

Disability Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean

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The Situation in Jamaica

March 2023¹

¹ This profile provides an overview of the legal and social context affecting persons with disabilities with the objective to support the Government and the [World Bank's commitments on Disability Inclusion](#) adopted at the Global Disability Summit in 2018, as well as the institution's Environmental and Social Framework. The profile is based on a literature review of publicly official available documents but especially based on the World Bank Regional Report 'Disability Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Path to Sustainable Development'. This is a World Bank product co-financed by the Canada Caribbean Resilience Facility with inputs from the World Bank's Global Disability Advisory unit. The brief was prepared by a team led by María Elena García Mora and Naraya Carrasco that included Camilo Vargas Sosa, Melissa Zumaeta, Cristina Leria, Miguel Garza and Linda Anderson-Berry. It includes significant inputs from Erika Píber, Sanjay Agarwal, Mari Helena Koistinen, Melike Egilmezler, María Inés García Calderón (edit) and Iván García Estébanez (design). For further inquiries on disability inclusion in LAC, task teams, and/or country teams, through the project/country Social Development Specialists, should reach out to the regional focal point on disability inclusion in LCR, Maria Elena Garcia Mora (mgarciamora@worldbank.org). For inquiries on disability inclusion globally, please contact the WB Disability Advisor Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo (cmclainnhlapo@worldbank.org).

OPPORTUNITIES

- Continue to explore disability inclusion in the education and social protection portfolios.
- Potential to develop a national disability register (led by the JCPD) to offer relief services and supplies to persons with disabilities.
- Strengthen disaggregated data collection in the upcoming census and target awareness campaigns for participation of persons with disabilities.
- Potential to finalize and approve the Draft Policy on Education to strengthen inclusive education.
- Finalize draft legislation on Codes of Practice for Labor, Transport, and Draft Mental Health Act.
- Support the Government of Jamaica (GoJ) to include persons with disabilities at all levels of consultation and planning.
- Support the government of Jamaica to participate in International and Regional platforms for disability-inclusive disaster risk management to respond to climate change.
- Strengthen Disaster Risk Management and Climate Resilience practitioners to change attitudes and approaches toward persons with disabilities by raising awareness; use training materials jointly developed with national organizations of persons with disabilities and available to DRM and CR practitioners.

I. Objective

The objective of this note is to identify national entry points to include persons with disabilities in Jamaica. This note was prepared to accompany the operationalization of the regional report '[Disability Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Path To Sustainable Development](#).² It will guide the Government and the World Bank to strengthen disability-inclusion at the country level. It is not an exhaustive analysis on disability-inclusion in the country.

Although the regional report establishes that the inclusion of persons with disabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean has progressed in the last two decades, much remains to be done to achieve their social and economic inclusion. In general, persons with disabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean are more likely to be poor and vulnerable, have fewer years of education, have poor labor market indicators, and are more frequent victims of discrimination, among many other gaps.

II. Persons with Disabilities at a Glance

It is estimated that around 15 percent of the global population—one billion people—are persons with disabilities.³ Approximately 750,000 of them live in the Anglophone Caribbean, (which includes Jamaica), numbering approximately 15 percent of the region's people.⁴

Jamaica has measured disability using a range of defining characteristics and metrics. Prevalence estimates have varied from 3 percent of the population to almost 10 percent. In 2018 UNICEF, with the support of the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities (JCPWD), produced a major report - the Situational Analysis of Persons with Disabilities in Jamaica⁵ that used disability data from the Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions (JSLC) from 2010–2014 and the 2011 Population Census. The JSLC defines disability under four main categories: blindness/visual impairment; deafness/hard of hearing; physical disability; and intellectual impairment which is defined as a condition which manifests before 18 years of age and is based on mental development (this excludes mental illness, psychological impairments or later age-onset impairments). The 2011 Population Census applied the Washington Group (WG) definitions of disability; this revealed that physical disability is most prevalent due to factors including accidents, injuries and non-communicable diseases which damage limbs. Prevalence was generally found to be greater among females with the 2014 JSLC reporting 46 percent male and 54 percent female.

Based on estimates from the 2011 census,⁶ which partially adopted the WG definitions, about 3 percent of persons aged 5 and older are disabled. 29,109 children aged 5–14 reported at least one disability. The most common type of disability in Jamaica is visual (see Table 2).

