



جمهوری اسلامی ایران
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Mid-term Universal Periodic Review Report on the Islamic Republic of Iran's Human Rights Achievements in Light of U.P.R Recommendations

Third Cycle

The High Council of Human Rights
of the Islamic Republic of Iran
(National Committee of U.P.R)

(2020-2021)



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Preface

Enjoying one of the most ancient and richest human civilizations, the Islamic Republic of Iran has managed to make unrivalled contribution to the richness of human civilization and culture. With the triumph of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, Iranians massively voted in favor of the establishment of the Islamic Republic based upon the principles of independence, freedom and progressive Islamic teachings and rules on one hand, and democratic principles and rules, manifested in the three independent branches of Government and people's direct and indirect supervision on all pillars of the establishment on the other. Iran is home to about 85 million people. Iran's official language is Persian while Islam has been adopted as the official religion.

As a key human ideal, human rights is rooted in divine religions in addition to being a valuable achievement in global culture and civilization. The history and culture of the Iranian territory is dominated by numerous fundamentals and principles highlighting the significance of human right for Iranians. Islam, as the official religion, is fundamentally linked with human rights. All Islamic Sharia precepts, be it legal or not, are potentially rooted in human nature, and all human beings are equal in nature and origin. Notwithstanding religion, race and denomination, all humans share natural principles. For Islam, human is a valuable being whom should be respected on account of being conscious and enjoying willpower to decide.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran leans credence to civil rights. Doubtlessly, the overall rights of every person – men and women – and providing just judicial security to everyone and guaranteeing equality of everyone before the law are among the most important programs and concerns of the Islamic Republic of Iran. As stipulated in the Constitution, the Islamic Republic of Iran is an establishment relying on faith in the dignity and high value of humanity and freedom with accountability to God.

Relying on its Islamic and Constitutional principles, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made significant progress in human rights. It has heavily invested in economic, cultural and social sectors given the existing circumstances and realities on the ground with a view to spreading social justice and public welfare, while guaranteeing people's rights in equal participation in development. Improving human rights is an open-ended campaign as there is always room for yet better conditions. Any neutral and impartial observer would attest to the improvement in the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran over the past 43 years despite unjust, inhumane and unilateral U.S. sanctions, specifically when compared to the pre-1979 era and always with the human rights situation in many other nations. Such progress has however been made only through compliance with Islamic and Constitutional principles and respecting human dignity and status.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the States which has hitherto been actively involved in the Universal Periodic Review process. Iran's principled policy is based upon supporting this non-selective and balanced mechanism. During the 7th session of Universal Periodic Review, the Human Rights Council's





Working Group on 15 February 2010 reviewed the national report on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the report of which was adopted unanimously on 17 February 2010 by Member States. In the first round of Universal Periodic Review, the Islamic Republic of Iran accepted 123 out of a total 189 recommendations. Subsequently, on 10 June 2010, the report was adopted unanimously by the Human Rights Council during its 14th session.

Reviewing the Islamic Republic of Iran's national report during the second round of Universal Periodic Review and in implementing the recommendations accepted during the first round began on 31 October 2014, during the 20th session of the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review Working Group. The representatives of 104 nations presented 291 recommendations in their addresses, most of which were the same with minor differences in the wording. The Islamic Republic of Iran's Universal Periodic Review national report was adopted on 4 November 2014, by the aforesaid Working Group in the first reading. The results of reviewing recommendations presented during the 28th session of the Human Rights Council were reviewed on 19 March 2015, and the Islamic Republic of Iran announced full or partial acceptance of 189 recommendations. Iran's report was adopted unanimously by the Human Rights Council.

Review of the Islamic Republic of Iran's national report during the third round of Universal Periodic Review and in implementing the recommendations accepted during the second round began on 8 November 2019, during the 34th session of the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review Working Group. The Islamic Republic of Iran's Universal Periodic Review report was adopted on 12 March 2020, during the 43rd Session of the Human Rights Council and Iran announced the total and partial acceptance of 188 recommendations.

The High Council of Human Rights, as Iran's national human rights references at the national and international levels, then decided to voluntarily draw up periodic reports on the key achievements and progress about the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran in various sectors in light of recommendations suggested thereto in collaboration with the Universal Periodic Review national committee members (comprising more than 80 ministries and State organs) for presentation. To that end, non-governmental organizations have been consulted. This report covers progress in the human rights sector in the calendar year to March 2021 and the first half of the following calendar year.

It is important to note that accepting recommendations would not mean stopping measures in the sectors referred thereto. Rather, many recommendations have called upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue its actions. Accepting these recommendations provided in fact a chance for the Country to present measures and achievements thereof. On the other hand, accepting some of these recommendations partially would mean that the Islamic Republic of Iran has agreed with part of that recommendation while considering another part to be in conflict with law, thereby not accepted. Therefore, reporting will focus simply on the accepted part of the recommendation. Some recommendations, covering several topics, have been repeated, which are reviewed separately for each section.

Laws & Mechanism Developed for Protection and Promotion of Human Rights

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(Turkmenistan)	Continue ongoing efforts on the establishment of a national human rights institution;	26.64
(Afghanistan)	Continue its efforts to set up a national human rights institution;	26.66

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Noted)	Number
(Qatar)	Complete the necessary measures for the creation of a national human rights commission in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles);	26.62
(Tunisia)	Continue efforts to create a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles;	26.63
(Uzbekistan)	Speed up the adoption of a bill on the establishment of a national human rights institution;	26.65
(Nepal)	Accelerate measures to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles;	26.67

The former Iranian president on 28 July 2021, submitted a motion to the Islamic Consultative Assembly, or parliament, on the establishment of a national human and citizen rights body. This motion is set to be reviewed by the Legal and Judicial Committee of parliament.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is among few nations to have developed various mechanisms to protect and promote human rights: High Council of Human Rights, Interior Ministry's Religious Minorities Committee, Majlis Human Rights Committee, Majlis Article 90 Committee (for people to file complaints against State organs), Judiciary Citizen Rights Protection Supervision Board, Presidential Advisor in Religious Minorities and Ethnicities, State Inspectorate's Complaint Center. For the purpose of upgrading legal frameworks for protecting and promoting human rights, a variety of acts, national documents, motions and bills¹ have been adopted during the period covered by this report (20 March 2020 – 22 September 2021), the most significant of which are given in the table below:

1. Acts are adopted by parliament. Bills are proposed by the Council of Ministers to parliament for enactment. Motions are proposals presented by MPs for enactment.



Acts, National Documents, Bills & Motions Adopted March 20, 2020-September 22, 2021

No.	Act/National Document/Motion/Bill
1	Judicial Security Document (October 13, 2020) to protection individual and social rights and administer justice
2	Judicial Transformation Document (December 20, 2020) with a view to obtaining public satisfaction and dispensation of justice
3	Submission of Bill on Establishment of National Human and Citizen Rights on June 27, 2021 by then president to Majlis
4	Law on Judicial and Insurance Protection for Park Rangers and Conservation Officers, enacted in 2020
5	Bill on Combating Human Smuggling and Trafficking and Punishing Cross-Border Human Smugglers, submitted to Majlis on June 18, 2019, under review by Legal and Judicial Committee
6	Promulgating General Housing Policies (February 14, 2011)
7	Law on Housing Supply Jump (August 8, 2021)
8	Motion on Protecting Dignity and Ensuring Safety of Women Against Violence, submitted to Majlis on September 12, 2020, currently under review
9	Law on Protecting Family and Young Population, enacted on October 16, 2021
10	Motion on Addendum to Law on Protecting Neglected Children and Adolescents, submitted to Majlis on October 27, 2020, currently under review
11	Bill on the adhesion of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, submitted to parliament on July 22, 2020, currently under review
12	Law on Protecting Children and Adolescents, enacted on May 12, 2020
13	Adoption of Document on Protecting Children and Adolescents in Cyber Space on June 7, 2021, by the High Council of Cyber Space
14	Bill on Formation of Children and Adolescent Police, submitted to Majlis on May 16, 2021, currently under review
15	Bill on Formation of Foreign Nationals Migration Organization, submitted to Majlis on October 13, 2020, currently under review
16	Adoption and promulgation of Executive Bylaw of State Prisons and Security and Corrective Measures Organization on May 18, 2021, and special attention to the rights of defendants and convicts
17	Issuance of directive by the head of the Judiciary on the necessity of due process of law for political offences on June 2, 2020



Dialogue and Collaboration on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(Egypt)	Continue to cooperate with all mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and provide them with the requisite responses;	26.43
(Belarus)	Further strengthen national capacities in the promotion and protection of human rights, taking into account the concluding observations of the treaty bodies and the recommendations of the universal periodic review;	26.46
(Egypt)	Continue the cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;	26.47
(Kazakhstan)	Continue its effort to cooperate with Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme and the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights;	26.48
(Venezuela)	Continue strengthening cooperation with regional and international institutions in the area of children rights;	26.49
(Senegal)	Develop cooperation with the international and regional mechanisms, including institutions, to exchange experiences and good practices on the rights of the child;	26.50
(Venezuela)	Continue efforts to share with other countries its successful experiences in the protection of children's rights;	26.51
(Armenia)	Pursue initiatives to continue promoting dialogue, cooperation and tolerance between different cultures and religions;	26.52
(China)	Continue to hold bilateral human rights dialogues with other countries;	26.53
(Russian Federation)	Continue to bring its national legislation into line with the international human rights instruments that it is a party to;	26.55
(Kyrgyzstan)	Continue its efforts in bringing its national legislation into compliance with international obligations;	26.56

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Noted)	Number
(Sierra Leone)	Fully cooperate with, and engage in, a substantive and constructive dialogue with the United Nations special procedures;	26.39
(Albania)	Continue constructive exchanges with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and cooperate with all Special Rapporteurs who wish to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran;	26.34
(Australia)	Cooperate fully with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including by inviting the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran to visit the country;	26.35



Recommending Country	Recommendation (Noted)	Number
(Czechia)	Fully cooperate with the United Nations special procedures, and enable a Country visit by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran;	26.37
(Moldova) And (State of Palestine)	Extend a standing invitation to special procedure mechanisms (State of Palestine); Launch a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council;	26.40
(Germany)	Cooperate fully with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including by inviting the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran to the country;	26.41
(Peru)	Strengthen its cooperation with the Human Rights Council mechanisms, in particular special procedure mandate holders, and accept their visits;	26.42
(Republic of Moldova)	Take measures to bring its domestic legislation into compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and ensure that the provisions of the Convention prevail whenever there is a conflict with domestic law;	26.54

The Islamic Republic is a signatory to numerous international documents on human rights, and for the purpose of fulfilling associated obligations, it has submitted the following periodic reports over the past one-and-a-half years to treaty bodies:

Treaty	Periodic Report	Date of Submission
Convention on the Rights of the Child	Introductory report on implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	November 12, 2021
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Fourth Periodic Report on implementation of the supervisory committee's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	June 22, 2021
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	14 th Periodic Report on Implementation of Obligations Under the on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	December 23, 2021
Convention on the Rights of the Child	Finalization of 5 th and 6 th reports on the implementation of obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child	To be submitted in the near future
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Preparation of 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th combined report on implementation of obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	On due date

As far as the Special Procedures Mandate-Holders and the Special Rapporteurs are concerned, the Islamic Republic of Iran's principled policy is based upon interaction. In addition to visits by seven special procedures mandate-holders to Iran since 2002 afterwards, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food were invited to visit Iran in 2015 and 2017 respectively. The Islamic Republic of Iran has in principle agreed with the request for visit the Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of the Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights

Furthermore, the Permanent Missions of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations in New York and Geneva have always interacted openly with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, while the latter has adopted a politically motivated approach.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has reviewed and been accountable to reports submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Secretary General of the UN over the past one and a half years while providing appropriate and timely response to the Human Rights Council's Special Procedures Mandate-Holders' communications. The most important measures taken to interact and cooperate with the Human Rights Council's Special Procedures Mandate-Holders in 2020 and 2021, are outlined as hereunder:

- ◆ Proving detailed response to communications received from the Special Procedures Mandate-Holders;
- ◆ Holding two meetings with the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
- ◆ Submitting five thorough comments on reports about the situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The reports in question were prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2020, 2021 and 2021, and they were presented to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council;
- ◆ Submitting two thorough comments on reports about the situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The reports in question were prepared by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2020 and 2021, and they were presented to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council;
- ◆ Sending seven communications prepared by the High Council of Human Rights and other high-ranking officials to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on various human rights issues, including the situation of human rights in Syria and Yemen, as well as the shortcomings of the reports of the presented to the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council by the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- ◆ Maintaining a constructive engagement and interaction with the Special Procedures Mandate-Holders in terms of providing comments on statements thereof;
- ◆ Sending correspondence to the Special Procedures Mandate-Holders appertaining to the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani and nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh;
- ◆ Sending correspondence to the Special Procedures Mandate-Holders appertaining to the violation of the rights of Iranian citizens at the U.S. borders;
- ◆ Holding two meetings with the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office in Geneva; and
- ◆ Holding numerous meetings about human rights issues with health reporters, human rights defenders, the Special Rapporteur on Extra-Judicial Summary or Arbitrary Executions as well as the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office in Geneva.



The Islamic Republic of Iran, for the purpose of interaction with the UN human rights mechanisms over the past one and a half years, shown necessary interaction through the permanent mission in Geneva as well as the High Council of Human Rights. These interactions are still under way.

Meantime, the Islamic Republic of Iran, for the purpose of protecting and promoting human rights and exchanging experience in this regard, holds human rights dialogue with a wide spectrum of nations or consults with their diplomatic, legal and judicial missions for the purpose of development of such interactions. The following points are marked over the past one and a half years:

- ◆ Legal/judicial cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq within the framework of signing an MOU with the focus on sharing experience and achievements in protecting human rights and justice (March 2021);
- ◆ The first round of human rights dialogue between the Islamic Republic of Iran and New Zealand, May 26, 2021;
- ◆ The seventh round of human rights dialogue between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Indonesia, December 7, 2021;
- ◆ Bilateral consultations with the ambassadors of some countries stationed in Tehran, including Iraq, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, and France about a wide spectrum of human rights issues including unilateral coercive measures, children's rights, prisoners' rights, sharing human rights experience through bilateral human rights dialogue and preparation for development of legal/judicial cooperation;
- ◆ Dialogue with a group of foreign ambassadors and heads of missions and UN offices in Tehran about the "impact of sanctions on special patients particularly thalassemia and EB patients" and "judicial transformation document", March 14, 2021; and
- ◆ Talks between the Chief of the Judiciary and the Secretary of the High Council of Human Rights and foreign ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions and UN offices, November 9, 2021.

Furthermore, the Islamic Republic of Iran has cooperated with regional and international institutions about the rights of persons with disabilities and taken various measures as outlined hereunder:

- ◆ A comprehensive report was prepared by the Islamic Republic of Iran in response to some recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Accessible in the website of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the report in question was submitted thereto on 15 September 2021;
- ◆ Cooperating with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on issues pertaining to the rights of persons with disabilities; and
- ◆ Maintaining an active participation of representatives of national authorities implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Second Global Disability Summit hosted by Norway and Kenya virtually.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has also cooperated with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and taken various measures as outlined hereunder:

- ◆ Maintaining an active and constructive cooperating with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights with a view to increasing technical and scientific capacity appertaining to the function of human rights mechanisms, including by holding training sessions in November 2021 and acquiring information on how mechanisms which track recommendations made by the Universal Periodic Review work, as well as on the *modus operandi* of human rights mechanisms;
- ◆ Holding a meeting with the High Commissioner for Human Rights by a high-ranking delegation of the High Council of Human Rights on the sidelines of the 43rd Session of the Human Rights Council;
- ◆ Holding numerous meetings with the High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office in Geneva;

- ◆ Maintaining an active and constructive cooperation with the High Commissioner for Human Rights to follow up on the negative impacts of sanctions on the Iranian people's enjoyment of human rights, and providing a response to a questionnaire sent by the High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- ◆ Organizing and fully coordinating the trip of the High Commissioner's technical delegation to investigate the impacts of sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran. The trip has however been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- ◆ Maintaining frequent contact with the head of the Iran Desk in the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights by the Human Rights Department of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office in Geneva, and interacting therewith to promote and protect human rights and shed light on human rights achievements of the Country; and
- ◆ Holding a virtual meeting between a high-ranking delegation of the High Council of Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner of Human on 14 February 2022 to exchange views on human rights and issues appertaining thereto.

The Unilateral Coercive Measures

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(Syrian Arab Republic)	Continue efforts to confront the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures on the human rights of the Iranian people in order for them to overcome the obstacles resulting from such measures;	26.57
(Democratic People's Republic of Korea)	Continue its efforts for the protection of vulnerable groups affected by economic sanctions and unilateral coercive measures;	26.58

Unilateral coercive measures by the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran over the past four decades have largely and discriminatorily violated the fundamental rights of Iranian people, specifically the right to life, the right to health, the right to development as well as other economic, social and cultural rights, and inflicted "irreparable" physical and financial damage. These measures are clearly in conflict with the UN Charter, international law and international humanitarian law. The UN General Assembly has in numerous resolutions condemned the adoption of unilateral coercive measures, calling on all governments to refrain from envisioning and adopting unilateral coercive measures².

UN human rights bodies including the UN HRC Advisory Committee³ and the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights have highlighted some "mortal" and "deadly" impacts of unilateral coercive measures on the rights of people living in the countries subject to such measures.

The recent reports by the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, focused on the covid-19 pandemic, have highlighted some negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures on the fundamental rights of Iranian people⁴, with the Rapporteur calling on the imposers of sanctions, particularly the U.S., to reconsider the imposition of unilateral coercive measures, particularly against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic⁵.

Reporting to the 75th gathering of the General Assembly (2020), the Special Rapporteur highlighted some instances of illegal, unjust and criminal unilateral coercive measures adopted by the U.S. against the people of Iran under covid conditions, some of which are as follows:

1. Embargo on Iranian oil tankers;
2. Embargo on medication imports;
3. Embargo on pharmacological equipment as well as equipment for anesthesiology, respiratory devices, endoscopy, CT Scan, dialysis, diabetes control and treatment, electroshock, digital radiology, sonography, renal transplantation, cardiovascular diseases, ophthalmology, laryngology and special dressing, lab equipment and the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the performance of hospitals under the COVID-19 pandemic;
4. Denying Iran World Bank loans, even despite the COVID-19 outbreak;
5. Denying Iran access to Zoom software, even despite COVID-19 outbreak

These unilateral coercive measures have caused harmful consequences with regard to the violation of the fundamental rights of Iranian people. According to the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights' report, some consequences of these illegal measure are as follows:

2. Including A/RES/66/156 (December 2011), A/RES/67/170 (December 2011).

3. A/HRC/28/74, Para. 32-35 (February 2015)

4. A/75/209(2020)

5. " UN rights expert urges Governments to save lives by lifting all economic sanctions amid COVID-19 pandemic", April 2020, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25769&LangID=E>

1. Death of patients suffering from chronic diseases due to limited access to treatment;
2. Mental harm on patients due to lack of access to medications;
3. Violation of the right to food;
4. Violation of children, women and migrants' rights;
5. Doctors' lack of access to general information about the coronavirus;
6. Negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on foreign nationals residing Iran, particularly Afghans and migrants;
7. Deprivation of many Iranians of the right to study at foreign universities;
8. Violation of Iranian citizen rights due to unilateral coercive measures imposed on natural and legal persons.

Intensification of unilateral coercive measures against the people of Iran is continuing while the International Court of Justice in October 2018, after hearing Iran's complaint against the U.S. violations of Tehran-Washington Treaty of Amity, ruled in favor of Iran's argument on "irreparable damage" caused by unilateral coercive measures against innocent lives, requiring the US to make necessary preparations to authorize export to Iran to humanitarian needs including medications, medical and health equipment, agricultural produce, foodstuff as well as spare parts and necessary equipment and services for the safety of civil aviation and lift restrictions on money transfer for such measures. However, the unlawful application of these measures continued even under the emergency conditions caused by the covid-19 pandemic, thereby undermining the healthcare system in countering the coronavirus. The weakening of the healthcare system directly impacted fatalities, access to medical equipment and the rate of prevalence, violating the right to life and the right to health through restricting access to treatment and medication. Violation of the right to life is in conflict with Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights while violation of the right to health contravenes Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The persistent and material violation of the rights of Iranian people shall doubtlessly hold the imposers of such measures and their allies liable.

In a bid to blunt the impact of unilateral coercive measures imposed by the US, which have been tightened over the past two years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken into consideration the extremely harmful impacts of unilateral coercive measures throughout all processes associated with enactments, regulations, policymaking and executive measures, and has implemented plans to empower and protect vulnerable strata within the framework of various plans particularly under covid-19 emergency conditions. The protective measures undertaken in various livelihood, healthcare, education, employment, social security, supporting rural and disadvantaged areas have been outlined in details. The general policies, plans and measures are summarized as follows:

1. Enactment of Law on Strategic Action for Annulment of Sanctions, December 2020;
2. Continued implementation of the general policies of resilient economy with a view to guaranteeing dynamic growth and improving economic indicators by relying mainly on internal opportunities and maximum contribution of society to economic activities through facilitating and encouraging collective cooperation;
3. Setting up a market regulation working group to regulate the market, balance supply and demand and control the general level of prices to facilitate more favorable access for vulnerable strata to essential commodities;
4. Hard currency at preferential rate (much lower than free market exchange rate) for basic commodities, animal feed, medications and medical equipment for accessibility at basic commodities prices;
5. Reconsidering budget allocation with a view to prioritizing the healthcare sector to ensure the fundamental right to health;
6. Mobilizing all local resources to provide for necessary knowhow, services and equipment for the healthcare sector domestically on account of inaccessible or insufficient foreign resources;
7. Developing national vaccines, oxygenators, test kits, masks and other necessary items.

The positive effects of adoption of foregoing measures for the purpose of mitigating the harmful and negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on people should by no means imply that unilateral coercive measures were not effective and that the imposers of sanctions, particularly the US government, could face no liability.

Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(Serbia)	Make additional efforts to provide health insurance for persons with disabilities;	26.285
(Pakistan)	Redouble its efforts to provide education facilities for children with disabilities;	26.286
(Qatar)	Give special attention to improving the social security system for persons with disabilities;	26.287
(Turkmenistan)	Carry out efforts to successfully implement the Act on Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;	26.288
(Angola)	Adopt a strategy to prevent and combat all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities;	26.289
(Angola)	Strengthen measures to facilitate access to education, especially for persons with disabilities;	26.290
(Singapore)	Continue its awareness-raising activities to combat stigma and discrimination against disabled persons and work towards the creation of a national committee for the coordination of the affairs of persons with disabilities to supervise the implementation of the Act on Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2017;	26.291
(Japan)	Take further action to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities;	26.292
(Malaysia)	Ensure the accessibility of health-care services and facilities for persons with disabilities;	26.293
(Nigeria)	Continue efforts in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, especially women and children;	26.294
(Oman)	Continue implementing measures to comply with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;	26.295
(Lebanon)	Pursue efforts to protect and support persons with special needs;	26.60
(Malaysia)	Continue implementing targeted programmes to further improve the well-being of older persons;	26.61

Protecting persons with disabilities has always been a priority in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Adoption of numerous internal laws and adherence to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities attest to this firm determination by Iran. Up to the end of the calendar year to March 20, 2021, 1,752,111 persons with disabilities were benefiting from State Welfare Organization (SWO) services, up 2.8% year-on-year. That shows efforts aimed at identifying persons with disabilities, providing rehabilitation services to this vulnerable group, upgrading the quality of their life and their social security.

Table 1: Statistical Data on SWO Service Centers and Covered Groups for Calendar Year ending March 20, 2021

SWO Centers/Beneficiaries	Number
Persons with disabilities covered by SWO	1,752,111
Households of Beneficiaries from Rehabilitation Services Provided to Persons with Disabilities	821,215
Households of Beneficiaries from Continued Protective Allocations	252,688
Elderly Beneficiaries	853,438
Center for Providing Counselling and Social Work Services (In-Person, Telephone)	3,262
Rehabilitation	244,465
Genetics Counselling Centers	272
Social Harms Reduction Center	1,303
Schoolchildren With Disabilities	68,115
Schoolchildren from Families Needing Aid	82,097
Beneficiaries Employed by SWO	60,739
Screened Children in SWO Centers	2,031,057

(Source: Statistical Annals of Ministry of Cooperative, Labor and Social Welfare, March 20, 2020-March 20, 2021)

Table 2: Measures for Protecting Families with Members with Disabilities

Main Measures for Protecting Families with Persons with Disabilities
Budget appropriation for transparency of financial resources earmarked for implementing the Comprehensive Law on Protecting Persons with Disabilities, which was enacted by Majlis on March 11, 2018 (Allocation of IRR 330,000bn in credit for the foregoing Law in the calendar year to March 20, 2021 and projecting IRR 380 billion for the following year)
777,897 households enjoying livelihood amenities with 67% growth in per capita monthly payments for calendar year starting March 21, 2021
Paying allocations to families of 178,000 persons with disabilities, all being head of household
Payment of aid to 191,578 persons with serious and highly serious disabilities, 7-11 percent higher than before
Enjoyment of female employees with husband or children with disabilities and male employees with wife with disabilities and uncared-for child from reduced working hours in favor of protecting families
Providing 53,700 cases of occasional aid, 1,710 cases of aid for marriage and dowry, 5,570 cases of aid for housing in calendar year to March 20,21
Providing free judicial services to persons with disabilities upon request by person or his/her guardian
50% tax concession for one of parents in light of protecting families with children with serious and highly serious disabilities
Exemption of persons with disabilities from military service and applying this Law to families with children with disabilities
Exemption of 2,905 subject persons with disabilities from military service in calendar year to March 20, 2021
Paying full salary, allowance, and amenities to all persons harmed by landmines left from the Imposed War
Paying salary, allowance and amenities to 426,190 war veterans or their dependents in calendar year to March 20, 2021, up to 456,261 in the following year

(Source: SWO, March 21, 2021-March 20, 2022)



Table 3 summarizes the main measures taken for the purpose of health improvement for persons with disabilities during March 20, 2020-March 20, 2021 and March 21, 2021-September 22, 2021 periods.

Table 3: Health Improvement Measures for Persons with Disabilities

Main Health Improvement Measures for Persons with Disabilities
Setting up ad hoc medical rehabilitation committee to determine the category and intensity of disability based upon international classification and measuring the ability of persons with disabilities by spending IRR 88,178 million for 148,960 persons from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and for 170,740 persons from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021;
Launching 1,300 daily rehabilitation training centers in cooperation with the private sector and with the support of families and by providing financial facilities to provide education and rehabilitation services ⁶ to persons with disabilities, elderly, persons with chronic mental illness and persons with ASD and providing services to 48,856 persons March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and to 50,000 persons from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021;
Providing distance education and rehabilitation services ⁷ with a view to providing access to the contents provided by non-governmental rehabilitation services on cyberspace, providing CDs of contents and sending by posts to recipients of services or families during the coronavirus epidemic for 44,595 persons (including distance rehabilitation services to 10,500 persons with ASD from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and to 11,700 persons from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021);
Covering 32,000 persons under a Plan for Nursing Services to Persons with Disabilities, with a 167% growth in the number of beneficiaries over the past two years;
Providing rehabilitation devices to 122,000 persons with disabilities from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and to 121,248 persons from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021;
Providing sanitation devices to 44,500 persons with spinal lesion or bed-ridden persons from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and to 47,986 persons from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021;
Providing rehabilitation services (physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy) to 15,714 persons from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and to 24,500 persons from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021;
Procurement of orthoses and prostheses for 21,600 persons with disabilities from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and for 18,000 persons from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021;
Providing aid to 2,685 deaf children in need of cochlear implant from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and 3,333 from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021;
Paying IRR 10,830 million in nutrition aid to 2,728 persons with PKU from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and IRR 160,000 million to 4,000 patients from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021 to prevent progress of disease and incidence of mental disturbances;
Significant increase in applying arts to rehabilitation programs and 71.61% growth in the number of beneficiaries in the calendar year starting March 21, 2021 from three years before;
Providing art therapy services to persons with chronic mental illness and persons with ASD, by upgrading and improving art therapy programs, 42,300 beneficiaries received art therapy, music therapy and play therapy services in 837 centers.
Upgrading abilities of persons with vision and hearing disabilities, spinal injury and the elderly to experience a more meaningful, more independent and more joyful life by spending IRR 216,673 million for 4,553 persons from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and 5,000 persons from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021;

6. Daily rehabilitation centers providing 11 categories of rehabilitation education services: mental, physical, movement, spinal lesion, elderly, persons with chronic mental illness, ASD, low-vision and blind persons, hard of hearing and deaf persons, multiple disabilities, mouth, swallowing and vocational training. Each center has its own instructions, specialized and general dossier forms, evaluation checklists and online monitoring forms.

7. Through cyberspace, setting up educational channels, phone contacts, text messages, finding a peer in the family

**Main Health Improvement Measures for Persons with Disabilities**

Providing services to 25,222 persons on a monthly basis through rehabilitation services centers at home with 473 centers in work;

Spending IRR 55,000 million for 2,500 persons with disabilities implant from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and 3,000 persons from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021 with a view to promoting sport therapy;

Monitoring clinical health and services to war veterans at home (157,558 persons from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and 134,597 persons from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021; Furthermore, 39,680 persons received other services at domicile from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and 22,657 persons from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021);

Supplying medical equipment including wheelchairs, beds, mats, oxygenators, respiratory assistance devices, hearing aid, crutches and walkers for war veterans (34,500 persons from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and 20,180 persons from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021);

Vaccinating 9,000 persons against covid-19 from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and 800,000 persons from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021;

Table 4: Measures for Employment of Persons with Disabilities**Main Measures for Employment of Persons with Disabilities**

Providing services to 50,000 persons with disabilities at 1,410 rehabilitation and occupational services centers run by SWO;

Providing vocational and education to over-15 children with disabilities at 387 training centers;

Establishing occupational logistics centers for persons with disabilities at rural and urban areas and training trainers and providing professional rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities as well as patients with chronic illness at these centers (770 persons from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and 1,000 persons from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021);

Providing free education and occupation to persons with disabilities and chronic illness at manufacturing plants (47,500 persons from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and 55,000 persons from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021);

Supervision on the proper application of 3% quota for persons with disabilities in employment examinations, 8th national exam of executive organs in January 2021 by allocating 1,323 options to persons with disabilities;

Payment of credit facilities to support manufacturing and service units and employing persons with disabilities by allocating IRR 17,500 billion to 41,408 persons and paying financial aid to persons with disabilities to preserve their employment by allocating more than IRR 230 billion in credit, serving 2,272 persons;

Paying grants for employment for participation in vocational and technical and entrepreneurship training to persons with disabilities, particularly in rural and disadvantaged areas through community-based rehabilitation services;

Paying commuting aid for persons with disabilities during occupational training and after employment;

Supporting early retirement of persons with disabilities in compliance with law on protecting the rights of persons with disabilities;

Cutting two hours from the working hours for persons with disabilities based upon the law on protecting the rights of persons with disabilities;

Accessibility of workplaces for persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas through community-based rehabilitation plan;

Procuring rehabilitation devices as well as orthoses and prostheses for persons with disabilities during occupational training and after employment;





Main Measures for Employment of Persons with Disabilities

Operating 1,100 job creation projects for persons with disabilities and signing memorandums for creating 2,000 jobs for persons with disabilities as well as persons covered by SWO; Services provided by Imam Command Executive Committee with a view to investment in entrepreneurship ideas of persons with disabilities;
Payment of self-employment insurance premium for persons with disabilities with a view to supporting wage-based employment;
Paying self-employment insurance premium to employers for employing persons with disabilities to protect employment of persons with disabilities;
Exempting 22,634 persons with disabilities, self-employed or employed at home workshops, from insurance premium by earmarking more than IRR 6,940 billion;
Paying low-interest loans and financial facilities to persons with disabilities for self-employment;
Setting up local funds for persons with disabilities particularly at rural areas through community-based rehabilitation services and setting up 4,410 cases of employment education (including more than 1,560 cases of technical and vocational training and 2,850 teacher-learner cases) and 10,190 cases of employment (7,440 self-employment and 1,750 wage-based employment cases) and 109 cases of employment for persons with disabilities from March 21, 2021-September 22, 2021;
Upgrading and improving art therapy plans for persons with disabilities for 46,000 persons with disabilities from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and 50,000 persons from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021 through art rooms created in 1,533 rehabilitation centers and upgrading the qualitative level of art therapy services through offering specialized services to 3,245 trainers;
Providing necessary infrastructure to set up 20 stationary and mobile art bases at rural areas with a view to enhancing the level of art and distributing necessary equipment to villagers with disabilities;
Financial support for 435 handicraft artists (families of martyrs and war veterans) at IRR 6,525,000,000.

