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# SAINT LUCIA'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## **VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW**

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2025



# **SAINT LUCIA'S SECOND VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW 2025**

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**SAINT LUCIA**

**2025**

**Saint Lucia's Second Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals  
presented to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

**June 2025**

**Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and  
Vocational Training**

**Castries,**

**Saint Lucia, W.I.**

## OPENING STATEMENT



Sustainable Development has been the foundation of Saint Lucia's national development planning. Our people, their prosperity, our peace and our environment remain essential to every policy, partnership, and pathway we pursue. As a Small Island Developing State, we recognize both the challenges and the complexity of practicing sustainable development. Yet, we remain resolute in our commitment to the 2030 Agenda, in recognition of the urgency of action needed, and guided by the principle of "Leaving No one Behind".

We are honoured to present Saint Lucia's Second Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the Sustainable Development Goals, a testament to the progress we have made since our first VNR in 2019. This report reflects the collective efforts of our Government, civil society, including youth and academia, private sector, and international partners, all united in advancing a resilient and inclusive future.

Since our last review, Saint Lucia has made notable strides to integrate the SDGs into our Medium-Term Development Strategy (2021-2026) and other national policy instruments across multiple thematic areas, moving beyond siloed approaches, to embracing a holistic framework. Our strategy is built on three pillars:

- Social and Human Capital resilience,
- Economic Resilience, and
- Environmental Resilience

By adopting a cluster methodology, we have fostered strong collaboration across institutions, making every effort to facilitate development that is coordinated, inclusive, and impactful.

At the core of our progress is the "Putting People First" philosophy, ensuring that citizens have a voice and are empowered in shaping Saint Lucia's future. This approach has yielded tangible improvements in environmental management, livelihoods, economic empowerment, and social equity.

However, as a Small Island Developing State, we continue to face challenges such as climatic shocks, biodiversity loss, financial constraints, and global economic pressures, all of which have severely disrupted our lives and livelihoods over the years. Despite these hurdles, Saint Lucia

remains resilient. We have enacted strategic policies to strengthen small businesses, promote entrepreneurship, and conserve the environment while benefiting from its offerings, all geared towards enhancing the well-being of our people.

Our journey is one grounded in inclusiveness and collaboration and with that, we remain committed to forging strong and lasting partnerships that align with our national priorities, while contributing to global sustainability and prosperity. This VNR therefore underscores our "Whole-of-Society" approach, a shared vision that extends to future generations and the broader international community.

As we present this report, we reaffirm Saint Lucia's dedication to sustainable, equitable, and transformative development. Together, we aim to establish strategic partnerships that will support our efforts to build a future that is not only resilient, but thriving for Saint Lucia, for Small Island Developing States and for the world.

**Honourable Shawn A. Edward**

**Minister of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and  
Vocational Training of Saint Lucia**

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## ACRONYMS

ABAS	Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS
AFD	Agence Française de Développement
BCRC-Caribbean	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean
BTC	Boys Training Centre
CAPE	Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CCSO	Coalition of Civil Society Organisations
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CCAP	Climate Change Adaptation Policy
CEE	Common Entrance Examination
CFU	Climate Finance Unit
CIP	Country Implementation Programme
COP	Conference of Parties
CPDC	Caribbean Policy Development Centre
CSC	Cabinet Sub-Committee
CSEC	Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate
CXC	Caribbean Examinations Council
CYEN	Caribbean Youth Environment Network
CMSP	Coastal Master and Marine Spatial Plan
DED	Department of Economic Development
DSD	Department of Sustainable Development
EBM	Ecosystem Based Management
EC	Eastern Caribbean
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESDP	Education Sector Development Plan
EV	Electric Vehicle
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GEF SGP	Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme
GDP	Gross Domestic Product

GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GIZ	German Development Agency
GNI	Gross National Income
GoSL	Government of Saint Lucia
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HOPE	Holistic Opportunities for Personal Empowerment
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
IAC	Iyanola Apiculture Collective
ICDF	International Cooperation and Development Fund
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISM	Island Systems Management
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IUCN-ORMACC	IUCN Regional Office for Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean
IWEco	Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States
KIP	Kigali Implementation Plan
KRAs	Key Results Areas
KWh	Kilowatt Hour
MAPS	Mainstreaming Acceleration and Policy Support
MDA	Ministry Department Agency
ML-MAP	Marine Litter Management Action Plan
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSDCF	Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
MSME	Micro Small Medium Enterprise
MTDS	Medium-Term Development Strategy
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NBCC	National Biodiversity Coordinating Committee
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCCC	National Climate Change Committee
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NCPD	National Council of Persons with Disabilities
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NDP	National Development Plan

NEP	National Energy Policy
NEP-NEMS	National Environmental Policy-National Environmental Management Strategy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIC	National Insurance Corporation
NIS	National Insurance Scheme
NOGC	National Ocean Governance Committee
NOP-SAP	National Ocean Policy-Strategic Action Plan
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSPP	National Social Protection Policy
NSS	National Statistical System
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PAP	Public Assistance Programme
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutants
RIA	Rapid Integrated Assessment
SASAP	Sectoral Adaptation Strategies & Action Plans
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDGNCC	Sustainable Development Goals National Coordinating Committee
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SLNT	Saint Lucia National Trust
STEM	Shift To Electric Mobility
TOC	Theory of Change
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VNR	Voluntary National Review
YEA	Youth Economy Agency

## 1.0 Highlights

### 1.1. Overview

The Government of Saint Lucia and its people remain fully committed to the global effort to transform our world through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This transformation will result in social development and protection for the most vulnerable, inclusive economic growth, environmental protection, democracy and good governance, and international cooperation. The principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are deeply rooted in Saint Lucia's vision "to build a resilient and inclusive Nation, for a more sustainable and productive future for our people".

The Government of Saint Lucia has long recognised that progress towards the full attainment of the SDGs and national goals require a whole-of-society approach. Through partnerships and collaboration with private and public sector stakeholders, civil society, including youth and academia and global partners, Saint Lucia will continue to accelerate progress during this Decade of Action.

The adoption of the principles of sustainable development has allowed Saint Lucia to advance its progress on social, economic and environmental goals, in an effort to facilitate no citizen being left behind. As the first OECS country to present its second Voluntary National Review, Saint Lucia stands proud of its achievements while recognizing the need for accelerated progress. A snapshot of Saint Lucia's progress on the fourteen (14) SDGs under review is highlighted.

**Figure 1: Snapshot of Saint Lucia's achievements on the Sustainable Development Goals**

SDGs	Highlights
<b>1 NO POVERTY</b> 	The <b>Public Assistance Programme (PAP)</b> provides up to EC \$465/month in financial assistance to disadvantaged persons. In 2019, the Government introduced an enhanced eligibility tool, the SL Net 3.0 (Saint Lucia National Eligibility Tool) to adequately identify persons who require and are eligible for public assistance in the form of a Cash Transfer Grant (PAP CTG). In 2024, the PAP was further bolstered with the introduction of a Strategy for Graduation from Social Assistance to promote economic inclusion and empowerment of beneficiaries.

SDGs	Highlights
<b>2</b> <small>ZERO HUNGER</small> 	<p>The Agro-Tourism Park at Fond St Jacques is currently 80% completed. This cross-sectoral and groundbreaking initiative addresses the need for sustainable economic activities, renewed agricultural development and ecosystem protection in the area. Anticipated benefits include employment creation, provision of tourism attractions such as eco lodges, bird watching and agricultural demonstrations, encouraging slope stabilization, increased production of organic foods and the promotion of sustainable farming practices.</p>
<b>3</b> <small>GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</small> 	<p>Significant declines in maternal mortality rates (from 52.4 in 2019 to 41.3 in 2024), the number of new HIV infections (which stood at 10.4 in 2024 as compared to 29.9 in 2019) and the adolescent birth rate (29.9 in 2019 to 20.0 in 2024) demonstrate Saint Lucia's noteworthy progress on SDG 3.</p>
<b>4</b> <small>QUALITY EDUCATION</small> 	<p>The <b>Special Needs Education Policy 2024</b> provides a framework for the provision of quality education to special needs students in Saint Lucia. The objectives of the Policy include the provision of equitable treatment to all children in the provision of quality education, the recognition of special needs as an integral part of the education system and the provision of support at all schools and by all teachers.</p>
<b>5</b> <small>GENDER EQUALITY</small> 	<p><b>Saint Lucia's Domestic Violence Act of 2022</b> represents the Government's robust, coordinated and stern approach to the prevention of domestic violence. This Act is regarded as one of the most progressive in the region and provides support for all, regardless of gender, sexual orientation and marital status. Clearly defined roles and responsibilities for enforcement agencies and health care support systems for domestic violence survivors are also incorporated in this Act.</p>
<b>7</b> <small>AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</small> 	<p>The <b>National Energy Policy 2023- 2030 and Action Plan</b> charts the course towards the island's transition to a 50% renewable energy share of electricity generation by 2030. Renewable energy generation efforts will be enhanced by the Renewable Energy Sector Development Project which will explore the feasibility of geothermal energy for power generation in Saint Lucia and enhance the island's policy environment.</p>

SDGs	Highlights
<b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	<p>The <b>Youth Economy Agency</b> was established by the <b>Youth Economy Act No. 17 of 2022</b> and provides youth between the ages of 18-35 with an avenue for income generation. Additionally, the Youth Economy Agency ensures equal opportunities for both young men and women in entrepreneurship by providing access to funding, training and mentorship for youth-led MSMEs. In this regard, the Agency is not only advancing progress on SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, but also on SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities.</p>
<b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	<p>The <b>Orbtronics Innovation Hub</b> was launched in March 2025 by three (3) Saint Lucian entrepreneurs and provides a space for technology enthusiasts to develop new ideas. The longer-term vision for the Hub is to support the creation of high quality specialized and localized technology for use by Government Agencies and other stakeholders in Saint Lucia. The Orbtronics Innovation Hub was made possible due to a EC\$500,000 Government budgetary allocation in 2024/ 2025.</p>
<b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	<p>The new <b>National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) 2022-2030</b> demonstrates the Government's adoption of a people-centered approach to addressing social issues prevalent in society. The NSPP prescribes numerous social protection measures around four (4) priority areas and targets ten (10) marginalized categories of persons, including children with disabilities, abandoned children and persons affected by natural disasters.</p>
<b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 	<p>The <b>Marine Litter Management Action Plan (ML-MAP) 2022</b> was developed by the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) and the Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority (SLSWMA), in collaboration with key stakeholders to reduce the impacts of marine litter on human health and marine ecosystems through the effective control of all sources of marine pollution.</p>
	<p>The <b>third Nationally Determined Contribution</b> updates the 2030 greenhouse gas mitigation target and submits new targets for 2035 as follows:</p>

SDGs	Highlights
<b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy sector emissions: 14.7% reduction in 2030 and 22% reduction in 2035 without geothermal or 32% reduction with geothermal in 2035, relative to 2010.</li> <li>Land-based sequestration: expansion by 21 ggco<sub>2</sub> in 2030 and by 33 ggco<sub>2</sub> in 2035, relative to 2010.</li> <li>Emissions from ippu 2f ods subsector gases: an average of 83.7 ggco<sub>2</sub>eq for the years 2020-2022 (base year), maintained until 2029, thereafter reduced by 10% by 2035, to 75.4 ggco<sub>2</sub>eq.</li> </ul> <p>These targets will be achieved through the use of renewable energy sources, enhanced energy efficiency, upgrades to the energy grid infrastructure and the addition of geothermal energy around 2035.</p>
<b>14</b> LIFE BELOW WATER 	<p><b>Saint Lucia's National Ocean Policy and Strategic Action Plan (NOP-SAP) 2020-2035</b> provides a framework for the development of activities in the marine space in a sustainable manner that promotes socio-economic development and environmental protection. The NOP-SAP targets eight (8) priority sectors and is endorsed by the <b>National Ocean Governance Committee (NOGC)</b>, who governs the implementation, coordination and evaluation of actions set out in the Plan. Similarly, Saint Lucia possesses a <b>Coastal Master and Marine Spatial Plan (CMSP) 2020-2035</b> which presents a suite of priority interventions and investments that can be undertaken in the coastal and marine space to support the transition towards a Blue Economy in Saint Lucia.</p>
<b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	<p>The <b>Halls of Justice Project</b>, estimated at EC \$143 million, will strengthen governance, legal processes, and institutional capacity for justice administration in Saint Lucia. The Build Own and Lease Transfer agreement with NH International will facilitate the construction of a multi-storey building to house 14 courtrooms, 10 administrative offices, law library, police post and holding cells. Additional investments to boost human resource capital and training capacity will further bolster justice administration.</p>

SDGs	Highlights
<b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	<p>The United Nations <b>Country Implementation Programme (CIP)</b> in Saint Lucia has resulted in over 50 interventions across sectors including education, health, climate resilience and social protection.</p> <p>Implementation of the SDGs is facilitated at the national level through established committees such as the <b>SDGNCC</b>, the <b>NCCC</b>, the <b>NOGC</b> and the <b>NBCC</b>. This demonstrates Saint Lucia's commitment to advancing the SDGs through multi-stakeholder partnerships.</p>

## 1.2. Advancements since the 2019 VNR Report

The preparation of Saint Lucia's first Voluntary National Review provided an opportunity for self-assessment on progress toward the implementation of the Global Goals. Saint Lucia's first VNR Report highlighted six (6) key areas to enhance the country's capacity to fully implement the Sustainable Development Goals. These areas include:

The Mainstreaming and nationalising of the 2030 Agenda and other sustainable development frameworks into the long-term national development plans and policies.

The strengthening of the entire National Statistical System to facilitate the production of robust data to monitor and review developmental progress.

The expansion and enhancement of the National Coordination Mechanism for the 2030 Agenda.

The comprehensive assessment of the Means of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda to identify financing strategies to implement national development plans.

The strengthening and diversification of international development partnerships with regional and international agencies.

The establishment of an effective communication and advocacy mechanism to raise awareness of the integrated nature of the SDGs and to foster the engagement of all citizens.

The Government of Saint Lucia, through the SDG National Coordinating Committee (which is the implementation mechanism for the SDGs) has seen significant progress in these six areas; however, challenges persist. This progress is highlighted in **Table 1**.

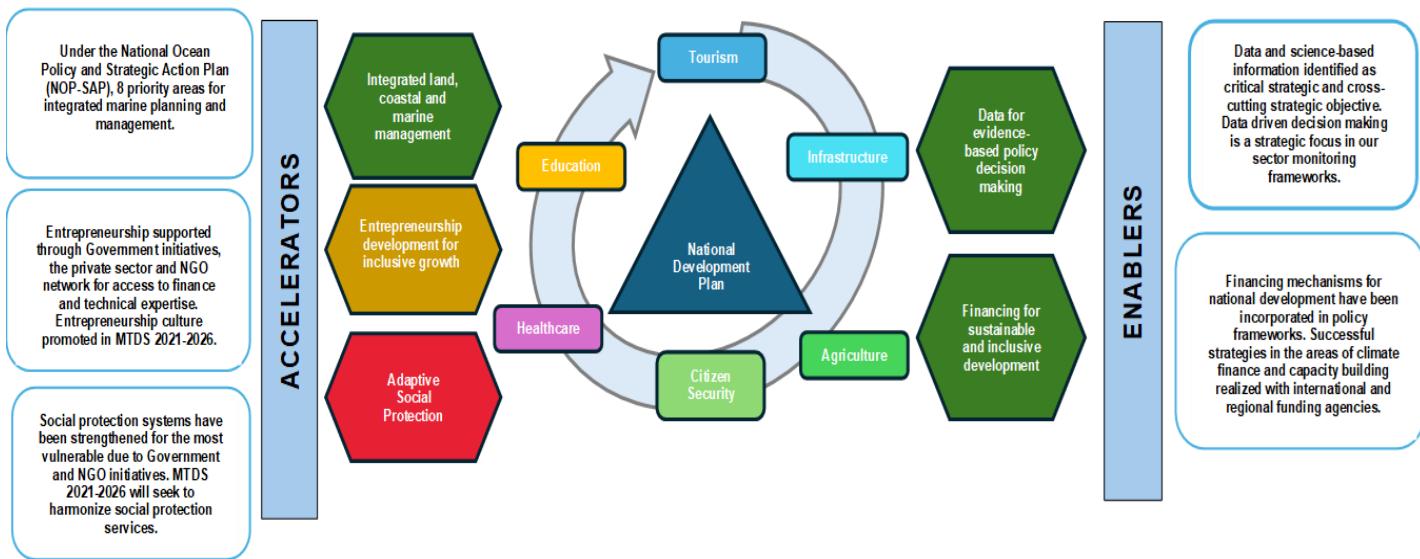
**Table 1. Assessment of Saint Lucia's progress on the SDGs post 2019**

Key areas for intervention	Progress since 2019	Assessment of Progress
The Mainstreaming and nationalization of the 2030 Agenda.	Saint Lucia's long-term national development policies have been designed to incorporate the principles of sustainable development and specifically advance the SDGs. Medium-Term development frameworks have also incorporated the SDGs as well as sector-specific planning frameworks. Stakeholder partnerships, such as the GEF-funded 'Indigenization of the SDGs' project, advanced efforts to nationalize the SDGs by translating them into local dialect.	
The strengthening of the entire National Statistical System.	Some progress has been made to increase the capacity of the National Statistical System through training programmes. The Statistics Act of 2001 is currently under revision and this will boost the collection, compilation, analysis and reporting of statistical information. The upcoming agriculture and fisheries census will further complement data availability. However, challenges persist with respect to statistical capacity as the development of an SDG-data collection and monitoring framework has not been implemented.	
The expansion and enhancement of the National Coordination Mechanism for the 2030 Agenda.	The National Coordinating mechanism for the SDGs in Saint Lucia, the SDG National Coordinating Committee, has been strengthened post-2019 with a revised Terms of Reference and committee composition. Technical capacity to advance the SDGs has been strengthened through the undertaking of several assessments including the MAPS, Diagnostic Assessment and Gap Analysis, and the Country Financing Roadmap. The COVID-19 pandemic slowed the work of the SDGNCC; however, several technical assessments were conducted during the period. Additional advancements	

	are needed in the areas of finance and capacity-building.	
The comprehensive assessment of the Means of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda.	This comprehensive assessment was completed, and a Country Financing Roadmap for SDG implementation was developed. The Government is currently in the process of implementing strategies identified in the Financing Report.	
The strengthening and diversification of international development partnerships with regional and international agencies.	International development partnerships have increased since 2019 with international finance acquired for several initiatives in the area of climate resilience. Regional partnerships have boosted local technical expertise and capacity.	
The establishment of an effective communication and advocacy mechanism to raise awareness of the integrated nature of the SDGs.	While this communication strategy is not formalized, the SDGNCC, stakeholders in the NGO network and other partners, have embarked on a number of strategies to raise SDG awareness, including, among others, debates, jingle competitions and exhibitions. The VNR process has also revitalized SDG discourse in all sectors.	

Additionally, the Roadmap to SDG Implementation Report, conducted in November 2022, identified key accelerators and enablers to advance progress on the Goals. The Government's interventions regarding these accelerators and enablers are detailed in Figure 2.

**Figure 2: Progress on SDG accelerators and enablers post-2019**



Source: Adapted from the Roadmap to SDG Implementation, 2020.

## 2.0 Introduction

The Government and people of Saint Lucia have demonstrated their commitment to sustainable development that advances economic and environmental resilience and promotes social and human capital. Saint Lucia's vision "to build a resilient and inclusive Nation, for a more sustainable and productive future for our people" is entrenched in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Global Agenda was adopted by Saint Lucia along with 192 members of the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. As a member of the global community, Saint Lucia recognizes and commits to collective action that seeks to eradicate poverty, ensure good health and well-being, gender equality, economic growth, climate action and global partnerships.

Saint Lucia's second Voluntary National Review documents progress on fourteen (14) of the Global Goals, which are embedded in planning frameworks, projects and activities. Saint Lucia's national planning ecosystem is robust, as evidenced by long-term and medium-term strategies such as the National Development Plan/ National Vision Plan, the National Environmental Policy- National Environmental Management Strategy (NEP-NEMS) and the Medium-Term Development Strategy. The preparation of Saint Lucia's second voluntary national review, which commenced in 2024, coincides with the completion of the Medium-Term Development Strategy MTDS 2021-2026 (draft), which builds upon its predecessor, the MTDS 2020- 2023. The MTDS 2021- 2026 is based on three pillars necessary for advancement: Social and Human Capital Resilience, Economic Resilience, and Environmental Resilience.

As a Small Island Developing State, Saint Lucia is vulnerable to external shocks and the impacts of climate change. The COVID-19 pandemic during the period 2020- 2022, impacted and in some cases, slowed the trajectory of national development priorities. Hurricane Beryl in July 2024 wreaked havoc in the Caribbean and served as a reminder of the region's vulnerabilities to climate-induced weather events. At a policy level, Saint Lucia has sought to increase climate resilience and create social security frameworks for those in society who are at risk of being left behind. The strengthening of social protection systems and safety nets for the most vulnerable in society is key to advancing social resilience.

Saint Lucia's second Voluntary National Review, prepared during this Decade of Action to deliver the Global Goals on three levels: global, local and people, serves as a reaffirmation of Saint Lucia's commitment to the SDGs. While progress has been noteworthy, particularly in the People and Planet- themed SDGs, challenges that have hindered further advancement have been recognized. In this regard, the 2025 VNR will serve as a platform to chart the way forward on these critical issues, namely data collection and monitoring frameworks. The Government of Saint

Saint Lucia will continue to work alongside stakeholders in the public and private sectors and civil society networks to advance each of the three (3) dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental, as we chart a path towards a resilient Saint Lucia and the full attainment of the Global Goals.

## 2.1. Saint Lucia's Development Pillars

Saint Lucia's Development, guided by the Medium-Term Development Strategy 2021-2026, is dependent upon the pillars of Social and Human Capital resilience, Economic Resilience and Environmental Resilience. A snapshot of Saint Lucia's social, economic and environmental dimensions is highlighted.

## 2.2. Saint Lucia's Social and Human Capital Context

Saint Lucia has an estimated resident population of 172,9481, with the largest proportion of the population residing in the capital city Castries. The non-resident and visitor population in Saint Lucia stands at 5,859 individuals. Population density overall is 721 people per square mile, with much higher population densities in the capital (1,529 people per square mile). The largest age group in the population is 35-39 (7.76%), followed by the 30-34 age group, while the 90 and over age group accounts for the smallest population (0.5%). As such, Saint Lucia's age dependency ratio is considered low, and currently stands at 44.5 due to a large working-age population (Figure 3).

Females slightly outnumber males in Saint Lucia, at 51:49, due to higher female birth rates. Additionally, a comparison of the 2010 and 2020 census data signals a decline in the country's sex ratio which currently stands at 97.2 (with a ratio of 98.5 in 2010), with even higher sex ratios recorded in rural areas. Life expectancy remains high, with females experiencing a higher life expectancy at 80.6 years compared to 70.4 years for males. While Saint Lucia has observed significant progress on several health indicators, the population still faces health-related challenges.

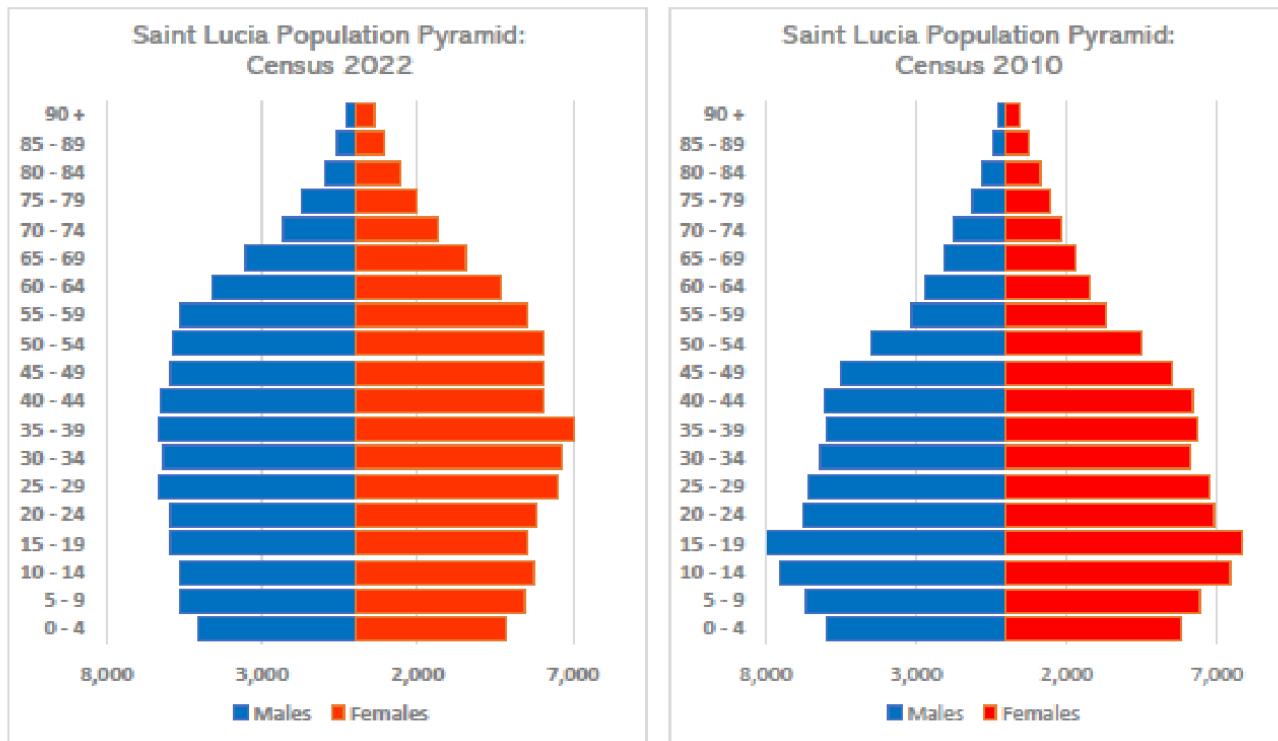
Notable declines in both child and mortality rates have been recorded between 2019 and 2020. Child mortality rates stood at 8.7 per 1,000 live births in 2020 as compared to 15.9 per 1,000 live

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<sup>1</sup> Saint Lucia 2022 Population Census Report.

births in 2019. Similarly, Saint Lucia's maternal mortality rate as of 2020 is zero, compared to 52.6 per 100,000 live births in 2018. The cases of non-infectious diseases remain low; however, NCDs (Diabetes and Hypertension rank as the highest NCDs) present a serious health challenge for the population as this is the leading cause of death. HIV care has resulted in a zero rate of mother to child transmission and AIDS related deaths recorded in 2020 stood at 2, a significantly low number.

**Figure 3: Saint Lucia Population Pyramid 2022 and 2010**



A significant proportion of the population has achieved Secondary and Primary level education (27.05% and 24.45% respectively). The smallest percentage (0.22%) attained PhD level education, while 6.08% have no formal education. Gender disparities in the highest level of education attained are apparent. Males outperform females in common entrance exam CPEA, while females are dominant at the Secondary levels, including CXC and A levels, Tertiary levels from Diploma to Doctoral degrees and National Vocational Qualifications<sup>2</sup>.

Significant improvements in the labour market have been observed between 2010 and 2022. Saint Lucia's labour force stands at 93,731 persons (a 22% increase from 2010) and the unemployment rate has declined substantially and now stands at 11.9% (a decline of 8.7% since 2010). Within the youth population, the 20-24 age category represents the highest percentage of unemployed persons. Other social issues such as crime continue to pose a significant challenge in Saint Lucia. Crime is dominated by 'common theft' and 'motor vehicle theft', while other crimes such as cyberbullying and serious crimes including murders and sexual offences increased in 2021.

Saint Lucia's citizens experience a moderate to good quality of life. The 2022 Census indicated a high level of access to household amenities, a high percentage of owned dwellings and high levels of social protection. 73.1% of the working population (35.1% of the total population), is covered under the National Insurance Corporation, while 6.4% have Group Health Insurance, 6.02% have Life Insurance and 42.5% of the population is uninsured. Social protection measures have been largely improved through a number of policy interventions, such as the new National Social Protection Policy aimed at supporting the most vulnerable in society.

Saint Lucia's Human Development Index<sup>3</sup> is 0.7254 (2022 rating), indicating progress in life expectancy, education, and living standards. This places Saint Lucia in the high Human Development Index category, at position 108 out of 193 countries; however gender disparities are evident. The HDI value for females is 0.729 compared to 0.719 for males resulting in a GDI value of 1.0135. The Government of Saint Lucia fully recognizes accomplishments and challenges and remains committed to advance social and human capital resilience.

### 2.3. Saint Lucia's Economic Context

Economic growth in Saint Lucia is largely driven by the tourism sector with the manufacturing and construction sectors also contributing to the island's economic development. This represents a traditional shift as the agriculture sector was once the main economic driver. However, the impact of hurricanes and the introduction of low-cost producers have led to significant declines in this

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<sup>3</sup> The HDI, a statistic produced by the United Nations Development Programme, is a summary measure for assessing long-term progress in three basic dimensions of human development: (a) a long and healthy life; (b) education; and (c) a decent standard of living. A long and healthy life is measured by life expectancy. Education is measured by expected years of schooling for children of school-entry age, which is the total number of years of schooling a child of school-entry age can expect to receive if prevailing patterns of age-specific enrollment rates stay the same throughout the child's life. Standard of living is measured by gross national income (GNI) per capita.

<sup>4</sup> <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/specific-country-data#/countries/LCA>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/specific-country-data#/countries/LCA>.

sector. Saint Lucia's manufacturing sector is regarded as the most diverse in the Eastern Caribbean, driven by increases in the value of manufacturing output<sup>6</sup>.

Saint Lucia's economy, like many others in the Caribbean, is vulnerable to external shocks. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was severe and affected the main economic sectors such as tourism and construction. In 2020, while the impacts of the pandemic were most severe, Saint Lucia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined by 24.4%<sup>7</sup>. Recovery post COVID-19 saw a growth in real GDP by 2.2% in 2023. The economy is projected to grow by 4.3% in the 2024/ 2025 financial year which translates to GDP growth above 3% for the fourth consecutive year<sup>8</sup>. Saint Lucia's economic recovery and expansion has been attributed to the Government's introduction of fiscal policies.

The tourism sector has also shown a remarkable recovery post COVID-19. In 2023, there was a 42.1% increase in visitor arrivals, representing over 80% of pre-pandemic levels<sup>9</sup> with the USA, Canada and the United Kingdom representing the island's top markets. The construction sector's contribution to GDP also increased to 5.5% in 2023, representing a 19.2% growth. Developments in the construction sector can be attributed to private and public sector projects, including hotels and infrastructural upgrades. The manufacturing sector also expanded in 2023, recording an 11.9 % increase. Conversely, declines were observed in the agriculture sector. The livestock, fisheries, banana and non-banana sub-sectors all reported reduced output levels. Overall, this resulted in a 17% decline in the agriculture sector in 2023<sup>10</sup>. (See Figure 4 for real GDP and GDP growth rate for select sectors).

