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# MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

*Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:  
Institutional Strengthening; Research,  
Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation;  
and International Cooperation*

## Saint Lucia

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)  
Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)

2023





## MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

# SAINT LUCIA

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### **Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:**

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Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation;  
and International Cooperation

### **EIGHTH EVALUATION ROUND**

**2023**

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## PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), established by a mandate from the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, Chile - 1998), is a unique multilateral evaluation tool designed to measure the progress made and challenges faced by the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) in implementing the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs of the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy, currently in force.

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) is the OAS specialized agency in charge of implementing this Mechanism.

The current MEM round is based on the objectives of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2020 and their respective priority actions. These documents take into account the recommendations of the outcome document of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016) and the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, as well as cross-cutting issues, such as the gender perspective and human rights, cultural context, and social inclusion approaches, among others.

Seven evaluation rounds have been completed from 1998 to 2019 and, during 2020, the MEM Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG), composed of member state delegates, agreed on a new methodology for the eighth round, consisting of annual thematic evaluations with the support of independent technical consultants, as follows: 2021 – Measures for Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support; 2022 – Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences; 2023 – Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; International Cooperation; and 2024 – Comprehensive Evaluation based on updated information from all thematic areas.

MEM evaluations are carried out based on information provided by the member states' National Coordinating Entities (NCEs), which is analyzed by the MEM Governmental Expert Group (GEG), composed of experts designated by the countries, who do not participate in their own country's evaluation, thus ensuring the transparency and impartiality of the process. The GEG is always supported by the group of independent technical consultants and the MEM Unit. The eighth round represents a more rigorous evaluation process, in which countries are requested to provide valid means of verification to support the information submitted and ensure compliance of each priority action.

Specifically, the GEG's work for the thematic assessment for the areas of "Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; and International Cooperation" was conducted during 2023, and covers the 2019 to 2023 period (unless otherwise specified). This work was adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic with the use of technology and virtual tools, as well as taking it into consideration in the evaluation assessments.

Finally, it should be noted that one of the main purposes of MEM evaluation reports is to serve as a useful diagnostic tool to identify opportunities for improvement in drug policies and strategies, both at the national and regional levels.

# INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

**OBJECTIVE**

**1**

**ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL DRUG AUTHORITIES, PLACING THEM AT A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL AND PROVIDING THEM WITH THE NECESSARY CAPABILITIES, RESOURCES, AND COMPETENCIES TO COORDINATE FORMULATION, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION OF NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES.**

**Priority Action 1.1: Place national drug authorities at a high political level.**

Saint Lucia has the Substance Abuse Advisory Council Secretariat (SAACS) as the national drug authority, which was established in 1994 and is positioned under the Ministry of Health, Wellness, and Elderly Affairs within the government administrative structure.

**Priority Action 1.2: Grant national drug policy entities the authority to guide and coordinate the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of national drug policies.**

Saint Lucia’s national drug authority has a legal basis, through the Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act No.22 of 1988.

**Priority Action 1.3: Allocate the necessary resources (material, financial, and human) for the effective functioning of the national drug authorities.**

In Saint Lucia there is an annual budget for the national drug authority, which is independent. The amount of the annual budget of the national drug authority for the years 2019-2023 is listed below:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Annual budget amount (US dollars)	\$160,470	\$160,470	\$169,850	\$175,771	\$180,734

**Priority Action 1.4: Design or optimize mechanisms to facilitate effective coordination and collaboration among government institutions for the formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and updating of evidence-based national drug policies and/or strategies.**

Saint Lucia does not have an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government (national and subnational) to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update national drug policies or strategies.

The national drug authority of Saint Lucia coordinates the areas of demand reduction, drug observatory, and international cooperation. The authority does not coordinate the areas of supply reduction, program evaluation, or control measures.



**OBJECTIVE  
2**

**FORMULATE, IMPLEMENT, EVALUATE, AND UPDATE COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES THAT PROMOTE BALANCED, MULTIDISCIPLINARY, AND EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES, WHILE FULLY RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, UNDER THE PRINCIPLE OF COMMON AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, CONSISTENT WITH OBLIGATIONS OF PARTIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT GENDER, AGE, COMMUNITY, CULTURAL CONTEXT, AND SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT.**

**Priority Action 2.1:** Collect and use evidence as a basis for the formulation and updating of national drug policies and/or strategies.

Saint Lucia does not collect or use evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies or strategies.

**Priority Action 2.2:** Promote and establish collaborative relationships with the scientific community, public policy experts, community and/or civil society actors, and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to the evidence-based development, implementation, evaluation, and updating of national drug policies.

