



Identifying good practices in existing policies and strategies

Cross-borders

- few policies in place - need advice
- Education Act (Antigua) - people with disabilities have right to access proper education
- Min Ed (Antigua) identified education officer for people with disabilities
- Kenya - open data initiative - making it accessible to everyone
- Trinidad: TATT 2013 attached differently abled survey to ICT survey

SEN + APUA

- Not sure of existing policies
- what should be done
 - Phase 1: standardisation between government and business
 - Phase 2: planning and organisation to develop action plans; isolate areas that need to be changed; what areas need full infrastructure
 - Phase 3: prioritising
 - Boosting visibility awareness and infrastructure
 - Physical access
 - Training - learning sign language
 - Implementing technology

Force to be reckoned with

- Min Ed Antigua has appointed education officer responsible for SEN
 - JAWS
 - CCTV and braille embossers; print into braille
 - Print enlargers
- Technologies in place
- No formal policy governing SEN in Antigua - we need that
- Need trained personnel - teachers supporting students in their classes; also technicians to make materials available
- Negotiating with global and regional funding agencies to create fund for people with disabilities.
 - recognising and supporting people with disabilities
 - Support for disabilities day on 3rd December
 - Public awareness
 - Example of NTRC in St Lucia is good

Melée (mix of different backgrounds; rich diversity)

- Having data and updating through statistics on disabilities
- Use of Universal Service Funds to finance disability projects - as in T&T and Jamaica, where a % of funds is allocated to people with disabilities
- Better web-site access - ensuring web-sites have good interface with assistive technologies - need to be designed from inception. All government web-sites should be accessible; corporates can follow. We could legislate for this.
- Education - good programme must be established to build awareness, to change general perception out there about differently abled people. Education should also be for people with disabilities to let them know what services are available.
- Training for people with disabilities and general public at large - need for mothers to be able to communicate with children

Diversitec

- What is on the ground in Antigua - Universal Periodic Review (2011). Section on National Report
 - Association of Persons with Disabilities is established
 - Ministry of Health - National Vocational and Rehab Centre - finance for assistive devices
 - Three schools catering for SEN (visual, deaf, special) with computer software; residential care also
 - Citizens Welfare Division - provides some help for vocational training.
- No single national policy addressing needs of individuals with Special Needs
 - need to work towards getting this legislation in place
 - NTRC works very closely with government
 - National 5 year ICT policy - in social services section considers people with disabilities
 - Libraries and community access centres are going to be funded - but not too much on people with disabilities
 - Developing a new project on people with disabilities
 - Survey done in 2014 on people with disabilities
- St Lucia - governments and NGOs in partnership to address individuals with Special Needs
- Close captioning of TV needs to be done

"CARICOM"

- not very aware of policies in place in countries
- Caribbean common harmonisation act on equal treatment in employment - trying to eliminate discrimination including disability
 - Not sure if this has been implemented in respective countries
 - component often targets projects for people with disabilities
 - In Grenada project to fund agencies working with people with disabilities and training
- USF regulations - very important and can be used as a source of funding for use of ICTs by people with disabilities.
- e-Gov policies in place in many islands
 - but not many include detailed elements on people with disabilities
- Things that could be improved
 - Communication Bill in ECTEL states - should include more on people with disabilities
 - Collective implementation of projects - needing to have subject sector specialists.

Making it real!

Policies are really important; role of regulation; procurement

Legislation in lots of jurisdiction that is sensitive to the needs of people with disabilities

Importance of raising public awareness

Particularly important in disaster management and security

How can Telecommunication operators assist with education

Political Hackers (from Antigua)

- Good practices
 - Ramps in buildings
 - motorised shopping carts
 - parking at supermarkets
 - Internet - inclusion for blind and visually impaired, and autistic children in regular classrooms; JAWS; IT buses going around schools
 - Signing on TV
 - Special needs educational officer
- Since 1985 blind students in inclusive environment at TN Kernan school
 - funded by governments and private sector
- Fund and Perkins International funding study to find out numbers and types of disabilities in A&B

Able Heart

- Achievements and best practices in Antigua and Barbuda - found online
 - Antigua & Barbuda Association for persons with disabilities spearheading campaigns against discrimination
 - Min Health and others - caters for special needs - finance for assistive devices
 - Three schools for blind, deaf and SEN
 - Publicly funded transport but limited because of funds
 - Domestic help and financial support
- Lack of transparency - we are not aware of the policies that affect us
 - In schools, people are bullied and discriminated against

Unlimited Abilities (run the rehab centre in Antigua)

- Government needs to get policies on books to handle the situation
 - There are drafted policies, but they are not implemented
- Tourism - we did a programme with Ministry of Tourism - lack of access has meant that programme no longer exists
- Ramps, sidewalks, buildings - should be mandatory policies
- Parking is a real problem - legislation needs to be in place
- Total infrastructure repair is necessary
- Having identification cards - there is going to be a national policy on this
- Value for money
 - people with disabilities get paid less for same work
- In every new housing project, government will have 1 in 10 for people with disabilities - individual or family
 - In housing certain areas of land are earmarked for particular echelons; we should have a special are of land earmarked for pwd
- Note: Rehab Centre is under the Ministry of Health

TAB (teachers of blind and people with disabilities)

- Min Ed has training workshops for SEN; collaborating with University of Southern Caribbean; UNESCO has some online courses
- Would like to see "something in the system" that would recognise the issues faced by people with disabilities - e.g. in queues they should get speedier attention; you only get specialist free health service if you are paying social security. Needs assessment is interview based
- People with disabilities have a lot of issues that they would like to air here - parking is a big issue; need to have a sticker on their vehicles; they have free transport for school and some adults, but they need to apply for this, which is a lot of red tape. No public transport for them.