(Source: State Welfare Organization, Foundation for Martyrs & War Veteran Affairs, Ministry of Cooperative, Labor & Social Affairs, Ministry of Tourism & Cultural Heritage, Imam Command Executive Committee, 2021)

Table 5 shows the main measures undertaken to guarantee the right of persons with disabilities to education. More explanation is provided about the education of children with disabilities in the case of schoolchildren with special needs.

Table No (5): Measures Guaranteeing Right to Education for Persons with Disabilities

Main Measures Guaranteeing Right to Education for Persons with Disabilities
Paying tuition fees totaling IRR 180 billion to 90,000 schoolchildren and students with disabilities from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021, up 28% year-on-year;
Paying IRR 135,537 million in tuition fees to 77,793 schoolchildren with disabilities from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and IRR 156,750 million from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021;
Paying IRR 2,767 million in tuition fees to 2,820 university students with disabilities in need of state aid and IRR 23,250 million to 3,500 university students from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021;
Paying IRR 260,000 million in tuition fees to 13,261 university students with disabilities from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and IRR 390,000 million to 19,000 university students from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021.

(Source: State Welfare Organization, 2021)

Tables 6 and 7 list the most important measures adopted for housing, procurement of vehicles and facilitation of movement for persons with disabilities.

Table (6) : Measures for Housing & Car Supply to Persons with Disabilities

Measures for Housing and Car Supply to Persons with Disabilities
Providing aid for housing construction to 5,570 persons with disabilities from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and 616 housing units to families with two children with disabilities;
Exemption of persons with disabilities from paying for construction permits, land preparation, planning taxes as well as water, power, gas and sewer subscription;
Accessibility of cars and houses for 17,340 persons with disabilities with IRR 480,000 million from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021 and 20,000 persons with IRR 685,000 million from March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021.

Source: State Welfare Organization, 2021

Table No. (7) : Measures for Facilitating Movement & Access of Persons with Disabilities

Measures for Facilitating Movement and Access of Persons with Disabilities
Carrying out accessibility measures at public places to facilitate movement of persons with disabilities in most cities with more than 200,000 inhabitants with the focus on crowded streets;
Accessibility of overpasses by equipping them with lifts or escalators in big cities;
Requirement for location of parking for vehicles belonging to persons with disabilities in public places based upon urban development rules and regulations to that effect;
Design and accessibility of parks for children with special needs;
Facilitating access of persons with disabilities at passenger stations by installing ramps or elevators for such persons to get in or out of trains, level crossing of passenger spaces, allotment of parking lots to persons with disabilities, building WC for persons with disabilities at passenger terminals;
Providing wheelchair, allotment of resting place, allocation of car for persons with disabilities during art festivals.

Source: State Welfare Organization, Municipalities & Village Governance Organization, 2021

The following table lists other measures undertaken for the purpose of protecting persons with disabilities in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Table No. (8): Other Protective Measures for Persons with Disabilities

Other Protective Measures for Persons with Disabilities
Allotment of special place to persons with disabilities in the IRIB scheduling, production of content and dissemination of information on the rights of persons with disabilities, including airing 23,921 hours of programs on various channels to protect persons with disabilities from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021;
Holding exhibitions for public advertising so as to be used by persons with disabilities, as well as distributing educational brochures on the rights of children with disabilities to educate people working in the field of children;
Benefiting from special days such as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities to draw the attention of the public, especially parents and caregivers, to the rights of this group of children and their responsibilities thereto and to develop national guidelines for the activities of this day;



Other Protective Measures for Persons with Disabilities

Providing education associated with the rights of children with disabilities including the provisions set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as regulations related to children with disabilities and empowering caregivers and care center staff;

Establishment of small houses for people with moderate and severe mental disabilities and training family members with very severe disabilities in the field of prevention and bed sores and joint dryness and muscle shortening and deformity of limbs;

Implementation of a comprehensive plan in 43 centers for the intellectual development of children and adolescents in order to carry out cultural, artistic and literary activities by children with special needs alongside ordinary children (in addition to the presence of specialized educators, facilities and spaces have been adapted);

Source: State Welfare Organization, Municipalities & Village Governance Organization, IRIB, Ministry of Road & Urban Development, Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, 2021

In a bid to prevent various disabilities, screening plans have been under way in the Country in recent years. The following table provides a brief description:

Table No. (9): Protective Measures Against Disabilities

Project Title	Performance	Persons Covered	
		March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2021	March 21, 2021 to September 22, 2021
Screening, prognosis and intervention for hearing conditions in newborns	Ever since the plan started (in 2005), 11,862,856 persons have been covered by 630 screening units while 35,003 children with hearing conditions were identified and subjected to medical intervention and rehabilitation. Furthermore all provinces are equipped with hearing screening devices for children aged 3-5..	942,918	400,000
National plan for amblyopia prevention in children aged 306 and follow-up on amblyopiatic children treatment	Ever since the plan began (in 1996), 47,931,445 persons have been covered and 349,527 children have been diagnosed with amblyopia and treated. The needy families are provided with necessary costs.	2,031,057	526,870
Starting plan to prevent disabilities caused by genetic disorders	Since the program was launched in 1997, 272 genetic counselling centers have been established to cover 1,880,410 beneficiaries.	123,144	40,000
Identifying genetic disorders in families with disabled persons	From March 21, 2019 to October 22, 2021, a total of 5,912 families with at least three members with disabilities, covered by SWO, have benefited from genetic counselling services.	5,912 families	-
Providing screening, diagnosis and intervention services to ASD patients	All children aged 2-5 who refer to provincial screening and diagnosis centers are examined and assessed. in case of any suspecting symptom, they are examined for ASD condition. If they are diagnosed with ASD, they are referred to provincial ASD disorders rehabilitation centers for intervention.	-	-

(Source: State Welfare Organization, 2021)

Human Rights Education

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(Armenia)	Further promote human rights education and training programmers;	26.68
(Azerbaijan)	Continue measures to adopt laws and programmers in the field of human rights education;	26.69
(Cuba)	Continue strengthening its initiatives on human rights education;	26.70
(Kuwait)	Continue its efforts to provide the necessary financial resources for the development of human rights and citizenship rights education;	26.71
(Kuwait)	Continue its efforts to establish, at universities, specialized training courses related to human rights;	26.72
(Nicaragua)	Pursue efforts to set up specialized training courses on human rights at universities;	26.73
(Philippines)	Continue its efforts in the field of human rights capacity-building and training for duty bearers;	26.74
(Kuwait)	Continue to enhance-capacity building and public awareness campaigns regarding citizenship rights;	26.75
(Nicaragua)	Continue improving public awareness-raising campaigns on citizens ' rights;	26.76
(Nicaragua)	Continue efforts to increase the financial resources that are needed for the development of education in human rights and citizens ' rights;	26.77
(Tunisia)	Continue efforts to guarantee equal access to the right to education for all	26.209
(Turkmenistan)	Continue taking measures in the field of education and capacity-building of human rights;	26.210

In order to improve the knowledge of judges, judicial staff, judicial officers and members of the Dispute Resolution Council in the field of human rights, the Judiciary has held 1,400 training courses from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2021, as described in Tables 1 and 2:

Table No. 1: Human rights and civil rights training courses for judges and judicial staff

Type of training	Year	Number of Participant	Duration	
			Hours	Man-Hours
Judicial	2020	2209	212	17534
	21 March 2021 – 22 September 2021	2523	222	18964
	Total	4732	434	36498



Type of training	Year	Number of Participant	Duration	
			Hours	Man-Hours
Administrative	2020	6194	472	58036
	21 March 2021 – 22 September 2021	2962	260	32272
	Total	9156	732	90308
Dispute Resolution Council & Bailiffs	2020	21919	218	182628
	21 March 2021 – 22 September 2021	3309	148	34028
	Total	25228	366	216656
Total		39116	1532	343462

Table No. (2): Citizenship Rights Course for Judicial Officers and Members of the Dispute Resolution Council

Type of Education	Duration of Training		Number of Participants	Date	
	Man-Hours	Hours		To	From
Bailiffs	660	12	55	21 September 2021	21 April 2021
Bailiffs	316	12	26	31 May 2021	31 May 2021
Bailiffs	120	4	30	30 May 2021	30 May 2021
Bailiffs	312	12	26	28 July 2021	28 July 2021
Bailiffs	112	4	28	19 June 2021	19 June 2021
Bailiffs	216	4	54	25 May 2021	25 May 2021
Bailiffs	264	4	66	8 June 2021	8 June 2021
Bailiffs	624	12	52	30 June 2021	30 June 2021
Bailiffs	1536	12	128	7 July 2021	30 June 2021
Bailiffs	2300	4	575	19 September 2021	7 September 2021
Bailiffs	4200	12	350	10 May 2021	1 May 2021
Bailiffs	5320	8	665	21 September 2021	21 April 2021
Dispute Resolution Council	6000	24	250	19 May 2021	12 May 2021
Dispute Resolution Council	3000	12	250	7 May 2021	30 April 2021
Dispute Resolution Council	9048	12	754	11 August 2021	1 August 2021
Total	34,028	148	3,301		

From 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2021, the police force of the Islamic Republic of Iran has in the field of human rights capacity building held training courses, as shown below, on human rights and citizenship rights for administrative staff.

Table No. (3): Human Rights & Civil Rights Training for Administrative Staff & Police Forces

No.	Training Course
1	Holding a training course for officers for two days for 138 employees in cooperation with the Judiciary in 2020;
2	Holding a training course on arresting defendants for employees of related ranks of the intelligence police in 2020;
3	Holding a short-term specialized training course on countering terrorist and bioterrorist activities for employees of the provincial ranks of the Intelligence Police in 2020;
4	Holding a specialized interview and interrogation course for interrogators in 2020 and 2021;
5	Printing a specialized booklet for the provinces (teaching job descriptions, laws, observance of civil rights etc.) in 2020 and 2021;
6	Holding training classes for employees across the Country in 445 cities (2767 cases in 2020 and 1753 cases 2021);
7	Holding a class on legal issues, criminal procedure and observance of civil rights for NAJA intelligence police personnel in 2021;
8	Communicating all protection instructions in the field of observance of citizenship rights to the relevant categories regarding the protection of the rights of the accused during the arrest and imprisonment and following up on its proper implementation;
9	Holding orientation classes for employees regarding the observance of the rights of the accused;
10	Holding a civil rights training course "for NAJA anti-narcotics staff" in 2020;
11	Holding a special civil rights training course for the staff of the Center for Training and Operation of Experienced Police Dogs (K-9) in 2020;
12	Holding periodic civil rights training for 11686 employees of police stations and checkpoints;
13	Holding training workshops on standardization and excellence of behavior for 51641 employees of police stations and checkpoints;
14	Holding training courses on how to arrest and detain, observing the civil rights of the accused and describing the duties of the officials of the observatories for employees of police stations and checkpoints;
15	Holding 1026 public education classes in the field of civil rights in 2020 and 519 in 2021 in universities, media, schools, mosques, private and public centers and exhibitions;

The Ministry of Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to teach human rights and other related capacities, has included topics enumerated hereinunder in the texts and curricula of students:



Table No. (4) : Human Rights Education in Students' Texts & Curricula

Title of the Book	Class	Subject
Gifts of Heaven	Fifth	People's property
Social Studies	Seventh	My rights and responsibilities / I have a right / I am responsible / Law / Why we need rules and regulations / Legislation
		Consumption and consumer rights
	Eighth	Duties of the Government and the rights and mutual responsibilities of citizens and the government
		Ninth
	Citizenship rights and duties	
Messages of Heaven	Eighth	The right of the people
Persian Language	Ninth	Capabilities of people with disabilities
Principles of Beliefs (1)	Tenth	Human dignity
Islamic ethics (1)	Tenth	Human perfection
Thinking & Media Literacy	Tenth	Audience rights in terms of media use
		Media ethics
Sociology (1)	Tenth	Rights and duties of individuals
		Support of the Iranian people and Government to the oppressed in the world
Cultural Analysis	Eleventh	Promoting and expanding human rights concepts
		Damages of citizenship ethics
Religion & Life	Eleventh	Duties of Responsible Bodies
Humans & Environment	Eleventh	What to do about everyone's rights and responsibilities towards the environment
Sociology (2)	Eleventh	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
		Human Rights
Sociology (3)	Twelfth	Respect for the right, confronting the wrong, supporting the oppressed, defending justice, freedom and introducing them as the values of the right
		Social inequality and the status of justice
Religion & Life	Twelfth	Promoting women's rights in Islam
		Violation of Human Rights
Ethics (3)	Twelfth	Good will always remain good
Understanding Social Streams	Twelfth	Responsibilism and right orientation
Social identity	Twelfth	Defending human rights
Geography (3)	Twelfth	Attention to justice in development

From 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2021, the Ministry of Justice in the field of human rights and civil rights education has held eighteen specialized training courses on human rights in the form of webinars for non-governmental organizations, civil society activists, students and graduates as described in the table below:

Table No. (5) : Human Rights Education for Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Activists

No.	Training Course
1	Human rights and terrorism
2	Citizenship rights of Iranians abroad
3	Modern tourism and human heritage
4	The right to child health with emphasis on prenatal screening (1)
5	The right to child health with emphasis on prenatal screening (2)
6	Citizenship rights and cultural heritage
7	The role of traditional rituals in promoting a culture of peace and the denial of violence with an emphasis on Nowruz
8	Citizenship rights of the elderly
9	Citizenship rights of the elderly with an emphasis on the right to health
10	Transparency of citizenship rights and financial and banking rights
11	Citizenship rights and media literacy
12	Development of civil rights clinics, principles, principles and solutions
13	Meeting for the Protection of the Rights of Immigrant and Refugee Children
14	Webinar on legal and judicial support for children
15	World Peace Day Meeting
16	Webinar on the Ethical and Legal Standards of the Family and Non-Domestic Violence during the Corona Pandemic Against Women and Children
17	Citizens' Rights Session in the Automotive Industry

The National Body for the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with its respective provincial authorities, has held specialized conferences on child rights for the judicial and executive authorities of each province, as shown in the table below.



Table No. (6): Holding Seasonal Child Rights Schools in 15 Provinces from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2021

No.	Title	City	Date
1	23 rd Provincial Conference on the Rights of the Child	Zahedan	18 November 2020
2	24 th Provincial Conference on the Rights of the Child	Semnan	16 February 2021
3	25 th Provincial Conference on the Rights of the Child	Bushehr	27 January 2021
4	26 th Provincial Conference on the Rights of the Child	Guilan	17 February 2021
5	27 th Provincial Conference on the Rights of the Child	Zanjan	18 February 2021
6	28 th Provincial Conference on the Rights of the Child	Bojnourd	2 March 2021
7	29 th Provincial Conference on the Rights of the Child	Mashhad	3 March 2021
8	30 th Provincial Conference on the Rights of the Child	Birjand	4 March 2021
9	31 st Provincial Conference on the Rights of the Child	Karaj	26 May 2021

In order to promote public knowledge about human rights and civil rights, the Islamic Republic of Iran has, from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2021, produced various programs through domestic media as described in Table (7).

Table No. (7) The Duration of Broadcasting Messages Regarding Citizenship Rights in the National Media

Broadcast type	Channel	2020 M:M	2021 M:M
State Channels	Radio	3167:11	5729:01
	TV	2763:14	3607:32
Provincial Channels	Radio	16121:07	7285:16
	TV	92282:42	6333:24
International Channels	Radio	1303:05	-
	TV	3759:06	-
New Channels	Radio	314:27	32:26
	TV	794:31	131:00
TOTAL		18434:58	26067:57

From 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2021, the Human Rights Commission of the Central Bar Association has also taken measures in the field of public human rights education as described in Table (8).

Table No. (8): Measures taken by the Central Bar Association

No.	Measure
1	Publication of twelve delayed letters on the situation of border couriers, education of children, investigation of the suicide situation of women and children, supervision of lawyers and the independence of the Bar Association and welfare rights of the deprived in the situation of Corona
2	Holding four sessions of child rights training course in the orphanage of the Association of Enlightened Children Tomorrow (Arfak)
3	Holding numerous workshops on human rights issues

From 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2021, the administrative and employment organization of the country, in the field of training civil rights for the employees of the executive organs of the country, has held training courses as described in the table below.

Table No. (9): Human rights training for employees of the executive organs

No.	Training Course
1	Charter of Citizenship Rights
2	Citizenship rights in the administrative system
3	Service desk and client

Enhancement of the Role and Interaction with the Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Societies

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(Venezuela)	Continue improving the training efforts of NGOs on the promotion and protection of children 's rights;	26.78
(Kyrgyzstan)	Continue its efforts to ensure an effective presence for civil society organizations and NGOs in the local and international human rights arena;	26.79

The latest data on NGOs in the Islamic Republic of Iran which have been received during the preparation of this report are as follows:

Table (1): Some data on NGOs and human rights in Iran

Activities of non-governmental organizations in the country
Activities of more than 25,000 non-governmental organizations in Iran
Existence of 700 specialized trade unions (centers and unions in different fields)
Existence of 73 non-governmental organizations with advisory status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
Issuance of activity license for 8282 charity centers in the Country by Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation until the end of September 2021
Increasing the number of non-governmental organizations active in the field of women and family to 2722 in 2020
Activities of more than 2000 specialized semen in the field of children
Activities of 1012 NGOs in the field of environment
Activities of 3018 NGOs active in the field of counter-narcotics
Existence of 4015 youth non-governmental organizations in 2021 (according to the policies formulated by the end of the sixth development plan, one youth non-governmental organization should be created for every 5,000 people in the country)

(Report of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Sports and Youth, Environment Organization, Deputy Minister of Women and Family Affairs, Police, 2021)

In order to empower the NGOs and strengthen the interactions between the Government and civil society, measures have been taken as described in Table (2):

Table No. 2: Measures to empower the NGOs and strengthen interactions between the Government and civil society

Measures
Approval and communication of “Instructions on the participation and interaction of public institutions with the judiciary” in order to pay systematic, sustainable and knowledge-based attention to the capacities and capabilities of public institutions to participate in judicial policy-making, crime prevention, victim protection Mediation, peace and reconciliation, monitoring the implementation of laws, investigation and re-socialization of defendants and criminals – 25 February 2020
Implementation of a centralized training and empowerment plan for 3200 non-governmental organizations with the aim of strengthening the executive capacity of non-governmental organizations throughout the country, under joint training with an empowerment approach to intervene in reducing social harms until 20 March 2021
Implementation of more than 800 social projects in the field of reducing social harms and promoting vitality, health and social capital by utilizing the capacity of non-governmental organizations until 20 March 2021
Preparation and implementation of a national plan for empowerment and capacity building of non-governmental organizations with a national, regional and provincial approach with the aim of utilizing the potential of organizations in managing social harms and promoting social capital
Preparation of executive protocol on how social organizations intervene in crisis with the approach of determining the areas of intervention of organizations in crisis situations, how and type of entrusting executive affairs to organizations in crisis and determining the role and position of organizations in the organizational structure of crisis headquarters
Creating a national network of donors in the Country in order to identify the capacities of donors and mobilize capacities in harm reduction programs
Preparation of executive instructions of the Committee for the Development of Social Partnerships in the prevention of smuggling of goods and currency
Establishment of a “Working Group on Combating Coronavirus” in order to synergize and maximize the participation of non-governmental organizations in anti-Corona programs and implementation of the “National Plan for Organizing Public Participation to Combat Coronavirus” with the participation of 13 specialized networks of non-governmental organizations Institution in order to activate the capacity of organizations;
Concluding a memorandum of cooperation between the Social Affairs Organization and the Deputy for Crime Prevention of the Judiciary to use the capacity of the Judiciary in matters related to the Judiciary;
Holding regional training and empowerment meetings for about 1200 active NGOs in the field of social, women and family and implementing 140 joint projects throughout the country
Implementation of participation-oriented projects by using the capacity of the National Environment Fund and paying the necessary facilities to 8 environmental NGOs in 2021 with the aim of maintaining and improving the Country’s environmental situation
Implementation of 517 environmental programs and projects with the participation of non-governmental organizations, local communities and Basij Forces
Holding 10 meetings by the Environmental Protection Organization with the Coordination Council of the National Network of Environmental Organizations and 19 meetings of the general directors of the environment with the province’s environmental organizations and 239 facilitation meetings with environmental NGOs in 2021



Measures

Holding national knowledge-enhancing workshops in order to empower youth groups virtually with topics such as social entrepreneurship and social business in youth NGOs, familiarity with youth social harms, methods of controlling and reducing harms with emphasis on prevention and fight against drugs, promotion and Development of public sports in non-governmental organizations, youth social participation;

Supporting 18 comprehensive projects of non-governmental organizations in the Country on the issues of facilitating youth marriage, social harms, lifestyle etc. by active cultural and social non-governmental organizations from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2021

(Source: Reports submitted by the Ministry of Interior, Environment Organization, Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Law Enforcement, 2021)

Table No. (3): Number of supported projects and programs of youth NGOs on the subject of entrepreneurship / social business projects from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2021

Number of Projects	Target Audience	Executed by	Total Sponsorships
377	More than 6 million people	377 people	IRR 20.929.000.000

(Source: Ministry of Sports and Youth Report, 2021)



Promotion of Human Development Indicators



Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(India)	Consolidate the progress made towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals and improving the human development indicators;	26.89
(Lebanon)	Pursue efforts to improve the human development index indicators, especially for education, health and fighting poverty;	26.90
(Oman)	Continue to strengthen the human development indicators;	26.91

According to the latest Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Program (2020), the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2019 with a score of 0.783 is in the group of “countries with high human development” (ranked 70th out of 189 countries). The Human Development Index in 2015 was 0.774. Between 1990 and 2019, Iran’s human development index increased from 0.565 to 0.783. The per capita GDP of the Islamic Republic of Iran has increased by about 435.5% between 1990 and 2019. Life expectancy as one of the components of human development index that reflects the state of health in each country, has enjoyed significant progress in the field of health from 71.9 in 2010 to 75.6 in 2015, and increased to 76.7 in 2019.

These indicators are increasing while the Islamic Republic of Iran is under the most severe system of unilateral sanctions. The direct effects of such sanctions on the fundamental rights of ordinary people, especially in the various areas of economic, social and cultural law and the development of countries, are undeniable. If the Islamic Republic of Iran did not face illegal and unjust sanctions, considering the existing capacities in the country, it would definitely be in the group of “countries with considerable human developments”.

Criteria for determining the level of human development in countries

Level of human development	Human Development Index
Very high	More than 0.8
high	0.79-0.7
average	69/0-55/0
low	0.55

Source: United Nations Development Program

Reducing the risk of natural disasters

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(Indonesia)	Optimize civil society capacity and participation in protecting the rights of people affected by natural disaster;	26.92
(Philippines)	Consider conducting a periodic review and assessment of its disaster risk reduction management and climate change adaptation efforts with due consideration for the protection of the most vulnerable sectors of society;	26.93
(Fiji)	Ensure that women, children and persons with disabilities are meaningfully engaged in the development of legislation and policies on climate change and disaster risk reduction;	26.94

According to the law on the establishment of the Crisis Management Organization, the Crisis Management Organization in order to create integrated management in policy-making, planning, coordination and coherence in the fields of implementation and research, centralized information and monitoring the various stages of crisis management and organization and reconstruction of damaged areas was formed. in case of natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes etc. and any damage caused by incidents of such nature, the aforesaid organization takes various measures in two stages of search, rescue and relief and reconstruction of damaged areas. in order to optimally manage natural hazards in the country, the Cabinet approved 6% of the Country's public resources budget in 2020 and 4% in 2021 to cover the costs of crisis management. in this regard, and in order to take preventive measures, prepare and respond to the crisis and compensate for the damage caused by hazards and rebuild the affected areas, a total of more than 124,419 billion rials in 2020, and 215.657 billion rials until the end of September 2021, have been allocated from the credit crisis management resources of the Country. Furthermore, due to floods and earthquakes in 2020 in the country, 19,717 housing units have been reconstructed and 26,661 housing units have been repaired. in this regard, during 2020, more than 7,200 billion rials of facilities and about 6,800 billion rials of gratuitous credit have been paid.

Some of the laws, plans and instructions that have been approved and compiled in the field of environmental protection and natural disasters in 2020 and 2021, are as follows.

◆ **The law establishing the Public Disaster Insurance Fund**, enacted on 21 November 2020: According to the law, in order to compensate part of the financial damages caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, storms, lightning, heavy snow, landslides, landslides and tsunamis, all residential buildings with legal power outages in areas where there is a possibility of occurrence of incidents of such nature, and if any of the mentioned risks are present in them, will be covered by the "Basic Natural Disaster Insurance" at the Natural Disaster Insurance Fund within one year after the adoption of this law.

◆ **National Disaster Risk Reduction Program**: It is a document that the Country's crisis management organization has compiled in the framework of the National Crisis Management Strategy document in December 2021. This document sets out specific objectives for reducing the risk of accidents and related measures.

In order to maintain and protect the marine environment against pollutants and climate change, the Environmental Protection Organization of the country, since September 2020, has developed and put on agenda a national action plan for the protection of the marine environment by forming four national working groups entitled biodiversity, marine pollution, public participation, capacity building and climate change. The draft plan was submitted to the Infrastructure, Industry and Environment Commission for consideration by the Council of Ministers. The program was generally approved by all members of the said commission in July 2021.

Table No. (1): Projects related to climate change

Area	Measures
Training courses and information on climate change for different target communities	Holding 10 workshops on climate change and its opportunities and threats for different target communities, including managers and experts of the Environmental Protection Organization, provincial administrations and members of the National Climate Change Working Group, teachers, women entrepreneurs, private sector activists, banks and financial institutions as well as students
Capacity building to upgrade the inventory of greenhouse gas emissions inventory in the country	Review of legal funds, design of organizational framework and development of national guidelines for inventory of greenhouse gas emissions in the country
	Development of an intelligent system for preparing the inventory of greenhouse gas emissions by upgrading the environmental pollution monitoring system in order to collect data and calculate the inventory of emissions
	Evaluate the cost, capacity building and technology required to calculate fluorine based greenhouse gases in the country
	Evaluate the capacity building required to use the new guidelines for calculating emissions inventories based upon IPCC2019 and the enhanced ETF transparency framework
Studies of adaptation priorities and promotion of resilience in the country	Study of the vulnerability of urban infrastructure from climate change and identification of strategies to improve urban resilience
	Study of the vulnerability of agricultural economy to climate change and identification of strategies to improve rural resilience, including the implementation of a plan compatible with climate change in a case study in the country
	Assessing the vulnerability of the energy network to climate change and strategies to improve resilience and adaptation of the energy network to climate change
Economic studies of climate change	Designing a national carbon emission exchange market based upon energy and environmental optimization market infrastructure and combining carbon market opportunities with the private sector
	Assessing the opportunities and threats of market and non-market mechanisms emission reduction in the framework of the Paris Agreement

From 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2021, the Environmental Protection Organization, together with the Forests, Rangelands and Watershed Management Organization as well as the Ministry of Energy, have taken the following measures to combat the dust phenomenon, as shown in the table below.

Table No. (2) : Measures to deal with dust in the southern provinces of the country: 20 March 2022 to 22 September 2021

Description	Unit	The scale of executive measures						Total
		Sistan & Baluchestan	Kerman	Hormuzgan	Fars	Bushehr	Khuzestan	
Care, irrigation, cultivation and planting	Hectares	6400	10650	3450	5600	1600	24950	52650
Conservation, exclosure and grazing management		30000	51000	11000	12200	14500	110000	228700
Wastewater management		800	1000	2200	150	450	1000	5600
Dredging and improvement of canals and waterways	Cubic meters	415000	-	-	-	-	3930000	4345000
Development and operation of dust monitoring stations	NO.	2	2	2	1	1	2	10

In order to empower non-governmental organizations and increase participation in environmental affairs, the Country's environmental organization has taken the following measures:

- ◆ Implementation of empowerment programs for NGOs, including holding regional training workshops in 2020 in four regional centers in Bushehr, Kerman, Khorasan Razavi and Qazvin;
- ◆ Implementation of participatory projects by using the capacity of the National Environment Fund and providing the necessary facilities to environmental NGOs; the environmental projects that have been implemented with the participation of non-governmental organizations are as follows: it is necessary to explain that more than 1,012 non-governmental organizations are active in the field of environment.

Table No. (3): Implementation of environmental projects with the participation of non-governmental organizations

Project Title
Educating local communities and villages on the outskirts of protected areas of the city of Neishabour
Collaborative plan to facilitate empowerment and change the livelihood of local communities in order to preserve the environment and sustainable development located in the Dena Protected Area
Waste Social Management
Empowerment and participation of women in local communities in Tehran to reduce and control air pollution
Diversification of rural livelihoods by creating alternative livelihoods in the village of Gardeh Gheit, Naghadeh

Project Title

Urmia Lake project and rural development houses

Qopi Ali International Wetland Rehabilitation Project through the participation of local communities (CIPA level development and comprehensive wetland management program)

Partnership with the local community to prevent the environmental degradation of the international wetland of Shoor and Shirin Minab rivers in Hormozgan province by illegal trawling

The Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation and the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic, in a joint measure, are implementing the National Despair Plan, which teaches girls and women in the age group of 30 to 40 years old how to deal with crises and natural disasters with the support of the aforesaid Foundation, and ultimately, benefit from their capacity in the Red Crescent Society homes. People working in such homes enter a cycle in which, in the event of a crisis, they can save themselves in the first stage, their family in the second and their neighborhoods in the third stages. in this project, by providing community-based training, the individual will be able to do participatory work, thereby creating coordination and increase resilience in the local community dimension.

Religious Minorities, Freedom of Religion and Conscience, Ethnics and Sects

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(Cuba)	Continue its initiatives aimed at the promotion and protection of the rights of the minorities and the strengthening of its legal measures;	26.308
(Haiti)	Protect the rights of Christians and other minorities and promote interfaith dialogue between religious groups in the Islamic Republic of Iran;	26.310
(Japan)	Make further efforts to promote and protect the rights of minorities;	26.314
(New Zealand)	Take measures to protect religious and ethnic minorities and ensure their full and equal participation in public and private life;	26.318
Recommending Country	Recommendation (Noted)	Number
(Switzerland)	Take the necessary measures to respect and guarantee the rights of all minorities, including religious minorities;	26.296
(Peru)	Strengthen norms and policies for ethnic and religious minorities so that they can fully enjoy their human rights;	26.297
(Republic of Korea)	Strengthen its efforts to prevent and eradicate discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities;	26.298
(Seychelles)	Undertake the necessary legal, administrative and policy measures to address discrimination and the limitations that may be placed upon the rights of members of ethnic and religious minority groups;	26.302
(France)	Guarantee freedom of religion or belief, and put an end to discrimination based upon religious or ethnic membership;	26.309
(Haiti)	Take concrete steps to protect the human rights of Christians in its territory to follow up on the 46 recommendations addressed to the Islamic Republic of Iran on freedom of religion during the first two cycles;	26.154

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran provides for an independent chapter entitled “The Rights of the Nation”, which recognizes the legitimate and legal rights and freedoms of various social classes, including linguistic, religious and racial groups, in accordance with the aforesaid principles. All citizens, men and women, enjoy equal protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. In many principles of the constitution, the title “each”, “everyone”, “every Iranian” and the like is entitled with rights enumerated in the Constitution and principles thereof; it recognizes the fundamental rights of all individuals and citizens of the Country and Iranian citizens, and all Iranians can enjoy these rights without discrimination. Article 14 of the Constitution explicitly obliges the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Muslims to observe good morals and Islamic justice towards non-Muslims and their human rights. It is necessary to explain that according to the thirteenth principle, Zoroastrian, Jewish and Christian Iranians are recognized religious minorities. Other segregated individuals also have citizenship rights. In this regard, it should be noted that Iran has a diverse range of different ethnic groups that live together with different customs and traditions and different dialects. Persians and Persian speaking individuals constitute the largest

language group of the Country. Ethnic groups in Iran are not considered a minority.

