Caribbean Public Health Agency

CARPHA

Preventing disease
Promoting and protecting health
National Parliamentary Session on Nuclear Security Trinidad and Tobago

The Public Health Interpretation of Safe Nuclear Applications

7th July, 2023

Presented By: Dr Joy St. John
Executive Director
CARPHA
Outline

• Who we are, what we do, who we serve, Management Structure
• Introduction
• Regional presence
• CARPHA/IAEA Agreement
• CARPHA’s work contributing to the IAEA Caribbean Regional Programme
  • Capacity building
  • EHSD
  • Non-communicable disease surveillance
  • VBD
  • FBD
  • CANREC - Ethical approval of research
**Who We Are**

• A CARICOM Institution with responsibility for Public Health, one of 3 multinational PHIs

• Merger of former 5 Regional Health Institutions

• Established by CARICOM Inter-Governmental Agreement 2nd July 2011

• Operational 1st January 2013; Headquartered in Trinidad and Tobago with campuses in St. Lucia and Jamaica

• Officially launched 2nd July 2013
An evidence base for public health decision-making and policy in the Caribbean

Monitors and reports on measures to attain the approved objectives of the CCH

Monitors global agreements and developments that may impact on public health

Builds strategic partnerships and mobilises resources for priority public health issues of the Region

Support to Member States to build capacity and coordinates the development of regional standards, guidelines and networks related to laboratory practice

Accurate, reliable, timely and relevant public health information to various Caribbean and international audiences

Coordinates required response and builds capacity of Member States to effectively respond to public health crises in the Caribbean

Enhances national capacities to deliver public health goods and services to address new and emerging public health priorities in the Caribbean

Provides leadership in defining effective public health interventions in the Caribbean and development and adaptation of relevant models for various circumstances

What we do
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<tr>
<th>Anguilla</th>
<th>Cayman Islands</th>
<th>St. Eustatius</th>
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<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>Curacao</td>
<td>St. Kitts and Nevis</td>
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<td>Aruba</td>
<td>Dominica</td>
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<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td>Sint Maarten</td>
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<td>Barbados</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
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<td>Belize</td>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>Suriname</td>
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<td>Bermuda</td>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
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<td>Bonaire</td>
<td>Montserrat</td>
<td>Turks and Caicos Islands</td>
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<td>British Virgin Islands</td>
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Programmes/Services provided

- Health Security
- Data and Health Information
- Publication and databases
- Laboratory Services
- Environmental Health
- Tourism and Health
- Nutrition
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Vector Borne Diseases
- Medical Quality Control
- N0n-Communicable Diseases
- Health Diplomacy

Caribbean Regulatory System
Executive Management Team
Introduction

CARPHA and the IAEA extended a practical agreement which came into force on 3rd February, 2020

Amended to include “capacity building for FBD detection and responses to reduce the incidence of transboundary animal diseases, including zoonosis, and to promote the safety, authenticity and traceability of foods along the food supply chain.”

Duration 3 years (Expired in June 2023)
Regional Presence

• Collaboratively developed a

“Regional Strategic Profile for IAEA Technical Cooperation with the English-Speaking Caribbean: 2020–2026”.

• Outlines regional priorities that can be addressed through the safe application of nuclear science and technology.

• Is intended to guide IAEA activities in the region and to provide a framework for collaboration among Member States and regional organisations.

• Focused on six thematic areas:
  • Food Safety
  • Security and Nutrition
  • Human Health
  • Environment
  • Energy
  • Radiation Safety
  • Radiation Technologies
## Agreement - Areas of focus

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<tr>
<th>Area of Focus</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Application of radiation medicine (diagnostic radiology, nuclear medicine and radiation oncology) for diagnosis, treatment and management of cancer, and cancer control</td>
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<td>Support the application of stable isotopes in the area of human nutrition</td>
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<td>Insect pest management practices through the application of the sterile insect technology (SIT)</td>
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<td>Environmental monitoring and to measure pollutants in air, land and oceans</td>
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<td>Providing assistance for the implementation of the international basic safety standards for radiation protection and safety of radiation sources in support to the health regulations</td>
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<td>Exchange and dissemination, as appropriate, of unclassified information of mutual interest</td>
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<td>Collaboration in capacity building activities and knowledge sharing, including the development of training materials</td>
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<td>Participation, as appropriate, in regional and international events in thematic areas of mutual interest and coordinate outreach activities</td>
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<td>Capacity building for FBD detection and responses</td>
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Caribbean Regional Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme (CR-FELTP)

Accredited training programme for public health professionals in the Caribbean. Currently two levels of training: Frontline/Basic and Intermediate (4 months - 1 year training programmes)

On-the-job training provides skills and tools to respond to problems in real time through surveillance, outbreak investigation and emergency response, operational research and analysis.

