

**2013 Update on  
St. Lucia's 1<sup>st</sup> UN CRC NGO Report (September 2011)**

***Road to Geneva Child Rights Research & Advocacy NGO-Youth Coalition***

**Introduction**

This is an update to the previously submitted NGO shadow report (September 2011), St. Lucia's first, in response to the Government's combined 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> report (June 2010) on its United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) implementation. It reports on new developments in specific areas since September 2011 and introduces 2 new voices in the Coalition of St. Lucian youth and NGO's who work with/for children. RISE (*St. Lucia*) Inc.; Aids Action Foundation (AAF); National Youth Council (NYC); St. Lucia Planned Parenthood Association (SLPPA); National Council Of/For Persons With Disabilities (NCPD); St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association (SLBWA) have, since publication, been joined by PROSAF (Positive Reactions Over Secrets and Fear), an NGO dedicated to sexual abuse awareness and prevention: <http://www.prosaf.org>, and the Saint Lucia Youth Advocacy Alliance.

**Summary of significant developments in Child Rights post-September 2011**

1. Universal Periodic Review (UPR) – St. Lucia was examined in the UPR in 2011 (session 10) on the basis of its national report (2010), followed by a review with recommendations
2. Dissemination of Road to Geneva (RTG) Child Rights Advocacy and Research project findings and UN CRC NGO shadow report locally, regionally and internationally (this phase of RTG project funded by Embassy of Finland). See Cluster 1.
3. OECS/USAID Juvenile Justice project (October '11). See Cluster 8.
4. St. Lucia Early Childhood Development policy launch (April '13). See Cluster 7.
5. National Awareness-raising events on Child Rights issues
  - RISE (*Saint Lucia*) Inc.-led Senate Challenge to the Minister of Education to abolish Corporal Punishment (June '12)
  - PROSAF hosting of ONE BILLION RISING EVENT (February '13)
  - Promotional visit of Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Child Rights Rapporteur with presentation of the 2009 Report on CP and a national consultation on corporal punishment (March '13)
  - Twinning of this visit with UNICEF-supported Government of Saint Lucia Post-2015 Visioning for Children national consultations (March '13)
  - Royal St. Lucia Police Force (Community Relations Branch) Parenting workshops (September '12 – July '13)
  - Youth Calypso on Corporal Punishment developed
6. Improved support for children with Disabilities
  - DIGICEL *Caring Connections* 2011 Programme
  - New budget allocation (April '13) for children/families with disabilities - Cluster 1.
7. New Partnerships for children
  - PROSAF
  - St. Lucia Youth Advocacy Alliance
  - Royal Saint Lucia Police Community Relations Branch

## **Updates on Socio-Demographic Indicators - Population And Demography**

Saint Lucia's resident population grew by 1% to 169,115 in 2012, reflecting the highest population growth rate over the last decade. The population distribution by age reveals that the largest proportion of population falls within the age groups 10-14, 15-19 and 20-24 years. These age groups account for 26.3% of total population, and indicate that Saint Lucia has a youthful population.<sup>6</sup>

## **Updates on State highlighted actions in response to the UN CRC Committee's 2005 observations, concerns and recommendations:**

1. *2007 Caribbean Development Bank-sponsored Child Development and Children at Risk project to plan expanded and high quality services to children and families at risk.* **2013 Status:** Project was dormant until September 2012 when refreshed local stake-holder discussions and revised project planning occurred with a new CDB consultant. Outcomes still awaited.