TABLE 1. Indicators between Persons with Disabilities vs. Persons without Disabilities

	Persons with disabilities (%)	Persons without disabilities (%)
Percentage of children attending school (3–18 years old) (ECLAC 2017)	70	92
Percentage of persons aged 18–59 who have completed secondary education (ECLAC 2017)	52	75
Percentage of persons aged 15–59 that are economically active (ECLAC 2017)	34	55
Employment rate (UNICEF 2018)	15.3	n/a
Access to internet (UN ECLAC 2017)	5	n/a
Household access to cellphones (UN 2018)	10	18

² García Mora, María Elena, Steven Schwartz Orellana and Germán Freire. 2021. *Disability Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Path to Sustainable Development*. Washington, DC: World Bank

³ World Bank and WHO, "World Report on Disability," 2011, https://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/report.pdf?ua=1. This prevalence is similar to that reported for the Latin America and Caribbean region (14.7%) in the 2021 World Bank report "Disability Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Path to Sustainable Development", see <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/36628>

⁴ Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Human Rights and Persons with Disabilities in the Anglophone Caribbean (2018).

⁵ Available: <https://www.unicef.org/jamaica/media/2221/file/1%20Am%20Able:%20Situational%20Analysis%20of%20Persons%20with%20Disabilities%20in%20Jamaica.pdf>

⁶ See ECLAC Jones, Francis et al., Disability, human rights and public policy in the Caribbean: A situational analysis (2018). <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/43306-disability-human-rights-and-public-policy-caribbean-situation-analysis>. Next Census is delayed due to COVID-19, and is

TABLE 2. Percentage Disability by Gender for 15+ Year Olds in 2011

	Seeing	Hearing	Communicating	Memory/ concentration	Self-care	Walking/ climbing stairs	Lifting/ Reaching/ Carrying
Both sexes	17.7	3.5	1.8	3.7	3.1	6.2	4.7
Male	12.64	2.98	1.74	2.91	1.93	4.67	3.82
Female	22.46	4.03	1.82	4.43	2.46	7.73	5.77

Source: Statistical Institute of Jamaica based on 2011 census

Overall prevalence is higher among women (3.4 percent vs 2.6 percent based on Census 2011) and marginally higher across all types of disabilities. Similarly, the JSLC 2014 found a higher proportion of females with disabilities (54 percent).⁷ More women than men were reported to have multiple disabilities, including intellectual disability, learning disability, and difficulties with speech.⁸ In general, the projected ageing of the population in Jamaica is expected to lead to a greater prevalence of disability in the country. Currently, 9.1 percent of the population is over 65 years old and it is estimated that by 2050, 18 percent will be above that age.⁹

According to data from the Living Conditions household survey 2014, 52 percent of persons with disability lived in rural Jamaica where they are often difficult to reach, while the other 48 percent lived in urban areas.¹⁰ There are no prevalence data for other vulnerable groups such as sexual minorities or migrants.

III. Poverty and Vulnerability

Jamaica is a middle-income country and poverty is not considered to be extreme. However, with an estimated 20 percent of the population living below the poverty line¹¹ the rate is certainly significant - particularly among children. Child

poverty rates have increased from 21.9 percent in 2010¹² to 26.1 percent in 2014.¹³

Having a household member with disabilities increases the probability of being poor by 13.4 percent, 9.7 percent and 6.3 percent for households that are multi-dimensionally poor, consumption poor, and both multidimensionally and consumption poor, respectively.¹⁴

In 2001, the GoJ and the World Bank established the Program of Advancement through Health and Education (PATH). PATH is a conditional cash transfer (CCT) program of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security which assists poor families, including those with disabled members. It was created to replace three previous income transfer programs: Food Stamp, Outdoor Poor Relief and Public Assistance.¹⁵ The 2015 Socio-economic Study on Persons with Disabilities found that 36.6 percent of survey respondents benefited from PATH while 50 percent stated that they had never received the benefit.

IV. Education

The Disability Act (2014) and Jamaica Vision 2030 both emphasize inclusive education as the way forward for children with disabilities. However, there is a great need for teachers to

expected to happen in 2022. Statistical Institute of Jamaica, "Census 2011," accessed August 7, 2020, <https://statainja.gov.jm/Census/PopCensus/Popcensus2011Index.aspx>. The 2014 national household survey used to estimate poverty (Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions -JSLC 2014) indicated a similar disability prevalence rate of 3.3%.The official estimate is certainly an underestimate. This is due to a reluctance or inability to respond accurately to the questions in the census. The WHO estimate of 15% of the population is widely considered to be more accurate.

