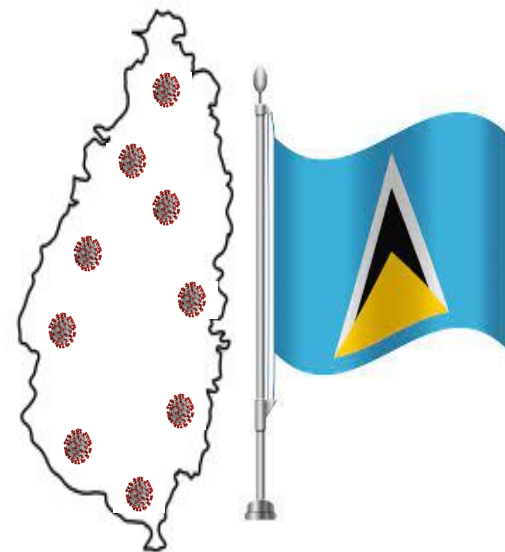




National Experiences: Challenges and Strengths of Recovery Plans in St Lucia.





REALITY: COVID 19 IMPACTED SCHOOLS IN ST LUCIA



Schools were closed for the following Periods:

- 16-27 March, 2020
- 14 April – 3 July, 2020
- 16 October – 11 December, 2020
- January, 22 – April 19, 2021

About 8 months lost!!!!!!



Impact of Pandemic

- Uncertainty and Anxiety Increased
- School operations move from Full time (Face to Face) to Online.



CHALLENGES FACED

- Lack of Access to devices and internet.
- Many students with devices and internet access were just demotivated and failed to participate in virtual learning



CHALLENGES CONT'D

- Lack of Instructional Supervision.
- Students suffered varying degrees of academic loss during the extended lockdown periods





ACTIONS TAKEN



PILLER 1

Continuity of Learning Plan

- Refined in country with stakeholder input
- Endorsed by Ministry of Health, Teachers' Union, Principals Association
- Widespread dissemination and use at school and District level
- Plans to continue updating as situation changes





#ColoquioKIXLAC

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

EDUCATION SECTOR
CONTINUITY PLAN
(COVID-19)
FOR SCHOOLS IN SAINT LUCIA



WRITTEN
8th December 2020

UPDATED
11th February 2022



PILLER 1 Cont'd

Academic recovery Program

- Plans to Continue with Diagnostic testing in shools
- Many schools showed interest in continuing Summer Program
- Seek to align with relevant elements of Lets REAP



Mitigation Measures For Academic Recovery

- After school programs/lessons;
- Remedial/Multi-Grade classes;
- Specialized teaching;
- Merging of content from previous terms with upcoming terms;
- One on one instruction;



Mitigation Measures For Academic Recovery Cont'd

- **Re-teaching;**
- **Blended instruction;**
- **Small group instruction and project based learning**



Summer School Programme

A Summer programme was viewed as a main mitigation measure to close the academic gap - (a low hanging fruit).



Summer School Programme Would ...

- Provide an opportunity for students to master basic skills and concepts in numeracy and literacy.
- Boost social competencies in students
- Provide a nurturing environment for students to complete their course of study.
- Provide relevant activities for students to cater to their needs.

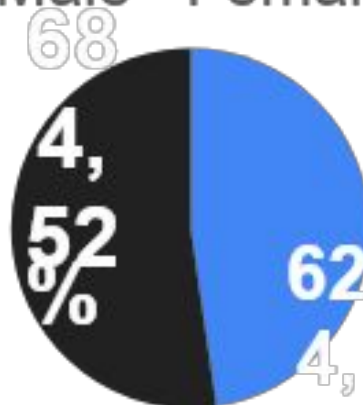


Summer Programme (Cont'd)

- Was successfully completed in July 2021 **Participants:** 1,308 students

Participants of the 2021 summer programme

■ Male ■ Female



Achievements

- Use of manipulatives by the students.
- A range of “non-academic” activities such as Swimming and Yoga. In those instances community members served as facilitators and the teachers assisted or provided oversight. This assisted with social and psychological well-being of students.
- The vast majority of students scored higher on the post-test in both literacy and numeracy – an indication that students learned.



Lessons Learned

Academic recovery is ongoing and all encompassing

- Psychosocial support is critical and necessary.
- It is not enough to institute programmes that target the vulnerable, some also need assistance to access those programmes for various reasons.
- Inadequate resources seriously hamper progress



PILLER 2

Devices for Teachers and Students

- Aligned with ongoing initiative to provide devices to school students
- Aligned with MOE plan to mainstream distributed instruction beyond crisis period
- A **champion** selected at the school level, and **Technicians** placed at District level to provide technical support





PILLER 2 (Cont'd)

Training in Effective Pedagogy for Distributed Teaching/Learning

- Training was timely and relevant
- Cadre of teachers to serve as leaders, mentors and future trainers
- Aligns with MOE plan to mainstream distributed instruction beyond crisis period



PILLER 3

Personal Hygiene Supplies

- To maintain the sanitation protocols at school and community levels
- Aligned with MOE plans to support most vulnerable in crisis
- Hygiene kits can be refilled to extend use





PILLER 3 (Cont'd)

School Water Sanitation

- Helped receiving schools get closer to desired water storage capacity; evident during recent water shortage
- Need for additional storage remains at many schools





PILLER 3 (Cont'd)

Single Desks
and chairs
*(replace double
desks)*

- Assisted with the enforcement of the social distancing protocols
- Helped combat furniture shortage which is a long outstanding problem
- Acquisition of additional furniture remains top priority





Successes

- In excess of 1000 students benefitted academically
- Student engagement focused on the Psychomotor and Affective Domains
- Resources such as internet connectivity, devices, furniture continue aid with recovery but the demand is still overwhelming.
- Partnerships with the OECS commission through GPE positively impacted students learning and well being.





Thank you