In Saint Lucia, the following relevant actors from the priority areas are involved in the development, implementation, evaluation and updating of national drug policies and/or strategies:

Relevant actors	Development	Implementation	Evaluation	Update
Health Ministry	x	x		x
Interior Ministry				
Justice Ministry		x		x
Education Ministry		x		x
Regional and/or local governments		x		
Scientific community/academia			x	x
Civil society	x	x		x
Private sector	x	x		x

The country’s Interior Ministry is not involved in the development, implementation, evaluation, or updating of national drug policies and/or strategies.

**Priority Action 2.3:** Promote sub-national/local management of drug policies and/or strategies through greater coordination and/or delegation of responsibilities, as appropriate, between sub-national/local and national agencies, taking into account the socio-cultural, demographic and other differences of each region.

Saint Lucia has not delegated responsibilities on drug issues to sub-national governments to implement concrete actions related to drug policies and strategies, in coordination with the national drug authority.

The national drug authority of Saint Lucia does not have, in its central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, train, and provide technical support to local/sub-national governments or agencies on drug-related issues. However, Substance Abuse Advisory Council Secretariat (SAACS) serves as the national governmental agency responsible for the promotion, coordination, training, and provision of technical support on all matters pertaining to drugs in Saint Lucia. In this sense, SAACS hosts international drug agencies for the purpose of conducting training workshops on drug-related matters for partner agencies.

The national drug authority of Saint Lucia does not have coordinators, offices, or representatives in the sub-national or local territories, as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level to respond to the drug problem.

The country does not have a specific and ongoing mechanism or program to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives or projects carried out by municipalities or local governments.

**Priority Action 2.4:** Engage private sector entities to develop innovative approaches to implementation of drug policy, including the exchange of information on emerging substances and new drug trafficking modalities that may affect the private sector, and best practices for denying criminals access to the private sector platforms and technologies that facilitate international trade.

Saint Lucia engages private sector entities to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange information and best practices. The areas within the private sector entities that develop these approaches are in the hospitality industry. The innovative approaches developed include installation of and signage at tourist establishments prohibiting public smoking, workplace drug education training, and staff members health and safety retreats.

**Priority Action 2.5:** Formulate or update national drug policies and/or strategies in line with the 2020 OAS Hemispheric Strategy on Drugs and this accompanying Plan of Action, taking into account the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Saint Lucia takes into account the OAS 2020 Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies.

The country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this sense, the country has set the following goal and objectives in the area of demand reduction:

Goal:

- Improve the physical, mental, social, spiritual, and well-being of the citizens through the systemic multi-disciplinary approaches to drug prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and social integration

Objectives:

- Strengthen demand reduction interventions and programs with a public health focus using evidence-based activities through a multi-sectoral approach
- Develop or strengthen prevention programs and specialized programs for targeted groups
- Review and strengthen drug rehabilitation and treatment programs for individuals with problematic drug use with due consideration for gender and human rights

**Priority Action 2.6: Integrate a human rights, gender, and social inclusion approach, particularly with respect to at-risk populations, in the process of formulating, implementing, and updating national drug policies and/or strategies.**

Saint Lucia's national drug policies and strategies take into account the human rights approach, through Objective 1.3 of Goal 1 in the draft Drug Policy: Review and strengthen drug rehabilitation and treatment programs for individuals with problematic drug use with due consideration for gender and human rights.

The country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the gender perspective. In this sense, the Drug Strategy covers this topic as follows:

- Gender perspective (Excerpt from the draft National Anti-Drug Strategy for the period 2020-2025): This gender-based perspective in Saint Lucia will consider the figures collected regarding the sex of individuals who receive treatment, those who access the treatment, and those who are arrested and even imprisoned. The gender-based approach featured in the Policy will focus on how the use and misuse of drugs impact men, women and other at-risk populations including the LGBTQIA+ community. The prevalence of drug use among the sexes and how the identified issues are mirrored in gender-specific approaches to prevention, treatment, and harm reduction is also highlighted (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, 2006)
- Objective 1.3 of Goal 1 (in the draft Strategy): Review and strengthen drug rehabilitation and treatment programs for individuals with problematic drug use with due consideration for gender and human rights

The national drug authority of Saint Lucia requires technical support to develop and implement programs with a gender perspective. In that sense, the practice of examining the ramifications for women and men of any proposed action, including laws, policies, or programs, in all domains and at all levels, is known as mainstreaming a gender perspective. It is a method for ensuring that the concerns and experiences of both men and women are considered during the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and programs across all political, economic, and societal spheres, ensuring that both genders are benefited equally and that inequality is prevented from persisting. Being gender-equal is the ultimate goal.

