



Ministry of Education, Innovation,
Gender Relations and Sustainable Development

Saint Lucia

PRESENTATION TO 57TH MEETING OF PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE REGIONAL
CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Santiago de Chile July 30 – 31, 2018

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WOMEN'S AUTONOMY IN CHANGING ECONOMIC SCENARIOS

INTRODUCTION

Background on Saint Lucia

Small island developing state

Heavily dependent on tourism
Shrinking agricultural industry

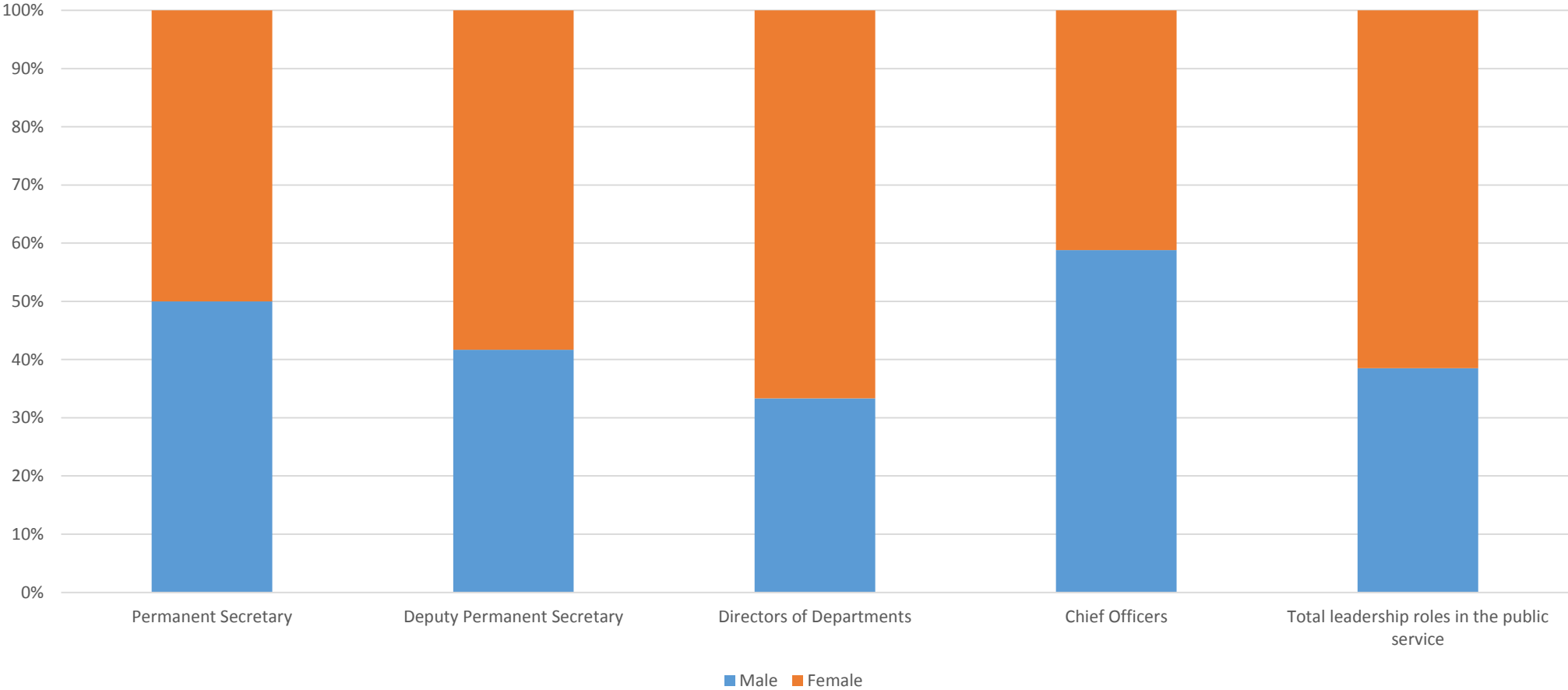
Fluctuating and slow economic growth
Average of 1.43% in the last 10 years

Unemployment slightly greater among women although educational attainment is higher in women.



