

Disability Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean



Photo: FG Trade

The Situation in Antigua and Barbuda

March 2023¹

¹ This profile provides an overview of the legal and social context for 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, and the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework. The profile is based on a literature review of publicly available official documents and notably 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. The brief was prepared by a team led by María Elena García Mora and Naraya Carrasco which included Camilo Vargas Sosa, Melissa Zumaeta, Cristina Leria, Miguel Garza and Linda Anderson-Berry. It includes inputs from Sanjay Agarwal, Melike Egilmezler, María Inés García Calderón (editor) and Iván García Estébanez (design). For inquiries on disability inclusion in LAC, task teams, and/or country teams, through project/country Social Development Specialists, should contact the regional focal point on disability inclusion in LCR, María Elena García Mora (mgarciamora@worldbank.org). To inquire on disability inclusion globally, contact the WB Disability Advisor Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo (cmccclainnhlapo@worldbank.org).

OPPORTUNITIES

- Engage with the Government on disability inclusion. Acquire disaggregated data and target awareness campaigns to promote participation of persons with disabilities.
- Support the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to plan and consult with persons with disabilities.
- Support the government of Antigua and Barbuda to participate in International and Regional platforms for disability-inclusive disaster risk management to respond to climate change.

I. Objective

The objective of this note is to identify national entry points to include persons with disabilities in Antigua and Barbuda. 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 is meant to guide the Government and the World Bank to strengthen disability-inclusion at the country level, and is not an exhaustive analysis of disability-inclusion in the country.

While the regional report establishes that inclusion of persons with disabilities has progressed in Latin America over the last two decades, much remains to be done to achieve their social and economic inclusion. In general, persons

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.

with disabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean are 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 disabled.³ Approximately 750,000 of them live in the Anglophone Caribbean, (which includes Antigua and Barbuda), i.e., 15 percent of people in the region.⁴

The 2011 Population and Housing Census⁵ reported that the prevalence for at least one function for which individuals either had ‘lots of difficulty’ or ‘cannot do at all’ was 5.3 percent, out of which 2.25 percent were males and 3.06 percent were females. However, prevalence is likely to have been underreported as 1,215 males and 1,172 females did not provide sufficient information to establish their status. The census summary noted that the highest prevalence rates were in older age groups, indicating that disability is closely connected with aging. The two most prevalent disabilities were ‘walking’ and ‘seeing’. People who struggled to walk or could not walk accounted for 1.15 percent of the population. Those with a visual disability accounted for 0.98 percent of the population. Except for ‘communication’, women reported higher levels of disability than men. Below 35 years old, men have a marginally higher prevalence than women, but after

age 35 the percentage of women with a disability is consistently higher than for men.

As population growth in Antigua and Barbuda slows and life expectancy increases, the proportion of elderly people in the population is growing. Both the rate and number of persons with disabilities increases with age. Currently 9.3 percent of the population is over 65 years old and it is estimated that this figure will grow to 21 percent by 2050.⁶

TABLE 1. Comparative indicators for Persons with and without Disabilities

	Persons with disabilities (%)	Persons without disabilities (%)
Percentage of children attending school (3 to 18 years old) (ECLAC 2018)	74	93
Percentage of persons aged 18–59 who have completed secondary education (ECLAC 2018)	46	71
Percentage of persons aged 15–59 that are economically active (ECLAC 2018)	52	73
Employment rate	n/a	n/a
Access to internet (ECLAC 2018)	n/a	55
Household access to cellphones	n/a	n/a

TABLE 2. Number of People with Disabilities

Total population 84,816 (Male 40,395; Female 44,421)

Functional disability	Cannot do at all		Lots of difficulty		Some difficulty	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Seeing	55	58	245	452	1,646	3,144
Hearing	24	22	77	120	403	565
Walking	88	121	260	486	798	1,616
Self-care	84	106	79	132	235	262
Upper body	33	31	64	114	173	194
Communicating	40	31	102	103	173	194
Remembering	19	29	95	168	504	884

