

# Bettering the Partnership with Different Sectors and Organizations

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# Overall Aim:

## Reducing Obesity among School Children

Research Team Members identified

- University of the West Indies
- University of Saskatchewan: success in FUEL program
- Curriculum Division: Director receptive to objectives...  
*Advocate*
- CEO - National School Dietetics Services Ltd
- Caribbean Health Research Council
- Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute



# Gap Analysis of Health in Ministry of Education

- Duplication of content and effort
- Effort not integrated
- Managers working in silos
- Analysis given to PS & Minister
- *Funded by CIDA, SSHRC - Canada*

## National School Health Symposium -Trinidad & Tobago:

- Acquire perceptions of the issues
- Enable the Ministry of Education to proceed with some immediate initiatives with the project partners
- Stakeholders – PTA; Students; Curriculum writers, Principals, Minister views and recommendations.

### Methods

Participants, working in small groups, were asked to consider, discuss and respond to the following 3 questions:

1. What are the current policies on children's health in schools?
2. What are the flaws in the current policies and practices?
3. What recommendations do you have for future policies and practices?

## Through the eyes of children- engaging youth in creating supportive for health: A Photovoice strategy

**Methods:** Nine CAPE students from three public high schools in Port of Spain, Trinidad participated in a 3-day training sessions in the Photovoice technique/ethics, writing narratives, critical reflection and dialogue.

Trained graduate students facilitated the process.

**Results:** Eight themes about being healthy emerged.

The most recurring themes were quality of the food served at schools, need for safe, clean and well-maintained facilities, and role models- teachers, parents and community.

Recommendations to address concern identified.

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Themes	Summary Key Responses
Leadership	<p>A comprehensive-school health strategy is needed with transparency in all related policy areas; needs to be congruent and developed with input from all stakeholders, including parents and students.</p> <p>Improved communications are required between government ministries responsible for children's health and learning (MoE &amp; MoH).</p> <p>Clear guidelines, job descriptions and working relationships are needed to clarify the role of school nurses within the comprehensive school health strategy.</p>
Staff Training/ Development	Professional development programs for teachers are needed in health curricula areas and to meet teachers' personal needs for health related knowledge (e.g. AIDS/HIV, physical education, Health and Family Life Values Education).
Material/Human/ Financial Resource	More teachers and specialists in education must be recruited and trained.
Curriculum	<p>Physical education curricula and programs need to be strengthened.</p> <p>Strengthen the Family Life and Values education curriculum and teaching.</p>
Physical Environment	<p>Implement monitoring and inspection programs to ensure school buildings are maintained in accordance with safety, public health and sanitation standards</p> <p>Inspect all school locations for physical hazards including flooding</p>
Partnerships- parents/Community	Engage all partners in the planning and implementation of school health programs and extend the programs to families and communities (e.g. Parent Teacher Associations)
School Food Environment	Support the continuing improvement of the NSDSL school menu planning and delivery of appealing, nutritious meals. Create appropriate hygienic physical space for students to eat their breakfasts and lunches. Implement cafeteria and beverage policy to restrict the sale of all unhealthy food and drink products.
Research/ Monitoring / Evaluation	<p>Maintain systems for monitoring school immunization programs.</p> <p>Implement regular evaluation studies of policy and programs to ensure stated goals and intended outcomes are being achieved.</p>



# Walking the Talk

- ✓ Developed a proposal
- ✓ Obtained funding from PAHEF, SSHRC
- ✓ Workshops with Curriculum Writers
- ✓ Trained teachers
- ✓ Data collection
- Dissemination Workshop



## Partnerships Required

- North America - PHAC, Ministry Health Promotion (Canada)
- The Canadian Best Practices Portal for Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention  
Public Health Agency of Canada  
<http://cbpp-pcpe.phac-aspc.gc.ca/index-eng.html>
- WHO/PAHO – Evidence Informed Policy Formulation Network (EVIPNet)
- Private Sector Partnerships



## Partnerships Required

- Latin American Expertise
  - not fully explored
- Explore collaborations  
South-North-South  
Funding, expertise



***Vamos a trabajar juntos***