Saint Lucia's national drug policies and strategies take into account the social inclusion approach. In this sense, the draft National Anti-Drug Strategy (2023 -2027) covers a holistic multidisciplinary approach to drug prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and social integration should be taken to enhance the physical, mental, social, spiritual, and total well-being of residents. The National Anti-Drug Strategy 2023-2027 includes a multi-sectoral approach that makes use of programs and activities that are supported by evidence and have a public health focus. Citizens will be able to get the tools and assistance they need through this strategy to safeguard their health and well-being. This Strategy will lessen the demand for medications as well as the risks and negative effects that come with it.

**Priority Action 2.7: Provide adequate financial and other necessary resources for the implementation of drug policies and programs.**

Saint Lucia has the necessary resources to implement drug policies and programs.

**OBJECTIVE**  
**3**

**DESIGN AND COORDINATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES, THAT CAN BE HARMONIZED ACROSS RELATED GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES, THAT ADDRESS THE FUNDAMENTAL CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE DRUG PROBLEM.**

**Priority Action 3.1: Establish and/or strengthen interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms, to achieve a comprehensive, balanced, and multi-disciplinary approach to the drug problem, including its causes and consequences.**

Saint Lucia does not have interagency or multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms to address the drug problem in a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach, including its causes and consequences.

**Priority Action 3.2: Design, implement, and evaluate multisectoral plans and programs based on the principles of human rights, public health, and development, to address and counter the socioeconomic causes and the consequences of the drug problem.**

Saint Lucia does not have concrete multisectoral plans or programs to address the causes and socioeconomic consequences of the drug problem.

**Priority Action 3.3: Participate in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, institutions, and their internal processes.**

Saint Lucia participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, and institutions and their internal processes. In this sense, the country has participated in activities organized by Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as well as in the Cooperation Programme between Latin America, Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD) III program, the ALCORCA program, and the Regional Security System (RSS) Advanced Passenger Information System and Advanced Cargo Information System.

**Priority Action 3.4: Promote comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption.**

Saint Lucia does not promote comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption.

**Priority Action 3.5: Implement measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context.**

Saint Lucia implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches. In this sense, the justice system considers these factors in the process of drafting laws. These factors influence the determination of appropriate sentencing to the guilty party or parties.

**Priority Action 3.6: Implement measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion.**

Saint Lucia implements measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion. This was done through a recent census which measured the disparity between household incomes at a national level, and which bills have been passed that place stiffer penalties on levels of corruption. There are also major infrastructure development projects with the aim to increase access of nationals and to reduce crime and victimization. At a local level there are informal groups and drug-free clubs in school and communities. Also, groups and clubs in faith-based organizations, neighborhood watch, and a Royal Saint Lucia Police Force (RSPF) community policing initiative.

**OBJECTIVE**  
**4**

**DESIGN, ADOPT, AND IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR MINOR OR NON-VIOLENT DRUG OR DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES, WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NATIONAL, CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS.**

**Priority Action 4.1: Adopt alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses, where appropriate, while safeguarding the sovereignty of states, and ensuring individual accountability, respecting human rights and the gender perspective.**

Saint Lucia’s law provides for alternative measures to incarceration for minor drug-related offenses through the Criminal Code of Saint Lucia, Section 1102 (General Judicial Guidelines) and Section 8A of the Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act, Amendment 2021. These measures respect human rights and take into account the gender perspective in accordance with relevant international instruments. In this sense, incarcerated female individuals have the right to be searched by other females and to be incarcerated with females. Additionally, illnesses and religious freedoms are taken into consideration.

**Priority Action 4.2: Develop mechanisms to monitor and evaluate alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses, in collaboration with academic and research institutions, as well as civil society.**

Saint Lucia does not develop mechanisms to monitor or evaluate alternative measures to incarceration for minor drug-related offenses.

**Priority Action 4.3: Promote common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration.**

Saint Lucia does not promote a common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, or internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration.

**OBJECTIVE**  
**5****PROMOTE AND IMPLEMENT, AS APPROPRIATE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LAWS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE AT-RISK POPULATIONS.**

**Priority Action 5.1:** Design and implement, in accordance with the characteristics, interests, and needs of each country, inter-agency and multisectoral programs that promote the social inclusion of individuals, families, and communities affected by the drug problem, taking into account the specific needs of at-risk populations.

Saint Lucia does not have inter-agency or multisectoral programs that promote the social inclusion of individuals, families, or communities affected by the drug problem, taking into account the specific needs of vulnerable populations.

