



Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
High Council for Human Rights

# UPR Mid-Term Report (2015-2016)

High Council for Human Rights



Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
High Council for Human Rights

## **UPR Mid-Term Report**

**(2015-2016)**

**High Council for Human Rights**



## Table of Contents

Title	Page
Foreword .....	6
Laws and Mechanism Developed for Protection and Promotion of Human Rights .....	8
Human Rights Education .....	15
Promotion of Human Development Indicators .....	20
Right to Education .....	22
The Right to Health, Social Security, and Insurance .....	32
Right to Adequate and Decent Housing .....	47
Right to Access to Water and Energy .....	54
Rights of Persons with Disabilities .....	60
Poverty Alleviation (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) As Well As Developing Rural and Less Advantaged Areas .....	74
Right to Employment .....	83
Women's Rights .....	89
Children's Rights .....	105
Improving Sports .....	113
Rights of Refugees, Asylum seekers and illegal immigrants .....	117
Religious Minorities, Freedom of Religion and Conscience, Ethnicity and Sects .....	122
Freedom of Formation and Activities of Parties, Assemblies, Societies and Associations .....	130
Judicial Justice .....	138
Prisoners' Rights .....	148
Fighting Illicit Drugs .....	158
Unilateral Coercive Measures .....	161
The Mines Left Behind From the Iran-Iraq War .....	164
International Humanitarian Law .....	167
Enhancement of the Role and Interaction with the Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Societies .....	170
Dialogue and Collaboration on promoting and Protecting Human Rights .....	174



## *In the Name of God*

Having one of the oldest and richest human civilizations, Iran has played a distinctive and unique role in contributing to the enrichment of human civilization and culture. With the victory of the Islamic Revolution in February 1979, the people of Iran chose the Islamic Republic as their system of government with overwhelming majority of votes in a national referendum. The Islamic Republic is based, on one hand, on principles of independence, freedom, and progressive Islamic beliefs, and on the other hand, on the principles of democracy, through the three independent powers, and direct and indirect oversight of people over all core organs of the government within the country. Iran is also a vast country with a population about 80 million people. Farsi is spoken as the official language and Islam is the official religion.

As one of the important aspirations of humanity, human rights have its roots in divine religions and regarded as a valuable and common achievement in the universal culture and civilization. History and culture of Iran is replete with numerous fundamental principles concerning importance of and respect for human rights among Iranian people. Moreover, Islam as the official religion of people has strong linkages with human rights. The roots of rules of Sharia in Islam, sanctioned by law and otherwise, exist potentially in the pure human nature and all humanity have equal share in this basic instinct regardless of religion, race,... From perspective of Islam, human being has dignity and must be regarded as an intelligent creation that possesses free will and volition.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran acknowledges and attaches great importance to the rights of the people. Needless to say, comprehensive rights of people, for men and women, and providing fair and equitable judicial security for all, and equality before law are among important programmers and concerns of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Constitution explicitly states that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a system of governance based on faith in human dignity and worth, and in fundamental freedoms combined

with its accountability toward God.

By relying on basic Islamic teachings and its constitution, Islamic Republic of Iran has made great achievements in the arena of human rights. Facts and realities in the country clearly show that Iran has made substantial investments in social, cultural and economic arenas and has guaranteed rights of the people in equal participation and access to fruits of development and progress. All achievements have come about as a result of our pursuit for promotion of social justice and welfare. Our pursuit for improvement of human rights situation will not cease, since there is always additional room for improvement. Progress in the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran over the past 38 years can be corroborated by any impartial and reasonable observer, by comparing with the situation before 1979 and with many other countries. This progress would not have been possible without our adherence to basic Islamic teachings, the Constitution and respect for human dignity and worth.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the most active countries in Universal Periodic Review. Proceeding from our principled position we support this nonselective and balanced mechanism. During the 7<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, national report of the Islamic Republic of Iran was reviewed by a working group in the Human Rights Council on 8-19 February 2010. This report was approved by members of the Council on 17 February 2010. In the first cycle of UPR, Islamic Republic of Iran accepted 123 recommendations out of 189 that were presented by members. This report was later approved by consensus during the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council on 9 June 2011.

Review of the national report of the Islamic Republic of Iran in second cycle of UPR and implementation of recommendations from the first cycle began on 31 October 2014 during 20<sup>th</sup> session of UPR Working Group. Representatives of 104 countries presented total of 291 recommendations, majority of which were similar with respect to the overall subjects



but with little difference in wording and language. National report of the Islamic Republic of Iran was approved on 3 November 2014 by UPR Working Group. Results on the review of recommendations were also reviewed on 19 March 2015 and Iran stated its readiness to accept 189 recommendations in its entirety and some on partial basis. Report of Iran in this connection was approved by consensus in the Council.

The Human Rights Council of Iran as the national authority on human rights inside and outside the country has decided to prepare and present the most important achievements and progress of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of the Universal Periodic Review recommendations (second cycle) and in cooperation with UPR National Committee comprising more than 40 government agencies and institutions on a voluntary basis and in the context of a mid-term report. Views of civil society institutions have also been included in preparation

of this report. The present report covers progress in situation of human rights since April 2015 to the end of 2016.

It should be noted that acceptance of a recommendation is not tantamount to its non-action. Many of the recommendations have asked the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue its actions. In fact, acceptance of these recommendations has prepared an opportunity for Iran to present its activities and achievements. On the other side, accepting some recommendations partially means that Iran accepts some parts of the recommendations and does not agree with other parts of the recommendation which is in contradiction with its religious and legislative basics. Hence, reporting will be based on the parts that are agreed by Iran. Some recommendations encompass different issues, so have been repeated in different chapters and reporting is made on the basis of specialized issues.



## Laws and Mechanisms Developed for Protection and Promotion of Human Rights

## Laws and Mechanisms Developed for Protection and Promotion of Human Rights

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.25	Strengthen its national legislation in accordance with the international treaties that it has ratified;	Burkina Faso
138.28	Make all efforts to guarantee and to protect the rights and freedoms enshrined in the international instruments the country is a party to;	the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
138.29	Accelerate the exercise to finalize the Charter of Citizen's Rights in order to enhance its human rights institutional framework;	Zimbabwe
138.30	Intensify its efforts in the area of institutional and legislative development;	Angola
138.31	Continue its efforts to strengthen the framework for the protection and promotion of human rights;	Kazakhstan
138.289	Step up efforts to allocate more resources in the Constitution	Eritrea
138.32	Proceed with the Bill for the establishment of the national human rights institution	South Africa
138.33	Continue to strengthen its national human rights mechanisms, including through finalizing the process aimed at ensuring the conformity of the national human rights institution with the Paris Principles;	Egypt
138.34	Continue its efforts for the establishment of the national human rights institution;	Sudan
138.35	Speed up the procedures concerning the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles;	Tunisia
138.36	Establish promptly an independent national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles;	Chile
138.37	Continue strengthening institutional frameworks, including by finalizing the bill on an NHRI in line with the Paris Principles and the National Strategic Action Plan on Human Rights;	Indonesia
138.38	Establish an NHRI in conformity with the Paris Principles and provide it with the resources it requires for the effective performance of its functions;	Mauritania
138.39	Establish the national human rights commission in conformity with the Paris Principles;	Niger
138.40	Promptly approve legislation establishing an NHRI in full compliance with the Paris Principles;	Portugal
138.41	Complement the efforts necessary to the establishment of the national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles;	Qatar
138.42	Establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles and provide it with adequate human and financial resources;	Republic of Korea
138.43	Expedite the creation of a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles;	Sierra Leone
138.44	Continue implementation of established programs for the socioeconomic development of the country, which contribute to the protection of human rights, and complete the development of the national strategic plan of action in the field of human rights;	Belarus
No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations /partially	Country
138.6	Consider ratifying CEDAW, CAT, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW), ICCPR-OP2 and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED);	Sierra Leone