One of the most important legal developments in the field of guaranteeing and enforcing the rights of religious minorities during the preparation of this report is the addition of a note to the Islamic Penal Code. on the strength of the Note, the blood money of minorities recognized in the Constitution is equal to that of Muslims. The following are some of the measures taken to protect and promote the rights of religious minorities.

The number of worship places for religious minorities has increased across the Country including 300 churches for Christians, 70 synagogues for Jews and 78 places of worship for Zoroastrians. As far as Christians are concerned, each group of less than 500 people have one church.

In the field of guaranteeing and enforcing the cultural and social rights of religious minorities, several measures have been taken during the preparation of this report, the most important of which are as follows:

The right to form various associations and institutions in Iran has been guaranteed and exercised during the period of this report. in this context, the number of associations formed by religious minorities is 57, of which 26 are for Christians, 28 for Zoroastrians and 3 for Christians.

The right to equal education in Iran is guaranteed and enforced. in this context, allocating 5 special schools for Jews, 38 schools for Zoroastrians and 50 schools for Christians in the Country are among the most important measures taken by the Government. The possibility of continuing the education of religious minorities in different academic levels and supporting their literature and culture is also guaranteed A case in point is a bachelor’s degree course in Armenian Language and Literature at the Islamic Azad University and the University of Isfahan.⁸

The right to freedom of Avestan alphabet for Zoroastrians, the activity of specialized schools in the field of teaching Assyrian script and language, support and promotion of the right to sport of minorities are other guaranteed cultural and social rights of religious minorities. Ararat Cultural and Sports Organization, Sipan, the Sports Department of the Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Association, the sports Department of the Association of Armenian Alumni of Iranian Universities, Nairi, Rafi Stadium and Guipur are only a few of the clubs belonging to religious minorities.

It should be noted that special attention has been paid to guarantee the right of religious minorities to work in cultural fields such as cinema, music, theater, radio and television and to promote the level of solidarity and dialogue with religious minorities, including by participating in 10 meetings of the General Assembly of Associations and religious minorities groups in 2020 and 7 sessions in 2021, holding symposiums and counseling.

Political Rights of Religious Minorities

The Most Important Measures
Guaranteeing the right to membership in the Islamic Consultative Assembly as well as city and village councils by allocating 5 seats in the Islamic Consultative Assembly to religious minorities despite their population of 150,000 which constitutes less than half a percent (0.2 percent) of the Country’s population.
Ensuring the right of religious minorities to join political parties (Hashenak and Dashnak parties for Christians and their widespread involvement in parliamentary and city council elections)
Ensuring the activity of semen related to religious minorities (80 NGOs active in Iran belong to religious minorities).
Guaranteeing the right of religious minorities to vote, including the right to vote and the right to be elected
Guaranteeing the right to peaceful assembly and association of religious minorities

8. Guaranteeing the right to publish books and magazines for religious minorities (Alik newspaper, Peyman quarterly, Arax and Ararat monthly magazines, Hoys bi-weekly are among the Christian magazines being published. Amرداد weekly and Pars-e-Emrooz, Parsnameh and Forouhar magazines are being published by Zoroastrians. Ofogh Bina is a Kalimi-owned magazine. Several publications such as Alik, Yohanna Institute, Rasti and Forouhar publications as well as the Tehran Jewish Association publish books on religious minorities in Iran.)



Economic Rights of Religious Minorities

The Most Important Measures
Allocation of special budget in the annual budget of the Country to provide financial assistance to religious minorities in order to strengthen national solidarity and pay serious attention to their organizations
Tax exemption for endowments, grants and gifts received in cash and in kind by religious associations and boards related to religious minorities under the Law on Amendment of Articles of the Law on Direct Taxes
Ensuring the active presence of religious minorities in the fields of production and trade without any discrimination (such as the famous Hacoupian Clothing Industrial Unit)
Ensuring the employment of religious minorities in matters such as university professorship, medicine, health, advocacy and other public activities
Guaranteeing the right to trade freely and to own movable and immovable property of religious minorities

Source: 21 March 2021 – 22 September 2021, Ministry of Interior

Article 19 of the Constitution explicitly emphasizes the equality and equal rights of the Iranian people from all ethnicities and tribes, regardless of color, race, language or the like. Moreover, Articles 15, 20, 24 and 26 of the Constitution are related to the issue of cultural freedom and the possibility of preserving ethnic identity. The Islamic Republic of Iran consists of several ethnicities and ethnic groups; not only are they not considered minorities, but they in principle constitute the majority of the Iranian nation. The following are some of the most important measures taken to protect and promote the rights of ethnic groups in Iran.

The Most Important Measures
Ensuring the use of their local and ethnic languages in the press and mass media and teaching their literature in schools alongside Persian, which is the official language of the country.
Establishing 31 provincial networks and a number of provincial radio networks
Taking various responsibilities such as minister, governor-general, deputy governor-general, governor, deputy governor, district governor, lawmaker, membership in city and village councils, municipal, deputy minister, director general and so on by different ethnic groups
Balanced distribution of higher education centers among the Country's ethnic groups (for example, 345 Azeri, 140 Kurdish, 136 Lor, 99 Arab, 67 Turkmen and 63 Baluch centers)
Ensuring the activities of ethnic-related non-governmental organizations in the Country by issuing licenses for their activities and supporting them
Guaranteeing the right of access to relatives' information in their local language in the form of publishing magazines and books in the local language

In addition to religious minorities and ethnic groups, the civil rights of followers of sects are also fully respected. From the constitutional point of view, members of the sect, like other citizens, enjoy equal rights and legal protection, immunity from dignity, life, property, housing, the right to sue and so on. by virtue of the Code of Civil Procedure and the Code of Criminal Procedure, all members of society have rights such as the right to defense, the right to a lawyer, the right to have an interpreter and an official expert of the judiciary, the right to a fair trial with the principle of innocence and the principle of proportionality. They have the right to appeal. The following are some of the measures taken to protect and promote the rights of sects.



The Most Important Measures
Ensuring the sects' enjoyment of all civil rights, including the right to register and register a marriage in the identity card and official offices, and the right to buy, sell, own movable and immovable property
Allocation of a dedicated cemetery for sects
Allocation of an administrative system commensurate with the respective sect
The right to have and use medical service booklet
Holding sectarian meetings and ceremonies
Receiving a passport and the right to travel abroad without let or hindrance
Holding cult education classes for teenagers and the youth
Benefiting from bank loans and insurance services (medical, life, fire, accident etc.)
The right to appeal to the Judiciary and enjoy disciplinary and judicial proceedings
Benefiting from Government subsidies
Guaranteeing the right to participate in various elections, including the presidential, parliamentary etc.
Guaranteeing the right to participate in the elections of guilds, associations etc.
Guaranteeing the right to education at various levels of education by members of various sects throughout the country

Source: Human Rights Achievements Report of the Islamic Republic of Iran (2020 -2021)

Economic Rights of Sects

The Most Important Measures
Granting business licenses to members of sects
Granting company establishment licenses
Providing banking facilities
Providing loans and other agricultural services
Issuance of construction licenses and construction of commercial companies
Ensuring ownership of land and natural resources for agricultural affairs such as livestock pastures
Providing agricultural tools and equipment, including tractors at cooperative prices
Providing interest-free loans through existing Notes
Guaranteeing jobs such as business, services, guilds and medicine
Ensuring the enjoyment of citizenship rights and welfare and service facilities

Source: Human Rights Achievements Report of the Islamic Republic of Iran (2020 -2021)



Administration of justice & fair trial

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(Switzerland)	Guarantee the right to a fair trial, including the right to choose one's lawyer, including for those accused of offences related to national security;	26.170
(Bahrain)	Take all necessary measures and procedures to ensure compliance with fair trial standards;	26.172
(Bhutan)	Continue strengthening the judicial system, especially in relation to the rights of women and children;	26.174
(Fiji)	Continue to effectively remove barriers for access to justice for women, children, persons with disabilities and persons in vulnerable situations;	26.175
(Germany)	Ensure the independence of the judicial system, the rules of fair trial, the right to defense and access to a freely chosen lawyer;	26.178
(Kazakhstan)	Continue its legal and administrative efforts regarding anti-corruption measures;	26.181
Recommending Country	Recommendation (Noted)	Number
(France)	Guarantee the right to a fair trial and repeal article 48 of the Code of Criminal Procedure;	26.177
(Spain)	Put in place measures aimed at respecting legal safeguards, for instance, through the publication of the sentences handed down and the possibility of appealing them, as well as complying with international standards in cases in which persons are temporarily detained;	26.176
(North Macedonia)	Guarantee, in law and practice, fair trial standards, including access to legal representation from the time of arrest through all stages of trial and appeals, and abate torture, cruel and inhuman or degrading treatment;	26.180
(Cyprus)	Reduce the number of offences punishable by death, commencing with drug-related offences, as well as prohibit the use of the death penalty against those who were minors at the time the crime was committed;	26.114
(Spain)	Continue reforms to the Penal Code in order to restrict the death penalty to the most serious crimes, which would be progress towards the full abolition of the death penalty;	26.118

Fair trial and Judicial Justice

In the judicial system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Judiciary is obliged to respect throughout the trial the rights of people based upon principles of the right to public trial, legality of crime and punishment, equality before the law and non-discrimination, non-use of arbitrary detention, the right of the accused to be informed of charges attributed thereto and trial as soon as possible and access to counsel, presumption of innocence, prohibition of torture to obtain a confession, the right

to sue, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, equality of defense capacities, as well as protection of human dignity and inherent dignity and protection of life, property and rights of individuals. During all stages of the preliminary investigation of the accused, including in trials and execution of sentences pronounced thereagainst – notwithstanding race, religion, gender and ethnicity thereof – monitoring the observance of principles enumerated hereinabove are continuously and effectively monitored and ensured. to that end, several directives and instructions have been issued in the past year and a half alone to ensure a fair trial, some of which are shown in below table.

Table No. (1) Executive directives and instructions in order to ensure a fair trial from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2021

No.	Title	Enactment Date
1	Plan to amend the law on how to execute financial and dowry sentences	22 March 2020
2	Directive on preserving the dignity and credibility of witness testimony in the judicial system	30 March 2020
3	Child and Adolescent Protection Act	12 May 2020
4	Directive on preventing the issuance of a ban on consular services for wanted fugitives	18 May 2020
5	The Judicial Security Document	12 October 2020
6	Instructions on how to deal with and prevent the abandonment of legal duties by managers and employees	21 October 2020
7	The Judicial Transformation Document	20 December 2020
8	Directive on obliging courts, tribunals and bailiffs to directly receive people's complaints	1 February 2021
9	Instructions on how to investigate and consider complaints using electronic communication systems	18 March 2021

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Judiciary has provided a variety of electronic services that continue to evolve.

Table (2): The most important measures taken to facilitate public access to judicial services during COVID-19 pandemic

No.	Title	Explanation
1	Electronic systems of judicial services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Launching more than 30 electronic systems of judicial services such as Sana and Saham systems, registration of criminal convicts, smart appointments etc. ◆ Holding about 25,000 electronic appointments per month in courts and judicial authorities and reducing referrals to courts. ◆ Communicating 85% of judicial notifications electronically
2	Holding e-trials	◆ Handling 60,000 cases with the aim of saving time and money as well as facilitating and accelerating the judicial affairs of the people
3	Setting up an electronic courtroom	◆ Establishing more than 1,400 electronic courtrooms in the Country's prisons during the pandemic for judicial processing of prisoners' cases



Pursuant to Article 3 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Judiciary must, with impartiality and complete independence, deal with the charges against the persons as soon as possible and take appropriate action, and refrain from taking any measure which could disrupt or prolong the criminal proceedings. According to the Instruction on the Protection of Human Dignity and Values, in order to observe the principle of independence and impartiality, the Judiciary staffs are obliged to refrain from any behavior that reinforces the implication of being biased, such as:

- ◆ Establishing unusual personal relationships with lawyers and legal experts, including referring to personal offices thereof;
- ◆ Introducing a lawyer or legal advisor to the client or advising them to introduce a lawyer;
- ◆ Communicating with any of the parties to the case or their intermediaries and related parties;
- ◆ Accepting judicial or administrative requests outside the administrative environment and workspace, except in accordance with the law;
- ◆ Performing activities involving intermediation, brokerage or other unconventional business activities;
- ◆ Claiming or obtaining any illegal or unconventional benefits or privileges from governmental organizations and public non-governmental organizations and institutions, and in general from natural or juridical persons, be it a defendant or plaintiff, or those believed to have been the subject of a lawsuit;
- ◆ Interfering and taking part in political, factional, partisan, organizational, electoral and trade union disputes and conflicts, and any official statement on the disputed issues; and
- ◆ Any comment on the nature of the case before the end of the trial, especially through interviews with the media and information about the cases in such a way as to express the tendency, desire or will of the judge appertaining to the nature or content of the final decision.

According to Article 35 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which recognizes the right to choose a lawyer, and by virtue of Article 190 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the detained can request the presence of a lawyer upon detention; the defendant shall be informed of such a right by the investigator and prosecutor. Defendant's attorney may, upon indictment, state what he or she deems necessary to present defense thereof, discover the truth or enforce the law. Deprivation of the right to counsel and failure to explain this right to the accused shall result in disciplinary punishment of eighth degree (temporary suspension from one to six months) and third degree (deduction of monthly salary up to one third from one to six months), respectively. The law enforcement and Judiciary constantly monitor such violations. Should the accused face hardships in choosing a lawyer, a substitute or aiding lawyer shall be appointed therefor with the coordination of the Bar Association.

Table No. (3): Measures taken to protect and respect the rights of the accused

The Most Important Measures	
Observance of the principles of fair trial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Accurate understanding of the accused pertaining rights thereof in the process of investigation in the disciplinary authority and in the prosecutor's office; ◆ Paying attention to the adequacy of the evidence of crime at the time of summoning and informing the accused; ◆ Paying attention to the rapid and complete collection of evidence of crime in order to prevent the violation of the plaintiff's rights.

The Most Important Measures	
Issuance of quia timet injunction in accordance with the status of the accused	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Proportionality of <i>quia timet</i> with the relevant charge in order to protect the citizen's civil rights; ◆ Trying not to issue an arrest warrant as much as possible, especially for female defendants; ◆ Contacting the Property Registration Department and Notary Publics to seize the documents of the accused outside the office hours to prevent the imprisonment of the accused for whom bail has been provided; ◆ Paying attention to the economic, social and even personality status of the accused when issuing a quia timet.
Access to Counsel & Legal Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Emphasizing and accurately understanding the right of the accused to have access to a lawyer in the disciplinary and judicial authority; ◆ The right to have lawyer of own choosing and legal advisor during the first hours of the trial and to provide a substitute lawyer should the accused wish.
Observance of the principle of public trial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Holding public court hearings; ◆ The accused having the possibility of presenting defense against witnesses and doubts.
Observance of the principle of the right of the accused to a defense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Preservation of the human dignity of the accused during the preliminary investigation and understanding of the exact charge by mentioning the title of the charge and the reasons for crimes attributed thereto in order to provide an effective defense; ◆ Accurate reflection of the defendant's defenses in the case; ◆ Examining the reasons given by the defendant in proving innocence thereof against the available accusatory evidence.
Observance of the principle of innocence and respect for the inherent dignity of individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Paying attention to and emphasis on non-invitation of defendant to be informed in cases where the probative evidence of the crime is insufficient or weak; ◆ Paying attention to the dignity and position of the accused when summoning or recruiting them in cases where the perpetrator has a social status, for example, doctors, military staff etc.; ◆ Emphasis on respecting the rights of citizens, residents, women and minors when arresting the accused; ◆ Interpretation in favor of the accused in cases where different interpretations of the law can be proposed; ◆ Regular periodic and intrusive visits to the disciplinary authority to investigate how to deal and interact with clients and make inquiries about the accused and the situation of detention centers and provide the necessary training and warnings in any field.
Observance of the principle of legality of crime and punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Refuse to arrest or illegally detain individuals and deprive them of liberty; ◆ Serious supervision and proper punishment of violators if the principle in question is not observed; ◆ Attention to the committed crime; and ◆ Observance of the principle of interpretation in favor of the accused in judicial interpretations of the relevant laws.

The Most Important Measures	
Observance of the principle of prohibition of torture in obtaining a confession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The legislator's emphasis according to Article 60 of the Code of Criminal Procedure on the prohibition of torture and obtaining a confession from the accused on the strength of Sharia and principles thereof; ◆ Emphasize and educate officers that judicial reasons for proving a crime in the event of torture, coercion and pressure can NOT be relied on; ◆ Attention and emphasis on the scientific and technicalization of the reasons collected by the police in proving crimes; ◆ Limiting the hand-over of the accused to the officers for further investigation and emphasizing the need to specify the cases in which the accused needs to be investigated; ◆ Justifying and sensitizing judges to pay attention to the allegations of torture made by defendants during the investigation; ◆ Equipping law enforcement agencies with CCTV cameras and the impossibility of torture and any harassment of the accused

(Source: Human Rights Achievements Report of the Judiciary, 2021)

With the approval and promulgation of the Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents on 11 June 2020, the Office for the Protection of the Rights of Women and Children of the Judiciary (stationed in all justice centers of the provinces of the country) is responsible for overseeing the "process of criminal cases of child offenders", "protection of the rights of child victims" and "immediate judicial intervention to prevent the victimization of children and adolescents at risk." Furthermore, rendering psychological counseling and assistance services to women, especially juvenile delinquent children and adolescents inside and outside the correctional center in order to improve their psychological and social status, lays the groundwork for social reintegration thereof.

Table No. (4): Measures taken in the field of protection of children, women and people in vulnerable situations

The Most Important Measures	
Reducing Criminal Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Implementing a comprehensive program to control and reduce violence throughout the country; ◆ Development of 6 training booklets in the fields of anger management, tolerance and forgiveness and implementation of the concepts of patience and resilience in the two levels of marital relations and parent-child relationship in order to control and reduce domestic violence and holding a total of 58 workshops on anger management, resilience and forgiveness as well as 7,798 man-hours of workshop training in certain provinces; ◆ Establishing a rapid communication bridge through prison staff with judges to convey issues, problems and requests of prisoners so that social workers can provide appropriate problem-solving suggestions to judges; and ◆ Justification of the new policies of the Judiciary in order to remove imprisonment and mete out alternative punishments instead of imprisonment.

The Most Important Measures

<p>Reducing social harm in children and adolescents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Holding social and educational skills workshops for kindergarten and school teachers in order to empower them in learning how to deal with at-risk people and those at high risk of injury and crime; ◆ Holding 30 workshops on juvenile justice system to train judges, lawyers, law enforcement and social workers with the aim of teaching how to achieve the best interests of the child, the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to identify types of violence against children and prevention strategies; ◆ Establishing child rights clinics in provinces across the Country with the aim of preventing crime being committed against and by children and rendering comprehensive support for child victimization by the National Body of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; ◆ Presence of counselors and social workers in police stations and to provide expert advice and peaceful measures in order to prevent crime or revictimization children and families thereof; ◆ Establishing meeting centers for children of divorce (also known as family love centers) for a more desirable and stress-free meeting for such children; and ◆ National Project of Student Social Care System (NAMAD), a school-oriented approach based upon developmental prevention of injuries and crimes.
<p>Legal, judicial protection and pardon of women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Introducing clients to the Lawyers' Legal Advisers Center and establishing counseling centers with the help of the family court; ◆ Establishing 31 active social and crime prevention offices across the Country to protect the rights of women and children; and ◆ Efforts to reach a compromise with the plaintiffs in the cases of the Center for Correction and Training and Women's Ward, the result of which is coming to compromise and reconciliation in 14.15 and 14.98 percent of cases in 2020 and 2021 respectively.
<p>Prevention of violence against children and efforts to mitigate punishment and provide alternative punishments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Establishment of 2,984 counselors in juvenile courts; ◆ Holding 84 provincial training workshops for judges and advisors of juvenile courts; ◆ Realization of 3,792 compromises and the use of lax and alternative punishment instead of imprisonment 6,994 cases; ◆ Implementation of the National Campaign for Prevention of Violence with the participation of the Welfare Organization, based upon the Comprehensive Program for the Prevention of Violence against Children and Adolescents, Verbal Violence and Aggression, Beatings and Murder; and ◆ Screening of students with signs of aggression and violence in the student social care system and emergency referral of students exposed to violence.



The Most Important Measures

Legal and judicial assistance to children

- ◆ Pursuing the legal cases of children and adolescents in order to solve their problems and introduce them to obtain a lawyer;
- ◆ With a view to reducing the vulnerability of the child and fulfilling superior interests thereof, opinions, gender, national origin, religion and beliefs, cultural identity, vulnerability status, support and safety needs, the rights to health and education thereof, maintenance of family relationships and prevention of family breakdown as well as provisions of domestic law and international instruments are taken into account, when pronouncing rulings thereagainst; and
- ◆ Introducing financially indebted clients to donors in order to provide financial assistance and obtain the consent of the plaintiff.

(Source: Report on Human Rights Achievements of the Department of Social Affairs and Crime Prevention and Report of the Ministry of Justice, 2021)

The fight against corruption, as an undeniable and accepted principle in the world, has been considered by administrative systems and States. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, this necessity has been felt and has led to the enactment of the Law on Promoting the Health of the Administrative System and Combating Corruption (approved in 2011) and the law on making the aforesaid Law permanent (approved in 2020). The Law has obliged supervisory bodies including General Inspection Organization, Court of Audit, Audit Organization, Court of Administrative Justice, Ministry of Intelligence, legal inspectors of companies and institutions, both governmental and non-governmental, as well as the Central Bank and Central Insurance as well as Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and all affiliated organizations to report any corruption to a panel of judges which is composed of a judge selected by the Chief of the Judiciary, a representative of Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, Ministry of Intelligence, General Inspection Organization, the Court of Audit, the Central Bank, the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines as well as the Chamber of Cooperatives. The court shall be constituted in accordance with the principles of due process and in the presence of three judges, and shall consider the cases received from the review boards and proceed with the composition of the verdict by a majority vote. The verdict pronounced by this court is final.

According to the instructions for establishing a specialized panel for investigating economic crimes in Tehran, which was announced by the Chief of the Judiciary on 10 August 2019, the aforesaid panel is entitled with prerogatives to prevent corruption and economic crimes, support sound and legitimate investment, and formulate appropriate and deterrent criminal policy, provide appropriate information about crimes, decisively fight and confront with the channels of corruption, accelerate prosecution and investigation about cases, as well as expedite execution of verdicts. Based upon the Code of Criminal Procedure, the death penalty is only pronounced for those committing the most serious crimes, including premeditated murder, terrorist offenses and widespread drug trafficking. With the amendment of the Anti-Narcotics Law, deprivation of life has enjoyed a significant reduction.

Regarding the deprivation of life of juvenile offenders, it should be noted that in the new Islamic Penal Code enacted on 21 April 2013, significant changes have been made in the rights of children, so that the death penalty in criminal offenses for children with less than 18 years of age has been completely taken off the table. on the strength of Article 88 of the aforesaid Code, which is based upon disciplinary decisions, should children between the ages of 9 and 15 commit criminal offenses, measures such as handing them over to a parent or legal guardian while requiring the parent or legal guardian to pen a formal written commitment to provide education and care therefor, seek the assistance of a social worker or introduce the children to educational institutions in order to study or receive vocational training, and to provide treatment for children in case of addiction shall be taken. in the case of children and adolescents aged 12 to 15, the offender is warned and given a written commitment not to commit a crime, or in first- to fifth-degree crimes, the offender is sent to a correctional facility from three months up to one year. As far as measures and decision in the aforementioned Article is concerned, the juvenile court may reconsider its decision based upon the investigations carried out as well as the reports of social workers on the situation of the child or adolescent and behavior thereof, as many times as the offender's interests require. Moreover, by virtue of Article 89 of the abovenamed Code, which is based upon mitigating punishments, children between the ages of 15 and 18 are not sentenced to death for ta'zir (discretionary) crimes, and the maximum punishment therefor is five years in a correctional facility. in this regard, the legislature has in Article 91 of the said Code stipulated that in the cases of offenses punishable by hadd or qisas, if mature people under eighteen years do not realize the nature of the crime committed or its prohibition, or if there is uncertainty about their full mental development, they shall be sentenced to the punishments prescribed hereinabove according to their age.

Prisoners' Rights

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(Canada)	Ensure freedom from torture while in detention;	26.142
(Austria)	Ensure that prison conditions comply with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), in particular by providing adequate health care;	26.145
(Malta)	Ensure that all individuals in custody receive adequate health care and treatment, including preventive measures, such as screening for medical conditions, free of charge and without discrimination; and	26.146
(Norway)	Ensure the rights of detainees and prisoners, and their right to receive satisfactory medical treatment.	26.147
Recommending Country	Recommendation (Noted)	Number
(Australia)	Immediately investigate all allegations involving the torture and other ill-treatment of those arrested or detained during the demonstrations in December 2017, and hold those responsible to account;	26.140
(France)	End the arbitrary detention of foreign nationals and guarantee their consular rights and decent conditions of detention;	26.151

Measures related to the provision of health services for prisoners

◆ All detainees receive unhindered health and medical care, and more than 9 million inmates were screened and visited during the reporting period. Medical visits include specialized examinations, and prisoners are sent to hospitals and medical centers outside the prison for treatment if need be; the figure was about 19,000 during the reporting period. on the other hand, COVID-19 screening and vaccination of prisoners were started at the same time as other people.

Measures to provide consular support to foreign prisoners

◆ In line with consular support and in order to solve the problems related to foreign prisoners, 483 support measures have been taken, including providing easy consular access to the representatives of embassies.

Measures to create the necessary facilities for the education and employment of prisoners

Some measures taken in the field of culture and education in 2020 are outlined as hereunder

◆ Attracting and employing 934 people in various fields of culture, religion, art and medicine to render services to prisoner across the country;

◆ The presence of 814 public groups in prisons throughout the Country and the provision of 7,446 cultural services;

◆ Establishing 37 local learning centers in 23 provinces and 37 prisons in cooperation with the Literacy Movement Organization;

◆ A total of 5,747 illiterate prisoners under the age of 60 all of whom were eligible for literacy entered landed behind bars in 2020, of which 1,720 succeeded in participating in literacy class and received certification of completion;

◆ 1,020 people in the transition period and 401 people in the literacy consolidation period have succeeded in registering and continuing their education;

◆ 8,020 prisoners have participated in different levels of education with 5,696 managing to pass courses;

◆ 356 of the prisoners are students of Payam-e Noor University and the University of Science and Technology and they have managed to continue their studies during the last year;

◆ Participation of 93,108 prisoners in 9,297 workshops on fundamental life skills;

◆ Holding 3,125 art classes; and

◆ Participation of 28,617 prisoners in art classes.

The most important measures taken in relation to the education of prisoners from 21 March 2021 to 22 September 2021

◆ Participation of 810 prisoners in three courses held by the Literacy Movement Organization;

◆ Participation of 156,222 prisoners in fundamental life skills training;

◆ Participation of 144,925 prisoners in religious education;

◆ Participation of 201 prisoners in higher education;

◆ Participation of 3,007 prisoners in formal and classic education provided by schools situated inside prison;

◆ Participation of 1,320 prisoners in distance education;

◆ Participation of 1,118 prisoners in comprehensive education;

◆ Participation of 9,287 prisoners in general art education; and

◆ Participation of 4,321 prisoners in theater trainings.

The most important measures taken in relation to promotion of book reading in 2020

◆ 201 prisons libraries are covered by the Public Libraries of the country;

◆ There are 1,467,332 books available in prison libraries;

◆ 104,692 prisoners signed up for libraries;

◆ 871 prisoners in correctional center signed up for libraries; and

◆ There were 2,486 book reading competitions, with 111,082 prisoners participating therein.

The most important measures taken in relation to promotion of book reading from 21 March 2021 to 22 September 2021

◆ Receiving more than 7,000 volumes of books from donors and publishers and distributing them in the Country's prisons;

◆ Receiving 80,000 volumes of magazines and publications worth IRR 10bn as a result of cooperation and interaction with the public libraries of the country;

◆ Establishing book clubs in the Country's prisons, with the participation of 26% of prisoners and 35% of conscripts;

◆ Establishing 818 small bookshelves in prisons and 156 small bookshelves in barracks; and

◆ Purchasing 334,921 books for prison libraries and 2816 books for barracks.

The most important measures taken to help solve the material and livelihood problems of families of prisoners

◆ 274,181 cases of cash and non-cash assistance have been provided for families of prisoners from 20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021. The Judiciary has also facilitated 76,822 cases of such assistance to families of prisoners from 21 March 2021 to 22 September 2021.

◆ In 2021, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation with a credit of more than IRR 2,000bn under which more than 30,000 families of prisoners are receiving monthly livelihood assistance - the number is on the rise;

◆ With a view to supporting families of prisoners in need, several national memorandums of understanding have been signed with the Mostazafan Foundation⁹, Ehsan, Keramat and Alavi foundations as well as the Executive Headquarters of Imam Khomeini's Directive. In one case, 1,800 prisoners convicted of financial charges were set free thanks to allocation of IRR 500bn by the Mostazafan Foundation.

Measures in the field of technical and vocational skills training for prisoners

Performance Description	Performance in 2020	Performance from 21 March 2021 to 22 September 2021	Reservations
Vocational training of prisoners	Holding vocational training courses for 70,457 prisoners (41% of all convicts)	Holding vocational training courses for 39,116 prisoners (24% of all convicts)	In order to prevent the spread of coronavirus in prisons, vocational training courses have been held with one-half of the educational capacity

The most important measures taken to organize prisoners and reduce the criminal population

◆ Necessary follow-up to launch and develop e-litigation and identify obstacles and administrative problems that have led to a growth of more than 100% compared to 2019. August 2021 has seen 73% of referrals to judicial authorities in the form of e-litigation in a way that most prisoner hearings are now held electronically;

◆ Following up on the implementation of the instructions to announce online the admission capacity of prisoners to the competent judicial authorities;

◆ Implementing the "Prisoners' Monitoring" project in December, January and February 2020 on various issues, including following up on the requests of defendants and convicts and identifying those eligible for release, underpaid and impecunious prisoners, or mitigating punishment therefor all of which has led to the release of more than 20,000 prisoners in 2020;

◆ Establishing the necessary infrastructure for electronic e-visits in prisons across the Country in order to facilitate the visit of prisoners with families thereof in a way that 2,411 e-visits were conducted in the Country's prisons in August 2021;

◆ According to the measures taken, statistical studies show that there was a 16% decrease in the number of prison walk-ins and walk-outs in August 2021, compared to the same period of the previous year;

◆ Thanks to plans and the use of the donors' capacities, non-governmental organizations, efforts made by the *Diya* Headquarters as well as the cooperation and collaboration of judicial authorities, the number of prisoners convicted of financial charges in August 2021, decreased by 23% compared to the same period last year;

◆ Pursuing plans to reduce the criminal population and presenting proposals such as facilitat-

9. Formerly known as Bonyad-e Mostazafan va Janbazan (Foundation of the Oppressed and Disabled), the aforesaid entity is a charitable organization in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

ing the installment of fines in a way that in August 2021 and compared to the same period last year, the number of prisoners convicted of financial charges decreased by 7%;

◆ Thanks to plans and cultural and vocational training activities for juvenile delinquents and following allocation of special tribunals for children and adolescents, the number of prisoners in correctional centers per 100,000 population, decreased from 27 in 2011 to 12 in 2020; and

◆ 711 out of 1100 prisoners in correctional center who participated in vocational exams managed to pass vocational training exam in 2020.

Measures taken to support prisoners after release

Support measures after release include personal and professional counseling and guidance, addiction treatment, counseling adoption of a child, direct material and spiritual support, introducing to care centres and charities in a bid to continue the support for 37,719 prisoners in 2020 and 37,719 others during 21 March 2021 to 22 September 2021.

Measures taken to hold e-hearings for prisoners

In order to expedite the prisoners' cases, prevent delays in the trial and further protect the human dignity and personality of prisoners, the groundwork for holding e-hearings in the Country's prisons was laid as a result of which, in addition to enjoying a 100 percent increase in holding e-hearings in 2020 compared to 2019, 73% of prisoners' hearings were conducted online in August 2021.

