



Regional Secretariat

41, Avenue Azalees, Sodnac, Trianon

Tel: 428 5103 | email: info@dismoi.org | website: www.dismoi.org

Guiding questions for the focus area on “Accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)

National legal and policy framework

- a) Sections 3 and 8 of the Constitution guarantee the right of individuals to protection of the privacy of their homes and their property, and from deprivation of property without compensation, which is a form of protection against forced eviction. The forms of tenure protected by law are freehold ownership either individual or collective. Older persons are entitled to inheritance and are not obliged to bequeath to their children or other direct heirs.

In 1973, Mauritius ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which enshrines the right to adequate housing as a component of the rights to an adequate standard of living.

- b) The Equal Opportunities Act of 2008 prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, caste, colour, creed, ethnic origin, disability, marital status, race, political opinion, sex and sexual orientation
- Universal Basic Retirement Scheme for people aged 60 and above
 - employment: people retire at 65 legal age of retirement and some work beyond that age
 - education: older persons can enroll on private secondary (academic and technical including IT) and tertiary education courses
 - provision of goods, services, facilities, accommodation, access to premises of service providers are all available :(Universal Health Care and access to medical facilities in Area Health Centers, Hospitals,) sports complex, provision of free ambulance transport from home to hospital and back for dialysis patients)
 - Dedicated residential care for older people with severe disabilities
 - Domiciliary home visits of doctors
 - Costs of Carers allowance of older severely disabled and dependent persons met by Government
 - Provision of hearing aids and wheel chair

Registrar Reg: No: 13272

NSIF Reg No: NCSRF/2017/0108

(Droits huMains Océan Indien) est une organisation, qui milite pour les Droits Humains dans les pays du Sud-ouest de l’Océan Indien (Madagascar, Maurice, Rodrigues, Comores, Seychelles et la Réunion) à travers le plaidoyer et l’éducation des citoyens et des formations sur les droits humains. Dis-Moi est indépendant de tout parti politique.



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- Annual free flu vaccination
 - Free public transport for older people and the disabled
 - disposal of immovable property by a person who can consciously take a decision
 - membership in registered associations and clubs is open
 - Day Care Centers to promote socialization
 - Two-day stay in Recreational Centers dedicated for older people spearheaded by the Senior Citizens Council

C) Articles 3 and 13 of the Constitution make provision for the

-Right to life, liberty, security of the person and the protection of the law

-Freedom of conscience, of expression, of assembly and association

-Protection of freedom of assembly and association

-There are 825 Associations of Older Persons in Mauritius and 68 in Rodrigues as at 2022 who are open to older persons from the age of 55.

2. Challenges and barriers:

In the health sector:

28.4 out of every 1000 Mauritians have severe mental or substance abuse disorder.

91% of Dementia patients are aged 65+

There are misconceptions with regards to mental illness and dementia. The Ministry of Health and Wellness recognizes the need to promote better knowledge of the illness in order to address the misconceived notions and stigma.

(Source: National Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE) Strategic and Action Plan 2022-2026 Ministry of Health and Wellness)

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- i) climbing at least 4 steps to climb in and alight from public bus.
 - ii) no dedicated queue for older people in banks and public offices
 - iii) many abled people do not give priority to older persons which is an indication of an ageist attitude.
 - iv) access to several buildings is a challenge

3. Population and Vital Statistics Republic of Mauritius Year 2022

Disaggregated by Male and Female:

Age	Male	Female	Total
60-64	37,883	41,429	79,312
65+	71,496	93,554	165,050
Total	109,379	134,983	244,462

Note i: Older people can all avail of public bus transport

ii: There is no statistics on demand of **older people** for housing *per se*

iii. Older people have access to infrastructure use and habitat and assisted when needed

4. Equality and non-discrimination

i. Dis-Moi conducts awareness campaign in favour of a new UN convention on the rights of older persons and lays emphasis on rights and how to address ageism.

5. Remedies and Redress

i. inscribe Socio-economic rights in the Constitution of Mauritius so as to guarantee equal rights and give citizens the means for lodging complaints

ii. create an Office of Ombudsperson for Older Persons to hear grievances, enquire in alleged cases of abuse, maltreatment, and recommendations redress

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iii. An aggrieved person can appeal to the:

- Equal Opportunities Commission created by an Act of Parliament in 2008, prohibiting discrimination on account of, inter alia, age, sex, and sexual orientation in various spheres of activity, namely employment.
- Police to seek a judge's order for protection
- National Human Rights Commission
- Dis-Moi proposes a special Court to hear grievances and render justice to older persons who would receive legal aid on a pro-bono basis.

Vijay Naraidoo, Lead Person, Commission for the Rights of Older Persons

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