Saint Lucia's fiscal position showed a marginal decline in the 2023/ 2024 period due to increases in expenditure which surpassed gains in revenue and grants. Revenue and grant receipts represented 21.4% of GDP in 2022/ 2023. Saint Lucia's energy markets are dominated by the importation of petroleum products. In 2023, international crude oil prices fluctuated, resulting in lower annual imported prices of refined products. Similarly, lower electricity costs were recorded in 2023. Furthermore, the Government of Saint Lucia's de-carbonisation goals will promote not only economic growth, but also climate resilience and energy security.

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6 Export Saint Lucia <https://exportsaintlucia.org/country-profile-2/>.

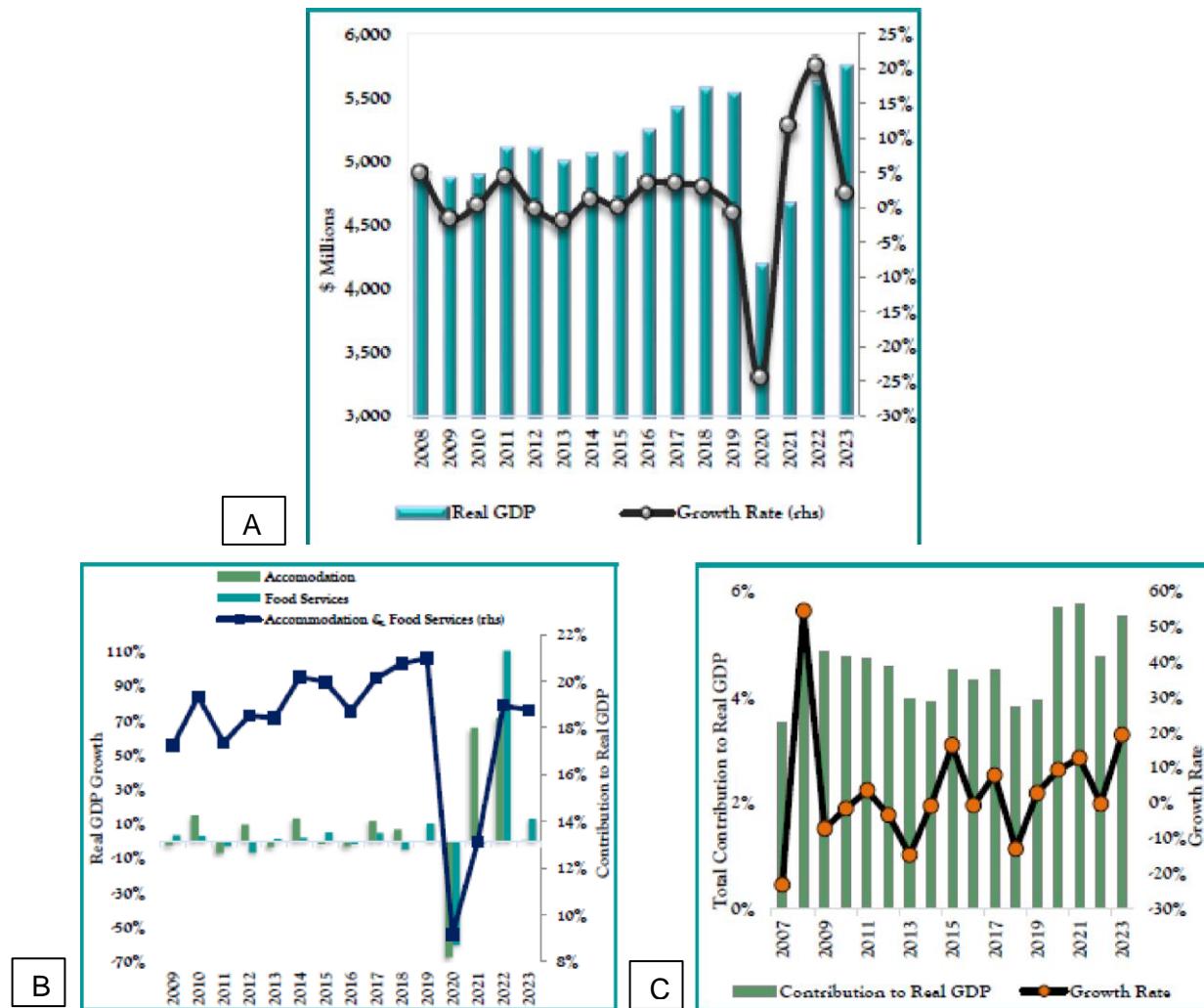
7 Government of Saint Lucia. Economic and Social Review, 2023.

8 Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and the Youth Economy. <https://finance.govt.lc/news/imf-validates-saint-lucia-s-economic-resurgence>.

9 Government of Saint Lucia. Economic and Social Review, 2023.

10 Government of Saint Lucia. Economic and Social Review, 2023.

**Figure 4: Real GDP and GDP growth rate from 2008-2023 (A), Real GDP- Accommodation and Food services (B) and Real Growth and contribution to GDP: Construction (C)**



Source: Economic and Social Review 2023

#### 2.4. Saint Lucia's Environmental Context

Saint Lucia's physical environment is characterized by diverse natural ecosystems and pristine habitats. Despite a relatively small size of 616 km<sup>2</sup>, Saint Lucia is home to over 1,300 plant

species, 250 reef fish species, 160 bird species and 50 coral species<sup>11</sup>. The island's biodiversity supports several economic sectors, including tourism, agriculture and manufacturing, and plays an important role in climate regulation and the provision of ecosystem services. The terrestrial environment includes dry cactus scrubs and tropical rainforests, while the marine ecosystems include mangrove forests and coral reefs<sup>12</sup>.

Saint Lucia's natural environment has also attained global recognition due to its outstanding universal value. The world-famous Pitons (mountainous volcanic spires) were designated as a World Heritage Site in 2004. The Government of Saint Lucia has also prioritized the protection of the marine environment through the designation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Natural ecosystems, both marine and terrestrial, are facing significant threats from anthropogenic sources, including habitat modification and loss, land-based sources of pollution, including plastic pollution, nutrient pollution from agricultural run-off, Invasive Alien Species and coastal development.

Saint Lucia's location and size also present major vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change. Although Saint Lucia is located in the hurricane belt, the southerly latitude means that the country is less likely to be impacted by major hurricanes. In 2024, several islands in the region were devastated by Category 5 Hurricane Beryl. Further, existing threats to the environmental landscape will be worsened by climate change (Table 2). Solid waste management is also a challenge in Saint Lucia due to a small physical size, competing land uses and increasing population. Despite an efficient waste collection system, the growing demand for collection services, increasing operational and management costs<sup>13</sup> is significantly affecting waste management systems on the island.

The Government of Saint Lucia has demonstrated its commitment to increasing environmental resilience and addressing environmental challenges. For instance, the Climate Change Act of 2024 establishes a robust framework and national approach for Saint Lucia's climate change response in terms of adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage, while considering the country's status as a small, developing island nation. The Climate Change Adaptation Policy (CCAP 2015) recognizes the respective roles of Government, the private sector and civil society under the strap-line "Adapting, one individual, one household, one community, one enterprise and one sector at a time". Under its umbrella is the National Adaptation Plan of 2018-2028 that

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<sup>11</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity. Country Profile: Saint Lucia <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile?country=lc>

<sup>12</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity. Country Profile: Saint Lucia <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile?country=lc>

<sup>13</sup> Plastic Waste National Level Quantification and Sectorial Material Flow Analysis Saint Lucia National Report, 2022.

demonstrates the incorporation of climate resilience in priority sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, tourism, health, resilient ecosystems (natural resource management), education, infrastructure and spatial planning, and water.

The National Adaptation Plan also includes supplemental policies, strategies and plans pertaining to the private sector, financing, research, communications, and monitoring and evaluation. The Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0 of 2025) speaks to key initiatives in the energy and transport sectors and is consistent with the revised National Energy Policy (2023-2030). Additionally, other Government policies, multilateral agreements, sector assessments, action plans and projects covering management of the use of biodiversity, oceans, chemicals and others, such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), National Ocean Policy-Strategic Action Plan (NOP-SAP), Marine Litter-Management Action Plan (ML-MAP) and Kigali Implementation Plan (KIP), among others, serve as tools to effectively manage the environment. As a Small Island Developing State, the Government of Saint Lucia will continue to advance progress on climate resilience and environmental protection to the benefit of citizens, regional neighbours and the global community.

**Table 2. Potential climate change impacts on Saint Lucia's natural resources (terrestrial, coastal and marine).**

Impacts	Repercussions
Impacts of more frequent extreme weather events (intense rainfall events, hurricanes, high winds, storm surges)	
Destruction and damage of unique terrestrial animal and plant habitats due to the direct impact of extreme weather	
Increased susceptibility of forest trees to breakage.	
Damaged and destroyed coral reefs and mangroves due to: The impact of high wind speeds and large waves during tropical storms/ hurricanes Increased sedimentation/ siltation resulting from heavy rainfall (exacerbating soil erosion) inland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The resilience of Saint Lucia's natural ecosystems could be exceeded with the direct and indirect impacts of climate change. Any decline in the health of the island's ecosystems will affect the goods and services that they offer, and have a profound effect on the wellbeing, livelihoods and economy of Saint Lucians. Freshwater, clean air, fertile and stable</li> </ul>

Impacts	Repercussions
<p>Contamination from industrial, domestic and farming activities reaching the sea (particularly during flooding and heavy rain events).</p> <p>Declining integrity and health of coral reefs and mangroves will also lead to:</p> <p>Loss of fish nurseries</p> <p>Reduced protection against extreme winds and storm surges as these ecosystems act as coastal defenses for the pro land-based resources, communities and infrastructure.</p>	<p>soils, healthy fisheries, native forest foods, medicines and fibers and wildlife, all depend on healthy ecosystems. Changes in these services could lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased healthcare costs.</li> </ul>
<p>Exacerbated soil erosion resulting in increased sediment loads reaching watercourses and the sea, carrying agro-chemical residues and other pollutants.</p> <p>Higher risk of algal blooms with increasing amounts of nutrients reaching the sea due to both agro-chemical residues leaching during intense rains and to the overflow of sewage and greywater during flood events,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased exposure to hydrometeorologic al hazards and risk of disasters.</li> </ul>
<p>Increased risk of land slippage, particularly in areas with highly altered ecosystem structure, including those denuded of vegetation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Loss of land productivity and nutrient cycling (and agricultural yields).</li> </ul>
<p>Impacts of higher temperatures, prolonged and intense dry episodes and drought</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reduced climate change adaptation and mitigation.</li> </ul>
<p>Changes in ecosystem composition and structure take place as temperature rises and species migrate in search of climate conditions to which they are adapted.</p> <p>Species distributions will change, and some species will be lost.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Loss of biodiversity and biodiversity-dependent activities (e.g. fishing, honey production, eco-tourism).</li> </ul>
<p>Increased risk of forest fires, damaging ecosystems during long dry periods and further weakening their ability to recover.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Opportunities for Invasive Alien Species (IAS) to spread.</li> <li>○ Lower incomes.</li> </ul>

Impacts	Repercussions
<p>Wetlands, watersheds, riparian and freshwater ecosystems and species affected by warmer temperatures and reduced stream flows. This could be exacerbated by increased abstraction of river waters to cover increasing freshwater demands. Some effects include:</p> <p>Reduced forest productivity and phenological changes (i.e. flowering, fruiting) are to be expected with water stress and higher temperatures.</p> <p>Loss of habitat, foraging substrates, nesting and roosting sites for wildlife, increasing their vulnerability to predation.</p> <p>Reduced water and food availability for wildlife.</p> <p>Alteration in species breeding periods.</p> <p>Increase in forest pest and disease outbreaks.</p>	
<p>Reduced vegetation cover will exacerbate soil erosion.</p>	
<p>Reduced stream flows will also facilitate the extension of saltwater intrusion (due to SLR) in low lying watercourses, with salinity further affecting riparian ecosystems in these areas.</p>	
<p>Forest reserves may face increased land-use conflicts as coastal populations and activities relocate.</p>	
<p>Reduced reproductive frequency and endangered loggerhead and leatherback turtles.</p>	
<p>Sea level rise impacts</p>	
<p>Inundation and resulting degradation of wetlands and other ecosystems in low-lying areas (e.g. low-lying dry forests).</p>	
<p>Increasing seawater intrusion into coastal waterways will affect the composition of freshwater and riparian ecosystems.</p>	
<p>Beach erosion and the reduction of turtle nesting sites.</p>	
<p>Migration or loss of wildlife species from altered habitats.</p>	

Impacts	Repercussions
Loss of coastal fish breeding and nursery habitats if mangroves are lost due to SLR.	

Source: The National Adaptation Plan 2018-2028.

## 2.5. The impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Saint Lucia

The COVID-19 pandemic became a reality for Saint Lucia in March 2020 with the first recorded cases. Saint Lucia, the Caribbean region and the world were faced with an unprecedented health crisis. The impacts were felt, not only in the health sector, but also education and tourism and ultimately affected the national development trajectory. According to a CEPAL report, more than 33,000 persons in the tourism and hotel sector were negatively impacted and 30% of households faced food insecurity<sup>14</sup>. The Government's priority areas during the pandemic included enhanced social security for the most vulnerable and scaling up the public health system. The Government's phased COVID-19 response included:

- Phase 1- a public health response which included measures such as quarantines, border closures, curfews and the closure of schools.
- Phase 2- enhanced social protection measures such as income support through the Economic Relief Programme (for both National Insurance Corporation contributors and non-contributors).
- Phase 3- an economic recovery and resilience plan which supported the business sector through credit and liquidity support.

**Table 3. Initial Policy Response to COVID-19**

Classification	Initiative	Beneficiary	Amount (EC\$)	Period	Cost (EC\$)
Cash Transfer	Unemployment Subsistence Allowance.	NIC contributors.	500-1500 Monthly.	April-June.	65 million
	Employment Subsistence Allowance.	Non-NIC contributors	500	3-months	16.8 million
	Extension to file Corporate tax	Registered Business		1-month	

<sup>14</sup> Economic Stimulus, Recovery and Resilience Strategy Saint Lucia [https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/presentation\\_-\\_velda\\_octave-joseph\\_-\\_saint\\_lucia.pdf](https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/presentation_-_velda_octave-joseph_-_saint_lucia.pdf)

Classification	Initiative	Beneficiary	Amount (EC\$)	Period	Cost (EC\$)
Fiscal	Extension to individual tax return	Individuals		1-month	
	Waiver of interest/penalties on taxes	Businesses/ Individuals		3-months	
	Tax Credit to Companies retaining 30% staff	Businesses	30%		
	Moratorium on bank loans interest/principal	Businesses/ Individuals			
	Duty free barrel concession				4 million
	Concessions for production of health and sanitation products	Businesses			5 million
	Rent waiver for MSMEs renting from Gov't	MSMEs			
	Utility Assistance	Service at cost/ no disconnection s		6-months April- Sept	
	Fuel rebate	Bus drivers			1.1 million
	Government assistance to produce hand sanitizers, liquid soap and rubbing alcohol	Local enterprises			7.4 million
	Government support	Manufacturers of household cleaning items			3.4 million

Classification	Initiative	Beneficiary	Amount (EC\$)	Period	Cost (EC\$)
	Bulk purchase of flu related medicines for distribution at low cost	Individuals			
	Distribution of meals	Underprivileged			
Relief from Funding Partners	Moratorium on public debt repayment, grant funding, policy-based loans and budgetary support from Development Partners/regional and multilateral institutions				
Total					102.7 million

Source: Saint Lucia COVID-19 Heat Report: Human and Economic Assessment of Impact

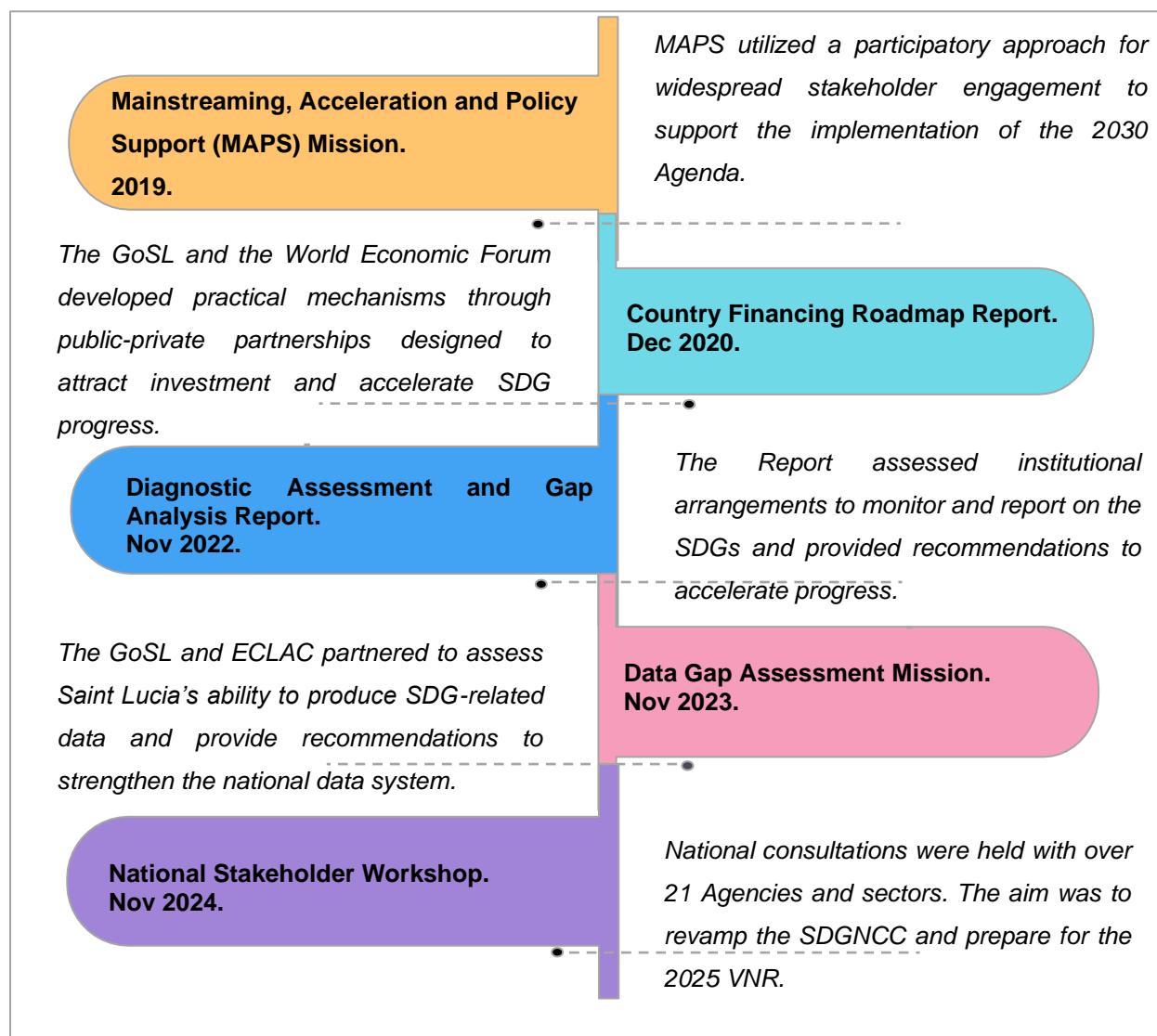
## 2.6. Enhanced Social Security Measures

The Government's social protection measures included the expansion of its existing social protection programmes and the creation of new initiatives such as the Income Support Programme (ISP). The ISP provided support to 4,811 persons who lost their jobs during the pandemic amounting to a total expenditure on EC\$7.2 million. The Child Disability Grant, Foster Care Programme and the Persons Living with HIV Programme were all expanded. Additionally, the Government expanded its Public Assistance Programme (PAP) to provide support to an additional 1,000 households. Electricity assistance was provided to more than 6,000 vulnerable households and expanded its psychological support measures for citizens. To address challenges in the education sector, the Government provided EC\$3 million to a Special Educational Assistance Programme under the Saint Lucia Social Development Fund. The Government also received funding to assist in gender-based violence initiatives as part of the Enabling, Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean (EnGenDER) Project. The Government also provided support to Bar Owners and Transport Drivers who were affected by the pandemic through initiatives under the Ministry of Equity.

### 3.0 VNR Methodology and Process

Since the completion of the VNR process in 2019, the Sustainable Development Goals National Coordinating Committee (SDGNCC) has continued to guide the implementation and monitoring of the Goals in Saint Lucia. The SDGNCC commissioned several reports aimed at strengthening the coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation, engaging stakeholders and building national ownership of the SDGs (Figure 5). More recently in 2024, a recommendation was made to the Cabinet to include representatives from Gender Affairs, Health, the National Youth Council, Finance and the Small Business Association, thus incorporating a wider cross section of stakeholders.

**Figure 5: Timeline of SDG ownership activities following 2019 VNR**



### 3.1. Stakeholder Engagement

In preparation for the 2025 VNR Report, the GoSL again adopted a participatory approach to facilitate stakeholder engagement across the public and private sectors, as well as non-governmental, development partners and civil society networks. In November 2024, a national consultation on the SDGs was held with over twenty-one stakeholder groups to discuss projects and activities that are advancing progress towards the Global Goals. This national consultation also provided an opportunity to discuss challenges and avenues for partnerships across stakeholder networks.

In March 2025, additional stakeholder consultations were held with seventeen (17) key stakeholder groups from Government Agencies, the private sector, civil society, including youth and academia. The specific objectives of these focus group sessions were as follows:

Identification of existing work on the SDGs. Utilize engagement sessions to collect quantitative and qualitative data on the activities contributing to the achievement of the SDGs;

Building ownership of the SDGs in Saint Lucia. Raise awareness of the SDGs and stakeholders' roles in achieving them as well as facilitating long-term investment in the SDGs;

Creating opportunities for communication. Provide stakeholders involved in implementing the SDGs with the platform to share challenges and solutions, while identifying policy and implementation gaps.

Identification of challenges towards implementation. Utilize focus group sessions for stakeholders to articulate the challenges towards full implementation of the SDGs.

Following these engagement sessions, stakeholders were encouraged to submit additional information on their respective projects for inclusion in Saint Lucia's second VNR Report.



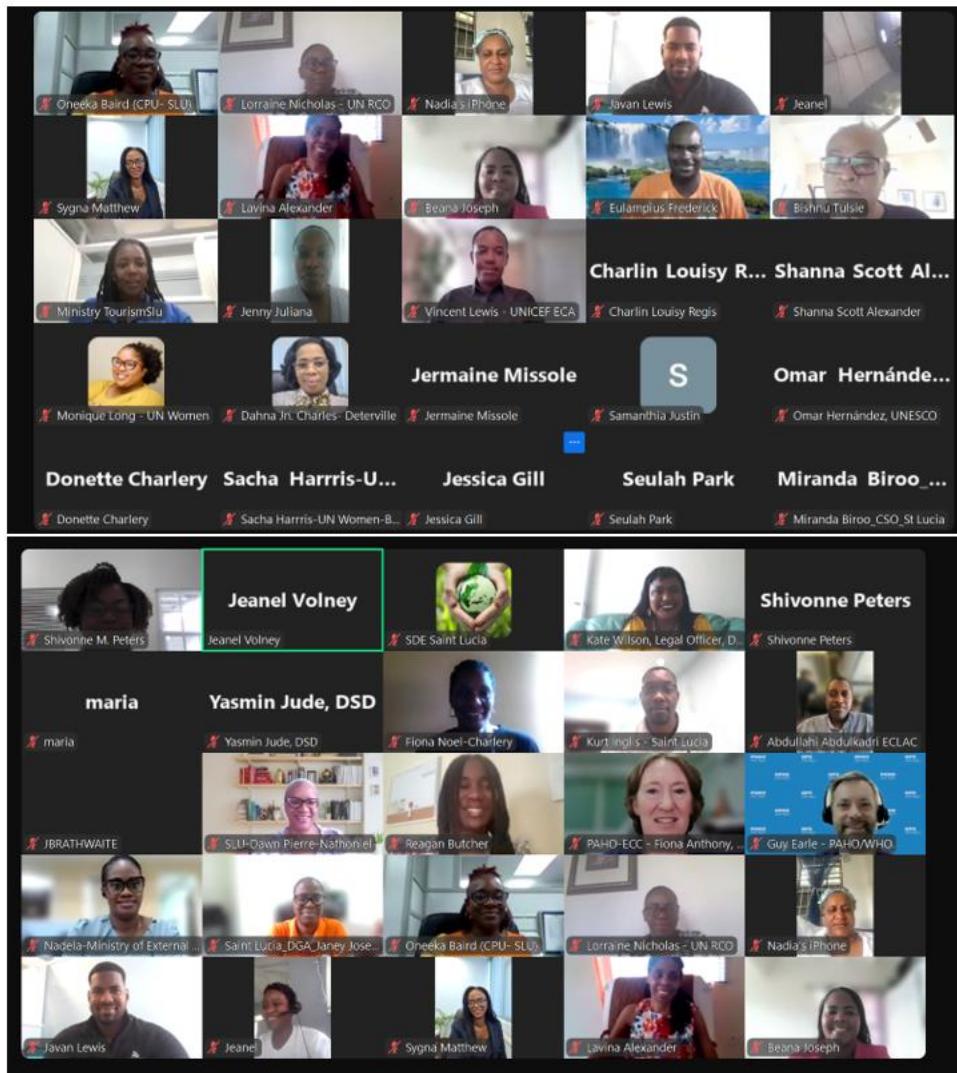
Stakeholder consultations held in March 2025.



National stakeholder consultation held in November 2024.

## Saint Lucia's Voluntary National Review 2025

To further strengthen the participatory approach adopted for this second VNR, the Government of Saint Lucia facilitated a Stakeholder Validation Workshop in May 2025, following the completion of the first draft of the report. The Validation Workshop allowed for the review of the Report, particularly the projects spearheaded by various agencies, and facilitated additional contributions.



VNR Validation Workshop held in May 2025.

### 3.2. Other national engagement efforts

The Government and the civil society network in Saint Lucia recognise the need for an all-of-society approach to mainstream the SDGs in national discourses. In this regard, the GEF Small Grants Programme supported the Monsignor Patrick Anthony Folk Research Centre in their

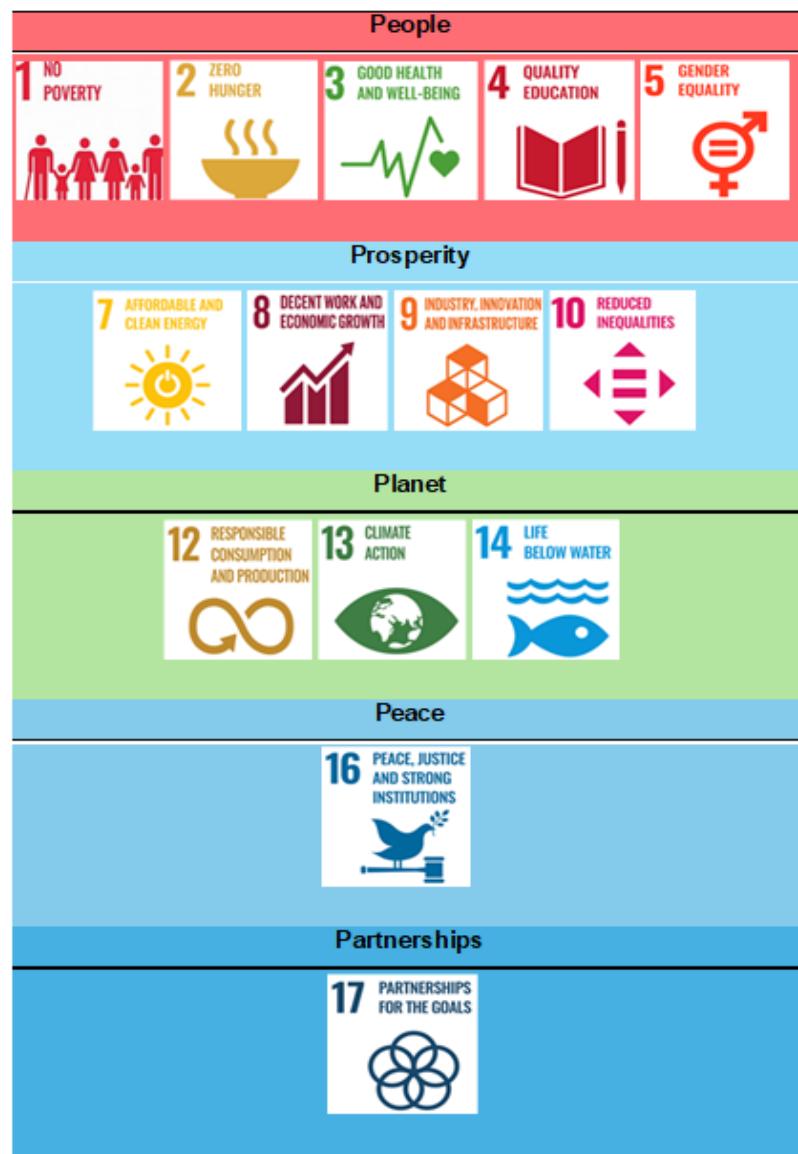
Indigenization of the SDGs project. The overall goal of the project was to incorporate the SDGs into Kwéyòl culture, thereby preserving its place in history. This project allowed for the SDGs to be more easily understood and accepted by the general population through conversion into local Kwéyòl language. This project, which ended in 2022, resulted in the following outputs:

- posters with the SDGs in English and Kwéyòl
- booklet written in Kwéyòl by contributors from various communities
- SDGs pamphlet listing the goals in English, side-by-side with Kwéyòl.

### 3.3. VNR Scope

**Saint Lucia's second Voluntary National Review will report on progress on fourteen (14) of the seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals**, substantially increasing coverage of the Goals from nine (9) SDGs in the 2019 Report (**Figure 6**). For this 2025 VNR, progress on the Goals reported in the 2019 Report has been updated; and an in-depth review of the new SDGs to be presented at the 2025 HLPF: SDG 3, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 14 and SDG 17 has been undertaken.

**Figure 6: SDGs featured in Saint Lucia's 2025 VNR Report**



## 4.0 Policy and Enabling Environment

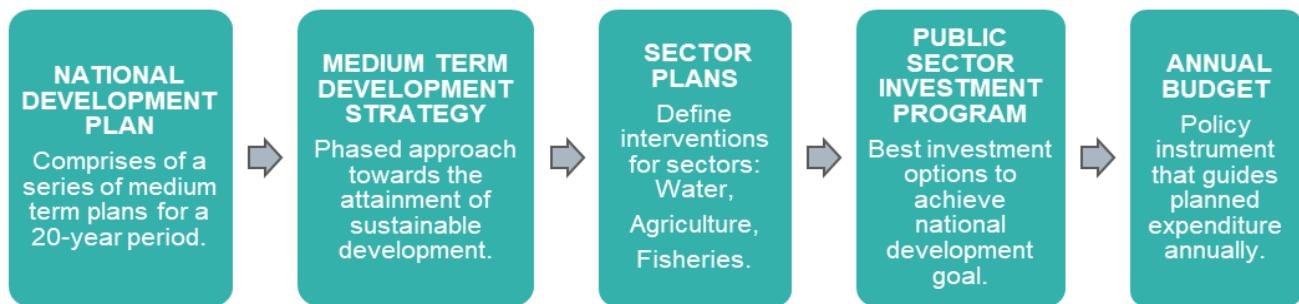
### 4.1. Overview

The Policy and Enabling Environment will capture long and medium-term development frameworks, institutional mechanisms for the SDGs and efforts to ensure no one is left behind.

