



COVID-19 DISABILITY RIGHTS MONITOR

Experiences of Persons with Disabilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic
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COVID-19 DRM Survey

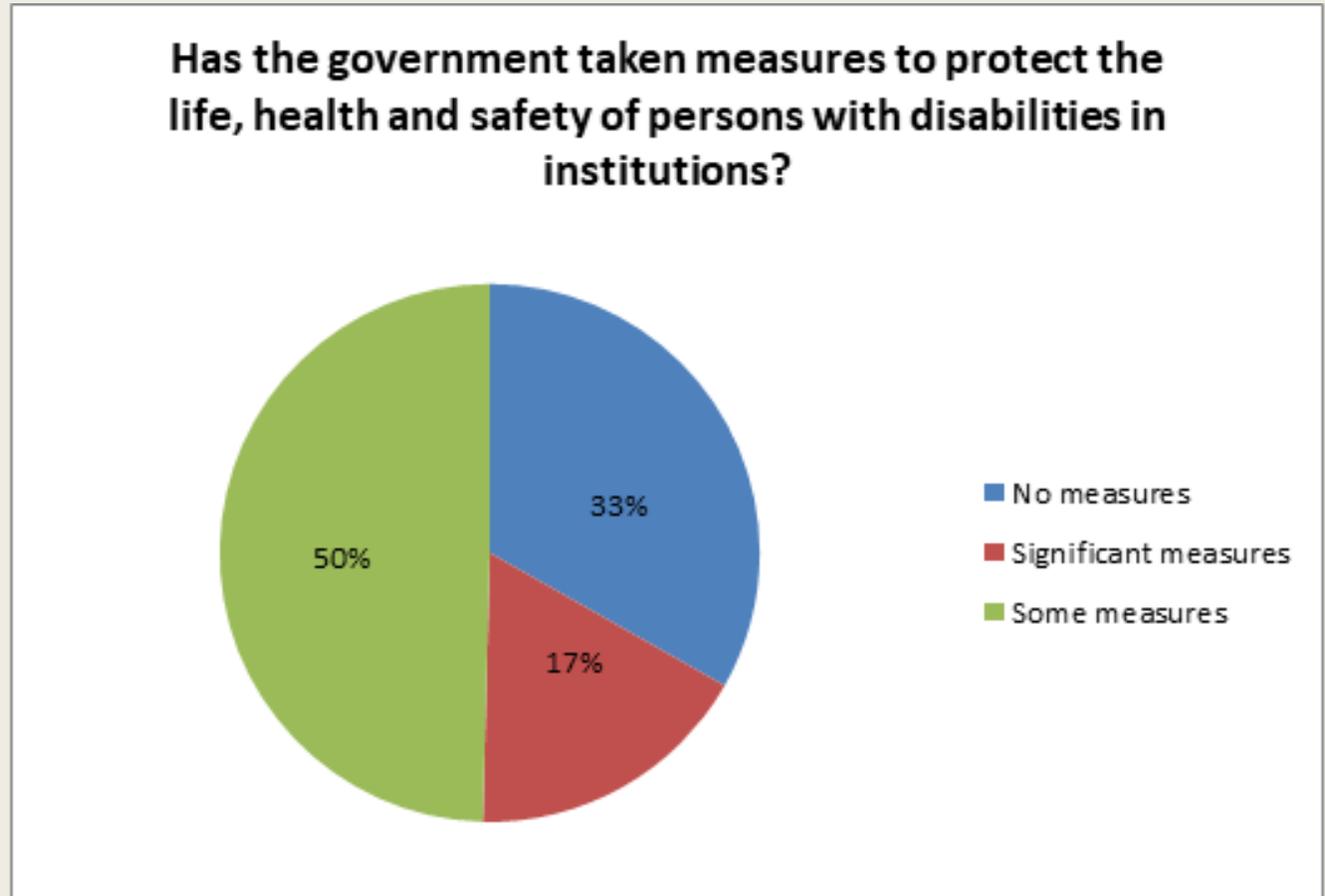
- Launched on 20 April 2020, by the **Coordinating Group of the COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor** ('COVID-19 DRM'): Validity Foundation, ENIL, International Disability Alliance, Disability Rights International, Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, International Disability and Development Consortium and Disability Rights Fund
- **Endorsed by** the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, Mr. Dainius Pūras, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Ms. Catalina Devandas-Aguilar, and the UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism, Ms. Ikponwosa Ero
- Comprised of **three components, each targeting key stakeholders**: Governments, national human rights monitoring mechanisms, persons with disabilities and their representative organisations
- Aimed to **collect information on what states were doing to protect core rights of persons with disabilities**, including the right to life, access to health and essential services, and to **highlight issues by those in situations of heightened vulnerability**, such as people in institutions, children, older persons, homeless persons and those in rural settings
- Open from 20 April – 7 August and available in 25 languages
- **2,152 responses** collected from **135 countries** around the world (over 2/3 of UN member states)

