



Ministry of Health, Wellness and Elderly Affairs

Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

SAINT LUCIA

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COUNTRY PROFILE



Saint Lucia is a small volcanic island midway down the Eastern Caribbean chain, 40 km south of Martinique and 32km north of St. Vincent. The island has an area of 238 sq miles/616sq km (measuring 27 miles long and 14 miles wide).



The current population of **Saint Lucia** is approximately **180,360**.
The population density in Saint Lucia is 295 per Km² (765 people per mi²).
Life Expectancy: Women - 81.6
Men – 75.9

The mandate of UHC is to provide health services without financial hardship



Universal Health Coverage is aimed at increasing access to quality health services, ensuring little to no out of pocket expenditure. To do so, a range of **broad health areas** in the **essential package of health services**, to be rolled out in various phases to deliver prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care to the Saint Lucian population.

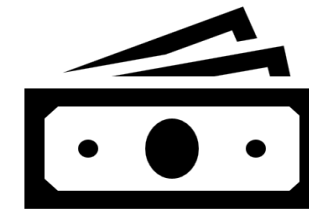
Phase One of Universal Health Coverage

- Implement **Hypertension and Diabetes screening and treatment** under the Performance Based Financing Project.
- Implement **Maternal and Child Health Services**.
- Analysis be conducted on the possible **inclusion of Renal Care Services, Snake Bites, expansion of MCH services and early cancer screening**.
- **Registration of the population**
- Creation of a **UHC unit** to facilitate implementation of this initiative.
- Deliver a comprehensive **public relation strategy**.

Health Investment Strategies: *What specific Strategies are being considered, prepared or implemented*

1 Financial Support for health initiatives

Funds have been secured from the World Bank for **Health System Strengthening Project**. Government of Saint Lucia is devising the framework for implementation of a health and security levy as a dedicated source of financing for healthcare and UHC more specifically.



2 Universal Health Coverage

UHC will deliver the **Essential Package of Health Services** in a manner which is accessible, reducing OOP expenditure.



Health Investment Strategies: *What specific Strategies are being considered, prepared or implemented*

3 Delay onset model

This concept is closely linked to UHC. It involves **aggressive promotion and prevention strategies** to avoid persons from becoming ill and facing serious complications.

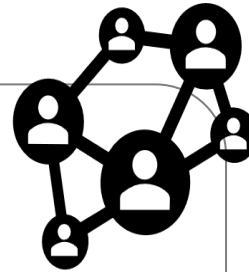


4 Robust Public Relation/ Comms Strategy

The initiatives set needs to be complemented by a PR and communications strategy which can **provide citizens with necessary information on the service offerings.**



Health Investment Strategies: What specific Strategies are being considered, prepared or implemented



5

Multisectoral Approach

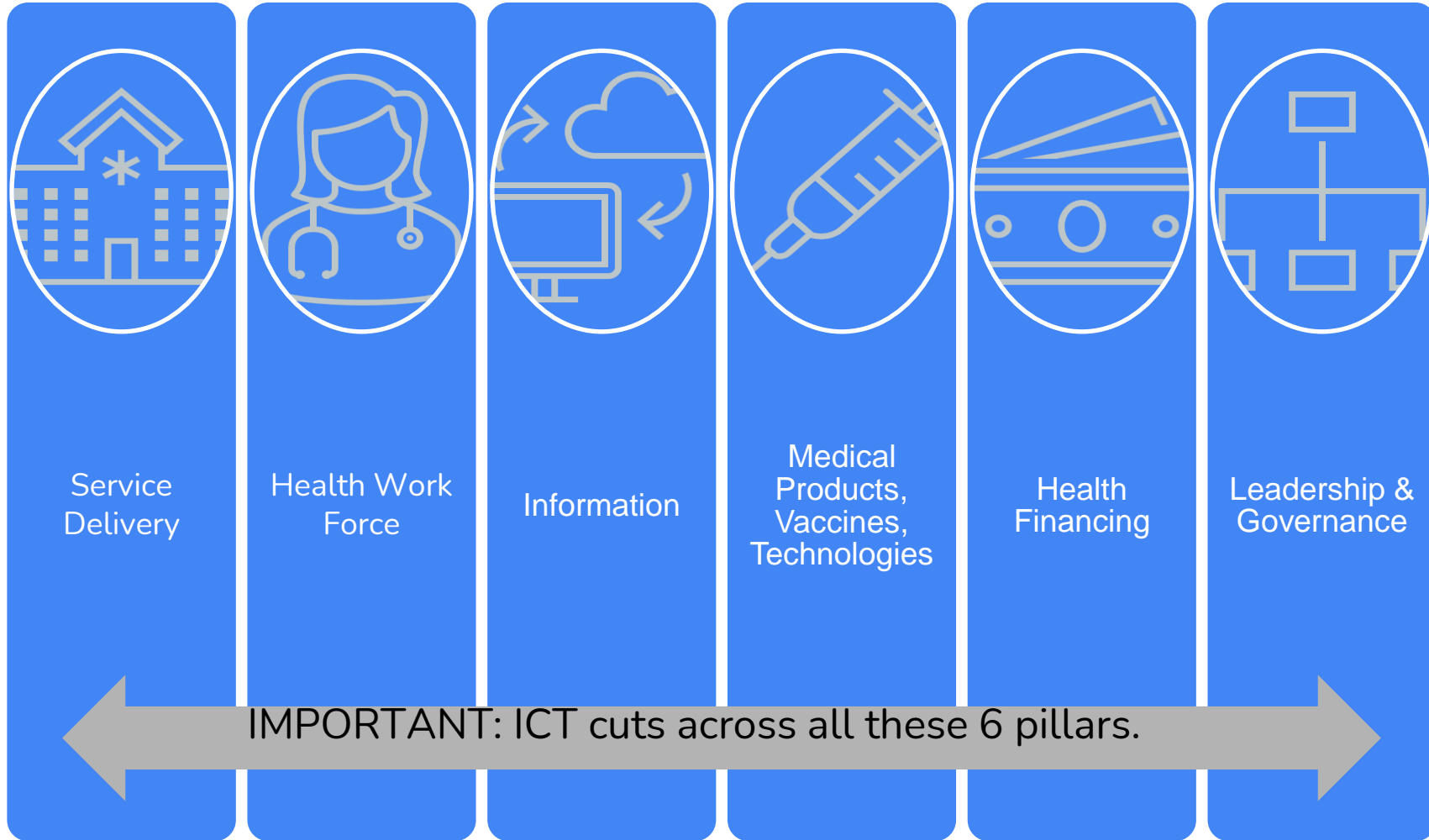
Moving towards a health policy which includes **input and active engagement with key sectors** such as trade and commerce, agriculture, education, infrastructure and national security

