



Caribbean
Public Health
Agency

CARPHA

Preventing disease
Promoting and protecting health

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Context

- Communicable diseases are an ever present risk and are a major threat to health, tourism and economic development in the Caribbean region.
- Recent changes in the landscape of communicable disease control, including new threats that require immediate and concerted action:
 - the on-going outbreaks of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in Central and West Africa
 - the growing number of cases of chikungunya in the Caribbean, the continuing threat of Middle East Respiratory Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)
- The overall inability of CMS to meet the core capacity requirements of the International Health Regulations suggests several weak links in the Caribbean with regards to health security
- Many inherent weaknesses at regional and national level
- Called for urgent attention as lead Prime Minister for security
- Prime Minister T&T Regionally, recent renewed recognition of the threat posed

Context

- The Global Health Security Initiative launched by Canada, EU, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- Protection against threats - existing agreements such as the WHO International Health Regulations 2005 (IHR).
- Although all 194 WHO member states agreed to comply with the revised IHR, less than 20% of Member States achieved compliance with the core capacities required by the deadline of June 2012.
- Extensions were given until June 2014.
- None of the 24 CARPHA Member States achieved compliance with the core capacities required by the extended deadline of June 2014.
- Further extensions applied for until June 2016
- This leaves the region vulnerable and insufficiently prepared



Global Health security: What is it?

- No universally agreed definition
- “Global health security is a term used to describe the capacities required for countries to prepare for and respond to public health threats and reduce the risk of these threats from crossing borders.”
(US CDC)
- “Global health: refers to health issues where the determinants circumvent, undermine or are oblivious to the territorial boundaries of states, and are thus beyond the capacity of individual countries to address through domestic institutions..... Global health recognises that health is determined by problems, issues and concerns that transcend national boundaries.” **(UK PHE)**
- The 2007 WHO World Health Report highlights how global health security, or lack of it, impacts on economic and political stability, trade, tourism, and access to goods and services. **(WHO)**



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Regional Health security: Enabling factors creating a 'perfect storm'

Financial resources and operational difficulties

Both the current and future ability of CARPHA, and national health authorities, to be able to protect the health of the peoples of the Caribbean depends upon the provision of adequate resources. The quota system is not working, and new and additional financial resources are necessary from various sources at the national and international levels to ensure sustainability.

Global epidemics can devastate national economies

The economic costs of communicable disease outbreaks are increasingly becoming a global concern. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) is estimated to have cost the global economy US \$40-80 billion.

Outbreaks can result in unnecessary illness and deaths

For example, the 2009 influenza pandemic, dengue, contaminated food events in hotels and other settings. In the absence of adequate human capacity to detect and investigate outbreaks unnecessary and preventable illness and deaths can occur.



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Regional Health security: Enabling factors creating a ‘perfect storm’

‘Old’ diseases persist

Successful public health programmes, especially vaccination, have eliminated diseases such as measles, rubella and polio in this region. However, these diseases still occur and can increase quickly if programmes are insufficiently resourced.

Infections impact on health systems

Infectious diseases remain a major cause of ill health and death. Globally, they accounted for almost 30% of the total disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) lost worldwide.

Human behaviours drive diseases

Some of the most common (e.g. influenza) and most concerning (e.g. chikungunya, EVD) communicable diseases are driven by seemingly modifiable human behaviours. It is critical that prevention promote system wide and environmental changes.



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Regional Health security: Enabling factors creating a 'perfect storm'

Caribbean most tourism dependent region in the world

>1 billion arrivals in 2013, and increasing

Traditional treatments losing effect

Antimicrobial agents are highly successful in treating infections but their unrestricted use in humans, and animals, has led to an alarming rise in antimicrobial resistance. Limited data in this region, on this issue.

Communicable diseases are linked to chronic diseases

Infectious agents can cause cancer and other long term debilitating illnesses. Following an acute episode of chikungunya a high percentage of patients can develop a chronic phase defined by persistent arthritis for months or even years.

The environment is changing

Climate change is thought to contribute to the spread of infectious agents, increased availability of vectors, and increased frequency or severity of extreme weather events.



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Regional Health security: Enabling factors creating a 'perfect storm'

Limited national and regional health preparedness and response capacity

All CMS have requested an extension until 2016 to meet the revised International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) core capacities. This suggests that the region is vulnerable to imported communicable diseases, as well as other public health hazards. CARPHA has limited capacity to respond.

New diseases continue to emerge

The emergence of diseases such as Ebola virus disease, chikungunya and the novel Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) are of global concern. The tourist-dependent Caribbean must prioritise preparedness, resources and skilled staff to respond to such threats.

New opportunities for control

New technology has led to advances in detection, surveillance and treatment methods. This requires the human capacity to regularly identify and take advantage of such advances. Member States must prioritise this capacity, through the FELTP and other programmes.



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Regional Health security: What is it?