Period	Number of E-hearing sessions
2020	129,721
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2021	131,489

Measures taken for the release of prisoners via electronic tagging

◆ In addition to a 100% growth in 2020 compared to 2019, the number of prisoners with electronic tagging has doubled from 21 March 2021 to 22 September 2021 compared to the number of such prisoners from 20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021;

◆ It is worth noting that such unparalleled successes (100% growth in e-litigation, electronic tagging and e-visits) have all taken place in the face of economic sanctions and severe financial shortages.

Period	Number of Prisoners with Electronic Tagging
2020	2,208
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2021	4,211

Measures taken to separate prisoners based upon gender, age, religion and crimes

◆ The segregation of prisoners on the basis of gender and age is fully enforced in such a way that all prisoners under 18 years of age are referred to the correctional center, and in most prisons, there is a ward for young people aged between 19 to 25;

- ◆ All prisoners with drug-related crimes are held in vocational and occupational therapy camps, separate from others;
- ◆ Prisoners convicted of financial charges serving time in prison for insolvency, and convicts with security-related charges as well as those imprisoned for financial crimes are separated from others;
- ◆ Taking into account the capacity of the prisons, other prisoners are segregated according to the type of crime and sentence pronounced thereagainst;
- ◆ Establishing safe rooms, the infrastructures of which have been prepared, to keep the prisoner temporarily apart from others is foreseen in the executive regulations of the State Prisons and Security and Corrective Measures Organization, hereinafter referred to as SPSCMO, in case of emergency and the occurrence of a dangerous situation; and
- ◆ Special support services for juvenile offenders and offenders in correctional centers include fundamental life skills training, continuing education and holding difference classes for prisoners. 8,877 cases have been presented from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2020.

Measures to employ prisoners inside and outside the prison based upon gender segregation

- ◆ Supervised by the SPSCMO and with the cooperation and participation of the Prisoners Cooperative Foundation, the Prisoners' Support Association and natural and legal entrepreneurship centers, eligible convicts in prison are employed in three sections: workshops, in-cell employment and public and private employment centers;
- ◆ It is necessary to note that there has been a significant growth in job creation for prisoners compared to previous years thanks to plans by the SPSCMO to increase to 50 percent and 80 percent the employment of prisoners in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

Measure	20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	21 March 2021 to 22 September 2021
Employment of prisoners	Job creation for 70,847 prisoners (54% of eligible convicts)	Create employment for 85,895 prisoners (65% of eligible convicts)

Supportive measures for officials and judges to visit prisons

Thanks to interaction and cooperation of judicial authorities, and with a view to reviewing the judicial case of prisoners, reducing the burden of psychological pressure thereon, familiarizing judges with the detention environment of prisoners and the consequences of serving prison sentences on prisoners and families thereof reducing prison population as a result of detention orders and warrants, as well as full enjoyment of prisoners from leniency, the number of judges visiting prisons during 21 March 2021 to 22 September 2021 has increased by 73 percent compared to the same period last year.

Period	Number of Visits by Judges and Officials
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	59,317
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2021	41,804

Supportive measures for granting and extending prison furlough

Considering the positive and constructive effects of the presence of prisoners with their families and in order to achieve sublime goals in the social and moral reconstruction of prisoners and to establish emotional relations between prisoners and their family members, the number of furloughs granted to prisoners during 21 March 2021 to 22 September 2021 has increased by 2 percent compared to the same period last year, thanks to interaction and cooperation of judicial authorities.

Period	Furloughs
20 March 2020 to 21 September 2020	608,328
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	1,180,047
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2021	619,506

Furthermore, as for prisoners whose remaining sentence is less than 4 months, as well as those whose return to prison has been ensured, furlough has been granted at the end of the sentence at the discretion of the judge within the framework of the law in a way that the number of furloughs granted at the end of the sentence has increased by 15 percent during 21 March 2021 to 22 September 2021 compared to the same period last year.

Period	Prisoners granted furlough at the end of sentence
20 March 2020 to 21 September 2020	28,496
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2021	32,849

This is while prior to the outbreak of the coronavirus, an average of 13 percent of prisoners would be eligible for furlough. But this year, an average of 33% of convicts have been furloughed. Moreover, in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 ensure the health of prisoners, the execution of sentences that did not have a private plaintiff in minor crimes for prisoners with illness and the elderly, has been postponed to the future.

Supportive measures to allow prisoners to contact by phone, meet family members and lawyer in-person or in cabin

◆ Provision of electronic meetings in the executive regulations of the SPSCMO in order to facilitate visitations in such a way that in August 2021, 2,411 online meetings were held between prisoners and their families. The development of this method is now on the agenda;

◆ In order to maintain family ties, fulfill religious and legal duties and respect the rights of prisoners and their families, all prisoners are given at least one free phone call to contact their family, lawyer or acquaintances upon arrival. Furthermore, upon arrival in prison, all prisoners can enjoy the possibility of using telephones installed inside the prison hall;

◆ According to the schedule, all prisoners have the opportunity to meet in person or in a cabinet with their families and lawyers on a weekly basis; and

◆ All married prisoners can request a conjugal visit, which according to the schedule, the inmate is allowed to spend time in private with spouse thereof. Conjugal visit has been underway even during the COVID-19 pandemic in accordance with special health protocols.



Interaction and cooperation with regional, international organizations and other countries

Period	Interaction and cooperation with regional, international organizations and other countries
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Transfer of 6 foreign prisoners to their country; and ◆ Admission or transfer of 101 Iranian prisoners from other countries.
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Transfer of 650 foreign prisoners to their country; and ◆ Admission or 266 Iranian prisoners from other countries.

Introducing new laws, regulations and structures to guarantee and promote the rights of prisoners and detainees and improve the situation in prisons

- ◆ Approving the executive regulations of the SPSCMO in 2021 with more emphasis on moral and Islamic teachings as well as the use of international documents;
- ◆ Implementing the prisoner monitoring plan, which led to the release of more than 20,000 prisoners;
- ◆ Launching a system called "Mash'al" in line with the principle of accountability and direct communication with the head of the SPSCMO to facilitate the submission of protests and requests by families of prisoners;
- ◆ Preparing and compiling instructions for observing the principle of dignity and citizenship rights of prisoners and standardizing the separation ward in such a way that all prisoners enjoy the necessary standards such as lighting, proper ventilation, sanitation, providing the possibility of studying, yard time, continuation of correctional programs and medical services;
- ◆ In order to ensure equality and encourage brotherhood, in implementation of Article 154 of the executive regulations of the SPSCMO, all prisoners and prison staffs receive the same food on an equal basis with the same quality and quantity;
- ◆ In order to prevent labeling and respect for the rights of the accused and to prevent the adverse consequences of entering the prisons, Paragraph B of Article 1 and Article 56 of the executive regulations of the SPSCMO, sending the accused to prison and taking fingerprinting has been prohibited; and
- ◆ Provision of electronic kiosks to facilitate prisoners' visitations has been stipulated in the new regulations of the SPSCMO in accordance with the Judicial Transformation Document.

Support measures for the release of indebted prisoners in unintentional and non-fraudulent crimes by Diya Headquarters

The participation of prison social workers to seek pardon from plaintiffs and benefit from the assistance provided by benefactors and the Diya Headquarters led to the release of 20,968 and 14,830 inmates in 2020 and 2021 respectively. Furthermore, the list of financial convicts, both criminal and legal, has been continuously announced to the Chief of the Judiciary and the Attorney General on a monthly basis since 21 March 2021.

Supportive measures for parole and amnesty for prisoners

Considering the positive effects and consequences of the release of reformed convicts, restoring stability, peace and security to society and reforming criminals, and in order to reduce the adverse effects of imprisonment on prisoners and their families and social reintegration thereof, 16,333 prisoners have been released on parole and 15,805 others received pardon during 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2021, the figures of which are shown in below table.

Period	Prisoners Released on Parole	Pardoned Prisoners
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	11,795	12,883
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022	4,538	2,922

Measures for social reintegration of prisoners and prevention of recidivism

Cultural, vocational and occupational training and empowerment of prisoners in the field of employment after release thereof is one of the most important obstacles to recidivism. Therefore, the following measures to develop and empower individual skills have been taken for eligible prisoners.

Fundamental Life Skills Training Courses for Prisoners	20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022
Coping skills (coping with stress, coping with negative emotions, coping with anger, self-control)	95,866	39,920
Cognitive skills (self-awareness, decision making, problem solving)	90,187	37,577
Social skills (effective communication, assertiveness)	87,649	36,550
Readiness to change (motivation, cognitive readiness)	93,093	38,788

◆ From 20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021, 70,457 prisoners (41% of all convicts) have received vocational training courses. Such courses have also been held for 39,116 prisoners during 21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022; and

◆ Furthermore, more than 2200 prisoners in 2020 and over 550 others in 2021 have received employment facilities.

Measures to facilitate detainees and prisoners' access to counsel and legal representation

In order to promote the benefit of prisoners from judicial assistance by supportive institutions (Bar Association, the Basij Organization of Lawyers, the Center for Lawyers, Experts and Advisors of the Judiciary), the General Directorate of State Prisons have signed a memorandum of cooperation with the aforesaid institutions.

Period	Number of Lawyers	Number of Prisoners Enjoying Free Counseling
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	2,249	12,808
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022	1,437	14,669

Measures taken by SPSCMO to control and monitor detention centers

Note 2 of Article 3 of the executive regulations of the SPSCMO obliges the authorities to require necessary planning and take measures for dispatching inspection boards to all detention centers throughout the Country periodically or without prior notice. At least once in each season, each detention center is inspected.

Period	Number of Prison Inspections
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	3,249
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022	2,063

Supportive measures to create productive and unproductive employment and entrepreneurship for prisoners

With the cooperation and participation of the Prisoners Cooperative Foundation, the Prisoners' Support Association and natural and legal entrepreneurship centers, eligible convicts in prison are employed in three sections:

- ◆ Workshops;
- ◆ In-cell employment; and
- ◆ Public and private employment center supervised by the SPSCMO

It is worth mentioning that there has been a significant growth in job creation for prisoners compared to previous years thanks to plans by the SPSCMO to increase to 50 percent and 80 percent the employment of prisoners in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

Measure	20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022
Prisoners Employment	Job creation for 70,847 prisoners	Job creation for 85,895 prisoners

Measures to facilitate prisoners and detainees' phone calls as well as family visitations

- ◆ free telephone contact with the family is provided for all prisoners, upon arrival, for the first 48 hours;
- ◆ All inmates can benefit from telephone calls (usually with six telephone numbers) using in-cell telephones; and
- ◆ According to the schedule, in addition to the possibility of cabin and in-person visits, married prisoners also have the opportunity to enjoy conjugal visits.

Measures to support families of prisoners

- ◆ Numerous measures, as shown in the following table, have been taken from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022 in order to support families of prisoners.
- ◆ The most important measures to support families of prisoners.

Measures	20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022	Total
Consultation	72,026	37,248	109,274
Seeking pardon from the plaintiff and the victim's next-of-kin	3,716	822	4,538
Granting cash and non-cash donations	232,494	76,822	309,316
Teaching fundamental life skills	56,066	14,238	70,304
Introducing prisoners to care organizations and institutions	3,253	12,794	16,047

Financial assistance provided by Relief Foundation and the Association for the Support of Prisoners to the families of prisoners (billion Rials)

Measures	20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022	Total
Financial assistance rendered to families of prisoners by the Relief Foundation	0	IRR 1,500bn	1,500bn
Financial assistance to the families of prisoners by the Association for the Support of Prisoners	IRR 700bn	IRR 9,90bn	IRR 1,690bn
Financial assistance rendered to prisoners	IRR 470bn	IRR 2,70bn	IRR 740bn
Total	IRR 1,180bn	IRR 2,760bn	IRR 3,940bn

Measures to support female prisoners

- ◆ Using legal remedies for the benefit of women prisoners, including furlough, commutation, mitigation, parole and pardon by introducing them to the judicial authorities;
- ◆ Carrying out necessary legal monitoring in the judicial cases of prisoners to cover the maximum implementation of electronic tagging with the priority of female prisoners who have children;
- ◆ Planning to set up safe houses for female prisoners without social and family support after release thereof;
- ◆ Providing special health services for female prisoners, including clothing, health packages and special food programs in prisons across the country; and
- ◆ Providing special support and health services for children with imprisoned mothers and setting up kindergartens therefor in the immediate vicinity.

The most important support measures in order to develop and improve the standards of the prison environment

- ◆ Constructing and preparing 12 criminal institute projects with a capacity of 12,200 people and 97,940 square meters of infrastructure;
- ◆ Equipping and setting up 21 occupational health centers for prisoners; and
- ◆ Establishing 13 health centers for prisoners.



In addition to the new bylaws of the SPSCMO in which the rights of defendants and convicts were significantly emphasized, the Chief of the Judiciary, on 9 January 2022, issued a circular on the rights of detainees to observe dignity thereof and to monitor detention centers. The aforesaid circular touches upon rights enumerated hereinunder:

- ◆ Defendants' rights upon arrival at detention centers;
- ◆ Defendants' rights in terms of segregation and classification;
- ◆ Defendants' rights in terms of physical and mental health and respect for human dignity;
- ◆ Defendants' rights in terms of family visitations and legal representation;
- ◆ Defendants' rights during transfer;
- ◆ Defendant's rights in separation or solitary cells;
- ◆ Defendants' rights to be able to promptly report to regulatory authorities with full confidentiality; and
- ◆ Measures to monitor detention centers.



The Right to Adequate and Decent Housing

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(Qatar)	Continue efforts to provide affordable housing for general populations and in particular for persons with low incomes;	26.186
(Dominican Republic)	Continue to implement the provisions of the Comprehensive Housing Plan 2017–2026 in order to guarantee the right to adequate housing for all;	26.187
(Malaysia)	Ensure effective implementation of the Comprehensive Housing Plan through adequate resources and a comprehensive monitoring mechanism;	26.188

The most important legal and structural developments

The most important legal and structural developments in the field of housing in the Islamic Republic of Iran are as follows:

1. The National Housing Action Plan: The project was proposed in the winter of 2019 and includes the construction of 400,000 residential units, of which 200,000 units will be built in new cities with the participation of the private sector, 100,000 units in worn-out areas by the Urban Reconstruction Company, and 100,000 units by the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation;

2. The Massive Housing Scheme: The motion was passed by the Parliament on 8 August 2021 and circulated for implementation on 21 September 2021. The Law obliges the Government to meet the annual housing needs of the Country according to the announcement of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development based upon studies of “comprehensive housing plan” in urban and rural areas. The Government is also obliged to plan and act in the first four years of implementation of the said Law in such a way that at least one million housing units are offered to eligible applicants annually, in accordance with the Law on Organizing and Supporting the Production and Supply of Housing approved in 2008 and the relevant by-laws thereto.

3. Launching the National Housing Action Plan Website: Consisted of two parts: the website has been launched with the aim of offering Government support for the housing sector. The first part is for the registration of the 2021 Deposit Assistance Loan, which was established with the aim of supporting tenants who do not have the financial ability to rent housing. The second part is the 2021 National Housing Registration Department, which provides loans to housing applicants. It should be noted that single women over the age of 35, people with disabilities over the age of 20 and female heads of households can sign up for the housing plan.



Table No. 1: Legal and structural developments in order to guarantee the right to adequate housing and provide affordable housing for people

Legal and structural developments in order to guarantee the right to adequate housing and provide affordable housing for people
The Massive Housing Scheme enacted on 8 August 2021
The Law on Amending Articles of the Law of Direct Taxes enacted on 25 November 2020 and the inclusion of tax on vacant houses
The Family Protection and Youth Law enacted on 15 November 2021 and provision of housing facilities for families with 3 children and more and young couples
Resolution of the National Coronavirus Headquarters for automatic renewal of lease agreements at a fixed rate
Approval of the payment of housing deposit assistance facilities with the priority of low-income households, as well as the compilation and communication of executive regulations for the payment of housing deposit assistance facilities worth IRR 200,000bn
Approval of the Council of Ministers and notification to all departments of the General Road and Urban Development for the allocation and transfer of land as a 99-year long-term lease for the construction of rental housing
Decision of the Council of Ministers to transfer the land in the form of installment sales for a maximum of 10 years to target groups
Compilation and communication of the implementation method of the National Housing Action Plan on 15 June 2021 in order to house the lower income groups of the society and people who do not have a house
Provision of 2,860 housing units through concluding a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Housing, Roads and Urban Development with other ministries and organizations to provide housing to target groups (staff, clients covered by support institutions etc.)
Provision of land and housing through concluding memorandums to provide 785,000 housing units for low-income groups, people with disabilities and clients under the auspices of the Welfare Organization
Concluding a memorandum of understanding to facilitate the implementation and reduction of construction costs of the National Housing Action Plan with the Organization of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and the Organization of the Building Engineering System to reduce the cost of housing, as well as an agreement with the Executive Headquarters of Imam Khomeini's Directives in order to provide land and build 100,000 housing units for low-income groups

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Housing, Roads and Urban Development - 2021)

According to the resolution of the meeting dated 2 November 2021 of the Monetary and Credit Council, the maximum level of rural and urban housing facilities in 2021 is as described in Table (2):

City/Village	Maximum Facility
Tehran	IRR 4,500mn
Cities with more than one million population	IRR 4,000mn
Province capitals	IRR 3,500mn
Cities	IRR 3,000mn
Villages	IRR 2,500mn

(Source: Central Bank Report - 2021)

Furthermore, by virtue of Article 4 of the Massive Housing Scheme, banks and non-bank credit institutions are obliged to allocate at least 20% of the payment facilities of the banking system to the housing sector each year at the interest rate approved by the Monetary and Credit Council in such a way that in the first year of implementation of the law, the facilities for the units subject to the aforesaid Scheme should not be less than IRR 3,600bn and for the coming years, the minimum facilities will be increased by increasing the aforementioned percentage in accordance with the annual inflation rate.

Table (3) shows that the amount of production of residential units in urban areas of the whole Country in 2020 was equal to 360,765 residential units.

Table No. (3): The amount of production of residential units in urban areas in 2020

Year	Number of residential units produced in all urban areas of the country	Number of residential units produced in worn-out and dysfunctional urban structures of the whole country	Number of facilities distributed in worn and dysfunctional urban areas of the country
2020	360,765	49,986	18,713

Table No. (4) : Number of installment sales of Mehr Housing Units by Bank Maskan from 2013 to 2020 and from 21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022

Period	Total
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	1,563,125
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022	1,583,339

As shown in the above table, 1,583,339 Mehr Housing Units have been sold in installments by Bank Maskan from 23 August 2013 to 22 September 2022. It should however be mentioned that the number of installment sales of other banks is about 50,000 units and the number of installment sales in worn-out areas is 262,208 units, which is not included in the statistics shown hereinabove.

Table No. (5): Housing facilities amount paid by banks from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Period	Total Payments	
	Housing Units	Amount
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	37,987	IRR22588.5bn
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022	14,863	IRR11411.7bn

(Source: Central Bank)

Table No. (6): Housing facilities amount paid by banks until 9 October 2021

Period	Number of registered applicants	Number of applicants introduced to the bank	Number of facilities paid	The total amount of the facility paid
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	920,357	361,200	225,267	IRR47,620bn
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022	1,338,239	374,241	44,980	IRR17,430bn
Total	2,258,596	735,441	270,247	IRR65,050bn

(Source: Reports of the Housing Deposit Assistance Facility System)

Considering the population of 84 million in Iran and the population of 19 million inhabitants of dysfunctional urban structures (middle, historical and unregistered settlements), the ratio stands at about 22%. based upon the 2016 census report and statistics, and considering the definition of durable housing (housing with metal structure, reinforced concrete, brick or iron rods), if one of the definitions of the United Human Settlement Program regarding the definition of suitable and durable housing which states that housing units of such nature have to be 51 square meters with per capita infrastructure of 12 square meters taken into account, the number of durable and sustainable housing units in Iran stands at about 14 million. Considering the existence of 17 million urban housing units and an urban population of about 59 million people, the percentage of the population with such housing units is about 82%. The following table shows that during the Sixth Development Plan (2017 to 2021), the upgrading and improvement of 66,000 hectares in 1,334 neighborhoods of dysfunctional urban structures of the Country has been planned.

Table (7): Predicted quantitative objectives for upgrading and improving dysfunctional urban structures during the Sixth Development Plan

Predicted Objectives	Unit of measurement	Target value at the end of the plan	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Upgrading and improving dysfunctional urban areas	Hectares	66,000	11,000	12,500	13,500	14,000	15,000
	Areas	1,334	234	250	270	280	300

(Source: Ministry of Housing, Roads and Urban Development - 2021)

In order to protect people in vulnerable situations and victims of natural disasters and emergencies, measures such as providing facilities and assistance, reconstruction and repair of damaged housing units and allocating funds for preventive measures, preparedness to respond to crisis and compensation for hazards and reconstruction of affected areas are described in the table below.

Table No. (8): Measures to rehabilitate areas affected by natural disasters from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Measures to rehabilitate areas affected by natural disasters
Allocation of new subsidized facilities to the victims of natural disasters in different provinces of the Country through operating banks worth IRR11,100bn in 2018 and IRR48,700bn (including 30,000 billion rials in flood compensation in March 2019) in 2019 following the Cabinet approval
Payment of IRR21,100bn in subsidized facilities until 20 March 2021 to help build and rebuild housing for the affected areas caused by the March 2019 floods
Payment of IRR50,000bn for loan facilities (IRR25,000bn for the agricultural sector and IRR25,000bn for the reconstruction of residential areas) to compensate for the damages caused by the March 2019. Banks operating in agricultural sector and residential reconstruction have, until 20 March 2021, paid IRR9,900bn and IRR23,100bn of benevolent loan facilities
Payment of IRR13,200bn affordable bank facilities to compensate the victims of floods, earthquakes and landslides in the provinces of the Country from 21 March 2021 to 19 December 2021 following the Cabinet approval in 2021
Reconstruction of 19,717 housing units and repair of 26,661 units damaged by floods and earthquakes in the Country in 2020, and payment of more than IRR7,200bn of facilities and about IRR6,800bn of gratuitous credit in 2020
Allocation of additional IRR124,419bn in 2020, and IRR215,657bn from 21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022 via credit management resources of the Country in order to take preventive measures, prepare and respond to the crisis and compensate for the damage caused by reconstruction and reconstruction of affected areas

(Source: Report of the Central Bank as well as Municipalities and Village Administrations Organization - 2021)

The Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation has hitherto reconstructed as much as 1,918,933 housing units. The below table shows the amount of payment of facilities (loans) and grants for reconstruction of units damaged by natural disasters from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022.

Table No. (9): The amount of payment of facilities (loans) and grants for reconstruction of units damaged by natural disasters from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022.

Period	Allocated and attracted credits				Physical development (residential unit)			
	Facilities (loans)		Grants		Construction		reconstruction	
	Allocated	Attracted	Allocated	Attracted	Started	Finished	Started	Finished
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	14,089,900 IRR	14,089,900 IRR	6,658,965 IRR	6,658,965 IRR	33,044	19,514	35,069	29,424
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022	6,800,700 IRR	1,489,670 IRR	3,668,751 IRR	2,122,515 IRR	11,892	8,437	8,511	8,511
Total	20,890,600 IRR	15,579,570 IRR	10,327,716 IRR	8,781,480 IRR	44,936	27,951	43,580	37,935

(Source: The Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation - 2021)



With the aim of eliminating deprivation from the face of the villages, a special project to improve rural housing and housing for the deprived has been implemented by the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation since 2005. According to the statistics, the construction of 2,037,668 rural housing units has started since the beginning of the project and 1,888,402 units have so far been built. It is worth mentioning that the supervision of the executive operations of rural housing units is done in the framework of rural technical system by using 16,000 local specialized forces in the field of design, supervision and implementation of rural constructions.

Table No. (10): Information on the construction and completion of housing units for villagers and low-income groups from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Measures	20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021		21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022	
	Number of units	Amount	Number of Units	Amount
Assistance in the construction of housing for the deprived by using affordable bank facilities and payment of gratuitous assistance to the deprived	37,019	IRR9,610bn	23,051	IRR6,445bn
Construction of rural housing units using affordable banking facilities	115,671	IRR36,257bn	72,189	IRR21,588bn
Assistance in completing rural housing units using low-cost banking facilities and payment of grants to low-income rural groups	8,524	IRR1,052bn	3,876	IRR930bn

(Source: The Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation - 2021)

Table No. (11): Deprivation elimination projects from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Type of Projects	Total Number of Projects	Credit Spent	Number of Completed Projects	Number of ongoing Projects
Religious, cultural, welfare places, public buildings etc.	100	IRR1,656,175bn	81	19

(Source: The Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation - 2021)

Table No. (12): The number of urban and rural housing units with the participation of the people from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Period	Number Residential Units	
	Urban	Rural
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	583	820
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022	199	1,665

(Source: The Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation - 2021)

Table No. (13): Number of housing units built by the Housing Donors Association from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Period	Number of housing units built and delivered by the Association	Number of urban housing units built and delivered in the form of housing projects for families with 2 members with disabilities
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	937	1200
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022	372	372

(Source: The Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation - 2021)

Poverty Alleviation and Developing Rural and Less Advantaged

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(Viet Nam)	Further develop initiatives aiming at accelerating poverty reduction and developing rural and less-developed areas;	26.189
(Dominican Republic)	Continue promoting programmers that stimulate the development of rural and less developed areas;	26.88
(Myanmar)	Strengthen its ongoing approach for poverty reduction and development in the rural areas, in accordance with the 20-year Vision Plan;	26.191
(Brunei Darus-salam)	Continue to promote and protect the right to safe water and sanitation;	26.192
(Uzbekistan)	Ensure timely and effective implementation of the plan on employment of the rural population to ensure sustainable employment on the basis of equal access to employment;	26.193
(Bolivia)	Continue efforts to promote sustainable employment in rural and nomadic regions;	26.194
(Democratic People's Republic of Korea)	Continue its socioeconomic development programmers, including national strategy plans in the field of human rights;	26.195
Recommending Country	Recommendation (Noted)	Number
(Bulgaria)	Strengthen efforts to further reduce poverty, in particular in provinces populated by persons belonging to ethnic minorities;	26.190

The Islamic Republic of Iran has developed and implemented various measures and programs to reduce poverty in the six areas of livelihood, employment, housing, food security, educational support and social security insurance coverage. In these programs, special attention has been paid to strengthening the status and functions of rural and nomadic areas, and progress has been made in providing civil and infrastructure services such as water, electricity, gas, health, and rural telecommunications. One of the most important laws is the Sixth Development Plan in the field of rural and nomadic development, which emphasizes the integration of the policy and management system of rural and nomadic development. Rural economic development and job creation program is to be implemented for 25,000 target villages in priority rural areas of the Country's provinces. Furthermore, in order to eliminate discrimination in the use of basic information and communication technology services in rural and nomadic areas, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology is obliged to develop electronic service infrastructure in deprived and rural areas to the extent that it is possible to provide at least four main electronic Government services, (health, education, agriculture and banking) in 80 percent of villages with more than 20 households across the Country. Currently, more than 1,560 villages have mobile communications and over 1,200 villages are connected to high-speed internet.

Another important task of the Sixth Development Plan in the field of rural and nomadic development is to educate 100,000 villagers and nomads as leading and facilitating elements in local planning, development of economic activities and cultural programs (especially children's access to cultural and artistic activities), improve service delivery, attract public participation and monitor the effectiveness of executive bodies' projects. These activities have been repeated in the budget laws of 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. The 2021 Budget Law emphasizes on the organization of informal and nomadic settlements, the improvement of urban suburban housing and dilapidated structures, the provision of infrastructure and public services in areas outside the cities and villages.

In order to reduce poverty, support low-income groups and develop low-income and rural areas, the Islamic Republic of Iran – notwithstanding the imposition of unilateral, illegitimate and illegal economic sanctions as well as the compliance of certain countries therewith – approved laws and plans in 2020 and 2021. The most important measures taken to reduce poverty and develop rural areas are described in Table 1.

Table No. (1): The most important measures in the field of rural development and low-income areas

Related Body	Measures
Provision of required financial resources for cooperative village projects and inclusive employment	Ever since 20 March 2020, 101 cooperatives have been registered in Kara platform and IRR1,700bn facilities have been paid for 58 cooperative projects.
	Payment of facilities worth IRR204,324,937 to 11,724 cooperative projects with employment of 170,424 people
	Payment of benevolent facilities worth IRR23,779mn to 81 female-headed cooperatives in order to support cooperatives and employment
	Allocation of funds from the resources of the National Development Fund and operating institutions to promote rural and nomadic production and employment in line with the implementation of the law to support the development and creation of sustainable employment in rural and nomadic areas
Cultural and educational services, including in rural, underprivileged and nomadic areas	Launching a comprehensive and educational platform known as Mahtab to train those interested in starting home, small or online businesses
	Providing the necessary infrastructure to create 20 fixed and mobile art bases in rural areas of Ilam and Kurdistan provinces with the aim of developing art programs to deprived rural areas for the purpose of providing art training to persons with disabilities benefiting from art equipment
	Implementation of “Life Skills Training Program” since 2002 in all urban and rural areas for free. Through workshops, individual sessions and educational messages, two million children and adults benefit from the program each year



Related Body	Measures
<p>Creating employment and improving access to work in rural, underprivileged and nomadic areas</p>	<p>Creating inclusive employment in rural areas, paying inclusive employment facilities worth IRR 2,758bn to 180 projects with employment of 3,491 people</p>
	<p>Implementation of the Cooperative Village Project: The project has been implemented in the Country since 2018. 101 cooperatives have ever since 20 March 2020 been registered in the efficient system and facilities worth IRR170mn have been paid for 58 cooperative projects.</p>
	<p>Forming and launching 3,700 self-help groups with an average of 16 people in each group in 1,508 villages (in 112 cities in 21 provinces across the country), membership of more than 60,000 low-income women and youth in rural areas in the program (93% women) as well as payment of loans to group members by banks.</p>
<p>Rural and nomadic social insurance</p>	<p>Paying 5% of 15% of the selected insurance service cost and the Government assistance in paying 10% of the social insurance farmers, villagers and nomads.</p>
	<p>51,500 rural women and girls have been covered by this type of insurance by 22 September 2022.</p>
<p>Providing continuous rural electricity and water services</p>	<p>There were 57,755 rural electricity subscribers in 2020 and 57,815 in 2021</p>
	<p>There were 57,755 rural water subscribers in 2020 and 57,815 in 2021</p>
<p>Paying living allowance to low-income families</p>	<p>Paying subsistence allowance to poor families in which there is/are person/presons with disabilities. The number of families covered by the subsistence allowance is 804,816 households.</p>
	<p>Paying livelihood subsidy worth IRR1,200mn per month per person to low-income groups and those with no fixed income since November 2020.</p>
	<p>Providing livelihood assistance to children who have dropped out of school in needy families across the country.</p>
	<p>Subsistence allowance for people with severe or very severe disabilities without a job (190,514 families are covered by this service).</p>
	<p>Providing livelihood assistance to needy heads of households with children under five and pregnant and lactating mothers suffering from malnutrition</p>
	<p>Providing livelihood assistance to children with malnutrition in 8 low-income provinces</p>

In line with the macro policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, various plans have been implemented in the field of deprivation of villages, including the special plan to improve rural housing and housing for the deprived, among other important projects in the field of housing. based upon statistics and ever since the commencement of the project in 2005, the construction of 2,037,668 rural housing units has started and 1,888,402 units have hitherto been constructed. With the approval of the Massive Housing

Scheme on 8 August 2021, a comprehensive housing plan has also been developed in urban and rural areas. Measures taken in the field of rural housing development are described in Table (2).

Table No. (2): The most important measures in the field of rural development from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

No.	Description of Measures	20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021				Explanations
		Number of Measures	Amount of money paid	Number of Measures	Amount of money paid	
1	Developing social justice in the field of housing	37,019	IRR 9,610 bn	23,051	IRR 6,445 bn	Assistance in the construction of housing for the deprived by using affordable bank facilities and payment of gratuitous assistance to the deprived
2	Developing housing in rural areas	115,671	IRR 36,257 bn	72,189	IRR 21,588 bn	Construction of rural housing units using affordable banking facilities
3	Providing housing for the low-income groups	8,524	IRR 1,052 bn	3,876	IRR 930 bn	Assistance in completing rural housing units using affordable banking facilities and payment of grants to low-income rural groups
4	Implementing a comprehensive rural housing plan	The measures in part 2 and 5 of this table are in the form of a comprehensive rural housing plan.				
5	Implementing the rural technical system plan	Supervision of the executive operations of rural housing units with the use of 16,000 local experts in the design, supervision and implementation of rural construction, is done in the form of rural technical system.				

