

Focus area 1: Contribution of older persons to sustainable development

The countries of the region have reported significant progress in strengthening legal provisions and legal frameworks to recognize the right of older people to participate and contribute to sustainable development. A recent regional analysis has identified that 18 countries have special laws that protect the human rights of older people, and many have also made progress in a process of legislative harmonization in the local space. To protect and improve the spaces for older people's participation and collaboration with civil society organizations in sustainable development, Long-term National Policies have been formalized to have an impact at the state and municipal levels, strengthening local organization through the creation of inter-agency and community councils to promote older people's participation and the contribution of older persons to sustainable development (Argentina, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay). The major challenge for the region continues to be the eradication of age discrimination, whose negative effects are amplified when it intersects with other forms of discrimination related to gender, ethnic membership, skin color, social status, immigration status, sexual preference, religion, among others. The countries of the region have made legislative and programmatic progress. However, COVID-19 brought with it new forms of ageism that are a challenge for decades to come.

Focus area 2: Economic security

Regarding SDG 1, and its targets 1.2 and 1.3, the countries of the region have diverse realities, although low coverage in social protection is a reality particularly due to the wide informality in employment and the lack of protection of people in rural areas. However, some countries have implemented ambitious policies and programs to expand social protection coverage for older people, through the implementation of non-contributory pension programs (Argentina, Mexico, Bolivia, Chile), economic transfers for populations in extreme economic vulnerability (Dominican Republic, Chile) and expansion of benefits for existing social protection systems. It should be noted that, in the face of the pandemic caused by COVID-19, the countries of the region established programs to strengthen and expand the social protection of older people. In view of the insufficient amount of pensions, countries such as Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Chile and Peru have established training programs for older people who want to continue working even on continuous training to carry out an economic activity. The challenges of ensuring economic security in old age are complex, but experience in the region shows that there is progress in improving the pensions of older people, training them in the event of seeking employment. To encourage that, in the face of the condition of a pensioner, work can continue and that some governments provide monetary transfers to achieve a better quality of life.

Right to work and access to the labor market

The right to decent work and access to the labor market for the elderly in conditions of equity remain an outstanding agenda in the region. While countries report progress in legislation to prevent and punish age discrimination in all areas and specifically in the workplace, in reality, older people continue to face different types of exclusion in the labor market. Among the experiences of the region, we find some affirmative action programs to promote the recruitment of older people, such is the case of the Labor Insertion Program in Argentina that promotes

incentives for companies to hire workers with employability difficulties in the formal setting. In Mexico, it was recently legislated to eliminate subcontracting work where many older people were being hired without access to social security, benefits and living wages. Ensuring access to the right to decent work requires, in the coming years, promoting action aimed at eradicating discrimination in the workplace; establishing a legislative agenda aimed at promoting the inclusion of older people in employment in both the public and private sectors, in addition to strengthening legislation on the recognition of the contribution of the elderly through paid and unpaid domestic and care work, among others.

Access to justice

As part of the advances in access to justice for older people in the region, the cases of Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic have human rights defenders specialized in the care of older persons and have legal assistance mechanisms specific to this population. The continued use of the cross-sectional and gender perspective is essential. Examples of this are the advances in access to justice for older women in countries such as Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica and Panama, which have begun to record femicide figures for women over 60 years of age. This demonstrates the interest in the realization of the right of access to justice. The region reports progress, however, there is still no full enjoyment and exercise of the right of access to justice for older people, so they are identified as areas of opportunity: The signing and ratification of the Convention, legislative harmonization, and the development of public policies with monitoring and evaluation systems, but mainly the creation of permanent demographic and sociodemographic information systems that consider age-related data in all countries.