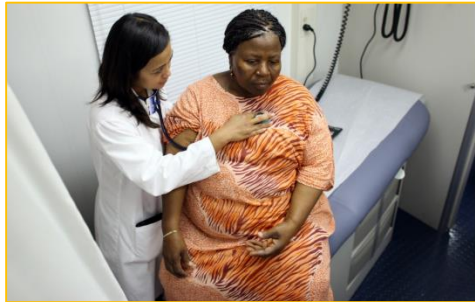


Policies and Programmes to Support Universal Health Coverage

Objectives of Presentation

- Provide the objectives of the Health Care System.
- Achievements of the Health Sector.
- Challenges to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- Opportunity- Strategic Plan for Health.
- Policies and Programmes implemented to support the achievement of UHC.
- South-South Cooperation.

Overview and Objectives of the Healthcare System



- To provide all people with access to needed health services of sufficient quality to be effective.



- To ensure that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship.



- To use the resources available to ensure health services for the greatest good of the population.

Achievements of the Health Sector

Achievements

- Increased Life Expectancy.
- Decreases in Infant Mortality and Maternal Mortality Rates
- Reduction of Communicable Diseases.



Achievements of the Health Sector

Achievements

- In 2016, Barbados received an international award in recognition of its excellent efforts in vaccine preventable disease surveillance.
- Access to essential services and medicines;
- Trained Health Care Professionals



Achievements Continued

Achievements

- Strategic Plan for Non-Communicable Diseases 2015-2019, which provides a roadmap for national NCD prevention and control activities.
- The Barbados Childhood Obesity Prevention Plan 2015-2018, which provides a framework for addressing healthy eating and lifestyles among young people.
- A Neonatal Action Plan was developed focusing on the reduction of preventable neonatal mortality and stillbirths in Barbados.



Achievements Continued

- Contractual agreement between the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the Barbados Diabetes Foundation, to provide specialty diabetes services to the public of Barbados .



Challenges facing the Health Sector and the achievement of UHC

Challenges



- Demographic Shift - Aging Population with over 13% over the age of 65 years;
- Epidemiological shift- Increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs);
- New and re-emerging communicable diseases;
- Injuries due to accidents, violence;
- Limited Human Resources for Health; especially in the areas of Nursing and Dental Health;
- Limited information to support effective human resources management and planning.

Challenges of the Health Sector



Challenges

- Consumer demands for the latest medical interventions;
- High out-of-pocket spending 42%;
- Systemic inefficiencies in the health system;
- Government facing flat or even declining revenues;
- Decreasing finances to fund healthcare.

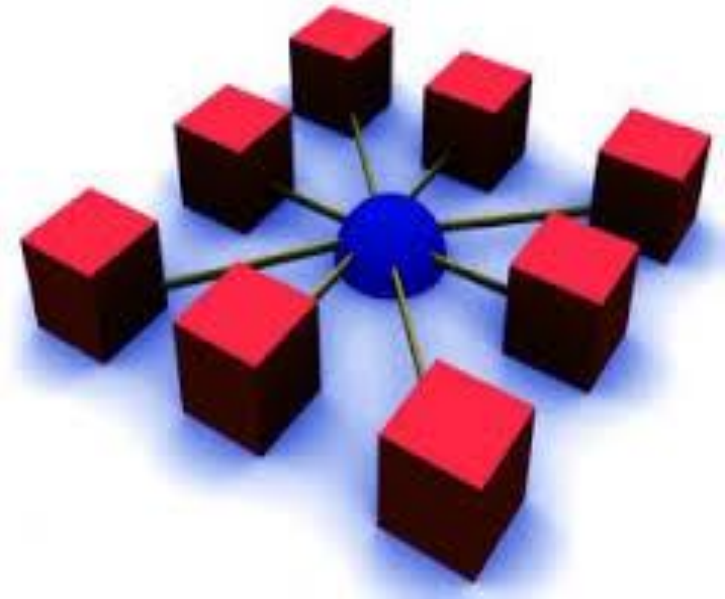
Opportunity- Development of Strategic Plan for the Health Sector

The sub-title of the *National Strategic Plan for Health (NSPH)*, “Working Together for a Healthier Nation,” reflects the importance of partnerships, collaboration and coordination.

- The Plan will be used as a tool to link together the strategic and operational plans of all stakeholder organizations, working together for better health.
- The plan outlines four *goals* that describe what Barbados plans to achieve over the next five years. For each goal, there are several *strategies* that describe how these goals will be achieved. For each strategy, there are specific *actions* that will drive the strategies to achieve the goals.

Goals

- Goal 1: Promote and protect the health of the population.
- Goal 2: Provide safe, quality client-centered services.
- Goal 3: Improve the performance of the health system.
- Goal 4: Engage and mobilize partners in health.