In another measure and with the aim of expanding social justice and empowering low-income families and improving the general standard of living of people by identifying low-income deciles as beneficiaries of justice shares distribution plan and those covered by the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation and the State Welfare Organization, the shares of state-owned companies in the form of justice shares distribution plan were assigned to the aforesaid groups from a 50% discount on dividends. 18% of the shares of Persian Gulf Petrochemical Company will be transferred in the form of one percent, two percent and 15 percent blocks through the stock exchange. Parts of the resources obtained from the transfer of dividends obtained from the aforesaid company and other enterprises are used to provide financial resources and achieve goals such as creating self-reliance for poor and deprived families and strengthening social security, creating economic infrastructure with priority in less developed areas as well as strengthening national inclusive co-operatives.

With the increase in the prevalence of COVID-19 in different provinces of the Country and the decision of the National Headquarters of Coronavirus Disease Management to impose severe restrictions, monthly livelihood assistance has been paid to low-income families under the auspices



of support organizations by the decision of the Government and the Islamic Consultative Assembly since 21 November 2020; the related statistics are shown in the following table:

Table (3): Providing livelihood assistance to low-income households during the COVID-19 pandemic

Type of facilities	Amount of facilities	Number of covered households
Monthly subsistence allowance	IRR1,200,000 per person	3,111,076 households covered by Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation and the State Welfare Organization
Monthly subsistence allowance	IRR1,000,000 per person	8,355,163 low-income households

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has provided micro-facilities to more than 21 million households following the COVID-19 outbreak and in response to damage inflicted upon the households due to the pandemic. The payment of the mentioned facilities is as follows:

Table (4): Granting micro-facilities to households during COVID-19 pandemic

Type of facilities	Amount of facilities	Number of covered households	Number of covered people	Period
COVID-19 facilities	IRR1,000,000	21,054,534	67,651,288	20 March 2020 to 19 May 2020
Facilities for severe COVID-related restrictions	IRR1,000,000	6,999,058	21,697,000	November 2020

The Subsidy Targeting Organization, following the COVID-19 pandemic and considering the economic and social conditions of the Country with a view to preventing severe poverty of low-income households, has identified households and paid grants to 3 million people including 1,011,683 households based upon size thereof in February 2020 as well as March and April 2020. The Basij Construction Organization has taken measures as described in below table in the field of construction and development of deprived areas in 2020 and 2021.

Table No. (5): Measures taken by the Basij Construction Organization in the Field of Construction & Elimination of Deprivation in 2020-2021

Year	Agricultural water and soil projects	Drinking water supply projects	Housing for the deprived projects	Roads and bridges projects	Medical and health centers projects	Employment workshop projects	Electrification projects	Mosque projects	Other projects (bath, sports etc.)	Total
2020	874	741	10,302	180	32	285	17	896	1,823	15,701
2021	730	207	3,339	66	20	164	249	179	1,429	6,383
Total	1,604	948	13,641	246	52	449	266	1,075	3,252	22,084

The Right to Health, Welfare, Social Security & Insurance

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(Viet Nam)	Continue implementing the Health System Development Plan and the Health Insurance Scheme for further achievements in realizing the right to health;	26.196
(Algeria)	Continue its efforts so that all citizens across the Country have equal access to health-care services;	26.197
(Bhutan)	Continue taking measures in the field of health and social security to enhance access to health, particularly of vulnerable groups;	26.198
(Bolivia)	Continue the policies aimed at increasing the coverage and enjoyment of primary health-care services;	26.199
(Cuba)	Effectively implement the actions for the development of health insurance for all citizens, including in rural areas;	26.200
(Ethiopia)	Preserve the major achievements registered by the Health System Development Plan and scale up its outreach;	26.201
(Fiji)	Further develop its existing policies to provide adequate and accessible maternal and child health care for all women and children, especially those in vulnerable situations;	26.202
(India)	Continue to expand its health insurance coverage to all citizens, including those in rural areas;	26.203
(China)	Continue to promote the development of education and health care;	26.183
(Nigeria)	Sustain its efforts in enhancing the socioeconomic well-being of its people;	26.185
Recommending Country	Recommendation (Noted)	number
(Iceland)	Provide information and education for young people on reproductive health in schools, in line with international standards;	26.204

Thanks to its activities, the Iranian health network has been able to provide about 93% coverage for rural people and 98% for urban areas to have access to first-level services. It should be noted that life expectancy, which used to be 55 years prior to the 1978 Islamic Revolution, has now increased to 76 years.

Table (1) shows the information related to the facilities and services of the first level of urban and rural health system and Table (2) shows the number of hospitals and available hospital beds from 21 March 2029 to 22 September 2022.

Table No. (1): Information on Facilities & Services of First Level of Urban & Rural Health Care System

Facilities / Services	Numbers
Health House and Rural Health Center	17,790
Urban Health Center	5,343
Rural Health Center	253
Comprehensive Rural and Urban Health Service Center	5,517
Primary services and care	2,400
Rural health workers	31,000
Health care worker	24,500
Family doctor in comprehensive health service centers	14,000

Source: Report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, 2021

Table No. (2): Number of Hospitals & Available Hospital Beds from 21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022

Year	Number of hospitals	Number of available hospital beds
2019	1,020	146,217
2021	1,026	150,283
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022	1,034	155,289

Source: Report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, 2021

Table (3) shows information about the university/faculties of medical sciences, student admission capacity, number of faculty members and number of eminent scientific centers in the field of health.

Table (3): Information about the University/Faculties of Medical Sciences, Student Admission Capacity, Number of Faculty Members and Eminent Scientific Health Centers

Description	2020 (people)	2021 (people)
University Statistics/Schools of Medical Sciences (University/School)	68	68
Student admission capacity	35,648	36,528
Number of faculty members	19,623	20,398
Number of eminent scientific centers	50	50

Source: Report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, 2021

According to surveys conducted about the status of national health, in 2017, the per capita expenditure for primary health care was about \$169.8. Meanwhile, the percentage of expenditures related to primary health care was 37.7% of the current expenditures on health. About 4.4 percent of GDP is spent on primary health care. The Health Transformation Plan was launched on 5 May 2014 and is currently underway with the aim of financially protecting citizens from the costs of health and treatment, organizing hospital services and improving the quality and equitable access of people to health services throughout the Country. Some of the results of the implementation of the Health Transformation Plan until 22 September 2022 are as follows:

Table (4): Implementation of Health Transformation Plan & Results Thereof until 22 September 2022

The results of the implementation of the Health Transformation Plan
Reducing the share of people from hospitalization costs from 37% to 3% for villagers and 6% for those living in cities and financial support for 26 million hospitalized patients
Financial protection of hospitalized patients against the costs of treatment in public hospitals for 77.4% of the Country's population (including the payment of IRR51,031,347 to support special patients from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022)
Reducing referrals for out-of-hospital medicine and medical equipment to less than 3 percent
47% increase in doctor recruitment in rural areas, nomads and cities with less than 20,000 people
Allocating a health center per average population of 12,500 in suburban and urban areas
Allocating a comprehensive health service center for every 25,000 to 50,000 people living in suburban and urban areas, along with providing nutrition and psychological services thereto
Launching and operating 126 nomadic health houses in 2020 and preparing and equipping 400 condominiums in order to set up nomadic health houses, especially in summer areas, until June 2021 (60 units are under construction)

Source: Report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, 2021

In order to strengthen and develop the health and medical infrastructure, some measures have been taken from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022. The measures are as follows:

Table No. (5): Measures to Develop Health Infrastructure from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Measures to develop health infrastructure
Construction and development of 170 hospitals with 34,338 beds
Allocation of 1,580 emergency beds and improvement and standardization of 187 emergency departments throughout the country
Equipping and launching 26 new Government infertility treatment centers with priority on low-income areas
Equipping 50 comprehensive care centers for special patients in the Country's medical universities
Development of 1,000 new inpatient and psychiatric beds in 15 psychiatric emergency departments



Measures to develop health infrastructure
Launching 12 bone marrow transplant centers and performing 5883 cases of bone marrow transplants by February 2017 and 20-100% growth in bone marrow transplantation and organ transplantation over the last four years
Paying special attention to cancer patients by creating a comprehensive network of early detection and treatment of cancer
Establishing 80 centers to provide dental services to special and incurable patients in 10 major regions of the country
Voluntary participation of 11,207 health ambassadors and health liaisons (7,862 health ambassadors, 3,180 health liaisons) and achieving 55% coverage of health ambassadors and 63% health liaisons
Reducing about 90% of the prevalence of goiter due to iodine deficiency in the Country with the implementation of hydration program over the last three decades

Source: Report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, 2021

The health system has taken extensive measures to improve the health status of women, some of which are mentioned hereinunder:

Table No. (6): Measures to Improve Health Status of Women from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Measures to improve the health status of women
The maternal mortality rates in 2013 and 2019 were 19.7 and 25, respectively (including COVID-19) or 21.8 (excluding COVID-19). The maternal mortality rate due to pregnancy and childbirth increased from more than 200 cases in 100,000 childbirths to 17.7 cases in 100,000 childbirths in 2018.
Performing more than 99% of deliveries by people with university education
Implementing livelihood assistance plan to support nutrition of pregnant and lactating mothers with malnutrition in needy families. for instance, 58,333 thousand pregnant mothers were supported by issuing smart food purchase cards with a cost of more than IRR670bn in 2020 and IRR330bn until 22 September 2022. Active nutritional care is provided by health care providers and nutritionists in health homes or health centers and comprehensive health care centers.
Covering 85% of infertility treatment costs with Government tariffs for infertile couples
Reducing childbirth in cesarean section by 6.5%, bringing it to under 11.6% average
Free education for 510,000 pregnant women during pregnancy to empower them for fertility and natural childbirth
Designing a self-assessment program for pregnant mothers and providing in-person services thereto from July 2021 through the 4030 platform or telephone call
Creating a virtual educational system for childbirth preparation classes since 1 June 2021
Vaccination of pregnant women against COVID-19
Screening in three areas of mental health, and some social health factors and substance abuse prevention for all age groups including women and children
Providing psychological services and medical treatments in the field of mental health, domestic violence and substance abuse prevention for all age groups, including women and children.

Source: Report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, 2021

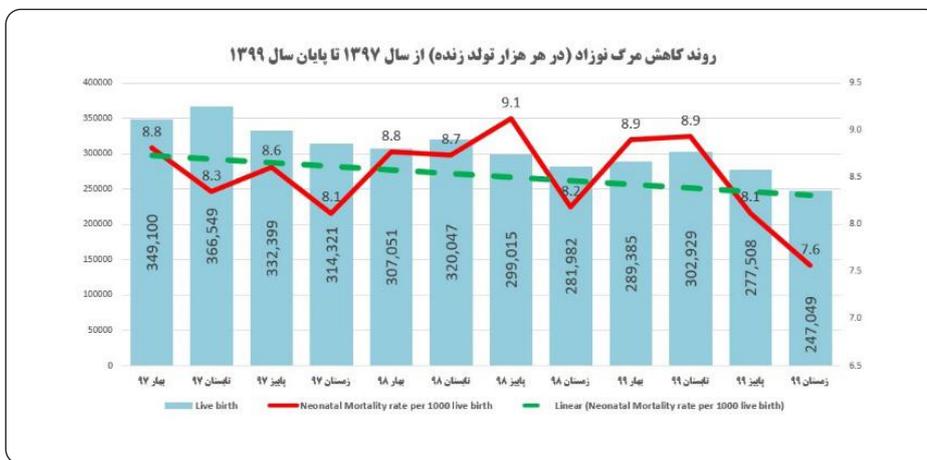


Table (7) shows the most important measures to promote the health of infants and children from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022.

The most important measures to promote the health of infants and children
The mortality rates of children with less than five years of age stands at 17.3 and 14.2 in 2013 and 2019 respectively. The mortality rate of children with less than five years of age has dropped from more than 185 per thousand live births to less than 15 per thousand live births.
The mortality rate of infants (children under one year) has risen from more than 120 per thousand live births to less than 13 per thousand live births.
The mortality rate of infants (under 28 days) has decreased from more than 60 per thousand live births to 9 per thousand live births.
Providing vaccination services to 1,100,000 children with less than one year of age
Providing child safety services upon entering school and high school
Improving the nutritional status of 137,000 children with malnutrition those in needy households and allocating IRR720,744,600,000 in 2020 and IRR230,000,000,000 from 21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022 in order to prepare a food basket therefor
Screening for hypothyroidism in more than 1,100,000 infants (Iranian and non-Iranian).

Source: Report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, 2021

Graph No. (1): Infant Mortality Reduction Trend (per thousand live births) from 21 March 2018 to 20 March 2021



Source: Report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, 2021

Following the COVID-19 outbreak in the Country and the rapid transmission of the disease, the health care network system sought measures to break the transmission chain and reduce the incidence of outpatients, the most important of which are as follows:

Table (8): Measures to control and spell an end to COVID-19

Measures to control and spell an end to COVID-19
Establishing 1094 selected comprehensive health service centers with 16 or 24 working hours according to specific instructions per 100 thousand people
Studying and observing different types of trial coronavirus vaccines and formation of a corona vaccination technical committee;
Developing a national plan to establish and expand coronary vaccination;
Recording vaccination data in electronic health records
Providing corona vaccination services (until 17 January 2020, the total vaccine administered reached 126,401,975 (60,350,685 first dose, 53,195,312 second dose and 12,855,978 third dose);
Allocating IRR6,800,000 to medical universities in order to provide personal protection items;
Increasing the capacity of laboratories for early detection and confirmation of new viruses or global epidemics at the national and university levels
Developing and communicating five protocols for implementation in the respective medical centers of medical universities across the Country (in the field of psychosocial support for COVID+ patients and families thereof, medical center staff, rendering support to the families of coronavirus victims, protocols for psychosocial support in convalescent care centers, comprehensive protocol of social welfare services, protocol for social welfare services in crisis and disasters)
Developing voluntary and cross-sectoral cooperation with non-governmental organizations for equitable access of community members, especially vulnerable groups, to health services

Source: Report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, 2021

By 20 March 2021, the Social Security Organization¹⁰ has covered 44,317,386 people (equivalent to 52.7% of the total population), which compared to the previous year, has increased by 0.3 percent.

Table No. (9): Population Covered by the Social Security Organization until 20 March 2021

Year	Total	Number of People Covered by Insurance			Number of Pensioners ¹¹		
		Total	Main	Dependents	Total	Main	Dependents
2019	44,206,313	37,313,773	14,373,260	22,940,513	6,892,540	3,954,405	2,938,135
2020	44,317,386	37,107,844	14,521,843	22,586,001	7,209,542	4,228,899	2,980,643

Source: Statistical Yearbook of the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, 2020

Table No. (10): Number of Medical Centers of the Social Security Organization & Referrals Thereto in 2020

Medical Centers	Number
SSO Hospitals	70
SSO General & Specialized Clinics	303
SSO Dey Medical Clinic	5
Referrals to SSO Medical Clinics	93,604,692

Source: Statistical Yearbook of the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, 2020

10. The Social Security Fund is a social insurance fund whose main task is to cover wage earners in a compulsory manner and self-employed in an optional manner, as well as the most important obligations and services of the Social Security Fund under the Social Security Law and related regulations. These include accident, illness and pregnancy protection, retirement pension, disability pension, survivors' pension, unemployment insurance benefit, sick pay, sickness and allowance.

11. Pensioners covered by the Social Security Organization include retirees, persons with major and minor disabilities, the deceased, the survivors, the retirees' dependents and the disabled.

The Social Security Organization, with the purpose of covering social insurance and supporting vulnerable groups and strata, spends a significant part of its financial resources every year to cover these people, including drivers, clients, the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation and the Social Security Organization, writers and celebrities, fishermen, beekeepers, female heads of households, rehabilitation centers workers etc. It should be noted that the Social Security Organization pays social pensions to all people over the age of 70 and those in need.

Table No. (11): Information on Insurance Coverage of Vulnerable Groups from 20 March 2020 to 21 August 2021

No.	Measures	Number of People	Total amount of money paid until 20 March 2021	Total amount of money paid until 21 August 2021
1	Exemption for production workshops with up to 5 workers	1,138,356	IRR232,270bn	IRR30,229bn
2	Government's share for carpet and rug weavers etc.	270,000	IRR80,926bn	IRR7,683bn
3	Government contribution for insurance premiums for drivers, persons volunteering to work in holy places as servants, porters	559,504	IRR84,444bn	IRR8,727bn
4	Government commitment to specific strata (targeted subsidies)	1,504,740	IRR118,843bn	IRR16,105bn
5	Total insurance commitments	3,472,600	IRR516,483bn	IRR62,743bn

Source: Report of the Social Security Organization, 2021

The Social Security Organization, in order to support the people covered by the said Organization during the coronavirus epidemic, has paid the usual stipend compensation for ailment period and COVID-related indemnity from 20 March 2020 to 20 June 2021, as described in the table below.

Table (12): Usual Stipend Compensation for Ailment Period & COVID-related Indemnity

Period	Number of Stipend Compensations	Amount of Stipend Compensation	Number of COVID-related indemnities	Amount of COVID-related indemnities
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	621,153	IRR9,570bn	196,509	IRR2,090,1bn
21 March 2021 to 20 June 2021	197,730	IRR3,390,3bn	40,064	IRR420,19bn
Total	818,883	IRR10,296bn	236,573	IRR2,510bn

Source: Report of the Social Security Organization, 2021

12,421 survivors of COVID-19 pandemic have received pensions from 20 February 2020 to 20 June 2021, resulting in a total financial burden of IRR3,132,445mn. in addition, the Social Security Administration provides a variety of short-term services to support those covered, including sick pay and maternity pay, accommodation allowance, marriage allowance, burial allowance, travel allowance, prosthesis and orthosis, and offers non-cash vouchers and annuities. The below table shows some of services rendered to those in need from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2021.

Table No. (13): Short-term Services Rendered by the Social Security Organization from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2021

No.	Services	Number	Amount
1	Marriage allowance	64,229	IRR1,640bn
2	Prosthesis and orthosis allowance	227,499	IRR7,240bn
3	Stipend Compensation for ailment period	557,049	IRR8,480bn
4	Stipend Compensation for pregnancy period	175,396	IRR5,310bn
5	Funeral Allowance	63,100	IRR1,130bn
Total		1,087,273	IRR23,800bn

Source: Report of the Social Security Organization, 2021

In order to protect the vulnerable, the Government provides free or low-cost health insurance to those without of the Social Security Organization, Health Services or Armed Forces insurance coverage. This insurance only covers medical services and does not provide pension insurance services. Taking a justice-oriented approach, improving the quality of health services, reducing payments made by the insured, eliminating insurance overlap and expanding the family doctor program and referral system throughout the country, are among the objectives of establishing the Health Insurance Organization.

By the end of 20 March 2021, the Health Insurance Organization has covered 42,278,338 people, ie 51% of the Country's population, which compared to the previous year, has increased by 0.4%. A total of 79,767 patients with special diseases¹² have been covered by Iran Health Insurance until 20 March 2021, which has increased by 7.1% compared to the previous year.

Table No. (14): Number of People Covered by Iran Health Insurance

Period	Total	State Employees ¹³	Others ¹⁴	Villagers ¹⁵	Public Health Insurance ¹⁶	Iranian Health Insurance ¹⁷
21 March 2019 to 19 March 2020	42,097,793	5,272,938	2,638,482	20,202,073	13,439,678	544,622
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	42,278,338	5,216,901	2,683,482	20,296,470	13,707,225	374,260

Source: Statistical Yearbook of the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, 2020

The number of the those insured by the State Pension Fund was 982,269 by 20 March 2021. The number of pensioners of the State Pension Fund, including retirees, persons with disabilities and the deceased, until 20 March 2021 was 1,510,939, of whom 32.5% were women and 67.5% were men. The average first monthly salary paid to retirees and pensioners has increased from IRR37,926,026 2019 to

12. Special diseases include patients with hemophilia, thalassemia, MS, dialysis and kidney transplant

13. Each Government employee who is not covered in any way by the Social Security Organization, health insurance services and Armed Forces can be covered separately by health insurance for Government employee. Under this scheme, Government employees can also cover their families and dependents with health insurance.

14. Health insurance is also provided for other sections of society, such as students, martyrs' families, veterans, foreign nationals, families of prisoners, social workers and students of the seminary, and they can become members of health insurance and benefit from medical services thereof by paying a part of the insurance premium.

15. Rural health insurance is a subset of public health insurance and covers all villagers and people living in cities with less than 20,000 people. in this type of health insurance, the total amount and cost of insurance is provided by the Government and the villagers will be covered by health insurance with no costs.

16. Individuals who do not benefit from any type of health insurance and whose income is less than 40% of the minimum wage set each year are covered by this insurance for free.

17. Iranian Health Insurance is another plan of health insurance in which individuals can be covered by paying per capita premiums annually. in this plan, people whose income are between 40 to 100 percent of the minimum wage each year, can benefit from a 50 percent discount on insurance premiums to register for Iranian health insurance.

IRR62,972,696 in 2020, which has increased by 66%. 9.7% of the rural population were covered by the Social Insurance Fund for Farmers, Villagers and Nomads until 20 March 2021. The table below shows the number of insured persons, pensioners and brokerages of the aforesaid Fund in 2020.

Table (15): Number of Insured Persons, Pensioners and Brokerages of the Social Insurance Fund for Farmers, Villagers & Nomads in 2020

Measures	20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021		Increase rate compared to same period previous year
Insured persons of Social Insurance Fund for Farmers, Villagers and Nomads	1,983,933	79.4% male	11.7%
		20.6% female	
Pensioners of Social Insurance Fund for Farmers, Villagers and Nomads	129,864	96.6% male	1.7%
		3.4% female	
Brokerages of Social Insurance Fund for Farmers, Villagers and Nomads	1,817		1.5%

(Source: Statistical Yearbook of the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor & Social Welfare, 2020)

Promoting the Development of Economic, Social & Cultural Rights

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Noted)	Number
(China)	Continue to promote economic and social development, in order to provide a solid foundation for the enjoyment of all the human rights of its people	26.182
(Iraq)	Continue its efforts to implement the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	26.184

Measures of the Islamic Republic of Iran to promote the development of economic, social and cultural rights pertaining to the rights of persons with disabilities, human rights education, promotion of human development indicators, the right to adequate housing, poverty alleviation and development of rural and disadvantaged areas, the right to health, welfare, social security and insurance, the right to education, women's rights, children's rights and the right to access to safe drinking water and energy are described in the human rights achievements section of this report.

The Right to Education

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	number
(Pakistan)	Continue its efforts and policies to prevent students from leaving schools;	26.205
(Pakistan)	Continue to improve measures to provide educational facilities to children living in rural areas;	26.206
(Senegal)	Continue its efforts for enhancing educational and health services at rehabilitation and correction centers;	26.207
(Thailand)	Take the necessary measures to address the high dropout rates of girls in rural schools;	26.208
(Uruguay)	Continue making progress in the transformation of the education system by ensuring the schooling of boys and girls throughout the country, incorporating human rights education;	26.211
(Uzbekistan)	Continue to give special attention to the education of vulnerable groups of less developed rural areas and nomadic populations;	26.212
(Algeria)	Continue its policy and efforts to provide free education to nearly half a million refugee children;	26.213
(Algeria)	Enhance its efforts to make sure that all nationals have access to university education;	26.214
(Singapore)	Continue to implement targeted policies to combat illiteracy and promote quality education, particularly for girls, and in rural and poorer communities;	26.215
(Brunei Darussalam)	Continue to introduce national policies to combat illiteracy;	26.216
(Ethiopia)	Scale up the activities of the Literacy Movement Organization where the literacy rate was raised to 95 per cent in 2018;	26.217
(Sri Lanka)	Further strengthen its efforts to promote access to education for all, especially in rural areas, and reduce the number of school dropouts;	26.218
(State of Palestine)	Continue its efforts with regard to education, and adopt policies to enhance inclusion for girls, children with disabilities and children from rural areas;	26.219
(Lao)	Continue its efforts in promoting the right to education to ensure that all children, including children with disabilities, can have access to formal education;	26.220
(Mexico)	Extend the length of compulsory primary and secondary education to at least 9 years of age, and progressively extend free education to 11 years of age;	26.221
(Oman)	Pursue the implementation of education reforms in order to ensure access to education in all parts of the country;	26.222

Enacted on 12 May 2020, the Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents obliges the Ministry of Education to take the following measures:

- ◆ Announcing non-registrations suspected dropouts of children and adolescents by the end of high school to the Welfare Organization or the Office for the Protection of Children and Adolescents of the Judiciary to take the necessary measures;
- ◆ Identify, guiding and introducing children and adolescents subject to this Law to supportive and judicial institutions to take the necessary supportive measures; and
- ◆ Taking the necessary measures to register and provide full educational coverage for children and adolescents subject to This law by the end of high school;
- ◆ Providing training for managers and educational and administrative staff in the field of children and adolescents' rights.

All students have access to formal education Iran, and expulsion of students for any reason - especially in primary school - is prohibited, and special efforts are made to increase enrollment and prevent students from dropping out through implementation of various programs. Children deprived of the right to education for reasons such as dropout, illness, etc., enjoy in-person and online education in accordance with the regulations governing distance education institutions. Primary school principals are also required to report violations of the Compulsory Education Act to the Judiciary so that legal action can be taken. Pursuant to Article 7 of the Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents, enacted on 12 May 2020, each parent, legal guardian or guardian of the child and adolescent and all persons responsible for the care and upbringing of the child, if contrary to the provisions of the Law on Providing Education Facilities to Iranian Child and Youth, enacted on 21 July 1974, refuse to register and provide educational facilities for eligible children and adolescents until the end of high school or prevent them from studying in any way, they shall be sentenced to pay IRR10,000,000 up to IRR20,000,000.

Tables No. (1) shows the number of students and teachers by gender in different academic levels in the academic years 2020-2021 and Table No. (2) shows the enrollment rate of students in the primary school during the academic years 2016-2017 and 2019-2020.

Table No. (1): The Number of Students & Teachers by Gender in Different Academic Levels, 2020-2021

		Primary School	Middle School	High School	Total
Students	Male	4,340,356	1,830,836	1,406,007	7,577,199
	Female	4,103,172	1,709,539	1,359,159	7,171,870
	Total	8,443,528	3,540,375	2,765,166	14,749,069
Teachers	Female	153,544	67,194	81,521	302,259
	Male	68,774	60,401	69,148	198,323
	Total	222,318	127,595	150,669	500,582
Female Principals	18,863				

(Source: Ministry of Education Report, 2021)

Table No. (2): Students' Enrollment Rate in Primary School During 2016-2017 & 2019-2020 Academic Years

Academic Year Index	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Enrollment rate for primary school for female pupils	97.80	98.14	98.21	98.22
Total enrollment rate for primary school	97.83	98.13	98.18	98.16

(Source: Ministry of Education Report, 2021)

In recent years, the enrollment rate of primary school has increased significantly, from 97.83% in the academic year 2016-2017 to 98.16% in the academic year 2019-2020. The rate of this index for female pupils has increased from 97.80% to 98.22% during the aforesaid said years. The program to spell an end to illiteracy has been prepared with emphasis on identifying, attracting, educating and maintaining all children in need of primary education and children who have failed to attend school or dropped out of school; the program has been sent to all provinces, regions and schools for implementation. As a result of the implementation of this program, the dropout rate of primary school during the academic years 2016-2017 to 2019-2020 has decreased from 0.99 percent to 0.94 percent. The dropout rate for female pupils has also decreased from 1.15 percent to 1.03 percent. Table No. (3) shows that 3,644 students dropped out of school in the academic year 2019-2020, and the necessary grounds have been provided for those who have failed to attend school, of which 3,505 were female pupils, to sign up for school and continue their education.

Table No. (3): Dropout rate and the enrollment rate of students who failed to attend primary school during the academic years of 2016-2017 to 2019-2020.

Academic Year Index	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Dropout rate for female pupils	1.15	1.24	1.03	-
Total dropout rate	0.99	1.11	0.94	-
Attracting and educating pupils failing to attend school	35,100	31,910	33,480	36,444

(Source: Ministry of Education Report, 2021)

Table (4) shows some recent measures of the Country's education system in order to identify and attract students who have dropped out of or failed to attend school and strengthen education in less-privileged areas.



Table (4): Recent measures to identify and attract students who have dropped out of or failed to attend school and strengthen education in less-privileged areas

Measures to identify and attract dropouts or those who have failed to attend school & strengthen education in less-privileged areas
Identifying 179,066 children in the age group of 6 to 19 years old and providing support services and educational coverage and trying to get them back to school;
Providing financial support and job creation for the families of children who have dropped out of school (granting scholarships to 80,000 students by the Welfare Organization);
Utilizing the capacity, potential, material and spiritual support of charities and non-governmental organizations in the process of identifying and educating children who have dropped out of school;
Identifying and supporting 200,000 students who have dropped out of school in low-income areas of the Country by the Executive Headquarters of Imam Khomeini's Directives;
Identifying, supporting and creating a database for 180,000 students who have dropped out of school;
Constructing 1,500 schools with a capacity of 245,000 students in low-income and rural areas of the Country (with an investment of IRR10,600bn);
Providing distance education for 2,000 people by the Executive Headquarters of Imam Khomeini's Directives;
Guiding and supporting 2,500 elite and talented students under the auspices of the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation;
Holding 3,000 hours of free entrance exam training classes and distributing 8,000 volumes of textbooks for students in low-income areas by the Executive Headquarters of Imam Khomeini's Directives;
Constructing 17 student dormitories in rural and nomadic areas of the Country with an investment of IRR400bn by the Executive Headquarters of Imam Khomeini's Directives.

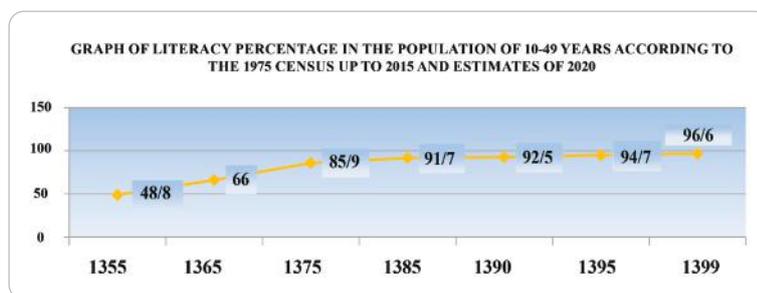
(Source: Report of the Ministry of Education and the Executive Headquarters of Imam Khomeini's Directives, 2021)

Since its establishment, the Literacy Movement Organization has launched and implemented various projects to eradicate illiteracy and to develop and promote the literacy level of society, especially among vulnerable groups, including women and deprived and rural areas, using national, local, regional and international capacities. Such measures helped nearly 8.7 million illiterate people in the third grade of primary school and 1.6 million people to finish primary education. Nearly 80 percent of measures of such nature were taken for women and about 55 percent of all literacy activities were in rural and disadvantaged areas.

Table No. (5): Gender-based literacy rate in the age group of six years and older in 2019 and 2020

Year	Age Group	Sex		
		Male	Female	Total
2019	6 years & older	92.6	86.1	89.1
	10-49 years	97.2	95	96.1
2020	6 years & older	93.1	86.8	90
	10-49 years	97.6	95.5	96.6

(Source: Report of the Literacy Movement Organization, 2020)



(Source: Report of the Literacy Movement Organization, 2020)

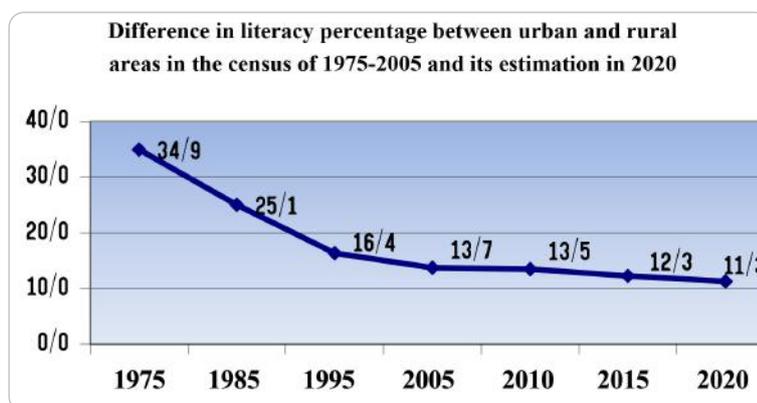
The table and chart above show that the Country's literacy rate in the age group of 10-49 years in 2020 reached 96.6 percent (97.6 percent in men and 95.5 percent in women). It should be noted that during a three-year period (2017 to 2020), 1,092,722 people have been covered by various literacy courses. The table below shows the statistics of literates covered during 2020 to 6 October 2021.