Everyone knows that you stand a one in two chances of a woman being your boss in St. Lucia but what you are not told is that that boss is equally likely to be managing an agency/company owned or directed by a man.

Leadership in the Public Sector as at January 2018



Source Department of Gender Relations 2018

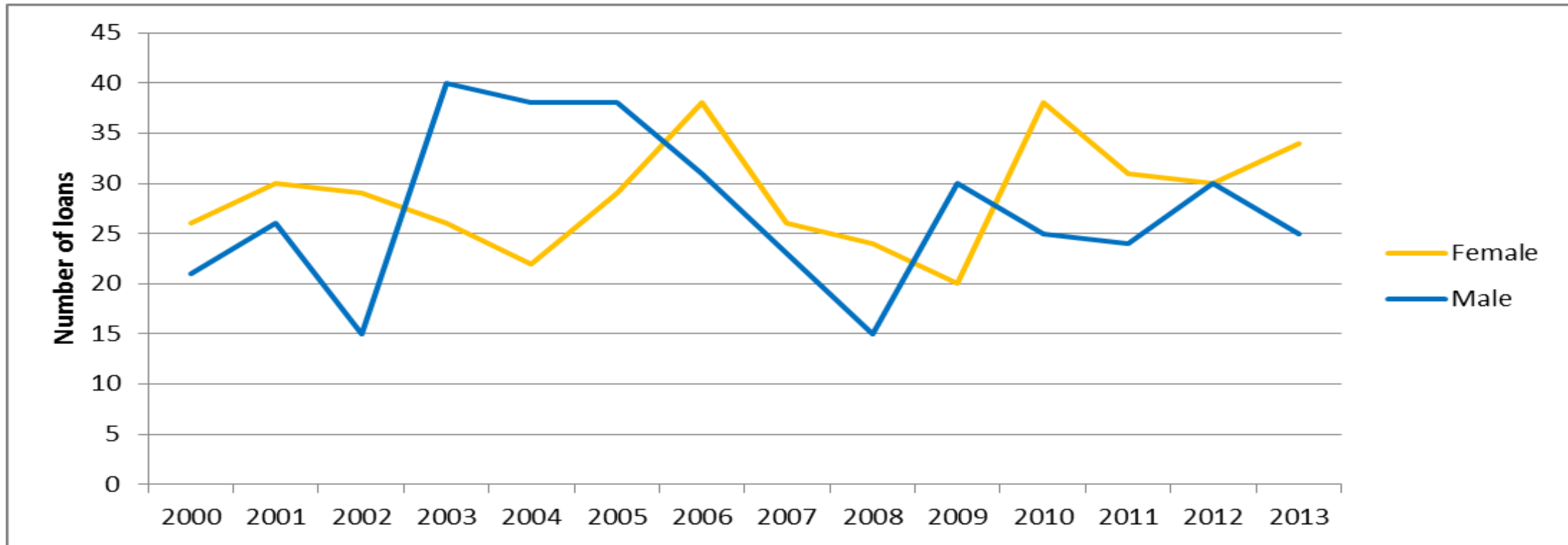


Little, and in some instances, no difference is noted in rates of employment and access to credit between men and women in St. Lucia

But this presents a false impression of the reality.

Whereas this is largely true, men still are the majority of business owners (by far) and they are more likely to own more than one business and expand.

