



Consideration of progress made, and challenges faced in the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy in synergy with the Beijing+25 review

**Presentation to:**

ECLAC sub-regional preparatory meeting  
to the Regional Conference on Women,  
Port of Spain 18 June 2019

# Focus of Saint Lucia's Presentation

- The girl child
- Women's quality education, training and lifelong learning
- Situation of older women

# The Girl Child



Progress and challenges faced in the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy in synergy with the Beijing+25 review (ECLAC subregional preparatory meeting to the Regional Conference on Women, Port of Spain June 18, 2019)

# Saint Lucia Strides

## 1. Modernization of Child Justice:

Updating of laws, regulations, policies, and protocols for the treatment of children who are at social risk as well as those who are in-conflict with the law.

## 2. Paradigm Shift in Discipline in schools:

The change from a punitive framework to a positive framework for discipline in schools protects children from institutionalized abuse.

# Concrete Actions

- On Universal Children's Day November 20th 2018, Saint Lucia passed the **Child Justice and the Child(Care, Protection and Adoption) Acts**.
- These laws are the first two of the five OECS Model Bills to be enacted under the JJRP project. These two Acts replace the Children and Young Persons Act of 1972.
- The balance of the Family Law Bills: Status of Children and Child Maintenance Bills are currently being reviewed along with the Domestic Violence Bill hopefully for enactment later this year.

# Description

- **The Child Justice Act** speaks to children in conflict with the law who are between the ages of 12-18, with 12 years being the age of criminal responsibility. It introduces a new mandatory process called the Initial Inquiry, if the child acknowledges responsibility, to determine if the child in conflict with the law can be diverted from the formal Court system.
- **The Child (Care, Protection and Adoption) Act** provides a more comprehensive way to address neglect, abuse, exploitation and violence affecting children. Its intent is that in all actions and decisions concerning a child, the safety, welfare and wellbeing of the child shall be of paramount consideration. The Act also addresses foster care and aims to reform the law relating to adoption to provide for greater supervision of adoption procedures and overall welfare of the child.

# More Saint Lucia Strides

3. Full implementation of rights-based Effective Schools Framework in all public schools on island.
4. Announcement by the Ministry of Education for exclusive, mandatory use of positive discipline in schools.
5. Adoption of the Mandatory Reporting Protocol for suspected cases of abuse alongside a public sensitization campaign on child abuse – “Child Abuse is a Secret you should never keep”
6. In January 2019 the Department of Health and Wellness approved the administering of the **Human Papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine**, (Gardasil) as part of its immunization schedule at schools for boys and girls of ages 11 and 12 years.

# Implications for the Girl Child

- These proactive strides demonstrate Saint Lucia's commitment to promoting a healthy life free of violence.
- They act as important protective factors for children, and particularly girls.
- They help develop a culture of non-violence
- They foster an intolerance of cruelty to children,
- Very importantly the strides in school directly and indirectly teach empathy to children at a critical stage in their development (formation).



# Challenges and gaps

- Services for the girl child requiring care and protection and who may be in conflict with the law.
- Upton Gardens Girls Center provides a day-time non-residential service for teenage girls with moderate to severe behavioural challenges.
- The New Beginnings Transit Home provides temporary shelter for children under the age of 12 who are in need of care and protection.
- Girls in conflict with the law who require residential care do not have access to these services.

# Quality education, training and lifelong learning

## Achievements and Gender Equality Accelerators

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Excerpt from Adolescent Well-being and Equity in Saint Lucia, Ministry of Equity, & UNICEF Office of the Eastern Caribbean Area, (January 2019)

- Gender differentials in examination sitting and passing rates are manifested from Grade 4 at the Primary Education level onwards: for almost every indicator and in every year boys perform less well than girls;
- Girls account for 60 per cent of post-secondary enrollment, although due primarily to a steady increase in technical and vocational education and training where boys make up around half the enrolment this proportion has decreased since 2009

- Pass rates for post-secondary courses are high, although again those for females are appreciably higher than for males at 90 per cent compared to 74 per cent; and
- The higher success rate of girls at CSEC and post-secondary examinations means that more girls than boys are able to either continue their education or access jobs available to school graduates. As a corollary, more girls than boys will be limited to low-skilled occupations.

# Education and employment

- There is an increasing trend of a slightly higher percentage of the labour force with post-secondary and tertiary education in Saint Lucia being women.
- Although 48% of the labour force in the last quarter of 2014 was female, 15% possessed post-secondary and tertiary education compared to 14.3% of males.
- In the last quarter of 2018 whereas 52% of the labour force was female, 16% possessed post-secondary and tertiary education compared to 13% for males.

# Training and Lifelong Learning

- The Single Mothers in Life Enhancement Skills (SMILES) offered young unemployed women the opportunity to learn employability skills at little or no cost to them.
- A defining characteristics of these programmes is the inclusion of life skills in the curriculum.
- Saint Lucia is also benefitting from a sub-regional youth development programme, introduced in 2018, which gives disadvantaged youth an opportunity to learn skills that will improve their employment prospects. This programme is made possible through grant funding from the UK Department for International Development.

# Skills for Youth Employment SKYE

Launched in March 2019

Providing TWET to youth aged 15 – 30 to improve their employability

- Support for Skills for Growth

Component  
1

- Focused support for training of disadvantaged youth

Component  
2

- Technical Support to improve national training systems

Component  
3

# Training for employment

- Saint Lucia established the International Hospitality Training Institute in partnership with Monroe College in 2018
- This is the first training institute of its type, providing specific skills for young persons who are desirous of entering into tourism which continues to be the main industry in Saint Lucia.
- It is strategically located in the south of the island thereby allowing greater access to training for residents of rural communities.



# Situation of Older Women

## Women's Health Home Help (Non-Communicable Diseases)

# Home Help

- Home Help is an elderly care programme which provides services to elderly members of various communities who would have otherwise been caring for themselves.
- Care givers go to the homes of elderly citizens and provide basic care to them at no cost to them.
- As a result of this, there is a reduction in unpaid work as elderly care was predominantly the burden of unemployed older women.

# ' NCDs in Saint Lucia

- Cardiovascular Diseases 33%
- Cancers 19%
- Diabetes 9%
  
- There is a higher prevalence of diabetes in women.
- Cancers are particularly common with breast and cervical cancers are among the most common.

# Prevalence of Diabetes and Related Risk Factors

	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Diabetes</b>	13.7%	15.5%	14.6%
<b>Overweight</b>	51.0%	63.6%	57.4%
<b>Obesity</b>	19.7%	34.0%	27.0%
<b>Physical inactivity</b>	27.8%	54.5%	41.5%

Diabetes Country Profile; World Health Organization; 2016

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# Strides

- It is hoped that the introduction of the HPV vaccine will reduce the prevalence of cervical cancer in women in the medium term.
- The revamping of the National Non-Communicable Disease Commission (NNCDC) it is hoped, will positively impact public education and result in behaviour change.

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# End of Presentation

Thank You!