Positioning health in the Post-2015 MDGs Agenda: A Caribbean perspective

Trevor Hassell
President
Healthy Caribbean Coalition
Trevor.hassell@healthycaribbean.org

NCD Alliance Webinar, 5th December 2012
Outline

- Impact of NCDs on health and development in the Caribbean
- Landmarks in Caribbean cooperation in health
- Challenges of non-inclusion of NCDs in MDGs
- NCD initiatives of the Healthy Caribbean Coalition to position health in the Post-2015 MDGs Agenda
Impact of NCDs on health and development in the Caribbean

- Caribbean is the sub-region of the Americas most affected by NCDs
- 25% of Caribbean adults are obese, 25% hypertensive, 10% diabetic
- Age adjusted NCD mortality rate in the Caribbean is many times higher than in North America or Europe
- Treatment of diabetes and hypertension estimated to reduce GDP by 3-8%
Comment made by Caribbean leader at launch of the HCC

“If left to chance, all the gains achieved in the Caribbean during the march from poverty to relative affluence since Independence can be wiped out by NCDs.”

Hon. David Thompson PM; Opening of the Healthy Caribbean 2008 Civil Society led Chronic Disease Conference
Landmarks of Caribbean Cooperation in Health

2001
- Council for Human and Social Development established to "promote the improvement of health, including the development of affordable health services in the Community"

2001
- Heads of Government Nassau Declaration: “The Health of the Region is the Wealth of the Region”, instructed that a Regional Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs be produced

2002
- Ministers of Health finalised Regional Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs

2003
- Task Force of the Nassau Summit of 2001 established as Caribbean Commission on Health and Development (CCHD)

2007
- Quasi Cabinet meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government decision taken to hold CARICOM Summit on NCDs

Heads of Government Nassau Declaration: “The Health of the Region is the Wealth of the Region”, instructed that a Regional Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs be produced.

Ministers of Health finalised Regional Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs.

Task Force of the Nassau Summit of 2001 established as Caribbean Commission on Health and Development (CCHD).
Fully convinced that the burdens of NCDs can be reduced by comprehensive and integrated preventive and control strategies at the individual, family, community, national and regional levels and through collaborative programmes, partnerships and policies supported by governments, private sectors, NGOs and our other social, regional and international partners;
Statement on Commonwealth action to combat NCDs

“We declare our support for the call to integrate indicators to monitor the magnitude, trend and socio-economic impact of NCDs into the core MDG monitoring and evaluation system during the MDG Review Summit in 2010.”
Commonwealth must play a pivotal role in actions that must include “An MDG+ with clear indicators as a priority development issue. I believe the NCD crisis is deserving of an MDG Goal by itself and not as a catch all together with other MDG indicators”

Dr Leslie Ramsammy, Minister of Health, Guyana, at Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting, May 15, 2010
Caribbean Cooperation in Health Phase 111 (CCH111) Regional Health Framework 2010 - 2015

“the cross cutting nature of the work, and the focus on social determinants will ensure that CCH 111 and its delivery institutions, will impact positively on many agendas including climate change and social and economic development”
NCDs addressed as a development issue at the Country level

- NCDs included in health and development plans in Jamaica - National Health Fund established to benefit the poor
- National poverty reduction programmes linked to NCDs in the Bahamas
- National multi-sectoral NCD Commissions
- Medications for NCDs available at affordable cost at point of delivery
Impact of non inclusion of NCDs in MDGs

- NCDs viewed predominantly as a health issue
- Challenges in shifting the NCD issue to the National level
- Perception that NCDs not a development issue since not included in MDGs
- Difficult to address the negative impact of global issues: trade policies, labelling of food products and product formulation
- Insufficient awareness
- Inadequate funding of NCD programmes
Actions by the Healthy Caribbean Coalition

- **Civil Society Strategic Plan of Action 2012-2016**
- **Resolution by the Anglican Church to take actions with the HCC “to help our people make the vital connection between Christian spirituality and the care of their health”**
- **Regional Consultation of health NGOs and other civil society groups to address the NCDs as an MDG issue**
- **Mobilise HCC civil society network in St Lucia to contribute to UNDG Consultations due to be held in that country**
Thank you