Saint Lucia Presentation
UIS Regional Virtual Meeting
22 May 2020
General COVID-19 situation in Saint Lucia

• First case reported March 13, 2020

• Response strategies include:
  - Closure of all Educational institutions from March 16
  - Closure of all but essential services, curfew, 24 hour lockdown
  - Closure of air and sea ports, zoning within country
  - Physical distancing measures and wearing of masks

• 18 confirmed cases to date

• All 18 confirmed cases have recovered (0 deaths, 0 active cases)
Impact on Education

• Abrupt end to all face to face instruction
• Blended approach to instruction (online + distribution of paper based packages to students)
• Lack of a harmonized solution to online instruction
• Cancellation of all school activities: e.g sporting, cultural
• Cancellation of national standardized tests (Grade 2, Grade 4)
• Uncertainty around Grade 6 placement exam and CSEC Regional exams
Challenges of Abrupt school closures

• Unequal access to devices and internet connectivity for students, teachers, administrators
• Many teachers not equipped to transition to online activities
• Limited access to proper nutrition and psychosocial support for marginalized and vulnerable student population
• Inadequate technical and financial resources to support response
• Uncertainty surrounding administration of examinations
• Inadequate collection of data to assess needs of learners and effectiveness of instruction
Current Status in Country

- Low incidence of local transmission of covid-19
- Strategic approach to phased reopening of the country
- Most sectors have reopened as of May 18 under new protocols
- Repatriation of nationals (with institutionalized quarantine)
- Planned reopening of schools to accommodate students doing terminal exams (Grade 6 and Form 5) from June 02
- Local examinations have been modified to accommodate shortened term, multiple choice only
Guidelines for reopening of schools

• Working with health authorities and regional agencies to develop guidelines
• Smaller class sizes needed to comply with physical distancing rules
• Continuity of e-learning
• Cancelling all activities which encourage crowding
• Arrangements for flexible attendance and sick leave to encourage students and staff to stay home when sick
• Addressing mental health/psychosocial support needs of staff and students
• Develop procedures to identify and isolate sick students
• Track absenteeism and seek patterns associated with covid-19
• Work with social services to provide services to vulnerable students
National strategies for regular data collection?

Education data collection activities affected:

- Monthly attendance and other data not being collected at schools since the closure
- Obtaining outstanding data from some schools will prove even more challenging

How is Saint Lucia planning to record usual aggregate measures:

- Use of monitoring mechanisms of the various learning platforms
- Monitoring of teachers who send assignments and students who submit assignments
Indicators in the global and thematic indicator framework that will require additional data collection to adequately monitor and report

Establishing a major monitoring mechanism for
• students accessing the online instructional platform
• teachers playing an active role in delivering subject material
Challenges with data collection during Crisis

• Obtaining data in a timely manner from schools
• Manual processes require school administration to be on site for data capture and submission
• Difficulty in reaching school personnel when schools are closed
• Zoning system and curfews implemented to reduce spread of COVID-19 made it difficult to reach schools
• Multiple requests for data at the local, regional and international level put added burden on limited human resource
Suggestions for data production during such crisis

• Centralized EMIS to facilitate data entry at school level and retrieval at District and Ministry level

• Provide schools with external/cloud storage so data can be accessed from outside the school

• Data sharing among external agencies to avoid multiple requests to countries for the same data