Overview of findings

1. Inadequate measures to protect persons with disabilities in institutions
2. Measures to protect persons with disabilities in the community
3. Underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities
4. Access to healthcare

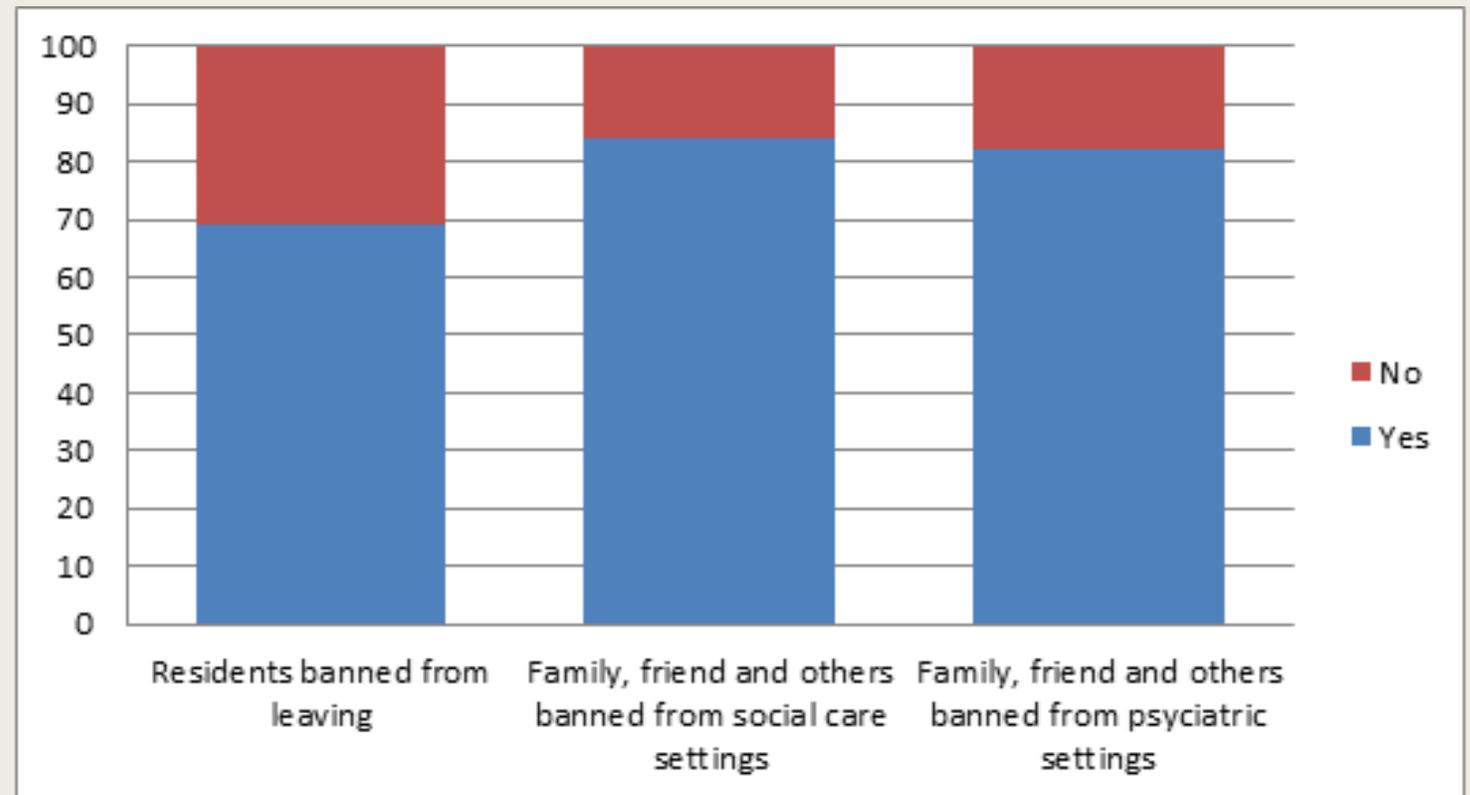
Inadequate measures to protect persons with disabilities in institutions

