

PILLARS OF PROGRESS:

Tracking St. Kitts and Nevis' Journey to 2040

7 HEALTH & SOCIAL PROTECTION

A HEALTH

The health pillar of the SISA focuses on building a resilient, equitable, and high-quality healthcare system. Key priorities include achieving universal health coverage by eliminating financial barriers and ensuring access to medicines and vaccines. Strengthening health systems through improved infrastructure, governance, and partnerships is central, alongside prioritizing disease prevention and addressing non-communicable diseases like diabetes and cancer. The plan also emphasizes mental health services, climate-smart health facilities, and robust emergency preparedness. Investments in human resources, health technology, and data systems ensure the sector's resilience

"Under our SISA, there must be meaningful actions to address the social, environmental, and other determinants that strongly influence health outcomes. [...] There must be strong social protection systems, including an efficient health insurance programme so that the plight of those in situations of vulnerability is not aggravated by situations over which they have little or no control."



The Hon. Dr. Terrance Drew
Prime Minister and Minister of Finance,
National Security, Citizenship and
Immigration, Health and Human Resource
Management and Social Security

KEY FACTS

- Heart disease, stroke, cancer, and diabetes complications account for nearly 60% of deaths in the Federation.
- The government plans to increase public healthcare spending to meet the PAHO benchmark of 6% of GDP.
- NCD-related deaths have significantly declined from 85% to 62% over the past decade.
- Over 26% of school-age children are obese, raising risks for diabetes and hypertension.
- A National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme will be implemented following public consultations to ensure financial protection.
- A new MRI facility is approved, alongside investments in a 128-slice CT scanner and the first government-owned MRI machine in St. Kitts.

SEVEN PILLARS OF SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE:



ENERGY
TRANSITION



WATER
SECURITY



FOOD & NUTRITION
SECURITY



SUSTAINABLE
INDUSTRY



SUSTAINABLE
SETTLEMENTS



CIRCULAR
ECONOMY



HEALTH & SOCIAL
PROTECTION

GOALS & PRIORITIES

The SISA health component of the pillar is focused on building a resilient, equitable healthcare system in St. Kitts and Nevis. Priorities include reducing NCDs and obesity, improving care for vulnerable groups (children, youth, and elderly), and enhancing mental health services. It emphasizes public health infrastructure, maintaining immunization coverage, and strengthening systems for emerging diseases. Key initiatives include implementing National Health Insurance (NHI), refining health policies, boosting human resources, and establishing a National Health Information System to ensure efficient, accessible, and preventative healthcare.

KEY TARGETS

- Reducing mortality from CNCD by 10 per cent
- Reducing overweight and obesity of adults by 20% and of adolescents by 25 per cent
- Reducing the national aedes aegypti mosquito household index from 4.1% to 2%
- Maintaining 100 per cent immunization coverage among children 0-11 months old
- Achieving the global treatment target for HIV which is 75% of persons diagnosed and receiving required antiretroviral treatment

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Improve coordination, delivery, and management of mental health care.
- Address drug and alcohol abuse among young adults.
- Enhance efficiency and effectiveness through improved health policies and regulations.
- Develop systems for effective responses to global disease outbreaks.
- Ensure adequate human resources to meet public health sector needs.
- Establish a national health information system.
- Make epidemiological research a core health sector function.
- Enhance policy and planning for health emergencies.
- Build strategic partnerships to support health sector goals.
- Enhance disaster readiness, expand health financing, and foster strategic partnerships.