### 4.2. The National Planning Ecosystem

The Government of Saint Lucia, since 2015, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, has instituted a deliberate approach to incorporate the SDGs in the national planning ecosystem. This robust policy and enabling environment is evident in Saint Lucia's long-term, medium-term and sector-specific development plans, namely the National Development Plan (NDP) and the National Vision Plan, the Medium-Term Development Strategy (MTDS), the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and sectoral plans for the water, fisheries, resilient ecosystems (natural resources) agriculture and health sectors, with efforts underway to develop sectoral plans in education, tourism and infrastructure and spatial planning. Cross-cutting themes, such as climate resilience and gender, are also reflected in Saint Lucia's national planning ecosystem. Additionally, the Public Sector Investment Programme is designed to accelerate sector plans and financial priorities are reflected in the Annual Budget statements. (Figure 7 highlights Saint Lucia's National Planning System).

**Figure 7: Saint Lucia's National Planning System**



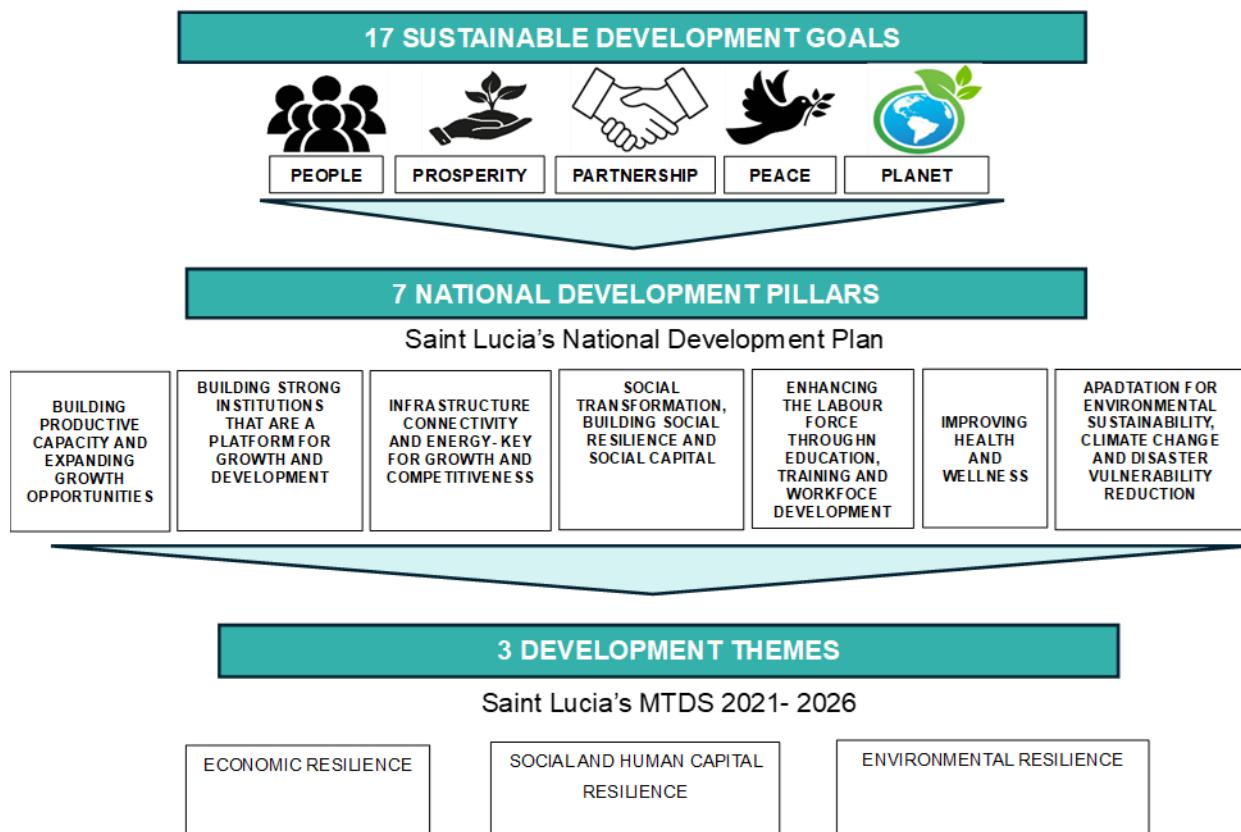
Source: Adapted from the Medium-Term Development Strategy 2021-2026

### 4.3. The National Development Pillars

Saint Lucia continues to craft its long-term National Development Plan. Notwithstanding, national development will be guided by seven (7) National Development Pillars which have been utilized

to guide the development of medium-term strategies. These 7 Pillars: i) Building productive capacity and expanding growth opportunities, ii) Building strong institutions that are a platform for growth and development, iii) Infrastructure, connectivity and energy – key for growth and competitiveness, iv) Social transformation, building social resilience and social capital, v) Enhancing the labour force through education, training and workforce development and vi) adaptation for environmental sustainability, climate change and disaster vulnerability reduction and vii) Improving health and wellness, are inextricably linked and aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (**Figure 8**).

**Figure 8: Strategic Policy alignment with the SDGs**



Source: Adapted from the Medium-Term Development Strategy 2021-2026

#### 4.4. The National Vision Plan

The National Vision Plan provides a roadmap for Saint Lucia's development and acts as a framework to ensure common goals are shared across all sectors of society. The National Vision Plan also acts as a guide for stakeholders to develop projects aligned to national development priorities. This Plan adopts a 2-component approach to promote local economic growth through

wealth and job creation, and regional growth through tourism. The first component builds on the Government's 'live local, work local' initiative which encourages island-wide investment and development. Component two seeks to encourage the decentralization of tourism activities thus reducing developmental pressure in northwest areas, reducing workforce migration and providing expanded business opportunities in other areas.

The Vision Plan provides an overview of the island's development issues and promotes a suite of initiatives in key sectors. Some of the Vision Plan key areas for development include:

- Tourism:
  - promotion of village tourism
  - leveraging cultural heritage
  - promotion of World Heritage Sites
- Transportation:
  - roadway enhancements
  - improvements to public transport
  - upgrading water treatment facilities
- Sustainable Land Use:
  - historic architecture protection
  - enhancements to community beaches and facilities
  - enhancements to green space corridors, parks, and recreational spaces
- Infrastructure
  - water supply and distribution
  - energy generation and transmission.

#### [\*\*4.5. The National Adaptation Plan and other Climate Change relevant Policy Instruments\*\*](#)

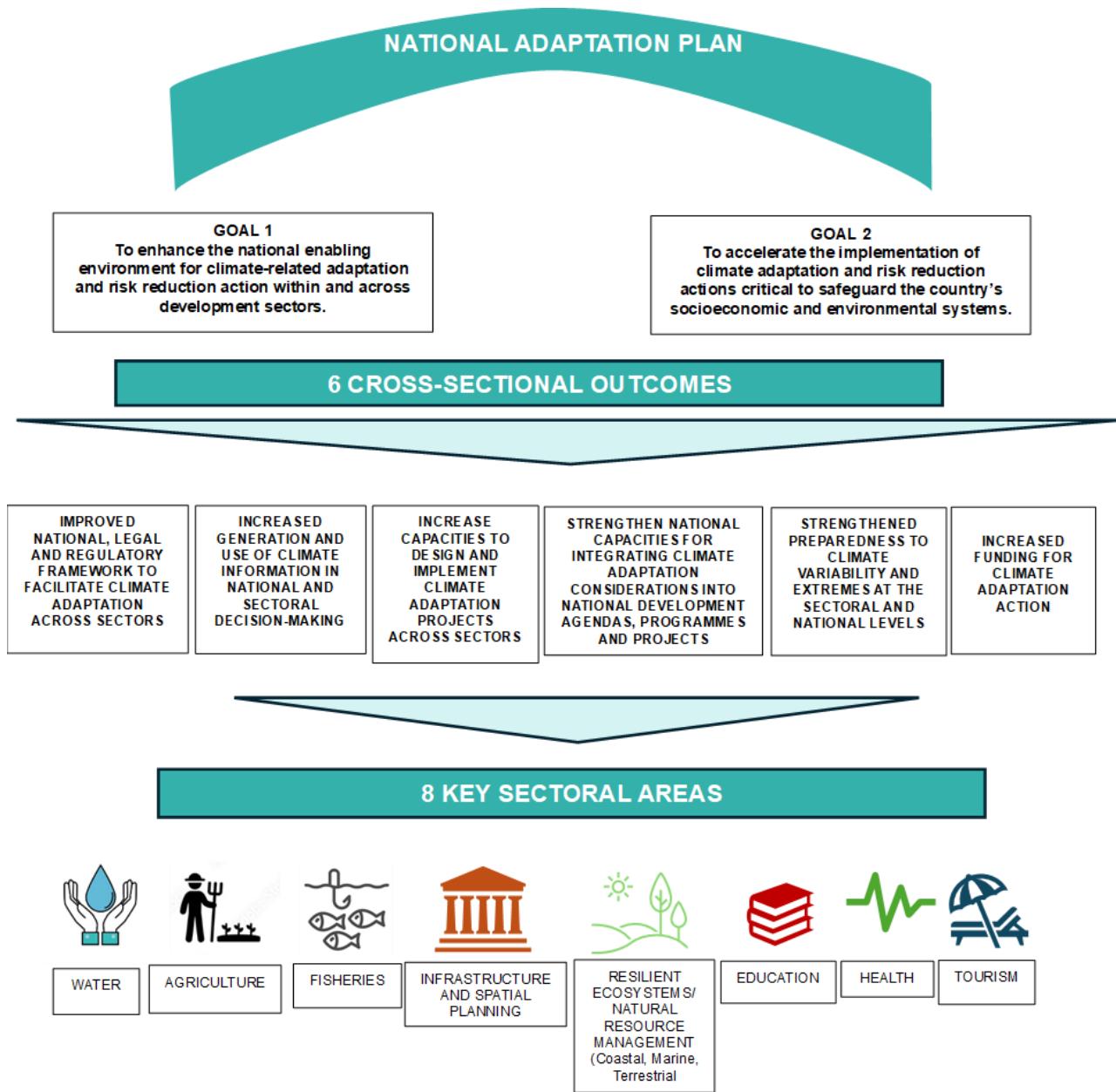
Small Island Developing States are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The Government of Saint Lucia has taken a proactive approach to address these impacts and ensure the widespread adoption of climate change adaptation in the national planning ecosystem. A Climate Change Adaptation Policy (CCAP) was adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2015. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2018-2028 falls under the umbrella of the CCAP and provides the strategic framework for integrated efforts, across identified priority sectors, to increase climate change adaptive capacity. The NAP comprises two (2) main goals, six (6) cross-sectional outcomes, and cross-sectoral and sectoral adaptation measures for eight (8) priority sectors (**Figure 9**). To complement the NAP, Sectoral Adaptation Strategies & Action Plans (SASAPs) and one Resilient Ecosystems Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (REASAP) and a Health NAP

(HNAP) have been developed for these priority sectors, along with associated supplements, including, the Climate Change and Research Policy and Strategy, the Climate Financing Strategy, the Private Sector Engagement Strategy, the Climate Change Communications Strategy and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. A preliminary alignment of the SDGs with these sectoral plans is outlined below.

**Table 4. Climate Change Sectoral Plan alignment to the SDGs**

<b><i>Sectoral Plans</i></b>	<b><i>Corresponding SDG Goals</i></b>
<i>Water</i>	SDG 6, 13
<i>Agriculture</i>	SDG 2, 3, 13
<i>Fisheries</i>	SDG 2, 3, 13, 14
<i>Infrastructure and spatial planning</i>	SDG 9, 13
<i>Resilient ecosystems/ Natural resource management</i>	SDG 13, 14,15
<i>Education</i>	SDG 4, 13
<i>Tourism</i>	SDG 7, 8, 10, 13
<i>Health</i>	SDG 3, 13

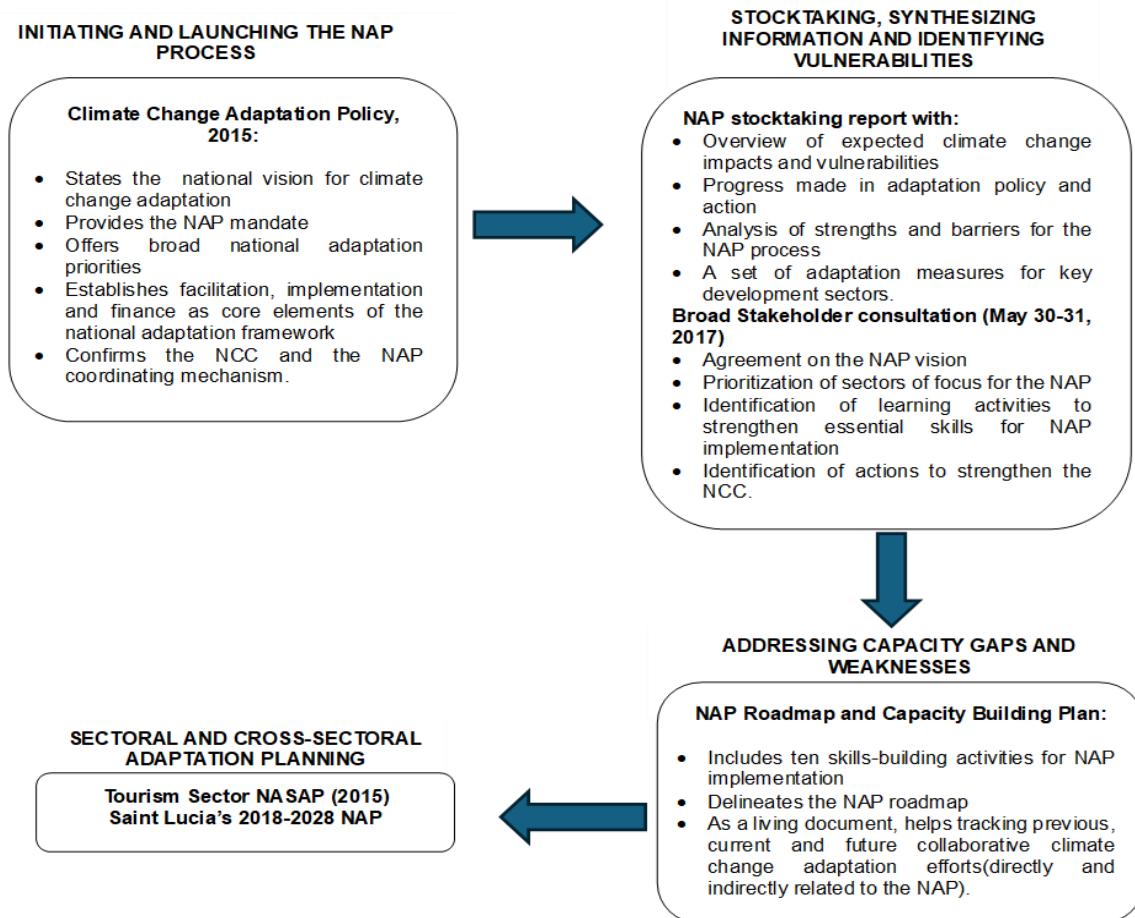
**Figure 9: The National Adaptation Plan, Outcomes and Sectoral Areas**



Source: Adapted from the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2018-2028

The NAP process in Saint Lucia was guided by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which established it as a mechanism to facilitate adaptation planning in both the medium and long-term and build on existing progress with respect to climate change related policies and actions. The National Climate Change Committee (NCCC), a multi-agency committee established by the Cabinet of Ministers in 1998, was appointed as the coordinating mechanism for the NAP, later enshrined in the Climate Change Act of 2024. The measures outlined in the NAP were guided by broad stakeholder consultations and are intended to be integrated into current and future projects and programmes. The NAP will be subject to periodic revision and modification. The NAP process is outlined in Figure 10.

**Figure 10: The National Adaptation Plan process**



Source: The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2018-2028

Saint Lucia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) is climate mitigation-centric, focusing on climate action in the sectors of transport and energy, even while incorporating the eight priority sectors of the NAP, loss and damage, youth and being gender responsive. Saint Lucia's third NDC was approved in February 2025 and is consistent with the National Energy Transition Strategy (NETS) of 2018 and the National Energy Policy of 2023-2030.

#### 4.6. The Medium-Term Development Strategy 2021- 2026

The presentation of Saint Lucia's second Voluntary National Review coincides with the completion of the Medium-Term Development Strategy MTDS 2021- 2026 (draft), which builds upon the achievements of the approved MTDS of 2020- 2023. The current MTDS takes into consideration the effect of the social and economic challenges, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This development tool was formulated following comprehensive sector analyses and utilized the Theory of Change (TOC) methodology. The MTDS is closely aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (**Figure 11**)<sup>15</sup>.

The MTDS 2021-2026 highlights three pillars necessary for advancement to realise the overarching vision to build a 'resilient and inclusive Nation, for a more sustainable and productive future for our people.' These three (3) pillars or thematic areas for development include:

- Building Economic Resilience
- Building Social and Human Capital Resilience
- Building Environmental Resilience.

To achieve the ambitions highlighted in the MTDS 2021-2026, sector clusters were formulated for thematic development areas. These sector clusters will inform projects and activities.

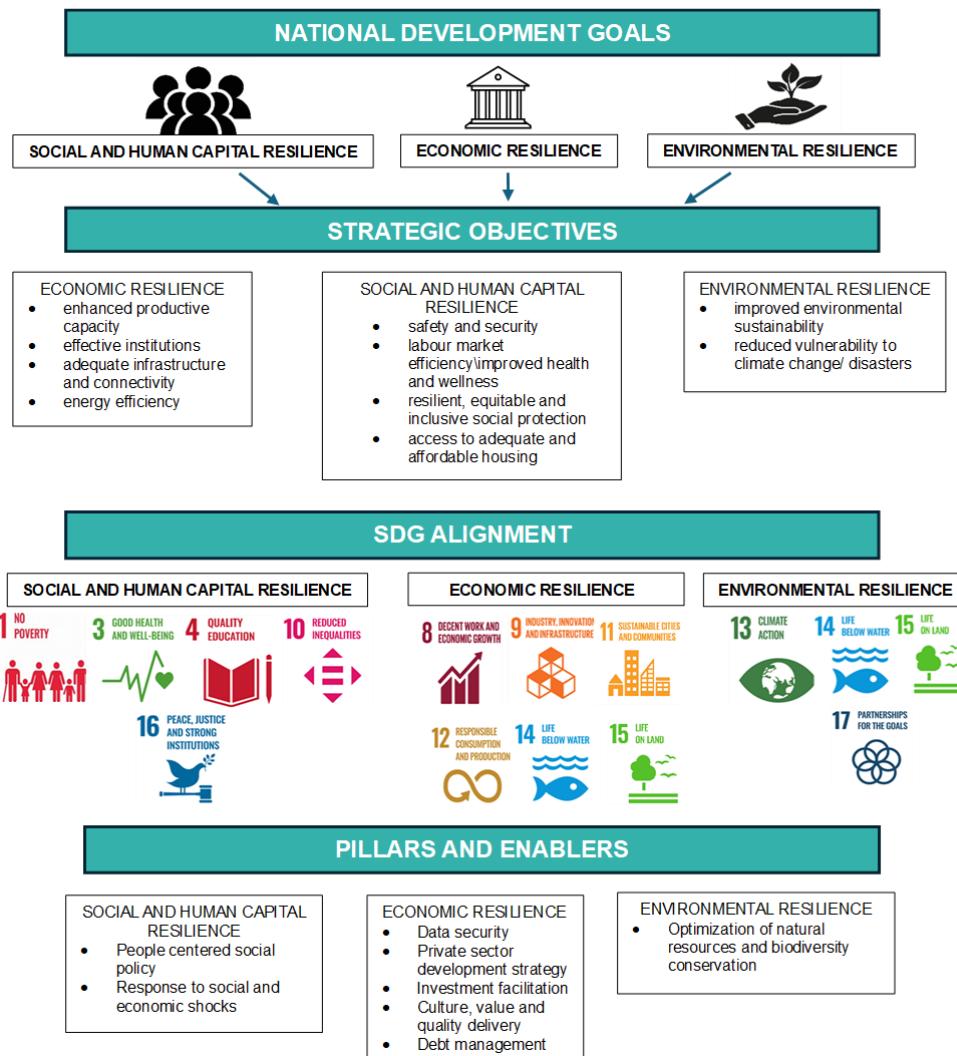
- Social and Human Capital Resilience cluster
  - Citizen security
  - Youth and sports
  - Education
  - Health
  - Social protection
  - Housing
- Economic Resilience cluster
  - Agriculture
  - Tourism

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<sup>15</sup> Figure 11 was compiled based on information obtained from the MTDS 2021-2026 (draft) pages 32-38.

- Services
- Manufacturing
- Blue Economy
- Orange Economy
- Youth Economy
- Infrastructure
- Energy
- Physical development
- Environmental Resilience cluster
  - Sustainable development
  - Solid waste management.

**Figure 11: National Development Planning alignment and the SDGs.**



Source: Based on information from the MTDS 2021-2026 (draft)

#### 4.7. Incorporation of the SDGs into national frameworks

The alignment of the country's policy frameworks with the SDGs also demonstrates Saint Lucia's commitment to monitor and track progress on the Global Goals. This alignment is highlighted in the 2020 Roadmap for SDG Implementation. A total of 114 SDG targets were considered as relevant for Saint Lucia. The Roadmap Report indicated 86% coverage of SDG targets in the country's planning documents. Furthermore, this Report also assessed target alignment with the 5 P's and indicated 87% alignment with 'People', 88% alignment with 'Planet', 83% alignment with 'Prosperity', 67% alignment with 'Peace' and 100% alignment with 'Partnerships'. The target coverage for the SDGs in Saint Lucia's policy frameworks is highlighted in **Table 5**.

**Table 5. SDG target coverage, indicator coverage, and gender inclusion aspects from Saint Lucia's planning documents**

Sustainable Development Goals	Target Coverage		Indicator Coverage		Inclusion Aspects	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
1 No Poverty	4	100	4	100	4	100
2 Zero Hunger	5	100	5	100	2	67
3 Good Health and Well-being	7	78	5	71	2	22
4 Quality Education	7	100	7	100	7	100
5 Gender Equality	4	67	3	75	4	67
6 Clean Water and Sanitation	6	100	2	33	0	0
7 Affordable and Clean Energy	3	100	1	33	0	0
8 Decent Work and Economic Growth	7	70	4	57	3	43
9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	4	80	3	75	0	0
10 Reduced Inequalities	4	80	0	0	2	40
11 Sustainable Cities and Communities	7	100	2	29	1	17
12 Responsible Consumption and Production	5	63	3	60	0	N/A
13 Climate Action	3	100	1	33	1	100
14 Life Below Water	7	100	3	43	0	N/A
15 Life on Land	7	88	5	71	2	100
16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	6	67	4	67	2	25
17 Partnerships for the Goals	12	100	7	58	2	100
Total	98	86	59	60	32	48

Source: A Roadmap for SDG implementation in Saint Lucia, 2020

#### 4.8. Institutional mechanisms

##### 4.8.1. The SDGNCC

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, the Government of Saint Lucia began the process of establishing a national coordinating mechanism for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. This mechanism consists of three (3) levels: the Cabinet of Ministers, the SDG Cabinet Sub-Committee of Ministers (CSC), and the SDG National Coordinating Committee, which was formally established in 2017. The Cabinet Sub-Committee (CSC) is charged with the responsibility to provide policy guidance on SDG implementation in Saint Lucia. The Minister with

responsibility for Sustainable Development chairs the CSC and it is further constituted by the Minister for External Affairs, the Minister for Equity, Social Justice and Empowerment, the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Economic Development.

The SDGNCC is charged with coordinating the implementation and monitoring of actions towards the achievement of the SDGs in Saint Lucia. This multi-sectoral committee is chaired by the Permanent Secretaries of the Department of Sustainable Development and the Department of Economic Development and consists of representatives from the public sector, the private sector, the Civil Society network, Academic, Youth and Non-Governmental Organisations, with recent additions from the Ministry of Health, Division of Gender Affairs and the Saint Lucia National Trust. Based on a new Terms of Reference (TOR), the SDGNCC is specifically mandated to undertake the following:

- Mobilize resources to implement the work plan of the committee
- Establish, as required, working groups to assist with the mandate of the committee
- Provide recommendations on ways to align the SDG implementation process with other national processes
- Provide periodic updates to the Cabinet of Ministers
- Keep abreast and share international, regional and local processes which may influence national SDG implementation
- Inform and sensitize key agencies and the general public on the critical international, regional and local process, which will impact national development goals
- Monitor Saint Lucia's progress in meeting the SDGs
- Collect data necessary to facilitate SDG reporting

**Mandate to:**

- Facilitate information sharing among their respective stakeholders
- Facilitate information sharing among agencies not represented on the SDGNCC
- Monitor the SDGs by agencies aligned with the budget process.

#### [4.8.2. The Central Statistical Office \(CSO\)](#)

The CSO is charged with the overall coordination and oversight of the production of all statistics and indicators at the national level. In addition to the CSO, the wider national statistical system includes other Government agencies, departments and institutions responsible for data collection in specialized areas such as education, agriculture, health etc. The Government recognizes the

need for an improved National Statistical System (NSS) in Saint Lucia to support evidence-based decision-making, meet the demands of donor agencies and monitor national developmental progress. To address the shortcomings in the NSS, a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) was developed under PARIS21<sup>16</sup>.

#### 4.9. Leaving No One Behind

The Government of Saint Lucia has long recognized the importance of human and social capital. In this regard, social protection frameworks have been strengthened to facilitate sustainable and inclusive development for all citizens, ensuring no one is left behind. The protection of the vulnerable in society is of paramount importance and robust social protection systems are designed to address and alleviate poverty, reduce social and gender inequalities and end discrimination. The need for social protection systems was more pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic which worsened socio-economic conditions experienced by the vulnerable in society.

Efforts to improve social safety frameworks have been articulated in the revised National Social Protection Policy and Action Plan 2020-2030, which highlights four (4) priority areas for intervention. This revised Policy, along with additional key protection measures and programs will continue to provide social protection for children, pregnant mothers, youth, adults and the elderly in Saint Lucia. Key Social Protection Measures in Saint Lucia include:

- National Social Protection Policy 2014
- The Public Assistance Programme (PAP)
- The National Insurance Scheme (NIS)
- The Saint Lucia Social Development Fund (SSDF)
- The Education Assistance Programme
- The Book Bursary Programme
- The Housing Assistance Programme
- The Basic Needs Trust Fund
- Holistic Opportunities for Personal Empowerment (HOPE)
- Koudmein Ste Lucie.

While significant progress has been made to improve the social context, the perennial challenges of high unemployment and poverty rates, limited availability of quality housing and increasing crime rates are evident.



# OUR PROGRESS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS



## 5.0 Progress of the Goals

### 5.1. Reporting Format

The progress on the fourteen (14) SDGs under review for Saint Lucia's second Voluntary National Review will be demonstrated in this section. To clearly document progress, an overview of each Goal will be provided along with relevant policy frameworks, and key projects and initiatives across the public and private sectors, civil society networks and academia will be highlighted. The reporting format for each Goal will conclude with an assessment scorecard rating performance. This scorecard is highlighted below. Data tables for each Goal (where available) are presented in **Annex I.**

#### **Saint Lucia's Scorecard on SDG Targets**

	Target met/ likely to be met by 2030.
	Fair progress/ acceleration needed.
	Limited progress
	No data available

The reporting format for this VNR will also incorporate success stories from stakeholders from civil society networks. These success stories will feature select individuals and groups who have positively benefitted from projects which advance progress on the Global Goals.

# 1 NO POVERTY





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SDG GOAL 1

End Poverty in All Its Forms Everywhere

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## 5.2. SDG Goal 1- No Poverty

### 5.2.1. Overview

The Government of Saint Lucia considers human capital as its greatest national asset and in this regard, deliberate action has been taken to reduce poverty in all its forms and promote the development of all citizens. Building human and social capital will result in economic growth and development and an increased capacity to manage external and internal shocks and consequently, social risks. Disadvantaged groups are more likely to face poverty therefore social protection systems in Saint Lucia have been developed for all citizens, but also for those most at risk from being left behind. In the medium-term the Government will prioritize micro-enterprise opportunities, the implementation of a social information system and the development of a communication strategy for the social protection sector in Saint Lucia<sup>17</sup>

While social protection systems in Saint Lucia are robust, accelerated action in this area is required to reduce and eliminate perennial issues such as high poverty and unemployment rates. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated these social issues as more than 70% of households faced a reduction in income during that time. As of 2016, Saint Lucia's poverty rate stood at 25%, decreasing slightly from 28% in 2006. In 2022, the unemployment rate stood at 11.9%, indicating a major decline since 2010 (the unemployment rate in 2010 stood at 20.6%)<sup>18</sup>. Consequently, there was also a 36.8% decrease in unemployed persons from 2010 to 2022, with a total of 11,124 persons unemployed in Saint Lucia. Currently, 73.1% of the population is covered by the National Insurance Corporation. However, 42.5% of the population has no insurance coverage<sup>19</sup>.

The Ministry of Equity, Social Justice and Empowerment is responsible for a number of social transformation initiatives aimed at reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion. Social assistance also includes grants such as the Public Assistance Programme which has seen considerable transformation in recent years. Additionally, other Government, private sector and

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<sup>17</sup> The Medium-Term Development Strategy (draft) 2021-2026.

<sup>18</sup> The Saint Lucia Population and Housing Census 2022.

<sup>19</sup> The Saint Lucia Population and Housing Census 2022.

civil society initiatives, are cross-cutting and cover various developmental areas which also advance progress on SDG 1: No Poverty. The Government of Saint Lucia remains committed to minimizing poverty and advancing human and social capital resilience.

This review synthesizes progress on SDG 1: No Poverty during the period 2018 to 2024.

#### 5.2.2. Social Protection Policies and Frameworks

The National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) 2022-2030 demonstrates the Government's adoption of a people-centered approach to addressing social issues prevalent in society. The multi-dimensional approach to poverty reduction comprises institutional, financial and delivery dimensions and specially focuses on 'persons living in poverty including poor and vulnerable young persons and poor and vulnerable older persons aged 60 years and above' as one of the ten target groups.

Further, with respect to poverty reduction, three (3) of the Policy's aspects are especially relevant:

- **Aspect 1:** Social protection is **protective** in that it provides essential support to those living in poverty, protecting them from the worst consequences of poverty.
- **Aspect 2:** Social protection is also **preventative and resilient** in that it puts in place a safety net that can be activated to 'catch' people in danger of falling into poverty because of idiosyncratic and covariate shocks.
- **Aspect 3:** Social protection is **promotive** and facilitates access to opportunity in that it supports poor people's investment so that they can pull themselves out of poverty and graduate from the need to receive social assistance.