⁷ UN, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. Information and Communication Technology for Persons with Disabilities, <https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/publication/files/40935/FOCUSIssue3Jul-Sep2016Rev.pdf> (2016)

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Source: <https://www.populationpyramid.net/jamaica/2050/> based on Census data

¹⁰ UNICEF (2018), Situational Analysis of Persons with Disabilities in Jamaica. p.13

¹¹ World Bank, Poverty and Inequality Platform. Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.NAHC?locations=JM>

¹² Planning Institute of Jamaica, 2014. Available at: <https://www.pioj.gov.jm/>

¹³ Government of Jamaica (2017). *National Policy on Poverty and National Poverty Reduction Programme*. Available at: <https://www.pioj.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/NationalPolicyOnPovertyNationalPovertyReductionProgramme.pdf>

¹⁴ The Caribbean Development Bank (2016). *The changing nature of poverty and inequality in the Caribbean: New issue, New solutions*. p.87. Accessed on April 4, 2022 at https://www.caribank.org/sites/default/files/publication-resources/Study_The-Changing-Nature-of-Poverty-and-Inequality-in-the-Caribbean-New-Issues-New-Solutions.pdf. *Probabilities are calculated using a probit model. Multidimensional poor is estimated using an index comprised of variables on education, living standards, employment and health.

¹⁵ Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education, PATH

Photo: ChristopherBernard



specialize in disability-inclusive education and for state-funded inclusive schools. The 2015 'Jamaica: Education for All' Report (submitted to UNESCO) reported that children with learning and developmental delays or disabilities may be most at risk of being excluded from school.¹⁶ Three out of 10 students with disabilities enrolled in 2015/2016 had intellectual disabilities.¹⁷

Concerning accessibility and reasonable accommodations in schools; in a 2011 study of 100 primary and high schools in Jamaica only 23.8 percent of respondents said their schools had ramps, and only 10.7 percent reported bathrooms equipped to accommodate students with physical disabilities.¹⁸ While there is a long way to go, these data suggest progress, as only a few countries, such as Argentina and Mexico, have tried to quantify school accessibility. 92 percent of abled persons

aged 3–18 attend school, but this figure falls to 70 percent for persons with disability; 75 percent of abled school goers (18–59) graduate from secondary school, but this figure drops to 52 percent for persons with disabilities.¹⁹

V. Skills, work, and labor outcomes

Inactivity, rather than employment rates, explains the exclusion of persons with disabilities from the labor market in LAC. When persons with disability seek employment, they tend to obtain low-skilled positions, especially in urban areas. The economic impact of a household member with disabilities is also evident through higher unemployment rates of head of households with disabilities.

¹⁶ Ministry of Education, Jamaica, "Jamaica: Education for All Review," 2014, <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000230020?posInSet=1&queryId=N-EXPLORE-4105201f-6979-4792-a3f5-45f0e5a03c23>.

¹⁷ UNESCO's Education Profile for Jamaica. Accessed on March 25, 2022. <https://education-profiles.org/latin-america-and-the-caribbean/jamaica/-inclusion>

¹⁸ Ministry of Education, Jamaica, "Jamaica: Education for All Review," 2014, <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000230020?posInSet=1&queryId=N-EXPLORE-4105201f-6979-4792-a3f5-45f0e5a03c23>, p. 17

¹⁹ Source: ECLAC 2017

The ECLAC (2016) report estimates that the prevalence of inactivity of persons (15–59) is 66 percent among those with disability, compared to 45 percent for those without disability. According to the 2014 Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions data, 15.3 percent of persons with disabilities were employed. In addition, the 2018 Jamaica Situational Analysis of Persons with Disabilities found that employers in rural areas were reluctant to employ disabled youth due to the stigma of disability.

Policies to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workforce have yielded mixed results. Jamaica has a mandatory quota of 5 percent for the public sector only, but no information on compliance with this quota is available.

VI. Voice and Agency

Excluded groups lack voice and agency because they are denied platforms to speak, and participate in making decisions. Jamaica's legal framework specifically prevents persons with psychological disabilities from voting in elections or running as public officers. Furthermore, it does not recognize the equal legal capacity of persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities. Nevertheless, the country recognizes the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of disability; Jamaica provides equal opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in civil, political, economic, social, and cultural spheres but doesn't recognize free and informed consent of persons with disabilities, or ethical standards for the provision of public and private health care.

