

# Sustaining Universal Coverage in Curaçao



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# Social insurance in Curaçao

Social insurance	Regarding
BVZ	Medical costs
AOV	Old age
AWW	Widows and orphans
AVBZ	Medical costs for the chronically disabled
ZV/OV	Illness or incapacity for work

# Core data 2022

Parameter	USD
SVB healthcare expenses (BVZ + AVBZ) (administration costs not included)	356 M
Healthcare expenditure Curaçao total (BVZ healthcare expenditure + a share of 15 Non-SVB% + AVBZ)	419 M
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Curaçao	3,075 M
Number of SVB insured persons	142,202
Population	148,925
Healthcare expenditure in Curaçao as a % of GDP	13.6%
Healthcare expenditure per capita per year	2,505 USD
Life expectancy	79,1

# Achievements in the road to universal coverage (implemented since in 2013)

Increased access to healthcare services and provided financial protection to 85% of the population





# Achievements in the road to universal coverage (implemented since in 2013)

The single payer system (SVB) has improved scale efficiencies & bargaining power for health purchasing



# Challenges

≈ 20 years of zero economic growth in the formal economy (though slight growth now)



# Challenges

## Aging population entails:

- Growing demand for healthcare services
- Less young workers to contribute to social insurance





# Challenges

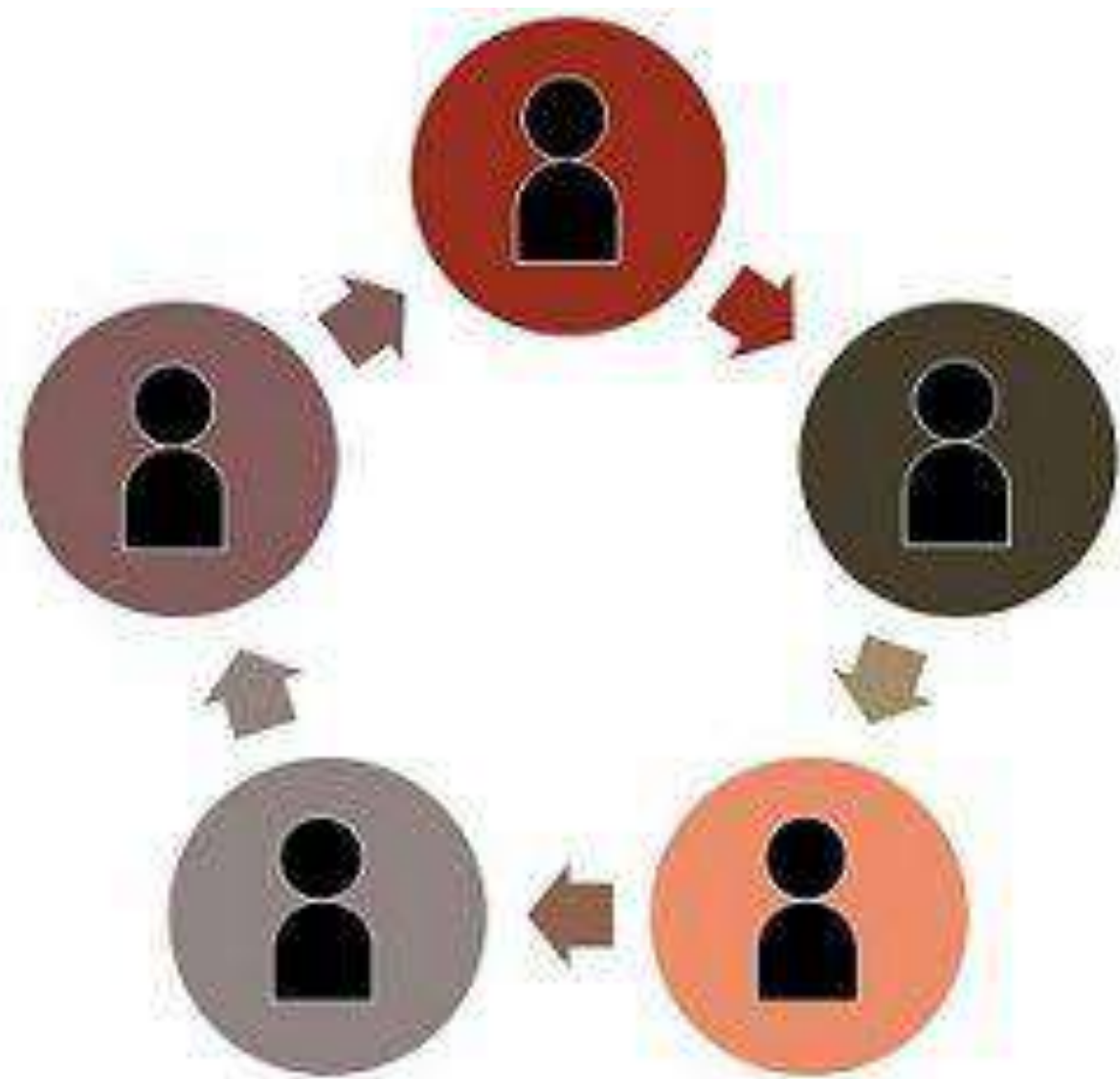
New, state of  
the art hospital  
opened nov  
2019 =  
additional  
expense



# Recommendations for Caribbean countries considering universal healthcare coverage

1. Establish a robust policy framework that is flexible enough to adapt to economic and demographic shifts.
2. Consider the long-term operational costs of significant healthcare infrastructures.
3. Leverage the efficiencies and bargaining power gained through a single-payer system.