2. *Introduction of Universal Secondary Education (USE) in 2006/07.* **2013 Status:** The number of secondary schools remains at 23 with a decline in enrolment by 2.8% to 14,381 students. There were 545 12-16 year olds (formal age for secondary education) still enrolled in primary schools affecting the secondary school net enrolment ratio. Concerns of efficiency and quality are noted by the education sector officials with the consistently increasing trend in dropouts – 1.8% or 273 students in '10/'11, again dominated by males (66%) and predominantly Forms 4 and 5 (78%) compared to 1.7% or 219 in '05/'06 with 54% male; 1.5% or 236 in '07/'08 with 57% male.<sup>6</sup>

3. *Efforts to eradicate corporal punishment in schools through a UNICEF/UNESCO sponsored Child-Friendly School (CFS) Initiative project* **2013 Status:** After introduction of the initiative in the 2 Pilot schools (Fond Assau Primary; Bocage Secondary) in 2009 with needs assessments and teacher training<sup>10</sup>, Saint Lucia was represented at a UNICEF Caribbean CFS Training-of-Trainers workshop to 'enhance capacity to support national level CFS training for principals and school teams' in Trinidad in July '12. Following this 18 primary schools were enrolled in Phase 1: Fond Assau Primary; Monchy Combined; La Guerre Combined; Anglican Infant & Primary; Carmen Rene Memorial; Marchand Combined; Ciceron Combined; La Croix Maingot Combined; Ti Rocher Combined; Mon Repos Combined; Augier Combined; Blanchard Combined; River Doree Combined; Laborie Boys' Primary; Soufriere Infant & Primary; Fond St. Jacques Primary. OECS Ministers of Education endorsed the roll-out of CFS in all schools in the Sub-region at a meeting held in March 2012.<sup>11</sup>

4. *Transit Home and Therapeutic Centre for child victims of abuse and neglect* **2013 Status:** Now fully operational but space/services not available to boys older than 10 years. Services of Child Psychologist since 2013.

5. *Organization of Eastern Caribbean States draft model legislations for harmonization of laws to the CRC.* **2013 Status:** No update available from AG's chambers. Last on-line OECS update in 2009. Apparently replaced by 2011 OECS/USAID Juvenile Justice Reform project.

## **Update details structured around the recommended 8 clusters of articles:**

### **Cluster 1: General Measures Of Implementation (Articles 4, 42, 44.6);**

**Legislation** – no progress on recommended legal reforms but OECS has renewed activity towards legal reform in its OECS/USAID Juvenile Justice Reform 2011-2014 project (see Cluster 8)

**Coordination** – plans were made to formally launch the National Action Child Protection Council (NACPC) in March '13 during a promotional visit of the IACHR Child Rights Rapporteur, but this was postponed.

**National Plan of Action** – not yet developed

**Independent Monitoring** – no further developments

### **Resources for Children**

1. Budget Statement 2013 “*An Agenda For Economic Growth And Fiscal Sustainability*” delivered by Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony Prime Minister and Minister For Finance, Economic Affairs, Planning & Social Security to support the Appropriation Bill for the financial year ending March 31, 2014 Tuesday May 14, 2013 Parliament Chamber, Castries, Saint Lucia; [http://www.govt.lc/sites/default/files/documents/files/SAINT\\_LUCIA\\_BUDGET\\_STATEMENT\\_2013.pdf](http://www.govt.lc/sites/default/files/documents/files/SAINT_LUCIA_BUDGET_STATEMENT_2013.pdf): Pg 84 of 106: “.....*SUPPORT FOR DIFFERENTLY-ABLED CHILDREN* Mr. Speaker, there are many parents and families who do their best to take care of the differently-abled children in our midst. It is not easy for these parents, financially or emotionally. It is true that we have advanced in providing special education for these children but we have never singled them out as a group for special support and assistance. While some parents do receive some help from the Public Assistance Programme, not all do. Some of these parents cannot work because they have to provide care and support on a continuous basis. The Government appreciates that these parents and families will, even in the best of times, require assistance. Their need is, therefore, even more compelling in these challenging times. I am pleased, therefore, to announce that after confirming the number of children involved, the Government will give a grant of \$200 per month per child to assist these parents to meet the cost of maintaining their differently-abled sons and daughters among us. This is a modest amount but it is a start to ease the distress of families....”