SDG ALIGNMENT TRACKER

KEY TARGETS AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

SDG ALIGNMENT (TARGET)

Reducing mortality from CNCD by 10%



Reducing overweight and obesity of adults by 20% and adolescents by 25%



Reducing the national Aedes aegypti mosquito household index from 4.1% to 2%



Maintaining 100% immunization coverage among children 0-11 months old



Achieving the global HIV treatment target of 75%



Improve coordination, delivery, and management of mental health care



Address drug and alcohol abuse among young adults



Enhance efficiency through improved health policies and regulations



Develop systems for effective responses to global disease outbreaks



Ensure adequate human resources for public health sector needs



Establish a national health information system



Make epidemiological research a core health sector function



Enhance policy and planning for health emergencies



Build strategic partnerships to support health sector goals



Enhance disaster readiness, expand health financing, foster partnerships



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **JNF Smart Hospital:** Construction of a climate-resilient, disaster-ready hospital begins in 2025.
- **Cardin Home Upgrades:** Renovated the Mental Health Detention unit, with plans to expand and improve resident facilities.
- **SKN Moves:** Implemented to combat obesity by promoting physical activity, healthier diets, and health awareness.
- **Pogson Solarization:** Installing a 20KW solar PV system to boost climate resilience and clean energy use.
- **Health ICT Network:** \$3.3M investment to upgrade digital infrastructure across 17 facilities and enable HIS implementation.
- **MRI Facility:** Advanced construction of a modern MRI unit with ongoing staff training and equipment procurement.
- **Community Health Services:** Installed backup generators and water systems to ensure uninterrupted operations at health centres.

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

THE SMART HOSPITAL INITIATIVE

The Joseph N. France (JNF) General Hospital is a cornerstone of the healthcare system in St. Kitts and Nevis, providing comprehensive tertiary services, including surgery, pediatrics, oncology, radiology, and a haemodialysis unit. Recognized as a Baby-Friendly Hospital in 2022, it continues to enhance service delivery with upgrades to its ICT infrastructure, Health Information System (HIS), and clinical capabilities. Under the Sustainable Island State Agenda (SISA), the government will advance healthcare resilience with the JNF Smart Hospital Initiative, a state-of-the-art, climate-resilient facility designed to withstand natural disasters and ensure continuous care, aligning with national goals for health system modernization.

PROGRESS METER

The health component of the pillar has achieved significant progress aligned with the Sustainable Island State Agenda (SISA), focusing on resilience, equity, and well-being. Life expectancy increased to 75 years, infant mortality fell to 12.3 per 1,000 live births, and childhood immunization rates reached 100%. Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) deaths decreased from 85% to 62%, supported by initiatives like SKN Moves. Infrastructure upgrades, such as backup generators and Baby-Friendly Certification for the JNF Hospital, strengthen health systems. Plans for National Health Insurance (NHI) and effective pandemic responses demonstrate progress toward sustainable, equitable, and resilient healthcare.



Progress determined by NDPF indicators

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

- **Strengthen Health Infrastructure:** Upgrade existing facilities, construct new centers, invest in medical equipment, enhance ICT networks, and develop climate-smart facilities with backup power systems.
- **Enhance Healthcare Services:** Expand primary care, improve NCD prevention, strengthen mental health programs, prioritize maternal and child health, and boost emergency preparedness.
- **Develop Human Resources:** Train staff, establish an HRH unit, develop a medium-term HRH policy, and provide specialist training to improve care quality.
- **Improve Health Systems:** Implement a National Health Information System, establish National Health Insurance, update policies, and advance health research and accreditation.
- **Address Climate Change:** Develop health sector adaptation measures, early warning systems, and identify health co-benefits of climate mitigation strategies.
- **Strengthen Health Financing:** Implement sustainable health financing mechanisms, including National Health Insurance (NHI), to ensure equitable access and system efficiency.
- **Foster Community Engagement:** Promote community involvement in health risk management and build strategic partnerships with national and international stakeholders.



B SOCIAL PROTECTION

The social protection pillar of the SISA focuses on establishing comprehensive systems to protect and empower all residents, particularly the most vulnerable, to ensure equitable access to opportunities, and build resilience against various shocks and vulnerabilities. It emphasizes developing efficient social safety nets to support those most at risk and who cannot help themselves while strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations through investments in education and skills development. Key priorities include protecting livelihoods against shocks and disasters, enhancing institutional systems, and improving coordination for effective service delivery. Evidence-based decision-making and the MEND Programme aim to empower families, improve well-being, and ensure long-term investment in children's human capital for national development.