Source: 2011 Population and Housing Census

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 in 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 Government of Antigua and Barbuda (2017). 2011 Population and Housing Census, Available at: <https://statistics.gov.ag/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2011-Antigua-and-Barbuda-Population-and-Housing-Census-A-Demographic-Profile.pdf>

⁶ Figure Demographic pyramids for Antigua and Barbuda, projections 2020 and 2050. Source: <https://www.populationpyramid.net/antigua-and-barbuda/2050/ based on Census data>

III. Poverty and Vulnerability

National poverty assessments estimate that around 29 percent of the population in Antigua and Barbuda are socio-economically disadvantaged and at risk of poverty.⁷ No official data on the poverty and vulnerability of persons with disabilities are available. However, it is known that persons with disabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean are more likely to live in households that are poor and are overrepresented among the vulnerable. In LAC, about 1 in 5 poor people are disabled, while approximately two thirds of households with persons with disabilities are vulnerable to falling into poverty.⁸

IV. Education

Education is free and compulsory for all children between 5–16 years. The Education Act 2008 prohibits discrimination for a range of social or individual characteristics, including ‘mental or physical handicap’. Three levels of public education are standard. Additionally, the Act provides for special education programs for children with intellectual, physical, communication and behavioral challenges. There is limited information on attendance in these programs or barriers to participation. Children and youths with disabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean have experienced great difficulties in accessing education. Persons with disabilities aged 3–18 in Antigua and Barbuda are less likely to attend school than their peers without disabilities, and are, therefore, less likely to graduate from secondary school. While 74 percent of persons with disability aged 3 and 18 years old are attending school, 93 percent without disability are attending. Furthermore, only 46 percent of persons with disabilities graduate from secondary school (persons between 18–59 years) compared with 71 percent without disability.⁹

V. Skills, work, and labor outcomes

According to the 2018 Labour Force Survey, the overall unemployment rate remains steady at around 8.7 percent. The rate is highest among those with lower levels of education. Persons with disabilities tend to be over-represented in this category. Disability disaggregated employment data are

unavailable and the level of under- and unemployment among disabled work seekers is not known. The Antigua and Barbuda Association for Persons with Disabilities is working with the government to provide free training programs to boost employability for persons with disabilities with some limited success. Inactivity, rather than employment rates, explains the exclusion of persons with disabilities from the labor market in Latin America and the Caribbean. When persons with disabilities find employment, they tend to be overrepresented in low-skilled positions, especially in urban areas. The economic impact for households is evident in high unemployment rates for disabled heads of households.¹⁰ The ECLAC (2016) report estimates that the prevalence of inactivity of persons (15–59 years) is 52 percent among persons with disabilities compared to 73 percent for those without disability.

VI. Voice and Agency

Disabled groups lack voice and agency because they are excluded from decision making. In Antigua and Barbuda, the legal framework restricts and/or excludes those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities from voting or standing for office.

Antigua and Barbuda Constitutional Order (1981) Section N° 5, subsection (1) allows for detention based on mental disability and specifically states: “No person shall be deprived of his personal liberty save as may be authorized by law in any of the following cases, that is to say...(i) in the case of a person who is, or is reasonably suspected to be, of unsound mind, addicted to drugs or alcohol, or a vagrant, for the purpose of his care or treatment or the protection of the community...” Detention on this basis shall not be considered as residence for the purposes of election registration as the Representation of the People Act of 1975 provides in 5(3): “A person who is a patient in any establishment maintained wholly or mainly for the reception and treatment of persons suffering from mental illness or mental defectiveness, or who is detained in legal custody at any place, shall not by reason thereof be treated for the purposes aforesaid as resident there.”

Thus, the law permits detention based on mental disability and appears to restrict election registration on this basis, although the provisions are somewhat unclear. However, the Disabilities

⁷ National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) 2016. *Country Document for Disaster Risk Reduction: Antigua and Barbuda*. American Road St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda W.I. Available at: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/54920_annex04drredantiguaandbarbuda.pdf

⁸ 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.

⁹ Some Comparative Education Indicators: Persons with Disabilities vs. Persons without Disabilities 2010 (%). Source: ECLAC 2018 based on census 2010.

