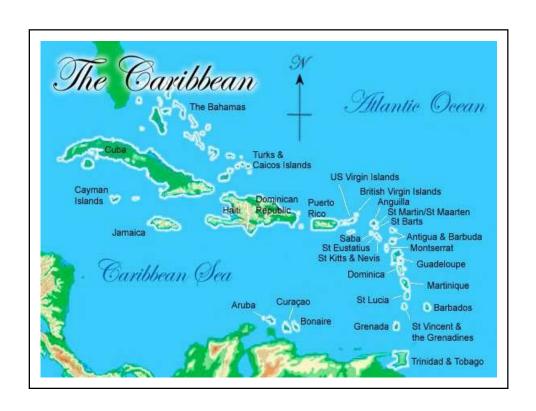


# Caribbean Perspectives on Primary Health Care

Renewal of Primary Health Care
Accra Hotel
Barbados
May 9-10 2011

Presented by Hon Julius Timothy
Minister for Health and Urban Renewal
Dominica





#### Overview of Presentation

- Alma Ata (1978)& the Caribbean
- Implementation of PHC in the Caribbean
- PHC in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Renewal
- Main Challenges
- Next Steps



#### Alma Ata Declaration

- Values: Equity, Solidarity, Human Rights
- Principles
- Components / Elements



#### PHC - What was it?

- A level of care ?
- Poor care for poor people ?
- · A movement?
- A developmental approach?
- Socialised Medicine?
- A System?
- An Approach?



#### Health Care in English speaking C/bean

#### Historical Perspective Pre- independence

- Government provider, regulator, steering role
- Centrally controlled budgets with mal-distribution
- "Free health care"
- · Private sector small , limited role
- Infrastructure hospitals, H. clinics, H. centres
- Services basic specialties, MCH
- · Reliance on foreign nationals



#### Context of H. Care in EC circa Alma Ata

- Newly independent nations
- Isolated communities
- Weak infrastructure roads, telephone, transportation, information
- Social welfare base
- Well developed education system
- Local government concept



# Response to Alma Ata in EC

- Adoption of declaration
- PHC Meeting (1982)
- Country Actions



## Caribbean Examples

- Grenada
- Organization of PHC implementation teams
- Structuring and implementation of PHC support systems
- Implementation of disease prevention and control interventions
- Health impacting infrastructure improvements



# Antigua & Barbuda

- Antigua & Barbuda embraces Primary Health Care, Alma Ata Comprehensive PHC and Health as a Human Right
- Primary Care: first point of contact with the HealthCare System with referrals between primary secondary and tertiary levels
- · Comprehensive services offered
- New category of staff (health Aide) introduced
- Established Health Information Unit



- ☐ In 1980, Dominica's health system was reviewed
- ☐ A plan was formulated and submitted to cabinet
- ☐ Redirected the thrust of National Health Services
- ☐ The objective of the plan was to place emphasis on Primary Health Care



#### Island divided into Island divided into:

Two Regions

- 7 Health districts.
- Type I 44
- Type III 7

Every community has a health center

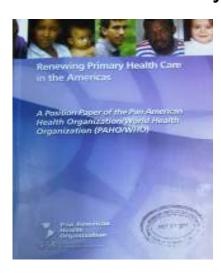


#### St Lucia

- Strong political commitment to PHC as the approach to service delivery.
- ▶ The political directorate took a policy decision that persons should not walk more than three miles in order to access a health clinic.
- ▶ Policy decision that no one would be denied care regardless of ability to pay.
- An additional 26 health centers constructed within a three mile radius of communities.
- Introduction of Bureau of Health Education Unit .



