

EVIDENCE-BASED DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN PHARMACEUTICAL POLICY

IVAMA, AM(1); NAARENDORP, M(2); THOMAS-OSBOURNE, P(3); HINDS, M(4); CARGILL, L(5); ACHING, R(6); BURNETT, F(7); CUMMINGS, R(8); SPENCE, M(8); WILSON, R(8); MARIN-JARAMILLO, N(1); FITZGERALD, J(1).
(1)PAHO/WHO; (2)Ministry of Health (MOH) Suriname; (3)MOH Jamaica; (4)Barbados Drug Service; (5) Caribbean Regional Drug Test Laboratory; Patent Office/Trinidad and Tobago; OECS/Pharmaceutical Procurement Service; CARICOM Secretariat.

Introduction

- Health is a human Right, including access to essential medicines;
- Medicines, vaccines and technologies are one of the six building blocks of the well-functioning health systems, proposed by WHO;
- Challenges for ensuring sustained access quality medicines at affordable prices;
- In order to be beneficial, medicines need to be safe, effective and of quality;

CARICOM and CCH 3

- Caribbean Community (CARICOM) - 1972
- 15 members and 5 associate members.
- The Health Agenda of CARICOM is the Caribbean Cooperation in Health, Phase 3 (CCH 3). One of the priorities is the Health Systems Strengthening
- It includes the access to safe, affordable and effective medicines. 'Support the design and implementation of a Caribbean Pharmaceutical Policy' is one of the areas of joint collaborative actions.

Objectives

Describe the development of the Caribbean Pharmaceutical Policy (CPP) and present its content, detailing the part related to medicines regulation.

Methodology

- Descriptive study
- WHO, How to develop a National Drug Policy (1999).
- Results are presented in terms of process and content of the CPP.

Results

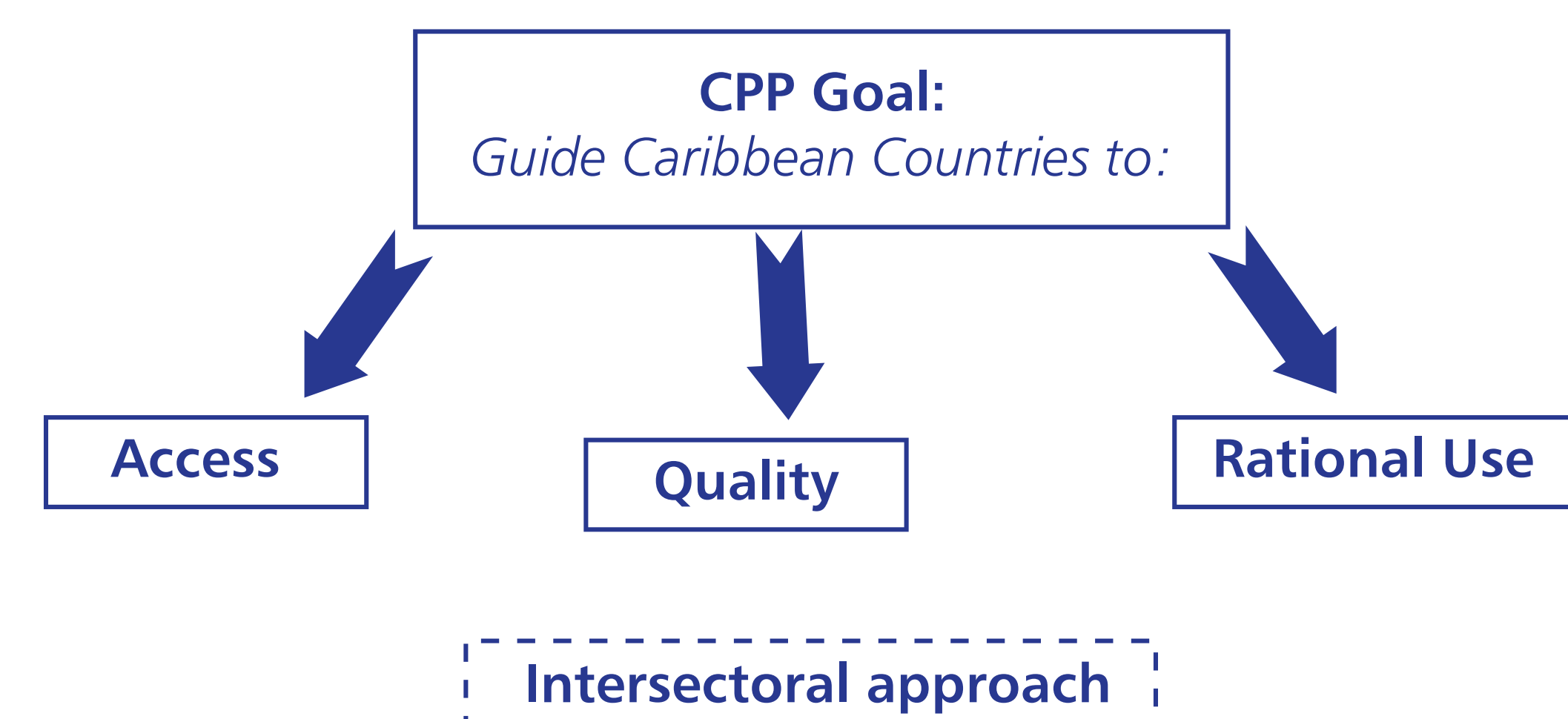
Steps

- 2004. COHSOD established the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on the matter;
- 2009. Studies commissioned by CARICOM/TAG: Regional Assessments of Drug Regulatory and Registration Systems and Patent and Related Issues and Access to Medicines;
- 2009. PAHO/WHO. Pharmaceutical Situation in the Caribbean Countries;
- 2010. approval of the Concept Paper for the Caribbean Pharmaceutical Policy by the 18th Meeting of CMOs.
- Stakeholders consultation (2010/2011)
- 2010. CPP Presented to 19th CAUCUS of Minister of Health
- 2011. CPP approved by the 19th CMOs Meeting and 21st COHSOD (April 2011)

