

# Vulnerability and the disabled

Presented by  
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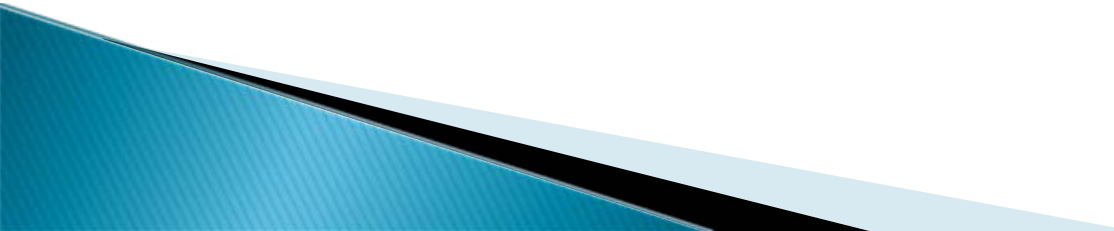
# ***ICPD Programme of Action***

*“However, there remains a pressing need for continued action to promote effective measures for the prevention of disability, for rehabilitation and for the realization of the goals of full participation and equality for persons with disabilities.”*

# FACTS ABOUT DISABILITY

- ▶ Over 600 million persons worldwide have a disability.
- ▶ It is estimated 20% of the world's poorest persons are PWD (Persons with Disabilities).
- ▶ 60–80% of the World's disabled population are in developing countries.
  - Approximately 50 Million PWD live in the Caribbean and Latin–America.
  - 80–90% of pwd are unemployed

# Facts Continued

- ▶ The number of PWD will increase due to improved life expectancy ratios.
  - ▶ Increased violent crimes and serious accidents contribute to higher prevalence.
  - ▶ Women have a higher percentage among the seniors due to lifestyle diseases.
  - ▶ Violent crime and road traffic accidents account for a higher incidence among younger males.
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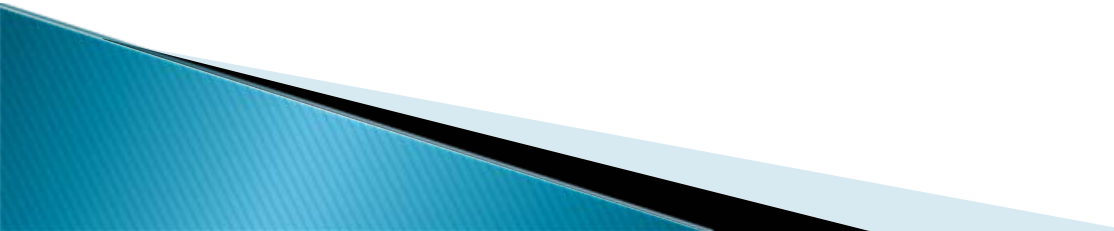
# Disability Prevalence

- ▶ World Health Organization conducted a survey 1990 which suggested 7–10% of the world's population have a disability.
- ▶ The figure was adjusted in 2002 to roughly 5%
- ▶ WHO “burden of Disease survey” 2002 suggested the major causes of disability were:
  - Unipolar depressive disorders
  - Heart disease
  - HIV/AIDS

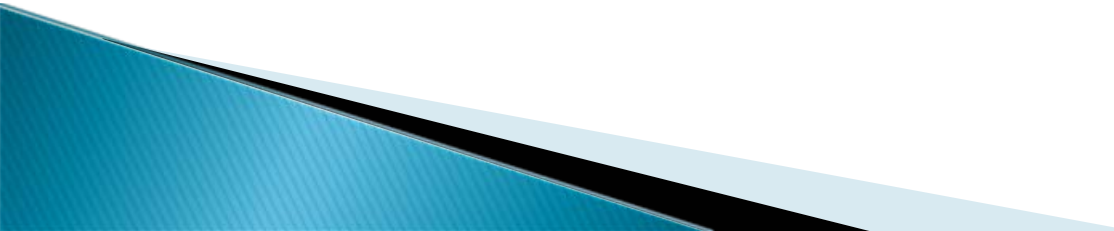
# Prevalence in the Caribbean

COUNTRY	PREVALENCE	LEGISLATION
Anguilla	5.3%	None
Antigua/Barbuda	5.1%	None
Bahamas	2.3%	None
Barbados	4.6%	None
British Virgin Islands	4.0%	
Cuba	4.0%	None
Dominica	18.0%	None
Grenada	*	None
Guyana	2.2%	None
Jamaica	6.2%	None
Netherlands Antilles	8.1%	None
St. Lucia	5.1%	None
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	4.4%	Laws against discrimination
Trinidad and Tobago	4.5%	None