Figure 17: Number of loans by BelFund by sex, 2000-2013



Sector	Number of male business owners	Number of female business owners	% Male-owned	% Female-owned
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	41	13	75.9	24.1
Manufacturing	109	77	58.6	41.4
Water Supply; Sewage Water Waste Management and Remediation Activities	5	1	83.3	16.7
Mining and Quarrying	2	1	66.7	33.3
Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply	1	1	50.0	50.0
Construction	74	4	94.9	5.1
Wholesale and Retail Trade: Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motor Cycles	142	137	50.9	49.1
Transportation and Storage	30	10	75.0	25.0
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	45	54	45.5	54.5
Information and Communication	42	16	72.4	27.6
Financial and Insurance Activities	11	2	84.6	15.4
Real Estate Activities	15	14	51.7	48.3
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	71	50	58.7	41.3
Administrative and Support Services Activities	106	45	70.2	29.8
Public Administration and Defense; Compulsory Social Service	10	2	83.3	16.7
Education	16	20	44.4	55.6
Human Health and Social Work Activities	11	30	26.8	73.2
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	44	23	65.7	34.3
Other Activities	36	73	33.0	67.0
Activities of Households as Employers: Undifferentiated Goods and Service-Producing Activities of Households for own use	1	0	100.0	0.0
Activities of Extra Territorial Organisations and Bodies	1	1	50.0	50.0
TOTAL	813	574		

Main Issue

Does Saint Lucia create the environment that fosters the development and sustainability for economic autonomy of our women?

Slow legislative reform

The process of legislative review is long and drawn out. - even when there is political will to amend the laws in keeping with the international dictates and expectations.

Weak regulatory and monitoring framework

When the acts are amended and policies written up the lack of monitoring often results in very little change.

Social norms and beliefs that reinforce inequality

There is a disconnect between the legislators and the people on the ground. There is insufficient public education past the consultative phase so attitudes and actions do not change where it matters.