The National Social Protection Policy 2022-2030

#### 5.2.3. Projects, Programmes and other Initiatives

The Public Assistance Programme (PAP)

The Public Assistance Programme (PAP) is a cash transfer grant which is available for persons requiring social assistance. In 2019, the Government introduced an eligibility tool, the SL Net (Saint Lucia National Eligibility tool) to adequately identify persons who require and are eligible for public assistance. The Government expenditure for the PAP is approximately EC\$1.3 million and beneficiaries receive funds directly in their bank accounts. Five tiers of assistance are offered under PAP with the maximum amount of EC \$465/ month awarded to households with five or

more persons. This public assistance programme is executed under the Ministry of Equity, Social Justice and Empowerment.

In 2024, the PAP was further bolstered with the introduction of a graduation strategy. As the financial and social situation of PAP beneficiaries improve, they will no longer require public assistance. The graduation strategy is designed to reduce the number of persons requiring and accessing social assistance and allow new beneficiaries to access the programme. Over 1,500 new applicants qualify for social assistance and will be added to the PAP. Overall, PAP provides skills and resources to beneficiaries in the short-term so that they can be financially independent in the long-term.

#### *The BELfund (James Belgrave Micro Enterprise Development Fund)*

The BELfund provides low-cost loans and support in the form of training, technical assistance to micro enterprises owned by persons in low-income groups. BELfund, which has been in existence since 2000, was designed to meet the following objectives:

- To advance technical and academic skills thereby enhancing the employability of beneficiaries.
- To encourage small-scale commercial projects which are financially viable, leading to an improved standard of living.
- To support initiatives that will create opportunities for sustainable employment and viable commercial activity.
- To assist the underprivileged sectors to improve their standard of economic and social well-being.

The BELfund provides several key services including:

- credit facilities at affordable rates.
- business operations training
- technical assistance and business support
- project development support (from financial, technical and human resource capacities)
- scientific, educational, economic and social development opportunities
- micro enterprise planning and mentorship<sup>20</sup>.

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20 BELFUND <https://www.belfundstlucia.com/>

Under the BELfund, businesses typically take a three to six month period to acquire services and commence operations.

#### *The Child Disability Grant*

The Child Disability Grant is a universal grant that provides EC\$200 per month (up to the age of 21 years) for a child with disabilities. During the COVID-19 pandemic and with support from the SDG Fund Joint Programme, additional funds were awarded to beneficiaries for a three-month period. This was also extended to cover children in foster homes (an additional 50% for three months)21.

Other grants and support services provided include the Burial Grant (available to persons on public assistance and provides funds for the burial of family members), trauma counselling services, food stamps, the Medical Assistance Programme, the Electricity Assistance and the Book Bursary Programme.

#### *Enhanced Country Poverty Assessment (CPA) Programme- OECS*

A GIS system training Programme was held in April 2025 as part of the OECS Commission Enhanced Country Poverty Assessment (CPA) Programme. This training programme for staff of the Central Statistical Office demonstrated the use of GIS for poverty mapping using Saint Lucia's population census data.

#### 5.2.4. Saint Lucia's Scorecard on SDG Targets

	Target met/ likely to be met by 2030.
	Fair progress/ acceleration needed.
	Limited progress
	No data available

Targets - SDG 1 - End Poverty in all its Forms Everywhere	Saint Lucia's Progress
By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.	
By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions.	
Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.	
By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.	
By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.	
Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.	
Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions	

# 2 ZERO HUNGER





### 5.3. SDG Goal 2- Zero Hunger

#### 5.3.1. Overview

The agriculture sector in Saint Lucia contributes significantly to national efforts to build economic resilience. From 2016 to 2021, the agriculture sector's contribution to GDP averaged 1.7% with a 2% contribution in 2020. Saint Lucia's agriculture sector is typically small scale and especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. One of the most significant losses in the sector was experienced due to the passage of Hurricane Thomas in 2010. The effects of the hurricane were further compounded by severe drought in that year which resulted in a loss of EC\$151.8 million<sup>22</sup>. Today, the realities of climate change continue to affect the productivity of this important sector.

The largest proportion of arable land in Saint Lucia is found in the Micoud and Dennery districts which contribute 20% of total permanent crop production. Non-operated agricultural land is still widely available in Gros Islet and Soufriere, indicating the possibility of further expansion in the sector. Current data indicates that 1,313 women are employed in the agriculture sector and 140 persons are involved in hydroponics<sup>23</sup>. Livestock farming is largely dominated by poultry. Saint Lucia is known for its advanced apiculture sector and is considered a regional leader in this regard.

The Government and stakeholders in the agriculture sector have recognized the need for the integration of climate smart and sustainable practices. The promotion of climate smart agriculture is a strategic focus area documented in both the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and further elaborated in the Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for Agriculture. Support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development has contributed to an agriculture and fisheries sector that enhances food security and supports livelihoods. The upcoming agriculture and fisheries census will further inform the Government's science-based approach to transforming this sector.

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<sup>22</sup> The Medium-Term Development Strategy (draft) 2021-2026

<sup>23</sup> The Saint Lucia Population and Housing Census 2022.

In addition to climate change impacts, the agricultural sector faces a number of other challenges. These include the areas of water and technological availability, limited investment, high incidences of praedial larceny and inadequate market access. In the medium-term, efforts will be focused on the development of a Livestock Revitalization Programme, operationalization of the National Agricultural Diagnostic Facility, training in agro-processing and the establishment of a Fisheries Corporation. The exploration of non-traditional food security projects which incorporate gender equality and involve persons with disabilities, will ensure that no one is left behind in the advancement of this sector.

This review synthesizes progress on SDG 2: Zero Hunger during the period 2018 to 2024.

### 5.3.2. Agriculture Policies and Frameworks

Saint Lucia's Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the Agriculture Sector (Agriculture SASAP) 2018-2028 is the guiding framework for the integration of climate resilience in the agriculture sector. The SASAP consists of 45 adaptation measures grouped under 4 main outcomes. The outputs of these measures include:

- Enhanced enabling environment for climate adaptation action in the agriculture sector.
- Enhanced nutrition, food availability, quality and security through adaptation in the agriculture sector.
- Strengthened partnerships for scaling up climate resilient agriculture.
- Build adaptive capacity to climate variability and extremes in the agriculture sector.

The Department of Agriculture, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development, is responsible for the implementation of the SASAP. The Policy also recognizes that the adoption of the proposed measures will require substantial financial investment which may not be available solely from Government sources. To address this potential challenge, the Policy also includes concept notes which can act as areas of cooperation between Saint Lucia's bilateral and multilateral partners. The multiple measures therein can also be used as a basis to develop additional concept notes and proposals for funding.

### 5.3.3. Projects, Programmes and other Initiatives

#### *Moving up the Apiculture Value Chain*

The GEF Small Grants programme in Saint Lucia is supporting a number of critical biodiversity areas which have cross cutting themes and advance progress on SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 13: Climate Action. One such biodiversity area focuses on enhancing the apiculture industry in Saint Lucia through the use of sustainable production, harvesting and marketing methods. Several grantees including CYEN, the Canaries Honey Producers and the Iyanola Apiculture Collective have benefited from GEF funding in this area and some critical advancements in apiculture include<sup>24</sup>:



- support for the Iyanola Apiculture Collective (IAC) project to produce and export apitoxins, produce new honey by-products and improve hive monitoring. The project also resulted in Saint Lucia's first honey show, the Hewanorra National Honey Show.
- an estimated 40% increase in honey production capacity, a 15% increase in honey production and a 40% increase in income by SGP grantees.
- the establishment of four (4) new honey-producing organisations
- training for more than two hundred (200) beekeepers, including members from NGOs and youth groups.
- the promotion and integration of innovation into Saint Lucia's honey processing and production chain.
- the establishment of an apitourism tour for visitors.
- the establishment of the first solarized processing plant in Vieux Fort.

Regional collaboration on apiculture has also been facilitated through GEF with the Apiculture Strategic Project that includes six (6) Caribbean countries and Samoa. This project facilitated capacity building and provision of equipment for beekeepers across the seven (7) countries, practical training and diagnostic studies which will be used for planning and management. Under

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<sup>24</sup> GEF SGP Annual Report 2019, GEF SGP Tri-Annual Report 2020-2022, GEF SGP Annual Report 2023.

this project, conceptual designs for the first-of-its-kind Mankote Apiculture Research and Learning were completed.

#### *Food security projects*

##### *Mariculture, Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Adaptation*

Other GEF-funded projects include a mariculture project in Vieux Fort which targets at-risk youth and attempts to increase livelihood opportunities and reduce crime. This will result in the first coastal mariculture lobster plant, occupying an area of 1,600 m<sup>2</sup>. Support was also provided to the Belle Vue Farmers' Cooperative to produce 'An Introductory Guide to Organic Fertilizers and Pesticides which encourage farmers to utilize organic methods. Other projects include the establishment of a cassava processing plant and a new 100% solar powered sea moss processing factory. With respect to climate smart agriculture, GEF is currently supporting the Sustainable and Intensive Agriculture in a Closed System using IT and organic methods in Babonneau. In relation to climate adaptation projects, GEF has facilitated the installation of 27 rainwater harvesting systems in La Manz and Monzie in the district of Choiseul, which alleviated the long-existing water shortage issues in the communities.

#### *Aquaponics*

The GEF Small Grants programme is currently assisting grantees in the development and execution of projects related to food security in Saint Lucia. In the area of aquaponics, the Aquaponics for the Differently Abled project, currently in the experimental phase, is executed by the National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD). This project promotes sustainable agriculture and is managed by a team of persons with disabilities. This project is not only advancing SDG3: Good health and well-being, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 1: No Poverty and SDG 13: Climate Action, but also seeks as a measure to ensure that the differently abled population is not left behind. The facility is 100% solar powered and will move to a full-scale operation in June 2025.

**Box 1:**

**Inclusion meets Innovation'- The National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities (NCDP)**

Established in 1981 to serve as the umbrella body for persons with disabilities, the NCDP is regarded as a leading advocacy group and actively promotes policy and legislative reform, and programmes for the advancement of persons with disabilities in Saint Lucia.

President of the NCPD regards the SDGs as an important mechanism for implementing programs and providing tangible means for disabled persons to become empowered and take leading roles in society. The NCPD's flagship project is the aquaponics facility that is operated by persons with disabilities. The facility was intended to equip disabled persons with the necessary skills to lead in agriculture, particularly climate-smart resilient agriculture. In this way the NCDP is advancing SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities'- *NCDP President Merphilus James.*

**Agro-Tourism Park at Fond St Jacques**

This project, which is currently 80% completed, was initiated by the Fond St Jacques Development Committee to address the need for sustainable economic activities, renewed agricultural development and ecosystem protection in the area. The project is funded by GEF Small Grants and the OECS, and is expected to:

- create employment
- provide tourism attractions such as eco lodges, bird watching and agricultural demonstrations
- encourage slope stabilization (through the initiatives of IWECO)
- increase the production of organic foods
- promote sustainable farming practices.

The Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund also supports projects in the agriculture sector which target women and youth, with one such initiative entitled: 'The Rural Women in Agriculture Project' and 'The Active Youth Movement Project'.

**Box 2:**

***Hydroponics to reduce hunger, fight climate change and minimize labour inputs'- A & B's Harvest***

Established in 2016, A & B's Harvest started out as an initiative to address the shortage of lettuce during the rainy season. This fully computerized hydroponics facility uses recycled water and no chemical inputs to grow agricultural produce in Saint Lucia. This climate-smart initiative is advancing SDG 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 13: Climate Action. 'The system is initially costly, but it is very beneficial in terms of energy efficiency and requires limited labour for operation'- *Anne-Marie Benoit Owner of A & B's Harvest*.

Future plans will see the inclusion of aquaponics and use of solar energy in addition to an overall expansion of the facility.

***Enhancing the efficiency of production-distribution supply chain in fruit and vegetable sector in St. Lucia (The second phase)***

This project is a collaborative effort between the Government of Saint Lucia (Ministry of Agriculture) and the Taiwan ICDF to enhance the island's agricultural sector through the use of technology. This 4-year project commenced in 2022 and, in also aligns with SDG 13: Climate Action. This second phase of the project will result in increased and diversified agricultural production, increased income for farmers and increased climate resilience in the sector.

This project advances Targets 2.1 and 2.4 by establishing a high-efficiency production model and promoting efficient food commodity markets. Several accomplishments have been noted for this project including: i) 2 training courses on small farm machinery operation for 100 farmers, ii) 8 agricultural workshops in pesticide use and plant growth regulators, iii) 6 training courses on agricultural processing and iv) 7 food and agriculture education sessions for over 200 students and teachers<sup>25</sup>.

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<sup>25</sup> Taiwan ICDF <https://www.icdf.org.tw/wSite/ct?xItem=68209&ctNode=31535&mp=2>

**Box 3:**

**'Using the Natural Environment for our Livelihoods'- Aupicon Agriculture and Sea Moss Farmers Association.**

As part of their efforts to promote sustainable livelihoods and environmental stewardship, the Aupicon Agriculture and Sea Moss Farmers Association diversified from charcoal production to sea moss farming in Savannes Bay. Member of the Association, Vincent 'Jeg' Clarke, recognizes the link between sea moss farming and fisheries as sea moss farms provide a critical habitat for juvenile fish, thus supporting the island's fisheries stock. He sees the tremendous importance of advocating for environmental protection. 'The challenge is between development and the environment, but we can use the environment for livelihoods without development that degrades the natural environment'- Vincent 'Jeg' Clarke member of the Aupicon Agriculture and Sea Moss Farmers Association.

This initiative advances SDG 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.

**Building Effective Resilience for Human Security in the Caribbean Countries: The Imperative of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a Strengthened Agriculture (and related Agri/Fisheries Small Business) Sector Programme**

This programme was developed to equip recipient countries with tools to respond to the needs of women and youth, small holder farmers and agriculture entrepreneurs. Funded by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) and implemented by UN Women, UNDP, FAO and ILO in five (5) Caribbean countries including Saint Lucia, this initiative is also advancing progress on SDG 5: Gender Equality and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. A key outcome of the project was the creation of a digital help desk and the provision of computer tablets for beneficiaries in the agriculture sector to access local information and ultimately allow for business development and growth in the sector<sup>26</sup>.

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26 UN Women <https://caribbean.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2022/10/un-trust-fund-for-human-security-and-the-un-providing-computer-tablets-to-the-agribusiness-sectors-in-ec-0>

## 5.3.4. Saint Lucia's Scorecard on SDG 2 Targets

 Target met/ likely to be met by 2030.
 Fair progress/ acceleration needed.
 Limited progress
 No data available

Targets – SDG 2 – End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture	Saint Lucia's Progress
By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	
By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older people.	
By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers.	
By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.	
By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels.	
Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries.	

Targets – SDG 2 – End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture	Saint Lucia's Progress
Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.	
Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.	

# 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING





SDG GOAL 3  
Good Health and Well-being

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## 5.4. SDG Goal 3- Good Health and Well-being

### 5.4.1. Overview

Saint Lucia has made substantial progress on SDG Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being. The area of health is one of Saint Lucia's seven National Development Pillars and is featured in the MTDS 2021-2026 (draft) thematic area: Building Social and Human Capital Resilience. The Ministry of Health, Wellness and Elderly Affairs, the agency responsible for healthcare in Saint Lucia, has seen improvements in the areas of disease control, health service delivery, and health infrastructure. As health sector reform continues, Saint Lucia's citizens will experience an improvement in healthcare services.

Between 2018 and 2024, there was a significant decline in maternal mortality rates (from 52.4 in 2019 to 41.3 in 2024) and the number of new HIV infections (which stood at 10.4 in 2024 as compared to 29.9 in 2019). A notable decrease in the adolescent birth rate was also recorded (29.9 in 2019 to 20.0 in 2024). During this same period, the Ministry of Health recorded increases in mortality rates due to Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Mortality due to cardiovascular disease rose to 1.4 in 2021 (as compared to 0.8 in 2019), while the cancer mortality rate rose slightly to 14.8 (up from 13.4 in 2019).

In the medium-term, the Government of Saint Lucia is committed to health care interventions that will improve citizens' access to quality services. These include the upgrading of health facilities to ensure climate resilience, revision of the National Policy for Older Persons and the identification of sustainable financing mechanisms to support Universal Health Care. Other priority areas for the Ministry of Health include the development of a national mental health framework and improvements to the National Blood Bank<sup>27</sup>.

This review synthesizes progress on SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being during the period 2018 to 2024.

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<sup>27</sup> <https://health.govt.lc/news/ministry-of-health-reports-significant-gains-in-2024-health-initiatives>

#### 5.4.2. Projects, programmes and other initiatives

##### *The Enhancing Health and Infrastructure Resilience Project*

In 2025, Saint Lucia became the first country in the OECS to implement the Enhancing Health and Infrastructure Resilience Project. This project involved the acquisition of medical equipment which will significantly improve the country's ability to provide adequate emergency response to health crises. This project was funded by Direct Relief (a US-based nonprofit) and coordinated by the OECS Commission<sup>28</sup>.

##### *The opening of the first phase of the Dr. Betty Wells Urban Polyclinic*

In 2024, the Ministry of Health, Wellness and Elderly Affairs advanced healthcare delivery in Saint Lucia through the opening of the Dr. Betty Wells Urban Polyclinic. This Clinic offers both extended medical care and urgent care services for citizens and reduces pressure on one of the island's two (2) public hospitals. The Polyclinic also houses the new National Eye Clinic which provides critical ophthalmic services to the citizens of Saint Lucia<sup>29</sup>.

##### *The Strengthening Health Facilities in the Caribbean (SMART Hospital) Project*

The SMART Hospital Project, funded by UKAid and implemented by PAHO in close collaboration with the Ministries of Health, Wellness and Elderly Affairs, was implemented in seven (7) Caribbean countries in 2022. Under this project 15 health care facilities were retrofitted to become more resilient to climate change and disaster impacts. Upgrades to these facilities included the installation of LED-lighting, safety equipment such as smoke detectors, and enhanced disabled access to washroom areas.

##### *Capacity-building Project for the prevention and control of Metabolic Chronic Diseases*

In the area of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control, the Division of Health, in collaboration with the Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF) and Cathay General

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28 <https://stluciatiimes.com/170047/2025/04/saint-lucia-first-in-oecs-to-complete-regional-health-resilience-project/>

29 <https://health.govt.lc/news/ministry-of-health-reports-significant-gains-in-2024-health-initiatives>

Hospital, launched a 4-year project aimed at increasing the technical capacity of local healthcare providers and policy makers. The project comprised several workshops, for example one workshop held in April 2025, focused on integrating the CARPHA and HEARTS guidelines for diabetes and hypertension into primary care practice. A total of three (3) major capacity-building workshops have been conducted to date and this has resulted in improved healthcare in the area of chronic conditions<sup>30</sup>.

#### *The Health System Strengthening Project*

In February 2024, a collaborative effort between the Government of Saint Lucia, the Caribbean Development Bank (CBD) and the InterAmerican Bank (IDB) launched a project aimed at increasing the public healthcare capacity. This 4-year USD 22 million project will focus on the existing gaps in the healthcare system and the introduction of key initiatives aimed at improving detection rates and monitoring facilities. Ultimately, this project will result in a reduction in the transmission of illnesses<sup>31</sup>.

#### *The Universal Health Coverage Survey*

In 2022, the Government of Saint Lucia, through the Ministry of Health, launched a survey to inform the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Project. The survey collected key information from the national population to ensure the UHC will be accessible, affordable and inclusive<sup>32</sup>.

#### *Performance-Based Financing Pilot Project for Healthcare*

This patient-centered initiative under the Ministry of Health will facilitate enhanced healthcare in the area of NCDs. Patients will play an important role in their own healthcare as the project encourages client engagement and empowerment in the management and treatment of their diseases through active discourses and demonstrations. Health and wellness centers will receive budgetary allocations based on the adoption of a performance-based financing system and the

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30 <https://thevoiceslu.com/2025/04/ministry-of-health-takes-bold-steps-in-chronic-disease-prevention-and-control/>

31 <https://stluciatimes.com/161568/2024/02/us5-22-million-project-to-boost-saint-lucia-health-care/>

32 <https://health.govt.lc/news/government-to-launch-universal-health-coverage-survey>

performance of key indicators. This pilot project will improve healthcare based on patient needs and will facilitate data collection<sup>33</sup>.

#### *Saint Jude Hospital Reconstruction Project*

The Saint Jude's Hospital, one of Saint Lucia's two public hospitals, was damaged by fire in 2009. Subsequently, operations were transferred to the retrofitted George Odlum National Stadium. The reconstruction of Saint Jude's Hospital will significantly enhance the island's healthcare infrastructure and improve access to quality medical services, especially to residents of the South of the island. In September 2024, the Government of Saint Lucia and the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) signed contracts for the completion of the project which is currently being undertaken by Saint Lucian firms and Saudi Arabian construction firms<sup>34</sup>.

#### 5.4.3. Saint Lucia's Scorecard on SDG 3 Targets

	Target met/ likely to be met by 2030.
	Fair progress/ acceleration needed.
	Limited progress
	No data available

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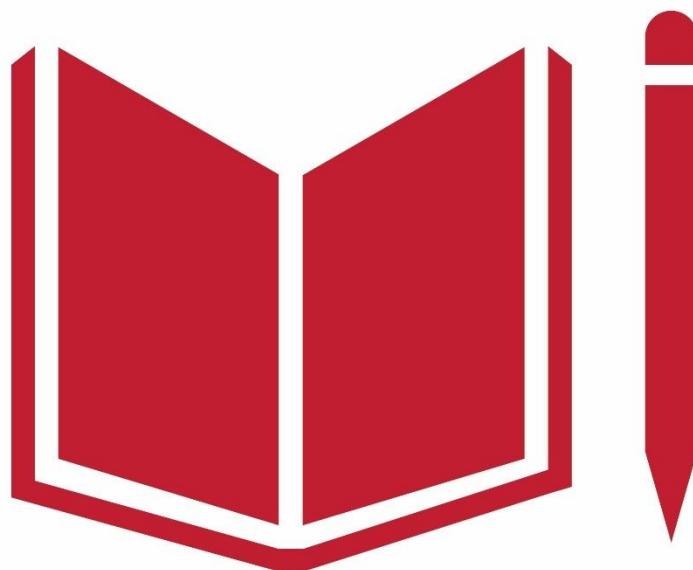
<sup>33</sup> [https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2024/02/09/saint-lucia-s-quest-to-reduce-hypertension-and-diabetes -through-performance-based-financing](https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2024/02/09/saint-lucia-s-quest-to-reduce-hypertension-and-diabetes-through-performance-based-financing)

<sup>34</sup> Government of Saint Lucia signs contracts to complete reconstruction of St. Jude Hospital <https://health.govt.lc/news/government-of-saint-lucia-signs-contracts-to-complete-reconstruction-of-st-jude-hospital>

Targets – SDG 3 – Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-Being For All At All Ages	Saint Lucia's Progress
By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.	
By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age.	
By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.	
By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.	
Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.	
By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.	
By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.	
Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.	
By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.	
Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate.	
Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in	

accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all.	
Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States.	
Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.	

# 4 **QUALITY EDUCATION**





## SDG GOAL 4

### Quality Education

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#### 5.5. SDG Goal 4- Quality Education

##### 5.5.1. Overview

One of the key elements in promoting social and human capital resilience is the promotion of quality education. Saint Lucia's education sector is characterized by public and private institutions at the early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Education in the public system is free and compulsory education starts at age five (5). Saint Lucia has achieved universal primary and secondary education. Additionally, the education system also comprises mechanisms to support disadvantaged students. Financial support is available for students and their families in the form of the Book Bursary Programme and the University Programme for Advancing Student Success (Uni Pass) Initiative.

In Saint Lucia, the Government, through the Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training, has made advancements in the provision of quality education from the early childhood to tertiary levels. There have also been advancements in the area of special needs education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). Despite the advancements with respect to SDG 4, the Government recognises that areas such as enrolment rates at the pre-school level, inadequate resources for TVET, low pass rates at the CSEC level and a disconnect between education qualifications and labour market requirements, needs more attention.

The Government of Saint Lucia increased the allocation to the education sector in 2022/2023 to EC\$202.7 million. This increase was also observed in the allocation for special needs education which amounted to EC \$4.9 million in 2022/ 2023, while during that same period, expenditure on public tertiary education decreased to EC \$17.5 million<sup>35</sup>. In the medium-term, the Government will prioritise the expansion of the School Safety Net Programme, advance the 'one university student per household' initiative, expand pre-k classes and expand offerings at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College.

This review synthesizes progress on SDG 4: Quality Education during the period 2018 to 2024.

### 5.5.2. Education Policies and Frameworks

#### *The Education Bill 2024*

The 2024 Education Bill revises the existing Education Act of 2005. This Bill proposes extensive additions aimed at enhancing Saint Lucia's education sector. The additions include the extension of the compulsory age for education to 3 and 4 years, the creation of an early childhood education programme and additional support mechanisms for special needs students.

#### *The Special Needs Education Policy 2024*

- This Policy provides a framework for the provision of quality education to special needs students in Saint Lucia. The objectives of the Policy include:
- to provide equitable treatment to all children in the provision of quality education
- to ensure that Special Education Needs is recognised as an integral part of the education system
- to ensure that all children who need educational support are provided with such support at every school and by every teacher<sup>36</sup>.

The Department of Education will implement the Policy, and an inter-ministerial committee will review and modify strategies to ensure flexibility and diversity.

#### *ICT in Education Policy and Strategy for Saint Lucia 2019–2022*

The ICT in Education Policy and Strategy for Saint Lucia promotes the use of digital technology to create 'quality teaching, learning and administration across the entire education system'<sup>37</sup>. This Policy and Strategy is based on four (4) principles that center on gender equality, student success, accessible and affordable education for all and community development. To promote student success, the Policy focuses on special needs learning, STEM disciplines, TVET and early childhood education.

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<sup>36</sup> Policy Brief, Department of Education Government of St. Lucia National Special Needs Education Policy.

<sup>37</sup> ICT in Education Policy and Strategy for Saint Lucia 2019–2022.

### 5.5.3. Projects, Programmes and other Initiatives

#### *University Programme for Advancing Student Success (Uni Pass) Initiative*

Uni Pass was developed to promote the 'one university student per household' initiative. It seeks to reduce the financial burden on students and their families, lower the cost of attending university and increase the number of students who can afford to attend tertiary institutions. This initiative offers a one-time subvention towards costs associated with Bachelor's level studies.

#### *The Community After School Program (CASP)*

The Community After School Program (CASP) provides a safe learning environment during after-school hours for children. The program, while available to all students, often receives children from disadvantaged communities. CASP is offered at 15 centres island wide, accommodating 30 children per centre. The after-school programme is provided 3 days per week.

#### *The Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC) Initiatives*

The Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, established in 1985, is a tertiary institution in Saint Lucia that offers over 61 programmes across numerous disciplines. In this regard SALCC is a key player in the preparation of the island's young workforce. SALCC partners with other agencies such as CYEN, IICA, Department of Forestry, the Saint Lucia's Manufacturer's Association, OECS and the French Embassy, to improve its delivery and meet current needs of the labour market. The educational programs at SALCC were recently restructured to include a sustainability focus, for instance the circular economy, sustainable business and innovation, and environmental science and sustainable development.

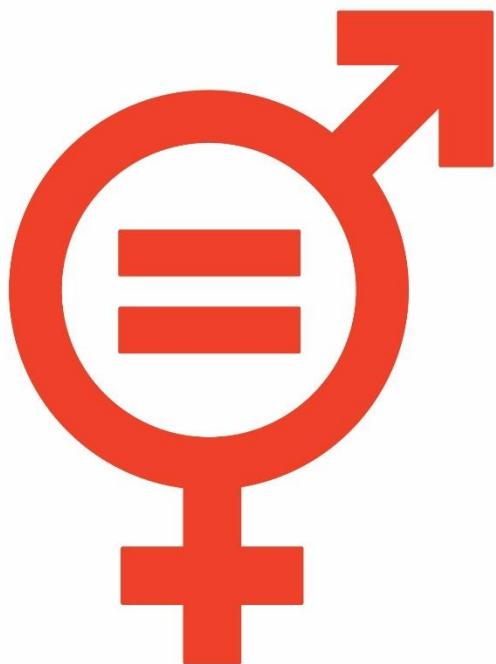
### 5.5.4. Saint Lucia's Scorecard on SDG 4 Targets

	Target met/ likely to be met by 2030.
	Fair progress/ acceleration needed.
	Limited progress
	No data available

Targets – SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Saint Lucia's Progress
By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	
By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.	
By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.	
By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.	
By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.	
By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.	
By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.	
Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.	
By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology,	

<b>Targets – SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</b>	<b>Saint Lucia's Progress</b>
technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.	
By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States.	

# 5 GENDER EQUALITY



**5** GENDER EQUALITY



SDG GOAL 5

Gender Equality

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## 5.6. SDG Goal 5- Gender Equality

### 5.6.1. Overview

The Government of Saint Lucia fully recognizes the importance of gender inclusion and sensitivity in the national development thrust. In fact, Saint Lucia has enhanced its gender-responsive approach to development and this is clearly articulated as a cross-cutting thematic area in the Medium-Term Development Strategy (draft) 2021-2026, along with a gender-inclusive focus in the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Sectoral Adaptation Plans. The Division of Gender Affairs, under the Ministry of the Public Service, Labour and Gender Affairs has a mandate to promote gender equality and empowerment and promotes the theme 'gender on every agenda'. Efforts at the Government level are complemented with the work of international agencies and civil society groups who are working to advance gender inclusivity in Saint Lucia.

One of the main challenges as Saint Lucia advances progress on SDG 5 is limited data availability and inadequate resources to fully pursue gender equality. By the end of 2020, only 29.5% of the indicators required to monitor the SDGs based on a gender perspective were available<sup>38</sup>. Gender disparities exist in areas such as education and employment. Post-secondary enrollment rates are higher for girls compared to boys<sup>39</sup>, while the unemployment rate in the 15 years and over population is higher for females (17.8% compared to 14.3% for males)<sup>40</sup>. 47.7% of women are employed in senior management positions while the proportion of seats held by women in the national parliament is 11.1%<sup>41</sup>. Other data suggests that 24% of women aged 20-24 years were married or in a union before age 18<sup>42</sup>.

The Government acknowledges that more work needs to be done to mainstream gender inclusiveness at all levels in Saint Lucia and remains fully committed to this process. In this regard, priority has been given to the establishment of a 'one-stop centre' to enhance responses to

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<sup>38</sup> UN Women <https://data.unwomen.org/country/saint-lucia>

<sup>39</sup> ECLAC Report of the assessment of the implementation of gender equality frameworks and practices in Saint Lucia

<sup>40</sup> UN Women <https://data.unwomen.org/country/saint-lucia>

<sup>41</sup> UN Women <https://data.unwomen.org/country/saint-lucia>

<sup>42</sup> UN Women <https://data.unwomen.org/country/saint-lucia>

gender-based violence in the medium-term. This will facilitate the creation of a society that provides equal opportunities for all.

This review synthesizes progress on SDG 5: Gender Equality during the period 2018 to 2024.

#### 5.6.2. Gender Inclusive Policies And Frameworks

##### ***Box 4:***

##### ***The Domestic Violence Act of 2022***

Saint Lucia's Domestic Violence Act has been regarded as one of the most progressive in the Caribbean region and represents the Government's coordinated approach to the prevention of domestic violence in all its forms irrespective of gender, marital status and gender orientation, thereby ensuring no person or group is marginalized. In addition to providing protection for all, this Act includes response mechanisms such as clearly defined roles and responsibilities for the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force and healthcare providers. Under the Act, the Minister of Gender Affairs is mandated to provide the necessary support service for survivors of domestic violence.