Policies and Programmes to support Universal Health Coverage

- **Policy on Access to Public Health Services by Migrants in Barbados.**

- The Policy seeks to remove all barriers currently preventing access to healthcare services by migrants. The overall policy objectives regarding migrants' access to healthcare services in Barbados includes:

- All migrants residing in Barbados have the right to access the same essential primary healthcare services and emergency care services at government facilities to which Barbadians are entitled.

- All CARICOM nationals residing in Barbados have the same right to access all healthcare services at government facilities to which Barbadians are entitled.

Policies and Programmes to support Universal Health Coverage

- The goals of the policy are to:
 1. Avoid disparities in health status and access to healthcare services between citizens and migrants;
 2. Ensure migrants' health rights by limiting discrimination or stigmatization, and removing impediments to access to preventive and curative services, which are basic health entitlements; and
 3. Mitigate against the impact of immigration on the health of migrants.

Policies and Programmes to support Universal Health Coverage

Ensuring access to affordable medicine

Barbados is currently reviewing the procurement system of the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States/ Pharmaceutical Procurement services. To determine the feasibility of Barbados participation in the pooled procurement system.

A recommendation coming out of the visit is the undertaking of a detailed analytical study of the costs involved in establishing the system of warehousing and other costs associated with the implementation of pooled procurement. It is anticipated that this will help to define the model of pooled procurement that would be most advantageous to Barbados.

Policies and Programmes to support Universal Health Coverage

Ensuring access to affordable medicine

Pooled Procurement (HIV)

The Government of Barbados remains committed to achieving the 90-90-90 targets, through strengthening of partnerships with regional and international agencies. Barbados has also adopted the WHO HIV policy “Treat All”,

- Barbados requested a study to assess its supply chain operations and to make recommendations for sustainable cost-saving efficiencies in the procurement of HIV medicines.

Policies and Programmes to support Universal Health Coverage

Ensuring access to affordable medicine

The findings from the study indicated that the MHW could achieve substantial savings of more than eighty-nine percent for some ARV drugs if it transitioned procurement to a pooled procurement mechanism (PPM) such as the PAHO Strategic Fund, Global Fund Wambo mechanism or OECS Procurement

In addition, the use of these mechanisms provide sustainable access to quality assured drugs at globally negotiated prices. In light of these findings the MHW proposes to implement a pilot exercise to manage and implement a new pooled procurement system for ARVs.

Policies and Programmes to support Universal Health Coverage

Laboratory Services

The construction of the Best-dos Santos Public Health Laboratory, a new multi-purpose, state-of-the-art laboratory. The Bio-safety Level 3 suite is the only one of its kind in the eastern Caribbean and has the potential to test for other exotic biosafety level 3 organisms such as yellow fever and anthrax.

Policies and Programmes to support Universal Health Coverage

Expansion of Services of 24hrs Urgent Care Services

The Ministry of Health and Wellness has extended the operating hours at the WSPC to 24 hours, in keeping with the Government of Barbados' Mission Critical Policies and Action.

Policies and Programmes to support Universal Health Coverage

OBJECTIVES

1. Achieve universal health coverage in tandem with Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Guarantee universal access - by providing affordable high quality health care services at more convenient times.

Policies and Programmes to support Universal Health Coverage

OBJECTIVES CONT.

3. Provide adequate, appropriate and affordable emergency and urgent care services.
4. Reduce waiting times and ease the burden on the Accident and Emergency Department of the QEH.
5. Reduce out-of-pocket expenditure for urgent care services.

Policies and Programmes to support Universal Health Coverage

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

- Urgent Care Services- including triage, routine medical assessments, asthma clinics & urgent acute medical care.
- General Practice Services -diagnosing and treating illnesses (both chronic and acute), providing preventive & rehabilitative care, referrals for advance care, and act as gatekeepers for other health care services.

Policies and Programmes to support Universal Health Coverage

Healthcare Financing

- The development of a national health financing model that is affordable and sustainable is critical to the advancement of Universal Health Coverage.
- The Government of Barbados has signed a contract with Health Economic Unit (HEU) of University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, to conduct an assessment of the current health financing system in Barbados, including the execution of a comprehensive efficiency audit of health services delivery and costing of services.

Policies and Programmes to support Universal Health Coverage

Healthcare Financing

- It is anticipated that the recommendations stemming from the assessment will include, the best health financing model for Barbados, and pathway towards a National Health Financing Initiative (NHFI), inclusive of a Plan of Action (POA) for the NHFI, for the consideration of the Cabinet of Barbados.

Policies and Programmes to support Universal Health Coverage

Healthcare Financing

- It is anticipated that the POA will make provision for the design, development and implementation of the NHFI based on the principles of equity, solidarity, right to health and financial risk protection and with a comprehensive assessment of inter alia, funding options, package of benefits, beneficiaries, health providers, and governance arrangements.

Opportunities for South- South Cooperation

- Exploration of Regional Health Insurance Programme- Health insurance should be portable anywhere in Latin America and the Caribbean Region.
- Pooled Procurement System- To allow for the access to affordable drugs.
- Strengthen collaboration in relation to Laboratory Services.



THANK
YOU!