required multisectoral response, i.e. :
 - Schedule regular sessions on NCDs at CARICOM Heads of Government conferences aligned with required UN reporting on Sustainable Development Goals and WHO reporting for NCD global targets and indicators.
- Create and support mechanisms at the regional level that allow for participation of all sectors in the NCD response.
- Reactivate the Regional NCD Secretariat, aligned with Caribbean Cooperation in Health IV, with clear mandates and deliverables of regional public goods and the establishment of appropriate regional multisectoral mechanisms to facilitate NCD prevention and control.
- Fully engage relevant organs and institutions of CARICOM, such as the Council for Trade and Economic Development, (COTED), in the regional NCD response.
- Strengthen support for CARPHA so that it can more effectively carry out its NCD mandate.
- Strengthen engagement with the Healthy Caribbean Coalition as it continues to enhance civil society’s response and contribution to NCD prevention and control in the Caribbean.

Planning, evaluation, research

Monitoring and evaluation of the Port of Spain Declaration:

- Revise, pilot and implement the NCD evaluation grid.
- Update the CARICOM Regional Plan of Action for NCDs 2016 – 2025.
- Rationalise the NCD research agenda in the Universities of the region, to enhance research and develop capacity in all CARICOM countries.

We are making progress

An example: Health insurance in action in Belize



The country's National Health Insurance (NHI) Scheme is overseen by the Social Security Board that purchases primary care services from private and government providers on behalf of its members. These providers are monitored closely and evaluated before their service contracts can be renewed. The Ministry of Health plans to roll

out the NHI model to 50% of the country during 2016, with numerous health personnel being trained and acquainted with new protocols to ensure that they understand how the system works.

Having first been established in the south of Belize, the intervention was extended to the north and by 2015 was reported to have reached some 35-40% of the population. Key informants state that the scheme has helped to finance new clinics and provided an opportunity to review and update protocols for the management of NCDs and risk factors. This process is being completed with assistance from CARPHA.

For more information go to: <http://www.socialsecurity.org.bz/nhi/>

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