### 5.6.3. Projects, Programmes And Other Initiatives

**Box 5:  
Gender Focal Points System**

Cabinet, by Conclusion No. 725 of 2022 approved the adoption of a National Gender Focal Point System for Saint Lucia. A Gender Focal Point System is an institutional mechanism that facilitates the mainstreaming of gender in national development and monitors and evaluates the results of public sector initiatives for gender equality outcomes. The focus of the National Gender Focal Point System is to coordinate the mainstreaming of gender in all sectors. It expands the scope of the National Machinery for Gender Equality by ensuring that a Gender Focal Point serves within all Ministries and can influence gender-responsive policy and programming at the Departmental level.

The National Gender Focal Point System consists of Technical Officers from the Department of Gender Affairs and designated Gender Focal Points from Ministries, Departments and Agencies. The System represents all sectors in national development planning and facilitates cross-ministerial planning for gender equality outcomes.

#### *Build Back Equal (BBE) Project*

The Build Back Equal (BBE) Project, jointly implemented by UN Women and UNFPA with funding from Global Affairs Canada, is a four-year initiative running from 2022-2026, focused on boosting women's economic resilience through skills training, access to innovative financing and removing barriers to women's empowerment through improved social protection systems and access to gender violence and Sexual and Reproductive and Health Services. It was developed in response to the gendered impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and is implemented in Saint Lucia in partnership with the Division of Gender Affairs.

In 2024, through the Build Back Equal (BBE) Project, UN Women made significant strides in advancing women's economic empowerment in Saint Lucia including the completion of two key studies: a Feasibility Study on Financing Mechanisms for Gender Equality and a Needs Assessment on Financial Instruments for Women-Owned MSMEs. These will inform the training

of financial institutions on the development of gender-responsive financial products and tailored capacity-building initiatives for MSME owners based on their needs. Additionally, a study on the care economy commenced in 2024, with data collection around elderly care and care for persons with disabilities proposed for 2025, further supporting evidence-based programming.

The project also facilitated training and expanded market access for women entrepreneurs, who showcased their businesses at the Equality Village Marketplace during the Gender Equality Forum at the 4th SIDS Conference in Antigua and Barbuda. With technical support from UN Women under BBE, Saint Lucia has a roadmap to strengthen public assistance programmes through development of a Plan and Strategic Framework that prioritises access to childcare, healthcare, food security, education, skills training, and employment opportunities for women. UN Women, through BBE, also supported Saint Lucia in strengthening coordination mechanisms for national gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response efforts. This culminated in the launch of a National Inter-Agency Task Force for GBV Prevention and Response in December 2024, following a Cabinet decision. Led by the Division of Gender Affairs, the Task Force brings together stakeholders from Government and civil society to coordinate a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to GBV.

#### *National Inter-Agency Task Force for GBV Prevention and Response*

Cabinet, by Conclusion No, 1001 of 2024 approved the establishment of a National Inter-Agency Task Force for Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response. The team comprises representatives from the health, social, education, policing and justice sectors providing GBV specific services. The Task Force meets quarterly to guide, monitor and evaluate the implementation of GBV services and provides oversight; technical support; leadership and coordination; strategic planning; rapid response and advocacy at a national level for GBV prevention and response coordination.

#### *French Embassy: Stop GBV Project in Saint Lucia and the OECS*

The Stop GBV Project in Saint Lucia and the OECS, also called the XGBV project, provides assistance to governmental and civil society institutions to enhance their capacity and effectiveness in addressing Domestic Violence<sup>43</sup>. This follows the passage of the Domestic

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<sup>43</sup> Unite Caribbean <https://unite-caribbean.com/en/portfolio/stepping-up-the-fight-against-gender-based-violence-in-saint-lucia/>

Violence Act No. 11 of 2022. The project is funded by the French Embassy in Saint Lucia and was implemented by Unite Caribbean as a pilot project from 2023 to 2025.

The project included the implementation of a campaign to raise awareness of the provisions contained in the Domestic Violence legislation and supported six (6) non-governmental organizations in implementing grass roots programmes to raise awareness of the DV Act and empower the general public, including men and children on Gender-based Violence.

#### *UN Women- SDG Fund Joint Project*

In 2024, a joint programme to boost financial inclusion for women, youth and small business was launched in Saint Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda<sup>44</sup>. This USD 1.4 million project seeks to optimize innovative finance for underserved groups in beneficiary countries and will adopt a three-pronged approach to increase access to finance solutions and close the gaps to achieve the Global Goals. The project will also seek to strengthen legal and regulatory capabilities in beneficiary countries and promote the use of digital financial services.

#### *UN Women- Spotlight Initiative*

The Spotlight Initiative is a global programme which addresses violence against women. Saint Lucia participates in the Spotlight Initiative as part of the broader Caribbean Regional Programme. Small grant funding was made available to 'Girls of a Feather', a Mentorship and Advocacy group for Adolescent Girls, build institutional capacity and provide digital support for gender-based violence in Saint Lucia <sup>45</sup> under the project 'Expanding Digital Support and Core Competencies in Gender-Based Violence Interventions to Youth-Centred Organisations'. Key outcomes of this project included:

- The completion of a 3-day training programme on trauma-informed approaches attended by 20 specialized and non-specialised agencies,
- scaling-up of telehealth operations to integrate booking systems for clients requesting counselling, over 30 clients accessed telehealth services,

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<sup>44</sup> United Nations <https://easterncaribbean.un.org/en/268552-joint-programme-launched-optimize-innovative-finance-underserved-groups-antigua-barbuda-and>

<sup>45</sup> Girls of a Feather <https://girlsofafeather.org/portfolio/spotlight-initiative-expanding-digital-support-and-core-competencies-in-gender-based-violence-interventions-to-youth-centered-organisations/>

- development of a public service announcement on gender-based violence,
- Development of an online digital directory for gender-based violence service providers.

The Regional Spotlight Initiative team participated in a round table discussion hosted by the OECS in Saint Lucia in 2022. The discussions further advanced gender discourses in Saint Lucia and the region<sup>46</sup>.

*UN Women- Building Effective Resilience and Human Security in the Caribbean<sup>47</sup>*

The joint programme by the FAO, ILO, UN Women and UNDP was launched in 2019 in five (5) Caribbean countries, including Saint Lucia, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Barbados. The project's goal is to facilitate enhanced human security through gender equality and economic empowerment for women in the agriculture and fisheries sectors. The project facilitated policy reform and provided technical support to female farmers and agro-processors.

*UN Women-Psychosocial support during COVID-19<sup>48</sup>*

In 2020, UN Women and the Ministry of Equity, Social Justice and Empowerment provided support to disadvantaged women whose situation has become more severe due to the pandemic. This pilot initiative supported low income, unemployed and low-skilled single mothers through various activities including literacy courses, technical skills and psychosocial support. A key element of this project was the provision of daycare services for mothers to facilitate their participation in project activities.

*Do-Nation Foundation-Gender Equality Initiatives*

The Do-Nation Foundation is a local non-governmental organisation which aims to eradicate social ills in the lives of citizens in Saint Lucia. The Foundation launched the EmpowerHer project in 2025 which deals with two main areas including domestic violence and climate change. This innovative and cross-cutting project highlights the linkages between climate change and gender-based challenges. The project equips young women with knowledge, skills and tools to advocate for climate justice and reduce inequalities and ultimately creates female climate advocacy leaders.

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46 Spotlight Initiative Newsletter

[https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/sites/default/files/publication/Spotlight\\_Newsletter\\_Issue\\_3\\_Final.pdf](https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/sites/default/files/publication/Spotlight_Newsletter_Issue_3_Final.pdf)

47 UNDP <https://www.undp.org/barbados/building-effective-resilience-human-security-caribbean>

48 UN Women Caribbean <https://caribbean.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2021/2/un-women-empowers-25-single-mothers-in-saint-lucia-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

The 'engendering the change by doing your part' initiative was launched in 2024 and aims to promote gender equality and raise awareness at the community level on violence against women and girls. The project facilitates community workshops, education and advocacy events and outreach programs. One initiative under the wider project was aimed at increasing local understanding of domestic violence and the provisions of the Domestic Violence Act of 2022 through the use of animation. This animated video was funded by the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives and the Canadian Government. Another component of the wider project was the launch of a branded advocacy bus, designed to stimulate discourse on the pressing social issue of domestic violence.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS BUS

The SWAG (Smart, Worthy, Ambitious Girls) project, which seeks to empower young women and reduce gender inequalities, was funded by the Government of France, the OECS and Unite Caribbean, and targets young rural women, single teenage mothers and other disadvantaged young women across Saint Lucia. Training is provided in the areas of financial management, leadership, social skills and sports. Since this initiative started in 2024, over 160 young women have graduated from the project.

#### Assisting the Economic Empowerment of Youth and Women Project in Latin America and the Caribbean in the Post COVID-19 Era Project

This multi-faceted project is aimed at maintaining social security and promoting youth and women's economic empowerment. This project is a collaborative effort between the Government of Saint Lucia and the Taiwan ICDF and was initiated in 2021 for a 4-year period. The project provides: i) vocational skills training for youth and women, ii) entrepreneurship incubation and guidance for youth and women and iii) relief guidance for MSME's. The project has seen significant successes including i) 525 youth and women benefitted from training courses on micro-entrepreneurship and 139 proposals submitted, ii) 11 training services in business skills and coaching services for 640 startups, and iii) relief counseling for COVID-19 which provided assistance to 161 startups<sup>49</sup>. In addition to advancing SDG 5 (and Targets 5.1 and 5.5), this

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<sup>49</sup> Taiwan ICDF <https://www.icdf.org.tw/wSite/ct?xItem=72024&ctNode=31541&mp=2>

project also contributes to Saint Lucia's progress on SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth<sup>50</sup>.

*Advancing Sustainable Development through Human Security, Climate Resilience and Women's Empowerment in the Caribbean*

This project was implemented in the Caribbean from 2019 to 2023 by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security with UN Women, FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and RCO acting as implementation agencies. The overall goal of the project was to advance gender responsive development in key economic sectors including agriculture, fishing and related small-business activities. Some specific aims of the project included improving gender-responsive social protection especially for female-headed households and youth, and increased market access and resilience for smallholder farmers and small businesses.

There was a total of 162,000 beneficiaries across the Caribbean and targeted activities in Saint Lucia and four (4) other countries. Key achievements included the provision of support for small-scale sectors, advanced gender-responsiveness and disaster resilience across key sectors, provision of extension services for women and enhanced community resilience through the development of disaster management planning systems.

In addition to advancing SDG 5, this cross-sectoral project targeted SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions<sup>51</sup>.

#### 5.6.4. Saint Lucia's Scorecard on SDG 5 Targets

 Target met/ likely to be met by 2030.
 Fair progress/ acceleration needed.
 Limited progress
 No data available

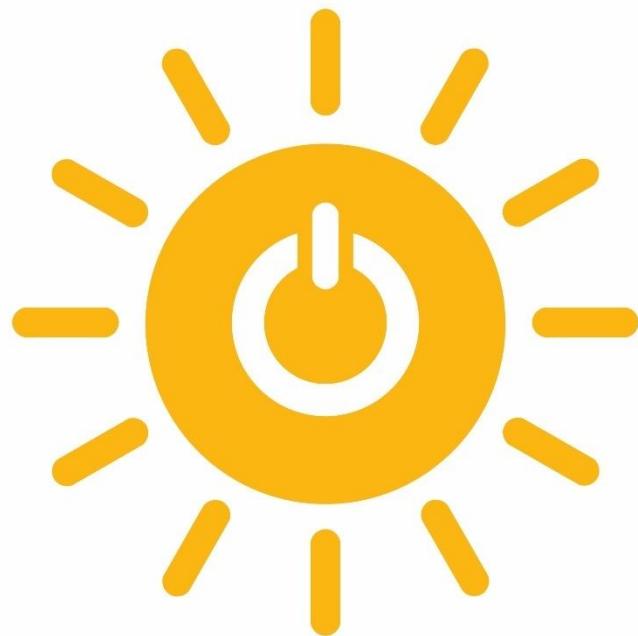
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<sup>50</sup> Taiwan ICDF <https://www.icdf.org.tw/wSite/ct?xItem=69636&ctNode=31573&mp=2>

<sup>51</sup> UN Trust Fund for Human Security [https://www.un.org/humansecurity/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/19-003-Caribbean-Countries-Programme-Summary\\_Achievements\\_7-Aug-2024.pdf](https://www.un.org/humansecurity/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/19-003-Caribbean-Countries-Programme-Summary_Achievements_7-Aug-2024.pdf)

Targets – SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Saint Lucia's Progress
End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.	
Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.	
Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.	
Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.	
Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.	
Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.	
Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.	
Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.	
Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.	

# 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY





## 5.7. SDG Goal 7- Affordable and Clean Energy

### 5.7.1. Overview

The Government of Saint Lucia has embarked on a transformative and ambitious plan for its energy sector and in this regard is advancing progress and commitment to SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. The MTDS 2021-2026 (draft) outlines economic resilience as a main thematic development area, and energy is highlighted as a key focal area. Further, energy as a key element for growth and competitiveness is listed as one of Saint Lucia's seven National Development Pillars. The Energy and Public Utilities Division, under the Ministry of Infrastructure, Ports, Transport, Physical Development and Urban Renewal is the agency responsible for the energy sector in Saint Lucia. The Department is focused on transforming the island's energy sector, facilitating the transition into renewable energy and improving energy efficiency.

Key stakeholders in Saint Lucia's energy sector include Government Agencies, fuel importers, electricity service providers and regulators, and the transportation sector. The island's primary energy supply, which supports these sector stakeholders, is petroleum products (accounting for 92% of primary energy supply)<sup>52</sup>. Only 8% of the energy supply is attributable to renewable energy; however, the Government has recognized the tremendous potential for renewable energy, including solar which is estimated at 36MW, geothermal which is estimated at 680 MW, and wind energy, estimated at 42MW<sup>53</sup>.

The Government's ambitious targets, as it transitions to 50% renewable energy generation, are also integrated in a number of sectors beyond transportation and electricity. The fishing and agricultural sectors, for example, have been targeted for a 10% increase in the number of farmers and fishers using renewable energy<sup>54</sup>. Additionally, Saint Lucia's global commitments under the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) stipulate a 14.7% emissions reduction in the energy and transport sector (relative to 2010 levels) by 2030 and 22% by 2035. This further demonstrates

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52 Saint Lucia National Energy Policy 2020-2030.

53 Saint Lucia National Energy Policy 2020-2030.

54 The Medium Term Development Strategy 2021-2026.

Saint Lucia's commitment to transforming the energy sector and other key sectors as we advance national development.

Saint Lucia's advancements in the energy sector are also contributing to SDG 13: Climate Action as well as SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. This review synthesizes progress on SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy during the period 2018 to 2024.

### *Energy Policies and Frameworks*

The National Energy Policy (NEP) 2023-2030 outlines the country's seven (7) goals for the energy sector by the year 2030, with an overarching vision of a sustainable sector through cost minimization, energy security measures and local enfranchisement. The NEP also has key quantitative indicators as illustrated in **Figure 12**. The Policy's seven goals include:

- Ensure a secure, reliable, affordable, transparent, greener and resilient electricity sector.
- Decarbonize thermal applications.
- Make reduction in energy intensity a key driver of decarbonization.
- Decarbonize the transport sector.
- Ensure a safe, reliable and affordable supply of petroleum products and their efficient and environmentally safe storage, handling and use.
- Ensure that human, technical and institutional capacities are aligned with the needs of the energy sector and policy objectives, by integrating social and gender aspects into energy sector development
- Facilitate access to financing for renewable energy and energy efficiency<sup>55</sup>.

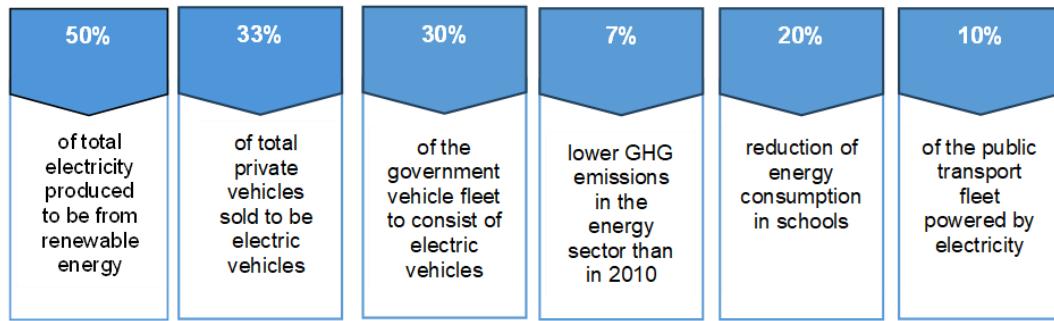
The Policy also encapsulates thirty (30) objectives and is supported by an Action Plan which details one hundred and forty-five actions for implementation and acts as a measure to ensure the energy sector is meeting its targets. The National Energy Policy advances action on SDG 13 Climate Action, SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy, SFG 9 Industry, Innovation and Energy and SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production.

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55 Saint Lucia National Energy Policy 2020-2030.

It is important to note that the NEP also incorporates gender inclusiveness as its objectives promote gender balance in the energy sector through capacity building. Recommendations to ensure the financial sustainability of Saint Lucia's energy transition are also documented.

**Figure 12: National Energy Policy key quantitative indicators**



Source: The Saint Lucia National Energy Policy 2020-2030.

### 5.7.2. Projects, Programmes and other Initiatives

#### *The Renewable Energy Sector Development Project (RESDP)*

The Renewable Energy Sector Development Project is a four-year project, which commenced in 2022, and is funded by several agencies including the World Bank, the UK foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, Canada Clean Energy and Forest Climate Facility, the Clean Technology Fund and the Government of Saint Lucia. The RESDP seeks to explore the feasibility of geothermal energy for power generation in Saint Lucia and enhance the island's policy environment.

This project is being executed under two (2) components; component 1 is the exploratory drilling programme and component 2 is the technical assistance programme. A key element under component 2 is the gender inclusion aspect as women will be provided with education, training and employment opportunities in the energy sector.

*The Caribbean Efficient and Green Energy Buildings Project*

The Caribbean Efficient and Green Energy Buildings Project will focus on reducing energy consumption in public buildings and promoting renewable energy systems. This Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project will be executed by the World Bank in three (3) Caribbean countries with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and will be executed by the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE). The project will result in a decreased dependency on fossil fuels, 150 buildings will be retrofitted to enhance energy efficiency.

*Saint Lucia's Electric Vehicle (EV) Initiative*

The Government of Saint Lucia has further intensified its efforts to enhance energy efficiency and promote sustainability through the use of electric vehicles. Under this initiative, which is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF 7) and the Supporting the implementation of NDCs in the Caribbean – transforming the transport and energy sectors towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient future (NDC-TEC) Project.

At least 20 EVs will be procured for use across 9 MDAs in the first instance. In January 2025, a Shift to Electric Mobility (STEM) validation workshop was held with stakeholders across several sectors. The two projects also support the development of an enabling environment to further the proliferation of EVs, for instance, the creation of transport policies, installing charging infrastructure and green procurement policies. The components of the GEF 7 EV initiative include:

- Institutionalization, through policy development- Sustainable Safe Passenger Mobility Policy/Synergies with overarching Transport Policy
- Demonstration of electric vehicles conducted and new charging infrastructure installed.
- Business models, financial schemes and procurement guidelines for electric vehicle fleets and charging stations
- Updated legislation on end-of-life vehicle management, including electric vehicles and second-life use of their batteries.

NDC TEC has several activities across multiple components to facilitate electric mobility transition including providing support for charging infrastructure, incentive mechanisms, end of life management, policy support, capacity building, awareness raising, and green procurement.

The two projects are being implemented collaboratively to optimize outputs.

This EV shift will also advance progress on SDG 13: Climate Action.

### 5.7.3. Saint Lucia's Scorecard on SDG 7 Targets

	Target met/ likely to be met by 2030.
	Fair progress/ acceleration needed.
	Limited progress
	No data available

Targets - SDG 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Saint Lucia's Progress
By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.	
By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.	
By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.	
By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.	
By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support.	

# 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH





## 5.8. SDG Goal 8- Decent Work and Economic Growth

### 5.8.1. Overview

Building productive capacity and expanding growth opportunities is one of Saint Lucia's seven national development pillars. In this regard, the Government has made substantial progress on SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and has created an environment where people are placed at the center of economic development. Among other sectors, economic development in Saint Lucia is supported by the island's tourism, manufacturing and construction sectors. Between 2023 and 2024, these sectors experienced growth, with the tourism sector experiencing a 16% increase in visitor arrivals and a 17.6% increase in cruise ship arrivals<sup>56</sup>. The Government has also been proactive and progressive in developing support systems for the island's economy from a legislative, policy and fiscal measure perspective.

The Government of Saint Lucia has been largely successful in transforming the island's post-pandemic economy and considering the conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine. In March 2024, the IMF endorsed the economic outlook for the economy, which projects GDP growth of 3.7% for 2024<sup>57</sup>. The prudent fiscal measures to facilitate this growth included responsible debt management, improved revenue collection systems and the use of debt instruments to manage liquidity and meet financing needs. Priorities in the Medium-Term Development Strategy (draft) 2021-2026 will focus on increasing the share of locally produced goods and services, increased funding to MSMEs in high growth sectors and promoting entrepreneurship culture in Saint Lucia<sup>58</sup>.

The Government has placed youth at the center of the country's economic development thrust as reflected in the creation of the Youth Economy Act of 2022 and the subsequent creation of the Youth Economy Agency. Youth economic development has also been bolstered through several initiatives with private sector and international agencies. The Government has also prioritized

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56 Saint Lucia Economic and Social Review 2024.

57 Bank of Saint Lucia <https://www.bankofsaintlucia.com/blogs/imf-endorses-st-lucia-s-economic-growth-of-3-7>.

58 The Medium-Term Development Strategy (draft) 2021-2026.

MSME development and support via MSME loan grant facilities and the Small Business Development Center. Further approaches to ensure economic development for all are reflected in the Government's stance to introduce a new national minimum wage of EC\$6.25 per hour in 2024. This first ever minimum liveable wage regulations affected over 13,000 Saint Lucian workers and resulted in an increase in monthly pension payments to EC \$500.00 for NIC pensioners and EC \$725 for government pensioners.

This review synthesizes progress on SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth during the period 2018 to 2024.

#### **5.8.2. Legislative Frameworks for Economic Growth**

##### *The Youth Economy Act No. 17 of 2022*

Saint Lucia is the first country in the Caribbean to develop legislation for the youth economy. The Act provides young people an economic space to turn hobbies into entrepreneurship and skills into businesses, through the provision of state funding and resources. The Act also establishes the Youth Economy Agency, its Board of Directors, the revenue of the Agency and establishes the Youth Economy Programme.

**Box 8:**

***Youth Economy Agency (YEA)***

The Youth Economy Agency was established by the Youth Economy Act No. 17 of 2022 and provides youth between the ages of 18-35 with an avenue for income generation. Additionally, the Youth Economy Agency ensures equal opportunities for both young men and women in entrepreneurship by providing access to funding, training and mentorship for youth-led MSMEs. In this regard, the Agency is not only advancing progress on SDG 8, but also on SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities.

The Agency comprises two Departments, the Training Department and the Business Development Department. The Training Department provides business planning and digital skills training. Moreover, young persons can receive hands-on learning experiences and mentorship, and acquire training in ethical business practices and community engagement. The Business Development Department provides guidance and financing for young entrepreneurs interested in launching or expanding their businesses, innovative start-ups, youth-led businesses that require tailored financial solutions and investment support and youth-led companies aiming to enhance their operations and market positioning.

The Youth Economy Agency currently supports six (6) areas including agriculture, the arts, technology, services, sports and wellness and production/ manufacturing. By the end of 2024 (just over a year of operation), a total of 1,153 grants were awarded to youth-led organisations and businesses amounting to approximately EC \$4.5 million<sup>1</sup>. The Youth Economy Agency promotes 'leaving no one behind' in economic development. The Agency actively supports rural youth and marginalized youth by providing an avenue for integration and sustainable development.

### 5.8.3. Projects, Programmes and other Initiatives

#### *MSME Loan Grants*

The Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprise (MSME) is an EC \$10 million Loan-Grant Facility intended to provide post pandemic to local businesses. Following the pandemic, the MSME Loan-Grant Facility was restructured to 70% grant, 30% loan and the second call for applications was made in April 2024. This Facility is available through the Small Business Development Center under the Ministry of Commerce, Manufacturing, Business Development, Cooperatives and Consumer Affairs. Applicants must be between the ages of 31 and 60.

Eligible MSME's include those in the areas of agriculture, agro-tourism and services, manufacturing and creative industries. New businesses can receive up to EC\$ 10,000.00, while businesses in existence for no more than two years can qualify for up to EC \$20,000 in funding. Businesses in existence for over two years can access up to EC \$25,000. The Facility also provides additional support in the area of business plan development.

#### *The Micro Business Game (MBG)*

The 'Know your numbers through Micro Business Game' is an initiative of the Ministry of Commerce, Manufacturing, Business Development, Cooperatives, and Consumer Affairs in collaboration with the Saint Lucia Hospitality and Tourism Association (SLHTA). This unique approach to financial literacy involves workshops which introduce participants to entrepreneurship and business skills via a board game medium that simulates managing a small business. This initiative is designed for Secondary School students, in forms 4 and 5, and it is designed to help students track their finances and promote sound financial decision-making. Ten (10) students from six (6) secondary schools participated in this initiative in November 2024, with the next installment scheduled for later this year.

#### *Generation of Employment through Private Sector Development (GEPSED)*

The GEPSED project was launched in 2023 by the Government of Saint Lucia in collaboration with the European Union, who provided a grant to the tune of EC \$16.8 million. This project provides occupational skills training programmes for unemployed and vulnerable youth, and also provides financial assistance for micro, small or medium-scale business ventures.

Occupational skills training for more than 600 participants will be facilitated by the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, Monroe College, Saint Lucia Hospitality and Tourism Association Training Academy, National Skills Development Centre, Centre for Adolescent Renewal and Education (CARE), and the School of Art and Design. Following formal occupational training, participants will undergo job training in private sector institutions for a minimum of 3 months.

This initiative aligns with several SDGs including SDG 4: Quality Education as it expands vocational training and technical skills development; SDG 5: Gender Equality by ensuring workforce inclusivity, particularly for women and marginalized groups, and SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure by encouraging private sector engagement in workforce development.

*Integrated Ecosystems Management and Restoration of Forests on the South East Coast of Saint Lucia Project (SECP)*

Under implementation over the last few years, the SECP project aims to enable the sustainable economic development of the South East Coast by maintaining healthy ecosystems, sustainable livelihoods and securing global environmental benefits. This objective will be achieved through three components, namely; Ecosystems Management-to establish effective ecosystems management solutions; Rehabilitated landscapes-rehabilitation and further protection of degraded landscapes to improve mechanisms for land use planning and collaborative decision making and Sustainable Livelihoods-investing in working with communities to support sustainable natural resource based livelihoods. The project has invested consistently in gender responsive capacity building support to local communities and unemployed youth on the South East Coast of the island, in an attempt to enhance skills and foster entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods. Fifty-five (55) young unemployed community residents made up of forty (45) women and ten (10) men with support from the project were trained in culinary arts with a focus on the use of local agricultural produce in local cuisine. Twenty two (22) agro-processors in food safety and handling. The trained group comprised five (5) men and seventeen (17) women. Five (5) farmers who had received training in vanilla production were later provided with fifty vanilla trees and 2 communal plots of land on which the vanilla trees would be planted. This will greatly assist the farmers to generate a steady source of income.

The project has identified three (3) agro-processing groups, one eco-tourism enterprise, one community tourism facility, one agro-processor, and two sea moss farmers associations for supply

of solar dryers and PV and solar panels. This will result in reduced energy costs for these entrepreneurs and contribute to improved economic well-being.

*The Small Business Development Centre (SBDC)*

The Ministry of Commerce, Manufacturing, Business Development, Cooperative and Consumer Affairs, through the Small Business Development Centre offers support for the development of the Micro and Small Enterprise (MSE) sector in Saint Lucia. The Centre's core mission is to provide consulting, training, financing and market research solutions for businesses to become globally competitive.

One initiative offered by the Small Business Development Centre is work experience and skills training for youth. The SBDC YEA initiative is a two-year internship programme held during the July-August vacation period. Secondary School students gain hands-on work experience with business enterprises in Saint Lucia and training that will equip them with the skills required to set up their own businesses. The 2024 cohort included 96 graduates from Secondary Schools across the island. More than 56 local businesses were involved in the 2024 training programme.

*The Morne Layby Redevelopment Project*

The Morne Layby Scenic Point is a popular tourism destination in Saint Lucia that houses several concessionaires and supports the tourism sector. The Government of Saint Lucia upgraded this landmark, and the space now includes longer viewing decks, storage units, refurbished restroom facilities and improved parking. This facility also caters to the differently abled with wheelchair access and will house vendors, of whom more than 90% are female entrepreneurs. This project was recently completed and will advance SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth by providing a physical space for livelihood generation and will also advance SDG 5: Gender Equality.



*The Saint Lucia Manufacturers' Association (SMA)*

The Saint Lucia Manufacturers' Association is a private sector entity that provides support to its members in the advancement of the manufacturing sector. The Association has over 70 members and provides support in the areas of product testing to meet international standards, access to finance and bookkeeping training. The Association partners with several Government Agencies including the Bureau of Standards and Export Saint Lucia. The SMA is involved in a number of projects that advance SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10: Responsible Consumption and Production and SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. Additionally, the SMA is involved in a mentorship programme where Secondary School students acquire paid on-the-job training experience during the July-August holiday period.

The SMA recently initiated an on-the-job training for businesses whereby their employees can gain TVET certification. Additionally, the Association initiated a CDB funded project which awards HACCP certification (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) for large, medium and small businesses. To facilitate the advancement of the manufacturing sector, the Association was able to negotiate with the Government of Saint Lucia to amend the Tourism Act, thereby mandating hotel operators to buy local goods. The SMA has been involved with a 'pilot' recycling project with REPLAST from Guadeloupe. This project, which will include an ISO certification component, will nurture small businesses across the island.

*Community Business Revitalization Project*

This project is a collaborative effort between the Government of Saint Lucia and the Taiwan ICDF to extend the outcome of the "Post-pandemic Latin America and the Caribbean Economic Recovery and Women's Empowerment project". Under this initiative, the Ministry of Commerce will build up a local industry facilitation system to revitalize the local economy by accelerate each district MSMEs Operations. Additionally, regional brands and promotion will be developed and local marketing capabilities will be strengthened. This project advances Target 8.9 by creating jobs and promoting local culture and products. By the end of 2024, several activities including five (5) community management training courses, and three (3) regional exhibitions travel tours were completed<sup>59</sup>.