### **Data Collection**

1. Division of Human Services & Family Affairs (DHSFA) began a data collection project on children with disabilities in May 2013 with the Japanese Overseas volunteer service

2. OECS Juvenile Justice Reform Project (JJRP)<sup>3</sup> held a workshop in March 2013 facilitated by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UNICEF on methodology and tools for measuring the effect of juvenile justice programmes and on how to use credible data from social development programmes to further inform policies for reducing or eliminating juvenile delinquency. Outcomes expected: a Services Map as well as an effective Juvenile Justice information system with data sharing between court systems, social services, penal systems, national policy makers, youth and the public on number of children arrested, their ages, gender, number in detention centres, level of equity in services provided, level of connection between the

delinquent child and the community and type of programmes carried out to reduce the level of juvenile delinquency.

### ***Training/Dissemination of the Convention***

1. The Universal Periodic Review national report 2010<sup>1</sup> stated that: “curriculum at primary and secondary schools has been adjusted, to include Human Rights. The Convention on the Rights of the Child is taught in the subject of Social Studies, and in the Philosophy of Health and Family Life”

2. **Dissemination of Road to Geneva (RTG) Child Rights Advocacy and Research project findings and NGO shadow report** locally, regionally and internationally:

\*March 2012: Report publication agreement signing ceremony with Finnish Ambassador

- DBS Television: [http://youtu.be/oVSvW\\_Ug7t8](http://youtu.be/oVSvW_Ug7t8)
- HTS Television: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnzSmQbOC74](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnzSmQbOC74)

\*May 2012: Reports released to national Media with commentaries at all Media houses

- DBS Television: <http://youtu.be/6xpDa8O2WNs>
- HTS Television: [http://youtu.be/I5G\\_4zRzIiI](http://youtu.be/I5G_4zRzIiI)

\*May 2012: Reports released online at RISE website [www.risesaintlucia.com](http://www.risesaintlucia.com), on RISE Facebook page and distributed via email. Hard copies also distributed to Governor General, Prime Minister and all Government Ministers; key stakeholders in the education, social, legal and correctional services; local and international NGO's and Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

\*July 2012: Formal report presentation to Finnish Ambassador

\*July 2012: Formal report submission to UN CRC Committee through NGO Group for CRC

\*September 8<sup>th</sup> 2012: Radio interview on Ava Ellis' youth radio program about CRC, child rights in general and RTG project findings

\*February – March 2013: Additional copies of the report distributed at the Inter-American Human Rights Commission Child Rights Rapporteur promotional visit.

### **3. Child Rights Awareness-raising Workshops**

\*June 4<sup>th</sup> 2012: Meeting with the RTG Coalition on the report dissemination.

\*June 12<sup>th</sup> 2012: Presentation to St. Lucia Teachers Union for Education International on World Day Against Child Labour

\*July 28<sup>th</sup> 2012: Workshop to plan RTG school trips and media events - outline of the youth radio program, school presentations and media blitz for November '12 for Child Rights Week

\* November 2012: Youth in Radio Workshop in preparation for Child Rights week

- DBS Television:< [http://youtu.be/X\\_LteInsKAQ](http://youtu.be/X_LteInsKAQ)>

\*November 10<sup>th</sup> 2012: Youth Video training Workshop with UNDP Youth Talk Through Art project introduced participants to the basics of filmmaking and lighting.

\* November 11<sup>th</sup> 2012 : Spoken Word Workshop in partnership with the UNDP Youth Talk Through Arts program helped participants explore the history of Spoken Word poetry and create their own pieces around the theme of Child Rights.

### **4. School and Community Visits**

\*May-June 2012: sessions with student leaders from the Castries Comprehensive Secondary School and the Seventh Day Adventist Academy

\*August 9<sup>th</sup> 2012: Meeting with Garrard Mother's and Father's group

\*September 2012 Sir Ira Simmons Secondary school; Micoud Secondary

\*November 6<sup>th</sup> 2012 Child Right's presentation at Gros Islet Primary School

- Youth Calypso on Corporal Punishment filmed -< <http://youtu.be/zzIY2zS7bQk>>
- \*July 31<sup>st</sup> 2012: Regional Red Cross Youth Camp presentations on the report
- \*October 2012: Lecture to Boys Training Centre staff on Positive Discipline & CRC
- \*March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 2013 - Inter-American Human Rights Commission Child Rights Rapporteur promotional visit with national consultation on Corporal Punishment and St. Lucia's UN Post-2015 Vision for Children planning workshops. Included wide youth participation and presentations by Youth on Fire and ICAN youth groups.