"We are committed to building a Nation where all youth, older adults and persons with disabilities are placed at the forefront of all that we do through inclusiveness and equitable access to resources that transform, enhance and encourage persons to be contributing members in society"



The Hon. Isalean Phillip
Minister for Social Development &
Gender Affairs; Youth Empowerment
Ageing & Disabilities

KEY FACTS

- St. Kitts and Nevis ranks among the top 60 countries globally most vulnerable to mortality from two or more natural hazards.
- Approximately 40% of the population is at risk from natural hazards, highlighting the urgency for resilience-building measures.
- Female-headed households account for over 40% of all households but represent 57% of those living in poverty.
- In 2023, 4,694 individuals benefited from the Poverty Alleviation Program (PAP): 346 unemployed, 277 disabled, 1,898 elderly, and 2,173 low-income workers.
- A child born today in St. Kitts and Nevis is projected to achieve only 59% of her full productivity potential due to gaps in education and health.
- National poverty rates declined from 21.8% in 2007/08 to 17.1% in 2018, reflecting progress in poverty reduction efforts.

GOALS & PRIORITIES

The SISA protection component of the pillar is focused on ensuring the well-being and resilience of all citizens as the country transitions towards full sustainability by 2040. Priorities such as poverty reduction, building resilience, and safeguarding livelihoods directly reflect SISA's commitment to equity and sustainability. Human capital development, through programs like MEND, ensures investments in education and children's well-being, reinforcing SISA's focus on people-centered development. Streamlined safety nets, evidence-based decision-making, and institutional reforms align with SISA's goals for effective governance. Additionally, targeting vulnerable groups and preparing for shocks and disasters strengthens national resilience, supporting SISA's objective to leave no one behind while advancing sustainability.

KEY TARGETS

- Create an effective social safety net for those most at risk.
- Build resilience by enabling access to human capital investments.
- Safeguard livelihoods against shocks and disasters.
- Empower individuals to manage livelihoods and welfare for national growth.
- Streamline institutional systems and frameworks for better social protection.
- Strengthen evidence-based decision-making in social protection.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Restructure and modernize the social safety net system with transparent beneficiary selection, unified registration, and legal reforms.
- Strengthen child protection systems and enhance living standards for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities.
- Build capacity for social sector reform and develop job training and employment services for the poor and vulnerable.
- Establish robust monitoring, evaluation, and research systems for the social safety net, utilizing disaggregated social protection data.
- Expand and systematically analyze social protection data to improve targeting and outcomes.
- Promote inclusive reforms to address the needs of all vulnerable populations effectively.

SDG ALIGNMENT TRACKER

KEY TARGETS AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Create an effective social safety net for those most at risk.

SDG ALIGNMENT (TARGET)



Build resilience by enabling access to human capital investments.



Safeguard livelihoods against shocks and disasters.



Empower individuals to manage livelihoods and welfare for national growth.



Streamline institutional systems and frameworks for better social protection.



Strengthen evidence-based decision-making in social protection.