138.7	Consider ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol thereto and the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants and the Members of Their Families;	Burkina Faso
138.8	Consider ratification or accession to CEDAW, ICRMW, CAT and ICCPED;	Peru
138.54	Fully comply with its binding international human rights obligations in the light of Iran's commitment towards improving the overall human rights situation in the country;	New Zealand
138.89	Adopt a general law against discrimination;	Benin
138.90	Reform laws that contain discriminatory provisions;	Bosnia and Herzegovina

## The Constitution

The Constitution of the I.R. Iran was adopted with the positive vote of an overwhelming majority of the Iranian people in a referendum in December 1979.

the Constitution as the highest legal instrument governing the country, has set out, on the one hand, individual rights and freedoms against the state power, and delineated the powers of the three branches of the government and their limits vis a vis the individual rights on the other, explicitly underlining the principle of respect for the individual freedoms along with respect for public and social order. Chapter III of the Constitution entitled "the Rights of the People" comprising 24 articles has set down the individual rights and fundamental freedoms. Also, some other chapters and articles of the Constitution have explicitly provided for individual liberties and recognized such principles as inherent human

dignity, equitable judicial security and equality of all before the law, and enjoyment of civil, social, political rights as well as political and social freedoms by individual citizens.

### Active human rights mechanisms in Iran

I.R. Iran is a country with a variety of human rights institutions including the High Council for Human Rights which acts as an inter-branch structure. The "Secretariat for Protection of Citizen's Rights" in the Judiciary, "Administrative Justice Court", "Commission of Article 90" and "Committee on Human Rights" of the Islamic Consultative Assembly are other institutions supervising the protection of the individual rights and freedoms in the country.

The most important human rights institutions and authorities in I.R. Iran are reflected in the following table:

**Table (1): major human rights institutions in I.R. Iran**

institution	explanation
High Council for Human Rights	Supreme National Security Council, in its Decision of January 2005, established "High Council for Human Rights" as the lead agency responsible for all human rights issues in the country. The Council is chaired by the Chief Justice (Head of the Judiciary). The Council has a Secretary who is appointed by the Chair of the Council. the Council is tasked with planning, guiding, following up and oversight of all issues, processes and decisions relating to human rights at both national and international levels, in cooperation and coordination with the related local bodies
Inspection Office of the Supreme Leader	The Office carries out inspection concerning issues referred to it by the Supreme Leader including citizens' complaints
Inspection Office of the President	The Office is responsible for carrying out inspection concerning issues (such as citizen's complaints) referred to it by the President
Committee for Minorities Rights of Interior Ministry	The Committee established in the Interior Ministry is responsible for the protection and promotion of the rights of the minorities in political, civil, economic, social and cultural fields
Committee for Protection of Citizens' Rights and Public Security	The Committee was established in 2008 upon the order of the President in the Interior Ministry and also in the local governments to protect citizens' dignity and rights
Bar Association	Bar Association is an independent body which is almost a century old. In addition to its general tasks, the Association provides training, meets the scientific and specialty needs and also cooperates with the public and private entities in areas of human rights



human rights institutions established in the Islamic Consultative Assembly	Committee for Human Rights, Commission of Article 90 , and Committee for Legal and Judicial Affairs
human rights institutions established in the Judiciary power	-Judicial and administrative supervisory mechanism: Supreme Court, Office of General Prosecutor, Administrative Justice Court, State General Inspectorate, Central Board Supervising Protection of Citizens' Rights, -supportive mechanisms: Pardon Commission, Dispute Resolution Councils, family court divisions, child support court divisions, women and children support offices, and citizens' rights violations courts

## Laws, bills and plans for protection and promotion of human rights

In order to further reinforce the legal framework for human rights, a number of legal measures were taken in 2015 and 2016 (9 months) as reflected in the following table:

**Table (2): laws, bills and plans<sup>1</sup> adopted to protect and promote human rights in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)**

	plan, Law, bill, national document
1	The General Policies Governing Elections promulgated by the Supreme Leader in October 2016 as a binding legal instrument aimed at improving the conditions relating to general elections in the country
2	adoption of the Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Rights of the Child and Adolescent (Iran's Vision for 2025) by the National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (national document)
3	Law on Retirement of Employed Women With 20 Years of Service adopted in January 2017
4	Law on Activities of Political Parties and Societies adopted in November 2016
5	Law on Reduction of Work Hours of Employed Women with Special Conditions adopted in September 2016
6	Law on Banning the Employment of Retirees adopted in May 2016 which is meant to open the field for creation of Jobs for young people
7	Law on Political Offences adopted in May 2016
8	Provision of Universal Social Security Scheme (plan) adopted in December 2016
9	plan for Supporting Artists and Craftsmen adopted in 2016
10	Bill on Granting Financial Facilities from the National Development Fund for creation of Job opportunities in villages with priority being given to Less developed rural, nomadic and border areas adopted in December 2016
11	plan on Comprehensive Rural Development, in August 2016
12	Bill on Alternative Social Punishments to Incarceration, June 2016
13	Bill on Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents, July 20th
14	plan on Unemployment Insurance and Support for Unemployed Job Seekers, July 2016
15	Bill on Accession of Government of Islamic Republic of Iran to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts, July 2016
16	plan on Amendments to the Law on Status of Children from Marriage of Iranian Women with Foreign Men, July 2016
17	plan on Banning Employment of Persons In More Than One Job, July 2016
18	Directive on Reorganizing the Status of Prisoners and Reducing the Criminal Population of Prisons (September 2016) issued by the Chief Justice in line with the general policies of the Judiciary on decarceration and reduction of criminal population
19	Law on Dispute Resolution Councils, January 2015
20	Law on Investigation of Properties of Government Officials, November 2015
21	Act on Extension of the Deadline for the Pilot Implementation of the Law on Improvement of the Health of the Administrative System and Suppression of Corruption for three and a half years, December 2015

1. Law means legislation passed by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, bill means proposed legislation Council of Ministers to the Islamic Consultative Assembly for its consideration and approval, and plan is a draft legislation proposed by the representatives of the Islamic Consultative Assembly for adoption in the form of a law.



