



## STRATEGIC NOTE

### PAHO/WHO Multi-Country Cooperation Strategy for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries

2018-2024

The Strategy for Technical Cooperation with Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries<sup>1</sup> is a medium-term vision of the work of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) with the seven countries for the period 2018-2024.

It was developed based on a health situational analysis which was conducted in 2017 and consultations with senior technical officers from the Ministries of Health in all the countries. It considered national, subregional and global frameworks.

The Multi-country Strategy defines five Strategic Priorities and their Focus Areas which reflect the expected outcomes of those priorities. Each Focus Area is linked directly to at least one National Health Policy, Strategy or Plan priority, an outcome from the PAHO/WHO Strategic Plan 2014-2019, and indirectly with a health or health-related Sustainable Development Goal.

PAHO/WHO will concentrate the majority of its resources destined to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean countries to these defined Strategic Priorities over the Strategy's cycle. The achievement of each Strategic Priority is the joint responsibility of the Governments and PAHO/WHO.

#### Strategic Priorities and Focus Areas

**Strategic Priority 1: Strengthening the health system to advance universal health coverage and access, ensuring appropriate legislation and policies, standardized operating procedures, and aligning human resource with direction of national health strategic plans to deliver the required package of services**

This priority recognizes that each country will need to develop and implement its own roadmap to strengthen the health systems in order to achieve universal access to health and universal health coverage. The focus areas reflect the elements that are of major concern and will require technical cooperation to move the process forward.

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<sup>1</sup> The Eastern Caribbean Countries are Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines.



### **Focus Areas**

1.1 Develop and implement an improved and sustainable governance and health financing mechanism (National health insurance development)

1.2 Strengthen universal health coverage and access to essential health services and products

1.3 Improve Primary Health Care (PHC) with definition of service packages, aligning human resources accordingly

### **Strategic Priority 2: Reducing morbidity and mortality due to communicable diseases**

This priority looks at strategies to increase the number of diseases declared as eliminated while strengthening the surveillance and interventions aimed at new health related threats.

### **Focus Areas**

2.1 Implement strategies to advance the elimination of HIV/STIs, tuberculosis, hepatitis B and maintain elimination of poliomyelitis, measles, and rubella

2.2 Develop and or Strengthen antimicrobial resistance surveillance

2.3 Strengthen capacity for integrated management of vector borne diseases including source reduction

### **Strategic Priority 3: Reducing the burden of Chronic NCDs including the area of mental health and substance abuse**

This priority looks at reducing morbidity and mortality from non-communicable diseases, mental health and substance use or misuse by improving the management and risk factors for non-communicable diseases and creating an enabling environment that promote health and wellbeing.

### **Focus Areas**

3.1 Integrate mental health and substance abuse in PHC including a focus on the child and adolescent and reducing risk factors and reinforcing protective factors

3.2 Improve management and risk factors reduction for NCDs

3.3 Promote nutrition and link with NCDs, Baby Friendly Hospital initiative (BFHI) and food security



### 3.4 Prevent disability and strengthen program for rehabilitation

#### **Strategic Priority 4: Achieving optimum Family Health throughout the Life Course**

This priority looks at reducing morbidity and mortality from preventable maternal and childhood diseases as well as creating strategies to promote healthy living through the life-course (from pre-conception to old age).

##### **Focus Areas**

4.1 Reduce preventable maternal, and child morbidity and mortality

4.2 Improve access to comprehensive quality centred intervention for adolescent health and health of older persons

4.3 Develop and or strengthen approaches to and programmes for men

#### **Strategic Priority 5: Strengthening health emergencies and disaster management and reducing environment threats and risks**

The aim of this priority is to strengthen capacity within the countries to respond quickly to health hazards or threats that may result from emergencies and disasters. It also involves developing policies to ensure multi-sectoral collaboration that will protect and empower people to increase community resilience against sudden (e.g. natural disasters) or pervasive (e.g. gradual effects of climate change) challenges.

##### **Focus Areas**

5.1 Strengthen capacity to address Climate change and health impacts

5.2 Strengthen capacity to address health emergencies and environmental threats and risks

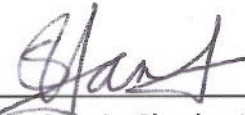
5.3 Strengthen capacity to address disaster management and risks



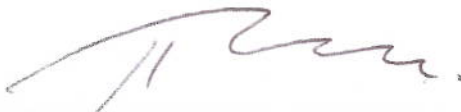
In compliance of the above, we the undersigned commit to working together on the agreed Strategic Priorities defined in the Strategy for Technical Cooperation with Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries for the period 2018-2024, to ensure their implementation and achievement.



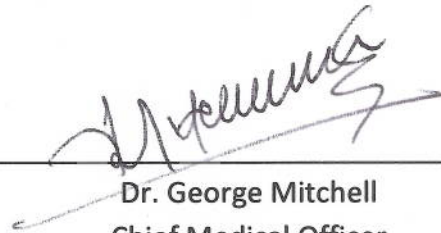
Dr. Rhonda Sealey-Thomas  
Chief Medical Officer  
Antigua and Barbuda



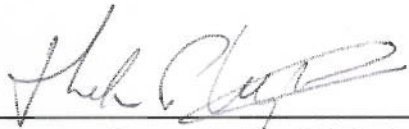
His Excellency Selwin Charles Hart  
Ambassador to the US and the OAS  
Barbados



The Honourable Dr. Kenneth Darroux  
Minister of Health and the Environment  
Commonwealth of Dominica



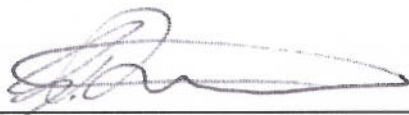
Dr. George Mitchell  
Chief Medical Officer  
Grenada



Her Excellency Thelma Phillip-Browne  
Ambassador to the US  
Saint Kitts and Nevis



The Honourable Mary Isaac  
Minister for Health and Wellness  
Saint Lucia



Mr. Gareth Bynoe, Counselor  
Alternate Representative to the  
US and the OAS  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



Dr. Carissa F. Etienne  
Director  
PAHO/WHO