# Factors Enfluencing continued Vulnerability

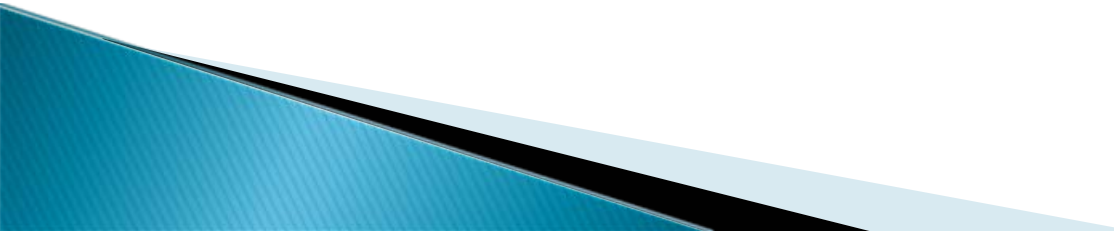
- ▶ Interest is generally low.
  - ▶ Limited visibility of PWD.
  - ▶ Challenges with the definition and methods of measurement.
  - ▶ Negative stigmatisation and associations.
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# UN Convention

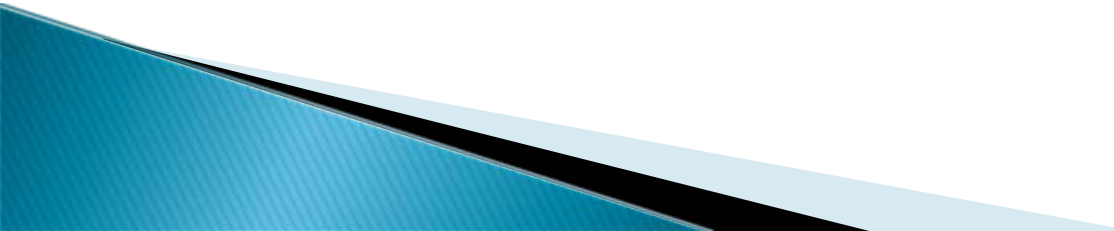
- ▶ Convention adopted Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2006
  - ▶ Ratified May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008
  - ▶ 142 Dignitaries
  - ▶ 85 signatures to the optional protocol
  - ▶ 64 ratifications
  - ▶ 42 ratifications of the optional protocol
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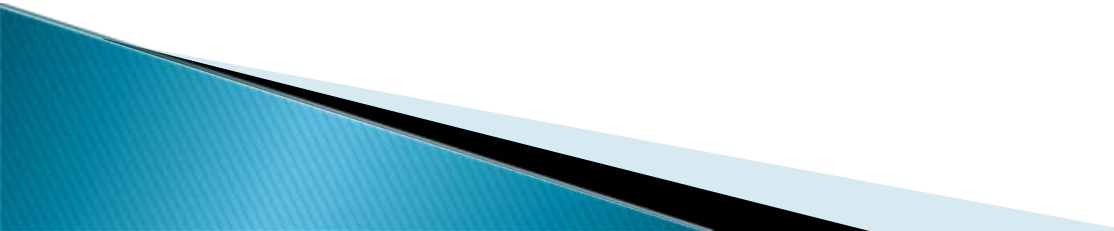
# CRPD in the Caribbean

- ▶ Jamaica is the only English-speaking country ratifying CRPD..
  - ▶ 6 have signed the convention.
  - ▶ Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Cuba have also ratified the convention.
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# MDGs and Disability

- ▶ MDGs do not directly relate to disabilities.
  - ▶ UN has indicated their commitment to including disabilities in discussions of MDGs.
  - ▶ Caribbean not meeting the goals in relation to disability.
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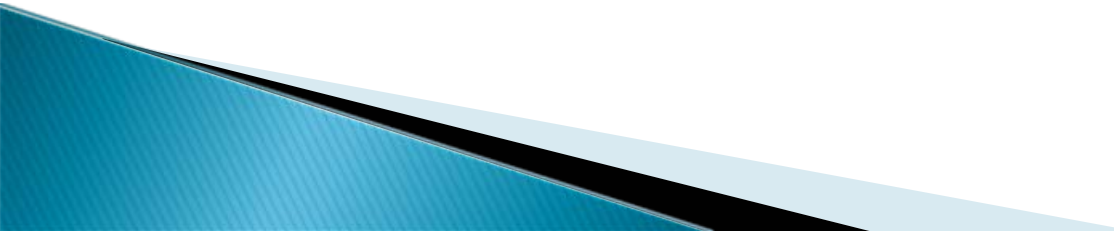
# Example Goal 2