¹⁰ Ibid.

and Equal Opportunities Act, 2017, prohibits discrimination of any kind, provides for equality, and empowers the Disabilities and Equal Opportunities and Rights Tribunal, created under the same Act, to adjudicate claims alleging exclusions or restrictions against “a person with a disability in areas such as employment, housing, education, transportation, communication, recreation, healthcare services, voting and access to various public services...” The Mental Treatment Act allows for involuntary detention on the basis of disability and it appears that the mentally disabled would have no right to vote. Therefore, it appears as if the law introduces conflicts which could, however, be challenged under the 2017 Act.

There are numerous provisions that disallow holding public office on the basis of disability. Illustratively, the Antigua and Barbuda Constitutional Order (1981), Section N° 39, subsection (1) states: “No person shall be qualified to be elected as a member of the House who: (d) is a person certified to be insane or otherwise adjudged to be of unsound mind under any law.” This constitutes a restriction based on mental disability contrary to Article N° 12 of the CRPD as well as Article N° 5 and Article N° 29. Section N° 30, subsection (1) states: “No person shall be qualified to be appointed as a Senator who: (d) is a person certified to be insane or otherwise adjudged to be of unsound mind under any law.”

VII. Disaster Risk Management

Antigua and Barbuda has a well-developed national infrastructure supporting Disaster Risk Management (DRM), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) with responsibilities well defined under the 2002 Disaster Management Act and ultimate authority lying with the Office of the Prime Minister.

Some of Antigua and Barbuda’s relevant institutions in the field are: 1) The Office of the Prime Minister responsible for the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS).¹¹, 2) The Ministry of Social Transformation and the Blue Economy is responsible for disaster preparedness and responding to extreme events, 3) the Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation and Energy is responsible for Meteorology, and 4) the Ministry of Health and Environment is responsible for National Adaptation Planning and Environmental management.

In 2022 the country issued the Disaster Management Act that established the National Disaster Management policy and a comprehensive disaster management framework. These take a wholistic approach to disaster management and build disaster

resilience through the Prevention, Preparation, Response and Recovery Act (PPRR). The National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) was created as the lead agency, and operational responsibilities are devolved to district levels. District disaster committees are responsible for planning but this planning is poor. Several National sub-committees have been created within the disaster management framework including representatives from government agencies and sectors, including persons with disabilities and their representatives.

In terms of emergency shelter policy, the country has an emergency shelter programme of short-term accommodation for persons made homeless by disasters or emergencies. It prioritizes vulnerable groups, particularly those with physical and psychosocial disabilities, the elderly and low-income groups; but the extent to which these groups are included in planning is currently unclear, as is the identification of recipients and their specific needs for emergency response, including evacuation. These details are in operational plans at the district and community levels, and anecdotal information suggests that families and friends take responsibility and that limited support is offered through the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Persons with Disabilities (ABAPD).

In addition, Antigua and Barbuda has a well-established and seemingly robust internal communications infrastructure for warnings. The National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) works with digital telephone companies, using text messages to broadcast DRR, pre- and post-disaster information. NODS uses a Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) server as a uniform platform to rapidly share information in standard formats across multiple technologies. Persons with disabilities can receive alerts on their smart phones, tablets and email, and TV and radio interrupts arrive within seconds of warnings being released, although simultaneous sign language is not always available. The NODS recently developed a hazard and disaster alerting app, using CAP standard formatting, freely available through the Android Play Store or Apple APP Store.