22	Bill on Protection of the Rights of Persons With Disabilities, October 2015
23	Act on Amendments to the Law on Balanced Utilization of National Resources to help less developed regions, October 2015
24	Act on Allowing Government of I.R. Iran to Participate in IMF's Program on Poverty Alleviation and Growth Promotion, August 2015
25	Law on Criminal Procedures adopted in 2013 and enforced in 2015 with new methodology to defend the rights of the accused
26	Act on Obligatory Insurance Against Third Party Damages from Vehicle Accidents (November, 2015); under the law, insurance companies are obligated to pay blood money or damages to the injured party, irrespective of their religion or gender, up to the limits set in the insurance policy
27	Law on Crime Prevention (2015); this law was passed to help predict, identify and assess crime risk and adopt the necessary measures or precautions to eliminate or reduce the risks; the law has provided for the formation of "high council for crime prevention" with the participation of all the related Judicial and executive authorities
28	Executive By-law on Protection of Witnesses and Informants approved by the Chief Justice in January 2016 : under the By-Law, in the event of the risks of life or financial loss threatening witnesses or informants or their families and indispensability of their testimony, the prosecutor shall take the following necessary measures for the protection of such witness or informants and state the reasons for them in the file: denial of cross-examination, non – disclosure of information relating to the identity, family information and place of residence or work of the witness or informant; also, under the By-Law, testimony or hearing in such cases may take place outside the court through remote communication means
29	Executive By-law on the Qualifications of Judicial Enforcement Officers approved by the Chief Justice in October 2015; among the qualifications for enforcement officers is competence, acquisition of the necessary skills by passing the necessary training courses under the oversight of Judicial authorities and receiving the special identity card for enforcement officers
30	Draft National Document on Protection of Security of Women and Children in Social Relations (2015) ; the draft was prepared by the Office for Women and Family Affairs of Interior Ministry under the "Law for 5 <sup>th</sup> Five – year Development Plan" which is now under consideration for approval
31	Draft Comprehensive Bill for Protection of Women Against Violence (2015); the bill which contains Judicial, discretionary and preventive measures for protection of women against different forms of violence including domestic violence and focuses on four main elements including the definition and determination of the cases of violence, the offences and punishments of the perpetrators of acts of violence, special criminal procedures for dealing with cases of violence against women and the formation of " national committee for protection of women's security" has been drafted by the Office of the Vice – President for Women and Family Affairs, which is under consideration for approval
32	Draft Bill on Formation of Police for Children and Adolescents; the bill which has been drafted in accordance with the provisions of Article 31 of the Law on Criminal Procedures is under consideration for approval

## Formulation of "charters of citizenry rights" by executive organizations

In accordance with the "general policies governing the administrative system for protection of citizens' rights", all executive organizations are obligated to develop their own charters of citizens' rights for protection of citizens' rights in their related fields. Some of the charters which were adopted in 2016 (9 months) are reflected in the following table.

**Table (3): charters of citizens' rights adopted by the executive bodies in 2016 (9 months)**

1	"charter of ethics" of the Office of the Vice- President for Science and Technology
2	"charter of ethics" of the Ministry of Labor, Cooperatives and Social Welfare
3	"charter of ethics" of Interior Ministry
4	"charter of ethics" of Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
5	"charter of ethics" of the Organization for Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism
6	"charter of ethics" of the Literacy Movement Organization
7	"charter of ethics" of Pasteur Institute
8	"charter of ethics and behavior" of Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs
9	"charter of ethics" of State Welfare Organization
10	"charter of ethics" of Governmental Discretionary Punishments Organization ( Tazirat-e -Hokumati)
11	"charter of ethics" of Iran's Statistics Center



12	"charter of ethics" of Medical Service Insurance Organization
13	"charter of rights" of passengers of domestic flights of Ministry of Roads and Urban Development
14	"charter of ethics" of National Standards Organization
15	"charter of ethics" of Iran Resource Management Company
16	"draft executive directive" for respecting the rights of visitors to the Judicial organs
17	"charter of ethics" of Ministry of Health, Medical Treatment and Education
18	"charter of ethics" of Ministry of Roads and Urban Development
19	"charter of ethics" of Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade
20	"charter of ethics" of Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance
21	"charter of ethics" of Ministry of Sports and Youths
22	"charter of rights of passengers" of Railways Police Department
23	"charter of professional ethics" of Iran Blood Transfusion Organization
24	"charter of professional ethics" of Transport Infrastructure Construction and Development Company
25	"charter of ethics" of Organization for Education of Exceptional Children
26	"charter of ethics" of Iran's Trade Development Organization
27	"charter of ethics" of Iran's Forests, Ranges and Watershed Management Organization
28	"charter of ethics" of "Payam Air and Special Economic Zone Organization"
29	"charter of ethics" of Central Organizations for Rural Cooperatives
30	"charter of ethics" of National Post Network
31	"draft code of ethics" of the Judiciary

## New mechanisms to protect and promote human rights

The latest mechanisms (institutions) developed to protect and promote human rights in 2015 and 2016 (9 months) are as follows.

**Table (4): new institutions created to protect and promote human rights in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)**

institution	purpose
creation of the post "Assistant to the President of the state for Citizens' Rights"	to oversee, coordinate and follow up the effective implementation of the government's obligations under the "Charter of Citizens Rights" and to propose plans and policies for the implementation of its provisions
creation of the post of " Deputy Head of the Organization for Administrative and Employment Affairs "in the field of Administrative health and protection of rights of the people.	to oversee the protection of citizens' rights
formation of " citizenry rights committee" in the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology	To help establishing student scientific associations and citizenry rights centers in universities and support dissertations and thesis on "human rights" and "citizenry rights",
creation of the post of " Deputy Minister of Justice for Human Rights and International Affairs"	to follow up the issues relating to citizenry rights in the executive power



formation of the "Secretariat of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" as a Joint task in the State Welfare Organization and Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs	to facilitate the implementation of I.R. Iran's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" and help preparing periodic reports
establishment of the "National System for Citizens' Complaints" in the State Inspectorate Organization	to receive and handle citizens' complaints against the executive bodies
establishment of "Special Judicial Complex for Transsexual Persons"	to provide for the well-being of transsexual persons and facilitate the process of their gender transition

## The Charter of Citizens' Rights

In the "Conference on the Constitution and the Rights of the People (Nation)" attended by the President and a large number of lawyers, attorneys, law professors and experts on December 29, 2016, the Charter of Citizens' Rights was signed and unveiled by the President.

The preamble of the Charter reads: " this Charter, which has been formulated to protect and promote citizens' rights and guide the plans and policies of The government for that purpose in accordance with the Article 134 of the Constitution, includes those citizens' rights which have already been recognized in the sources of the Iranian legal system and also those rights which the government will work seriously to develop, establish and exercise through the development of its legal system and submission and follow-up of the necessary bills of law and other legal measures."

It is to be noted that the Charter of Citizens' Rights has been formulated in 19 articles and 120 paragraphs and each related ministry or governmental organization or institution must develop its own legal instruments such as by – laws, directives, etc. to implement its related obligations under the Charter.