Contributes directly to building core capacities under the IHR. Aligned with WHO Workforce 2030 strategy.

Collaborates with approved partners to develop, roll out and assess the outcomes of specialty training courses related to public health priority issues and emergency response.

T&T – 2017 to Present: > 70 graduates (Frontline and Intermediate)

Surveillance system strengthening at sentinel sites; VBD surveillance integrating GIS in the field, EPI, and on the ground support for COVID-19 response.
Vector Borne Diseases

Hosted CARPHA pre-conference hybrid webinar on 'Networking for Success Against Vector borne Diseases' which included sessions on seroprevalence studies and Insecticide Resistance.

Exploring Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) technologies as part of CariVecNet Research Agenda.

Reconnect with new Focal Points to understand progress and synergies with Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) technologies.
Environmental Health and Sustainable Development

Capacity Building

- Enhance capacity of Technical and Laboratory staff to adequately train, guide, facilitate and assist CMS
  - Provision of enhanced training and resource capacity to environmental laboratories
- Isotopic and other techniques to study water quality, detect (measure concentrations), analyse and track water pollutants
- Development of monitoring programs to determine the impact on the environment and health

Environmental Initiatives

- The Potential Economic Impacts of Sargassum Inundations in the Caribbean, Part 1: Insights from the Literature
  - Peter W. Schuhmann, Jeanelle Irvin, Hazel A. Osenford, A. Karima Degia and Julian Potts Vakilbaku

- Applying Hazard Risk Assessment and Spatial Planning Tools to Sargassum Inundations in the Eastern Caribbean Small Island States as a Basis for Improving Response
  - A. Karima Degia, Micaela Small, and Hazel A. Osenford

SargAdapt Project Report

March 2022
Non-Communicable Disease Surveillance

National Regional Surveillance System

Part of the Caribbean Cooperation in Health Initiative (CCH) 1V

Collaboration with HO/WHO and the CARICOM Secretariat.

Core list of indicators that are categorised by priority areas and indicator type core, expanded was identified by Member States and Experts. Endorsed by CMOs.

Part of the CARPHA Integrated Surveillance System

Nutrition

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English

The Diabetes Nutritional Management Toolkit includes:

- My Caribbean Plate
- Managing My Diabetes
- Nutrition Labels Made Simple
- Healthy Eating with Diabetes
- Managing Diabetes Mellitus
- Nutritional Management for Persons Living with Diabetes

Nutrition security

6- Point Policy package for Healthier Food Environment

The 6-Point Policy package includes measures to address:
1. Food Labelling;
2. Nutrition Standards and Guidelines for schools and other institutions;
3. Food Marketing;
4. Nutritional Quality of Food Supply.
5. Trade and Fiscal Policies; and
6. Food Chain Incentives;

Implemented through multiagency collaboration.
Cancer Surveillance

IARC Caribbean Cancer Registry Hub support for Cancer Surveillance assessment for the IAEA imPACT Review in Caribbean Member States

Core Hub Functions

- Support cancer control interventions
- Stimulate research
- Site visits to review practices
- Consultancy and mentorship to resolve specific issues
- Foster relationships between disciplines
- Provide information on upcoming activities

Improving cancer data quality and accessibility in the Caribbean (2016-2022)
Integrated Foodborne Diseases (FBD)

Key Areas of work

- Integrated "one health" approach to FBD surveillance and outbreak investigation
- Strengthening laboratory capacity for detection of FBD pathogens from clinical food and environmental samples, including AMR
- Capacity building in food and environmental safety
Continuous learning – Important in guarding the region from undesirable research practices