“Regional health security - describes the capacities required for CARPHA Member States to prepare for and respond to public health threats, issues and concerns that transcend national boundaries and potentially impact on economic and political stability, trade, tourism, and access to goods and services.”



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Caribbean Public Health Agency

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL HEALTH SECURITY: PROPOSED FRAMEWORK



Adapted from: Towards a communicable disease Control Framework for Australia/APSIED/CDC Framework for preventing infectious diseases/GHI etc.

Regional Health security: Framework

The Caribbean Regional Health Security **framework** can be used to guide:

- Strategy management;
- Project and programme management;
- Management of donors and development partners;
- Development of CCH IV
- Identification of potential collaborators.

Core **regional** functions:

- State what CARPHA would reasonably be expected to do if adequately resourced;
- Focus for allocation of priorities, resources and timeframes;
- Are interconnected to improve outcomes.



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Regional Health security: Framework

Core system **elements**:

- Are all linked to each other;
- Represent fundamental attributes
- Facilitate the allocation of resources

Core system **enablers**:

- Define the systems capacity
- Facilitate the identification of priorities for strengthening the system
- Together with system elements facilitate activities to take place

Regional Health Security: Suggested Programme areas

Broad content areas of disease groups or public health issues, listed in alphabetical order, would include:

- Antimicrobial resistance;
- Emergency preparedness and response;
- Emerging, zoonotic and vector-borne diseases;
- Extreme events;
- Foodborne and enteric infections;
- Healthcare associated infections;
- Influenza and other respiratory viruses;
- Mass gatherings;
- Sexually transmissible and blood-borne virus infections;
- Vaccine-preventable diseases.

Regional Health Security: Proposed objectives

The proposed *Caribbean Regional Health Security* strategy will take a multi-sector system-focused approach to improve national and regional ability:

- To prevent and control known communicable diseases;
- To recognise and control rare, highly dangerous, and newly emerging threats to health security;
- To facilitate preparedness and response for public health emergencies and disasters arising from natural, accidental or deliberate acts;
- To be prepared to respond to the adverse effects of weather and climate;
- To sustainably meet regional and global commitments.



Funding and capacity

- Public health services are important, but are complex, with long-term activities, and are often relatively invisible – so in an environment of fiscal restraint **public health funding requires protection.**
- The **quota contribution system is not working** as CARPHA Member States lack the fiscal space to increase investment.
- New and additional resources are necessary from various sources at the national and international levels to ensure sustainability.
- Public/private partnership approaches to financing need to be examined.
- Failure to strengthen financial resources will negatively impact upon CARPHAs mission.



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Funding and capacity

- It is estimated that a regional health security strategy would require approximately **USD 15 million** over a five year period from CARPHA Member States.
- Additional funding would be sought from partners such as PAHO/WHO, US CDC, Public Health Agency Canada.
- This would be used to strengthen both CARPHA and Member States in the areas of: programme activities, capital projects; staff costs; monitoring and evaluation and; lesson learning.
- Regional Health Security fund under consideration by CARICOM, to include CARPHA, IMPACS, RSS and CDEMA – to be funded from levy on travelers.

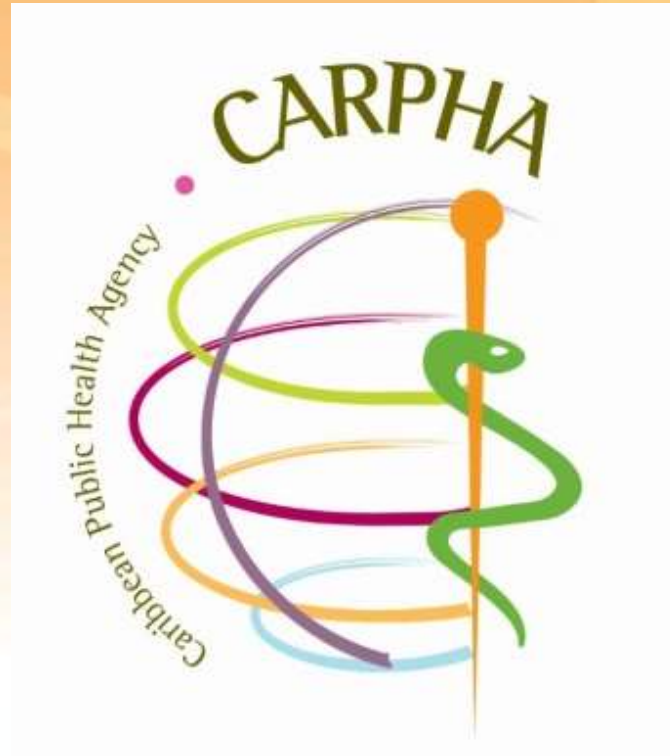


Looking forward to meaningful collaboration



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THANK YOU



<http://carpha.org/>



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