Mexico’s strategy for Health Services for Migrant Population
1. Legal framework in Mexico, human rights approach

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   - Binational Health Week
   - Health Windows (Ventanillas de Salud)
   - Mobile Health Units
   - Repatriation of seriously injured or ill

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   - Program: We are Mexicans (Somos Mexicanos)
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4. Conclusions
Legal framework in Mexico, human rights approach

Constitutional reform on human rights, 2011

- Most profound, far-reaching constitutional reform on human rights, amendments to 11 articles of Mexico’s Constitution.

### Article 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“…everyone shall enjoy the rights recognized by the Constitution and international treaties to which the Mexican State is party…”;</th>
<th>“…human rights shall be interpreted in accordance with the Constitution and international treaties on the subject, at all times favoring the broadest protections for people…”;</th>
<th>“…obligations of the State to promote, respect, protect, and guarantee the human rights for everyone…”;</th>
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Adoption of international standards of human rights

Principle of *pro homine (pro person)*, which signifies applying the greatest protection for the individual

The state must undertake all measures in accordance with principles of universality, interdependence, indivisibility, and progressiveness
Mexican state Constitutional obligation to fulfill all human rights for everyone (Mexicans and non-Mexicans).

Human rights provide a useful legal and normative framework, vocabulary and form of guidance for public health actions, while enhancing the accountability of governments.

Human rights must be promoted and protected in order to address the underlying determinants of health, including the empowerment of individuals and communities to respond to health challenges and ensuring equitable, effective delivery of services.
Mexico’s health legal framework for migrants

### Constitution of Mexico

Everyone shall enjoy the human rights recognized in this Constitution and in the international treaties. Everyone has the right to health protection.

### Migration Law

It recognizes the obligation of the Mexican State to guarantee the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms of foreigners, regardless of their migration status, together with the recognition of the rights of migrants to justice, education, and health, among others.


### International human rights obligations

<table>
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<tr>
<th>International Bill of Human Rights</th>
<th>Other international Human Rights instruments</th>
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<tr>
<td>World Health Organization Constitution</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, CEDAW</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
<td>International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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</table>

**Legally binding** | **Non-binding instruments**

**Constitutional reform**

Mexican Constitutional obligation to fulfill all human rights
Health services for Mexicans abroad

• In 2017 Mexico was the second largest (after India) country of origin of international migrants with 13 million.

• The largest bilateral corridor in 2017 was that between Mexico and the United States of America. The latter hosted 12.7 million Mexican-born individuals.


The Mexican government, recognizes it’s responsibility with Mexicans abroad, and has gradually taken on strategies to improve access to health care and services.
**Objectives**

- Mobilize clinics and community organizations to offer their services especially to the Mexican population in the United States.
- Promote disease prevention and health promotion activities designed for migrants and their families.
- Provide information to migrant families in the United States about available health resources and services.

**Events focused on:** access to health services, mental health, chronic diseases, communicable diseases and women's health; as well as various activities on disease prevention and health promotion.

**Results 2017:**

- 205,843 benefited people.
- 6,359 participating organizations.
- 1,632 events
Other countries have joined to expand the assistance to their communities, as well as Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia and Peru.

It is supported by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the Departments of Public Health and Human Services in the United States, several state and local health departments, as well as foundations, clinics, health centers, civil organizations and other health agencies.

During October, activities are implemented through fairs, courses and workshops where the migrant population is approached for health services through guidance on prevention and promotion of health, timely detection (glucose, Body mass, eye exams, HIV screening), among others.

All these activities are coordinated with the Health Windows (Ventanillas de Salud) of each of the consulates of Mexico in the United States, through collaboration with agencies Prosecutors, Civil Society Organizations, local and municipal governments, universities, public hospitals and community centers in various parts of the American Union.
Health services for Mexicans abroad
Health Windows (Ventanillas de Salud)

- Program of the Government of Mexico developed by the Secretariat of Health and the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs.
- There are 50 Ventanillas de Salud in operation, one in each of Consular Representation in the United States.

Aims to improve access to primary and preventive health care services, and education, counseling and referrals for health promotion and disease prevention.

2017 Results

- Benefited people: 1,731,301
- Services provided: 5,256,813
Program Objectives:

Facilitate and navigate health access and health care services to Mexican migrants.

Create and advance a culture of preventative care through health education, information and counseling on healthy living choices and habits.

Encourage Self-Care by identifying individual health care needs and responsibilities in efforts to reduce preventable diseases and improve quality of life.