**Priority Action 5.2:** Disseminate best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of at-risk populations.

Saint Lucia disseminates best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of people in at-risk situations, such as mechanisms, programs, and interventions, through publications, meetings, workshops, among others. Stakeholders' participation and making sure that all interested parties are kept up to date on project modifications and updates is crucial. Many techniques, including email, meetings, and other types of communication, training, and workshops are used to accomplish this. Stakeholders contribute comments and aid in ensuring the project's success by keeping them informed. Promoting mutual respect and understanding between agencies and the stakeholders is a crucial aspect of every project.



**OBJECTIVE**  
**6**

**PROMOTE PROPORTIONATE SENTENCING FOR DRUG-RELATED CRIMES THAT PROVIDES FOR PENALTIES COMMENSURATE WITH THE RELATIVE SERIOUSNESS OF OFFENSES, IN LINE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONVENTIONS AND RESPECTING THE PRINCIPLES OF DUE PROCESS, WITH GENDER PERSPECTIVE, AGE, COMMUNITY, AND A HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH.**

**Priority Action 6.1: Promote proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offenses in accordance with domestic law.**

Saint Lucia promotes Section 1102 of the Criminal Code of Saint Lucia (General Judicial Guidelines), which provides for proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offences, in accordance with domestic law.

The country has the Magistrates' Court (Summary Offences) for minor drug-related offenses.

**Priority Action 6.2: Promote legal reforms as needed, to promote proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses.**

Saint Lucia promotes legal reforms, where appropriate, regarding proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses through the amendment of laws, especially the Children and Young Persons Act and the Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act.

# **RESEARCH, INFORMATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION**

**OBJECTIVE**  
**1**

**ESTABLISH OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL OBSERVATORIES ON DRUGS, OR SIMILAR TECHNICAL OFFICES, STRENGTHENING NATIONAL DRUG INFORMATION SYSTEMS, AND FOSTER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO GENERATE, COLLECT, ORGANIZE, ANALYZE, AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION TO INFORM THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EVIDENCE-BASED DRUG POLICIES AND STRATEGIES.**

**Priority Action 1.1: Develop and strengthen national drug observatories (NDO) or similar technical offices ensuring they have adequate human and financial resources.**

Saint Lucia does not have a national drug observatory (NDO) or similar technical office.

**Priority Action 1.2: Strengthen ties to academic and research institutions, as well as specialized non-governmental organizations, to foster scientific research and studies on the various aspects of the drug phenomenon.**

Saint Lucia has not established or maintained working relationships with universities or specialized research centers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or other academic or research institutions.

The country has not carried out studies on the drug problem through universities or specialized research centers, NGOs, or other academic or research institutions.

**Priority Action 1.3: Develop and adopt quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries.**

Saint Lucia has not developed or adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies or information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries.

The country has not carried out studies using methods that are non-representative of the population or qualitative methodologies to obtain information on drugs that can be shared with other countries that have carried out studies with similar methodologies.

**Priority Action 1.4: Establish and strengthen national drug information networks (DINs) to carry out long-term monitoring and early warning systems (EWS), including the use of a broad range of research methods and information sources, to develop rapid responses to emerging threats.**

**Priority Action 1.5: Contribute to the Early Warning System of the Americas (Spanish acronym SATA) to gather the available national alerts and disseminate them to member states, so that member states can respond in the shortest possible time to new threats.**

**Priority Action 1.6:** Publish updates annually, when possible, on drug supply and drug demand utilizing the information provided on the national drug situation by using information from the national DINs.

Saint Lucia does not have a functioning national drug information network (DIN).

The country does not have an early warning system (EWS) to identify new psychoactive substances (NPS) or other emerging drug-related threats.

**Priority Action 1.7:** Build capacity among relevant stakeholders to enhance the collection, management, and dissemination of drug related information.

Saint Lucia does not carry out training sessions with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management.

The country does not convene meetings or other workshops where the results of studies and other information gathering activities are shared with local stakeholders.

**Priority Action 1.8:** Establish or strengthen forums at which drug researchers can present their findings to policymakers, and encourage their participation in CICAD experts groups.

Saint Lucia has not established forums that allow drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers.

**Priority Action 1.9:** Foster and disseminate best practices and the exchange of successful experiences in research among member states.

Saint Lucia does not promote or disseminate good practices or the exchange of successful research experiences among member states.

**OBJECTIVE**  
**2**

**EXPAND ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON DRUG USE AND RELATED ISSUES THROUGH THE USE OF SOUND, SYSTEMATIC DATA COLLECTION PRACTICES, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND STANDARDIZED METHODOLOGIES, ENSURING THAT COUNTRIES HAVE THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO DEVELOP SOUND DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAMS AND POLICIES.**

**Priority Action 2.1:** Generate information on the incidence, prevalence, and modes of drug use and health impacts of drug use (e.g. non-fatal overdose, fatal overdose, infectious disease transmission), as well as drug use and health impact trends over time using sound, systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and standardized methodologies to monitor use across the general public and in key populations, whenever possible utilizing the Inter-American Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) as the standard methodology for epidemiological surveillance.