The rights highlighted in the Charter includes right to life, right to health and decent living standards, right to human dignity and equality, right to freedom and security as a citizen, right to participate in self-determination, right to good governance and administration, right to freedom of thought and expression, right of access to information, right of access to cyber space, right to privacy, right to organize political parties and associations and hold gatherings and marches, right to nationality or citizenship, right to residence and movement, right to formation of family, right to fair trial, right to transparent and competitive economy, right to housing, right to ownership, right to decent Job or employment, right to welfare and social security, right of access to and participation in cultural activities, right to education and research, right to healthy environment and

sustainable development, right to peace, security and national authority.

The Charter has also provided for the enforcement mechanisms and effective enjoyment of the citizens' rights. In that context, the president is to deliver annual reports of progress to the nation and also introduce solutions to any possible barriers to the exercise of the citizen's rights and update the Charter, if necessary.

## 6<sup>th</sup> 5-Year Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan

The Government of I.R. Iran prepares its economic, social and cultural development plans for periods of five years and submits them to the parliament for its consideration and approval. So far, 5 five-year development plans have been successfully completed.

The 6<sup>th</sup> five-year development plans which runs from 2017 through 2021 was approved by the parliament in January 2017. The 6<sup>th</sup> plan sets down the general directions and policies for national development in cultural, social and economic fields and the Government is obliged to implement them.

## National Human Rights Institution

Although there are important and effective institutions in the area of human rights in I.R. Iran and also there is a robust civil society consisting of thousands of NGOs in the country, a decision was made, based on the Paris Principles, in the session of the High Council for Human Rights chaired by the Chief Justice as the Chair of the Council, in January 2016, to establish a national institution for human rights. It was also decided that experts study the methodology for the establishment of this national institution. Besides, a leading university of the country has been assigned to work, in the form of a scientific project, on the different aspects of such an institution.



## Accession to or ratification of international conventions

I.R. Iran has acceded to over 20 international treaties and conventions relating to human rights. Accession to any international instrument for any country including the I.R. Iran is subject to constitutional and other domestic processes in addition to expert opinions.

As for the rights and issues of women, the High Council for Cultural Revolution which is chaired by the President adopted the "Charter of Women's Rights and Responsibilities" in September 2004 as a legislation binding on all the related governmental bodies. Also, the "Law on Protection of Women's Rights and Responsibilities in Domestic and International Domains" was passed in 2006 by the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

As for the prohibition of torture, I.R. Iran is among the few countries in the world which have prohibited torture in their constitutions. Also, other related written laws of Iran have stipulated the ban of torture and invalidity of the confessions obtained therefrom.

Concerning the protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families, as it can be seen in the section relating to the "rights of refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants", I.R. Iran has taken significant measures to host and provide services to refugees and even illegal immigrants, as acknowledged and appreciated by the related international bodies.

Although I.R. Iran has not acceded to the UN Convention Against Torture, the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, there is no legal vacuum for the protection of the said rights in the domestic laws nor any legal inconsistency with the internationally recognized standards.

## Elimination of discrimination

Protection of the rights of citizens in all areas, irrespective of their gender, equality of all before the law, elimination of unfair discrimination and equal opportunities for all, have been covered by the Constitution and other written laws of the country, and governmental authorities are obligated to take the necessary measures for the protection of citizens' rights and provide the opportunities needed for their enjoyment.

The "Law on Punishment of Propagation of Racial Discrimination" of 1977 has prohibited the dissemination of any thoughts or beliefs based on racial or gender discrimination and hatred and also any act of incitement of racial or gender discrimination through any means of mass communication or media such as radio, television, or publication of any form of print material such as books, newspapers, Journals, or production of films etc. against persons of different race, gender, color, ethnicity and also provision of financial assistance for any activity based on racial discrimination. The Law has provided jail terms, cash fines and even imposition of maximum punishments, if necessary, for the perpetrators of such acts.

Under the Law, anyone who establishes an entity in order to propagate discrimination based on race, gender or ethnicity and / or to incite hatred or hostility based on race, gender or ethnicity shall be punished by fines.

Article 6 of the "Law of the Press" passed in 1985 has prohibited "creation of divisions among social groups, particularly through racial or ethnic bias or hatred" as a public right which must be respected by the media.

Also, Article 16, paragraph (L) of the "Law on the Activities of Political Parties and Societies, Labor Unions and Professional Associations, Islamic Associations and also Association Pertaining to the Recognized Religious Minorities" passed in 1981 reads: "all entities (political, professional and religious), subject to the provisions of this Article, must avoid perpetrating the aforementioned offences including any act to create or intensify divisions in the ranks of the Iranian society through cultural, religious or racial biases.

The Judiciary, too, has defined acts of discrimination and laid down the punishments for them in the book "Tazirat" meaning "Discretionary Punishments" (5<sup>th</sup> book of criminal laws) reading: "any act of discrimination which affects enjoyment of rights, opportunities and fulfillment of duties or obligations for any citizen will be punished by jail terms ranging from six months to two years or cash fines of 30 million to 120 million Rials."



# Human Rights Education

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.49	Continue to expand its successful awareness programs on human rights;	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
138.60	Work further on human rights education for public servants and law enforcement bodies;	Ethiopia
138.61	Continue to train law enforcement officials and to raise awareness on all human rights issues;	Indonesia
138.62	Pursue its policies regarding human rights education and training for law enforcement officials ;	Pakistan
138.63	Further expand and promote human rights education and training programmes;	Armenia
138.64	Increase efforts to further develop human rights education;	Uzbekistan
138.272	Redouble its efforts to strengthen public education, awareness, capacity building programs and training	Djibouti

## Ministry of Education

In accordance with the provisions of the "Document for Fundamental Education Reform" and "National Curriculum program", Ministry of Education of I.R. Iran has included citizens' rights, human rights and duties, the rights of minorities, and the rights of family and environment in the curricula and textbooks of students. "Roshd" and Payvand", two Journals published by the Ministry of Education, too, provide complementary education on human rights. Also, "Literacy Movement Organization" is offering some courses on basic life skills including family and children's rights as part of its motivation package to ensure the continued presence of students in the classes.

## Ministry of Science, Research and Technology

The Ministry of Science, Research and Technology of I.R. Iran has established human rights as an independent discipline at post-graduate level in the Department of Law in major Iranian universities such as "Shahid Beheshti University", "Tehran university", Allameh Tabatabaei University, "College of International Relations" and "Mofid University" with a large number of graduates in the field every year. These departments have taken serious measures in the areas of fundamental and applied research, and compilation of books and translation of international literature on human rights. They also hold specialized courses and workshops on human rights and produce a variety of sources for Iranian students in the field as part of their efforts to raise

public awareness on and promote human rights.

It is added that the "Chair for Human Rights" was officially launched in the spring of 2011 in the faculty of law of "Shahid Beheshti University" through the conclusion of an agreement between the university and UNESCO which is the only "chair for human rights, peace and democracy" of UNESCO in the Persian Gulf and Caspian Sea region. The "Chair for Human Rights" is mostly meant to promote human rights, peace and democracy and conduct research in the field.

