



QUIK
EZ



Journal of Caribbean Environmental
Sciences and Renewable Energy



The Regional Disability Index and Strengthening Resilience of Persons with Disabilities in the Anglophone Caribbean

Author: Floyd Morris

UWI Centre for Disability Studies, University of the West Indies,
Mona Campus, Kingston 7, Jamaica, W.I.

The Journal of Caribbean Environmental Sciences and Renewable Energy
Vol. 3, Issue 1, 2020 doi.org/10.33277/cesare/003.001/04

As the Caribbean attempts to make progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we must ask about how one particularly vulnerable group is factoring into these efforts, that is, persons with disabilities. The author of this study undertakes this assessment by ranking 10 countries in the English-speaking Caribbean, using a Regional Disability Index. The index was designed by the University of the West Indies with the explicit aim of tracking the implementation of programmes and policies addressing disability related issues. By examining these results against the commitments made in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the study highlights just how much work is still to be done.

The areas which the index considered were legislative protection, education, employment, public transportation, health care, and access to information, ensuring a comprehensive assessment of disability policy in each country. As a whole, the region's performance is poor, showing that by most measures, not enough is being done to integrate the concerns of the disabled into wider development plans.

The study commends the work done in some islands, notably, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Jamaica, while reinforcing that all the nations assessed in this study still have much work to do to reach the goals outlined in the CRPD. In particular, legislative action, public awareness, access to information and technology, investment in education, health care and employment are areas with need for most immediate action.