Saint Lucia has not carried out demand reduction studies within the evaluation period (2019-2023).

**Priority Action 2.2:** Develop drug treatment information systems that record the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, and available information on treatment outcomes.

Saint Lucia has a national system for the collection of data on the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, and available information on treatment outcomes.

The national system on treatment data includes the following modalities and interventions:

Modalities and interventions	Yes	No
Community-based service		X
Screening, Brief Interventions, and Referral to Treatment	X	
Medication-Assisted Treatment		X
Short-Term In-Patient or Residential Treatment	X	
Outpatient Treatment	X	
Long-term Residential Treatment		X
Recovery Management	X	

Data on treated patients is collected from the following institutions:

Institution	Yes	No
Public health system	X	
Private institutions		X
Non-governmental organizations		X
Religious institutions		X

**Priority Action 2.3:** Evaluate and monitor the impact and the results of treatment and prevention programs using scientific methodologies and make recommendations to update programs based on findings.

Saint Lucia has carried out the following study to evaluate treatment programs:

Scope	Are evaluation studies carried out?		If yes, please specify: Title of the study Assessment year
	Yes	No	
Prevention		X	
Treatment	X		Assessment of Treatment Program at Turning Point Rehabilitation Centre

Saint Lucia has not carried out process or intermediate outcome evaluations of prevention and treatment programs.

The country has not carried out impact evaluations of its prevention or treatment programs.

Saint Lucia does not have mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment, rehabilitation, or recovery and social integration programs and services in the public health and/or social protection network.

**OBJECTIVE**  
**3**

**EXPAND AND ENHANCE THE COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON ILLICIT DRUG PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING, AND RELATED ISSUES, THROUGH THE USE OF SOUND, SYSTEMATIC DATA COLLECTION PRACTICES, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND STANDARDIZED METHODOLOGIES.**

**Priority Action 3.1:** Generate information on illicit drug production, trafficking, drug markets, and related issues, using systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and wherever possible applying comparable methodologies.

Saint Lucia has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. The Drug Squad within the Saint Lucia Royal Police Force, and the Drug Inspector, which is an office within the Ministry of Health and Wellness, participate in these mechanisms.

The country has the following information related to supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes:

Supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Quantification of illicit crop cultivation including crops grown indoors	X		2022
Number of seizures of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production		X	
Quantities of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized	X		2022
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2022
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2022
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products	X		2022
Quantities of seized pharmaceutical products	X		2022
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2022
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2022
Number of laboratories producing illicit plant-based drugs detected and dismantled	X		2022
Number of laboratories producing illicit drugs of synthetic origin detected and dismantled	X		2022
Chemical composition of seized drugs	X		2022
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)	X		2022
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering	X		2022
Number of persons convicted of money laundering	X		2022
Number of persons formally charged with trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition, and related materials		X	

Supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Number of persons convicted of trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition, and related materials		X	
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances		X	
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances		X	

Saint Lucia carries out the following periodic study on the illicit drug market:

Type of Study	Title of report	Year of publication of research findings
Drug Trafficking Trends	Country Report	2022

The country does not carry out studies on the medical and scientific use and other legal uses of narcotics or psychotropic substances, subject to international control systems.

**Priority Action 3.2:** Conduct studies on the price, purity or concentration, and chemical profile of drugs.

Saint Lucia collects information for the development of studies on the drug price through publications such as the following:

Type of Study	Title of report/publication	Year of report/publication
Drug Trafficking Trends	Country Report	2022

The country conducts chemical characterizations of substances that may or may not be subject to international control. The country does not conduct purity tests.

**Priority Action 3.3:** Establish and strengthen the relationship between the NDOs, or similar technical offices, and national, and when applicable, local, or sub-national forensic laboratories to bolster the collection of data on the chemical composition of substances and precursors seized.

The Saint Lucia Forensic Laboratory is responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances (NPS).

The country does not implement or participate in periodic training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including NPS.



**Priority Action 3.4:** Strengthen drug information networks in member states by improving the mechanisms used to gather and analyze data to inform the development of public policies that control the illicit supply of drugs.

Not applicable.