- HTS Television: <http://youtu.be/vbemmmQsdWX4>

\*March 5<sup>th</sup> 2013 – Presentation on Child Rights and the report to new Peace Corps Trainees as they prepared for work in youth development.

### **5. Other Child Rights & CRC Outreach activities**

\*May 2012: Information on the RTG Project, the survey and the report posted on the <[www.iamlucian.com](http://www.iamlucian.com)> website, a site created by a local youth to highlight youth issues in St. Lucia

\*November 2012: Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) 19 days of activism against child abuse campaign participation

\*November 2012: Child Rights week daily radio readings (Radio St. Lucia) from the United Nations Convention on Child Rights

\*June 4<sup>th</sup> 2012: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Abuse Press statement on Child Abuse

- St. Lucia News and Press Releases:

<http://stlucianewssourced.wordpress.com/2012/06/04/rise-recognises-United-nations-international-day-of-innocent-children-victims-of-aggression-june-4th-2012/>

\*February 14<sup>th</sup> 2013: Presented Child Rights information at the PROSAF hosted One Billion Rising event raising awareness on and standing up against violence against women

### ***Cooperation With Civil Society***

1. Saint Lucia's Universal Periodic Review national report (2010)<sup>1</sup> alludes to the formation of the Saint Lucia Non-State Actors Panel through a Memorandum of Understanding on May 31 2006, between the European Commission Delegation in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, and the Government of Saint Lucia, and reports that “*..the growth of civil society has been one of the most significant trends in national development. In Saint Lucia there are many non-governmental organizations which play an important role in community development and national progress. The Non-State Actors Panel is intended to integrate a wide range of organizations to work with the Government to help define priority areas of work.*”

2. Promotional visit of Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Child Rights Rapporteur, Rosa Maria Ortiz, which included her presentation of the 2009 Report on Corporal Punishment and a national consultation on corporal punishment (March '13) was organized and facilitated by RISE (Saint Lucia) Inc. but was twinned, at the invitation of the GOSL

3. New partnerships benefiting children and youth include:

- PROSAF

- Community relations Branch of Royal St. Lucia Police Force parenting workshops

- Saint Lucia Youth Advocacy Alliance: born out of the International Youth Foundation/USAID YouthWork OBRA project (See Building Alliances for Youth (Lessons from OBRA); a multi-sector alliance includes: Centre for Adolescent Renewal & Education (CARE); RISE (Saint Lucia) Inc; National Skills Development Program (NSDC); Saint Lucia Chamber of

Commerce/Youth Business Trust; Junior Achievement St. Lucia; Ministry of Social Transformation; Ministry of Youth Development & Sports; Sacred Sports Foundation Inc.; St. Lucia Media Association

**Cluster 2: Definition of the Child (Article 1);** - no update

**Cluster 3: General Principles (Articles 2, 3, 6, 12);** no update

*Non-Discrimination (Article 2)*

*Best Interest of Child*

*Respect for Views of Child (Article 12)*

**Cluster 4: Civil Rights and Freedoms (Articles 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 37(A));**

***Corporal Punishment***

1. St. Lucia was examined in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2011 (session 10)<sup>1</sup>. In its 2010 national report the Government stated that corporal punishment is part of the culture and that prohibiting it in schools and eradicating it in the family is a “formidable challenge”, but that there had been progress in phasing out its use in schools. A number of recommendations were made during the review to prohibit corporal punishment. The Government rejected them, stating that it “recognizes the need to pursue alternative forms of discipline to corporal punishment” but that “amending the legislation which allows the use of corporal punishment remains a formidable challenge as non-violent corporal punishment is rooted in our tradition and culture”.