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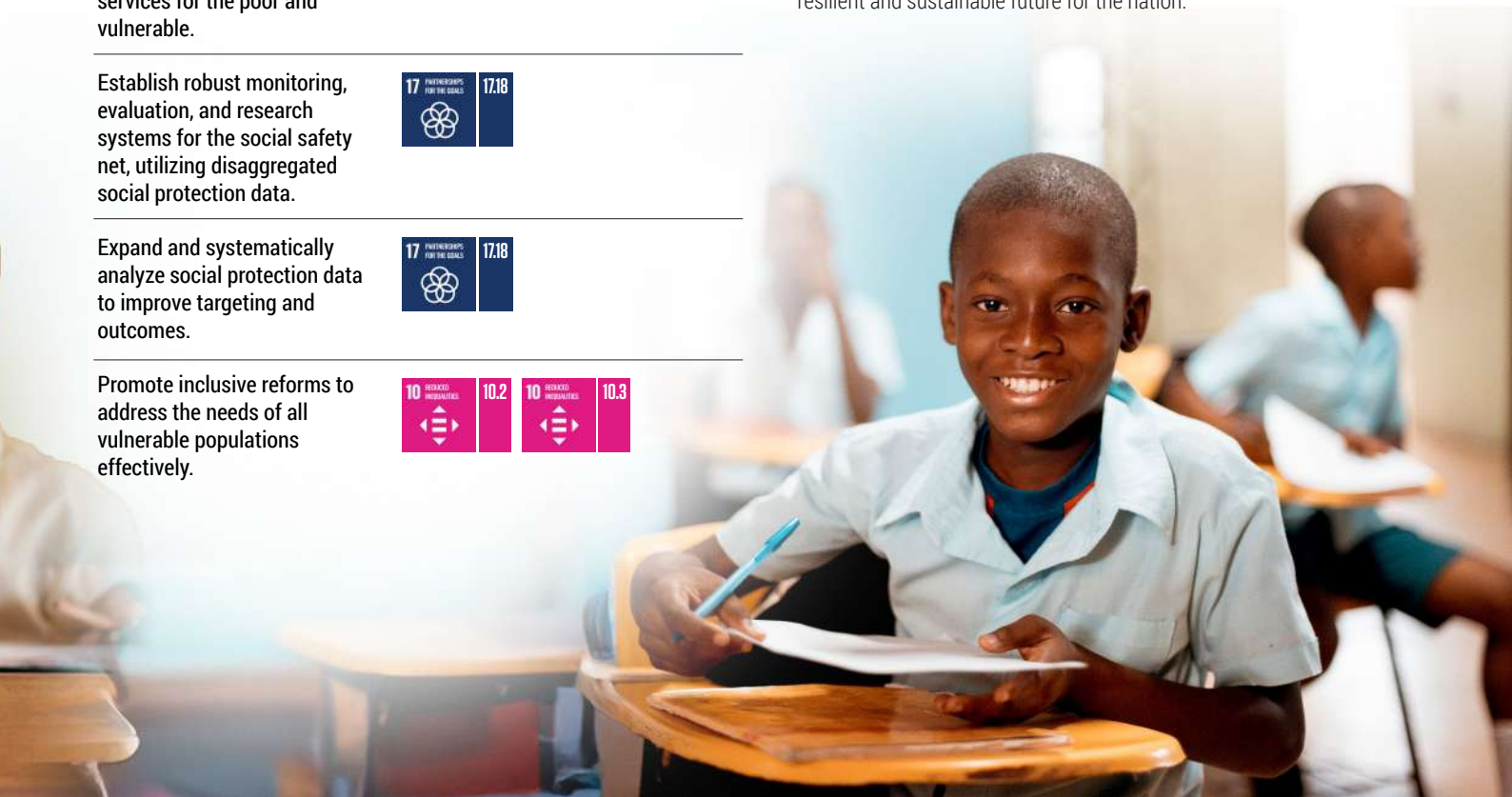
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Social Safety Net:** Invested nearly \$500M in subsidies and programs to protect citizens from economic and health challenges.
- **LIFT Program:** Supported 5,000+ people with \$26M in cash transfers, care plans, and job training.
- **Senior Programs Expansion:** Introduced Senior Day programs in Sandy Point, Tabernacle, and Atley's, building on existing locations.
- **Support for Low-Income Earners:** Benefited 22,000+ individuals earning under \$5,000 through targeted initiatives.
- **Children's Medical Fund:** Provided direct aid for life-saving overseas treatment for critically ill children.
- **Elevate Program:** Offered skills training, solar and EV certifications, and prison-to-work transition programs.
- **Workers' Benefits:** Raised minimum wage by 39%, pensions by 37%, and introduced new pension schemes and bonuses.
- **Social Security Upgrades:** Modernizing systems, extending maternity leave, and planning unemployment benefits.
- **Budget Boost Wallet:** Direct relief of \$250/month for individuals and \$750/month for households in 2025.
- **VAT Reduction:** Lowered VAT from 17% to 13% for six months in 2025 to ease costs.