VII. Disaster Risk Management

Jamaica is vulnerable to multiple natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, droughts, earthquakes, and landslides. These may disproportionately affect persons with disabilities because it is harder for them to access disaster response services.²⁰

The Disaster Risk Management Act makes provision to include persons with disabilities in planning processes. In 2018 a study undertaken through The University of the West Indies of inclusion for persons with disabilities in DRM planning at the national and local government levels in Jamaica found that they are not afforded the opportunity for full participation in DRM activities, and that despite special provisions for persons with

disabilities in emergencies and disasters, they are generally excluded from participating on an equal basis with other persons in DRM planning in the responding organizations.²¹

Warnings and DRM information are made available on a range of platforms and media. Accessible communication technologies are increasingly available on internet-enabled devices such as smart phones and tablets. This improves the opportunities for persons with disabilities to receive warnings. However, this depends on persons with disabilities being able to afford and use these devices, and reliable internet connection. Much DRM web content is produced in formats that do not comply with web content accessibility guidelines (WCAG 2.0 standards) and cannot be accessed with assistive devices such as text to voice web readers. The National Meteorological Service has developed an application for mobile devices which delivers simplified color-coded alerting information for weather systems. Though not specifically designed for persons with disabilities, this is useful for those with a range of challenges, including those with some types of mental impairment, lower levels of literacy and speakers of other languages.

The Disaster Risk Reduction Centre conducted a survey of national and local government entities and asked whether existing DRM plans made specific provisions for persons with disabilities, and what facilities were in place. While 89 percent of respondents reported DRM plans, only 53 percent indicated plans for persons with disabilities; 24 percent indicated no plans for such persons, and 12 percent were unsure if any provision was made.²²

A 2013 UN survey of how persons with disabilities cope with disasters in the Americas (which includes Jamaica) indicated that while the Americas is one of the world's most disaster-prone regions, 84.74 percent of survey respondents had not participated in community disaster management and risk reduction processes in their communities.²³

VIII. Legal and Policy Framework

Jamaica guarantees the inclusion and exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities through the following international legal instruments: 1) Jamaica ratified the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#) in 2007 but has not ratified the Optional Protocol, which establishes an individual complaint mechanism for persons with disabilities.

²⁰ Barbara Carby et al., "An Exploration of Inclusivity for Persons with Disabilities in Disaster Risk Management Planning at the National and Local Government Levels in Jamaica," *Disability Studies Quarterly* 38, no. 4 (December 21, 2018), <https://doi.org/10.18061/dsq.v38i4.5776>.

²¹ *Disability Studies Quarterly (DSQ)*, journal of the Society for Disability Studies (SDS). Available: <https://dsq-sds.org/index.php/dsq/issue/view/261>

²² *Ibid.*

²³ UNISDR, *Living with Disability and Disasters*, https://www.unisdr.org/2014/iddr/documents/2013DisabilitySurveyReport_030714.pdf, P. 17. (2014)

2) Jamaica is signatory to the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) of 2015, which pledge to ensure “no one will be left behind” and to “endeavor to reach the furthest behind first”, who are the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. Disability is referenced in the SDGs and specifically in parts related to education, growth and employment, inequality, accessibility of human settlements, and data collection and monitoring of the SDGs. 3) Jamaica ratified the Paris Agreement (2015) in 2017. This builds on the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and acknowledges that all countries, in their efforts to mitigate the risks of climate change, should respect their obligations on human rights, including “the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations ...” 4) Jamaica has committed to [The Sendai Framework for DRR 2015–2030](#), which recognizes persons with disabilities and their representatives as essential stakeholders in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and acknowledges the importance of disability inclusive disaster preparedness, response and recovery, and the need for accessible technology and communications.

In 1999, at the regional level, Jamaica signed but didn't ratify the [Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities](#) (CIADDIS) 31 which is the first regional legal framework to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.³² In 1997, Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) signed and agreed to the terms of [the Charter of Civil Society](#) which addresses the rights of persons with disabilities in its Article N° 14: “Every disabled person has, in particular, the right a) not to be discriminated against on the basis of his or her disability; b) to equal opportunities in all fields of endeavor and to be allowed to develop his or her full potential; and c) to respect for his or her human dignity so as to enjoy a life as normal and full as possible.” In terms of [The Kingston Accord \(2004\)](#), as part of CARICOM, Jamaica participated in the First Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Disability where this Accord was developed. The Accord promotes CARICOM's model on disability policy and legislation, encourages best practices for services for persons with disabilities in the Caribbean, and affirms that every Caribbean citizen has the same human, civil, social, political, economic, and cultural rights. Jamaica joined the 15 CARICOM states to sign the [Declaration of Pétion Ville \(2015\)](#) to reiterate their commitments to the CRPD.