Also, in order to make Master's courses of human rights more efficient, the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology has initiated the process of revision of the outlines of the curricula of human rights in cooperation with the related universities and High Council for Human Rights of I.R. Iran.



## Judiciary Power

**Table(1): important measures taken by the Judiciary Power in the areas of training and capacity building on human and citizens' rights in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)**

### Department of Human Resources of the Judiciary

holding training courses on "human rights and citizens' rights" for 2072 Judges, trainees and administrative staff in 2016 (6 months)  
holding training courses on "human rights and citizens' rights" for 2220 Judges, judicial trainees and administrative staff in 2015

### High Council for Human Rights

holding two training courses on human rights for 160 Judges in December 2015-January 2016

holding briefing sessions with the judicial officials and judicial enforcement officers of the province of Kerman in November 2015

holding briefing sessions with the judicial officials and judicial officers of the province of Alborz in November 2016

### Secretariat of Central Board for Supervising Protection of Citizenry Rights

conclusion of M.O.U. between the Secretariat of Central Board for Supervising Protection of Citizens' Rights and the Research Center of the Judiciary aimed at capacity building, carrying out joint research works, holding training courses on citizens' rights, 2016

holding 410 training courses on citizens' rights for judicial enforcement officers and 1100 cases of disseminating information aimed at raising public awareness on citizens' rights in 2015 and 2016

publication of the book "Laws and Regulations on citizens' Rights" in two separate prints with a volume of 8000 in each print and 7 animation clips on citizens' rights

production of 7 books on citizens' rights

publication of 75 brochures with the title of "Teaching Law in Simple Language"

compilation of 18 volumes of book and booklet with the title of "How to Claim One's Rights, Human Rights and Citizens' Rights"

providing legal counseling services in public places

providing information and training on the website of the Secretariat of the Central Board for Supervising Protection of Citizens' Rights

(Source: reports of the Department of Human Resources and Secretariat of the Central Board for Supervising Protection of Citizenry Rights of the Judiciary to National Committee of UPR, 2016)

## Law Enforcement Police

The most important measures taken by the Law Enforcement Police of I.R. Iran to teach its staff on citizenry and human rights are reflected in the following table.

**Table (2): Education and promotion of citizens' and human rights by Law Enforcement Police of I.R. Iran (2015 and 2016)**

Inclusion of lessons on "citizens' rights" in the textbooks of police cadre and staff

compilation of educational texts and reference sources on citizens' rights aimed at raising the knowledge of enforcement officers of Police Force

establishing the "Directorate for Citizens' Rights" in the Department for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs of Police

holding training courses on the rights of the accused and detainees

holding briefing and training sessions for the staff of counter-drug Police

formation of Committees on "Citizens' Rights of the Accused"

holding intra-organizational and inter-organizational cooperation sessions aimed at providing better services to the public and prevention of the violations of citizens' rights

(Source: report of Police Force to National Committee of UPR, 2016)



holding briefing, training and coordination sessions on the implementation of citizens' rights for the directors of the organs responsible for protection of public security and citizens' rights in the related organizations across the country

holding the sessions of the Working Groups on Citizens' Rights" with the participation of the related executive bodies and directors of departments for socio-cultural affairs in provinces

holding the "Training Workshop on Citizens' Rights" for the directors of the related departments in provinces

holding the session of "Working Groups on Citizens' Rights" in the related executive bodies with focusing on the implementation of the provisions of "Charter of Citizens' Rights"

documentation of laws and regulations and themes relating to citizens' rights

compilation of the book "Citizens' Rights"

Promulgation of the "9 Duties Pertaining to Citizens' Rights" by Interior Ministry to the related organizations and local governments

(Source: report of Interior Ministry to National Committee of URP 2016)

The most important measures taken by Interior Ministry of the I.R. Iran on education and promotion of citizens' rights are reflected in the following table.

(Source: report of the Ministry of Justice to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

launching 100 citizens' rights clinics in the country with the participation of public and private sectors in provinces such as Alborz, West Azerbaijan, Isfahan Gilan, East Azerbaijan, Yazd, Qazvin consisting of one lawyer, one psychologist and one social worker in "Neighborhood Houses." The clinics are tasked with education and promotion of citizens' ethics and citizens' rights, provision of legal and judicial assistance as well as legal, psychological and social work services to the clients

holding training courses on human rights, citizens' rights and also administrative and work ethics for the staff of the related executive bodies in the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Industry and Trade and Governmental Discretionary Punishments Organization (Sazman-e-Tazirat)

formation of the "Citizens' Rights Committees" in City Councils in 11 provinces tasked with the planning and policy making for "citizens' rights clinics"

holding the "National Conference on Citizens' Rights and Social Work" in Isfahan in August 2016

holding the "National Conference on Citizens' Rights and Islamic Revolution Discourse" in February 2015

holding the "National Conference on Citizens' Rights and Responsible Citizen" in the Province of Qazvin in October 2016

holding the "National Conference on Citizens' Rights and Social Responsibility" in the province of Yazd, in November 2016

holding the "National Conference on Citizens' Rights and Environment" in December 2016

Compilation of volumes of book on "Citizens' Rights and Air Pollution", "Citizens' Rights in Administrative System" and "Citizens' Rights and Smoking"

holding scientific gatherings on the role of religious leaders in prevention of violence against children in 2015

The following table displays foremost measures taken by the Ministry of Justice for education and promotion of citizens' and human rights in 2015 and 2016.

## Ministry of Justice



holding the "Workshop on Human Rights" at Faculty of Law of Shahid Beheshti University, 2015

holding the "Workshop on Human Rights" at "Judicial Science University" in cooperation with the High Council for Human Rights, 2015

holding the "Workshop on Human Rights" at "Imam Sadeg University," 2015

December 2016

holding the "Workshop on Protection of Citizens' Rights" in Para-medicine Faculty of Tehran Medical Science University" in cooperation with the United Nations Information Center in May 2016

the Training Workshop on Reviewing the United Nations Documents on Human Rights" held by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence in cooperation

2016

holding a colloquium with independent human rights institutions at the premise of High Council for Human Rights in June

Mustafa University" in August 2016

"International Islamic Human Rights Seminar" held with the cooperation of High Council for Human Rights and "Jameat al

**Table (7): seminars and training workshops on citizens' and human rights (2015 and 2016)**

Important seminars and training workshops held in the areas of citizens' and human rights in 2015 and 2016 are reflected in the following table.

## Workshops and Seminars on Citizens' and Human Rights

(Source: report of Social Affairs Department of Tehran Municipality to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

physician, center for the elderly, and center for smoking prevention)

diabetes prevention, center for obesity prevention, center for mothers and infants, center for blood donation, center for the formation and development of "Health-Oriented Social Centers"(e.g. center for the disabled, center for the youth, center for the launching 15 centers for the education of children and adolescents in the area of behavioral skills called "Fararmouz", providing training services in four areas of health (physical, mental, social and spiritual) to citizens

complexes covering 1500 participants in 2015

holding 5 training courses on citizens' rights for staff members of sports

of sports complexes in 2016

providing training on citizens' rights in the area of sports including training workshops on sports rights particularly for the staff

**Table (6): measures taken by Tehran Municipality for the education of citizens' and human rights (2015 and 2016)**

Measures taken by Tehran Municipality for the education of citizens' and human rights are reflected in the following table:

## Tehran Municipality

IRIB has produced 3494 hours of different training programs on citizens' and human rights in 2015.

## Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)

(Source: report of Ministry of Roads and Urban Development to National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Urban Development (2015 and 2016)

holding 48 provincial training courses covering 2880 participants for 209 hours, including academics, city managers and NGO managers and NGOs

holding 60 staff training courses covering 4500 participants for 219 hours, from March to October 2016, for academics,

**Table (5): education of citizens' and human rights by Ministry of Roads and**

The important measures taken by the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development in the area of citizens' rights are displayed in the following table.

## Ministry of Roads and Urban Development



holding the "Workshop on Human Rights" at the Faculty of Law and Political Science of Mashad Islamic Azad university, 2015

holding the "Scientific Dialogue on Political Jurisprudence and Human Rights" in Mashad Islamic Azad university, 2015

holding the "Workshop on Diplomacy and Human Rights" by Mofid University in Qom, October 2015

holding "International Seminar on Security and Human Rights" in Bifand University in 2015,

holding the "Workshop on Education and Human Rights" by the Islamic Human Rights Commission and Islamic Azad university, February 2016

holding the "Training Workshop on Judicial Procedures" by Islamic Human Rights Commission, October 2015

holding the "12<sup>th</sup> Training Workshop on Islam and Humanitarian law" in Qom University, February 2016



With respect to the significance of human development and the degree of the growth and progress of every country in social-economic fields, Table 3 illustrates the value of the HDI and its components for the IRI.

(Source: United Nations' Development Programme, Human Development Report, 2016)

Level of human development	Value of human development index
Very high	Over 0.8
High	0.7 – 0.79
Average	0.55 – 0.69
Low	Less than 0.55

Table (2): The criterion for determining the level of countries' human development

The numerical value of the HDI ranges from zero to one. This value demonstrates to what extent each country has approximated the highest level of human life and also allows for a comparison among countries. In the Human Development Report, countries have been divided into those with a very high, high, average, and low human development based on their HDI.

(Source: United Nations' Development Programme, Human Development Report, 2016)

Indicator	Minimum	Maximum
Life expectancy at birth	49	84
Average years of schooling	1.374	13.067
Expected years of schooling	4.1	20.221
GDP per capita	163	123124

Table (1): The constant maximums and minimums for the components of HDI (2015)

Development is a multifaceted process which impacts the economic, social, cultural, and political aspects of any given society, thereby leading to welfare and advancement. In order to establish welfare and advancement in human societies, one has to focus on social indicators alongside economic indicators too, a theme which comes into light in human development. With respect to the importance of the latter and based on the Human Development Report published by the United Nations' Development Programme, the human development index (HDI) and indicators of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) have been reviewed and analyzed in a five-year period.

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138,290	Consolidate the progress made towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals and in the improvement of human development indicators;	India

Promotion of Human Development Indicators

Promotion of Human Development Indicators



The value of the HDI in the IRI in 2010 was 0.702 reaching 0.774 in 2015 thus demonstrating a significant increase. Accordingly, the IRI has been placed among those countries with a high human development degree since 2010.

Life expectancy as one of the components of HDI which reveals health and well-being in each country was 71.9 for the IRI in 2010 going further up to 75.6 in 2015. An increase of over three years in life expectancy in the course of four years in a country proves remarkable achievements in terms of health and treatment. The HDI in the IRI in education is also noteworthy. As for income per capita which is another component of the HDI, one could state that had the IRI not been put under cruel and illegal sanctions, this component of the index would have risen commensurately with the other two indicators and thanks to its ecological capabilities, the IRI could have been included among countries with a very high human development.

Table 3 – HDI and its indicators in Iran

Year	HDI	Life expectancy	Net national income (per capita)	Average years of schooling	Education
2010	0.702	71.9	11764	7.2	14
2011	0.707	73	10164	7.3	12.7
2012	0.742	73.2	10695	7.8 (2010)	14.4 (2011)
2013	0.749	74	13451	7.8 (2012)	13.6 (2012)
2014	0.766	75.4	15440	8.2	15.1
2015	0.774	75.6	16395	8.8	14.8

(Source: United Nations' Development Program, Human Development Report, 2015)



Table 1 and 2 show the number of students and also educational staff and facilities of schools by educational level in the school years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015. According to the statistics, almost at all education levels, the number of students and educational facilities (schools, classrooms and teachers) has increased in the school-year 2014-2015 as compared to the previous year.

## Number of students, educational staff and facilities of schools by education level

the parliament) has criminalized the prevention of children's education and has provided for cash fine against the violators.

Country	Accepted Recommendations	No.Rec
State of Palestine	Step up its employment stimulation measures and enhance access of the poor to basic services, including sanitation, health and education;	138.250
Brunei Darussalam	Continue to implement programmes in the area of education, health and social empowerment and integration of vulnerable groups, especially women, children and the disabled, through the established national mechanisms as well as with the relevant NGOs and international organizations;	138.252
Myanmar	Continue implementing the programmes which provide education, health and social services in rural areas;	138.261
Turkmenistan	Step up efforts to provide greater access to education and health;	138.270
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Intensify and carry forward its efforts, particularly in the area of right to education;	138.271
Malaysia	Continue its efforts to bridge the gaps in the field of education, in remote areas;	138.273
Bangladesh	Strengthen policies to prevent school dropout;	138.274
Country	Accepted Recommendations /partially	No.Rec
Chile	Adopt provisions to prevent all forms of discrimination against women and girls and, in particular, promote access to higher education for members of the Baha'i community and other religious minorities;	138.111
Bahrain	Guarantee the full enjoyment by all minorities of all their social, cultural and political rights, especially their right to education;	138.118

All students have access to formal education in I.R. Iran and exclusion of students from formal education for any reason, whatsoever, is forbidden. Even extra measures have been taken in the country to raise education coverage and prevent students drop-out through the implementation of various programs. Children who are deprived of the right to education for such reasons as drop-out, sickness, etc. have access to both presence and non-presence learning based on the regulations governing long-distance education system.