# PHC in the 21st Century - Renewal





# Why a renewed approach to PHC

- Rise of new epidemiologic challenges that PHC must evolve to address
- Need to correct weaknesses and inconsistencies present in some widely divergent approaches to PHC
- The development of new tools and knowledge of best practices that PHC can capitalize on to be more effective
- A growing recognition that PHC is an approach to strengthen society's ability to reduce inequities in health
- A renewed approach to PHC is viewed as an essential condition to meeting commitments of internationally agreed –upon development goals including the MDG's



#### Calls for Renewal of PHC

- Governments and people and civil society
- PAHO consultations 2005
- Montevideo Declaration 2007
- Buenos Aires consultation 2007
- WHO Regional consultations
- WHR 2008
- WHA resolution 2009



#### What do people want?

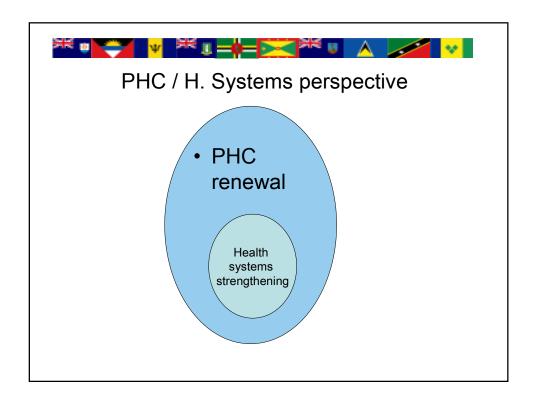
- To live long healthy lives
- A fair deal
- To have a say in what affects their lives and that of their families
- To be treated as human beings and not just "cases"
- · Health authorities they can rely on
- Reduced risk of disease
- Medicines and technologies that work
- More efficient services

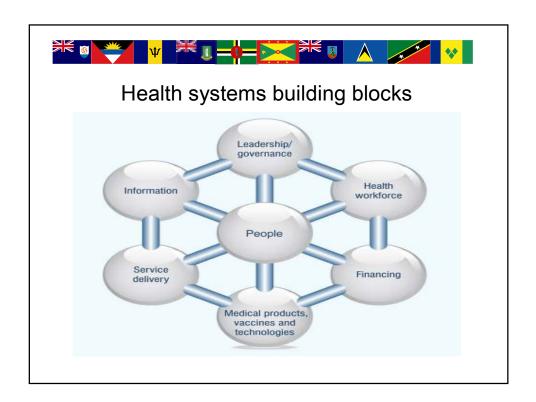


#### **PHC Renewal**

- Values constant
- Valid for rich and poor countries
- Beyond the health system
- · Not a level of care
- Human development at the centre of development









# Towards universal coverage

- Ensure sufficient supply
- Remove barriers to access
  - addressing social determinants
  - providing social health protection
  - scaling up services in underserved areas



## People-centred primary care

#### **Establish:**

- Close-to-client networks of primary care teams
- Personal relationships between service providers and users
- Primary care networks with responsibility for all members of a defined population
- · Integrated, continuous, quality care
- Trust



### Better public policies

- Effective public health policies
- Include health in all policies (e.g. labour, environment)
- Social determinants



# Inclusive leadership

- Move from command and control to steer and negotiate
- Build consensus
- Agree regulatory capacity and governance instruments
- Greater involvement of non-state actors



#### Participation

- User participation
- Local community mobilization
- Consumer empowerment and protection
- Civil society involvement



# Main Challenges



# Challenges for the Health Sector

- Reaching the unreached -? Who are they today? growing inequity and marginalisation, increasing cost to individuals
- · Social protection and small populations
- · Definition of rights ? Benefit package
- Ensuring quality of care monitoring standards
- · Human resource issues
- · Ensuring continuity of care
- · Establishing integrated networks of care
- Rationalisation-?
- · Dis -establishment



# Challenges

- People centred approach across all levels
- Non regulation of the private sector
- Corruption in health care
- Engaging the private sector in universal coverage
- Public policies strengthened and enforced
- Empowering other sectors



## Building alliances and individual recommitment

- Incorporating the lessons learnt without clinging to the past but positioning for the 21<sup>st</sup>. Century
- Imbuing passion and a sense of mission
- How can you be that agent of change?



# **Next Steps**

- Assessment of PHC systems within the region
- Build on successes