



**14th session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing
Guiding questions for the focus area on “accessibility, infrastructure and
habitat (transport, housing and access)”**

National legal and policy framework

1. What are the national legal provisions and policy frameworks that recognize older persons’ rights to accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)? This could include, but is not limited to:

The Political Constitution of the Mexican United States, which recognizes and protects the human rights of all persons who inhabit and transit the territory of Mexico, recognizes in this regard the rights of the older persons, and particularly their access to all services of health, housing, equality, justice, and the free transit.

The Law on the Rights of the Older Persons recognizes the rights of older persons and the government obligations towards them and their families to protect and respect them as well as all their rights.

- a) the right of older persons to access and enjoy, on an equal basis with others, the physical environment, transportation, information and communications (including ICTs), and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas (e.g. buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, schools, housing, green spaces, medical facilities and workplaces; information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services).**

The Political Constitution of the United Mexican States in its article 4, paragraph seventeen, amended in 2020, establishes that "Every person has the right to mobility in conditions of road safety, accessibility, efficiency, sustainability, quality, inclusion and equality".

The Law on the Rights of Older Persons establishes the right to dignified and adequate housing including access to safe and affordable housing options. Also, there are laws and regulations that ensure accessibility for older persons in public buildings, transportation, and other services, including the General Law for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.

The National Institute of Older Persons (INAPAM for its acronym in Spanish) implements campaigns and conferences for the awareness of caregivers and the general population on how to make adequate housing for this age group so they can be more independent in their daily activities. Moreover, the Ministry of Welfare is responsible for ensuring that older persons have access to decent housing suitable for their specific needs.

Also, INAPAM helps them in terms of public transportation through their affiliation card, which provides them with benefits such as discounts, special fees on travelling and even free access.

As for information and communication technologies, the Mexican Constitution indicates in its article 6 that the State shall guarantee access to information and communication technology, access to the services of radio broadcast, telecommunications and broadband internet, this through the making of digital inclusion policies. In this regard, INAPAM offers classes on digital alphabetization and the use of digital technology in places known as Clubs and Cultural Centers where older persons can be included in their communities and live a more active aging.

2. What are the challenges and barriers faced by older persons for the realization of their right to accessibility, infrastructure use and habitat (transport, housing and access) at the national and international levels?

Older persons often face barriers such as the lack of accessible infrastructure, especially in rural areas, and a shortage of public transportation adapted to their needs. Additionally, there is a challenge in adapting existing housing to accessibility needs.

Data and research

3. What data, statistics and research are available at the national level regarding older persons' rights to accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (public transport, housing and access)?

The National System of Statistical and Geographical Information (SNIEG, for its acronym in Spanish) has developed and published guidelines for capturing, integrating, and presenting information on disabled populations within SNIEG Information Programs. These guidelines are mandatory for the National Institute for Statistics, Geography and Information (INEGI, for its acronym in Spanish), the sole entity responsible for census programs related to population and housing, and for all state units involved in or conducting surveys or statistical exploitation of administrative records related to population and housing.

The Guidelines are designed to provide a methodological and conceptual reference for the generation of statistical information on disabled populations, with an emphasis on older persons, children, adolescents and young persons.

By providing guidelines for generating age and sex-disaggregated statistical information, the generated information is expected to serve, among other purposes, as a basis for the design and evaluation of public policies focused on non-discrimination and equal opportunities for all individuals.



- In Mexico, the 2020 Census counted 24,184 persons aged 60 and over (older persons) residing in senior housing, nursing homes, or elderly homes.
- Among the 15.1 million people aged 60 and over counted in the 2020 Census and who reside in inhabited private dwellings:
 - 3.4% reside in homes with dirt floors.
 - 99.3% live in dwellings that have electricity.
 - 96.9% live in dwellings that have piped water.
 - 95.8% live in drainage dwellings.
 - 47.8% have Internet in their dwellings.
 - 49.1% have a landline telephone line in their dwellings.
 - 91.4% have a television in their dwellings.
 - 44.7% have a pay television service (cable or satellite) in their dwellings.
- Data from the 2020 Census Sample shows that out of the 15.1 million older persons, 84.0% reside in owned dwellings, 6.5% in rented dwellings, and 8.5% reside in borrowed dwellings.
- For elderly individuals in rural areas, 90.9% reside in owned dwellings, 1.0% in rented dwellings, and 7.0% in borrowed dwellings.
- Out of the total older persons who reside in owned dwellings, 63.7% are the owner, 23.0% are the homeowner's spouse or partner, and 13.0% have some kinship with the reference person.
- In rural areas, 90.1% of older persons reside in owned dwellings, while in urban areas, it is 82.3%.