The principals of primary schools are obligated to report to the related judicial authorities any violations of the Compulsory Education Law so that the necessary legal measures are taken in such cases. Also, the "Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents" (passed in 2002 by

# Right to Education



Table (1): number of students and educational facilities at different education levels (2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years)

level	School year	male	female	total	school	class	teacher	Educational staff
Pre-school	2013-2014	337,615	323,824	661,439	21,989	35,101	-	-
	2014-2015	349,748	338,704	688,425	24,364	35,207	-	-
	2013-2014	3,701,398	3,492,795	7,194,193	6,1151	309,562	273,005	91,965
primary	2014-2015	3,819,488	3,603,017	7,422,505	62,432	316,195	-	-
	2013-2014	1,068,474	979,158	2,047,632	22,887	86,181	142,409	57,133
	2014-2015	1,591,299	1,463,060	3,054,359	23,827	125,638	-	-
Junior secondary school	2013-2014	1,643,680	1,555,271	3,198,951	21,754	149,793	154,043	74,707
	2014-2015	1,130,697	1,099,526	2,230,223	19,709	116,387	-	-
	2013-2014	-	-	-	719	-	2,063	-
Technical-vocational	2014-2015	181,304	103,626	285,461	698	-	2,129	-
	2013-2014	13,054	8,736	21,790	848	1,295	-	-
	2014-2015	8,677	8,035	16,712	857	1,504	-	-
Adult courses (junior secondary school)	2013-2014	256,828	165,077	421,905	5,693	32,967	-	-
	2014-2015	229,147	147,891	377,038	5,305	29,870	-	-
	2013-2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult courses (High school)	2013-2014	247,194	143,634	401,143	-	-	-	-
	2014-2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2013-2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
total	2013-2014	7,174,229	6,687,672	13,861,901	-	-	584,670	229,319
	2014-2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2013-2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(Source: report of Iran's Statistics Center to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)



### Special attention to rural and less-developed areas

Though students in rural areas account for almost 16% of the entire student population, over 40% of schools and 20% of teachers are located in those areas.

(Source: report of Ministry of Education to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

level	State-run			private			State-run & private		
	male	female	mixed	male	female	mixed	male	female	mixed
primary	10,456	9,973	35,166	55,595	32,78	3,194	68,37	13,734	13,167
junior secondary	8,982	8,982	3,280	21,191	14,21	11,41	74	26,36	10,403
high school	4,517	5,456	8	9,981	12,34	12,79	2	25,15	5,751
Technical-vocational	1,275	915	1	2,191	192	160	0	352	1,467
total	27,502	27,051	38,461	93,014	65,54	59,59	441	12,954	34,056
	2,272	1,778	6	4,056	429	185	0	614	2,701
	6							1,963	33,010
	4670							6	38,902
	2543							1	105,968

Table (3): statistics relating to schools at different education levels (adults excluded) by governmental and non-governmental type, and also gender in urban and rural areas in 2014-2015

in the school-year 2014-2015.

By the end of the school year 2013-2014, the number of primary school, junior secondary school, high school, technical-vocational school, and educational complexes had reached respectively 52,217, 17,649,683, 24,933, and 136. As indicated by the table 3, the number of schools at all education levels had increase

### Number of schools by education level

(Source: report of Ministry of Education to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

School Year and Level	number of students
2013-2014	13,763
2014-2015	13,242
primary	7,756
junior secondary school	3,115
High school	2,371

Table (2): number of students and educational staff in Iranian schools abroad



Table (4): number of students, schools and teachers in rural areas in school-year 2014-2015

Number of students			Number of schools			Number of teachers
female	male	total	female	male	mixed	
1,041,309	1,117,942	2,159,251	2562	2830	34,831	40,223
						111,447

(Source: report of Ministry of Education to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Under the programs put in place, in the school-year 2014-2015, some 10,000 pre-school children in the most deprived areas of the country had access to pre-school education free of charge. Also, 150,000 pre-school children in the less-developed areas were provided with pre-school education enjoying a support of 50 to 85% in the payment of the costs in the same year. Under the same programs, all children in tribal areas, in the school-year 2014-2015, enjoyed a completely-free one-year pre-school education.

Of other measures taken to ensure fair access to education in less-developed rural areas mention can be made of the development of central-village schools, improvement of the quality of the services of boarding schools, expansion and diversification of job skills education in technical-vocational schools in less-developed rural and tribal areas with priority being given to girls, development of literacy programs for rural women, expansion of boarding schools, attracting the contribution of public-social foundations for increasing the share of development and renovation credits for rural areas in order to build 1000 new classrooms in tribal, border areas.

### Identification and attraction of children left out of education

Table 5 provides information relating to identification, attraction and education of 78,690 children of school age left out of the formal education system by school year and gender.

Table (5): information relating to identification, attraction and education of children of school age left out of the formal education system

2013-2014 school year		2014-2015 school year		Spring & summer of 2016		total
female	male	female	male	female	male	
9853	10456	20029	21275	1151	1090	total
total		total		total		78690
20,309	41,304	2241				

(Source: report of Ministry of Education to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Of the measures taken to attract children left out of the formal education system, mention can be made of the program to block the starting points of illiteracy implemented since 2013 aimed at identifying and attracting



Reduction of gender gap in literacy programs	Women and girls account for 80% of the students in literacy courses. In 2015 and 2016 school years, 350,000 women and girls attended literacy courses, which helped reduce gender gap from 7.4% in 2015 to 5.4% in 2016
Reduction of inequality in access to literacy programs through, inter alia, implementation of literacy programs in less-developed rural areas	The literacy courses have helped raise literacy rate in the rural population aged 10-49 from 88.6% in 2015 to 92.1% in 2016
Implementation of literacy programs for refugees, immigrants and foreign nationals	In 2015 school-year, 45,000 foreign nationals attended literacy courses

Table (8): most important programs adopted to fight illiteracy and their results in 2015-2016

In 2015 and 2016, the programs to raise literacy in illiterate Iranian and non-Iranian adults (e.g. Afghan, Iraqi and other refugees and immigrants) were followed up more seriously. In 2016, a total number of 451,686 people participated in literacy programs, which raised the literacy rate in the age group of 10-49 year-olds to 94.7% in 2016. The most important programs adopted to fight illiteracy and their results are reflected in the following table.

(Source: Information Center of Literacy Movement Organization)

year	total	gender		%		area		%
		female	male	female	male	urban	rural	
Up to January 2017	451,686	352,839	98,847	78.1	21.9	243,602	208,084	53.9
						urban	rural	46.1

Table (7): numbers of literacy students by gender, urban and rural areas up to January 2017

(Source: Information Center of Literacy Movement Organization)

year	total	population of country	Total illiterate	% of illiterate	male	female	urban	rural
1976	27,112,844	12,877,075	47.5	58.9	35.5	65.5	30.5	
1986	38,708,879	23,913,195	61.8	71.0	52.1	73.1	48.0	
1996	52,294,979	41,582,277	79.5	84.7	74.2	85.7	69.3	
2006	63,920,157	54,081,184	84.6	88.7	80.3	85.9	75.1	
2011	67,681,876	57,361,682	84.8	88.4	81.1	88.6	75.0	
2016	79,926,270	-	87.6	-	-	-	-	-

Table (6): literacy state in the age group of six-years and over in urban and rural areas in accordance with the statistics of the censuses held from 1976 to 2011

According to the census of 2011, 84.8% of the population aged 6 and over were illiterate. Table 6 provides information on literacy state in the age

### Fighting illiteracy

96.6% to 97.7% during the same period. Also, the index of pure enrolment rate for the primary school has increased from 97.4% in 2010-2011 school-year to 98.6% in 2004-2005; the index has also risen from 96.3% to 98.2% for girls, too, during the same period. Table 7 shows the numbers of literacy students in 1976, 1986, 1997, 2006, 2011 and 2016. It should be noted that according to the census of 2016, the illiterate population in the age group of 10-49 years is as the following: 2016 (%94.7), 2011 (%92.4), 2006 (%91.7).



