

Saint Lucia ICPD Presentation

Antigua

August 20-21

Jolly Beach Hotel

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The format for the presentation is as follows:

1. Brief introduction
2. Reproductive Health
3. Legislation and Policies to address HIV/AIDS
4. Programmes and Policies to address Adolescents
5. Gender Equity, Equality and Empowerment
6. Policies and Programmes for the Elderly and disabled

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APPROACH

- Highlight current situation
- Highlight lessons learnt and success stories
- Identify gaps and challenges
- Recommendations

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Area (Square ml).	238.0
(Square km)	616.0
Habitable Area (Square ml)	207.9
(Square km)	539.1

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHY

	2007	Preliminary 2008	% Change
Population	163,338	170,331	1.2
Population Density (per sq. ml)	312.3	316.0	1.2
Birth Rate (Per 1000)	13.4	13.7	2.24
Death Rate (per 1000)	6.6	7.6	15.15
Infant Mortality Rate	<u>EDUCATION</u> 19.1	25.2	7.2

	2007	Preliminary 2008	% Change
Primary School Student Enrolment	21,329	20,164	5.5
Secondary School Student Enrolment	14,578	15,527	6.5
Tertiary School Student Enrolment	1,689	1,944	15.1

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Reproductive Health

- Responsibility and co-ordination of Activities- Saint Lucia Planned Parenthood and the Ministry of Health through the Bureau of Health Education
- Reproductive Health stated as a priority in the Health Sector Reform Strategy
- SLPPA's strategy consists of heightening the awareness of the population and development issues

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Reproductive Health

- The agency promotes responsible parenthood, reduces poverty through educational programmes for young people and adults
- provides quality contraceptive and reproductive health services in both clinical and non-clinical environments.
- SLPPA supports an island wide program of community services and community-based distribution through pharmacies, shops, restaurants and factories

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Reproductive Health

Services offered include:

Doctors clinics

Contraceptives

Clinical examinations such as pap smears

Infertility testing

Pregnancy testing and counselling

Sexuality Education

Family Life Education

Parenting Education

Education on Natural Family Planning

Voluntary Sterilization

A male only clinic on the last Wednesday of every month

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Reproductive Health

a one year project to offer taxi and minibus drivers an opportunity to increase their knowledge on the sexual and reproductive health issues and address their concerns.

- two three day work-shops for 45 drivers on male Sexual Reproductive Health
- production of 5, 000 leaflets for distribution on 5 SRH issues including HIV/AIDS

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Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights

- Production of two 30 second adds for use on radio for airing on local stations using influential male characters on the island as the main players in the production to promote safer sex practices

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Reproductive Health

- The St. Lucian culture is one that still does not openly allow for young persons to gain access to contraceptives. As such, individuals in need of the services provided, young girls in particular, are still discouraged in accessing SLPPA's services.
- getting males to access the services
- decentralize its services in the rural areas

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Reproductive Health

Recommendations

- Capacity Building
- Training for facilitators at a community level
- Continued Public Awareness Programme
- Decentralisation of the services offered by the organisation

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HIV/AIDS

- Ministry's of Health response to HIV/Aids is the National Aids Programme
- A Strategic National Action Plan for the national response to HIV/AIDS
- The strategic goal – Reduce HIV transmission and to mitigate the impact of AIDS on all levels of society.

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HIV/AIDS

Four Broad Strategies

- Advocacy, Policy Development including advocacy, policy and legislation, poverty reduction, human rights
- Comprehensive HIV/AIDS care for all
- Preventing further transmission of HIV/AIDS
- Strengthening the national capacity to deliver an effective, coordinated and multi-sectoral response to the epidemic

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HIV/AIDS

Activities:

- **Prevention** – New focus on communication strategy and development of HIV and Aids
- **Care and support** – Implement decentralized access to services, 20 Civil Society workers were trained in 2006. Access to free medical care available
- **Treatment** – Treatment protocols developed and disseminated in 2006
- **Counseling and Testing** – Counseling provided by trained Community Health nurses

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HIV/AIDS

Success of Current Programme

- Widespread condom distribution
- Good anti-stigma message
- Free anti-retroviral medication provision
- Voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) services provided with referral to clinics when the counseling services are provided off-site from testing
- Use of the ABC Approach