With respect to national regulation, [Jamaica's Disabilities Act of 2014](#) promotes and is designed to ensure full and equal enjoyment of rights by persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, and established the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities which came into effect in 2022. [The Vision](#)

[2030 Jamaica: National Development Plan \(2015\)](#) highlights the need to ensure that persons with disabilities are fully integrated within society, have access to appropriate care and support services and are treated as valuable human resources.³³ The Plan also includes efforts to create a strategic plan for mental health. Furthermore, the [National Strategic Action Plan to eliminate Gender-Based Violence \(NSAP-GBV\) \(2016–2026\)](#) addresses gender-based violence against women, including those with disabilities. Women and girls with disabilities are explicitly mentioned under the section on gender-based violence and vulnerable groups. The [Special Education Policy](#) provides a framework for the educational needs of students with disabilities, and was submitted for approval in 2018; however, it has yet to be finalized. In addition, the National Building Code was amended in 2018 to address access for persons with disabilities. The Code is used to construct new buildings rather than to modify existing ones.³⁴ [Jamaica's National Housing Trust](#) has a policy whereby 5 percent of housing provided by the Trust is set aside for persons with disabilities. The [Child Care and Protection Act \(2004\)](#) aims to promote and protect the wellbeing and interests of Jamaican children. Article 62 (i) states “that if language or disability is a barrier to consulting with the child on decisions affecting the child's custody or care,” an interpreter should be provided. Finally, [The Disaster Risk Management Act](#) of 2015 provides the legislative framework for Jamaica's DRM. The CDEMA supported Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Strategy 2014–2024 focusses on managing hazard risk and contains specific provisions for the needs of persons with disabilities.

IX. World Bank Engagements on disability inclusion in Jamaica

These are the identified World Bank projects considering disability inclusion aspects:

- **Jamaica Social and Economic Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (P144263):** This Project aimed to increase the employability and skills of poor persons with disabilities (between ages 18–36 years) and improve education for poor children with disabilities (0–6 years). The project closed in 2018.
- **The Social Protection for Increased Resilience and Opportunity Project (SPIRO – P178582),** that is being prepared, will develop and implement an Unemployment Insurance, and strengthen labor market services, focusing on vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities. The project builds on the success of the Social and Economic Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities Project (P144263) of 2013–2018.

- In addition to World Bank financing, the [Japan Policy and Human Resources Development Fund](#) provided US\$ 23 million to mainstream disability in World Bank projects around the world. In Jamaica, support was provided to improve services and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.²⁴
- **The Jamaica Education Project** under preparation (**P178595**) will improve teaching and learning for secondary education and offer resilient school infrastructure through an infrastructure strategy, construction standards for the sector, and the construction of one secondary STEM school. The selected STEM school will be built according to a universal access design to include learners with disabilities. The inclusion of persons with disabilities will also feature in teacher training, learning materials, and assessments, and in the Education Management Information System.
- The World Bank has lent the Government of Jamaica US\$42 million to promote Operation Certification. Operation Certification is a social services project under the Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP) and is implemented by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF). The aim of the ICDP is to broaden access to basic

infrastructure services including roads, water and sewage systems, solid waste management and a menu of social services including birth certificates to the most vulnerable, including persons with disabilities. Operation Certification is being implemented with the Registry General's Department, the only organization in Jamaica which registers births, fetal deaths, marriages and deaths.²⁵

Both the Jamaica Performance and Learning Review (PLR) of the last Country Partnership Strategy and the Country Partnership Strategy FY 2014–2017 referred to Trust Funds on Disability (FY14) but these did not mention the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

The World Bank Jamaica Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) commits to include persons with disabilities. The 2022 Jamaica SCD²⁶ recognizes the need to include disability in its development initiatives and notes that persons with disabilities face significant challenges. Priority should be given to groups most susceptible to unemployment and poverty— youth, women, and persons with disabilities. Jamaica's new CPF²⁷ is being prepared with a World Bank Board date in FY24.

ANNEXES

Annex 1. Relevant Figures

The regional report does not contain relevant figures for Jamaica.