Table No. (6): Statistics of literacy students covered by the Literacy Movement Organization based upon training courses in 2020 and 2021

	Year	2020	21 March 2021 to 6 October 2021
Total	Covered	295,021	122,684

(Source: Ministry of Education Report, 2021)

In the last 39 years, about 55% of literacy activities have been allocated to rural areas, as a result of which, the difference in literacy rate between urban and rural areas has increased from 34.9% in 1975 to less than 11.3% in the 2020 estimation. The following diagram shows the difference in literacy percentage between urban and rural areas in the censuses of 1975-2005 and its estimation in 2020. Moreover, from 2018 to 2020, more than 16,859 nomadic women and girls were covered by Literacy Movement Organization.



(Source: Report of the Literacy Movement Organization, 2020)

In order to prevent students from dropping out of school in rural areas and to cover students with special needs in remote areas and areas without a special school for children with disabilities, the necessary groundwork has been laid to maximize the possibility of admitting students with special needs with normal IQ using integrated and inclusive services. In addition, for students with mental disabilities, it is possible to attend rural schools using the services of special schools for those with disabilities, so that students with special needs can study alongside other students, and textbooks and educational resources related to the Exceptional Education Organization has been provided



therefor. in the academic year 2020-2021, 1,282 students with disabilities in 23 provinces were covered by the aforesaid organization.

7,760 children with disabilities who have failed to attend school or dropped out of school have so far been identified, 1,914 of which have been registered and educational status thereof is being monitored. Other measures taken to facilitate access to education for students with special needs are shown in the following table.

Table (7): Measures to facilitate access to education for students with special needs

Key Measures
Establishing pre-school education centers for children with special needs and the activity of 14,236 educators in 1,736 such centers in the academic year 2020-2021;
Preparing 32 schools offering integrated and inclusive services to students with special needs across the country, including the construction of ramps and the installation of elevators in schools to facilitate the comfortable movement of such students;
Launching the "Nedaye Hamrah" for anyone needing inclusive education with the aim of unifying, facilitating the education and rehabilitation of students with special needs and solving problems thereof;
Creating skill-based courses in vocational high schools for all students with special needs and providing completely free of charge educational services therefor;
Publishing 241 books and adapting 616 books and educational contents for students with special needs;
Converting 43 educational books for students with visual impairment to braille;
Preparing 450 educational audios, videos, clips and brochures; and
Providing free educational, upbringing, rehabilitation, counseling and physical education services to children and students of exceptional schools;

(Source: Ministry of Education Report, 2021)

Moreover, in order to implement an adaptation program based upon the empowerment of parents of children with disabilities, training courses have been held as shown in the following table. In addition, 241 educational packages and content in the form of books and CDs have been prepared to educate parents, siblings of students with special needs.

Table (8): In-person and online family education sessions for parents of students with special needs

Courses	Number of workshops	Number of Participants	Workshop Duration	Person hours
Parents (sign language)	16	574	40 hours	22,960
Executive bodies (sign language)	32	1,855	40 hours	74,200
Parents (Braille)	25	580	40 hours	23,200

(Source: Ministry of Education Report, 2021)

In the educational system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, nobody is limited in terms of access to education, regardless of religion and ethnicity, and educational and training services are provided to all students equally. Religious minorities are free in religious education according to Articles 12 and 13 of the Constitution. Students of religious minorities are allowed to present their own content to students in religious education, in addition to common content and concepts, with the approval of the Ministry of Education.

In line with the implementation of Article 15 of the Constitution on the teaching of the mother tongue of the Country's ethnic groups, a textbook entitled "Free Lessons" has been created in Persian textbooks of different educational courses and about 15% of the content of textbooks in each grade has been allocated thereto; this can be described as the manifestation of ethnic and cultural literature in different provinces. In Persian books, the elementary course of the second and third grades of a course and the fourth, fifth and sixth grades, two courses entitled "Free Lesson" and "Native Culture" are allocated to each province and can be taught therein. In the secondary and high school, two free courses called "Indigenous Literature" are offered in all grades. In other words, the teacher is free to produce material in their native language with the help of students in these lessons. Studies show that some teachers in bilingual provinces have used taken advantage of this supportive measure. With the outbreak of COVID-19 and the need to replace the method of education through distance learning instead of face-to-face education, programs and activities have been developed and put on the agenda as follows:

Table (9): The most important measures to ensure students' access to education during the COVID-19 pandemic

Measures to ensure students' access to education during the pandemic
About 85% of primary school students have signed up in Shad, a platform for pupils' online education, and the rest of the students are trained in person in rural and virus-free areas in accordance with health protocols;
Launching a dedicated platform on the Internet for virtual education;
Continuing e-education and e-learning of students in Shad and preventing the closure of education;
Establishing the Iran Television School to ensure education and learning of students by the most experienced and skilled primary school teachers;
Planning and taking necessary measures for conducting live teaching (20 lessons in 10 hours) on a daily basis in 3 TV and several radio channels;
Producing electronic content (educational videos) for all elementary school textbooks, more than 7,000 educational videos, launching of educational channels (more than 5,000) and uploading contents therein;
Creating 1,670 educational channels to upload the official content of 102 specialized technical and vocational courses and uploading more than 20,000 electronic contents (movies, podcasts, pdf, Power Point etc.) by more than 1,140 students across the Country in Shad platform;
Presenting more than 524 specialized live and pre-recorded programs in the field of television school education related to technical and vocational education and skills by different radio and television networks;
Providing tablets and other smart devices for students in disadvantaged areas with the aim of paving the way therefor to attend distance and virtual classrooms (over 361,000 tablets have so far been prepared and delivered to disadvantaged students);
Providing free internet packages for students and teachers;
Holding face-to-face training classes in rural and virus-free areas in accordance with health protocols;
Equipping deprived schools with technology facilities and providing equipment for holding e-classes;
Producing educational textbooks for disadvantaged students and those without the Internet;
Holding a teacher empowerment training course in the field of producing multimedia content and uploading practical educational videos to empower teachers and students on a daily basis;
Planning and implementing virtual and free preschool education for all children, as well as planning and implementing education for all children one year before primary school from television networks on a continuous and daily basis;



Measures to ensure students' access to education during the pandemic

Continuous monitoring of children's attendance and teaching-learning thereof students in online and face-to-face classrooms;

Continuous monitoring of the education process during the pandemic by sending 3,000 educational leaders to less-advantaged and border areas with the aim of controlling the learning process, dropout status, the rate of backwardness in education etc.

(Source: Ministry of Education Report, 2021)

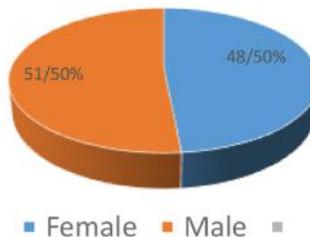
In the academic year of 2020-2021, the total number of university students was equal to 3,182,989, 51.5% of which were men and 48.5% women. Table (10) shows the number of university students in each grade in the academic year 2019-2020 and Table (11) shows the percentage of university students in each grade in the same year.

Table No. (10): Number of university students in each grade based upon gender in the academic year 2019-2020

Grade	Associate Degree			Bachelor's			Master's Degree			M.D.			Ph.D.			Total		
	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total
Number	153,882	282,466	436,348	1,033,489	956,980	1,990,478	240,496	272,846	51,3342	49,144	46,268	95,412	67,223	80,186	147,409	1,544,243	1,638,746	3,182,989

(Source: Statistical Annals of Ministry of Cooperative, Labor and Social Welfare, March 20, 2020-March 20, 2021)

Universits Students based upon gender in academic year of 2019-2020



(Source: Statistical Annals of Ministry of Cooperative, Labor and Social Welfare, March 20, 2020-March 20, 2021)

Table No. (11): Percentage of university students in each degree in 2019-2020 academic year

Grade	Percentage
Associate Degree	15.2
Bachelor's Degree	59.8
Master's Degree	17.8
M.D.	2.8
Ph.D.	4.5
Total:	3,182,989

(Source: Statistical Annals of Ministry of Cooperative, Labor and Social Welfare, March 20, 2020-March 20, 2021)

Table No. (12): Number of university students in each field of study in 2019-2020 academic year

Humanities			Basic Sciences			Medical Sciences		
Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
1,573,122	718,037	855,085	206,339	64,812	141,527	243,008	98,148	144,860
Engineering			Agriculture & Animal Husbandry			Arts		
Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
810,720	613,969	196,751	117,883	55,698	62,185	231,917	88,082	143,835
Total Number of Students								
Total			M			F		
3,182,989			1,638,746			1,544,243		

(Source: Statistical Annals of Ministry of Cooperative, Labor and Social Welfare, March 20, 2020-March 20, 2021)

Furthermore, the total number of higher education graduates in the academic year of 2019-2020 was equal to 695,055. Table No. (13) shows the graduates percentage in each grade in the 2019-2020 academic year while Table No. (14) shows the number of graduates in each grade in the same period.

Table No. (13): University-graduates percentage in each grade in 2019-2020 academic year

Grade	Percentage
Associate Degree	13.7
Bachelor's Degree	62.5
Master's Degree	16.1
M.D.	3
Ph.D.	4.6
Total	695,055

(Source: Statistical Annals of Ministry of Cooperative, Labor and Social Welfare, March 20, 2020-March 20, 2021)

Table No. (14): The number of university-graduates in each grade in 2019-2020 academic year

Grade	Associate Degree			Bachelor's			Master's Degree			M.D.			Ph.D.			Total		
	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total
Number	5,110	97,634	148,744	157,534	181,423	338,957	54,265	76,087	130,352	5,005	3,351	8,356	6,294	7,559	13,853	274,208	366,054	640,262

(Source: Statistical Annals of Ministry of Cooperative, Labor and Social Welfare, March 20, 2020-March 20, 2021)

According to Table (15), the number of faculty members in 2020 stands at 82,218. Table (16) shows the number of science and technology parks, development centers as well as knowledge-based companies. Table (17) shows the growth trend of joint scientific articles based upon important international indices in 2020.

Table No. (15): The scientific pyramid situation in 2020

Educational Posts	Number
Faculty Members	82,218
Female Faculty Members	24,032
Professors	6,854
Associate Professors	13,843
Assistant Professors	44,329
Lecturers	22,990
Assistant Lecturers	201

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, 2021)

Table (16): The number of science and technology parks, development centers as well as knowledge-based companies

Facilities	Number
Science & Technology Parks	44
Development centers	195
Knowledge-based companies	1,582
Tech-based units	9,213

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, 2021)

Table No. (17): The growth trend of joint scientific articles based upon important international indices in 2020

Share & Involvement	Percentage
WoS articles	2.21
Scopus articles	2.13
Share in WoS articles published by Islamic countries	22.27
Share in Scopus articles published by Islamic countries	19.01

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, 2021)

Women's Rights

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(Peru)	Enhance efforts to create suitable job positions for women graduating from universities;	26.223
(Philippines)	Further strengthen measures to support the economic participation of women;	26.224
(Azerbaijan)	Take measures in increasing the economic participation rate of women in different sectors of employment;	26.226
(Botswana)	Take effective measures to implement the decisions of the Supreme Administrative Council, which require the Government to allocate 30 per cent of its managerial positions to women, as well as the selection and appointment of professional directors on the basis of the requisite general and specialized competencies regardless of gender;	26.227
(Bulgaria)	Further promote womens rights, strengthen policies and measures to combat violence against them, and facilitate their participation in political, social and professional spheres;	26.228
(Cambodia)	Continue taking additional steps to increase women's participation in higher education;	26.229
(Cambodia)	Identify new initiatives to further promote women's entrepreneurship;	26.230
(Dominican Republic)	Continue adopting legislative measures promoting the protection and promotion of women's rights;	26.231
(Japan)	Take further measures to promote and protect women's rights;	26.234
(Kyrgyzstan)	Continue its activities towards the adoption of the legislative acts in the field of promotion and protection of women and family;	26.235
(Lao)	Continue to implement its legislative programmers and measures to further promote the rights, as well as the empowerment, of women in all areas;	26.236
(Myanmar)	Continue measures to promote various rights of women, including participation in sports and access to sports facilities;	26.237
(Poland)	Make all possible efforts to provide comprehensive frameworks for the non-discrimination of women and the protection of women and children from violence, including domestic violence;	26.238
(New Zealand)	Continue to reform penal and civil laws to ensure non-discrimination against women and girls;	26.248
(Malta)	Take steps to identify and remedy all laws that have a discriminatory impact on women and girls;	26.246
(Tunisia)	Continue efforts to enhance women's rights and protect women from violence by carrying out the adoption of related projects of law;	26.249

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(Indonesia)	Continue its efforts in protecting the rights of women, inter alia, by finalizing the bill on the protection of women against violence;	26.252
(Montenegro)	Step up efforts for the protection of women from gender-based violence;	26.255
(Iceland)	Adopt the draft bill on the protection of women against domestic violence so as to criminalize domestic violence;	26.256
(Bangladesh)	Continue to promote women's participation in political and other decision-making processes;	26.257
(Canada)	Remove legal restrictions and social barriers to women's equal participation in the workforce, access to education and participation in the conduct of public affairs;	26.258
(Slovenia)	Strengthen its efforts to promote representation of women in public and political life, including in leadership positions;	26.259
(Nepal)	Continue to support and empower women in public life;	26.261
(Sri Lanka)	Continue to strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in women, young girls and children with regular monitoring;	26.148
Recommending Country	Recommendation (Noted)	Number
(Albania)	Undertake far-reaching reforms of the legislation relating to the status and rights of women and amend legislation on the lawful marriage age to increase it to 18 years old;	26.225
(Honduras)	Eliminate obstacles to the employment of women on the basis of equality between men and women and protect and promote the rights of working women and their equal treatment in public and private employment in accordance with article 7 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;	26.233
(Lithuania)	Strengthen the efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls and consider ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;	26.245
(Sierra Leone)	Expedite the adoption of the pending draft bill on the provision of women's security against violence and exercise due diligence in preventing and punishing gender-based violence in line with international norms;	26.250
(Finland)	Adopt and fully implement laws to combat discrimination and violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and marital rape;	26.251
(Honduras)	Improve gender balance in the distribution of civil service positions, ministerial portfolios and other high-ranking political positions;	26.260

Ensuring the full rights of men and women, equality before the law, eliminating all forms of discrimination, and creating fair opportunities for all are guaranteed and enshrined in the Constitution and related laws, and Government institutions are required to provide material and spiritual growth of women and ensure rights thereof in various fields by establishing the necessary facilities and arrangements. Since its establishment, the Islamic Republic of Iran has paid special

attention to advancing the affairs of women and promoting rights and status thereof. The Islamic Republic of Iran, along with international measures to promote women's rights, in order to promote the dignity, honor and social and human personality of women, has achieved significant progress and taken extensive measures to improve health, education, employment and security, and left no stones unturned to combat violence thereagainst, increase social presence as well as encourage and ensure their participation in decision-making positions. The most important measures are outlined as hereunder. The most important laws and regulations adopted which are directly or indirectly related to promotion and protection of women's rights during 20 March 202 to 22 September 2022 are listed in Table (1).

Table No. (1): The most important legal and structural measures for promotion and protection of women's rights from 20 March 202 to 22 September 2022

The most important new laws, regulations and structures for the protection of women
Adopting the Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents on 12 May 2020 focusing on the protection of all children with 18 years of age, including girls;
Approving the Family Protection and Youthful Population Law on 16 October 2021 and adopting protection measures for mothers, pregnant and lactating women;
Drafting a bill to amend Article 612 of the Islamic Penal Code (pecuniary and deterrent punishments) enacted on 22 May 1996 with the subject of intensifying the punishment of the father in case of murder of the child and introducing restrictions on the right of guardianship and custody therefor compared to other children;
Drafting a bill consisting of 57 articles about the criminalization of all types of violence against women in all family and social areas, entitled "Preservation of Dignity and Protection of Women Against Violence";
Drafting a bill to combat human and organ trafficking and punishment of human smugglers (the bill was flagged as received in the Islamic Consultative Assembly on 18 June 2021);
Establishing a national system for monitoring the affairs of women and the family in order to monitor the indicators of gender justice, programs and structure and organization of women and the family in the executive responsible bodies. The national system enables supervisory authorities and officials to monitor the responsible bodies' performance in protecting and promoting the rights of women and the family.
Approving a support package for providing housing to female heads of households with financial needs by the Cabinet on 25 July 2021;
Obliging to create a job promotion system for women working in the Judiciary by July 2022;
Approving the addition of a Note to Paragraph (1) of the Resolution on the Duration of Maternity Leave and increasing maternity leave for women working in governmental and non-governmental sectors from 6 months to 9 months by the Cabinet on 16 May 2021;
Approving a resolution on organizing higher education institutions of the Higher Council of the Cultural Revolution on 12 July 2021 and specifying detailed planning for strengthening higher education institutions for women and employing female faculty members therein;
Approving a resolution on continuing the implementation of the telecommuting decree for working mothers with children under 7 years by the Cabinet on October 2021;

(Source: Report of the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, December 2021)



Table (2) shows measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran to support women's employment and economic participation.

Table No. (2): The most important measures of the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to support employment and economic participation of women from 20 March 202 to 22 September 2022

The Most Important Measures of The Islamic Republic of Iran to Support Employment and Economic Participation of Women
Approving the Family Protection and Youthful Population Law on 16 October 2021 which addresses in detail the issue of employment protection for pregnant and breastfeeding women;
Supporting nearly 80,000 college-educated girls, women entrepreneurs, female heads of households, never-married girls and rural women with the aim of developing home-based small and profitable businesses, and meeting basic needs thereof and providing facilities thereto;
Payment of about IRR6,000bn in bank facilities to home-based businesses in 2020;
Strengthening women's self-employment by providing employment-generating facilities thereto, providing technical and vocational training support, and covering vocational training to sell products thereof. With the implementation of this national plan, 2,645 brands of various goods have been created to date;
Supporting the creation of jobs and the continuation of the activities of 20 women's cooperatives, with priority given to deprived areas and low-income deciles, and paving the way for the creation of 40 new job opportunities and the sustainability of 60 existing jobs in 10 provinces;
Empowering rural and nomadic women based upon the value chain of medicinal plants by training 5,000 people, 54 hours of training (270,000 people/hours of training), and introducing qualified women interested in creating or developing employment in the field of medicinal plants to receive affordable facilities;
Creating 2,403 jobs by women entrepreneurs;
Out of 172,911 clothing distribution units, 77,450 (45%) belong to women;
Establishing a campaign for sanctions-era women by identifying, introducing and supporting about 500 women entrepreneurs, especially in small towns and villages;
Providing job preparation training including job and fundamental life skills to 13,000 female heads of households and family members thereof on an annual basis;
Participation of 255,000 female heads of households in social and economic empowerment programs;
Paying labour capital grants to 1,000 female heads of households to start sustainable businesses;
Forming and launching more than 1,200 support groups for female heads of households across the Country and registering more than 7,000 female heads of households therein as well as rehabilitating and empowering 300 support groups (equivalent to more than 2,000 people);
Paying IRR500mn facilities with a minimum fee to 2,000 female heads of households during the COVID-19 pandemic to support businesses thereof;
Paying employment loans to 83,658 and 37,401 women under the auspices of the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation in 2020 and 2021 respectively;
Providing social insurance coverage for 51,500 rural women and girls until 22 September 2022 and 49,500 female heads of households aged 18-50 living until the same period;
Supporting 225 women's cooperatives with priority given to female heads of households and home business cooperatives, and maintaining employment of more than 1,120 people, as well as supporting 62 women's cooperatives with priority given to deprived areas and low-income deciles;
Teaching job skills to young girls in low-income areas;
Training in self-employment markets for female heads of households and women;
Teaching urban housewives how to grow vegetables and summer vegetables at home;
Predicting equal opportunities for women in employment tests without gender segregation;
Allocating 9,459 job positions only to women in the eighth joint comprehensive exam of the executive bodies in 2020.



Source: Statistical Annals of Ministry of Cooperative, Labor and Social Welfare in 2020, and Reports Presented by the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, Ministry of Cooperative, Labor and Social Welfare, the Social Welfare Organization, the Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization as well as the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation in 2021

The net enrollment rate of the primary school in the academic year of 2019-2020 was equal to 98.16 percent. This figure for girls has in recent years increased from 97.80% in the 2016-2017 academic year to 98.22% in the 2019-2020 academic year. Moreover, the dropout rate of girls in primary school during the academic year of 2016-2017 to 2019-2020 has decreased from 1.15 percent to 1.03. Table (3) shows the number of female students and teachers in different educational levels in the 2020-2021 academic year and Table (4) shows the literacy rate of girls in the age group of six years and above in 2018 and 2019 compared to the total population literacy rate.

Table (3): The number of female students and teachers in different educational levels in 2020-2021 academic year

		Primary School	Middle School	High School	Total
Student	Girls	4,103,172	1,709,539	1,359,159	7,171,870
	Both sexes	8,443,528	3,540,375	2,765,166	14,749,069
Teacher	Women	153,544	67,194	81,521	302,259
	Both sexes	222,318	127,595	150,669	500,582

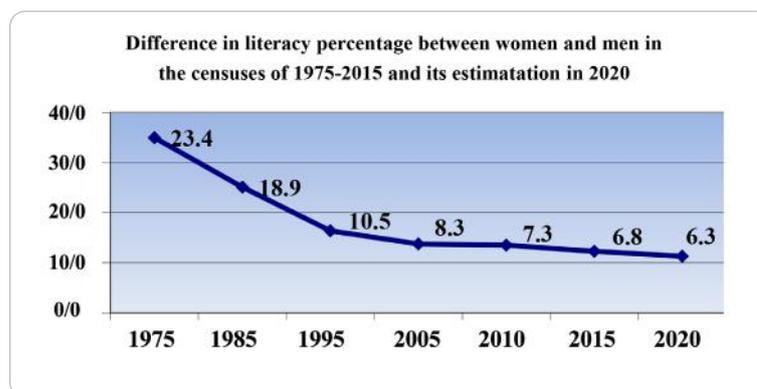
(Source: Report of the Ministry of Education, November 2021)

Table (4) the gender-based literacy rate in the age group of six years and above in 2018 and 2019

Year	Age Group	Sex		
		Male	Female	Total
2019	Six years and above	92.6	86.1	89.1
	10-49	97.2	95	96.1
2020	Six years and above	93.1	86.8	90
	10-49	97.6	95.5	96.6

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Education, November 2021)

In order to educate girls and women and eliminate gender discrimination, about 80% of literacy activities are dedicated to girls and women, especially in rural areas. As a result, the difference in literacy rates between men and women has decreased from 23.4% in 1975 to less than 6.3% in 2020, and according to the latest census, the number of female literates now stands at 29,753,843. The chart below shows the difference in literacy rates between men and women in the censuses of 1975-2015 and its estimation in 2020. In this regard, more than 16,859 nomadic women and girls took part in literacy courses from 2018 to 2020.



(Source: Report of the Literacy Movement Organization, December 2021)

Furthermore, in order to prevent girls from dropping out of school, especially in border and disadvantaged areas, 3,505 female students who had failed to attend school or dropped out of school in 5 provinces were returned to school by providing the necessary grounds for enrollment to continue education in primary, middle and high schools. Moreover, with a view to reducing the consequences of COVID-19 on female students in disadvantaged areas, smartphones and tablets were thereto to facilitate e-education thereof. In order for girls to benefit from technical and vocational training and the quantitative and qualitative development of such trainings, the following measures have been taken.

Table No. (5): Measures for the quantitative and qualitative development of technical and vocational education of girls

Key Measures
Establishing special classes for girls studying in technical and vocational majors in regular and boarding high schools in compliance with the educational standards of the major;
Developing and diversifying technical and vocational education for girls by establishing priority majors such as child rearing, family management, sewing design and subdivisions thereof, chemical industries, food industries etc.;
Encouraging female students to take part in the current and future required fields (technical and vocational majors) in accordance with their talents, interests and abilities in the technical and professional branch with the aim of promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship;
Increasing the share of female students in the technical and vocational majors and improving their skills to 38.29% in the academic year of 2020-2021.

(Source: Ministry of Education Report, 2021)

The total number of higher education students was equal to 3,182,989 in the academic year of 2020-2021, 51.5% of which were men and 48.5% women. While the penetration rate of higher education in the female population in 1978 was only equal to 281 people per 100,000 people (0.28%), the figure in 2020 increased more than 20 times to 4,747 people per 100,000 (4.7). Furthermore, the rate of access to and participation of women in higher education has increased from 2.1% in 1957 to 41.2% in 2020. The share of women to work as faculty members has increased to more than 33.3% at the time of reporting. Table No. (6) shows the number of university students in each major in the academic year of 2019-2020 and Table No. (7) percentage rate of university students in each degree in the academic year of 2019-2020. Table No. (8) shows the number of centers affiliated with the Technical & Vocational Training Organization in 2020 in terms of students' gender.

Table No. (6) Number of students in each educational level based upon gender in 2019-2020 academic year

Grade	Associate Degree			Bachelor's			Master's Degree			M.D.			Ph.D.			Total		
	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total
Number	153,882	282,466	436,348	103,348	956,980	199,047	240,496	272,846	513,342	49,144	46,268	95,412	67,223	80,186	147,409	154,424	163,874	318,298

(Source: Statistical Annals of the Ministry of Cooperative, Labor and Social Welfare, 2020)

Table No. (7) Number of graduates in each educational based upon gender in the 2019-2020 academic year

Grade	Associate Degree			Bachelor's			Master's Degree			M.D.			Ph.D.			Total		
	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total
Number	148,744	97,634	5,110	338,957	181,423	157,534	130,352	76,087	54,265	8,356	3,351	5,005	13,853	7,559	6,294	640,262	366,054	274,208

(Source: Statistical Annals of the Ministry of Cooperative, Labor and Social Welfare, 2020)

Table No. (8): The number of centers affiliated with the Technical & Vocational Training Organization in 2020 in terms of students' gender

Number of Technical & Vocational Training Organization Centers				Contractual & Permanent Lecturers			State-funded Centers				Private Centers				Courses
F	M	Mixed	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Mixed	Total	F	M	Mixed	Total	Total
7,544	1,195	2,539	11,278	65.6	34.4	27,056	125	205	303	633	7,419	990	2,236	10,645	1,128,464

(Source: Statistical Annals of the Ministry of Cooperative, Labor and Social Welfare, 2020)

Women have managed to clinch the highest levels of political decision-making in ministerial, parliamentary and other important executive positions. The table below shows some of the achievements made in this area.



Table (9): Some Achievements in Women's Political Participation

Women's Political Participation
Improving the status of women's appointments from 13.6% in 2017 to 25% in 2021 and reaching the total number of female managers to 19,597 in 2020;
The appointment of female managers in governorates has increased by 89.8% in the last three years;
16 female lawmakers are appointed in 11th the Islamic Consultative Assembly elections (2019-2023);
20,594 women registered to run in the sixth round of parliamentary elections, of which 11,307 were vetted as candidates for local councils (the share of female candidates in this period was 8% and increased by 2 percent compared to the previous period), of which 5,990 elected. This is a 50 percent increase compared to the previous period. Moreover, out of 49 percent of the total 27,903,568 voters were women.
There are currently 4 ambassadors, 3 governors, 8 mayors, 62 deputy governors, 15 deputy governor-generals, 52 district governors, 2,393 rural governors and 1,116 female judges.
In the thirteenth presidential election which took place in June 2021, out of 28,989,529 total voters, 14,68,812 (equivalent to 49% of the total number of voters) were women.

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Interior, 2021)

Table (10) shows the participation of women in the field of writing, publishing, culture and art in October 2021.

Table No. (10): Women's participation in some cultural and artistic activities until October 2021

Cultural & Artistic Activities	Tola
Female Authors	23543
Female Publishers	1051
Number of Female Managers in Advertising and Advertising Centers	5457
Female Filmmakers	903
Females Receiving Awards at Prominent National Art Festivals	114
Females Receiving Awards at Prominent International Art Festivals	128
Female Participation Rate in the Field of Information Technology	31.5%
Female Filmmakers & Actors as Chair of the Jury	45

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, 2021)

The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken numerous measures to improve the level of women's health, social security and insurance. The progress and achievements made by women in sports with Islamic hijab and the rise of female athletes in Asian and international arenas, winning various medals, the activities of female referees and sports managers, as described the in the following Table, have all been made under the auspices of protecting measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran to promote and encourage women's participation in society and sports.

Table No. (11): Information and Statistics Related to Women's Sports in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Information & Statistics about Women's Sports Activities
1,400,000 organized female population of athletes (377,251 in 2020 and 441,150 were active in the championship until 22 September 2022);
There were 4,737 women's sports clubs in 2020 across the country;
There are 49 active sports federations for women;
There are 273 active sports for women in the country;
Women can participate in 164 different sports in international events;
There are 121,000 female coaches across the country;
There are 88,366 female referees in national and international competitions;
There are 97 international seats in world sports federations for women;
Achieving 11 quotas in 7 sports in the Olympics and 9 quotas in 5 sports in the 2020 Paralympics;
Participation of 9 female athletes in the 2020 Olympics, winning 3 medals;
3 women athletes with disabilities took part in international competitions in 2020, winning 9 gold and 2 silver 11 medals;
Winning 91 medals in international competitions in 2021 (28 gold, 37 silver and 26 bronze) and 210 medals in 2020 (69 gold, 69 silver and 72 bronze).

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Sports and Youth, December 2021)

Moreover, the presence of national and international female referees in various sports has increased by 25% compared to the last forty years. Table (12) shows the most important measures for the development of women and girls' sports from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022.

Table (12): The Most Important Measures for the Development of Women and Girls' Sports from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Measures	Objectives	Participation Rate from 20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	Participation Rate from 21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022
Designing and planning for sports talents Olympiad for rural and nomadic girls for rural and nomadic girls and girls across the country	(In three sports: basketball, hopscotch, track & field (100 meters))	-----	-----
"Da" cultural and sports festival for rural women and girls	Increasing the participation of rural women and girls in sports activities	34,120	10,691
Women's leisure with girls' sports	Increasing the share of sports in leisure and creating social vitality among women	11,045	6,636
National Family-based Plan of Vitality & Health Competition	Institutionalizing low-cost and accessible sports in daily activities	6,997	8,668



Measures	Objectives	Participation Rate from 20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	Participation Rate from 21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022
The "Park Gam" National Plan	Institutionalizing exercise in the family and improving movement habits through walking	26,764	28,501
The Sports Pyramids (Self-Defense Skills) National Plan	Increasing the participation of young girls in sports activities and social vitality	7,880	3,081
National Plan of leisure with special sports for employees of the executive bodies	Increasing the share of sports in leisure and creating social vitality among working women	5,696	3,074
Family hiking plan (focusing on mothers and daughters)	Sustainable health, enduring nature	37,437	23,788
Designing and implementing the Neighborhood-based Adaptive Sports National Plan	Increasing the participation of specific groups in adapted sports activities (especially for elderly women, those with disabilities, special patients, pregnant women) and increasing vitality and social health	25,760	30,242

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Sports and Youth, December 2021)

Combating violence against women at prevention, protection and remediation levels has always topped the agenda. Table (13) shows the most important activities carried out in recent years to combat violence against women.