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HIV/AIDS

Challenges/Prevention

- Behaviour surveillance needs to be improved
- Radio and television should be used more often for behaviour change campaigns
- Decentralisation of prevention services
- Involvement of key line ministries in prevention efforts needs to commence

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HIV/AIDS

Challenges –Treatment, Care and Support

- HIV/STI services are still in the hands of very few specialists
- Access to treatment, care and support services is limited due to stigma and discrimination
- CVO's, NCO's PSO's should be empowered to implement service delivery at national and sub national levels if 2010 universal access targets are to be reached

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Policies and Programmes-Adolescents

- Health and Family Life Skills , parenting skills being taught in communities and youth targeted
- National Youth Policy adopted by Cabinet
- HFLE is currently taught at all primary and secondary schools
- Peer counsellors trained to disseminate information
- HFLE curriculum guide currently being developed
- An assessment of the impact of the HFLE in schools undertaken

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Policies and Programmes-Adolescents

Support for adolescents in life skills

- National Enrichment and Learning Unit-Ministry of Education-provides courses in Information Technology, Tiling, plumbing
- National Skills Development Centre-apprenticeship training for youth and other vocational courses offered
- Centre for Adolescent and Renewal and Education-CARE-hospitality services and office skills, Trainees hardly drop out due to the quality of the programme

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Policies and Programmes-Adolescents

Other programmes

- Youth at Risk and Entrepreneurship Programme-empowering and mobilising young people in entrepreneurial development and skills
- Capacity building and awareness programme-provision of positive role models through a mentoring programme to youth.
- Development of a Rural Sports Coaching Programme-cricket, football, netball and volleyball

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Policies and Programmes-Adolescents

Challenges

- The sustainability of existing projects and programmes
- Diminishing budgetary support to finance NELU, CARE, NSDC
- Availability of certified trainers to sustain the quality of the programmes

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Policies and Programmes-Adolescents

Recommendations

- develop a local mechanism involving the private sector and government to sustain the programmes
- Recruit trainers to train facilitators
- Increase awareness of the availability of the programme
- Establish accreditation systems so as to improve marketability of graduates

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Gender Equity, Equality, and Empowerment

Oversight-Division of Gender Relations in the Ministry of Health

National Gender priorities

- Gender based violence
- Power and decision making-inequality of the sharing of power and decision making at all levels
- Education-exists some disparity between literacy rates of males and females
- Health
- HIV/Aids-females account for 69% of all cases among youth (15-24) and 94% of all cases among teenagers (15-19 yrs)
- Labour and employment-women participation in the formal economy has increased but male oriented jobs not penetrated by women

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Policies and Programmes-Elderly and Disabled

- Division of Human Services-Ministry of Health charged with the responsibility for the care of older persons and persons with disabilities
- Manages a Public Assistance Programme-provides a monthly cash assistance to older persons, persons with disabilities, children and other vulnerable groups
- These individuals also receive free medical assistance from public health facilities
- Other assistance include disaster relief and housing assistance

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Policies and Programmes-Elderly and Disabled

- The National Council for the Disabled (NCD) –an NGO formed for the purpose of consolidating and improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities
- Acts as a resource centre for materials on the causes, detection, prevention and care of disabilities
- Co-ordinates and island wide Education Awareness Programme
- Co-ordinates a yearly camp for children with disabilities
- Co-ordinates a computer training programme for young adults with disabilities

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Policies and Programmes-Elderly and Disabled

Gaps and Challenges

- Conducting a situational analysis for care for older persons and the disabled will assist in identifying weaknesses and gaps that compromise care given to older persons and persons with disabilities
- This will ensure that commitments made in Madrid, Spain in April 2002 at the Second World Assembly on Ageing is materialised
- Currently the European Union is funding a study with the objective of promoting efficiency and quality of care in the delivery of services to older persons and persons with disabilities.

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Policies and Programmes-Elderly and Disabled

Some Outputs

- Impact of the Public Assistance Programme as a poverty alleviation strategy assessed
- A ten year plan of action for older persons and persons with disabilities developed
- Minimum standards, regulatory framework for the inspection, registration, and licensing of homes and Daycare centres for older persons established
- A training module for certification and training of caregivers working with persons with disabilities developed
- A training programme for trainers and caregivers conducted.