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59 Taiwan ICDF <https://www.icdf.org.tw/wSite/ct?xItem=70206&ctNode=31541&mp=2>

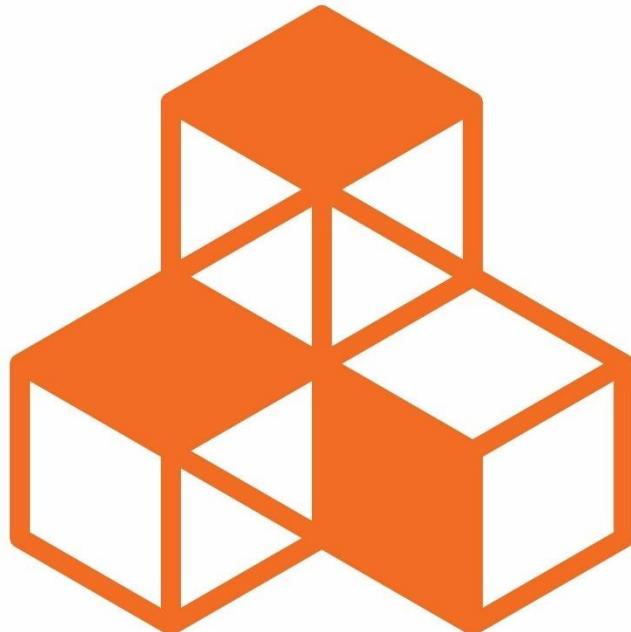
## 5.8.4. Saint Lucia's Scorecard on SDG 8 Targets

	Target met/ likely to be met by 2030.
	Fair progress/ acceleration needed.
	Limited progress
	No data available

Targets - SDG 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	Saint Lucia's Progress
Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 percent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries.	
Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labor-intensive sectors.	
Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro- small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	
Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation , in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead.	
By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and people living with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.	
By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training	
Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the	

Targets - SDG 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	Saint Lucia's Progress
worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.	
Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.	
By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.	
Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.	
Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries.	
By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organisation.	

# 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE





## 5.9. SDG Goal 9- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

### 5.9.1. Overview

The Government of Saint Lucia is taking decided actions to facilitate a culture of innovation, promote sustainable industrialization and increase access to information for all. Industry, connectivity and energy as a critical measure for growth and competitiveness, is one of Saint Lucia's seven national development pillars. The management of the island's infrastructure is generally shared among three Government Agencies: the Department of Infrastructure, Ports and Transport, the Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority (SLASPA) and the National Integrated Planning and Programme Unit (NIPP).

Saint Lucia's infrastructural landscape has seen major developments in recent years with the expansion of berthing accommodation at the Castries Port and the redevelopment of the Hewanorra International Airport. New infrastructural upgrades in the medium-term will be focused on an investment in excess of EC\$2 billion in roads, air and seaports, water and energy. The Government will also work to enhance energy efficiency in government buildings and expand the existing road network.<sup>60</sup> Challenges in the infrastructure sector; limited financial capital for major developmental projects, outdated and inadequate legislative frameworks, and the high cost of electricity, have affected progress on Goal 9.

The Government of Saint Lucia views the use and integration of technology as a tool to accelerate national development. In this regard, efforts towards the adoption of technology extend to sectors such as agriculture, through measures outlined in the Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the Agriculture Sector. The education, transportation and health sectors will also see an acceleration in the use of technology. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Saint Lucia has the potential to become a key economic sector in the future. As such, the Government is currently in the process of developing a Science, Technology and Innovation Policy.

This review synthesizes progress on SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Energy during the period 2018 to 2024.

### 5.9.2. Projects, Programmes and other Initiatives

#### *The Orbtronics Innovation Hub*

This Innovation Hub was launched in March 2025 by three (3) Saint Lucian entrepreneurs and seeks to provide a space for technology enthusiasts to develop new ideas. The longer-term vision for the Hub is to support the creation of high quality specialized and localized technology for use by Government Agencies and other stakeholders in Saint Lucia. The Orbtronics Innovation Hub was made possible due to an EC\$500,000 Government budgetary allocation in 2024/ 2025<sup>61</sup>.

#### *The Caribbean Digital Transformation Project (CARDTP)*

The CARDTP project aims to increase digital connectivity across five participating Caribbean countries including Saint Lucia. This project, which was launched in 2020, is funded by the World Bank and executed by the OECS Commission. The project includes three (3) components including 1. creating a digital enabling environment, 2. creating digital government infrastructure and services and 3. adoption of digital skills and technology. The project will also result in increased access to digital services by the public and facilitate job creation.

#### *Invest Saint Lucia*

Invest Saint Lucia is a state agency charged with the responsibility for managing investment promotion and facilitation. Invest Saint Lucia supports three key sectors: tourism, global business outsourcing and manufacturing<sup>62</sup>. The manufacturing and agro-processing sectors have been supported through various initiatives which facilitate growth and expansion and contribute to advancing the country's global competitiveness for trade, investment and industrialization.

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61 Caribbean Tech Hub <https://stluciatimes.com/170060/2025/04/from-ivy-leagues-to-island-innovation-saint-lucian-trio-launches-caribbean-tech-hub/>

62 Invest Saint Lucia <https://investstlucia.com/key-sectors/manufacturing/>

*ICT Capacity building Project*

The 4-year 'Application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Digital Capacity Building' Project was launched in 2023 with an aim to develop ICT capabilities in Saint Lucia. The project is a collaboration between the Government of Saint Lucia and the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) with the Ministries of Education and Public Service serving as the executing agencies. The project will result in a) an increased capacity for ICT training, b) 1,440 persons trained in ICT per year, and c) a 54% increase in ICT training offered by private and public sector agencies.

*Towards Integrating Research and Innovation into Sustainable Development processes in Saint Lucia*

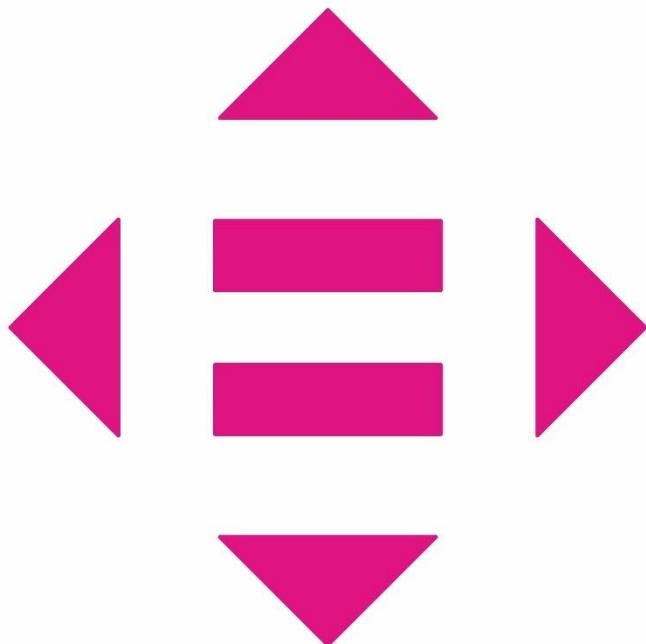
In 2020, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) hosted a 1-day symposium as part of a series of activities within the Knowledge Fair 2020/ 2021. This symposium brought together various stakeholders from Government agencies, civil society, youth groups, the scientific community and academia, to discuss the importance of research and innovation in fostering national development in Saint Lucia.

#### 5.9.3. Saint Lucia's Scorecard on SDG 9 Targets

	Target met/ likely to be met by 2030.
	Fair progress/ acceleration needed.
	Limited progress
	No data available

Targets - SDG 9 - Build Resilient Infrastructure, Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and Foster Innovation	Saint Lucia's Progress
Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.	
Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries.	
Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.	
By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.	
Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending.	
Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.	
Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities.	
Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020.	

# 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES





## 5.10. SDG Goal 10- Reduced Inequalities

### 5.10.1. Overview

The Government of Saint Lucia has prioritized social and human capital resilience in national developmental efforts. This strategy for enhancing social resilience is based on the fundamental pillars of social reform, social equity and cohesion, and safe communities as reflected in the Medium-Term Development Strategy (draft) 2021-2026. As a Small Island Developing State, social disparities can be made more severe due to climate hazards, natural disasters and the impacts of climate change. In this regard, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) takes into account these realities as the Government institutes measures to improve climate resilience. Furthermore, the expanding vulnerable population has also faced the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the last few years.

Citizens in Saint Lucia have access to social infrastructure, with the capital Castries, having the highest concentration of health facilities, police and fire stations. Social protection is also widely available to all citizens as the Government has prioritized the development and expansion of policies to promote social security, wage protection, foreign direct investment and economic growth. Specific interventions by Government Agencies and civil society organisations target persons with disabilities providing economic opportunities that reduce social inequalities to facilitate no one being left behind. At the Government level, while there are others, the Ministry of Equity, Social Justice and Empowerment and the Saint Lucia Social Development Fund are the lead agencies which address social inequalities through a number of programmes and initiatives.

This review synthesizes progress on SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities during the period 2018 to 2024.

### 5.10.2. Social Protection Policies

The new National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) 2022-2030 demonstrates the Government's adoption of a people-centered approach to addressing social issues prevalent in society. The NSPP prescribes numerous social protection measures around four (4) priority areas. These priority areas include:

- Harmonization of stakeholder initiatives within the social protection system and, through capacity-building, improve service delivery.
- Strengthening of interventions geared toward protection and equity.
- Strengthening of preventative interventions while mainstreaming adaptive social protection and capacity building.
- Develop, review and strengthen institutional, financial and legal frameworks for enhanced transformation in the social sector.

The NSPP specifically targets ten (10) groups including:

- persons living in poverty including the young and elderly
- workers in the public and private sectors who are at risk of social deprivations
- workers in the informal sectors who are at risk of social deprivations
- orphans, abandoned children and child labourers
- persons who have no capacity to earn an income
- unemployed persons who are at risk
- persons with severe disabilities and/or from low-income households
- disaster-affected persons
- marginalized and vulnerable migrants from OECS Contingent Rights Protocol Member States
- homeless persons.

The NSPP is multi-faceted and, in addition to addressing SDG 10: Reduced Social Inequalities, it also advances SDG 1: No Poverty and SDG 5: Gender Equality.

### 5.10.3. Projects, Programmes and other Initiatives

#### *The Saint Lucia Social Development Fund (SSDF)*

The Saint Lucia Social Development Fund (SSDF) was developed to streamline social support service delivery in Saint Lucia. The SSDF's core mandate is to ensure the delivery of basic services to marginalized and disadvantaged communities across the island in keeping with its

core values of transparency, gender equity, community strengthening, sustainability, technical and financial soundness and beneficiary participation. Four (4) key social programs are highlighted:

- *The Education Assistance Programme*
  - provides support to economically disadvantaged families in the area of education.
- The Housing Assistance Programme
  - in collaboration with the European Union and the Government of Saint Lucia, this programme provides assistance to persons, including the elderly, persons with disabilities and persons affected by disaster, who are faced with poor living conditions.
- Our Boys Matter
  - This pilot program explores avenues to reduce the school dropout rate in the male population and keep young boys and men engaged in education programs.
- Koudmein Ste Lucie
  - this project is designed to provide psych-social support to disadvantaged families across Saint Lucia.

#### *The Ministry of Equity, Social Justice and Empowerment Social Programs*

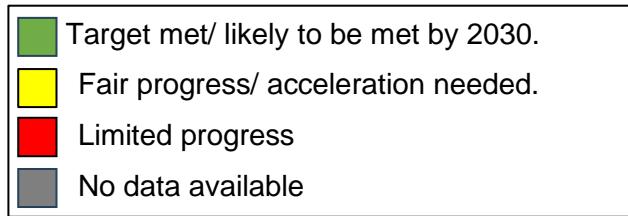
The Ministry of Equity is engaged in a number of programmes that provide social assistance. These include:

- The Public Assistance Project PAP
  - a cash transfer grant which can be accessed through the successful completion of an eligibility grant (SLNET test).
- The Burial Grant
  - this grant provides funds for the burial of family members and is available to persons currently receiving public assistance
- The Child Disability Grant
  - this is a universal grant that provides \$200 per month (up to the age of 21 years) for the child with disabilities.

The Division of Human Services and Family Affairs, under the Ministry of Equity Social Justice and Empowerment, also provides additional specialized social support for disadvantaged children. The New Beginnings Transit Home acts as a temporary residence for child abuse victims between the ages of 2-16 years. The Home also works closely with the National Foster Care and

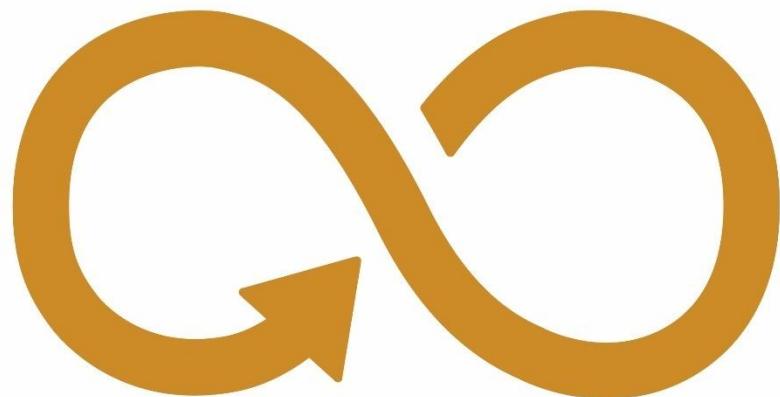
Adoption Services. The Uptown Girls Gardens Centre (non-residential) supports young women in the areas of academic improvement and interpersonal development. The Centre offers two programs ranging in duration from 6 months to 2 years for young women between the ages of 12-18 years. The Boys Training Centre (BTC) acts as a rehabilitation and detention centre for boys in conflict and those requiring care and protection. The BTC offers a range of services from technical and vocational programs to agriculture and sporting, thus providing a safe environment for personal development and transformation.

#### 5.10.4. Saint Lucia's Scorecard on SDG 10 Targets



Targets - SDG 10 – Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries	Saint Lucia's Progress
By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average.	
By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.	
Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.	
Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.	
Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations.	
Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions.	
Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.	
Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organisation agreements.	
Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes.	
By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.	

# 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION





## SDG GOAL 12

## Responsible Consumption and Production

## 5.11. SDG Goal 12- Responsible Consumption and Production

## 5.11.1. Overview

The Government of Saint Lucia has made significant advancements in the promotion of responsible consumption and production patterns. The Medium-Term Development Strategy (draft) 2021-2026 highlights responsible consumption as a cross-cutting developmental theme. The Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority is responsible for waste management and has initiated and expanded its projects to improve efficiency and safeguard public health and environmental quality. Other Agencies also play a critical role in waste management; the Department of Sustainable Development, under the Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training, supports these efforts by coordinating initiatives related to hazardous wastes and directly overseeing the management of ozone depleting substances.

Waste Collection systems in Saint Lucia are considered effective and efficient, with 57.3% of households on average relying on roadside disposal methods<sup>63</sup>. Other methods of waste disposal include assembly points (38.2%), communal bins (6.4%), composting (1.2%), burning (1.5%) and dumping (0.2%). In 2019, 4.2% of the national budget was allocated to waste management<sup>64</sup>. The Government has also enacted new legislative frameworks and reinforced its commitment to the environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals and waste by acceding to the Minamata Convention on Mercury during the reporting period and remains a party to other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in the chemicals and waste cluster. To strengthen policy development, Saint Lucia completed a National Plastic Waste Quantification and Sectorial Material Flow Analysis in 2020, providing critical data to inform waste management strategies. Despite these efforts and successful outcomes, numerous challenges persist. Saint Lucia's most significant challenges are due to a small size, which limits land availability for landfills, an increasing population and budgetary constraints.

<sup>63</sup> Saint Lucia Population and Housing Census 2022.

<sup>64</sup> Plastic Waste National Level Quantification and Sectorial Material Flow Analysis Saint Lucia National Report. 2021.

This review synthesizes progress on SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production during the period 2018 to 2024.

#### 5.11.2. Legislative and Policy Frameworks for Waste Management

Prior to 2018, legislative frameworks governing waste management in Saint Lucia included the Waste Management Act of 2004. The policy framework was guided by the National Environmental Policy and its accompanying National Environmental Management Strategy (2004).

#### *National Environment Policy (NEP) and National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS)*

The National Environment Policy (NEP) and National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS) was developed in 2004 by the Government of Saint Lucia with support from the OECS. The NEP and NEMS are complementary as the NEP provides the overarching framework for environmental management and establishes linkages with policy frameworks and programmes across relevant economic and social development sectors in Saint Lucia. The NEMS provides key strategies and necessary actions to facilitate effective policy implementation.

The goal of the NEP is to ensure environmentally sustainable development within economic, social and cultural dimensions. The NEP sets out a suite of complementary interventions including:

- Maintain the diversity of ecosystems, species and genes.
- Maintain and enhance the natural productivity of ecosystems and ecological processes.
- Optimise the contribution of natural and environmental resources to the production and trade of economic goods and services.
- Optimise the contribution of natural and environmental resources to social and cultural development.
- Prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of environmental change and natural disasters.
- Maintain and enhance the contribution of the environment to human health.
- Fulfil regional and international responsibilities.

The NEMS provides a strategic approach to ensuring the implementation of the interventions set out in the NEP and prescribes seven (7) main cross-cutting strategies. This strategy acts as a practical work plan for implementation over a five (5) year period.

*The Styrofoam and Plastic Food Service Containers (Prohibition) Act No. 22 of 2019*

This legislation prohibits the use, sale, manufacture, distribution and importation of all single-use Styrofoam and select single-use plastic food service containers. The enactment of this legislative framework supports Government efforts to reduce consumption and promote the use of sustainable alternatives.

*The Marine Litter Management Action Plan (ML-MAP) 2022*

This Action Plan, developed under the guidance of the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) and the Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority (SLSWMA), was funded by the European Union and implemented via by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The ML-MAP has an overarching objective to reduce the impacts of marine litter on human health and marine ecosystems through the effective control of all sources of marine pollution. The four (4) objectives of ML-MAP will be achieved under five (5) pillars and these include:

- **Pillar 1:** Strengthen the Enabling Waste Management Policy and Regulatory Framework
- **Pillar 2:** Waste Minimisation
- **Pillar 3:** Cleanup Campaigns
- **Pillar 4:** Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement
- **Pillar 5:** Environmental Education and Behavioral Change.

*International Conventions*

Saint Lucia is signatory to several international and regional conventions which further strengthen national efforts regarding waste management. These conventions include:

- the Minamata Convention on Mercury (accession in 2019)

- the Cartagena Convention and the Land-Based Sources of Pollution (LBS) Protocol (ratified in 2013)
- the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (ratified in 2002)
- the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from ships (MARPOL) (ratified in 1998)
- the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal (The Basel Convention) (ratified in 1993)
- the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (ratified in 1985)

#### **5.11.3. Projects, Programmes and other Initiatives**

##### *The Derelict Vehicle Management Programme*

The Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority and the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force (Community Policing Unit) initiated the Derelict Vehicle Removal Programme in 2017 as a measure to improve public health, environmental management and safety. In 2024 this initiative was expanded as local processors were brought on board to export some of the vehicles for recycling. To date more than 277 derelict vehicles have been removed.

##### *The Waste Oil Management Initiative*

This circular economy initiative repurposes spent oils as an alternative fuel in industrial boilers and is a collaborative effort with the Saint Lucia Distillers and the Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority.

##### *The Recycle Organics Home Composting Programme*

This initiative was launched in October 2024 under the Recycle Organics Programme funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada. In an effort to foster climate resilience at the community level, over 200 composting kits were distributed to six pilot communities in Saint Lucia. Other elements of this initiative include training for monitoring personnel and the geotagging of the compost bins.

*The Plastic Waste Free Islands Project*

The Plastic Waste Free Islands (PWFI) project is a global initiative that sought to address plastic leakage in SIDS and make a substantial reduction in plastic waste generation. The project was implemented in 6 SIDS: 3 in the Caribbean and 3 in the Pacific. In the Caribbean, the project was being implemented by the IUCN-ORMACC, along with the Caribbean Tourism Organisations (CTO) and the OECS. The project sought to achieve two (2) outcomes including an increased knowledge of waste generation, measurable increases in policy effectiveness to reduce the generation of plastic waste and adoption of measures to reduce plastic leakages in the tourism, fisheries and waste management sectors.

The first outcome of this project was the completion of a National Level Quantification of Plastic Waste and Sectorial Material Flow Analysis in 2022. Another outcome of the project was the creation of economically viable products, such as furniture made from recyclable plastics and treatment solutions for non-recyclable polymers. The project also involved local businesses in developing local technologies to produce products and the sourcing of equipment to manufacture these products from recyclable plastics.

The Project has transitioned to the Closing the Caribbean Plastic Tap Project.

*The Closing the Plastic Tap Initiative*

The 'Closing the Plastic Tap' Initiative is designed to support a reduction in plastic waste generation over a 3-year period in Caribbean SIDS. The initiative is being carried out in 5 Caribbean countries and is part of the wider IUCN initiative to 'Close the Plastic Tap' around the world. The project seeks to achieve 4 outcomes including identifying solutions for both recyclable and non-recyclable polymers, advancing legislative frameworks for plastic management at national and regional levels, and understanding the island's plastic footprint.

This initiative is executed by the IUCN and has a budget of 2 million Euros. The Government of Italy is financing this project. This project also incorporates cross-cutting themes such as gender inclusiveness and youth participation by targeting women, youth and community groups.

### *CYEN and Massy Group Recycling Trailer Initiative*

The Massy Recycling trailer is usually located by the Cul-De-Sac branch of Massy; however, every few months, the trailer is moved for a day to be more accessible to the public in other parts of the island. The CYEN Saint Lucia Chapter volunteers assisted the Massy team in collecting and recording the collection of recyclables, when the recycling trailer was moved to different locations. This initiative was conducted on three occasions in 2022 and one occasion in 2023 on Global Recycling Day. This recycling initiative was also conducted in collaboration with the Chemico team, which collected recyclables specific to the Chemico brand.



WASTE SORTING- RECYCLING TRAILER

### *The Common Seas Project*

The UK Government funded Common Seas Project specifically targets plastic pollution through the enhancement of national policy strategies. The Common Seas initiative in Saint Lucia, which was formalized in 2024, is supporting the existing Marine Litter Management Action Plan (ML-MAP) by using the Plastic Drawdown tool to address the country's challenges relating to plastic pollution.

### *Sir Arthur Lewis Community College- Plastics Initiatives Plastic Tide Turners Challenge Programme*

The Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC) Environmental Science students hosted a panel discussion on the theme "Management of single-use plastics in Saint Lucia. Are we doing enough?", as part of the Plastic Tide Turners Challenge (PTTC) Programme in Saint Lucia. This panel discussion was held in May 2023 and participants were able to engage in discussions surrounding the plastic problem in Saint Lucia and the success of initiatives to reduce plastic waste. Youth organisations such as CYEN attended this event. SALCC also hosted a screening of various



VIDEO SCREENING-PTTC PROGRAMME

impactful videos highlighting the issue of plastic pollution as part of the PTTC initiative. Over 100 secondary school students participated in this event and joined in the engaging discussions. CYEN facilitated the question-and-answer segment of the screening.

### *GEF 5558 Project*

The GEF 5558 project, titled "Development & Implementation of a Sustainable Management Mechanism for POPs in the Caribbean," significantly advances multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its focus on reducing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and improving hazardous waste management in Saint Lucia and the wider Caribbean. The project was regional in scope, covering eight (8) countries in the Caribbean, including Saint Lucia. It was approved for implementation by the GEF in May 2015 and closed in November 2023. UNIDO served as the GEF implementing agency and the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean) served as the regional executing agency. At the national level, the Department of Sustainable Development served as the National Executing Agency with the support of a multi-agency National Working Group to support execution. The project successfully laid the groundwork for improved hazardous waste management systems across the Caribbean region. Key activities and outputs/outcomes for Saint Lucia are in highlighted in **Table 6**.

**Table 6. GEF 5558 Project and contribution to SDGs**

SDG	Target	Relevant Indicator	Project Actions
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being	Target 3.9: Reduce illnesses/deaths from hazardous chemicals	3.9.1: Mortality rate from pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Training on POPs detection and safe handling for border control and landfill staff.</li><li>• Replacement of POPs-containing firefighting foams with safer alternatives (1,050 gallons distributed) &amp; training for firemen.</li><li>• Contributes to its reduction by mitigating POPs exposure.</li></ul>

SDG	Target	Relevant Indicator	Project Actions
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	Target 6.3: Improve water quality by reducing chemical pollution.	6.3.2: Proportion of water bodies with good quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water quality monitoring equipment procured</li> <li>Risk assessments of sites potentially contaminated with POPs.</li> <li>Support provided for monitoring POPs in water.</li> </ul>
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	Target 12.4: Environmentally sound chemical/waste management. Target 12.5: Reduce waste generation.	12.4.2: Hazardous waste treated per capita.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design report and tender specifications completed for a Hazardous Waste Storage (HWS) facility. Operations and Maintenance (O&amp;M) Manuals for HWS facility also developed.</li> <li>Composting facility established at Deglos &amp; source segregation strategy developed.</li> <li>Drafting of Model Regional Integrated Chemicals Management Act (customization for Saint Lucia pending).</li> <li>PCB management plans and progress towards establishing hazardous waste storage facilities can assist with tracking progress.</li> </ul>
SDG 15: Life on Land	Target 15.1: Sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.	15.1.2: Proportion of degraded land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 sites potentially contaminated with POPs identified for preliminary risk assessments.</li> <li>Measures to reduce unintentional POPs (uPOPs) emissions from landfills including training and capacity building for landfill staff</li> <li>Equipment procured for detecting brominated flame retardants in waste electrical and electronic equipment (EEE).</li> </ul>

SDG	Target	Relevant Indicator	Project Actions
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals	Target 17.6/17.16: Enhance multi-stakeholder collaboration.	N/A (Qualitative impact).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnerships with UNIDO, BCRC-Caribbean, and national agencies.</li> <li>Regional training and policy harmonization.</li> </ul>

The GEF 5558 project directly contributes to SDGs 3, 6, 12, 15, and 17 by:

- Reducing health and environmental risks from POPs.
- Strengthening waste management systems (composting, hazardous waste storage).
- Fostering regional partnerships and policy coherence.

*Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States (ISLANDS) Programme*

The Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States (ISLANDS) Programme is a global initiative funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), aimed at supporting Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in achieving safe chemicals and waste management. The programme spans four ocean regions: the Caribbean, Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans.

In the Caribbean region, the programme comprises three child projects (GEF 10279, 10258, and 10472). Saint Lucia directly benefits from two of these—GEF 10279 and GEF 10258—which focus on preventing the accumulation of hazardous chemicals and promoting circular solutions for managing e-waste, end-of-life vehicles (ELVs), mercury-added products (MAPs), and plastics.

The programme is implemented in partnership with the BCRC-Caribbean, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The regional launch took place in October 2022, and the programme is currently at its mid-term stage of implementation.

The ISLANDS work programme is structured around four key components:

- Preventing future accumulation of hazardous chemicals through training, strengthened policy and legal frameworks, and tools such as the Globally Harmonised System (GHS) for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.
- Safe disposal and management of existing chemical stockpiles, including hazardous substances like persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
- Development of sustainable systems for managing e-waste, ELVs, MAPS and plastics with a focus on extended producer responsibility.
- Knowledge sharing and outreach, including youth engagement in plastic pollution awareness initiatives such as the Plastic Tide Turners Challenge, in collaboration with institutions like SALCC.

**Table 7. GEF Islands Project and contribution to the SDGs**

SDG	Target	Relevant Indicator	Project Actions
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being	Target 3.9: Reduce illnesses/deaths from hazardous chemicals pollution/contamination	3.9.1: Mortality rate from pollution. 3.9.2: Mortality rate from unsafe water/sanitation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chemical risk reduction, POPs disposal, safer labelling:</li> <li>• Inventory of POPs/mercury stockpiles (completed 2024) &amp; safe disposal (pending)</li> <li>• Supports use of GHS for classification &amp; labelling (training).</li> <li>• Training on pesticide registration and good labelling practices (completed) contributes to safer handling &amp; reduced public health risks.</li> <li>• Promotes safe disposal of harmful pollutants, including Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).</li> <li>• Prevents exposure to toxic chemicals (e.g., mercury, POPs),</li> </ul>

SDG	Target	Relevant Indicator	Project Actions
			reducing health risks in communities.
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	Target 11.6: Reduce the environmental impact of cities, including air quality and waste management	11.6.1: Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable systems for e-waste and ELVs, promoting recycling and extended producer responsibility (in progress).</li> <li>Promotion of extended producer responsibility.</li> <li>Country strategy &amp; roadmap for waste stream implementation.</li> </ul>
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	Target 12.4: Environmentally sound chemical/waste management. Target 12.5: Reduce waste generation.	12.4.2: Hazardous waste generated & treated per capita, by type	<p>Legal frameworks, waste inventory, model policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inventory of national stockpiles (completed 2024) and export of hazardous waste stockpiles for disposal (pending)</li> <li>Circular solutions for e-waste/end-of-life vehicles (in progress).</li> <li>Strengthening legal and institutional frameworks for the sound management of regional model policies/laws for waste streams (completed, 2024) &amp; national strategy &amp; roadmap for use/adaptation/adoption (in progress).</li> </ul>

SDG	Target	Relevant Indicator	Project Actions
SDG 14: Life below water	Target 14.1: Reduce marine pollution.	14.1.1: Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density	<p>Plastic waste prevention and youth awareness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic awareness campaigns &amp; youth engagement (e.g., SALCC partnership on Plastic Tide Turners Challenge) to promote behavioral change.</li> <li>Addresses (promoting SCP) plastic pollution, a major threat to marine biodiversity.</li> </ul>
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals	Target 17.6/17.16: Enhance multi-stakeholder collaboration.	N/A (Qualitative impact).	<p>Partnerships, capacity-building, regional cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-stakeholder collaboration: UNEP, FAO, IDB, BCRC-Caribbean.</li> <li>Capacity assessments, training, and regional cooperation through model policies and standards (some delivered, others pending).</li> <li>Engagement with national and regional bodies (e.g., CARICOM standards development, SALCC initiatives).</li> </ul>

*Caribbean Youth Environment Network CYEN- The International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Saint Lucia*



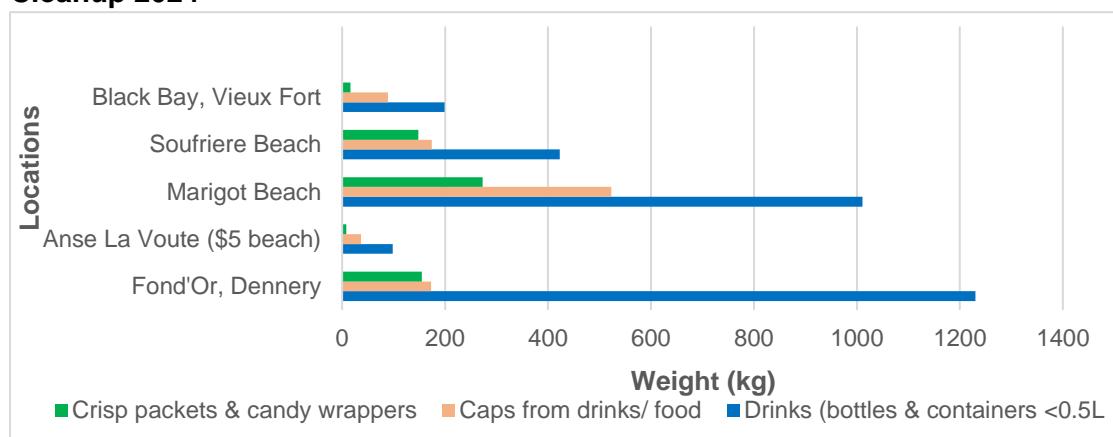
CYEN serves as the local coordinator for the International Coastal Cleanup; a global event that aims a) remove and quantify litter from beaches, oceans and waterways, and b) raise awareness on the negative impacts of pollution on marine ecosystems and human health. In 2024, the CYEN in partnership with nineteen

(19) organisations (including public and private sector agencies, schools and NGOs) and over two hundred (200) volunteers conducted the ICC at five (5) beaches around the island. The key findings indicated that drinks (bottles and containers) was the most prevalent type of waste collected across the sites (Figure 13). A comparison of data for 2024 and 2023 revealed a reduction in waste collected at three (3) sites. The data obtained from this project can inform national waste management efforts and advance progress on SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production and SDG 14: Life Below Water.