Although there is no specific statistics to measure the accessibility that older persons have in terms of the use of infrastructure, indirectly, with questions asked to all households in the country, it is possible to delimit some indicators that allow us to account for the appropriation of public spaces and the use of infrastructure.

The first instrument is the population census, which gives us the sociodemographic characteristics of the entire population, and therefore, we can know the characteristics of older persons, their homes, and those with whom they share such housing. These same instruments include a question about the means of transportation to the place of work and the time spent there.

On the other hand, some surveys collect information about transportation use and the different means, such as the Annual Transportation Survey, which age groups could approximate.

Regarding housing, there is the National Housing Survey, which collects the population's housing needs. Although these surveys are disaggregated at a national level, not at subnational levels, they are instruments that allow us to identify the main needs of the population, in this case, the older person's population.

Equality and non-discrimination

4. What measures are being taken to eliminate ageism, ageist stereotypes, prejudices and behaviours that hinder older persons' rights to accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)?

In order to eliminate discrimination of older persons in terms of accessibility, the State is obligated, including as public institutions and services, to train their staff with a gerontological perspective, healthy aging and gender perspective. This also includes the implementation of educational measures for this age group to learn how to work with the new technologies.

To combat ageism, the government has implemented awareness campaigns and educational programs. Regarding public policies and programs aimed at older persons, the National Development Plan 2019-2024 (NDP) mentions, among other aspects, respect for the dignity of older persons. Public policies, programs, and projects that the government promotes for the benefit of older persons should be based on this guiding principle.

A telecommunications program established by the NDP 2019-2024, although not specific for older persons, benefits them as part of the population, and is called "Internet coverage for the entire country." By installing wireless Internet throughout the country, the entire population will be offered Internet connection on roads, public squares, health centers, hospitals, schools and community spaces. This program is essential to combat marginalization and poverty and to integrate depressed areas into productive activities.

The program promotes the installation of wireless devices at the national level in public sites (in general, places with the greatest attendance of the population) through the free WIFI provided by CFE TEIT with 4.50 Broadband internet coverage from Red Compartida, as well as telephone booths in public places in locations with little or no connectivity.

In addition, the Communications and Transport Sector Program 2020-2024 has among its strategic objectives the promotion of coverage, access, and use of postal, telecommunications and radio broadcasting services, under conditions that are achievable for the population, with emphasis on priority groups and those in vulnerable situations, to strengthen digital inclusion and technological development.

Moreover, the Ministry of Infrastructure, Communications and Transport of Mexico implements different initiatives to ensure universal, trustworthy, and equitable access to and adoption of telecommunication services and ICT 's.

The following initiatives are oriented to enhance cybersecurity skills of vulnerable groups, such as children, women, and older persons:



- The Implementation of Cybersecurity campaigns to encourage the adoption of good practices on cyber hygiene among end users.
- The elaboration and dissemination of resources, tools, guidelines, and other informative materials aimed at helping end users to better understand cyber risks and threats and providing them with simple and practical recommendations to prevent cybersecurity incidents.

By, recognizing the needs of older persons, bus terminals in Mexico City have reinforced and developed infrastructure to meet the needs of this population, including elements such as: ramps, handrails, doors, toilets or telephones, tactile guides on the floor surface, signs with text and numbers in high relief, complemented with Braille, etc.

Remedies and Redress

5. What mechanisms are necessary, or already in place, for older persons to submit complaints and seek redress for denial of their rights to accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)?

In the Mexican legal system, there are two principal mechanisms for older persons to claim their rights, to seek protection and denounce the abuses from some authorities.

The first of these mechanisms is through the National Human Rights Commission, which is a public, autonomous body whose essential goal is to achieve the protection and observance of human rights through swift and informal proceedings, which lead to the formulation of recommendations. The second, is through an *Amparo* process, a judicial resource that seeks the protection of the fundamental rights of the citizens against abuse of authorities and unconstitutional laws.

Also, the National Institute of Older Persons offers legal advice, particularly with leasing problems, real estate issues or any other related to this matter. It also advises older persons whose rights on access to transportation have been violated in any form.