2. RISE (*Saint Lucia*) Inc. through its Director, Independent Senator Dr. Stephen King, led a Senate Challenge to the Minister of Education to abolish Corporal Punishment (June '12):  
“...recognizing that the Minister of Education has the authority as per the Education Act, 1999, Section 51. Abolition of Corporal Punishment— (1) Notwithstanding section 50 the Minister may by Order suspend or abolish corporal punishment in public schools and assisted schools. (2) An Order made under subsection (1) shall be laid before Parliament, within three months of the date of the issue of such Order and shall cease to have effect, without prejudice to the making of a further Order, on its annulment by a resolution of Parliament supported by the votes of a majority of the members present and voting.” A response is still awaited.

3. RISE (*Saint Lucia*) Inc. also stepped up its island-wide campaign against Corporal Punishment targeting mainly teachers and parents in a partnership with the Community Relations Branch of the Police in a series of joint community lectures on Child Abuse, Corporal Punishment and Positive Discipline

4. Co-Director of RISE (*Saint Lucia*) Inc, Dr. Jacqueline Bird was invited to serve on the recently-formed (June '13) Advisory Group for the Caribbean Coalition against Corporal Punishment of Children (CCACPC). The CCACPC, supported by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children [www.endcorporalpunishment.org](http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org), aims to speed the prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment in Caribbean states, overseas departments, territories and dependencies, including by: building a strong regional movement for prohibition and elimination which will increase visibility of the issue; advocating directly on the issue to governments and parliament in states and territories, and supporting the initiation and work of national campaigns for prohibition.



**Cluster 5: Family Environment & Alternative Care (Articles 5, 9, 10, 11, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27.4);** - no update

**Cluster 6: Basic Health And Welfare (Articles 18, 23, 24, 26, 27)**  
**Children with Disabilities (Article 23)**

1. The **DIGICEL CARING CONNECTIONS** 2011 programme, with its focus on Children and Youth with Special Needs, <http://www.digicelstlucia.com/en/about/news/digicel-to-invest-over-ec300000-to-assist-persons-with-special-needs> provided a seed fund of EC\$10,000 and assistance with administration to several community projects under the themes of:

- Early Intervention
- Adolescent Training and Placement
- Socialization amongst the Special Needs community, and
- Special Needs Awareness

2. DIGICEL has further extended its support to children with disabilities by funding (US\$100,000) the construction of a National Center for Multi-disabled Children for which plans have been developed by a multi-sectoral committee and submitted to government for approval. Ground-breaking is anticipated for December '12

**Health and Health Services (Article 24)**

1. The Ministry of Health implemented a pilot Adolescent-friendly health clinic at the Vieux Fort health centre in September '12 after GAPH (Group of Adolescents promoting Health) training in August '12

**Cluster 7: Education, Leisure and Cultural Activities (Articles 28, 29, 31);**

**1. St. Lucia Early Childhood Development Policy launch '13<sup>12</sup>** and GOSL pledge to implement universal early childhood services by 2015. At:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZ8DIBH01RU>

**2. Budget allocation to the education sector<sup>9</sup>** increased by 7.4% in 2011/12 to \$195.1 million, compared to the previous fiscal year. This represented the second largest share of the budget, consistent with the trend of the previous six years. Of this amount, \$161.01 million was recurrent expenditure representing an increase of 4.1%. Capital expenditure increased by 26.3% to \$34.1 million in 2011/2012.

**3. Student Support Services and Welfare Programmes<sup>9</sup>**

In 2011/12 primary and secondary school students were beneficiaries of Government support in the form of Bursaries (Primary 1446; Secondary 405), School Feeding Programme (7,366), Transportation Subsidy (2,558), and the Book Rental (287). Total of 12,062 students were beneficiaries to the various programmes<sup>5</sup>

**Cluster 8. Special Protection Measures (Art. 22, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40)**  
**Economic Exploitation Of Children, Including Child Labour – no update**

**Drug Abuse** - no update

**Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse**

In Summer 2012, PROSAF-Surviving Sexual Abuse in the Caribbean assisted with a qualitative study<sup>5</sup> regarding the current state of resources for sexual violence survivors in St. Lucia. The preliminary results revealed that an overwhelming majority of the adult survivors, who officially participated had experienced child sexual abuse (N = 12). They report direct interaction with over 100 survivors with the majority giving tales of prior child sexual abuse.