Annex 2. Legal framework analysis

A legal and institutional analysis of 30 countries across the LAC region²⁸ examined national frameworks with respect to key issues related to the World Bank's commitments on disability inclusion. The principal purpose of the data is to support research and policy discussions about how the legal and institutional framework influences the social inclusion

of persons with disabilities and their participation in society. In analyzing existing national legal frameworks on disability inclusion, the principal benchmarks used in the study are (a) the universally ratified Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; (b) the World Bank's Ten Commitments to Disability-Inclusive Development; and (c) the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework, and the accompanying Good Practice Note on Disability. For Jamaica, the analysis was mainly based on the country's Bills and Acts, and the Disabilities Act of 2014. The legal analysis was validated by the Jamaica Council of Persons with Disabilities on May 30, 2021.

²⁴ World Bank Group, Disability Inclusion, Global Analysis and Good Practice: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/disability#3>

²⁵ Operation Certification: Social Inclusion for the most vulnerable in Jamaica, <https://blogs.worldbank.org/latinamerica/operation-certification-social-inclusion-most-vulnerable-jamaica>

²⁶ The Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) is a report produced by the World Bank for a partner country (usually every five years). It determines how a country can end poverty and boost shared prosperity, and the challenges that stand in the way of those twin goals. Source: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/collections/51faed2a-0a03-5122-8e91-7d9e28a0a3f6>

²⁷ The World Bank Group's Country Partnership Framework (CPF) aims to make country-driven models more systematic, evidence-based, selective, and focused on the Bank's twin goals of ending extreme poverty and increasing shared prosperity in a sustainable manner.

²⁸ García Mora, María Elena, Steven Schwartz Orellana and Germán Freire. 2021. *Disability Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Path to Sustainable Development*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

Jamaica (JM)	
1. Principle of non-discrimination. Does the legal framework...?	
1.1	Recognize the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of disability? Yes
1.2	Recognize the duty to provide reasonable accommodation as an element of non-discrimination? Partial
1.3	Apply to private enterprises/companies? No
1.4	Include physical, mental, intellectual and sensory impairments? Yes
1.5	Devote specific protection to women/girls with disabilities? No
1.6	Devote specific protection to children with disabilities? Partial
1.7	Devote specific protection to older persons with disabilities? No
1.8	Devote specific protection to indigenous persons with disabilities? No
1.9	Cover direct and indirect discrimination? Yes
1.10	Provide for measures to prevent, eliminate or compensate any form of discrimination on the basis of disability? Yes
Does the Constitution...?	
1.11	Expressly prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability? No
1.12	Include protections for persons with disabilities among provisions on fundamental rights? No
1.13	Reflect a social model orientation of disability? No/not applicable
2. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society. Does the legal framework...?	
2.1	Recognize the effective participation of persons with disabilities in society on an equal basis? Yes
2.2	Provide equal opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural spheres? Yes
2.3	Recognize the right of persons with disabilities to be actively involved in decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities? Partial
2.4	Recognize the equal capacity before the law of persons with disabilities? No
2.5	Promote training of public servants on the rights of persons with disabilities? Partial
3. Accessibility. Does the legal framework...?	
3.1	Recognize the principle of universal access? No
3.2	Recognize access to communication? No
3.3	Is sign language recognized as an official national language or otherwise given official recognition? No
3.4 Access to physical environment and transportation	
3.4.1	Mandate universal access for public buildings and other public facilities (private/government offices) including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces; and including accessibility standards for public buildings? Partial
3.4.2	Mandate universal access to transport infrastructure and services? Yes
3.4.3	Provide subsidized access to transport? No
3.4.4	Mandate reasonable accommodation to access services for the public? Partial
3.5 Access to Information	
3.5.1	Mandate public information for persons with disabilities in accessible formats and technologies without additional cost? (including Braille, tactile communication, audio, plain-language, human-reader, augmented modes, etc.) No
3.5.2	Allow for the use of alternative modes of communication and other accessible means for official interactions (i.e. use of sign languages, Braille, etc.)? Partial