**OBJECTIVE**

4

**PARTICIPATE IN AND STRENGTHEN THE MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM) PROCESS, CONSIDERING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.**

**Priority Action 4.1: Regularly collect information and data to evaluate implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action.**

For the eighth round of evaluation of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), Saint Lucia collected information on the implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 and submitted it in a timely manner for evaluation by the Group of Governmental Experts (GEG) in the following thematic areas:

- Measures of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support (2021)
- Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences (2022)
- Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; and International Cooperation (2023)

**Priority Action 4.2: Support and facilitate active and timely participation in each of the MEM activities agreed to by member states.**

For the eighth evaluation round of the MEM, Saint Lucia designated delegates for the following MEM groups, actively participating and contributing to the evaluation process:

Thematic evaluation	National Coordinating Entities (NCEs)	Governmental Expert Group (GEG)
Measures of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support (2021)	Yes	Yes
Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences (2022)	Yes	Yes
Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; and International Cooperation (2023)	Yes	Yes

**Priority Action 4.3: Disseminate MEM evaluation reports by member states among national stakeholders, other pertinent organizations, and the general public.**

Saint Lucia did not carry out periodic activities to promote and raise awareness of the MEM Drug Policy Evaluation Reports aimed at national institutions.

**Priority Action 4.4: Promote use of the MEM’s findings to identify technical assistance needs.**

Saint Lucia has not promoted the analysis of the findings of MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies for national institutions to identify areas where technical assistance is needed to improve national drug-related policies and programs.

**Priority Action 4.5: Increase hemispheric cooperation and partnerships among member states and sharing of best practices and lessons learned.**

Saint Lucia has not reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies or identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states or share best practices and lessons learned (horizontal cooperation).

# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

**OBJECTIVE**

**1**

**PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN COOPERATION AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS TO FOSTER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, IMPROVE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCES, AND SHARE BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED ON DRUG POLICIES.**

**Priority Action 1.1: Develop and implement a plan for promoting and strengthening technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, and related initiatives and programs.**

Saint Lucia does not develop or implement a plan for the promotion and strengthening of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside the Western Hemisphere, as well as with relevant international and regional organizations, and related initiatives and programs.

The country has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control. There is one point of contact and all communications (by any method) go through it.

Saint Lucia promotes the exchange, with member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, of best practices on training, specialization, and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing national drug policies and strategies. In this sense, the country carries out meetings on drug policy with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS).

The country participates in regional coordination activities with the Regional Security Systems (RSS), the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, and corruption, among others.

In Saint Lucia, there are bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes with Caribbean countries, the United States, Canada, and European Union countries. These mechanisms are used daily.

**Priority Action 1.2: Promote technology transfers and information sharing among and between member states and international organizations.**

Saint Lucia has not promoted technology transfers among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations.

The country has promoted information sharing among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations, which includes intelligence information, Advance Passenger Information System (APIS), and Advance Cargo Information System (ACIS).

**Priority Action 1.3: Promote the dissemination of good practices and exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations.**

Saint Lucia does not promote the dissemination of good practices or the exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations on drug policies.

**OBJECTIVE  
2****STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AS DEFINED IN THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM, MAINTAINING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.**

**Priority Action 2.1: Strengthen regional and international cooperation by competent authorities to investigate and prosecute criminals on drug-related offenses.**

The competent authorities in Saint Lucia carry out cooperative activities at the regional and international levels to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses. In this sense, the country establishes Mutual Legal Agreements and Treaties (MLATs), and memorandum of understandings (MOUs) to have suspects extradited to face prosecution. The human rights approach deals with the frequent low-level, non-violent, and first-time involvement in such crimes.

**Priority Action 2.2: Strengthen regional and international cooperation to facilitate, where appropriate, mutual legal assistance, extradition, and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with international legal instruments, when investigating and prosecuting criminals on drug-related offenses.**

Saint Lucia carries out activities to strengthen regional and international cooperation to facilitate, where appropriate, mutual legal assistance, extradition, and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with international legal instruments, when investigating and prosecuting criminals on drug-related offenses. These include meetings, amendment of laws, and signature of regional and international agreements.

**Priority Action 2.3: Enact national legislation and/or take administrative actions, as appropriate, to more fully implement the obligations set forth within these legal instruments.**

Saint Lucia has not enacted or adopted, during the evaluation period (2019-2023), legislative or administrative measures and actions to improve implementation of obligations set forth within international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, respecting human rights and gender equality.