### ***Juvenile Justice***

1. The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Juvenile Justice Reform Project<sup>3</sup>, headquartered in St. Lucia, was born out of discussions in 2011 between the OECS Secretariat and USAID which identified children and youth as a priority group deserving of support, and focused on the existing Juvenile Justice Systems of the six independent member States - Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia and St Vincent.- with a view to strengthen these through reforms applied both nationally and sub-regionally. The project is supported by the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI), a Presidential Initiative. The JJRP is expected to last until September 2014, with an overall Budget: \$ 7,405,800 (USAID-\$5.8 Million/ OECS Member States-\$1,345,600/ OECS Secretariat-\$260,200). It aims to address:

**The Legal and Regulatory Framework of the Juvenile Justice System** - to advance the legislative agenda and work towards reform and harmonization of the legal system so that it is consistent with the modern practices within juvenile justice, resulting in a harmonized model for juvenile justice legislation, regulations and policies for the OECS region.

**Capacity Building for Effective Administration of Juvenile Justice** – to assist in the overall modernization of the administration of the juvenile justice system through support, training, technical assistance, and information sharing.

**Modernization of Diversion, Detention and Rehabilitative Processes in the Juvenile Justice System** - seeks to support common approaches for improvement that will be advanced by incorporating restorative approaches to offenders, alternative sentencing options and mediation as a viable option to resolving disputes.

**Improved Linkages with Civil Society and Other Supporting Structures** - to move beyond the boundaries of the justice system and embrace approaches that would both reduce the contributing risk factors influencing delinquent behavior, as well as address in a comprehensive way issues for rehabilitation; seeking approaches to engender the principles of youth connectedness and to provide an environment that encourages positive, healthy choices needed by youth for successful development.

2. There are currently on-going inter-agency meetings convened by the Magistrate of the Family Court with a view to reviewing the different pieces of legislation dealing with children and youth

### **Cluster 9. CRC Optional Protocols and Article 43 (2) Amendment**

1. Saint Lucia has signed (July '11) but has still not ratified the CRC Optional Protocols on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on the involvement of children in armed conflict, but has not yet signed the optional protocol on a Communications Procedure

2. Discussion through Ministry of Foreign Affairs re signing/ratifying the Paris Principles and commitments on children associated with armed forces and groups - October '12.

### **10. Follow-Up And Dissemination - no update**



## **Additional References**

### ***Child Rights; UN CRC and other Conventions And Treaties***

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National Report - 12 November 2010, A/HRC/WG.6/10/LCA/1, National report to the UPR, para. 121. Available at: [http://www.upr-info.org/IMG/pdf/A\\_HRC\\_WG-6\\_10\\_LCA\\_1\\_E.pdf](http://www.upr-info.org/IMG/pdf/A_HRC_WG-6_10_LCA_1_E.pdf)
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3. OECS Juvenile Justice Reform project (JJRP); At: <http://www.oecs.org/about-jjrp>
4. UN CRC General Comment No. 8 “The right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment” (CRC/C/GC/8, 2006)
5. Hayes, R.M., Dathorne, S., & Lawrence, V. (2012). It does happen: Sexual Violence in a Caribbean. American Society of Criminology, November 13-17, Chicago, IL

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9. '12 Education Statistical Digest; Ministry of Education and Culture; Available at:  
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11. IN TOUCH Eastern Caribbean Child-friendly Schools Newsletter, Vol.6, 2012. At:  
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12. St. Lucia Early Childhood Development policy. At:  
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13. UNICEF State of the World's Children 2013, Children with Disabilities, Eastern Caribbean supplement; At:  
[http://www.unicef.org/barbados/EC\\_SOWCR\\_2013\\_SM.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/barbados/EC_SOWCR_2013_SM.pdf)