SOUFRIERE

**Figure 13: Waste categories collected across beaches during International Coastal Cleanup 2024**



5.11.4. Saint Lucia's Scorecard on SDG 12 Targets

- Target met/ likely to be met by 2030.
- Fair progress/ acceleration needed.
- Limited progress
- No data available

Targets - SDG 12 - Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns	Saint Lucia's Progress
Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries.	
By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.	
By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.	
By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.	
Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.	
Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.	
By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.	
Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.	
Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.	
Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible	

<b>Targets - SDG 12 - Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns</b>	<b>Saint Lucia's Progress</b>
adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities	

# 13 CLIMATE ACTION





## 5.12. SDG Goal 13- Climate Action

### 5.12.1. Overview

Small Island Developing States like Saint Lucia are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The Government of Saint Lucia has taken a resolute approach to mainstreaming climate resilience in national development. Saint Lucia's proactive and holistic approach has led to recognition throughout the region, and the country stands as a leader in the fight against climate change. Saint Lucia's efforts have been articulated at the policy level, through climate change global commitments and through projects and initiatives aimed at increasing resilience. The country is also ramping up efforts in the area of climate finance to attract resources to combat climate change.

Saint Lucia's efforts to advance SDG 13 are articulated at the legislative and policy levels as climate resilience is an overarching and recurrent theme. The landmark Climate Change Act of 2024 legally enshrines Saint Lucia's commitment to act on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage as outlined in the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement. Most notably at the policy level, Saint Lucia's National Adaptation Plan 2018-2028 provides the strategic framework for integrated efforts, across all sectors, to increase the climate change adaptive capacity. Sectoral Plans for key sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, water, resilient ecosystems/ natural resource management, and health have also been developed. There are also a number of other policy-type instruments as part of the NAP process, including the Climate Change and Research Policy and Strategy, the Climate Financing Strategy, the Private Sector Engagement Strategy, the Climate Change Communications Strategy and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. Saint Lucia is the first country in the Caribbean, and the first small island, to submit its third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) and this further highlights the country's commitment to advancing SDG 13.

The Government is also tackling climate action through efforts in the energy sector. The National Energy Policy (NEP) 2023-2030 sets out renewable energy targets and decarbonization strategies for key sectors such as transportation. Furthermore, considerable efforts have been

made to involve the nation's youth in the fight against climate change through a flagship project and the inclusion of youth representatives on the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) and as members of the Saint Lucia delegation to international climate change conferences. Gender mainstreaming, not only in climate action, but as a cross-cutting theme for national development, remains a priority. Other priorities in the medium-term include the incorporation of land use planning into the development of climate resilient housing and the upgrading of health facilities to enhance climate resilience.

This review synthesizes progress on SDG 13: Climate Action during the period 2018 to 2024.

#### **5.12.2. Legislative and Policy Frameworks for Climate Action**

Saint Lucia tackles climate action at the national and international levels. This includes the development of the ground breaking Climate Change Act , among the first in the region.

##### **Box 10:**

##### ***The Climate Change Act #3 of 2024***

Saint Lucia's Climate Change Act provides the legal framework for the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Act establishes the National Climate Change Committee as the Technical Advisory Board. The Climate Change Act also sets out parameters for the development of the Climate Change Adaptation Policy, the updating of the National Adaptation Plan, and the updating of the Nationally Determined Contribution. A Greenhouse Gas Inventory is also prescribed in the Act.

### 5.12.3. Projects, Programmes and other Initiatives

**Box 11:**  
***Saint Lucia's Nationally Determined Contribution***

Saint Lucia was the first country in the Caribbean to submit its third Nationally Determined Contribution to the UNFCCC. This NDC 3.0 sets ambitious targets for greenhouse gas reduction by 2035. With this NDC submission, Saint Lucia updates its 2030 greenhouse gas mitigation target and submits a new target for 2035. The revised target for 2030 represents a 14.7% reduction in all greenhouse gas emissions in the energy and transport sector (compared to 7% target set for 2030 in NDC 2.0), relative to 2010 levels. Saint Lucia pledges to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the energy and transport sectors by 22% in 2035, through enhanced deployment of wind and solar energy with battery storage, upgrades to the grid infrastructure, continued efforts to improve energy efficiency, and enhanced uptake of electric vehicles.

For the forestry sector, the country will enhance the sink capacity by 33 GgCO<sub>2</sub> by 2035, relative to the 2010 base year greenhouse gas sink capacity of 251 GgCO<sub>2</sub> per year. This third NDC pledges to reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances under the IPCC industry sector from 83 GgCO<sub>2</sub>eq in the base time frame 2020-2022, and 133 GgCO<sub>2</sub>eq in 2025, to 75.4 GgCO<sub>2</sub>eq., equivalent to 10% lower than the base year, by 2035.

Additionally, and conditional upon the successful exploration of the resource, Saint Lucia intends to add geothermal energy generation to its renewable energy mix by around 2035, which would bring overall energy sector emissions down by 32% in 2035, relative to 2010.

For the development of this third NDC, the Government of Saint Lucia adopted a youth-centered approach, involving the nation's youth in the decision-making process. Under this initiative, young people were actively contributing to the design and implementation of climate-related policies and interventions. The Government also provides a wider avenue for youth participation in climate action at a global level through representation of the country at international climate conferences.

*NDC Partnership Country Engagement Update Report*

The NDC Partnership is a global coalition comprising more than 240 members, 130 countries and more than 100 institutions aimed at achieving the Paris Agreement. The NDC Partnership provides technical and financial support to developing countries in meeting the targets set out in the NDC. Saint Lucia's Country Engagement Report for the period October to December 2024, provides updates on six sectors: Energy, Transport, Resilient Ecosystems, Water, Agriculture and Fisheries Sectors, and also documents the resources that have been mobilized to implement climate actions.

In the Energy Sector, progress has been made with respect to energy efficiency. A Photo Voltaic (PV) System has been procured for the Forensic Laboratory, an energy audit procurement process is ongoing for Government buildings and PV systems for schools are being finalized. Progress in the transport sector includes finalization of the TOR for the formulation of a Transport Policy and Action Plan. Funding has been mobilized from more than ten (10) agencies, including the World Bank, GEF, International Climate Initiative and the Caribbean Development Bank to undertake climate adaptation projects in Saint Lucia.

*Technical Assistance to Enhance the Understanding of the Updated NDC and Accelerate the Achievement of its Commitments*

This project, also known as the 'Youth in Climate Change' project, was specifically designed for youth and focused on increasing knowledge on climate change impacts and responses. Under this initiative, youth organisations developed their capacity to engage and report on climate action, particularly with regard to Saint Lucia's commitments articulated in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). UNICEF provided funding for this project to the tune of USD\$ 39,034. This project was led by the Department of Sustainable Development. This 6-month project was conducted between March and September 2024.

This project directly aligned with national and international strategies, policies and multilateral agreements including the updated NDC, the declaration of children, youth and climate action (under the Paris Agreement), and the SDGs (SDG 13 and target 13.3). The primary aim of the project was to 'raise the knowledge, action and awareness of Saint Lucian youth in the NDC

Commitments of Saint Lucia and general climate change impacts and actions in Saint Lucia'. The six-month initiative consisted of three components and six activities as highlighted in Table 8.

**Table 8. Components and Activities under the Youth in Climate Change Project**

Components	Overview	Output	Activities
Component 1- Design and Validation of School Engagement	The objective of this component was to support youth participation in the development and implementation of national climate policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 validated one-hour engagement presentation</li> <li>• 1 Climate Knowledge Assessment</li> <li>• 1 validated climate pledge of action</li> <li>• 1 updated database of national youth-led environmental groups.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collaborative ideation- a one-day working session to collate information on climate change impacts and current national projects that address these impacts.</li> <li>2. Output validation- engagement with the NCCC to validate the outputs under activity.</li> </ol>
Component 2- School Outreach	The objective of this component was to conduct school engagement presentations in Secondary Schools across the island.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 school outreach timetable</li> <li>• 26 Climate Change Knowledge and Awareness Sessions</li> <li>• 26 Climate Pledges Signed</li> <li>• Over 500 Energy Efficient Light Bulbs distributed</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. School engagement schedule where each group of youth leaders visits 3 schools per day</li> <li>4. Youth leaders receive a stipend for execution of project activities.</li> <li>5. Secondary school students receive a pre and post-engagement assessment to determine if the level of climate change knowledge increased.</li> <li>6. Energy efficient light bulbs distributed to all secondary and</li> </ol>

Components	Overview	Output	Activities
			special needs schools in Saint Lucia.
Component 3- Representation in National Policy Development	<p>The objective of this component was to support youth participation in the development and implementation of national climate policy through an internship programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-week internship programme</li> <li>• 1 promotional video</li> <li>• 1 Close-out Ceremony</li> </ul>	<p>7. A paid internship programme for 5-10 youth leaders to provide support to the NCCC over a 4-week duration.</p> <p>8. Close-out ceremony with video display to highlight the work undertaken on the project.</p> <p>9. Stakeholder engagement and communication activity- ongoing throughout the project and facilitated radio interviews, testimonials from participants.</p>

This initiative also facilitated an opportunity for international exposure. One of the youth leaders attended the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 29) in Azerbaijan, while another attended and presented at the Third Caribbean Invest Forum in Grenada and the Commonwealth Climate Youth Negotiators Training in London. Additionally, two youth leaders received additional climate capacity training from the Climate Youth Negotiators Programme.



YOUTH LEADERS AND PROJECT TEAM



YOUTH LEADERS



ENERGY EFFICIENT BULB DISTRIBUTION

**Energy Efficiency  
CLIMATE PLEDGE**

**As a school community, we understand the importance of conserving energy to protect our environment.**

**To make our school more energy-efficient we pledge to:**

- Remind teachers to turn off lights when they leave the room.
- Encourage teachers to turn off overhead lights when natural light is available.
- Keep all windows and doors closed when the air conditioning is on.
- Keep air conditioning units at a 'comfort temperature' when in use.
- Turn off computer monitors, overhead projectors and other electrical equipment when not in use.
- Encourage students to alert teachers to areas around the school where energy can be conserved.
- Teach at least one other person why it is important to conserve energy.
- Encourage students to share with their family a few ways to conserve energy at home, such as turning off lights when they leave a room or shutting down the computer at night.

Principal \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The Technical Assistance to Enhance the Understanding of the National Determined Contribution and Accelerate the Achievement of its Commitments is a project implemented by the Department of Sustainable Development with funding support from UNDP.

CLIMATE PLEDGE

17th Street, Castries, Saint Lucia



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



CLOSE-OUT CEREMONY/ DINNER

*CSOs and Climate Action*

*Climate Action Forum*

The National Climate Action Forum (CAF), held in 2022, sought to review and strengthen coordination mechanisms, including the new Climate Action Team (CAT) of the Saint Lucia Coalition of Civil Society Organisations (CSSO). The aim is to enhance the visibility and impact of CSOs and highlight their role as implementers, advocates and watchdogs as part of national climate initiatives alongside Government and the private sector.

*Supporting Civil Society Organisations in Saint Lucia to Engage in National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Processes*

Building on the groundwork laid by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Project (2020–2023): Enhancing Caribbean Civil Society's Access and Readiness for Climate

Finance, this pilot, which is commencing, aims to mobilise and facilitate the engagement of women-led and other vulnerable or typically marginalised groups to ensure a more gender-responsive and inclusive approach to adaptation and building local resilience in Saint Lucia.

Saint Lucia is collaborating with the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) implementing an initiative to deepen civil society engagement in Saint Lucia's National Adaptation Plan process. This effort forms part of the NAP Global Network Pilot Initiative, undertaken with support from the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

The capacity of these groups will be strengthened to engage effectively in NAP and wider climate policy process and will support the Saint Lucia CCSO as a key mechanism for collective advocacy and coordination by CSOs for climate adaptation. This will involve participatory needs assessments, targeted capacity building workshops, and mentoring to better equip CSOs to input into the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the NAP, as well as Sectoral Adaptation Strategies and Action Plans (SASAPs) and related initiatives. The co-development of strategic tools will also be supported to enable CSOs to sustain their influence in the NAP and wider climate policy process.

*Enhancing Saint Lucia's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Process Through the Elaboration of Sector Strategies and Action Plans, a Strengthened Evidence Base, and Improved Private Sector Engagement Project*

This Green Climate Fund Readiness Project was launched in February 2024 as a means to enhance the National Adaptation Plan process by strengthening Sectoral Adaptation Strategies and Action Plans (SASAPs). The Department of Sustainable Development is the focal point for this project, while the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) acts as delivery partner. This USD 1.72 million project has a 30-month duration and consists of 4 components.

Under Component 1, SASAP development, this project will strengthen adaptation planning governance and institutional coordination across the education, tourism, infrastructure and spatial planning sectors. An advanced draft of the SASAP for the Education sector has been prepared through a collaborative process. Work has been initiated on the remaining two.

As part of Component 1, the process has commenced for the development of a Limits to Adaptation Needs Assessment and Loss and Damage Strategy and Action Plan for Saint Lucia. The Loss and Damage Strategy will address the following key areas, among others:

- Slow onset events, including rising sea levels, increasing temperatures, ocean acidification, desertification, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, and salinization, that in turn lead to reductions in water availability, agricultural production and fisheries yields; and contribute to economic damage;
- Extreme events, noting that they are increasingly driving displacement, and exposing the population of Saint Lucia to food and water insecurity;
- Non-economic losses, including loss of life, health (inclusive of mental health), society (e.g. loss of territory, cultural heritage, indigenous or local knowledge, or societal or cultural identity) or the environment (e.g. loss of biodiversity or ecosystem services);
- Human mobility, including migration, displacement and planned relocation; and,
- Comprehensive risk management, particularly risk transfer.

Under Component 2, work is well underway on the design of coastal resilience and adaptation solutions. This component focuses on coastal mapping and modeling, vulnerability assessments and baseline surveys to understand climate change risks along coastlines.

Component 3, private sector engagement, has been initiated and will raise climate change adaptation awareness and assess the needs of this sector.

Component 4, concept note development, will result in increased finance for adaptation measures in Saint Lucia.

Overall, the project has significant outreach and awareness raising, including development of knowledge products with the youth.



The Sir Ira Simmons Secondary School band and choir rehearsing for a climate change calypso music video to raise awareness-Part of the Communications and Engagement Strategy under the NAP GCF Readiness Project

*Building Resilience for Adaptation to Climate Change and Climate Variability in Agriculture in Saint Lucia (BRACCCVAS) project*

The objective of the “Building Resilience for Adaptation to Climate Change and Climate Variability in Agriculture in Saint Lucia (BRACCCVAS)” project is to strengthen resilience in Saint Lucia’s agriculture sector for livelihoods’ security through enhanced adaptive capacities for climate change and variability. The project design responds directly to the need to build adaptive capacities of agro-ecosystems and livelihoods given the projections of significant decreases in rainfall, more frequent and intense hydro-meteorological events, including droughts. The project is intended to increase the resilience of selected rural farm communities and increase farm productivity, water and livelihood security, and reduce vulnerability to natural hazards, climate variability and change.

The following three integrated components capture the interventions of the project:

- Building resilience and sustainability of farming systems through interventions for water security, soil conservation and management
- Establishing green agro-parks, including the use of solar energy, for increased efficiency in resilience farming systems
- Knowledge management and transfer for capacity building to institutional and local level adaptive capacities.

There is strong alignment with the country's Third National Communication recommendations for climate adaptation measures to enhance resilience in agriculture. There is also strong alignment with the National Adaptation Plan and Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (2018) for the agriculture sector to enhance the resilience of farmers and fisherfolk, while focusing on investment in the agriculture sector for poverty reduction in rural communities. The project is also responsive to Saint Lucia's various Nationally Determined Contributions. Gender equality and strong environmental and social safeguards are to be implemented throughout the project. The BRACCCVAS project is financed through grant funding by the Adaptation Fund in the amount of approximately USD9.8 million with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) as Implementing Entity and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Food Security and Rural Development as the executing agency.

#### *Saint Lucia's Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) and Fourth National Communication (FNC) Projects*

In fulfillment of its reporting obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Government of Saint Lucia is currently working towards the compilation and submission of its First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) and Fourth National Communication (FNC). Together, these reports capture the country's progress in implementing climate change measures under the Convention.

As part of these projects, Saint Lucia's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory is currently being compiled and is expected to be completed by July 2025. To support this process, a team of national sectoral experts has received training and mentoring in the development of GHG inventories, in an effort to enhance the country's capacity to locally undertake its future inventories. This submission will mark Saint Lucia's fifth inventory communicated to the UNFCCC. Other elements of the reports include mitigation assessment and tracking of progress in implementation of the NDC; vulnerability and adaptation assessments; an evaluation of constraints, gaps, support and needs in climate change implementation. Capacity building

initiatives will be undertaken across all these areas. It is expected that the BTR and FNC will be submitted at the end of 2026.

#### Catalysing Low-carbon Investment and Mobilizing Finance for Saint Lucia (CLIMB-SLU) GCF

This readiness support aims to contribute to accelerated access to national and international climate finance through private sector participation and investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation, enhanced strategic frameworks, pipeline development, and enhanced capacity and knowledge of private and public sector actors<sup>65</sup>. This initiative has seen the development of a 24-month public sector finance training programme, which is currently being rolled out.



Delivering on the 'E'- Environment in Environmental, Social and Governance: Climate Finance Training

#### *Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) – Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) Project.*

This \$EC 2,037,675.00 project focuses on building public awareness and institutional capacities through gender-responsive and socially inclusive approaches.

Key components include:

- Development of a Community Guidebook for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA)
- Implementation of education and awareness programmes targeting community groups, media practitioners, and the education sector for the preparation and publication of accessible public content on DRR and CCA
- Strategic stakeholder engagement to amplify the reach and impact of project activities

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<sup>65</sup> GCF Readiness Proposal: Catalyzing Low-carbon Investment and Mobilizing Finance for Saint Lucia (CLIMB-SLU) 20240229-readiness-saint-lucia-gggi.pdf

*Establishment of Climate Finance Unit*

The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the establishment of a Climate Finance Unit (CFU) under the Department of Finance, with a staff complement to be hired. The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the Department of Economic Development continue to engage stakeholders via the Sustainable Technical Finance Committee. The overall goal of the CFU is to increase climate finance flows into Saint Lucia from domestic and external sources.

*Montreal Protocol Implementation- Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Phase out*

Saint Lucia acceded to the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol on 28 July 1993 and has since eliminated its use of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halons. An HCFC Phase Out Management Plan was developed that detailed national efforts to phase out the use of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) through a combination of policy, legislative and institutional measures via a phased approach. This process commenced in 2011 when the Plan was approved by the Executive Committee to the Montreal Protocol. The completion of stage 1 (2011 – 2020) of the Plan resulted in Saint Lucia surpassing the 2020 phase out target of a 35% reduction in consumption of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). Under Stage I of the HCFC Phase-Out Management Plan, Saint Lucia achieved several important milestones including:

- The Montreal Protocol Regulations were amended to strengthen control over HCFC imports and HCFC-based equipment, and to include HFCs as controlled substances.
- National voluntary standards were adopted for the installation, operation, maintenance, handling, transport and storage of refrigerants.
- A total of 116 enforcement officers were trained in to prevent illegal trade of refrigerant gases at the border.
- In the refrigeration servicing sector, 97 technicians were trained and certified in good servicing practices, including the safe use of natural refrigerants.
- Public awareness efforts included technical and educational materials, media outreach, seminars, and stakeholder engagement sessions.

Stage II (2021 – 2030) builds on these successes through seven interlocking components: strengthening the policy, legal and institutional framework; enforcing licensing, quota and standards for HCFCs and equipment; driving HCFC demand reduction via technician training;

equipping service shops and establishing a national reclamation centre; scaling up education and awareness; and enhancing monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems. HPMP II and has advanced detailed implementation plans for each component, with equipment procurement and reclamation centre site selection underway.

**Box 12:**

**Kigali Hydrofluorocarbons Implementation Plan (2024–2025)**

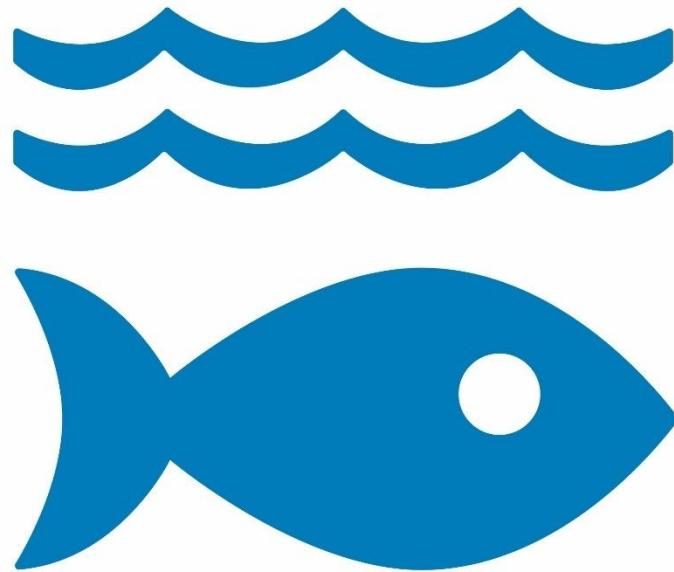
Complementing the work done under the HPMP, Saint Lucia ratified the Kigali Amendment on November 2, 2021, committing to reduce the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), a set potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. In 2023, the Kigali Implementation Plan (KIP) stage 1 was developed, which outlined the country's overall strategy to phase-down the use of HFCs. Saint Lucia aims to achieve its first consumption reduction target of 10 % by 2029, from a baseline of 83,735 metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent in the RAC servicing sector.

Saint Lucia has met its first HCFC reduction milestones and is on track to complete HCFC elimination by 2030 under HPMP stage II. Parallel preparation for HFC phase down targets—freeze in 2024 and a 10 % cut by 2029, will extend the work in transitioning to natural, energy efficient and climate friendly refrigerants.

#### 5.12.4. Saint Lucia's Scorecard on SDG 13 Targets

 Target met/ likely to be met by 2030.
 Fair progress/ acceleration needed.
 Limited progress
 No data available

# 14 LIFE BELOW WATER





SDG GOAL 14  
Life Below Water

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### 5.13. SDG Goal 14- Life Below Water

#### 5.13.1. Overview

The sustainable development of Saint Lucia's Blue Economy presents a tremendous opportunity for economic development, environmental and social protection, and building climate resilience. The island's maritime space is relatively extensive with a 16,000km<sup>2</sup> Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that supports several marine sectors including tourism, fisheries and maritime transportation. Recreational activities in the marine environment support the island's tourism product. In 2024, cruise tourism increased by 34%, surpassing pre-pandemic levels. Saint Lucia's fisheries sector is dominated by small-scale artisanal fishers. In 2023, fishing contributed 0.5% to the national GDP and fish landings totaled 1,377 tonnes<sup>66</sup>. Maritime transport is supported by several seaports, and this industry continues to expand.

Building Saint Lucia's climate resilience is a major overarching theme in national development strategies and the conservation of ocean resources is critically important in this regard. Efforts to ensure sustainability in the Blue Economy consist of a suite of policy frameworks, coordination mechanisms at the national and regional level and international conventions. Projects and initiatives related to the Blue Economy not only advance progress on SDG 14: Life Below Water but also support SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 13: Climate Action.

Saint Lucia is currently in the process of transitioning to a Blue Economy and developmental priorities and targets in this area have been articulated in the Medium-Term Development Strategy (draft) 2021-2026. These targets include the development of a National Plan of Action for coral reef fisheries management by 2026, the modernization of fisheries data management systems and the provision of supporting mechanisms to 50% of aquaponic farmers by 2026. While progress has been made, especially in the creation of policy frameworks, significant work is required to advance SDG 14. The Government will continue to engage stakeholders; the local

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<sup>66</sup> The Central Statistical Office of Saint Lucia <https://stats.gov.lc/subjects/economy/agriculture-livestock-and-fishing/estimated-fish-landings-in-tonnes-2005-to-2023/>

communities, fishers, the private sector, civil society and the donor community, to facilitate a full transition to the Blue Economy.

This review synthesizes Saint Lucia's progress on SDG 14: Life Below Water during the period 2018 to 2024.

#### 5.13.2. Legislative and Policy Frameworks for the Blue Economy

##### *The National Ocean Policy and Strategic Action Plan (2020-2035)*

Saint Lucia's National Ocean Policy and Strategic Action Plan (NOP-SAP) provides a framework for the development of activities in the marine space in a sustainable manner that promotes socio-economic development and environmental protection. The NOP-SAP targets eight (8) priority sectors including:

- Marine fisheries
- Marine environment and biodiversity protection
- Surface water management and wastewater treatment and disposal
- Maritime transport
- Tourism and recreation
- Coastal development
- Marine Aquaculture (mariculture)
- Submarine cables and pipelines.

Additionally, the NOP-SAP outlines 12 principles which are to be incorporated in decision-making and these include:

- Island Systems Management (ISM)
- Ecosystem Based Management (EBM)
- Environmental Stewardship
- Sustainable Development
- Public and Private Participation
- Use of sound science and best practice
- Precautionary approach
- Access and benefit sharing
- Environmental liability
- Trans-boundary cooperation
- Good governance
- Gender Equality and Inclusivity.

The NOP-SAP establishes the National Ocean Governance Committee (NOGC) as the body which governs the implementation, coordination and evaluation of actions set out in the Plan.

*Coastal Master and Marine Spatial Plan (CMSP)*

The Coastal Master and Marine Spatial Plan (CMSP), developed under the OECS Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (CROP), is an important supporting tool for achieving the objectives of the Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy (ECROP) and the National Ocean Policy and Strategic Action Plan (NOP-SAP) for Saint Lucia, dedicated to the promotion of the blue economy in the Caribbean. The CMSP is intended to be used as a tool to enable Saint Lucia to achieve sustained and equitable growth by pursuing a blue economy strategy that respects and protects the shared ocean space.

The CMSP defines an enabling framework that sets the stage for blue growth investments, and offers a 15-year timeframe from 2020-2035, to support the transition towards a blue economy through sustainable and equitable use of the coastal and marine space, protecting coastal and marine ecosystems, and managing land-water interactions.

Guided by an evidence-based Island Systems Management approach and developed using a participatory process, the CMSP includes interventions and investments aimed at achieving mutually reinforcing outcomes of good governance, economic growth, and equitable development.

Priority projects include:

- Three (3) projects with a primary focus on enhancing climate resilience;
- Four (4) projects with a primary focus on protection of coastal and marine environments;
- Three (3) projects with a primary focus on the generation of economic growth;
- Three (3) projects with a primary focus on effective governance systems; and,
- Two (2) projects with a primary focus on equitable distribution of the wealth that results from economic growth.

As a continuation of the CMSP development, marketing packages of Blue Economy investment opportunities were created following a pre-feasibility assessment conducted for five (5) priority

investments in the CMSP for Saint Lucia: Solar Farm Enhancement, Resilient Fisheries Facilities, Village Tourism, Business Accommodation and Wind Farm.

Saint Lucia's Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the Fisheries Sector (SASAP) 2018-2028

This Sectoral Plan aims to build resilience in the fisheries and fisheries-related sector in Saint Lucia and consists of 31 adaptation measures grouped in accordance with eight (8) strategic objectives. The strategic objectives of the SASAP include:

- Improve the national, policy, legal and regulatory and institutional framework to facilitate climate adaptation in the fisheries sector
- Enhance human and institutional capacities for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of fisheries-related climate adaptation projects
- Improve productivity through climate resilient fisheries management systems
- Promote climate resilient aquaculture production in response to a changing climate
- Promote alternative livelihoods creation and development and strengthen climate resilience in fishery-dependent businesses
- Improve access to financial and business support for leveraging private sector investment into the fisheries sector
- Strengthen climate monitoring and communication for energy planning and informed decision making
- Scale up climate resilient fisheries infrastructure to reduce climate risks.

*Saint Lucia's Resilient Ecosystems Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan Sector (REASAP) 2020-2028*

The Resilient Ecosystems Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (REASAP) is the product of in-depth contextual analysis to define the most effective solutions to the country's biodiversity, ecosystems, and ecosystem management challenges under a changing climate. It consists of 58 adaptation measures deemed critical for strengthening the resilience of natural systems and accelerating the implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation approaches to build climate resilience across Saint Lucia's society.

Saint Lucia's REASAP has been designed to:

- Enhance sensitivity and raise awareness about the importance of maintaining Saint Lucia's biodiversity, ecosystems and related services, under a changing climate.
- Reduce Saint Lucia's vulnerability and increase resilience to natural hazards.
- Enhance synergy-building, promote holistic thinking and facilitate informed decision-making across multiple environment-relevant sectors.
- Highlight the fundamental connection between socioeconomic prosperity in the country and environmental well-being.
- Include policy, regulatory and investment priorities that contribute to the REASAP's overarching goal of safeguarding Saint Lucia's natural resources from the impacts of climate change, while harnessing biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services to reduce vulnerability and build resilience.
- Facilitate a process for adaptation priorities to be defined through a transparent consultation process with the participation of national stakeholders.
- Be implementable by encompassing programmes and projects that are within the implementation and monitoring capacity of the GoSL.
- Be led (implemented and monitored) by identified and committed national institutions.
- Be aligned with national policy and complementary to existing baseline or planned initiatives to minimise duplication and increase efficiency.
- Be composed of climate smart investments that can be funded with public resources or through international funding mechanisms.

The REASAP promotes projects and programmes that catalyse private-sector investments and increase private-sector participation, consistent with Saint Lucia's Private Sector Engagement Strategy under its NAP process.

#### **5.13.3. Projects, Programmes and other Initiatives**

*BE-CLME+: Promoting National Blue Economy Priorities Through Marine Spatial Planning in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus Project*

The BE-CLME+ is a regional project which is currently being executed in six (6) Caribbean countries and aims to maintain countries' cultural heritage through a suite of actions directed to ecosystem protection, sustainable fisheries management and improved livelihoods. This 4-year

project is being implemented by regional and international agencies including CRFM, CAF and the FAO. This project will support Saint Lucia's fisheries sector through the development of an implementation plan for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector.