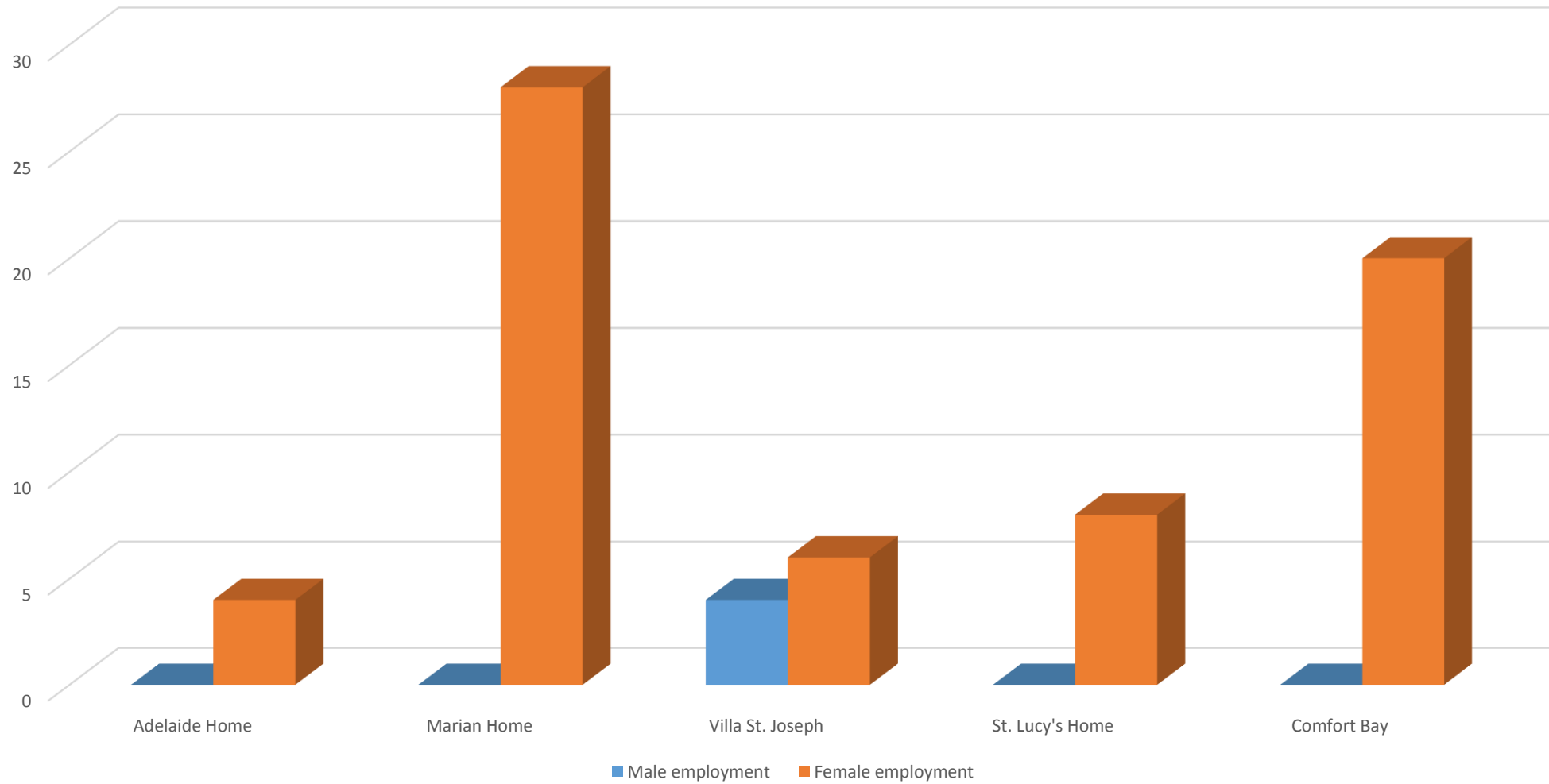
The Problem of Perception



There is a perception of progress in economic autonomy of women.

The strides made towards creating industries around areas that were previously dominated by unpaid work is a step in the positive direction but in actual fact the women who are employed in that sector tend to be exploited.

Employment at Elderly Care Institutions



Source: St. Lucia Social Development Fund 2018

Home Help

Designation	Male	Female
<i>Caregiver</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>403</i>
<i>Supervisor</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>16</i>

Source: St. Lucia Social Development Fund 2018

Types of day Care Centres

Types of Daycare Centres						
	Government Day Care Centres			Private Day Care Centres		
Year	Number	Enrollment	No. of Care givers	Number	Enrollment	No. of Care givers
2012/ 2013	21	789	78	17	1454	148
2013/ 2014	21	818	77	20	703	74
2014/ 2015	21	841	59	18	549	52
2015/ 2016	21	838	75	17	609	67
2016/ 2017	21	818	78	18	1537	152

Source: Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development, Education Digest 2017

Pre School Centres

Pre School Centres					
Year	No. of Pre-Centres	Enrollment	No. of Teachers	Females	Percentage of Females
2012/ 2013	96	3428	353	1741	51
2013/ 2014	95	3458	354	1751	51
2014/ 2015	97	3353	327	1697	51
2015/ 2016	99	3633	359	1815	50
2016/ 2017	99	3572	350	1805	51



The informal sector is an important area in increasing women's economic autonomy.

Emerging forms of employment allow women to multi-task by engaging in unpaid work and at the same time engage in (unregulated) income-generating activities from home.

Capturing this data is a challenge.

Employment of Sex Workers

Description	Sex Composition	
	Male	Female
Sample Size	308	361
Age Range (yrs)	16-62	16-61
Average Age of Sample (yrs)	31	29

Source: Country Profile Saint Lucia Female Sex Workers 2015 and Draft Country Profile Saint Lucia MSM and Transwoman MSM Transgender Women and Female Exchanging Sex, 2015

In summary

1

There is a glimmer of hope in gender equality in St. Lucia.

2

There are important differences in the data that is captured and the actual reality on the ground.

3

Institutional barriers such as slow legislative reform and weak regulatory and monitoring framework hinder progress.

4

Social norms and practices appear to be greater drivers of economic autonomy than access to finance.

5

New ways to measure and regulate women's economic activity in the informal sector is a growing concern.

Opportunities

Political will for legislative reform and strengthening of regulatory and monitoring framework.

Chilean Fund For Women in Extremely Difficult Circumstances.

Expansion of Technical Vocational Education and Training to improve young unemployed women's access to higher levels of employment.

Public-private partnership for public education drive using non-traditional approaches.

Thank you