**Priority Action 2.4: Promote the accession, ratification, and implementation of the international legal instruments related to the world drug problem and related crimes.**

Saint Lucia has ratified or acceded to the following international legal instruments:

Conventions and Protocols		Yes	No	
United Nations Conventions	Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000	Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	x	
		Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air		x
		Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition		x
	Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961	x		
	Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971	x		
	Convention against Corruption, 2003	x		
Inter-American Conventions	Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials (CIFTA), 1997	x		
	Convention against Corruption, 1996	x		
	Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, 1992		x	



## EVALUATIVE SUMMARY

### INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

#### **Objective 1**

**Establish and/or strengthen national drug authorities, placing them at a high political level and providing them with the necessary capabilities, resources, and competencies to coordinate formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of national drug policies.**

CICAD notes that Saint Lucia has a national drug authority, which has a legal basis. Moreover, CICAD observes that, in the country, there is an annual budget for the national drug authority, which is independent. However, CICAD notes that Saint Lucia does not have an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government (national and subnational) to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update national drug policies or strategies. On the other hand, the national drug authority coordinates the areas of demand reduction, drug observatory, and international cooperation, but does not coordinate the areas of supply reduction, program evaluation or control measures.

#### **Objective 2**

**Formulate, implement, evaluate, and update comprehensive national drug policies and/or strategies that promote balanced, multidisciplinary, and evidence-based approaches, while fully respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, under the principle of common and shared responsibility, consistent with obligations of parties under international law, and take into account gender, age, community, cultural context, and socially inclusive development.**

CICAD notes that Saint Lucia does not collect or use evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies or strategies. Nevertheless, CICAD observes the involvement of relevant actors from the priority areas in the development, implementation, evaluation, and updating of national drug policies and/or strategies; however, the country's Interior Ministry is not involved in these activities. However, CICAD notes that Saint Lucia has not delegated responsibilities on drug issues to sub-national governments to implement concrete actions related to drug policies and strategies, in coordination with the national drug authority. In addition, the national drug authority does not have, in its central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, train, and provide technical support to local/sub-national governments or agencies on drug-related issues. Moreover, the national drug authority does not have coordinators, offices, or representatives in the sub-national or local territories, as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level to respond to the drug problem. Additionally, the country does not have a specific and ongoing mechanism or program to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives or projects carried out by municipalities or local governments. On the other hand, CICAD observes that Saint Lucia engages private sector entities to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange information and best practices. Also, CICAD notes that the country takes into account the OAS

2020 Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies. Moreover, these policies and strategies take into account the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, CICAD observes that Saint Lucia's national drug policies and strategies take into account the human rights approach, the gender perspective, and the social inclusion approach. Additionally, CICAD notes that the country has the necessary resources to implement drug policies and programs.

### **Objective 3**

**Design and coordinate national drug policies, that can be harmonized across related government policies and/or strategies, that address the fundamental causes and consequences of the drug problem.**

CICAD notes that Saint Lucia does not have interagency or multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms to address the drug problem in a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach, including its causes and consequences. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country does not have concrete multisectoral plans or programs to address the causes and socioeconomic consequences of the drug problem. However, CICAD notes that Saint Lucia participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, and institutions and their internal processes. On the other hand, CICAD observes that the country does not promote comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption. Also, CICAD notes that Saint Lucia implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country implements measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion.

### **Objective 4**

**Design, adopt, and implement alternatives to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug or drug-related offenses, while taking into account national, constitutional, legal, and administrative systems, and in accordance with relevant international instruments.**

CICAD notes that Saint Lucia's law provides for alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses, which respect human rights and take into account the gender perspective in accordance with relevant international instruments. However, CICAD observes that the country does not develop mechanisms to monitor or evaluate these measures, or promote a common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, or internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration.

**Objective 5**

**Promote and implement, as appropriate, in accordance with the policies, laws and needs of each country, comprehensive programs that promote social inclusion, especially to those at-risk populations.**

CICAD notes that Saint Lucia does not have inter-agency or multisectoral programs that promote the social inclusion of individuals, families, or communities affected by the drug problem, taking into account the specific needs of vulnerable populations. However, CICAD observes that the country disseminates best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of people in at-risk situations.

**Objective 6**

**Promote proportionate sentencing for drug-related crimes that provides for penalties commensurate with the relative seriousness of offenses, in line with the international drug conventions and respecting the principles of due process, with gender perspective, age, community, and a human rights approach.**

CICAD observes with satisfaction that Saint Lucia promotes legislation that provides for proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offences, in accordance with domestic law and has special courts for these offenses. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country promotes legal reforms, where appropriate, regarding proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses.

