

Disability Rights Promotion International

MONITORING DISABILITY
RIGHTS AND WHERE WE ARE AT

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Monitoring is ...

**Measuring progress towards justice
for people with disabilities**



Measuring Progress/ Monitoring (Challenges)

- How do we build human rights in as fundamental to the monitoring and evaluation of disability policy and practice?
- How do we built participation in as a fundamental principle of disability rights monitoring?



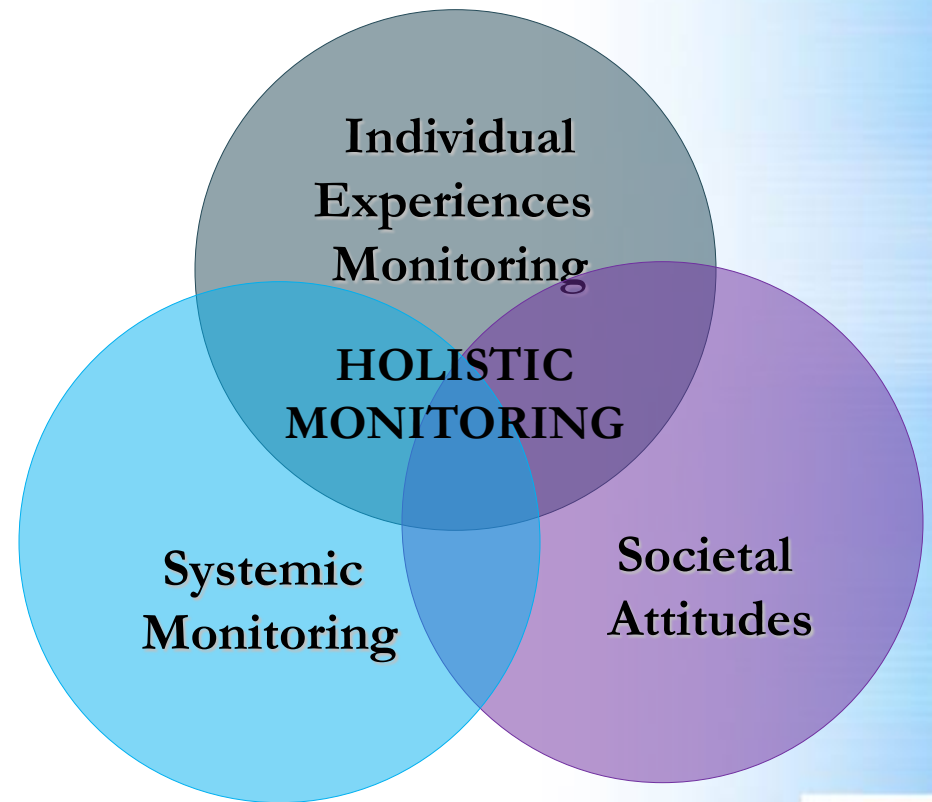
D.R.P.I. Guiding Principles to Ensure participation

- **Leading role of People with Disabilities & their Organizations**
- **Sustainability and Capacity Building**
- **Cross-Disability Involvement**
- **Holistic Monitoring: Integrating monitoring information from 3 areas**
- **Engagement with Multi-Sectoral Organizations**



Holistic Approach to Disability Rights Monitoring

Holistic approach examines 3 monitoring areas providing a broad picture of human rights situation of people with disabilities.



Monitoring at the Individual Level

- **To document individual experiences** of exercise and denial of human rights
- The **aggregate outcome** of individual monitoring can reveal broader **patterns of discrimination**
- **Individual interviews**
- **Monitors** are themselves women & men **with disabilities**



Human Rights Principles

- **Dignity**
- **Autonomy**
- **Non-discrimination and Equality**
- **Participation, Inclusion and Accessibility**
- **Respect for difference**



Monitoring at the Systems Level

- Involves the investigation of the **laws, policies and programs** affecting people with disabilities in a particular jurisdiction;
- Places individual stories **in context**;
- Serves to determine whether legislative frameworks in place fail to respect and protect the human rights of disabled people, or even violate them by containing discriminatory dispositions.



Monitoring Societal Attitudes Through Media

Media and new media:

- reflects & influences public opinion is a proxy for societal attitudes
- can perpetuate negative myths & stereotypes

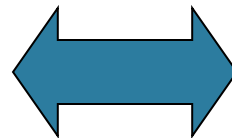
But media and new media can also:

- be a catalyst for positive social change



Holistic Monitoring Builds in a Way to Measure the Gap

**Government
policies,
programs and
constitutional
guarantees
and...**



**Reality for people
with disabilities
who continue to
live without their
human rights.**



Building Human Rights in as an Evaluative Tool

Grounded Human Rights Principles

- Dignity
- Autonomy
- Non-discrimination and Equality
- Participation, Inclusion and Accessibility
- Respect for difference



Essence of Disability Rights

- Rights are **not just access to services**, rights are **not only meeting minimum requirement**
- Indicators & monitoring methods that developed in CRPD **must be made based on Human Rights principles**



Holistic Participatory Monitoring

- Uses communication based on respect for cultural differences and histories
- Addresses the silencing of voices (eg. consultation but no real participation)
- Listens to the voices of those who are the grassroots (formulating meanings)
- Gives people skills to do their own evaluation and monitoring
- Opens a dialogue on how to speak across the South-North divide