Table (13): The Most Important Measures to Combat Violence Against Women in Recent Years

Key Measures
Drafting a bill consisting of 57 articles about the criminalization of all types of violence against women in all family and social areas, entitled "Preservation of Dignity and Protection of Women Against Violence";
SWO 123 hotline to offer social services to vulnerable women
National-level activities carried out by the National Committee for the Prevention of Violence at the Department of Social Affairs and Crime Prevention of the Judiciary with the aim of combating violence, including domestic violence, and carrying out specialized interventions in safe houses to protect women and children;
Providing a safe place, specialized services including social work, psychological, legal and medical services for abused women. The duration of stay in these houses is 4 months, which can be extended for another four months.
Launching the new 1480 hotline to deal with child abuse and domestic violence against women (using 400 experts with Masters' degree and Ph.D. in psychology);

Key Measures

Providing free and 24/7 counseling in the Social Welfare Organization during the COVID-19 pandemic to deal with child abuse and intimate partner violence;

Raising public and general awareness about domestic violence against women, children, the disabled and the elderly in the form of text messages and media warnings during the pandemic;

Establishing a Committee for the Prevention of Domestic Violence in order to legally and civilly combat domestic violence, creating justice-oriented ways to realize the rights of victims and victims in the Central Bar Association since July 2018 and carrying out activities such as holding several workshops for various groups, including for non-governmental organizations, providing free counseling for victims as well as free legal representation of such victims and judicial cases thereof etc.

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Sports and Youth, December 2021)

Some of the preventive measures of the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to combat human trafficking, especially trafficking of women and children, are as follows:

Table (14): The Most Important & Recent Measures to Combat Human Trafficking, Especially Women & Girls

Key Measures

Adopting the Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents 12 June 2020, which criminalizes human trafficking in Articles 12 and 13, and prescribes punishment for the economic abuse/exploitation of children and adolescents in Article 15;

Amending the Law on Combating Human Trafficking and presenting a bill to combat human trafficking, immigrants and organs and introducing punishment for illegal border crossings in the Islamic Consultative Assembly (2021);

Establishing the National Commission for Combating Human Trafficking in the Ministry of Interior;

Joint cooperation with countries of origin and destination of human trafficking to combat this horrendous phenomenon;

(Source: Response of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in 2022 in Accordance with Resolution 44/4 of the Human Rights Council)

Considering to the fact that in some parts of the country, due to geographical conditions, girls and boys have reached physical and sexual maturity at a young age and need to get married, and sometimes their marriage has taken place without the supervision of the law, the legislator has made this conditional on the observance of Article 1041 of the Civil Code, which stipulates that marriage of a girl before reaching the age of 13 full solar years a boy before reaching the age of 15 full solar years is subject to the permission of the guardian, best benefits and interests thereof, and discretion of a competent court. The Judiciary fully monitors this group of marriages in accordance with the law. These supervisions are based upon Article 646 of the Islamic Penal Code¹⁸, enacted in 1996, the revisions of Article 1041 of the Civil Code¹⁹ and Article 50 of the Family Protection Law²⁰, enacted in

18. Premarital marriage is prohibited without the consent of the guardian. Should a man marry a girl who has not reached the age of puberty, in violation of the provisions of Article 1041 of the Civil Code and the Note thereto, he shall be sentenced to pecuniary imprisonment from six months to two years.

19. Marriage of girls before reaching the age of 13 full solar years and boys before reaching the age of 15 full solar years is subject to the permission of the Guardian, best interests thereof and the approval of the competent court.

20. Should a man marry a girl in violation of the provisions of Article 1041 of the Civil Code and the Note thereto, he shall be sentenced to pecuniary imprisonment from six months to two years. Should the marriage result in disability or permanent illness of the wife, the man, in addition to paying *diya*, shall be sentenced to fifth-degree pecuniary imprisonment (imprisonment for more than two to five years), and if the wife is pronounced dead, the man, in addition to paying *diya*, shall be sentenced to fourth-degree pecuniary imprisonment (imprisonment for more than five to ten years). Note: Whenever a natural guardian, mother, legal guardian or person in charge of custody and care of the wife is directly involved in the commission of the crime subject to this Article, he shall be sentenced to sixth-degree pecuniary imprisonment (imprisonment of more than six months to two years). This sentence is also



2012. Furthermore, on the strength of Article 56 of Family Protection Law, any official notary public who registers a marriage without obtaining a certificate or in violation of the provisions of Article 1041 of the Civil Code is sentenced to a fourth-degree punishment and prohibited from running a notary public, as envisaged in the Islamic Penal Code. It should be noted that while laws strongly prohibit forced marriages and prosecute any potential perpetrators, referrals to family courts have in recent years been met with exclusive judicial reviews by judges and issuance of marriage permits to these girls has been banned. The following are some cultural fundamental measures taken with the aim of preventing early marriage:

- ◆ Pathology of legal ambiguities in the field of under-age marriages as stipulated in Article 1041 of the Civil Code;
- ◆ Holding a specialized supportive and judicial meeting on the subject of combating early marriage; and
- ◆ Holding a scientific conference on early marriage from the perspective of the Iranian legal system, Islamic thoughts and international standards.



Children's Rights

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(Serbia)	Continue to comprehensively assess the resources needed to exercise the rights of children, in particular from the budget for social policies;	26.262
(Tunisia)	Enhance the protection and promotion of the rights of children;	26.263
(Bangladesh)	Continue efforts to strengthen child protection mechanisms and speed up the process of adopting a bill to protect children and adolescents;	26.264
(Syrian Arab Republic)	Strengthen educational and cultural programmers, especially in cases of early marriage, and pay further attention to children left behind or deprived of education;	26.266
(Uganda)	Enhance efforts to ensure full eradication of child marriages in certain parts of the country;	26.269
(Sri Lanka)	Accelerate efforts towards eliminating child abuse and child labor, and ensuring that legal action is taken against perpetrators;	26.280
(Iraq)	Continue its efforts to implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;	26.281
(Ghana)	Take steps to ensure that all criminal trials, including trials involving juvenile offenders, are fairly conducted in a manner that meets international standards;	26.284
Recommending Country	Recommendation (Noted)	Number
(Portugal)	Adopt legislation prohibiting all acts condoning or leading to child sexual abuse, and ensure legally that all persons below the age of 18, without exception, are considered as children and therefore are provided with all the rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child;	26.267
(Uganda)	268 Develop programmers and policies for the prevention, recovery and social reintegration of child victims, including child brides, in accordance with the documents adopted at the World Congresses against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	26.268
(Uruguay)	Prohibit child labor of children below 16 years of age;	26.271
(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)	Investigate sexual exploitation of children aged under 18, including through forced, early and temporary marriage, and develop a national plan to protect children at risk;	26.273
(France)	End forced marriages and violence against women and girls, including by establishing the minimum age of marriage;	26.277
(Italy)	Strengthen the efforts to combat all harmful practices against women and girls, including female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage, also by raising to 18 years the minimum legal marriage age;	26.282

The Islamic Republic of Iran, for the purpose of protecting the rights of children and adolescents, drew up and enacted numerous laws, bills and motions in the penal and civil sectors during last calendar year (March 20, 2020- March 20, 2021) and the calendar year starting March 21, 2021. Table 1 provides a summary of these measures:

Table 1: Enactment of Laws on Protecting Children's Rights (Last and Current Calendar Years)

No.	Law/Motion/Bill/National Document
1	Motion on establishment of Ministry of Social Affairs, Family and Youth, adopted in 2020
2	Adoption of Constitution for National Organization of Education of Children on March 16, 2021.
3	Bill on addendum to Law on Protecting Neglected Children and Adolescents, 2020
4	Submission of bill to parliament on the adhesion of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict
5	Adoption of Law on Protecting Children and Adolescents on May 12, 2020
6	Submission of bill to parliament on the establishment of special police for children and adolescents, 2021
7	Adoption of Document on Protecting Children and Adolescents in Cyberspace on June 7, 2021

For the purpose of countering violence against children, as per Article 10 of Law on Protecting Children and Adolescents, enacted in 2020, any molestation, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, forcing child or adolescent to pornography or any sexual abuse by persons within the prohibited degree of marriage or other persons shall constitute an offense punishable by law.

Articles 7 to 16 of said Law criminalizes other instances of violence committed against children, some of which are as follows:

- ◆ Prevention of the child by parents or legal guardians from education;
- ◆ Threatening or encouraging the child to run away from domicile or school;
- ◆ Negligence causing bodily harm to the child;
- ◆ Contact or contactless sexual harassment of the child;
- ◆ Smuggling, selling or buying the child, forcing or paying the child for pornography or sexual abuse
- ◆ Child trafficking
- ◆ Using the child in the production, distribution, projection and promotion of obscene audiovisual works;
- ◆ Facilitating child suicide, economic exploitation of the child and selling tobacco to the child.

Furthermore, special protective services are offered by centers specializing in intervention in personal and family crises, social emergency centers, social service stations and mobile social emergency service for the purpose of combating exercise of violence against children. See table below.

Table 2: Statistics on Admission and Provision of Services for Child Protection Against Violence and Misconduct

Year	Center for Intervention in Personal, Family and Social Crises	Social Emergency Hotline	Social Emergency Mobile Services	Social Service Station
March 20, 2020- March 20, 2021	8,399	40,325	19,424	887

The Islamic Republic of Iran, for the purpose of protecting children and adolescents, with a view to reducing child vulnerability and pursuing the children's best interests in judicial proceedings, as provided in the Islamic Penal Code adopted in 2013, particularly Article 88-95 on the incremental age of criminal responsibility, Code of Criminal Procedure adopted in 2013 and Law on Protecting Children and Adolescents, adopted in 2020, has undertaken a series of measures, some of which are listed in Table 3:

Table 3: Main Measures on Fair Proceedings for Children and Adolescents

No.	Measure
1	Allocating a special prosecution and court bench to hear offenses committed by children and adolescents
2	Applying a regime of incremental age of responsibility for children and adolescents
3	Application of alternative punishments to imprisonment for children and adolescents, including handing over to family or holding in juvenile detention centers
4	Non-obligation of children to attend hearings
5	Adopting corrective and rehabilitative decisions instead of issuing judgments for children aged under 15
6	Envisioning special police for children and adolescents
7	Obligation of defense attorney presence throughout proceedings for children and adolescents
8	Offering free legal and judicial assistance to children and adolescent files
9	Obligation for the establishment of character file for children and social assistant presence during proceedings for children and adolescents
10	Obligation for presence of counsellor at children tribunals
11	Periodic visit to juvenile detention centers
12	Establishment of peace bench with experts and social assistants in attendance
13	Establishment of special benches to handle child molestation cases
14	Medical and psychiatric examinations and ensuring mental health of children and adolescents
15	Establishing children rights clinics for educating and promoting children rights, legal counselling and assistance, psychological counselling
16	Training judges at tribunals for children and adolescents on an annual basis
17	Establishing the Office to Protect Children and Adolescents as per Article 4 of Law on Protecting Children and Adolescents at Justice Departments across the Country to clear the way for cooperation with other relevant bodies



No.	Measure
18	Educating bailiffs on how to deal with delinquent children
19	Non-application of the rule of recidivism (to aggravate punishment) in children and adolescents proceedings
20	Easier process of demanding retrial from the Supreme Court
21	Non-registration of criminal background for children and adolescents

The Islamic Republic of Iran conducted measures last and current calendar years in the sector of health, hygiene, social security and insurance for children, some of which are listed in Table 4.

Table 4: Health and Insurance Measures for Children (Last and Current Calendar Years)

No.	Measure
1	In order to support children aged under 8 I benefiting from proper life standards and social security, 51,500 households were covered agricultural, rural and nomadic insurance and 49,462 households under social security coverage for female heads of urban household.
2	Protecting street children under "Social Support Comprehensive Plan" to be entitled to registration of the date of birth, identifying nationality, enjoyment of proper life and housing standards, right to education, emancipation from violence, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, smuggling, prevention of working children, access to proceedings
3	Possibility for all children, including children with disabilities, working children, HIV-positives and unaccompanied child refugees to health services based upon (gender/age/village/city) separation procedures
4	Conducting hearing screening for children aged 3-5 on extensive pilot project (under way)
5	Carrying out national amblyopia prevention plan for children aged 3-6 for the purpose of improving optical health and preventing optical disability among children
6	Providing mental health services, including psychiatric and counseling services, to children with psychological problems including stress and depression and providing psychological services to children suffering from mental disorder and taking clinical tests at public and private counselling centers under supervision of State Welfare Organization
7	Providing nutritional and healthcare services to children suffering from phenylketonuria to help improve child growth
8	Holding training courses on AIDS prevention, specifically for street children and children with disabilities
9	Implementing "Plan for Family-Based Immunization of Children Before Primary School Age Against Addiction" for the parents of children at nursery schools
10	Setting up post-rehab care centers for drug addicted neglected children the three provinces of Tehran, Siŝtan Baluchestan and Mazandaran
11	Drawing up and implementing distance rehabilitation plan in collaboration with private education centers for rehabilitation of children with disabilities across the Country during covid-19 pandemic
12	Development of 63 protective-educational counselling centers at provincial levels
13	Providing counselling and awareness services at SWO-run counselling centers to adolescents who have fallen victims of sexual abuse

No.	Measure
14	Implementing "Plan for Nutritional Protection of Under-5 Children, Pregnant and Breast-feeding Mothers" (Last calendar year, with the implementation of this plan, 13,074 children aged under-5, 8,307 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and 157,797 needy households received aid portion.
15	Implementing livelihood plan for under-5 malnourished children in needy families at eight provinces, covering 36,742 children
16	Implementing supplementation plan with vitamin A megadose for children aged 205 in six provinces with food unsafety: Bushehr, Sistan Baluchestan, Hormuzgan, Kerman, South Khorasan, Khuzestan
17	Implementing nutrition support plan for pregnant and breast-feeding mothers in needy families from last calendar year and covering 45,000 pregnant and breast-feeding mothers
18	Implementing pilot plan for instructions on treatment of children in the healthcare sector in three provinces as models of communications with children at healthcare centers
19	Providing services to working children and street children of foreign nationality at social emergency centers
20	Providing various psychological-social services to children exposed to violence to abuse, street children, working children under tough conditions, children exposed to collective disasters at social emergency centers
21	Launching 123 and 1480 hotlines to report child molestation
22	Operation of 350 social emergency centers across Iran

By virtue of Law on Procuring Facilities to Iranian Children and Adolescents, enacted on July 21, 1974, all Iranian children and adolescents eligible for schooling should face no obstacle. This Law reiterates free education for all up to the end of high school. Last and current calendar year, the Islamic Republic of Iran has undertaken a series of measures, as listed in Table 5, to facilitate children and adolescents' access to education and prevent dropping out of school specifically against the covid-19 pandemic.

Table 5: Measures for Children Access to Education

No.	Measure
1	Article 7 of Law on Protecting Children and Adolescents, enacted in 2020, criminalizes children's prevention by parents and legal guardians from education. in case either of parents or any legal guardians deny them the right to education up to the end of high school in any form whatsoever, they shall be punished as provided in the same Article.
2	Providing financial support and job creation for families of children left out of school in 2020
3	Continued education of children in cyberspace and Shad network and preventing halt in education during covid-19 pandemic
4	Setting up televised school and education courses by most experienced and most skilled teachers of elementary schools during covid-19 pandemic
5	Production of electronic contents (education films) for all textbooks of elementary school: more than 7,000 films, launching learning channels and loading contents during covid-19 pandemic



No.	Measure
6	Distribution of 15,000 tablets by Barket Foundation and 14,000 tablets by Alavi Foundation for needy schoolchildren
7	Production of courses for children without access to Internet during covid-19 pandemic
8	Supervising and steering education and learning of schoolchildren regularly by relevant authorities

In execution of Article 12(1) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Islamic Republic of Iran submitted in 2021 its first report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the implementation of the provisions provided therein. The report contains information and data about the measures undertaken with regard to application of principles of the Convention and the Optional Protocol, including legal and institutional framework, particularly criminal regulations for child trafficking, prostitution and pornography, punishments envisioned therefor as well as security measures and social reeducation.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's National Committee of the Convention on the Rights of the Child agreed on a joint program (2021-2022) with UNICEF in 2021. The agreement includes cooperation on developing education resources, capacity building for child rights experts, holding workshops for those involved in children's affairs, holding specialized forums to resolve the challenges of children in provinces.

In Iran, child rights clinics have been set up as a scientific and purposeful mechanism with a view to achieving the high goals set for protecting children's rights. Some 22 child rights clinics are operational in various provinces to control social harms inflicted on children, providing psychological counseling, legal and judicial and educational support and promoting children's rights.

Kidnapping is absolutely criminalized in Iranian penal code, but due to the necessary of clearer explanation of the crime of child trafficking in the Law on Protecting Children and Adolescent, adopted in 2020, child trafficking is explicitly considered an independent crime. Article 5 of said Law stipulates: "Any transaction involving a child or adolescent is prohibited and the perpetrator is sentenced to two to five years imprisonment."

In the legal system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, mechanisms have been considered to prevent early and forced marriages. for instance, according to Article 1041 of Civil Code, marriage under legal age is subject to the permission and ruling of a competent court. Furthermore, as per Articles 50 and 56 of the Family Protection Law, if the couple, the child and the marriage registrar act in violation of the provisions of Article 1041 of Civil Code, they will be sentenced to imprisonment. Moreover, according to Article 45 of the Family Protection Law, considering children and adolescents' best interests should be taken into consideration in all decisions made by courts and executive authorities. in addition, in order to take practical measures to prevent early marriage, children 15 are issued four-page birth certificates, which are exclusively for personal identification and registration of death, with no space for marriage. As a result, the applicant for such a marriage shall have to obtain a court permission conforming majority.

In order to protect street children and reduce their number and identify underlying causes such as poverty, domestic violence, migration and lack of access to education in order to prevent and reduce

this phenomenon, the Sixth National Development Plan (2017-2021) requires the Welfare Organization to cooperate with other bodies in reducing the population of working children by at least 25% by the end of the plan.

The main practical measures adopted to protect working children are as follows:

- ◆ A network assisting working children has been established, under which NGOs involved in working children in Tehran Province have teamed up to use capacities available in protecting working children and providing education to them. The services provided by these NGOs include services which would help reduce the duration of children's presence in the streets or minimize consequences of their street presence, including education about AIDS, drugs, sexually transmissible diseases and infectious diseases, counselling, HIV test, healthcare services during sexual violence, forming treatment groups for child and family, introduction to healthcare centers, opening files and following up on the case of children and their family;
- ◆ Implementing "social protection for street children and working children" with a child-friendly approach and focus on empowering children and families to become independent of SWO support;
- ◆ Educating the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the interpretation No. 21 (governing protection of street children) to all policymakers, executive, legislative and judicial organs, police forces, education staff, social assistants, health professionals and all those involved in street children affairs;
- ◆ Non-discriminatory provision of protective-educational services to street children and working children regardless of nationality, ethnicity, language and religion of child and family;
- ◆ Implementing "Comprehensive Plan on Social Support for Street Children" and providing legal protection services to street children or children's access to justice and effective compensation.

Table 6: Street Children Admission

Year	6 th Development Plan Projection	SWO Performance
2016	9,000	9,287
2017	6,330	10,000
2018	6,660	11,000
2019	6,999	12,324
2020	7,323	12,724
2021	7,658	-

In order to protect children against economic exploitation, besides Labor Law having increased the minimum age for employment by 3 years, the Law on Protecting Children and Adolescents, enacted in 2020, also describes illegal employment of children or forcing or assigning them to any activity or service, which is physically, mentally, morally or socially harmful or dangerous depending on their conditions, as "economic exploitation" thereby criminalizing economic exploitation of persons under 18 years of age.

Freedom of Formation and Activities of Parties, Expression and Access to Information

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(Ghana)	Continue to enact and fully implement legislation that seeks to promote and protect the rights to freedom of the media, speech and religion;	26.162
(New Zealand)	Take steps to encourage freedom of expression, ensuring that human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists are not subjected to intimidation or arbitrary arrest in connection with their work;	26.167
(Republic of Korea)	Implement fully the relevant laws to hold to account the perpetrators of intimidation and reprisals against human rights defenders and journalists;	26.324
(Belgium)	Fully guarantee the rights of freedom of expression and to peaceful assembly and association, by creating an enabling environment, especially for women human rights defenders and human rights lawyers;	26.325
(Slovenia)	Protect human rights defenders and media workers and fully guarantee the right to freedom of expression and association;	26.326
(Norway)	Create a safe and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, especially women human rights defenders;	26.329
Recommending Country	Recommendation (Noted)	Number
(Australia)	Guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly, and release political prisoners, including women's rights activists, labor rights activists, environmentalists, scholars, lawyers and journalists, detained for exercising these rights;	26.157
(Finland)	Implement its international obligations to ensure the protection of human rights defenders, lawyers and others exercising their rights to freedom of opinion and expression, assembly and association in compliance with international human rights law, and to ensure that all investigations, prosecutions and trials against human rights defenders meet international standards;	26.161
(Italy)	Guarantee freedom of opinion, expression and assembly and cease arresting human rights defenders peacefully exercising these rights;	26.165
(France)	Guarantee freedom of peaceful assembly, expression and the press, by removing the restrictions to access local and international news sites, and by releasing persons detained for having exercised or defended these rights;	26.169
(Argentina)	Guarantee freedom of expression, particularly of men and women human rights defenders and journalists, and repeal legal provisions that affect these rights;	26.156

The Freedom of Parties, Associations & Peaceful Demonstrations

On the strength of Article 26 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the formation of parties, societies, political or professional guilds, as well as religious associations, Islamic or pertaining to one of the recognized religious minorities, is permitted under the framework of law. No one may be prevented from participating in the aforementioned groups, or compelled to participate therein. Political parties and groups in the Islamic Republic of Iran work in order to fulfill the provisions of the aforesaid Article and in accordance with the Law on the Activities of Parties and Associations, enacted in 1981. by virtue of Article 10 of the abovenamed Law, a commission with the same title has been established in the Ministry of Interior, which is tasked with issuing licenses, including for civil entities. Furthermore, pursuant to Articles 11 and 13 of the aforementioned Law, the request to hold rallies and marches, including the rights of the parties, is licensed. in this context, the most important measures taken during the preparation of this report are presented as hereinunder.

Table No. (1): The Most Important Measures Taken to Ensure the Freedom of Parties, Associations & Peaceful Demonstrations

Key Measures
Establishing 245 provincial branches in order to handle requests for the establishment and activities of parties;
Allocating annual subsidies to empower parties;
Granting activity licenses to 126 political parties and groups;
Granting activity licenses to 10 political parties within the reporting period;
Reaching an initial agreement to approve license requests of 16 other political parties within the reporting period;
Holding more than 600 peaceful labor, students, trade unions etc. demonstrations without permission in the country;
Ensuring the security of all gatherings by the police;
Establishing 7 specialized parties in the field of women's affairs. 15 women are work as the founding board members of these parties;
Ensuring active participation of more than 5,000 women in political parties and groups.

Source: Human Rights Achievements Report of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 20 March 2020 - 22 September 2022

In Iranian law, which originates from the rules of Islam, the right to freedom of expression has been recognized and, of course, there have been however certain restrictions placed thereon. This right is protected and guaranteed under Articles 24, 26, 27 and 175 of the Constitution. The right to freedom of expression is manifested in the Iranian legal system in various fields such as press, radio and television and cyberspace. The Law on Dissemination and Free Access to Information, enacted on 22 August 2009, recognizes the right of free access to public information for all Iranians. in addition,



the right to freedom of expression is not an absolute right in the Iranian legal system, similar to the international legal system (Article 19, paragraph 3, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights), and there are restrictions thereon in accordance with the law. These restrictions include incitement to international crime, conflict with the privacy of individuals, insulting religions, conflict with intellectual property and professional ethics.

Table No. (2): The Most Important Measures Taken in the Field of Communication & Information Technology

Key Measures
Increasing the number of home and business fixed-Internet subscribers for more than 11 million people in 2021
Expanding fiber-optic cables in order to create a communication infrastructure in the Country and increasing the Internet speed 5 times by offering a new Internet service called VDSL
Facilitating people's access to mobile internet and increasing users thereof by more than 13% in 2021. Over 132 million mobile subscribers are currently registered in the country
Increasing mobile internet speed by switching to 5G bandwidth
Providing online support packages to professors, teachers, students during the COVID-19 pandemic to support the educational process
Providing access to home phones and mobile coverage in more than 95,000 villages and over 95% of the main and secondary roads of the Country respectively.

Source: Report of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

The right of access to information, publications, press and media is one of the tools to guarantee and enforce the right to freedom of expression. to that end and in line with the implementation of Articles 24, 26 and 27 of the Constitution regarding the freedom of expression, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken several measures to guarantee and implement this right. Protecting the rights of authors, writers, artists and creators of multimedia software, granting multiple licenses and certificates for publishing books, press and online media, issuing multiple licenses for mobile software and supporting the export of cultural and artistic products, encouraging and facilitating the effective presence thereof in global markets are measures taken to guarantee the aforesaid right.

Table No. (3): The Most Important Measures Taken in The Field of Publications, Press and Media

Key Measures
Developing electronic services in the field of issuing licenses and publishing licenses, including for domestic news agencies, publishing public magazines, publishing domestic magazines, establishing film production institutes, and more than 80 other cases;
Taking measures to plan and monitor the implementation of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Authors, Writers, Artists and Researchers and the Law on the Protection of Creators of Multimedia Software, as well as establishing centers to register the works of creators, such as issuing 115 licenses, 2,255 publish licenses, registering 33,519 mobile software content, registering 18,035 mobile games content, issuing license for 3,945 websites etc.
Supporting 9 digital cultural institutions (publishers) for illustrious products and introducing them to the Art Credit Fund to receive a loan of IRR150bn 2020;
Launching and unveiling the “Sadaf” platform to protect the material and intellectual property of digital cultural works;
Issuing public notification of instructions on licensing the activities of digital cultural institutions;
Planning to support the export of cultural and artistic products, facilitating an effective presence in global markets, identifying and introducing training classes in the field of export and entrepreneurship for the Association of Exporters of Software and Digital Content, preparing the final version of the document for developing cultural products at the international level etc.;
Facilitating the import of foreign-printed and computer products, including the import of a total of 773,674 works;
Supporting and protecting 171 Iran-based foreign media outlets, including providing for 336 Iran-based foreign journalists;
Supporting religious minority media by facilitating the licensing process therefor and reducing the waiting period for obtaining a license. There are currently three newspapers in Armenian, Assyrian and Zoroastrian languages in the Country and three media outlets;
Supporting Iranian ethnic media (499 media outlets are currently published in various Azeri-language publications, 21 of which operate as newspapers. in 2016, the number stood at 262, which increased by almost 100% and reached 499. The number of media outlets operating in Kurdish, Lori, Baluchi, Turkmen and Gilaki languages and dialects currently stands at 211.
Supporting women to take an active part in the press and media. There are currently 2,336 female executives working in the Country’s media;
Adopting supportive policies for journalists and members of the media, such as providing basic insurance to 364 journalists, granting 13 low-interest loans through the Art Credit Fund, granting 13,741 special gifts on Journalist Day, pursuing 12,000 free internet allocations to journalists etc.;
Publishing 95,031 books with total editions of 119,298,464, and 46,375 books with total editions of 47,960,266 in 2020 2020 respectively. 1,051 publishers and 23,543 authors of the authors were women;
Taking measures to plan for supporting the export of cultural and artistic products and facilitating an effective presence in global markets, including supporting the translation of 21 books by 9 foreign publishers in 2020 and attending 8 international book fairs from 21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022;
Supporting audio-visual productions, including through licensing and assisting in the establishment and operation of fashion and clothing institutes, 83 in 2020 and 30 in 2021, supporting the activities of 245 fashion houses in 2020 and 98 in 2021, registration of the work and granting confirmation of intellectual property certificate, 484 cases in 2020 and 827 people in 2021 etc.



The most important Government institutions in the Islamic Republic of Iran arise from the direct and indirect will and vote of the people. The Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution is elected as the commander-in-chief through the vote of the Assembly of Experts, whose representatives are elected by direct vote of the people. Other high-ranking officials, including the President and members of Parliament, are also elected by direct popular vote. During the last 43 years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has held more than 35 presidential, Assembly of Experts, Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic City and Village Councils elections with a huge turnout.

Table No. (4): The Most Important Measures Taken in The Field of Guaranteeing and Implementing Free Elections

Key Measures
The thirteenth presidential election was held on 18 June 2021 (number of eligible voters: 59,310,307, number of voters: 28,989,529, female turnout: 49%, male turnout: 51%, number of polling stations: 66,834 branches, the turnout: 48.8%). It should be noted that such a participation rate came despite the pandemic.
The sixth round of the Parliamentary elections was held on 18 June 2021 (number of eligible voters: 59,310,307, number of voters: 27,903,568, female women: 49%, male turnout: 51%, number of polling stations: 76,354 branches, number of females registering to run in the elections: 20,594, number of female candidates: 11,307, and turnout: 47%)

Source: The Ministry of Interior, Human Rights Achievements Report of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 20 March 2020 - 22 September 2022



Rights of Refugees, Asylum seekers and illegal immigrants

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	Number
(Sri Lanka)	Continue measures to protect and promote the rights of migrant workers in line with the relevant international instruments;	26.321
(Afghanistan)	Continue to ensure that all refugees within the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoy their basic human rights and are protected from arbitrary arrest, humiliation and enforced expulsion;	26.322

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Noted)	Number
(Afghanistan)	Ensure that children of registered refugees and unregistered foreigners are provided with birth certificates.	26.323

According to the annual planning statistics in the Islamic Republic of Iran, about 800,000 registered refugees live in the Country and the number of illegal refugees is close to 3 million. Upon entering the Iranian territory and submitting an asylum application, and after the application goes through the legal process and is accepted, all citizens will enjoy their fundamental rights and the protection of the Islamic Republic of Iran in accordance with international conventions. The Islamic Republic of Iran provides the necessary support to these people in various fields such as livelihood, health, education, vocational training, empowerment and holding cultural ceremonies thereof. Necessary support is provided even to illegal refugees. It is worth noting that officially-registered refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran are immune from forced deportation. The most important development in relation to refugees in the reporting period is the approval of the Bylaw on Granting Iranian Citizenship to Children Born to Iranian Women Married to Foreign Men by the Cabinet on 10 May 2020. From the beginning of the implementation of the said Bylaw until 22 September 2022, 96,970 people registered in the General Directorate of Foreign Citizens and Immigrants website, and 6923 people were issued ID cards. Table No. (1) shows number of birth certificates issued for non-Iranian citizens, Table No. (2) shows the status of registration and issuance of Iranian identity cards for children born to Iranian women married to foreign men until 22 September 2020 and Table No. (3) shows statistics of identity cards issuance for foreign women married to Iranian men (included in Paragraph 6 of Article 976 of the Civil Code) from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022.

Table No. (1): The Number of Birth Certificates Issued to Non-Iranians from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Period	Number of Birth Certificates Issued to Non-Iranians
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	2,365
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022	1,465
Total	3,803

(Source: Report of the Civil Registration Organization - 2021)



Table No. 2: Results of the Implementation of Bylaw on Granting Iranian Citizenship to Children Born to Iranian Women Married to Foreign Men until 22 September 2022

Period	Total Number of Pre-Registered People	Approvals	Issuance of Identity card
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	96,970	14,048	1,110
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022		15,444	5,813
Total		29,792	6,922

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Interior - 2021)

Table No. (3): Issuance of ID Cards for Foreign Spouses of Iranian Men from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Period	ID Cards for Foreign Spouses of Iranian Men
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	1,166
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022	547
Total	1,713

(Source: Report of the Civil Registration Organization - 2021)

Minimizing the number of children required for education by foreign nationals is one of the priorities of the educational system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Every year, the Islamic Republic of Iran develops special procedures for the registration of foreign students with the approach of 100% coverage of these students similar to Iranian students. The manifestation and example of such an approach which is based upon non-discriminatory equality and justice can be clearly seen in the provisions of the aforementioned manuals and methods. For instance, Article 2 of the Foreigners Student Registration Procedure states: "Students with valid residency permits can enroll in all levels of education up to the diploma level in formal schools and can continue their studies". Moreover, pursuant to Note 3 of the aforesaid Article: "The education of foreign students in non-governmental schools, governmental leading high schools, schools for exceptional talents, as well as schools for persons with disabilities is in accordance with the instructions issued therefor, and similar to Iranian students." In addition, Note 3 of the abovenamed Article has stipulated the provision of free education thereto without receiving tuition, similar to Iranian students.