VIII. Legal and Policy Framework

Antigua and Barbuda guarantee the inclusion and full exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities through the following international legal instruments: 1) Antigua and Barbuda both signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Optional Protocol in 2007. 2) The country is committed to the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) of 2015, which pledge that “no one will be left behind” and to

¹¹ <https://nods.gov.ag>



Photo: James Davis

“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, as well as data collection and monitoring of the SDGs. 3) Antigua and Barbuda signed the [Paris Agreement](#) (2015) in 2016, which was ratified and entered into force in the same year. This builds on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and acknowledges that all countries, in their efforts to mitigate 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) Antigua and Barbuda has committed to [The Sendai Framework for DRR 2015–2030](#), which recognizes persons with disabilities and their representatives as essential stakeholders in DRR and acknowledges the importance of disability inclusive disaster preparedness, response and recovery, and the availability

of accessible technology and communications. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) 2017 Data Readiness Review reported on indicator data to measure the global targets of the Sendai Framework and identify gaps, and noted that a range of data were disaggregated by disability. This included the number of injuries, deaths and missing persons, the number of dwellings that were damaged or destroyed, and the number of people whose livelihoods were disrupted or destroyed by disasters.

At the regional level, Antigua and Barbuda has not yet signed the [Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities](#) (CIADDIS),¹² which is the first regional legal framework to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.¹³ Antigua and Barbuda has been a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) since 1974. In 1997, heads of government of CARICOM signed **the Charter of Civil Society** which addresses the rights of persons with

¹² “Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities,” Pub. L. No. A-65 (1999), <http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/sigs/a-65.html>.

¹³ While both the CRPD and the CIADDIS are international instruments designed to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, they differ in their respective understandings of disability. The CIADDIS merges the medical model of disability with some elements of the social model of disability.

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) 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, Antigua and Barbuda participated in the First Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Disability at which this Accord was developed. The Accord promotes the development of CARICOM’s model on disability policy and legislation, encourages best practices for services for persons with disabilities, and affirms that every Caribbean citizen has the same human, civil, social, political, economic, and cultural rights. Antigua and Barbuda, with the 15 CARICOM States, signed the [Declaration of Pétion Ville \(2015\)](#) to reiterate their commitments to the CRPD.

With respect to national regulation, Antigua and Barbuda has a national law that specifically protects the rights of persons with disabilities, the Disabilities and Equal Opportunities Act (2017), which in section 14 states that a person with a disability shall not be subject to any form of discrimination on the basis of disability. Also, the Social Protection Bill of 2020 (amended in 2021) has established a legal framework to develop, implement and maintain social protection programs that are accessible, efficient, and responsible for vulnerable persons. This specifically includes persons with a disability. Furthermore, the government has passed legislation (as regulations under the Development Control Ordinance) to use the Antigua Building Code for all buildings in Antigua and Barbuda. The Code was developed using an Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) model recognising that the

damage caused by extreme natural events affects all sections of society. Emphasis has been placed on building standards which prevent or mitigate the damage so caused. They also establish requirements for Occupancy, Fire Safety and Public Health, and the code also caters for structural integrity. However, compliance with accessibility requirements is unclear. Finally, a national register of persons with disabilities is a requirement under the Disabilities Act (Sections N° 7 and N° 8). This is presumably a primary responsibility of The National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities (reporting to the Minister with responsibility for Health and Wellness). Currently, however, no such register has been developed, and there is no national repository of data relating to people with disabilities and their individual circumstances available to DRM for either planning or operational response.

IX. World Bank’s Engagements on disability inclusion in Antigua and Barbuda

No World Bank engagements or projects on disability-inclusion have been identified for the country.

The World Bank Regional Partnership Strategy for OECS¹⁴ for the period FY15–19 only mentions disability from a medical point of view. The report mentions that OECS¹⁵ countries are facing a health crisis, with rising rates of heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and other noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). NCDs disproportionately affect poor families, increasing the possibility of disability, premature death and worsening poverty as people pay for medical treatment out of their own pockets.

¹⁴ It is a strategic document that outlines the World Bank Group’s engagement with OECS. It also determines how these countries can end poverty and boost shared prosperity, and the challenges that stand in the way (diagnosis).

¹⁵ The latest OECS has a Regional Partnership Framework and covers the FY22–25 period. This covers all the OECS countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

¹⁶ 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.

X. ANNEXES

Annex 1. Relevant Figures

The regional report does not contain relevant figures for the country.