**RESEARCH, INFORMATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION****Objective 1**

**Establish or strengthen national observatories on drugs, or similar technical offices, strengthening national drug information systems, and foster scientific research to generate, collect, organize, analyze, and disseminate information to inform the development and implementation of evidence-based drug policies and strategies.**

CICAD notes with concern that Saint Lucia does not have a National Drug Observatory or similar technical office. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has not established or maintained working relationships with universities or specialized research centers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or other academic or research institutions and has not carried out studies on the drug problem through them. Moreover, CICAD notes that Saint Lucia has not developed or adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies or information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries. Also, the country has not carried out studies using methods that are non-representative of the population to obtain information on drugs that can be shared with other countries that have carried out studies with similar methodologies. Additionally, CICAD notes that Saint Lucia does not have a national drug information network (DIN) nor an early warning system (EWS) to identify NPS or other emerging

drug-related threats. Additionally, CICAD notes that the country does not carry out training sessions with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management, nor meetings or other workshops where the results of studies and other information gathering activities are shared with local stakeholders. Additionally, CICAD observes that Saint Lucia has not established forums that allow drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country does not promote or disseminate good practices or the exchange of successful research experiences among member states.

### **Objective 2**

**Expand access to information on drug use and related issues through the use of sound, systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and standardized methodologies, ensuring that countries have the information necessary to develop sound demand reduction programs and policies.**

CICAD notes that Saint Lucia has not carried out or published demand reduction studies during the evaluation period (2019-2023). However, CICAD observes that the country has a national system for the collection of data on the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, and available information on treatment outcomes. Moreover, CICAD notes that Saint Lucia has carried out a study to evaluate treatment programs, but not for prevention programs. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country has not carried out any process, intermediate outcome, or impact evaluations of its prevention or treatment programs. Additionally, the country does not have mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment, rehabilitation and recovery and social integration programs and services in the public health and/or social protection network.

### **Objective 3**

**Expand and enhance the collection and dissemination of information on illicit drug production, trafficking, and related issues, through the use of sound, systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and standardized methodologies.**

CICAD notes that Saint Lucia has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs and has information related to supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes. Additionally, the country carries out a periodic study on the illicit drug market but has not carried out studies on the medical and scientific use and other legal uses of narcotics or psychotropic substances, subject to international control systems. Moreover, CICAD observes that Saint Lucia collects information on the drug price and conducts chemical characterizations of substances that may or may not be subject to international control, however, it does not collect information on drug purity. CICAD notes that the country has an institution that is responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances, however, Saint Lucia does not implement or participate in periodic training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances.

**Objective 4**

**Participate in and strengthen the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) process, considering its recommendations.**

CICAD notes that, for the eighth round of evaluation of the MEM, Saint Lucia collected information on the implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 and submitted it in a timely manner for evaluation by the Group of Governmental Experts (GEG). CICAD observes that, for the eighth evaluation round of the MEM, the country designated delegates for all the MEM groups, actively participating and contributing to the evaluation process. However, CICAD notes that Saint Lucia did not carry out periodic activities to promote and raise awareness of the MEM Drug Policy Evaluation Reports aimed at national institutions. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has not promoted the analysis of the findings of MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies for national institutions to identify areas where technical assistance is needed to improve national drug-related policies and programs. Additionally, CICAD notes that Saint Lucia has not reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies and identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states or share best practices and lessons learned (horizontal cooperation).

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION****Objective 1**

**Promote and strengthen cooperation and coordination mechanisms to foster technical assistance, improve exchange of information and experiences, and share best practices and lessons learned on drug policies.**

CICAD notes that Saint Lucia does not develop or implement a plan for the promotion and strengthening of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside the Western Hemisphere, as well as with relevant international and regional organizations, and related initiatives and programs. However, the country has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control. Moreover, Saint Lucia promotes the exchange, with member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, of best practices on training, specialization, and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing the national drug policies and strategies. Additionally, the country participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, and corruption, among others. Also, in Saint Lucia there are bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes. However, CICAD observes that the country has not promoted technology transfers among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations. On the other hand, Saint Lucia does promote information sharing among them. Also, CICAD notes that the country does not promote the dissemination of good practices or the exchange of

successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations on drug policies.

### **Objective 2**

**Strengthen international cooperation as defined in the international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, maintaining respect for human rights.**

CICAD notes that the competent authorities in Saint Lucia carry out cooperative activities at the regional and international levels to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses. Moreover, CICAD observed that the country carries out activities to strengthen regional and international cooperation to facilitate, where appropriate, mutual legal assistance, extradition, and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with international legal instruments, when investigating and prosecuting criminals on drug-related offenses. However, CICAD notes that Saint Lucia has not enacted or adopted, during the evaluation period (2019-2023), legislative or administrative measures and actions to implement compliance with the obligations established in international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, respecting human rights and gender equality. On the other hand, CICAD observes that the country has ratified or acceded to most of the international legal instruments of the United Nations and most of the OAS Inter-American legal instruments regarding the world drug problem and related crimes.





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