An analysis of the status of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean

Louise Ebbeson
Taeke Gjaltema
Candice Gonzales

ECLAC Subregional Headquarters
for the Caribbean
Port of Spain, February 2011
## Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean Region

(Percents and Absolute Numbers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Share (%)</th>
<th>Persons with disabilities</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total Population (Absolute)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>3,918</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>2,318</td>
<td>76,886</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>90,506</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aruba</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5,036</td>
<td>2,520</td>
<td>2,516</td>
<td>302,197</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>250,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>12,930</td>
<td>5,933</td>
<td>6,997</td>
<td>302,197</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>239,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>9,993</td>
<td>4,532</td>
<td>5,461</td>
<td>250,010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>222,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>13,774</td>
<td>6,988</td>
<td>6,786</td>
<td>232,111</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>210,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bermuda</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>2,832</td>
<td>1,265</td>
<td>1,567</td>
<td>62,059</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>56,011</td>
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<tr>
<td>British Virgin Islands</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>1,107</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>23,161</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>23,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cayman Islands</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>1,673</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>39,020</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>39,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4,499</td>
<td>2,073</td>
<td>2,425</td>
<td>103,137</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>103,137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>48,419</td>
<td>23,652</td>
<td>24,767</td>
<td>751,223</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>751,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>163,206</td>
<td>80,187</td>
<td>83,019</td>
<td>2,607,632</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2,607,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montserrat</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>4,303</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands Antilles</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>14,844</td>
<td>6,795</td>
<td>8,049</td>
<td>175,653</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>175,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Lucia</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>7,720</td>
<td>3,610</td>
<td>4,110</td>
<td>156,735</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>156,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4,717</td>
<td>2,283</td>
<td>2,434</td>
<td>106,253</td>
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<td></td>
<td>106,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>45,496</td>
<td>22,353</td>
<td>23,143</td>
<td>1,114,772</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,114,772</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Weighted Total**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Share (%)</th>
<th>Persons with disabilities</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total Population (Absolute)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>340,363</td>
<td>165,153</td>
<td>175,210</td>
<td>6,095,656</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ECLAC based on data from the year 2000 Population Housing Census
Overview

• This number constituted about 5.6% of the total population of the 12 countries for which data were supplied.

• The data also indicated that the percentage of women with disabilities was slightly higher than for males.
Overview

• Even though very little has been written on disability in the Caribbean, there has been some general information from census data.

• Approximately 340,363 persons reported that they had some kind of disability that limited their participation in activities.
Findings

• Countries such as Aruba, the Cayman Islands, Dominica, Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago (50%) promoted access to information and communication to persons with disabilities by providing computer literacy training and capacity building for persons with disabilities.
Findings

• recognition and promotion of the use of sign languages and the use of standardized sign language.
However, with the exception of Nevis, which reported that 100% of the country’s government websites and other information were available in an accessible format, respondents generally indicated that no, or very little, government information was available in a format accessible to the blind and visually impaired.
FIGURE 1
PRIORITY AREAS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT AS INDICATED BY ORGANIZATIONS WORKING WITH THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Utility Bills and Services
Polling Stations
Places of Worship
Pharmacies
Pedestrian Crossings
Libraries
Information on Reproductive Health
Government Websites
Cultural Events
Courses in Post-Secondary Education
Bus stops
Bars & Restaurants
Banks

Number of responses

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of responses to regional Survey on Disability
CARICOM High Level Ministerial Meeting on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities in the Caribbean

Building a Disability-Inclusive Society For All

Declaration of Pétion Ville, Haiti
December 2013
Determined...to enhance national and regional policies and to strengthen legislative frameworks that promote the social services and protection by which persons with disabilities have the opportunity to achieve their full individual potential and to participate meaningfully in the life of their communities
We agree to support the exploration and provision of the use of assisted technology, particularly information and communication technologies to enhance the access of persons with disabilities to information, education, employment, and services.
We resolve to work in *solidarity* and *partnership* with Member states through *regional cooperation* as we jointly seek solutions to the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in the Caribbean region, so as to achieve the goals of this Declaration.
We affirm with appreciation the indispensable support of the regional and international organizations and partners who are committed to work with us in pursuing this important agenda.

We agree to establish a mechanism to ensure biennial monitoring and assessment of progress.
Opportunities

• Digital switchover
• Allocation of future bands and licensing conditions
• Regional harmonisation (to achieve economies of scale)
Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) position

“...Contiguous spectrum should be allotted in the bands assigned to the broadcast service to allow for the robust delivery of high-quality media content, data and signalling that meets or exceeds the capabilities of current fixed and mobile reception and display devices.”
Thank You.

cletus.bertin@govt.lc