Annex 2. Legal framework analysis

A legal and institutional analysis of 30 countries across the Latin America and the Caribbean region¹⁶ examined the strengths and weaknesses of existing national frameworks with respect 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 meaningful 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) relevant provisions in the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework, as well as the accompanying Good Practice Note on Disability. There is insufficient information for an in-depth analysis of the legal and institutional framework, but existing protections are described in section VIII above and in the Table below.

	Antigua and Barbuda (A&B)
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?	Yes
1.3 Apply to private enterprises/companies?	Partial
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?	No
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?	No
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
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?	No
2.3 Recognize the right of persons with disabilities to be actively involved in decision-making processes on issues relating to them?	No
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?	No

	Antigua and Barbuda (A&B)
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. Does the legal framework...?	
3.4.1 Mandate universal access for buildings and other facilities open to the public (private/government offices) including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces, including accessibility standards for public buildings?	Yes
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 provided to the public?	No
3.5 Access to Information. Does the legal framework...?	
3.5.1 Mandate providing information intended for the general public to persons with disabilities in accessible formats and technologies without additional cost? (including Braille, tactile communication, audio, plain-language, human-reader, augmentative 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.)?	No
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?	No
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?	Yes
1.5 Include reasonable accommodation based on the specific needs of an individual student's requirements?	Yes
1.6 Foresee that persons with disabilities receive the support required, including individualized support within the general education system?	Yes
2. Health. Does the legal framework...?	
2.1 Provide health services of the same quality and cost as provided to other persons?	Yes
2.2 Provide access to reproductive health services to persons with disabilities?	No
2.3 Provide health services which minimize/prevent secondary disabilities?	Yes
2.4 Mandate funds/public programs for rehabilitation services?	Yes
2.5 Recognize free and informed consent of persons with disabilities and establish ethical standards for providing 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, safe and healthy working conditions?	Yes
3.2 Mandate the employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector?	No
3.3 Establish a quota system to employ persons with disabilities in the public sector?	No

	Antigua and Barbuda (A&B)
3.4 Promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector through 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.	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?	No
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?	Partial
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
5. Social Protection. Does the legal framework...?	
5.1 Recognize disability-related expenses in social protection programs?	No
5.2 Recognize the right of persons with disabilities to access public housing programs?	No
5.3 Prohibit discrimination in access to and supply of goods and services?	No
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 disasters?	No
1. National Monitoring	
1.1 Has the State designated focal points within the Government to implement the Convention?	Yes
1.2 Does the government coordinate actions in different sectors and at different levels?	No
2. Establish an independent monitoring body	
2.1 Has the State established a framework, with independent mechanisms, to implement the Convention?	No
2.2 Does the designated framework meet the requirements of independence?	No
3. Participation in monitoring	
3.1 Has the State involved civil society?	No
3.2 Has the State involved persons with disabilities?	No
3.3 Has the State included gender perspectives?	No
3.4 Does the State allow for persons with disabilities to participate in public matters affecting them?	Yes
3.5 Has the State allowed for participation in preparing the State report, and monitoring?	

Annex 3. Stakeholder mapping¹⁷

There are a range of government bodies and disability support organisations in the country that aim to provide practical support that meets the day-to-day needs of persons with disabilities:

- Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment: Responsibility for disability-inclusion.
- The National Council Of and For Persons with Disabilities: Supports disability policy development and acts as national point for UNCRPD.
- [Antigua and Barbuda Association of Persons with Disabilities \(ABAPD\)](#) is a cross-disability umbrella organization. The ABAPD notes the vulnerability of persons with disabilities in emergencies, stresses the response and recovery challenges they face, and the need for their special consideration regarding information sharing and evacuation.
- [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 in the region. The project seeks to provide robust disability data in social, economic, and political domains; examine the differential impact of disability and its 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 to those without in growth sectors of the formal and informal economy; and examine vulnerabilities to natural disasters, economic shocks and climate change.

Annex 4. Glossary - Empower with words

- Language used to describe disability varies across countries and cultures. In a given context, it is useful to ask persons with disabilities how they wish to be

described or referred to. 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).

¹⁷ 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 in meetings and consultations. Reach out to the team in case of doubts.