*Unleashing the Blue Economy of the Caribbean (UBEC) Project*

This 15-year project, funded by the OECS, is currently being implemented in Saint Lucia (and other OECS member states). The project promotes sustainable use and management, and will incorporate sectors such as tourism, agriculture and waste management. The first phase of this project commenced in 2024 and tangible benefits have already been produced in the fishing sector. The project facilitated a training certification for fisherfolk. Presently, 112 fishers have successfully completed the Boat Masters Training and have received equipment (first aid kits, flares, VHF radios etc.) to enhance their safety while at sea. The UBEC project also facilitated a reexamination of Saint Lucia's Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) fishery by recommending policy changes to sustain this sub-industry. The installation of 10 ice-making machines at fisheries facilities across the island was also facilitated under phase 1 of this project.

The UBEC project will also see the creation of Saint Lucia's first underwater sculpture park using sustainable structures along the island's west coast. This Park will result in a significant boost to marine conservation efforts, eco-tourism offerings and local livelihoods.

Overall, activities under the UBEC project will advance SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.

*PROCARIBE+ Project*

PROCARIBE+ is a regional initiative for Protecting and Restoring the Ocean's Natural Capital, building Resilience and supporting region-wide Investments for sustainable Blue socio-economic development in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems. In 2024, Saint Lucia signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) creating the Ocean Coordinating Mechanism (OCM) for the Wider Caribbean Region, to strengthen regional-level ocean governance, demonstrating the island's commitment to the sustainable management and utilisation of the ocean resources, aligning with the broader objectives of fostering a resilient blue economy. The operationalisation through PROCARIBE+ Component 1 of the regional

coordination mechanism for enhanced, integrated ocean governance (i.e. the OCM) constitutes a flagship project output.

*Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Project*

The Fisheries Department, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development, is aiming to boost nearshore fisheries in Saint Lucia through the deployment of FADs around the island. This project is a collaborative effort between the Department and the fisherfolk, and at present seven (7) FADs are deployed. This initiative also reduces fuel costs and improves safety.

*COASTFISH Project*

The COASTFISH Project is a collaborative effort between the Department of Fisheries, the CRFM and the Japan International Cooperation Agency. COASFISH seeks to strengthen the sustainable use and management of coastal fisheries in CARICOM countries. In Saint Lucia, the Soufriere Marine Management Area (SMMA) and Laborie act as pilot sites for the COASTFISH project. In 2023, a 5-day seminar was held to address and enhance the capabilities of fisheries statisticians in target countries.

*Vessel Monitoring System Initiative*

The Department of Fisheries has taken measures to improve the safety of fisherfolk in Saint Lucia. One initiative is the Vessel Monitoring System Project which is currently underway. Under this project, 300 GPS tracking devices have been procured and presently, more than 150 have already been installed in fishing boats.

*Coral Restoration Project*

Coral Reefs play a critical role in Saint Lucia's Marine landscape, in addition to its significant contribution to the tourism industry and a vital source of food security. Accordingly, coral reef restoration has been identified as a priority adaptation measure in Saint Lucia's National Adaptation Plan. Through several initiatives aimed at enhancing and restoring degraded coral

ecosystems, deliberate efforts have been undertaken to secure healthy, thriving coral reefs while also enhancing livelihoods of local coral gardeners. One such initiative, which was established under a public -private -partnership arrangement and executed through two phases, saw the establishment of coral nurseries in the Soufriere Marine Management Area, with training provided to over fifteen individuals , at the level three of the national vocational qualification. The project promotes ocean conservation, marine stewardship and capacity-building in coral gardening methodologies while contributing to improved livelihood opportunities for residents of Soufriere.

Marine conservation efforts in Saint Lucia will also be enhanced through the recently established Marine Health Alliance which operates under the umbrella of the Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund. The Alliance adopts a co-management approach and will foster collaboration between community groups, visitors and public and private sector partners in areas such as coral reef restoration, mangrove and seagrass rehabilitation, and coastal cleanups, through the provision of financial and technical support to local entrepreneurs and community groups.

#### 5.13.4. Saint Lucia's Scorecard on SDG 14 Targets

<span style="background-color: #6aa84f; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px;"></span>	Target met/ likely to be met by 2030.
<span style="background-color: #ffd700; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px;"></span>	Fair progress/ acceleration needed.
<span style="background-color: #e63935; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px;"></span>	Limited progress
<span style="background-color: #696969; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px;"></span>	No data available

Targets - SDG 14 – Conserve and Sustainably use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development	Saint Lucia's Progress
By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.	<span style="background-color: #ffd700; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px;"></span>
By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.	<span style="background-color: #6aa84f; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px;"></span>
Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.	<span style="background-color: #6aa84f; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px;"></span>
By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based	

Targets - SDG 14 – Conserve and Sustainably use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development	Saint Lucia's Progress
management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.	
By 2020, conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.	
By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organisation fisheries subsidies negotiation.	
By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.	
Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries.	
Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.	
Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of "The future we want"	

# **16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**





## SDG GOAL 16

### Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

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#### 5.14. SDG Goal 16- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

##### 5.14.1. Overview

The promotion of a peaceful, inclusive society for all citizens is a key element in Saint Lucia's efforts to build social and human capital resilience. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Justice and National Security has direct responsibility for the enforcement of the rule of law and fostering national security through several Departments and Agencies including the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force (RSLPF), the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Probation and Parole Services, and the Fire and Emergency Services. The Medium-Term Development Strategy (draft) 2021-2026 promotes citizen security as a key element in building social and human capital resilience.

Saint Lucia's overall crime rate has shown a 10% decline from 2017 to 2021. Currently, the most common form of crime is theft, with the capital city Castries recording the highest crime frequency<sup>67</sup>. Serious crimes, particularly in the period 2018-2021, have seen an increase, and this poses a significant threat to public safety and security. The country's murder rate in 2021 stood at 40.7 per 100,000<sup>68</sup> and the number of persons on remand amounted to 64% (a slight decline from 2020 figures). Accidents also increased during the 2017-2021 period, by some 45%. The country's high crime rate (serious crimes), accident rate and persons awaiting trial highlight inadequacies in Saint Lucia's justice system.

Efforts to address these inadequacies and promote a peaceful, inclusive society have been multi-faceted. The Government has initiated the process to transform the country's legal landscape through legislative changes aimed at building effective and accountable institutions. Additionally, in 2023 a Development Partners' Coordination Meeting, which focused on citizen security, was held to address challenges to peace, security and the rule of law, thus addressing SDG 16. By extension, this initiative is also advancing progress on SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.

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67 Saint Lucia Population and Housing Census 2022

68 Medium-Term Development Strategy (draft) 2021-2026.

This review synthesizes progress on SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions during the period 2018 to 2024.

#### 5.14.2. Legislative and Policy Framework

##### *The Escazú Agreement*

Saint Lucia, having signed *the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (The Escazú Agreement)*, on September 27, 2018 and ratified on December 2, 2020, has made several strides towards ensuring that this human rights treaty and environmental Agreement, is a symbol of hope for the poor, marginalized and vulnerable, ensuring the attainment of the sustainable development goals especially SDG 16, and leaving no one behind. At COP 3, held in April 2024 in Santiago, Chile, the island got approval for its completed Roadmap for the Implementation of the Agreement, making it the first in the English-speaking Caribbean to do so. To date, an Open data Portal and Policy has been established, several capacity-building initiatives have been undertaken for national stakeholders, such as the Judiciary, the Media, Workers Unions, the Youth and students nation-wide, alongside a robust public-awareness and sensitization campaign to secure “ownership of the Agreement” among the citizenry.



Saint Lucia negotiating delegation on the  
Escazú agreement, Chile, 2024

### 5.14.3. Projects, Programmes and other Initiatives

#### *The Halls of Justice Project*

This project seeks to strengthen Saint Lucia's Legal Framework and promote greater efficiency in the public sector. The Halls of Justice Project, estimated at EC \$143 million, will strengthen governance, legal processes, and institutional capacity for justice administration in Saint Lucia. The Build Own and Lease Transfer agreement with NH International will facilitate the construction of a multi-storey building to house 14 courtrooms, 10 administrative offices, law library, police post and holding cells. This project also advances SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure by enhancing the island's judicial infrastructure and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities by improving access to justice for vulnerable populations thereby reducing social and economic disparities.

#### *Saint Lucia National Report Universal Periodic Review (UPR)*

In 2020, Saint Lucia submitted its UPR in fulfillment of the Government's obligations under the Third Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council. The Review outlines key developments taken to promote and protect human rights since the last review, namely the completion of the Dennery North Water Supply Project and provided a status update of the recommendations from the previous review. The report includes the status of national implementation in the areas of gender discrimination, domestic violence, child protection, access to justice, access to food, healthcare and persons with disabilities. Saint Lucia is due to submit its next UPR in October 2025.

#### *Advisory Opinion (Icj) On Climate Change:*

In furtherance of SDG 13 Climate Action and in response to the adoption by consensus of UN Resolution 77/276 on March 28, 2023, by the United Nations General Assembly, on the Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change, Saint Lucia joined 131 co-sponsors worldwide, in making the Vanuatu-led initiative of seeking an Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice, a reality.

For the first time ever, Saint Lucia filed its Written Statement on March 22, 2024, and later submitted its Written Comment on August 15, 2024.

On December 10, 2024, the island's three-person delegation comprised of Dr. Jan Ives Remy of the Shridath Ramphal Centre, Cave hill Campus, UWI as External Counsel, Ms. Kate Wilson Legal Officer at the Department of Sustainable Development and Mrs. Rochelle John Charles, Crown Counsel at the Attorney-General's Chambers accompanied by Saint Lucia's Charges d' Affaires of the Embassies of Eastern Caribbean States to the Kingdom of Belgium and Missions to the European Union (Saint Lucia) Mr. Desmond Simon, delivered an impassioned and well-researched Oral Submission to the said Court in what was hailed as "the Taylor Swift concert of the Year" and left a long time observer admitting that they had never seen such a lively plea to the Court before, as the island's legal team unapologetically dismantled the legal arguments of the United Kingdom and other major GHG emitters, making it clear that Small Island Developing States like Saint Lucia, who historically have contributed minutely to the GHG emissions, are the biggest sufferers of the impacts of climate change and consequently should be compensated for such injustice, urging the Court to consider the entire corpus of international law, inclusive of the Escazu Agreement ratified by Saint Lucia on December 2, 2020 when clarifying State obligations and consequences of climate change. The Advisory Opinion is expected to be delivered on or about July/September of this year, by the ICJ.



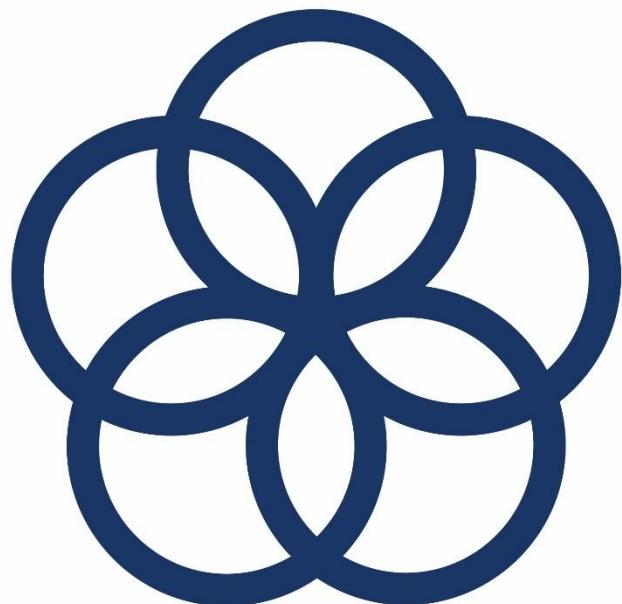
Saint Lucia addresses the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

#### 5.14.4. Saint Lucia's Scorecard on SDG 16 Targets

<span style="background-color: #6aa84f; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 5px;"></span>	Target met/ likely to be met by 2030.
<span style="background-color: #ffcc00; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 5px;"></span>	Fair progress/ acceleration needed.
<span style="background-color: #e63935; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 5px;"></span>	Limited progress
<span style="background-color: #777; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 5px;"></span>	No data available

Targets - SDG 16 – Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for All and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions at all Levels	Saint Lucia's Progress
Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.	
End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.	
Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.	
By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.	
Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.	
Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.	
Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.	
Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.	
By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	
Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.	
Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.	
Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.	

# 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





## 5.15. SDG Goal 17- Partnerships for the Goals

### 5.15.1. Overview

As a Small Island Developing State, Saint Lucia recognizes the need for enhanced partnerships and global cooperation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, efforts at the Government level have yielded successful outcomes in the areas of resource mobilization and international cooperation for capacity building. In the area of climate finance for instance, the NDC is complemented by a Financing Strategy. The Department of Economic Development, through the Economic Planning Unit, actively engages in resource mobilization by collaborating with various stakeholders and donors. Through ongoing meetings and partnerships, the Department reinforces its commitment to achieving sustainable development goals (SDG 17).

Saint Lucia is categorized as an upper middle-income country and can receive Official Development Assistance (ODA); however, this assistance is only 1% of GNI. In 2019, Foreign Direct Investment represented 6% of GDP<sup>69</sup>. Despite some measure of success in economic development, Saint Lucia's economy is still characterized by a tight fiscal space, moderate pace of economic growth and persistent issues such as high unemployment. The economic landscape is characterized by high debt which means that spending is directed toward debt financing and interest payments rather than towards national development initiatives. Total revenue and grants increased from EC \$1202.2 million in 2018/2019 to EC \$1427.8 million in 2023/2024 while foreign interest payments increased from EC \$71.3 million in 2018/2019 to EC \$100.8 million in 2023/2024<sup>70</sup>.

These economic realities have informed the Medium-Term Development Strategy (draft) 2021-2026 which will prioritize resource mobilization from international, regional and private financial institutions through several initiatives. These initiatives include the strengthening of the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP), strengthening already established donor partnerships,

69 Saint Lucia's Welfare Opportunity <https://www.undp.org/barbados/news/st-lucias-welfare-opportunity>

70 Central Statistical Office <https://stats.gov.lc/subjects/economy/central-government-operations/>

expanding the donor base, disaster risk financing and expanding the Citizenship by Investment Programme. Innovative financing instruments such as blue bonds and debt-for-nature swaps will also be prioritized to advance progress of SDG 17. Additionally, efforts and successes in facilitating regional and international cooperation for statistical capacity building and policy formulation also serve to advance progress.

This review synthesizes progress on SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals during the period 2018 to 2024.

#### **5.15.2. Projects, Programmes and other Initiatives**

##### *The OECS Data for Decision-Making Project*

The OECS Commission Data for Decision Making (DDM) Project was launched in 2022 and spans a five-year period. This regional project has resulted in support to improve Saint Lucia's statistical capacity. Under the project, funding was made available to revise the National Statistics Act and procure electronic equipment to enhance the capacity of the CSOs server room. This project will also fund the upcoming Agriculture and Fisheries Census. In March 2025, the Central Statistical Office (CSO), in collaboration with the Ministry of Equity, Social Justice, and Empowerment, launched the 2025 Survey of Living Conditions and Household Budget Survey (SLC-HBS). This survey is also supported under the OECS Data for Decision-Making Project and will be used to inform and refine national development policies.

##### *Collaborative Efforts for Climate Change- The Green Affordable Housing (GAH) Pilot Project*

The Government of Saint Lucia through the Department of Finance, has undertaken several initiatives in the area of climate change. These initiatives facilitated resource mobilization from various international partners. One such initiative is The Green Affordable Housing (GAH) Pilot Project. The Green Affordable Housing Project not only promotes climate resilience but also addresses the island's housing deficit. Funding partners for this project include the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)<sup>71</sup>. The full Resilient Green Affordable Housing project aims to mobilize USD 1 billion in climate financing and envisions the construction of 3,000 sustainably designed

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<sup>71</sup> GGGI. Government of Saint Lucia Approves 8.5 Acres in Balata for Climate-Resilient Green Housing Development <https://gggi.org/?p=67774>

units providing access to climate resilient housing for approximately 12,000 Saint Lucians and enhancing their adaptation to climate change.

*UN Country Implementation Plan 2024/ 2025: Saint Lucia*

In January 2022, the Government of Saint Lucia and the United Nations formalized its arrangement for collaboration through the 2022-2026 United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF). A key development was the creation of the Country Implementation Plan (CIP) for Saint Lucia which resulted in over 50 interventions across various sectors including education, health, social protection and climate resilience. These collaborative efforts have advanced progress on the SDGs.

*Multi-Sectoral Committees*

The Government of Saint Lucia has established several multi-stakeholder committees which mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Multi-sectoral committees include, among others:

- SDG National Coordinating Committee (SDGNCC)
- National Ocean Governance Committee
- National Trade Facilitation Committee
- National Climate Change Committee (NCCC)
- National Biodiversity Coordinating Committee.

5.15.3. [Saint Lucia's Scorecard on SDG 17 Targets](#)

 Target met/ likely to be met by 2030.
 Fair progress/ acceleration needed.
 Limited progress
 No data available

Targets - SDG 17 - Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	Saint Lucia's Progress
Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.	
Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries.	
Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.	
Assist developing countries in attaining long- term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress	
Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries.	
Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism	
Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed.	
Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity- building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology	

Targets - SDG 17 - Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	Saint Lucia's Progress
Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.	
Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organisation, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda.	
Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020.	
Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organisation decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access.	
Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence	
Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.	
Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development.	
Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi- stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.	
Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.	
By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated	

<b>Targets - SDG 17</b>	<b>Saint Lucia's Progress</b>
<p><b>- Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</b></p>	
<p>by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.</p>	
<p>By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries.</p>	

## 6.0 Implementation Challenges

Since the presentation of Saint Lucia's first Voluntary National Review in 2019, the Government of Saint Lucia has taken a deliberate and strategic approach to accelerating progress on the Global Goals. Consequently, Saint Lucia has achieved a significant measure of success in this regard. Despite these accomplishments, numerous challenges have hindered more substantial progress. The main challenges have been summarized in **Table 9** under the 5P themes: People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnerships.

**Table 9. Main challenges toward SDG implementation in Saint Lucia**

SDGs	Main challenges toward accelerating progress on the SDGs
People	
Government Agencies	<p>Insufficient human resources, equipment and technical capacity to fully execute projects and initiatives have hindered further progress.</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks are lacking and there is limited reporting particularly with respect to social issues.</p> <p>Social vulnerabilities remain a gap, and this has complicated the assessment of disadvantaged persons who apply for social assistance from the Government.</p>
Civil Society	<p>Civil society networks are limited in their technical and human resource capacity, and this ultimately affects the execution of projects.</p> <p>Collaborative projects with Government Agencies face bureaucracy and usually results in project delays.</p> <p>Additionally, civil society partners have recognized the need for a more transformative approach to be integrated in project design.</p> <p>Limited funding opportunities are affecting civil society organisations' ability to finance initiatives.</p>
Academia	<p>Tertiary academic institutions recognize their role in equipping the Saint Lucian workforce with the necessary skills and training. This has been</p>

SDGs	Main challenges toward accelerating progress on the SDGs
	<p>identified as a gap and additional research (following programme completion) is required to determine if programmes meet the demands of the job market.</p> <p>Technology is constantly evolving on a global and regional scale, and academic institutions have a challenge in keeping abreast of these advancements to meet the rapidly changing demands in programme delivery.</p> <p>Insufficient data collection systems are currently in place to document the institution's contribution to national development and the SDGs.</p>
Intergovernmental Organisations	<p>There are notable differences in perceptions on the matter of gender equality. There is a need for frank discussions to facilitate strategic advancement that leaves no one behind: men, women, boys and girls.</p> <p>Limited human resources for project implementation is further compounded by issues with project continuity.</p> <p>Up-to-date data and statistics to drive change is often lacking and there is a notable gap for gender disaggregated data. This data is often a leveraging point for securing funding for projects.</p>
Prosperity	<p><b>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</b> </p> <p><b>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</b> </p> <p><b>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b> </p> <p><b>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</b> </p>
Government Agencies	<p>Saint Lucia's limited Fiscal Space is a significant challenge as high debt levels can affect investment capacity.</p> <p>Limited financial resources often prompts allocations to selected projects and initiatives while other projects remain unfunded or have insufficient financial allocations.</p> <p>Regulatory bottlenecks and slow fund disbursement result in delays with respect to project implementation and this is hindering advancement for the SDGs.</p>

SDGs	Main challenges toward accelerating progress on the SDGs
	<p>The high volume of capital projects to be implemented places a strain on human resources, including procurement and project management.</p> <p>Saint Lucia's susceptibility to climate hazards and natural disasters can affect project execution across sectors.</p> <p>Limited funding is a significant challenge, particularly for data collection and staffing resulting in a limited statistical capacity and inability to report on SDG progress.</p> <p>There is limited awareness in various MDAs on the importance of data and data collection. Additionally, there is a general lack of standardized formats for data collection and poor data sharing across agencies. This affects the ability to accurately gauge progress on the SDGs.</p>
The Private Sector	<p>Private Sector Constraints are characterized by limited access to financing for MSMEs hinders economic diversification.</p> <p>Additionally, the importation of all raw materials for the production of goods in Saint Lucia and shipping logistics affect productivity in the manufacturing sector.</p>
Planet	
Government Agencies	<p>Limited financial and human resources have limited progress on the SDGs.</p> <p>The short life span of projects and the lack of monitoring frameworks to measure project success is a significant challenge. In some MDAs no officer is assigned to capture data and there is no system to determine if project targets are being met.</p> <p>Enforcement is a challenge as regulations (for instance) on chemicals and ozone depleting substances are not always enforced.</p> <p>There is some duplication of efforts across MDAs and little information sharing. This is a significant impediment to advance progress on the SDGs.</p>

SDGs	Main challenges toward accelerating progress on the SDGs
Civil Society	<p>Civil society networks face a challenge with respect to human resources. This human resource challenge is hindering further work on the SDGs. Additionally, limited technical capacity is also hindering further work. Limited financial resources continue to be a significant challenge as funding is only available for a certain number of projects.</p> <p>The civil society network has identified that several agencies are engaged in similar projects and as such there is duplication of efforts. Greater collaboration and mapping of activities undertaken by agencies is required to advance SDG progress.</p>
Peace	
Government Agencies	Limited financial and human resources have limited progress on the SDGs
Partnerships	
Government Agencies	Saint Lucia's categorization as an upper-middle income country affects the ability to receive Foreign Direct Investment. Together with limited fiscal space, resources are often insufficient for large-scale projects.
Civil Society	Insufficient funding is limiting civil societies' ability to boost partnerships locally, regionally and internationally.

## 7.0 Next Steps to advance progress

The Government of Saint Lucia, citizens and stakeholders across the public, private and civil society sectors, have demonstrated their continued commitment to the advancement of national development. This advancement has been fueled by the adoption and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. National ownership of the SDGs is driven by Saint Lucia's vision "to build a resilient and inclusive Nation, for a more sustainable and productive future for our people". This second Voluntary National Review has afforded an opportunity to reflect on progress, which has been remarkable in the period between 2019 and 2024, and identify areas where further work is required. These include, among others, sustained awareness raising and sensitization, an established national monitoring and evaluation system and adequate and predictable finance, technology transfer and capacity building support for implementation over the 17 Goals.

To advance progress on the SDGs, the Government will pursue the strategies outlined in the Medium-Term Development Strategy, facilitate the implementation of national policies, strategies and action plans, engage stakeholders across all sectors, and forge strategic partnerships at national, regional and international levels, making every effort to ensure that no one is left behind. The Government recognizes the unique challenges faced by Small Island Developing States like Saint Lucia and will utilize the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) framework and regional frameworks developed across CARICOM and the OECS to advance progress on the SDGs while drawing from international processes.

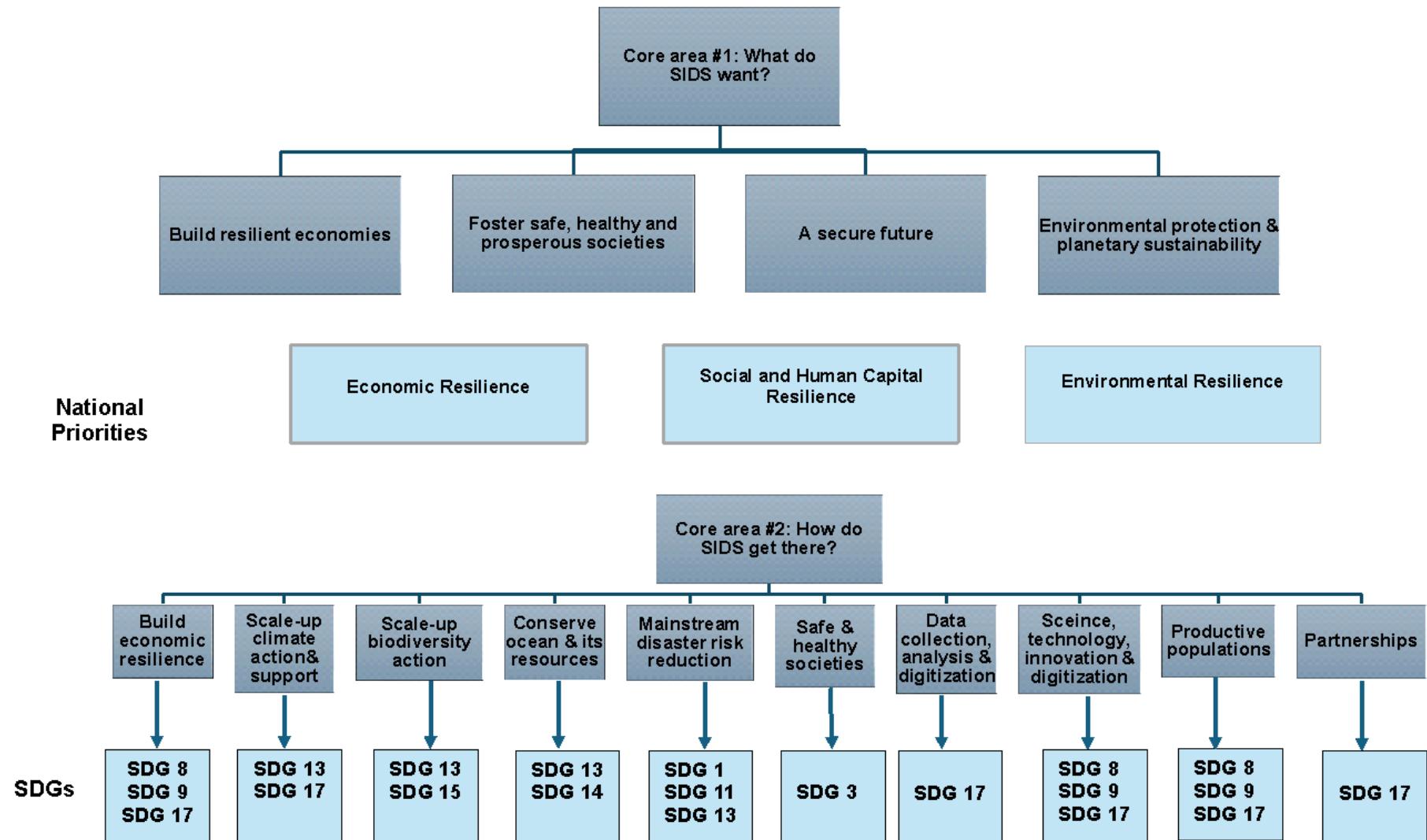
### Utilizing the ABAS framework for greater SDG integration

The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) was adopted at the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) in May 2024. The ABAS will act as the guiding framework for sustainable development priorities in SIDS for the period 2024-2034. The ABAS framework builds on the SAMOA pathway which guided SDG acceleration during the period 2014-2024.

The ABAS highlights a suite of priorities and action areas under two core sections that are specifically targeted to SIDS and their inherent vulnerabilities. Core area 1: What do SIDS want? highlights areas of support required from the international community to advance the SDGs. Core area 2: How do SIDS get there? details further priority areas that SIDS seek to achieve with

support from the international community. Figure 14 highlights Saint Lucia's synergy with the ABAS framework and recommended action for advancing progress on the SDGs.

Figure 14: Assessment of synergy with ABAS framework



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Annex I- Data Tables<sup>72</sup>

Table 10.SDG 1: No Poverty Indicators

Indicators	Rate
<b>Proportion of population living below national poverty line by sex and age.</b>	25% (2016)
<b>Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, and distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable.</b>	73.1% NIC coverage (2020)
<b>Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)</b>	Health Education 14% (2021/2022)

<sup>72</sup>These tables are not complete. Updating is an ongoing process.

Table 11.SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being Indicators

Indicators	Rate					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)</b>	52.4	54. 6	52. 1	44.9	44. 0	41.3
<b>Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%)</b>	99.3	99. 7	99. 2	99.1	99. 1	99.4
<b>Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) (2020)</b>	15.2	13. 1	14. 1	20.3	18. 7	18.9
<b>Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) (0-27 days)</b>	8.9	6.6	7.3	15.0	13. 2	13.7
<b>Number of new HIV infections (per 100,000 uninfected population)</b>	29.9	25. 2	17. 5	22.1	16. 8	10.4
<b>Tuberculosis incidence (actual cases)</b>	3	8	3	2	3	1
<b>Malaria incidence cases per 1,000 population (Malaria Cases per 100,000). These are imported cases. (This is not a rate but the actual cases)</b>	1.2	0.6	0.0	1.2	0.6	0.0
<b>Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases (Dengue Fever, Leprosy and Schistosomiasis)</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease</b>	0.8	0.9	1.4			
<b>Mortality rate attributed to cancer</b>	13.4	13. 7	14. 8			
<b>Mortality rate attributed to Diabetes Mellitus</b>	5.5	6.2	9.7			
<b>Mortality rate attributed to chronic respiratory disease</b>	2.9	2.3	4.5			
<b>Suicide mortality rate</b>	0.7	0.2	0.2			

Death rate due to road traffic accidents	1.4	1.4	1.9			
Adolescent birth rate (15-19) per 1,000 women in that age group	29.8	26.5	24.6	22.0	25.5	20.0

Table 12.SDG 4: Quality Education Indicators

Indicators	Rate
Government Expenditure on Education as a % of total Government Expenditure	\$217.3 million (2022/ 2023)

Table 13.SDG 5: Gender Equality Indicators

Indicator	Rate
<b>Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments.</b>	11.1% (2022)
<b>Proportion of women in managerial positions.</b>	47.7%

Table 14. SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy Indicators

Indicators	Rate
<b>Proportion of population (%) with access to electricity.</b>	100 (2022)
<b>Proportion of population (%) with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology.</b>	95.5% of households use Gas/LPG for cooking. Only 1.6% rely on coal or wood (2022)

Table 15.SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions Indicators 2019-2024

Indicators	Rate
<b>Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population by age, sex. (murder rate)</b>	40.7 (2021)

Table 16. SDG 17:Partnerships for the Goals Indicators

Indicators	Rate
<b>Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI).</b>	1% (2022)
<b>Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed (actual # of subscriptions)</b>	50,711 (2022)

<b>Proportion of individuals using the internet (internet access)</b>	89.1% (2022)
<b>Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration.</b>	100% (2022)