- Universal Access to primary education.
  - World bank estimates that 90% of Children with disabilities do not receive formal education.
  - Using blindness as an example situational analysis of CCB indicates that there is a considerable gap in reported numbers of visual impairment and children in schools.
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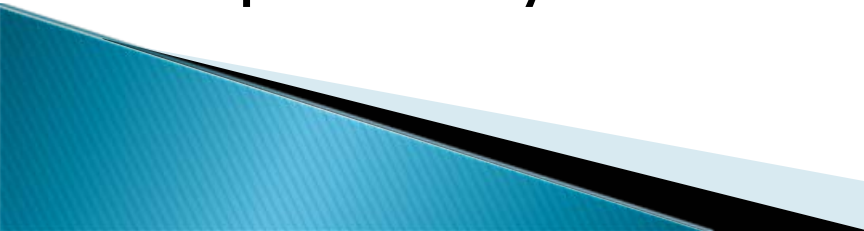
# Education Statistics

Country	Population of school-aged children (5 - 16 yrs.)	Blindness (1:1000)	Low Vision (Blind x 3)	Total: (B+)	No. of b& vi children receiving special education	Service Gap
Anguilla	2,833	3	9	12	n/a	n/a
Antigua & Barbuda	23,679	24	72	96	6	90
The Bahamas	72,514	73	219	292	20 (?)	272
Barbados	41,496	41	123	164	8 (?)	156 (?)
Bermuda	10,013	10	30	40	n/a	n/a
British Virgin Islands	4,513	5	15	20	n/a	n/a
Cayman Islands	6,390	6	18	24	n/a	n/a
Commonwealth of Dominica	17,452	17	51	68	4	64
Grenada	30,684	31	93	124	14	110
Guyana	165,867	166	498	664	29	635
Jamaica	625,888	626	1,878	2,504	114	2,390
Montserrat	806	1	3	4	n/a	n/a
St. Kitts/Nevis	10,906	11	33	44	n/a	n/a
St. Lucia	36,392	36	108	144	35	109
St. Vincent & The Grenadines	27,518	28	84	112	n/a	n/a
Trinidad & Tobago	239,182	239	717	956	30	926
Turks & Caicos	4,433	4	12	16	n/a	n/a
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1,320,566</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>3,963</b>	<b>5,284</b>	<b>260 (?)</b>	<b>4,752 (?)</b>

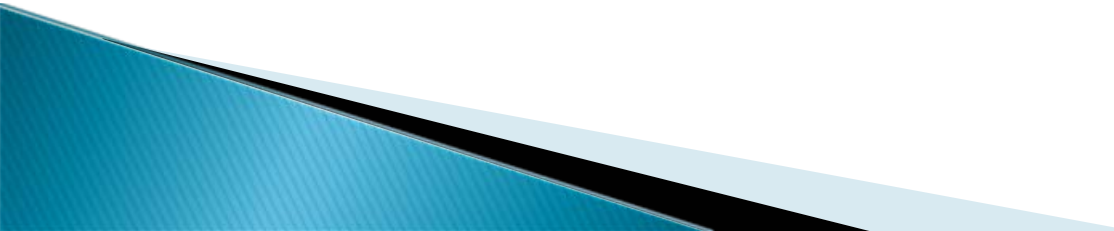
# Programmes in the Caribbean

- ▶ UNFPA SRH programme (Jamaica and Barbados)
  - ▶ CBR (Guyana, Barbados and Jamaica)
  - ▶ Disaster Preparedness and PWD (Jamaica, Barbados, Grenada)
  - ▶ Fully Accessible Barbados
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# Programmes in the Caribbean (Cntd)

- ▶ The Caribbean Council for the Blind conducts several programmes across the region.
  - ▶ Spectacle labs in St. Lucia and Guyana.
  - ▶ Vision assessment centres in Guyana and Jamaica.
  - ▶ Recently a certificate programme in Refraction Error training was accepted by the University of Guyana.
  - ▶ Plans are in place to introduce a degree in optometry in the not too distant future.
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# Conclusion

- ▶ Any realistic move towards empowering persons with disabilities and to furthering their advance in society must be coupled with the involvement of the disabled themselves.
  - ▶ “Nothing about us without us!” is the mantra of many and rightly so as it firmly emphasises that working with the disabled and not for us will achieve a more equitable society for all concerned.
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# ***Barack Obama***

*“We must build a world free of unnecessary barriers, stereotypes and discrimination... policies must be developed, attitudes must be shaped, and buildings and organizations must be designed to ensure that everyone has a chance to get the education they need and live independently as full citizens in their communities.”*



# ***Helen Keller***

*“When indeed shall we all learn that we are all related one to the other, that we are all members of one body?”*