	Jamaica (JM)
3.5.3 Mandate accessibility of information and technology including electronic services?	No
3.5.4 Provide accessibility standards for audio-visual media?	No
1. Education. Does the legal framework...?	
1.1 Expressly recognize the principle of an inclusive education system and articulate the aims of inclusive education?	Partial
1.2 Prohibit the exclusion of persons with disabilities from the general education system?	Yes
1.3 Cover all levels of education for persons with disabilities?	No
1.4 Ensure access of persons with disabilities to the general education system?	No
1.5 Include reasonable accommodation based on individual student's requirements?	Partial
1.6 Plan for persons with disabilities to receive support and individualized support within the general education system?	Yes
2. Health. Does the legal framework...?	
2.1 Provide persons with disabilities with health services of the same quality and standard of free or affordable health care as provided to other persons?	Yes
2.2 Provide access to reproductive health to persons with disabilities?	Yes
2.3 Provide health services which specifically minimize and prevent secondary disabilities?	Yes
2.4 Mandate the creation of funds/public programs for rehabilitation services?	No
2.5 Recognize free and informed consent of persons with disabilities and establish ethical standards for the provision of public and private health care?	No
3. Work and Employment. Does the legal framework...?	
3.1 Prohibit discrimination in the workplace, including conditions of recruitment, hiring and employment, and provide safe and healthy working conditions?	Partial
3.2 Mandate the employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector?	Partial
3.3 Establish a quota system for the employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector?	Partial
3.4 Promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector through appropriate policies and measures which may include affirmative action programs, incentives and other measures?	No
3.5 Mandate reasonable accommodation in the workplace?	Yes
4. Participation in political and public life. Does the legal framework...?	
4.1 Contain restrictions or exclusions on the right to vote for persons with disabilities, such as an exclusion based on legal capacity?	Yes
4.2 Persons with disabilities might be denied the right to stand for office on account of discriminatory qualification criteria that exclude them.	Yes
4.3 Guarantee equal and effective access to voting procedures, facilities and materials in order for persons with disabilities to exercise their right to vote, including reasonable accommodations and other measures for accessibility?	Yes
4.4 Include representation of persons with disabilities in the legislature by way of quotas or other positive measures?	No
4.5 Expressly mandate assisted voting for persons with disabilities, including selection of an assistant of their own choosing?	Yes
4.6 Provide for voting for persons who are in long-term institutions or home-bound?	No
4.7 Include accessibility standards for the internet?	No
4.8 Accessibility standards for polling stations?	No

Jamaica (JM)	
5. Social Protection. Does the legal framework...?	
5.1 Recognize disability-related expenses in social protection programs?	Yes
5.2 Recognize the right of persons with disabilities to access public housing programs?	Partial
5.3 Prohibit discrimination in access to and supply of goods and services?	Partial
6. Protection in situation of risk. Does the legal framework...?	
6.1 Ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk/emergency including armed conflict, public health emergencies, humanitarian emergencies and natural disaster?	Partial
1. National Monitoring	
1.1 Does the State have focal points within Government from which to implement the Convention?	Yes
1.2 Does the State coordinate within Government to facilitate related actions in different sectors and at different levels?	No
2. Establish an independent monitoring	
2.1 Does the State have a framework with independent mechanisms to implement and monitor the Convention?	No
2.2 Does the designated framework meet the requirements of independence?	No
3. Participation in monitoring	
3.1 Has the State taken measures to involve civil society?	Yes
3.2 Has the State taken measures to involve persons with disabilities?	Yes
3.3 Has the State taken measures to include gender perspectives?	No
3.4 Has the State taken measures to allow those with disabilities to participate in public matters affecting them?	Yes
3.5 Has the state taken measures for participation in the monitoring process and the preparation of the State report?	Yes

Annex 3. Stakeholder mapping²⁹

Jamaica has a range of government bodies and disability support organisations representing persons with a variety of physical and psychosocial disabilities.

- **The Ministries of Education, Youth, and Information, Labour and Social Security, and Health** are the key Ministries responsible for persons with disabilities in Jamaica.
- **Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities (JCPD)**, part of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MLSS) implements the Disability Act of 2014 and provides programs for training and placement of persons with disabilities.
- **The Office of the Prime Minister** makes sure that existing and developing policies and legislation complement the 2014 Disabilities Act.
- **The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT), and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica:** These three entities implement the SDGs in Jamaica. They also coordinate and collaborate with other government ministries, departments, agencies, the private sector, CSOs/OPDs, academia, and other local, regional, and international stakeholders.
- **The National SDG Core Group:** One of the key branches for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs.
- **Association of Women’s Organizations in Jamaica (AWOJA):** is the only umbrella group for Women’s Organizations in Jamaica, and advocates for women’s rights in the country.
- **[The Jamaica Association on Intellectual Disabilities \(JAID\):](#)** JAID is a multi-service agency that provides a range of services including educational assessment and placement, integration guidance and support, guidance and counseling, and social services.
- **[The Jamaica Down’s Syndrome Foundation \(JDSF\),](#)** a nonprofit organization established in 2007, empowers

²⁹ This is a living document that is constantly being updated. Therefore, the list of OPDs may change from time to time. Following appropriate accessibility features (sign interpretation, closed caption) is key to ensure that persons with disabilities can efficiently and openly participate of meetings and consultations.

families and caregivers of children with Down Syndrome (DS) through education and communication.