- Failure to protect the lives, health and safety of persons with disabilities in institutions



Inadequate measures to protect persons with disabilities in institutions

- Further deprivation of liberty



Inadequate measures to protect persons with disabilities in institutions

- Measures to inform people in institutions about the state of emergency
 - *26% of respondents stated that no measures were taken to inform people, including about bans and restrictions on visitors*
 - *“A few things have been put up online at relevant government portals but most persons with disabilities have no access to these staying in institutions. Perhaps they don’t even know what is going on outside!!” (India, organisation of persons with disabilities).*

Inadequate measures to protect persons with disabilities in institutions

- Older persons with disabilities in institutions
 - *One third of respondents (506) said that no measures were taken to protect the life, health and safety of older persons with disabilities in institutions*
 - *Concerns about the effects of isolation on the mental health of older persons in institutions*
 - *“Many people didn’t even have an explanation why they couldn’t see their families anymore. Many older people thought they were abandoned and left to die.” (Italy, person with disabilities)*

Measures to protect persons with disabilities in the community

- 45% (698) respondents said that no measures were taken to protect the life, health and safety of persons with disabilities living in the community
- Breakdown of community supports

Services and supports that persons with disabilities cannot access during the COVID-19 pandemic	Percentage	Number of respondents
No access to personal assistance	38%	809
No access to informal care	33%	708
No access to home support	29%	604
No access to assistive technology	23%	490