For example:

Should the Ministry of Health, Wellness and Elderly Affairs decide to implement a comprehensive plan in the fight against NCDs:

- The Ministry of Education should have lifestyle modification, healthy living and eating as part of the school's curriculum.
- The design of our parks should facilitate physical exercise.
- National security should allow safe areas for physical exercise.
- Collaboration with the Ministry of trade and commerce to ensure healthy foods are more readily available at affordable prices.
- The agricultural sector should encourage "grow what we eat".
- The Ministry of Justice should draft legislation to facilitate the aforementioned

HEALTH PILLARS



The Six Health Pillars

Human Resource for Health a retention policy for Nurses developed and bilateral agreements/ country cooperation is currently underway.

1

- Health Service Delivery
- PBF pilot project, the Castries Urban Polyclinic, centres of excellence and strengthening of national referral network.

2

Health Information System
Registration of the population, updating SLUHIS/related hardware and the introduction of digital health technology. This will be complemented by a training policy for clinicians.

6

Infrastructure

- smarting of health systems to ensure disaster preparedness and resilience through structurally sound facilities and reducing environmental foot print.

3

Pillars Explained

- Governance**
- updating the national health strategic plan, development of the UHC strategy and UHC business rules as well as drafting UHC legislation.

5

- Medicines/Biomedical Equipment**
- expansion of warehouse for central procurement supplies.

4

Stakeholders Engagement and Communication Strategy for a Sustainable Reform Agenda

Macro level

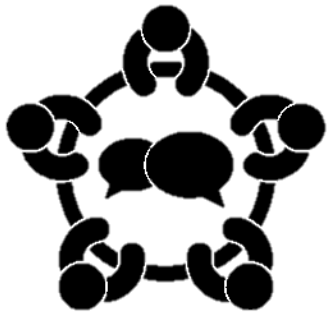
- ❖ Provide information to the public on the current national health profile/situation analysis
- ❖ provide an overview the UHC initiative
- ❖ position UHC as a pillar for advancing the national development agenda
- provide updates on milestones achieved.

Micro level

- ❖ Segment discrete groupings on the basis of their vulnerabilities based on both health status and social determinants of their health.
- ❖ Engage community stakeholders in dialogue.

Key highlights:

Focus



The communication plan will focus the use of **varied forms of mass media** to drive the public education/awareness campaign, whilst simultaneously facilitating citizen-centered dialogue to improve the understanding of the UHC.

Specific Objectives

- To undertake a community rooted education campaign on UHC
- To present accurate, evidence-based information about UHC to all, regardless of age, gender, educational level, ethnicity and societal affiliation, through customized approaches.
- To identify and document knowledge gaps and design appropriate public education responses
- To drive traffic to the information channels of the MOHWEA, inclusive of social media platforms as a repository of updated, reliable and timely information on the progress of UHC related initiatives and milestones.

The plan will provide better understanding of the various components of the UHC Initiative

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