- **Jamaica Association for the Deaf (JAD):** JAD, established in 1938, provides quality of life support to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community through services including education, screening and diagnostic hearing tests, interpretation, Jamaican Sign Language training, book binding, and other social services.
- **Jamaica Society for the Blind (JSB):** Established in 1954; initially, the mission of the JSB was to maintain a record of all persons with blindness or visual disabilities with the help of the Salvation Army. However, as membership grew, the Board took on other activities including fundraising to augment the subvention from the Government.
- **Combined Disabilities Association:** CDA is a non-profit NGO, established in 1978, that works with government and non-government agencies on issues such as mobility, housing, training/education, recreation-rehabilitation, employment, and health care.
- **Special Olympics Jamaica:** Special Olympics is a global organization that serves athletes with intellectual disabilities, working with hundreds of thousands of volunteers and coaches each year.
- **Community-based Rehabilitation Jamaica (CBRJ):** CBRJ provides education and intervention services in the cognitive and social development of children and adolescents with disabilities, and helps them to enjoy equal rights and improved quality of life.
- **The Caribbean Development Bank:** The Caribbean Development Bank has launched the Disability Assessment Project (2018) to develop evidenced-based projects and services to mainstream disability awareness in the region. The project seeks to provide robust disability data in social, economic, and political domains; examine the differential impacts of disability and their intersection with other vulnerabilities associated with sex, age cohort (children, youth, elderly and working age), ethnicity, and race (as relevant); identify constraints and enablers to equal participation of persons with disabilities compared with persons without disabilities in growth sectors of the formal and informal economy; and examine vulnerabilities to natural disasters, economic shocks and climate change.
- **UNICEF:** In partnership with the Digicel Jamaica Foundation and the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities, launched the #iAmAbleJA campaign in 2019.³⁰ The campaign urges the GoJ to protect and promote the lives of Jamaican children with disabilities by enforcing the

Disabilities Act of 2014. UNICEF also funded and supported the 2018 Situational Analysis of Persons with Disabilities in Jamaica.³¹

Annex 4. Glossary - Empower with words

- Language used on disability varies across countries and cultures. In a country context, it is useful to ask persons with disabilities which words and phrases they prefer. It is also important to find out whether an individual is willing to disclose their disability. When describing an individual, do not reference his or her disability unless it is clearly pertinent to the issue or story.
- It is recommended to use 'person-first language', which puts the person before his or her impairment (a person who uses a wheelchair, a person with visual impairment) which is in line with the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).
- The use of terms such as "handicapped", "a person suffering from...", "mentally retarded", "able-bodied/normal", "the disabled", "the blind", "paraplegic", "wheelchair-bound" are not recommended. Disability is not an illness and hence it is important to refrain from using terms such as healthy versus sick.

The following brief glossary provides guidelines to portray individuals with disabilities in a respectful and balanced way with language that is neutral:

- Person(s) with disabilities
- Person who is blind/or person with visual disabilities
- Person who is deaf/person who is deaf or hard of hearing/ person with hearing disabilities: Many people in the Deaf community prefer the use of a lowercase "d" to refer to audiological status and the use of a capital "D" when referring to the culture and community of Deaf people.
- Person who is deaf/blind
- Person with mobility/physical disabilities
- Person using a wheelchair/a wheelchair user
- Person with intellectual/developmental disabilities
- Person with albinism
- Person with short stature or little person
- Person with psychosocial disabilities
- Person with Down syndrome
- Organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)
- Assistive devices (white cane, hearing aid, wheelchair, tricycle).

³⁰ Tajae Williams, "Never Give up on Your Children, They Are the Future," UNICEF Jamaica (blog), January 20, 2020, <https://blogs.unicef.org/jamaica/never-give-children-future/>.

³¹ Wilson-Scott, "I Am Able: Situational Analysis of Persons with Disabilities in Jamaica."