Improving Household Nutrition Security and Public Health in the CARICOM (FaN) Bulletin - January & February 2019

HEALTH AND FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION (HFLE) CURRICULUM REVISION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS, 22 JANUARY 2019

CARICOM’s Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) curriculum has been used in schools in the region to promote the well-being and health of the child. However, it was developed to primarily address hygiene and reproductive health.

One of the FaN project interventions is targeting children, as agents of change, through syllabus revisions to enhance Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) risks and drivers, to facilitate children (as well as parents) getting the knowledge and skills to improve dietary patterns and physical activity. Currently, this intervention targets secondary schools through the revision of CXC CSEC Human and Social Biology and CCSLC Integrated Science. The HFLE revision will fill the gap in the early childhood and primary school level.

The following broad areas for intervention were recommended by the PAC:

1. Increase demand for health foods among children
2. Improve communications along the supply / value chain
3. Engage with the private food sector and local NGOs to increase healthy options offered in the commercial marketplace

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FAN PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING, BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS, 24 JANUARY 2019

Members of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) met with research partners and our IDRC Project Officers, to be briefed on suggestions for interventions to improve household nutrition security in the region. The suggested interventions were informed by the stakeholder interviews and workshops previously conducted in Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

This HFLE revision meeting, led by CARICOM, supported by FaN, working with partners UNICEF, CXC and CDB, outlined a roadmap ending in submission of the revised curriculum to the October meeting of CARICOM Ministers of Education.

Standing from left: Natasha Sobers-Grannum (UWI Barbados), Martin Baptiste (CDB), Cher Macnack-Lamberg (Suriname), Alison Brown-Perry (CXC), Ninian Blair (UNICEF), Paul Murphy (CDB), Alafia Samuels (UWI Barbados), Laurette Bristol (CARICOM), Waneisha Jones (UWI Barbados), Rudolph Cummings (CARICOM).

Standing from left: Chelston Brathwaite (PAC), Annie Wesley (IDRC), George Alleyne (PAC/PAHO), Leith Dunn (UWI IGDS Jamaica), Alafia Samuels (UWI Barbados), Madhuvanti Murphy (UWI Barbados), Tanya Martelly (UWI Barbados), Nina Surujbally (PAC), Waneisha Jones (UWI Barbados), Zee Leung (IDRC).

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