

Assessing progress in the Caribbean since the Port of Spain Declaration

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Background

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) of 20 countries and territories led the world in holding the first Heads of Government Summit on Non Communicable Disease (NCD) prevention and control in September 2007. The Port of Spain Declaration (POSD), “Uniting to Stop the Epidemic of NCDs” led the way to the United Nations High Level Meeting (UMHLM) in 2011. This presentation provides an overview of a multi-partner project designed to evaluate progress since the POSD. The project is supported by funding from the Canadian International Development Research Centre.

Objectives

The overarching objective is to evaluate, seven years on, the implementation of the CARICOM NCD Summit Political Declaration in order to learn lessons that will support and accelerate its further implementation and will inform the attainment of the UNHLM NCD commitments. This overarching objective is broken down into 6 research objectives, which will add knowledge on national and regional implementation and impact, plus two objectives that will use and communicate the knowledge gained to help build capacity to improve the policy responses to NCDs in CARICOM member states.

Methods

A mixture of methods are being used for the 6 research objectives, including: quantitative assessment of trends in risk factors for NCDs and NCD mortality; quantitative identification of predictors of reported policy implementation; qualitative in-depth stakeholder interviews to investigate factors promoting and hindering policy implementation, both at a national and regional level; economic modelling to investigate the potential to generate income for NCD prevention from taxes on tobacco and alcohol; adaptation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control reporting tool for use in UK overseas Territories; and media content analysis to investigate the impact of Caribbean Wellness Day celebrations.

Intended outcomes and progress

The gaps identified and lessons learnt from the research phase of the project will be used to increase implementation of prevention and control activities, to put in place what is required to monitor to 2025 the World Health Organization’s NCD targets and indicators, and disseminate lessons that will be widely applicable to other developing regions. A key mile stone is the ‘implementation workshop’. At this workshop the findings from the research objectives will be presented to policy makers from the CARICOM secretariat and individual member states. The outcomes of the workshop will set the agenda for activities to support further implementation and dissemination. The ‘implementation workshop’ will take place in January 2016, followed by 8 months working up detailed implementation plans. Dissemination activities as part of the project are funded through to April 2017.

Project partners

The project is being conducted on behalf of CARICOM and PAHO, and is being led by Public Health at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill. The other partners are: the Caribbean Public Health Agency; the G8 Group at the University of Toronto; the Healthy Caribbean Coalition; the Health Economics Unit, UWI St Augustine; the Institute for International Relations, UWI St Augustine; and Public Health at UWI Mona.