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

THE ASPIRE PROGRAMME

- ASPIRE is more than a savings program; it's a strategic investment in St. Kitts and Nevis' youth and long-term sustainability. It provides financial education and EC\$1000 to each child aged 5-18, split between savings and shares in local entities.
- This empowers them with financial literacy and resources for a secure future, reducing dependence on social safety nets. Aligned with the SISA, ASPIRE fosters a culture of saving and investment, promoting economic self-sufficiency and national prosperity. By building human capital and encouraging participation in the local economy, it contributes to a more resilient and sustainable future for the nation.



PROGRESS METER

St. Kitts and Nevis' achievements in social protection strongly support SISA. By increasing access to early childhood care, promoting inclusion for people with disabilities, and providing support for seniors, the nation fosters social equity and protects vulnerable populations. Comprehensive social protection programs, and inclusive policies strengthen institutions and the workforce. Empowering youth through education, employment opportunities, and healthy lifestyle initiatives ensures a prosperous future generation.



Progress determined by NDPF indicators

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

- **Strengthen Social Safety Nets:** Modernize programs, improve targeting, and launch initiatives like the "budget boost wallet."
- **Data-Driven Decision-making:** Use analytics for better decision-making and program efficiency.
- **Empower Youth:** Invest in education, training, and community-based youth programs.
- **Enhance Infrastructure:** Complete New Horizons renovations and maintain community centers.
- **Build Partnerships:** Collaborate with NGOs and partners for funding and program sustainability.
- **Drive Innovation:** Implement data-driven, efficient program models.
- **Advance Policies:** Finalize Disability and Aging policies and address home care needs.
- **Invest in Education:** Expand access to education and training, especially for vulnerable groups.
- **Address Social Issues:** Fund community-driven solutions for violence, crime, and delinquency.
- **Improve Service Delivery:** Enhance efficiency and accessibility through digitization and case management tools.



SISA 2040 VISION

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis (GOSKN) established a vision for a Sustainable Island State by 2040 in which government agencies, civil society, and the private sector are encouraged to collaborate in redefining approaches to governance, public policy, and socio-economic development.

The SISA Vision is to transform St. Kitts and Nevis into a Sustainable Island State by 2040, by developing a robust, diversified economy that integrates sustainability with economic prosperity. The aim is to attract green investments and foster industries that utilize local sustainable resources, thereby enhancing economic stability and creating high-quality, sustainable jobs.

THE SISA APPROACH

The SISA is more than a vision; it's a dynamic, structured mechanism designed to guide the nation's transition to a sustainable island state by 2040. It achieves this through a multifaceted approach that encompasses several key strategies:

- **Strategic Alignment:** The SISA is strategically aligned with the existing National Development Planning Framework (NDPF), by leveraging its robust methodology, data-driven analysis, and key sustainability indicators.
- **Resource Mobilization:** A core function of SISA is to actively mobilize resources for climate resilience and sustainability efforts by promoting existing projects and identifying flagship initiatives to secure regional and international funding.
- **Visibility and Communication:** SISA serves as a central hub to promote sustainability efforts, raise public awareness, and boost recognition through targeted branding and outreach strategies.
- **Inter-Ministerial Collaboration:** SISA coordinates cross-ministry efforts, supporting communication and cooperation to advance holistic, cross-sectoral sustainability initiatives.
- **Societal Engagement:** SISA promotes shared responsibility for sustainability, encouraging active participation and collective action across all segments of society.



**MOBILIZE
RESOURCES**



**CREATE
VISIBILITY**



**ALIGN &
CONNECT**



**INSPIRE
ACTION**

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