Table No. (4): Status of Foreign Students Living in the Country

Academic Year	Authorized Students	Unauthorized Students Needing Education	Total	Percentage Increase Compared to Previous Year
2019-2020	362,080	138,000	500,080	4%
2020-2021	341,327	182,519	523,846	5%

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Interior - 2021)

Table No. (5): Status of Students on Nationality

Academic Year	Afghans	Iraqis	Other Nationalities	Total
2019-2020	471,572	7,278	21,230	500,080
2020-2021	497,684	7,298	18,864	523,846

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Interior - 2021)

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in addition to providing educational conditions for refugees and foreign nationals, has not spared any assistance in raising the quality level of classrooms and completing educational equipment. The population of sponsored foreign students is scattered throughout the Country in all schools, but a huge sum of money is spent on developing the per capita facilities of these schools to accept and render necessary services thereto. At the same time, every year the construction of covered schools is increased with the help of domestic and international institutions and NGOs. The following table shows the related statistics in 2020 and 2021.

Table No. (6): Number of Schools for Foreign Nationals

Year	Schools for Foreign Nationals
2020	7
2021	7
Total	14

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Education - 2021)

Furthermore, 26,837 foreign nationals and immigrants have been identified and registered through joint cooperation agreements with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 22,671 tablets were provided to refugee students through international and domestic organizations to benefit from the “Shad” platform. The literacy program for foreign nationals has been implemented in order to empower foreign immigrants with the priority of Afghan nationals to improve individual and social life thereof; the aforesaid program has managed to cover 104,494 illiterate citizens from 2018 to 2021. It is worth mentioning that the literacy level of refugees was less than 6% upon arrival in the country, but now more than 60% of refugees are literate.

Table No. (7): Number of Foreign National and Immigrant literates Covered from 2018 to 2020

Year	Number
2018	30,633
2019	32,519
2020	24,095
2021	17,247
Total	104,494

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Education - 2021)

There are 58,211 foreign students studying in the country, of which, 15,995 are Afghan students, of whom 525 (on scholarships and non-scholarships) study under the Ministry of Health educational centers, 1,700 at the Islamic Azad University and the rest at other public universities. It should be noted that Afghan students have been awarded scholarships in various educational levels in the form of memorandums, etc., including:

- ◆ Awarding 500 scholarships including 239 scholarships to Afghan professors for Master’s and Ph.D, M.D. based upon the 2012 Memorandum;
- ◆ Awarding scholarships to those who have been accepted with top ranks in the national university entrance examination; and
- ◆ Awarding more than 600 scholarships to assistant lecturers and professors of Afghan universities since 2017.

Among other measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to support the promotion of education of Afghan citizens are: approving a plan to ban prohibited areas for the movement and education of Afghan citizens, issuing student visas for Afghan female students without the need to leave the Country with the cooperation of relevant institutions, introducing Afghan students with residence permits to the Afghan Embassy to acquire a free e-passport, lifting a ban on studying in some fields for Afghan citizens and awarding Afghan nationals the highest number of scholarships which can be given to non-Iranians.

Table No. (8): International Students Studying in 2020-2021 Academic Year

Total	Afghans	Iraqis	Pakistanis	Others
58,211	15,995	36,421	1,624	4,171

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Interior - 2021)

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, all primary health services such as infectious disease screening, vaccination and other services are provided to all immigrants, foreign national, whether registered or unregistered, without any discrimination in comparison to Iranian nationals and free of charge, on the recommendation of the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution. Since 2015, the public health insurance scheme for refugees living in the Islamic Republic of Iran has been launched through the Health Insurance Organization, and all registered refugees, similar to Iranians, have enjoyed the benefits of a comprehensive package of basic inpatient and temporary hospitalization services. Moreover, vulnerable groups of refugees were covered by free health insurance, as shown in the table below.

Table No. (9): Number of Refugee Health Insurance Coverage

Year	Number
2020	100,000
2021	120,000
Total	220,000

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Interior - 2021)

The Islamic Republic of Iran has responded to the health needs of refugees by adopting various approaches and left no stone unturned to provide the most sustainable possible solution in promoting the health of refugees living in hotels and urban areas across the Country. In addition to covering 105 health centers on an annual basis, these activities include vaccination, pre-pregnancy and post-pregnancy care, maternal and child care, special care for rare contagious and non-contagious diseases and providing treatment therefor, provision of essential medicines and supplements, medical services and rehabilitation. Furthermore, should a foreign national refer to a health center for childbirth, after full identification of the parents and in order to prevent possible abuse in the future, a birth certificate will be issued to the children of foreign nationals, whether authorized or unauthorized.

Table No. (10): A General Overview of Provision of Medical Services to Immigrants and Refugees by Government Centers and NGOs from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Type of Services	Number of People Receiving Services	Government Centers, NGOs Offering Services
Medical services for cancer patients	70	The Mahak Society to Support Children with Cancer
Cardiac, orthopedics, reconstructive surgeries	45 18-year-old children	Zanjire Omid Kids House
Medical and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities	850 refugees with disabilities	S.R.S
Free health services (training classes, vaccination, health packages, covering medicine and medical costs etc.)	All foreign nationals	The Ministry of Health and Medical Education, the Center of Communicable Disease Control

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Interior - 2021)

The Islamic Republic of Iran has also taken measures to serve refugees, expand the quantity and quality of sports, encourage the young generation and various segments of the refugee community to maintain health, create appropriate conditions for participation thereof in sports activities, discover and encourage sports talents at different ages. Currently, nearly 50,000 athletes (45,000 men and 5,000 women) are organized and active in the form of 2,500 different sports teams, and a number of them, in addition to winning medals, have voluntarily returned to their Country to strongly represent Afghanistan by playing in national teams and clubs. Moreover, measures taken to support the health of refugees during the COVID-19 pandemic are as outlined as hereunder:

Table (11): Measures to Combat COVID-19 and Protect Refugees' Health

Key Measures
Providing foreign nationals and immigrants with free access to all COVID-related services;
Providing health and medical items for refugees and migrants;
Screening of all foreign nationals in three stages in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education;
Administering 3,035496 COVID-19 shots to both authorized and unauthorized refugees and foreign nationals until September 2021;
Providing psychological, social and economic support to 48,938 and 38,512 immigrants and refugees in 2020 and 2020 respectively by social units of the Country's medical centers.

(Source: Reports of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education - 2021)

The issuance of temporary work permits for foreign nationals is done through the offices of residence and employment services for expatriates throughout the Country. Employment permits are issued to men over 18 and under 60, and those in special situations (persons with diseases, disability etc.) are exempt from receiving a work permit. Female heads of households can also obtain a work permit if so wished.

Table No. (12): The Rate of Issuance of Work Permits for Refugees in Different Sectors

Total	Job classification				
	Industry	Agriculture	Services	Construction	Other
208,883	89,279	15,923	93,550	10,084	47
Percentage	42%	8%	45%	5%	

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Interior - 2021)

2,739 work visas were issued in 2020 for skilled foreign nationals and 116 for non-eligible foreign nationals. Furthermore, 4,797 and 1,647 work permits were renewed for skilled and non-eligible foreign nationals respectively. 25,675 temporary work permits were issued and 180,821 temporary work permits were renewed. The establishment, equipping and development of vocational training workshops is carried out in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Program and the Norwegian Refugee Agency for the Employment of Immigrants and Refugees. Table (14) shows the statistics of construction, equipment and development of vocational training workshops in 2020 and 2021.

Table (13): The Statistics of Construction, equipment & Development of Vocational Training Workshops in 2020 & 2021

Year	Workshop on Money Making
2020	55
2021	19
Total	74

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Interior - 2022)

Technical and vocational education is also provided in an effort to reduce dependence among Afghan refugees through livelihood empowerment and self-reliance by meeting the needs of technical and vocational skills in the garment, electrical, mechanical, construction agricultural, etc. industries. These projects will help strengthen the skills and capacities of refugees for economic development and preparation for voluntary return thereof to Afghanistan. The Office of the Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran and some other organizations are participating in such projects. Table No. (14) shows the number of technically and professionally trained immigrants and refugees in 2020 and 2021.

Table No. (14): The Number of Technically & Professionally Trained Immigrants & Refugees in 2020 & 2022

Period	Number
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	3,448
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022	2,542
Total	5,990

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Interior - 2022)

The table below shows the amount of cash assistance to vulnerable immigrant and refugee households from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2020. In addition, the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation has covered 132 families with a population of 175 people from 20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021, 137 families with a population of 335 people from 21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022.

Table (15): Number of Vulnerable Immigrant & Refugee Families Receiving Cash Assistance

Period	Number
20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	4,541
21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022	2,339
Total	6,880

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Interior - 2022)

The Mines Left Behind from the Iran-Iraq War

Recommending Country	Recommendation (Supported)	number
(Sri Lanka)	Continue measures leading to landmine clearance on its territory, with the support of international and national stakeholders;	26.59

As a result of the invasion of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the former Ba'athist regime of Iraq, and the launching of the eight-year imposed war from 1980 to 1988, the Ba'athist regime forces – in addition to using illegal weapons and weapons of mass destruction such as chemical weapons – planted landmines in a large area of western and southwestern Iran. According to statistics, the former Ba'athist regime of Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussein, has planted nearly 20 million different types of landmines and several million unexploded explosive ordnance in more than 4.2 million hectares of Iranian land during the eight-year imposed war; as a result of which, the Islamic Republic of Iran has become the second Country with most landmines implanted therein in the world. However, due to the unjust political and economic sanctions, no international cooperation and assistance has been provided by governments and international organizations to Iran, and the Islamic Republic has been demining all alone.

The Most Important Measures Taken by the Demining Center of the Ministry of Defense & Armed Forces Logistics from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

No.	Measures
1	Demining 15,862 hectares of land contaminated with landmines and explosives left from the imposed war;
2	Detecting, neutralizing and destructing 52,115 landmines and 69,131 unexploded explosive ordnance;
3	Carrying out 1,458 emergency operations in cities, villages and agricultural and industrial lands following discovery of landmines;
4	Neutralizing, transferring and destructing 2,250 landmines, 8,722 unexploded explosive ordnance and 45 types of unexploded landmines;
5	Designing, producing and developing a comprehensive demining information management system using the capacity of specialists and a national knowledge-based company;
6	Reducing human casualties by 35% due to explosion of landmines and explosives in 2020 (number of casualties in 2020: 19 injured and 6 killed)
7	Producing various educational products with the aim of raising awareness of the dangers of landmines and explosives left from imposed war in accordance with the educational target groups (mainly for children and adolescents)

Other Human Rights Achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran

The Right to Clean Water & Energy

Nearly IRR620,000bn have been spent on water and electricity industry projects since 2013 to 2020. Statistics show that 99.82% of the urban population and 82.95% of the rural population in the Islamic Republic of Iran have benefited from the blessings of safe and sustainable drinking water until 22 September 2022. This global figure is 85% and 53%, respectively. According to the World Health Organization, basic services mean having a protected drinking water source that takes less than 30 minutes to collect water from, using an improved toilet or latrine that does not have to be shared with other households, and having handwashing facilities with soap and water in the home. Based upon this definition, more than 93% of the rural population in Iran has access to safe drinking water. But should we leave out mobile water supply systems, 82.95% of the rural population have access to safe drinking water.

Table No. (1): Rural Water Subscribers & Rural Population Covered by Hygienic & Sustainable Water Supply

Year	Until 22 September 2013	2013 to 2017	Until 20 March 2020	Until 22 September 2022
Rural population covered by rural water	900,000+	4,600,000+	9,300,000+	10,200,000+
Population covered by rural water	-	-	82.95%	82.95%
Rural water subscribers	-	-	6,704	6,025

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Energy - 2021)

As the table above shows, by the end of 20 March 2020, over 9,300,000 villagers have benefited from safe and sustainable water. Since 22 September 2013 to 20 March 2020, on average, 1,162,000 rural people in 13,200 villages have had access to sustainable and safe water every year. Accordingly, during this period, an average of 31 villages are connected to a safe and sustainable water network each week, and about 60 million cubic meters of water is supplied to the rural sector. Moreover, in order to provide equal access to water supply facilities and services to all sections of society, water service centers for villagers have been tripled, which has led to the acceleration of the implementation of rural water supply projects.

Table No. (2): The Latest Status of Urban Water Facilities from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Statistics	20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022
Water production rate	8,396 million cubic meters per year	4,613 million cubic meters per year
Urban water subscribers	17,507	17,667
Population covered by urban water	99.82%	99.82%
Population covered by rural water	82.95%	82.95%

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Energy - 2021)



Table No. (3): The Number of National Dams until 22 September 2022

Before 1978 Islamic Revolution	Until 22 September 2013	Dams put into operation 2013 - 2017	Dams put into operation 2017 - 2021	Until 22 September 2022
19	144	25	32	201

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Energy - 2021)

From 2017 to 20 March 2021, on average, one dam has been put into operation every 50 days. 57 reservoir dams have also been put into operation until 20 March 2021, using national credits.

Table No. (4): Number of Water Treatment Plants

Before 1978 Islamic Revolution	Until 22 September 2013	Water treatment plants put into operation 2013 - 2017	Water treatment plants put into operation 2017 - 2021	Until 22 September 2022
27	119	20	36	175

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Energy - 2021)

From 21 March 2013 to 20 March 2021, on average, seven water treatment plants are put into operation every year. From 21 March 2017 to 20 March 2021, on average, a refinery is put into operation every two months. 56 large water treatment plants and 101 wastewater treatment plants have been put into operation until 20 March 2021.

Table No. (5): Number of Wastewater Treatment Plants

Before 1978 Islamic Revolution	Until 22 September 2013	Wastewater treatment plants put into operation 2013 - 2017	Wastewater treatment plants put into operation 2017 - 2021	Until 22 September 2022
4	168	39	62	269

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Energy - 2021)

From 21 March 2013 to 20 March 2021, on average, a wastewater treatment plant is put into operation every month. Currently, more than 50% of the urban population is covered by the wastewater collection and treatment system. Other measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide people with access to safe and sustainable water are outlined as hereunder:

- ◆ In order to solve sewage-related problems in Khuzestan province, the necessary credit has been provided for the construction of 10 municipal wastewater treatment plants therein, using sources channeled from outside of the Ministry of Energy;
- ◆ Albeit the real price of each liter of water is at least IRR20,000, the Government, in order for people to have access to safe and stable water, sells every 1,000 liters of water to the people at a price of IRR5,000; and
- ◆ Until five years ago, less than 10 million cubic meters of water used to be obtained annually from seawater desalination plant, but now amount has reached 150 million cubic meters and grown by 1,500%.

The Right to Have Access to Safe Drinkable Water and Power

The population of the Country has increased 2.3 times since 1978, but the facilities and equipment of the electricity industry have increased 18 to 20 times. Currently, 100% of the urban population and 99.7% of the rural population enjoy access to electricity. This global statistics in 2018 was equivalent to 96% and 79%, respectively. From 21 March 2013 to 20 March 2021, on average, electricity has been supplied to 35 villages every month. More than 20,000 megawatts of electricity capacity have also been generated in the Country until 20 March 2021.

Table No. (6): Electricity Situation in the Country

Electricity Situation	2020	2021-2022
Total electricity subscribers	37,651	37,998
Electrified villages	57,755	57,815
Total megawatts capacity	85,313	85,549
Renewable (megawatts)	875	904

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Energy - 2021)

Table No. (7): Megawatts Capacity of Power Plants

Before 1978 Islamic Revolution	Until 22 September 2013	2013 - 2017	2017 -2021	Until 22 September 2022	
7,024	68,995	7,926	8,325	10,079	New power plant capacity
			1,099	1,454	Improving production capacity

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Energy - 2021)

Utilization of various policy tools, adaptation of support measures such as encouraging public and private partnerships (guaranteed purchase of renewable electricity), providing financial incentives, developing standards and executive regulations, raising awareness, providing training and consulting, supporting new technologies in the field renewable energy in line with sustainable development plans all led to an increase the capacity of renewable power plants by the end of September 2021 by more than 4.90 MW; and, this amount has prevented the release of 4,622,000 tons of CO₂ greenhouse gases, 29,300 tons of NO_x, SO_x and SPM pollutants, yielded savings in consumption of 1,520,000 cubic meters of water as well as savings in consumption of 1 billion and 963 million cubic meters of natural gas. Furthermore, about 30,000 people are directly or indirectly active in this field.

From 21 March 2013 to 20 March 2021, on average, more than 2500 MW of electricity generation capacity – from the capacity of thermal power plants, renewable, small-scale and distributed generation, and as a result of upgrading the capacity of thermal units and removing production restrictions - has increased on an annual basis. More than 80 percent of the Country's electricity is generated by thermal power plants, which burn gas and other fossil fuels mainly to generate electricity. The rest of the power is provided by hydropower, wind and solar power plants.

Table No. (8): Megawatts Capacity of Renewable Power Plants

Before 1978 Islamic Revolution	Until 22 September 2013	2013 - 2017	2017 - 2021	Until 22 September 2022	
0	168	170	536.6	680	Solar and wind power plants
1,803	10,006	1,799	376	373	Hydropower plants

(Source: Report of the Ministry of Energy - 2021)

The total capacity of renewable and clean power plants with an average annual growth of 22.33% has increased significantly in such a way that it reached 847 MW on 20 March 2021 from 168 in 1392. From 21 March 2013 to 20 March 2021, on average each year, 378 MW of new renewable electricity generation capacity is generated and has grown by more than 400%, and 90% of such an achievement has been made with the help of private sector investment. Currently, 5 to 10 percent of the Country's electricity needs can be generated through renewable energy. This type of energy in the amount of 3 to 5 thousand megawatts has the function of generating electricity and reducing fuel consumption. The total capacity of the Country's power plants is about 84,000 MW, of which renewable



power plants account for only one percent of the total capacity. Other measures to provide electricity and energy are outlined as hereunder:

◆ The cost price of each kilowatt hour of electricity is about IRR5,000, which is sold to people at an average price of IRR800. At present, thermal power plants with a capacity of 84,762 MW have a share equivalent to 80.7% of the planned capacity of power plants in the Country.

◆ From 21 March 2013 to 20 March 2021, on average each year, nearly 2,000 MW capacity of the Country's thermal power plants has been developed.

◆ The necessary platform for installing solar roof systems has been provided for home subscribers with the possibility of supplying the electricity they need and earning money through surplus sales thereof in such a way that with the participation of more than 4,500 home subscribers in project, private rooftop solar power plants have accounted for more than 50 MW of the total capacity of renewable power plants in the Country.

◆ Electricity stability in Khuzestan province is very high in such a way that total power outage in 2016 reached 2,000 minutes. This number has reached 600 minutes by 20 March 2021 and is still decreasing.



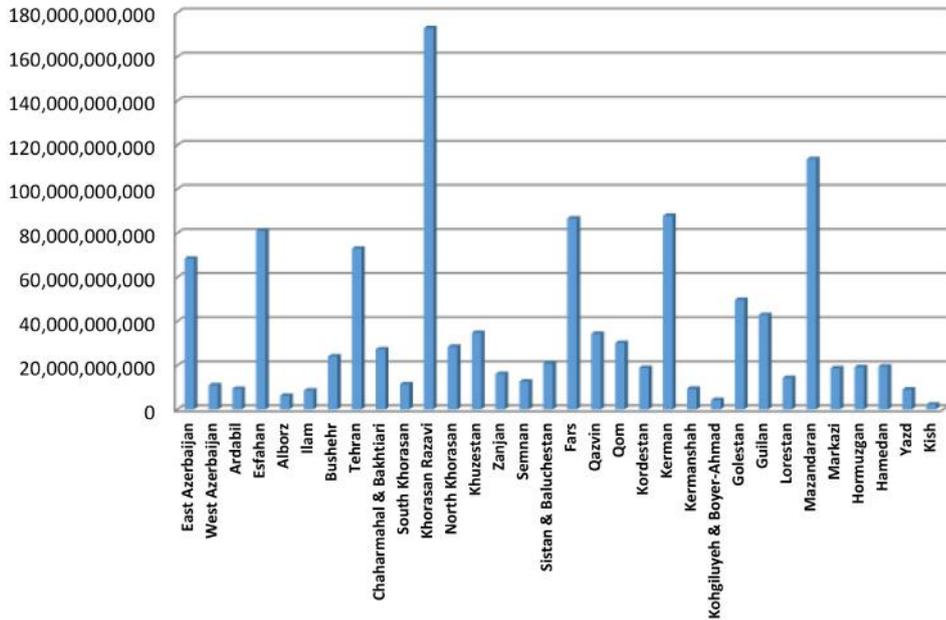
Protective Measures Taken by the Red Crescent Society Against the COVID-19 Pandemic

With the outbreak of the coronavirus in February 2020, the Red Crescent Society started its humanitarian actions and activities by forming the Coronavirus Headquarters. In line with its task of preventing and combating the pandemic especially in high-risk areas and for the protection of vulnerable groups, the Red Crescent Volunteers Organization divided its actions and activities into two parts: encouraging direct involvement of public participation in prevention of and fighting against the highly contagious disease as well as managing NGOs to attract public participation to prevent and fight the pandemic. Key measures taken by this organization in 2020 and 2021 are as follows:

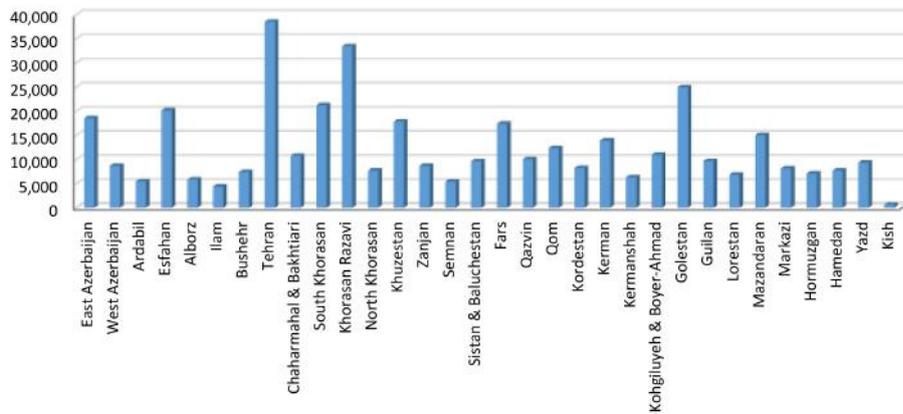
Measures Taken by the Red Crescent Volunteers Organization
Preparing and distributing 852,503 health packages among the vulnerable and special patients in coordination with the Ministry of Health in 2020;
Preparing and distributing 392,644 support and packages donated by the people among the COVID-affected families in 2020. It should be noted that of these packages, 80,000 food baskets prepared by the International Federation of Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies worth IRR240 distributed;
Holding 1,042 workshops for the production of masks and hospital clothes by the Red Crescent Society volunteers, and producing 6,557,650 masks, 232,000 gloves and 81,000 clothes;
Covering 2,089 marginalized and low-income areas and implementing measures to stay safe in the face of COVID-19;
Sending 3,100,000 text messages, preparing and distributing 753,000 leaflets to inform volunteers and the general public, and inviting them to participate in the Red Crescent Society projects and programs;
Covering the costs of 50 ventilators (respiratory aids and accessories to prevent and combat the highly contagious disease) worth IRR61,139,000,000 with the participation and support of donors, volunteers and businesses;
Launching a campaign dubbed "Nafas" (which translates to breathe) as a result of which, 2,000 oxygen tanks and 400 oxygen generators were distributed.
Procuring IRR18,928,822,080 paid by donors in order to provide the equipment needed by the Department of Health, Treatment and Rehabilitation of the Red Crescent Society to set up a clinic to help those suffering from cerebral palsy and disability;
In the less-privileged province of Sistan and Baluchestan, a program was implemented in July 2021 with the help of a number of non-governmental organizations to prevent and fight against the pandemic in 23 regions of this province, which includes supplying and distributing health packages, supplying oxygen generators, supplying necessary medical equipment, distributing 12 trucks worth IRR120bn of donations prepared by NGOs therein.



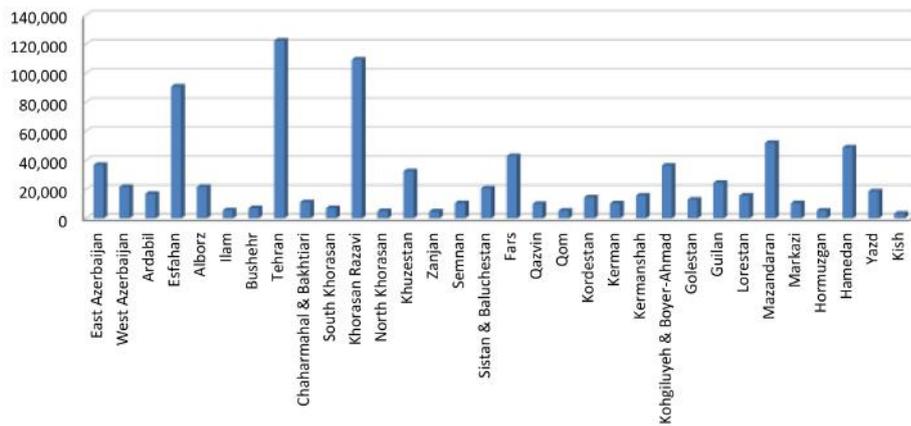
IRR Value of Public Non-cash Donations During the COVID-19 Pandemic



Disturbtion of Food Packages



Disturbtion of Health Packages



(Source: Report of the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran about Humanitarian Measures in 2020 and 2021)

The Fight on Narcotics

The Islamic Republic of Iran has 16 border provinces, which are divided into 4 areas; the eastern and southern parts of the Country are the most important areas in countering narcotics. The increase in drug seizure in the eastern border of the country, especially the border areas of Sistan and Baluchestan and Khorasan Razavi provinces by 70% and the southern Hormuzgan province by over 105% in 2020, is the result of valiant efforts and measures of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the fight against narcotics. Table (1) shows the drug seizure status and Table (2) shows the performance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022.

Table No. (1) Drug Seizure Status from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Type of Drug		20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022
Narcotics	Heroine, Crack Cocaine, Meth	29,213kgs	21,621kgs
	Morphine	27,673kgs	30,011kgs
	Opium	94,6124kgs	660,027kgs
Cannabis	Hash	112,021kgs	97,274kgs
Psychedelics	Methamphetamine	19,879kgs	164,20kgs
Other		42,870kgs	35,485kgs
Total		1,177,780kgs	860,838kgs

Source: Report of the Drug Control Headquarters - 2021

Table (2): The Performance of the Islamic Republic of Iran Drug Seizure From 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Performanc	20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022
Raids and operations	3,632	3,229
Busted drugs cartels	2,352	1,756
Martyrs	9	8

Source: Report of the Drug Control Headquarters – 2021

Establishing a National Committee for the Supervision of Precursors in the Drug Control Headquarters with two ever-active working groups, namely PICS²¹ and NPSS²² is amongst measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran to maintain control and supervision over chemical precursors.

21. The Precursors Incident Communication System is a secure on-line tool for enhanced communication and information sharing between national authorities on precursor incidents, including seizures, stopped shipments, diversions and diversion attempts, illicit laboratories and associated equipment, worldwide and in real-time

22. New psychoactive substances



Table (3): Measures to Combat Narcotics from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Measures to Combat Narcotics from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022	
Implementation of macro-policies in the fight against drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Holding continues sessions to and study and investigate social harms with the participation of top-ranking military and State officials, following up on implementation of projects in various areas with a view to reducing the supply and demand for drugs and psychedelics in the country; ◆ Increasing the allocation of funds from various sources of income to the fight against drugs in the Country with the priority of addiction prevention and focusing on the authoritative implementation of large-scale plans for addiction prevention, treatment and reducing the harm inflicted upon drug addicts; ◆ Implementing a wide range of programs and executive activities aimed at combating narcotics in the Sixth Development Plan online due to the pandemic; ◆ Utilizing the capacities of knowledge-based and modern science companies to help and update techniques and executive methods in various areas of the fight on narcotics, especially in the fields of treatment and harm reduction, countering the supply of narcotics and psychedelics as well as combating money laundering; and ◆ Concentrating resources and facilities in the areas of reducing supply and demand by utilizing the capacity of scientific centers and universities through implementation of new methods.
Legal Protections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Providing legal and judicial support for treatment and harm reduction programs; and ◆ Providing legal and judicial protection for adolescents against harms caused by drug-related crimes.
Research and training on countering narcotics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Establishing a research council to review, evaluate and approve research projects aimed at countering narcotics; ◆ Interacting and cooperating with scientific and research centers of universities across the Country in a continues manner; ◆ Providing material and spiritual support for researchers active in the field of drugs and psychedelics (setting 180 titles of research priorities and supporting 29 titles of student dissertations); ◆ Carrying out 23 cases of applied research; ◆ Producing 4 issues of the scientific quarterly about addiction; ◆ Holding 16 specialized training workshops for managers and senior experts in the fight against drugs; ◆ Supporting and holding 12 specialized meetings, conferences and scientific congresses in the field of addiction knowledge at international and national levels; ◆ Uploading the results of all research projects, dissertations, specialized articles and books produced related to the fight against drugs containing thousands of records in the digital library of the Drug Control Headquarters.
Development of public participation and NGOs in the fight against drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Supporting the establishment of life-saving NGOs²³ across the Country and developing a policy on reducing demand and protecting the families of drug addicts; ◆ Establishing specialized working groups and holding meetings of specialized committees for the development of public participation; ◆ Holding training workshops for empowerment of NGOs in the field of controlling and reducing the demand for drugs and psychedelics and outsourcing the holding of workshops and training courses for empowerment of people; ◆ Laying the groundwork for the presence of NGOs in the field of policy making and supervision along with implementing executive activities; ◆ Drafting executive regulations in order to expedite the establishment of comprehensive centers for empowerment and social protection with the aim of increasing the wellness of those who have recovered from addiction; and ◆ Facilitating the activities of 3,018 NGOs working in the field of countering drug abuse.



23. in this plan, each individual and family with full knowledge and mastery of the problems, dangers and harms caused by drug use and addiction, will help

Measures to Combat Narcotics from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Treatment and social support for addicts during COVID-19 pandemic

- ◆ Developing a draft procedure for monitoring authorized treatment centers and harm reduction;
- ◆ Designing, compiling and communicating guidelines for staying safe and controlling the COVID-19, new patient admission guide, treatment with opioid agonist therapy, and providing guidelines on how drug treatment centres must operate during the pandemic; and
- ◆ Design, compiling and communicating health instructions in the workplace; allocating special credit for purchasing and providing the required health items and providing health education in harm reduction centers or for homeless addicts; installing educational and information posters; implementing awareness and education programs to prevent the spread of coronavirus in treatment centers to reducing harms inflicted upon drug addicts

Source: Report of the Drug Control Headquarters – 2021

Table No. (4): The Most Important Public Awareness Raising Measures to Combat Narcotics from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Measures	Type of Measures	Total
News	Producing and broadcasting news items at national level	1,449
State Media	Producing national and provincial radio and television programs	6,292
Awareness Raising Portal	Producing and publishing content	7,840
Media Affairs	News and press coordination	159
Advertisement	Using city advertising signs and holding exhibitions	204
Graphic and content affairs	Producing posters, brochures books and e-books	632
Making Documentaries	Photos, videos, archives	1,949
Cyberspace	Producing and publishing content	900

Source: Report of the Drug Control Headquarters – 2021



Table No. (5) shows the number of authorized centers for treatment and reduction of harm caused by narcotics and psychedelics addictions.

Table No. (5) Authorized Centers for Treatment, Reduction of Harm Caused by Drug Addiction & Psychedelics from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2022

Medical Centers & Covered Addicts		20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021	21 March 2021 to 22 September 2022
Outpatient Treatment Centers	Number of Centers	7,428	341
	Number of Covered Addicts	964,922	55049
Drug Addict Camps	Number of Centers	1,097	286
	Number of Covered Addicts	77,958	25669
Circuit Therapy	Number of Centers	27	-
	Number of Covered Addicts	1,268	-
Drug Information Centers	Number of Centers	194	-
	Number of Covered Addicts	36,907	-
Quick Response Teams	Number of Centers	315	-
	Number of Covered Addicts	36,195	-
Night Shelters	Number of Centers	69	-
	Number of Covered Addicts	5,243	-
Mobile Center	Number of Centers	46	-
	Number of Covered Addicts	16,993	-

Source: Report of the Drug Control Headquarters – 2021



**The High Council of Human Rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran
(National Committee of U.P.R)**