The Monitoring Work Group (MWG) aims to advance effective monitoring strategies within the human rights community through enhanced understanding and application of innovative methods, with the view to ensure that States and other key actors are held accountable for their ESCR obligations. The MWG was launched with a regionally diverse Steering Committee in 2013, and formalized its wider membership in 2015, creating a foundation for collective work building on initial exchange of knowledge and experiences.

Current Objectives

• Develop collective transnational advocacy initiatives to strengthen strategic application of methods to assess states’ action (and inaction) from the perspective of their ESCR obligations;
• Enhance communication channels to facilitate interactive platforms for exchange, mutual learning and support amongst MWG members and others in the ESCR field;
• Further develop and curate a growing library of monitoring-related resources, spotlighting pioneering projects of ESCR monitoring across the globe; and
• Consolidate the WG and its Steering Committee, building a diverse membership to actively guide and collectively advance the strategies and activities of the MWG.

Impacts 2013-2016

• Sustained dialogue towards collective initiatives: In 2015, the online discussions drew an average of 200 users per month, examining various monitoring practices in different thematic areas such as extractive industries, mega-development projects, labor rights, reproductive health, and fiscal policy, as well as cross-cutting issues such as project planning, community participation and the use of indicators. Based on these interactive online dialogues, the MWG identified specific topics for collective pilot projects in 2016.
• Improved online presence of the MWG: In 2014-2015, the MWG produced regular newsletters, updating subscribers about the online discussions, monitoring-related news and additions to the Resource Library. Also, the new website of the MWG was launched in three different languages in October 2015, integrating it into ESCR-Net’s general website to facilitate better ties with other thematic working groups.

Prioritized Activities for 2016

1. Collective transnational advocacy initiatives: i) develop pilot collective projects: “Enhancing Indicator-based Reporting and Data/Information Production towards State Compliance with ESCR Obligations” and “Institutionalizing Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA) towards Human Rights Mainstreaming into Public Policy”; ii) continue to identify additional collective initiatives that reflect shared priorities of MWG members
2. Capacity development and communications platforms: i) create a Google Group to facilitate more interactive dialogue amongst MWG members; ii) organize a series of webinars or online discussions that are clustered around the themes of MWG’s collective projects, facilitating mutual learning among MWG members and allies
3. **Archives of monitoring resources**: i) continue dissemination of existing and new monitoring resources, including guides, toolkits, reports, indicators/indices and databases; ii) develop further case studies of pioneering monitoring-related projects for the Featured Projects section on the website, with more user-friendly descriptions and dynamic use of maps

4. **Membership consolidation**: i) reinvigorate the Steering Committee through bringing on new regionally and organizationally diverse members and conducting quarterly meetings to discuss the work plan progress; ii) increase the number and diversity of MWG membership, focusing outreach to the Working Group of Social Movements and Grassroots Groups and other ESCR-Net members that may be interested in adding expertise to the MWG in relation to the collective activities planned for 2016

**Membership**

The MWG is currently composed of 40 organizations, individual advocates and academics that represent different geographic, linguistic and disciplinary borders. The overall regional balance of ESCR-Net members in the MWG is: Africa (21%), Asia Pacific (21%), Europe (17%), Latin America (24%) and North America (17%). More efforts are being made in reaching out to 1) social movements and grassroots groups, and 2) other ESCR-Net members that may bring additional expertise to the MWG. The Steering Committee consists of the following 11 ESCR-Net members who play a central role in developing the work and functioning of the MWG: ACIJ (Argentina), CAtinfo (Uruguay), CESR (US), CWGL (US), Fundar (Mexico), Hakijamii (Kenya), HLRN (India), ISER (Uganda), Nazdeek (India), PPR (Northern Ireland), RTE Project (UK), and Aoife Nolan (UK).