**CENTRALIZATION VS DECENTRALIZATION**

## **Pro's**

More efficient use of resources (economies of scale), reducing duplication of services

## **Con's**

Vulnerabilities in supply has led the government to partially fall back on decentralisation again, using smaller clinics to alleviate pressure from the main hospital

A hand in a suit holding a white sign with the text "Cost Control" in bold black letters. The background is a teal gradient with various business icons.

**Cost  
Control**

A square icon containing a stylized building with a dome, representing finance or a government building.

**FINANCE**

A square icon containing a stylized person with a plus sign, representing growth or expansion.

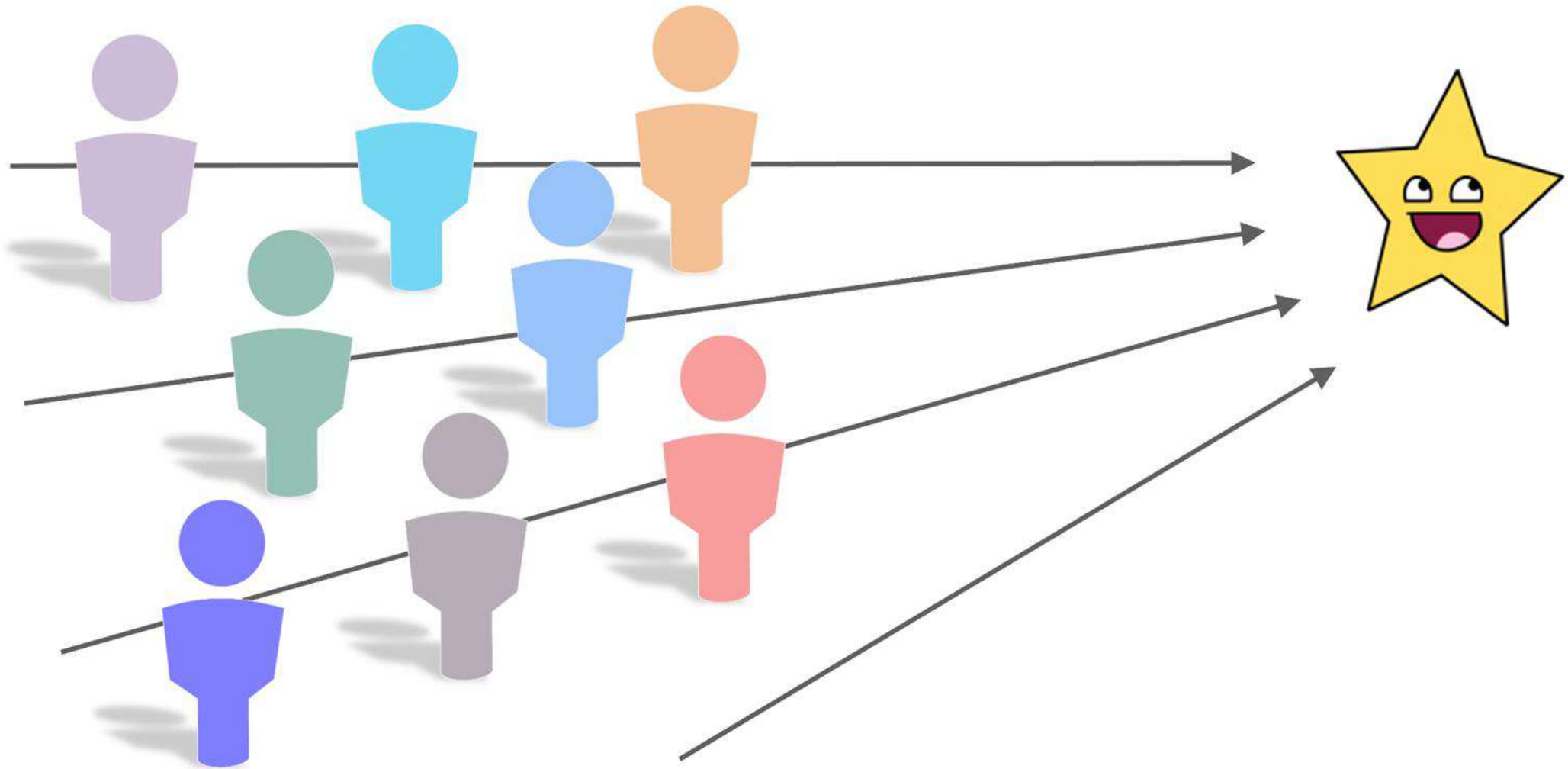
**GROWTH**





<b>Package Reduction</b>	<b>Profit Margin Reduction</b>	<b>Making the Healthcare System More Efficient</b>
<p>Proposals for means-testing as a way to apply package reduction selectively, targeting only the non-poor population.</p>	<p>Reducing profit margins for lucrative healthcare products and services</p>	<p>Use technology to make the healthcare system more efficient.</p> <p>Put an income limit on the earnings of independent medical specialists.</p>

# Stakeholder alignment



# Conclusion

The SVB remains committed to improving healthcare financing through various strategies, including cost containment and stakeholder alignment. While there have been challenges, the lessons learned provide valuable insights that can benefit not just Curaçao but also other Caribbean nations considering similar initiatives.



# Thank you for your attention!