Services Provided:

- On-site
  - Information and education sessions on various health topics
  - Information and public health insurance screenings
  - Medical History Screenings
  - Personalized Health Care Navigation
  - Build a culture around care and a relationship of trust
- Off site Services Provided
  - Specialized health service
  - Follow-up care referrals
  - Health insurance navigation referrals
  - Follow-up courtesy services via Phone, email, letter.
  - Special events, health fairs, social campaigns.
Health services for Mexicans abroad
Mobile Health Units

Aims to provide education, information and health preventative services to vulnerable populations in urban and rural areas outside key metropolitan cities where high populations of Mexican Nationals reside.

Program Objectives:

- Immunizations: In partnership with local health clinics and pharmacies provide Influenza Vaccine among others as established by each site.
- Educational activities: Workshops on key health issues prevalent in area of service. Participation in local health fairs and special health events.
- Testimonials: Interview users and capture success stories and testimonials on health care access and services provided. Impact of services
Health services for Mexicans abroad
Mobile Health Units

11 Mobile Health Units operate in remote areas

Results from April 2016 to December 2017

- **Benefited people**: 57,256
- **Services provided**: 315,860
Health services for Mexicans abroad
Repatriation of seriously injured or ill

Provide the necessary medical care or continue the medical treatment of the seriously ill patients who are being treated in other countries, for having a specialty disease or for having suffered an accident and requiring long-term treatment.

By channeling the sick person to the Federal Health Institutions or to the State Health Services, preferably in the place of origin of the national.
This program provides comprehensive health care to Mexicans repatriated in collaboration with the National Institute of Migration in the repatriation points located in the border ports of northern Mexico. It counts with the cooperation of subnational health services.

The Migrant Health Module is the only first contact program in Mexico that provides direct attention to the health of Mexican returnees in the border ports at the time of entry into the country.

Contribute to the protection of migrant health, provide guidance on disease prevention and health promotion to returning migrants in border towns and seeking to provide an integral attention for migrant’s health.

Results from January to December 2017

- Users: 13,653
- Services provided: 80,047
They are located in the five main points of repatriation in which 54% of the returned Mexican migrants are received.

- Medical care.
- Screenings and early detection of diabetes mellitus, hypertension, overweight / obesity and HIV.
- Counseling on prevention and promotion of health.
- Application of vaccines.
- Evaluation of risk factors.
- Channeling migrants to health institutions considering their service required.
- Affiliation to the Seguro Popular.
- Psychological assessment and stabilization in case of crisis.
Health services for return Mexicans and migrants in Mexico

Health Insurance, *Seguro Popular*

**Popular Health Insurance**
It is a scheme of health insurance aimed at families and people who do not have social security, which allow them access to preventive medical consultations, specialized treatments, surgeries, medicines, among others.

**Diagram of attention to the migrant**

1. **Migrants**
   Request medical attention during their journey through national territory.

2. **Access to Health Services**
   The right to health includes timely, appropriate and affordable access to quality health care services.

3. **Medical Care can be provided by** *Seguro Popular* through a policy for 90 days.

  - State Health Services.
  - Seguro Popular through a policy for 90 days.
CAUSES: Universal Catalog of Health Services

- *Seguro Popular* offers coverage of 1,663 diseases and interventions such as hepatitis, diabetes, childbirth and caesarean section, Parkinson, vaccines, autism, epilepsy, asthma, osteoporosis, angina pectoris, cleft lip, glaucoma, cataracts, among others.

Catastrophic Expenses Protection Fund

- In addition, it covers 61 high-cost illnesses, including the Catastrophic Expenses Protection Fund, such as breast cancer, kidney transplantation, prostate cancer, HIV / AIDS care, and recently added Ovary Cancer coverage.
Conclusions

• For Mexico, the protection of migrants starts with the recognition of their human rights through access to health, education, social and economic inclusion, hence the importance of empowering migrants.

• Shared responsibility between governments towards their migrants along their journey, during their transit, at their destination and in return migration.

• The integral care of migrants should be provided generating alliances and synergies.

• Access to health information and services is a key element to reduce vulnerabilities in the migrant population. It requires an integral, culturally competent approach that guarantees effective access to health services.
• Health is a priority for the full development of the physical, social and cultural capacities of migrants and their families.

• In the “Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration” health must be integrated, with a human right approach – and not a commodity–.
  • Shift in traditional paradigm regarding migrant’s health, changing from an humanitarian approach to a human rights approach.

• States have the obligation to fulfill all human rights for everyone, including the right to health.
Thank you

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