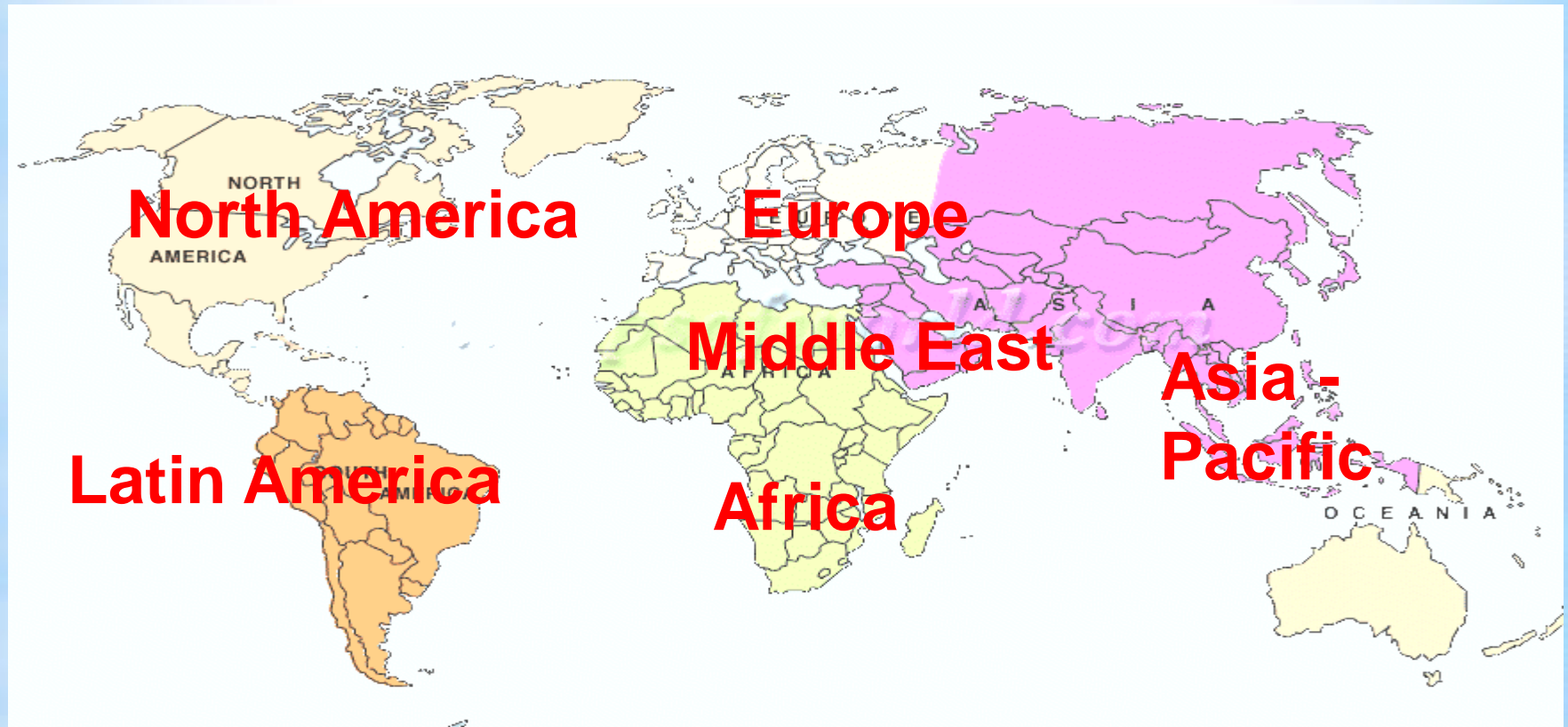


Monitoring - an Empowering Activity and a Process

- **Provides a voice** to marginalized people (participatory monitoring);
- Enhances **public awareness** by documenting abuses and violations;
- **Reinforces a collective identity** among persons with disabilities;
- **Supports efforts to achieve social justice** (a south-north dialogue)



DRPI Monitors Disability Discrimination on 6 Continents



Disability Rights Promotion International

<http://drpi.research.yorku.ca>



D.R.P.I. is a collaborative Initiative working to establish a comprehensive, holistic sustainable international system to monitor human rights of people with disabilities.



Disability Rights Promotion International (D.R.P.I.)



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Few lived experiences of women & men with disabilities - **Food for thought !**

They don't want to give me a job, they say I can't do the job with just one hand. I work in construction and I know how to do my job with just one hand. Nowhere people want to give me work and when they do they pay me less; others earn double, I get half pay.

(Male interviewee , Bolivia)

Sometimes, people think because you are blind you can't speak also. People want to help you but they fear our disability. For example, when I was hit by the stone somebody came took it and threw it away but he/she never talked to me.

(Female interviewee, Kenya)

Just the other week, I was denied access to a restaurant at a major mall in York ... because they considered me a fire hazard with all the half booths so I would sit on the end of the booth so I'm a fire hazard so they asked me and my fiancé to leave. Ah that just happened a couple of weeks ago.

(Male interviewee, Toronto)