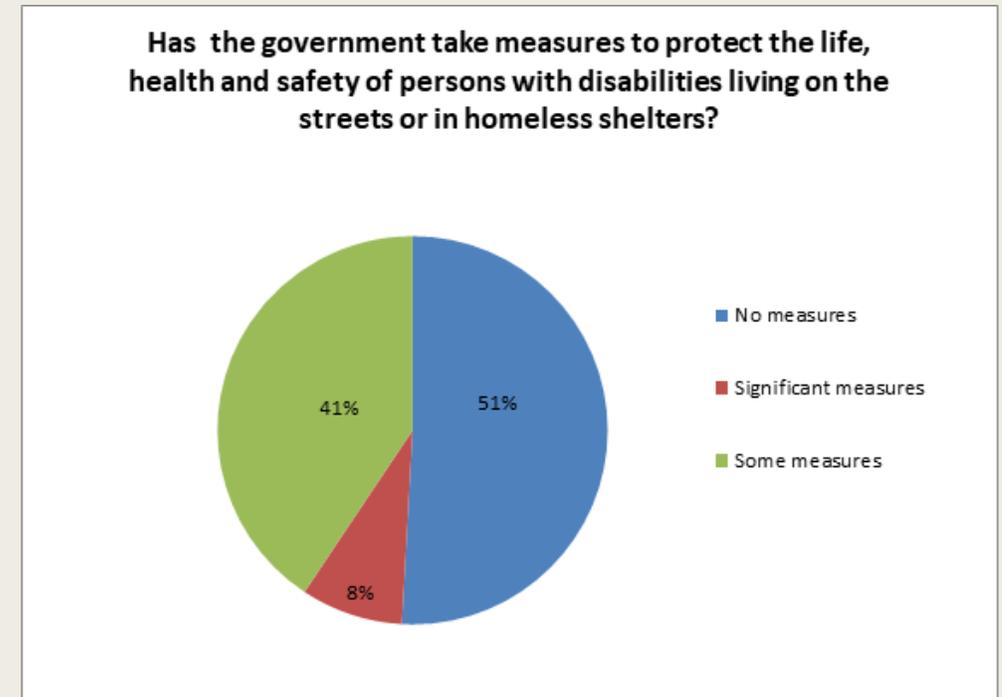
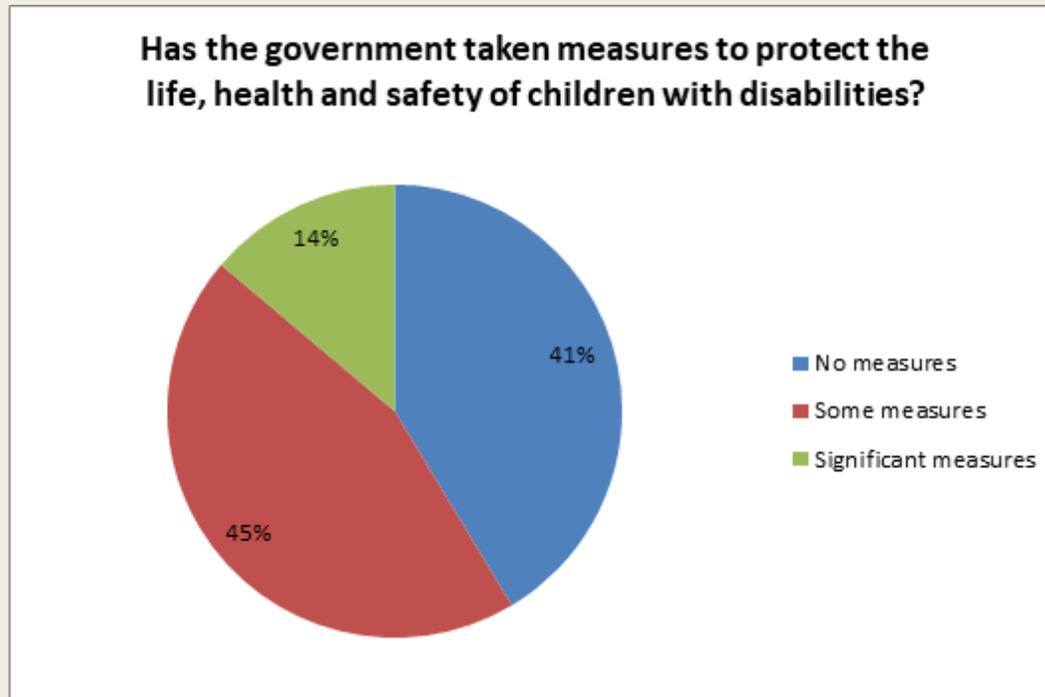
Measures to protect persons with disabilities in the community

- Access to information
 - *30% said that persons with disabilities did not receive enough information about the prevention of COVID-19*
 - *21% of respondents said that information was not available in any accessible formats*
- Access to food and essentials
 - *Almost one third (633) of respondents in 81 countries said that persons with disabilities could not access food; high-income countries with high proportions of those with no access were Canada, the USA, UK, Belgium and France*

Measures to protect persons with disabilities in the community

- Police brutality, harassment and abuse
 - *Majority of respondents (77%) said that they did not have information about penalties resulting from breaking state of emergency rules*
 - *People with disabilities had no choice but to break curfew rules to access essential food and medical supplies*
 - *370 written testimonies from all continents about police harassment, torture and murder of persons with disabilities and their family members*

Underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities (children, women, homeless people, people in rural areas)



Access to healthcare

- Denial of treatment for COVID-19 and triage discrimination
 - *Majority (52%) said that they were denied or deprived of healthcare for COVID-19 during the pandemic*
 - *Written testimonies from Canada, the UK, the US, Austria, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Georgia and France said triage guidelines discriminated against persons with disabilities with COVID-19 in the event of shortage of hospital places*
- No access to medication and essential healthcare
 - *47% said their government took no measures to ensure access to specialised medical care, incl. pain relief and treatment for psycho-social disabilities*

Save the Date

22 October, 15:00 – 17:00 CET
Launch of the global report with
recommendations

Interactive dashboard:
www.covid-drm.org

Coordinating Group			
 Validity Foundation	 European Network on Independent Living	 International Disability Alliance	 Disability Rights International
 Centre for Human Rights UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA	 International Disability and Development Consortium	 Disability Rights Fund / Disability Rights Advocacy Fund	