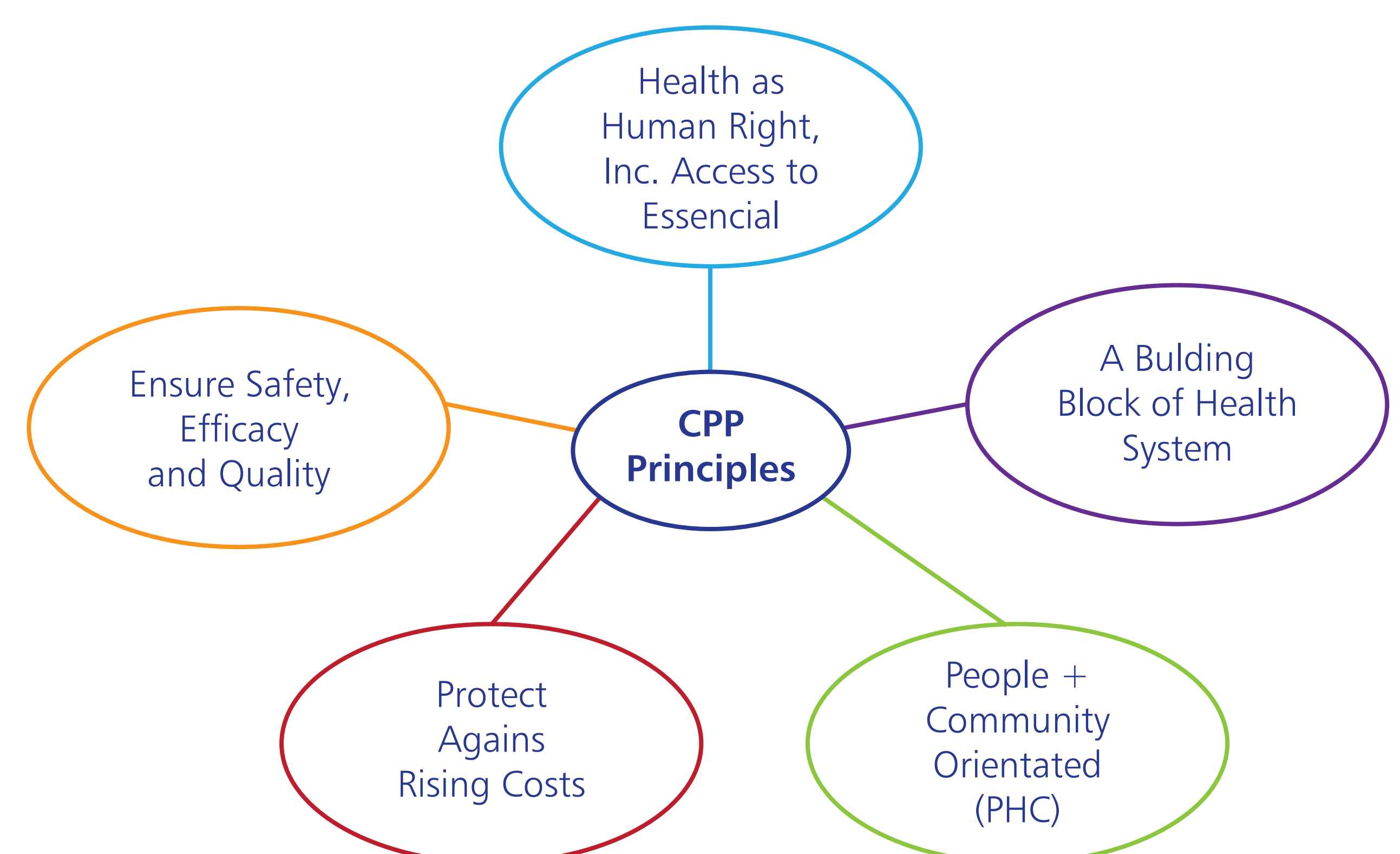
Main Problems

It was identified based on the surveys results:

- Deficiency or lack of mechanisms to ensure the safety and quality of the medicines provided to the population;
- High expenditure (approx. US\$ 20 per capita/year) compared with the region of the Americas (US\$ 10 per capita/year);
- Very little collaboration and harmonisation among the countries in regards to Pharmaceuticals.



Principles



Strategic areas

The seven objectives are organized in the following strategic areas: Pharmaceutical Policy Scope; Regulatory Framework; Access; and Rational Use of Medicines. For regulation the objective is:

Develop a harmonized sub-regional regulatory framework and strengthen collaboration among Caribbean countries to ensure the essential components of medicines regulation

Conclusions

The CPP is a framework for collaborative action among Caribbean Countries. Most of the Caribbean countries are Small Islands Developing States - several constraints for developing activities on their own. The policy expresses the willingness for collaboration at both technical and political levels.

Funding source: Part of the activities were part of the EU/ACP/WHO Project "Partnership on Pharmaceutical Policies" funded by European Union.

Contact: ivamaadr@cpc.paho.org