## Higher education

### Number of students

In 2015-2016 school-years, a total number of 1,174,897 new university students (665,678 males and 499,219 females) were enrolled in universities and higher education centers. Also, in the same year, the total number of students at different higher education levels reached 4,348,383 (2,345,824 males and 2,002,559 females).

Table (9): statistics relating to newly-enrolled students at different higher education levels by gender and group of academic disciplines

School-year and group of academic disciplines	total	male	female
2013-2014	1,184,285	669,568	514,717
2014-2015	1,174,897	675,678	499,219
Medical sciences	53,367	20,435	32,932
Human sciences	548,932	283,594	265,338
Basic sciences	60,519	18,931	41,588
Technical & engineering sciences	364,138	288,155	75,983
Agriculture & veterinary sciences	45,921	22,446	23,475
Arts	102,020	42,117	59,903

(Continued) Table (9): statistics relating to newly-enrolled students at different higher education levels by gender and group of academic disciplines

School-year and group of academic disciplines	total	male	female	total	male	female
2013-2014	316,793	216,287	100,506	577,728	296,675	281,053
2014-2015	313,270	215,442	97,828	561,300	294,932	266,368
Medical sciences	5,158	3,207	1,951	26,416	8,036	18,380
Human sciences	132,131	81,517	50,614	266,916	123,371	143,545
Basic sciences	71	12	59	36,838	10,940	25,898
Technical & engineering sciences	121,854	104,698	17,156	169,980	128,801	41,179
Agriculture & veterinary sciences	5561	4,543	1,018	22,609	9,293	13,316

Promotion of educational justice through further attention to vulnerable groups in rural and tribal areas	Production and broadcast of a TV series entitled "culture of literacy"
Of the total population covered by the literacy programs provided since the beginning of 2015-2016 school year, 78.62% of the literacy programs were allocated to women and girls and 45.99% to deprived areas in the countryside and also margins of cities. Also, the number of inhabitants in tribal areas provided by literacy programs from 1984 till 2015 were 257,186, of whom 1409 attended literacy courses in 2015	
1123 hours of program were produced and broadcast under the TV series by different channels of IRIB in 2015	

(Source: report of Ministry of Education to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)



Table (10): newly-enrolled students at different higher education levels by the type of higher education institute and gender

School-year and group of academic sciences	total	male	female
2013-2014	1,184,285	669,568	514,717
2014-2015	1,174,897	675,678	499,219
Ministry of Science, Research and Technology	179,786	85,721	94,065
Payam-E-Nour (Long-distance education) University	98,450	37,576	60,874
Jame-Elmi-Karbori (applied sciences) University	243,855	167,281	76,574
Fanni-Herfei (technical-vocational sciences) University	98,634	69,244	29,390
Farhangian (Teachers Training) University	8,650	4,571	4,079
Ministry of Health and Medical Education	43,794	17,683	26,111
Higher education institutes affiliated to executive organs	8,132	5,820	2,312
Islamic Azad University	405,730	242,792	162,938
private higher education institutes	87,866	44,990	42,876

(Source: Yearly statistics of Iran's statistics center, 2016)

(Continued) Table (9): statistics relating to newly-enrolled students at different higher education levels by gender and group of academic disciplines

School-year and group of academic disciplines	Male & female	male	female	Professional doctorate	Male & female	male	female	Specialized doctorate	Male & female	male	female
2013-2014	250,236	135,716	114,520	10,828	4,816	6,012	28,700	16,074	12,626		
2014-2015	259,053	143,061	115,992	12,720	5,994	6,726	28,554	16,249	12,305		
Medical sciences	5,218	1,552	3,666	11,282	5,232	6,050	5,293	2,408	2,885		
Human sciences	138,433	71,771	66,662	0	0	0	11,452	6,935	4,517		
Basic sciences	20,047	6,645	13,402	0	0	0	3,563	1,334	2,229		
Technical & engineering sciences	67,518	50,962	16,556	0	0	0	4,786	3,694	1,092		
Agriculture & veterinary	13,524	6,295	7,229	1,438	762	676	2,789	1,553	1,236		
Arts	14,313	5,836	8,477	0	0	0	671	325	346		

(Source: yearly statistics of Iran's Statistics Center, 2016)



Table (11): statistics relating to students at different higher education levels by the group of academic disciplines and gender

School-year and group of	male	female	total
2013-2014	2,602,346	2,200,375	4,802,721
2014-2015	2,345,824	2,002,559	4,348,383
Medical sciences	85,623	161,845	247,468
Human sciences	944,848	1,058,745	2,003,593
Basic sciences	79,150	175,906	255,056
Technical & engineering sciences	1,003,774	308,821	1,312,595
Agriculture & veterinary	87,274	101,358	188,632
Arts	145,155	195,884	341,039

(Continued) Table (11): statistics relating to students at different higher education levels by the group of academic disciplines and gender

School-year and group of academic disciplines	male	751,243	344,785	1,096,028	1,378,072	1,441,590	2,819,662
	female	570,116	252,229	822,345	1,257,994	1,300,072	2,558,066
	total	193,143	126,514	319,657	517,632	713,310	1,230,942
	Human sciences	63	199	262	51,640	122,015	173,655
	Basic sciences	295,658	50,420	346,078	546,207	204,165	750,372
	Technical & engineering sciences	10,695	2,374	13,069	44,847	68,352	113,199
	Agriculture & veterinary	63,197	69,587	132,784	63,294	99,822	163,116
	Arts						
	male						
	female						
Associate degrees		total	male	female	total	Bachelor's degrees	

(Continued) Table (11): statistics relating to students at different higher education levels by the group of academic disciplines and gender

School-year and group of academic disciplines	Master's degree			Professional doctorate			Specialized doctorate		
	387,802	333,004	720,806	41,436	30478	71,914	54,751	39,560	94,311
	417,228	357,538	774,766	44,199	33816	78,015	66,670	48,521	115,191
	6,007	13,183	19,190	41,057	28051	69,108	9,831	12,062	21,893
	207,748	203,242	410,990	0	0	0	26,325	15,679	42,004
Human sciences									
Basic sciences	20,350	43,566	63,916	0	0	0	7,097	10,126	17,223
Technical & engineering & sciences	146,490	49,608	196,098	0	0	0	15,419	4,628	20,047



Academic ranks		School-year	
		2013-2014	2014-2015
	male	58,936	61,629
	female	18,988	20,305
total		77,924	81,934

Table (13): number of full-time faculty members of the higher education centers in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years

### Number of higher education faculty members

In 2014-2015 school-year, the total number of full-time faculty members of the higher education centers reached 81,934, of whom 20,305 were females and 61,629 were males. Table 13 provides the related information for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years.

School-year		2012-2013		2013-2014	
of academic disciplines	male	53,032	44,270	52,033	68,906
	female	120,252	97,293	120,939	2,150
total		173,284	141,563	172,972	3,072
Master's degree		2,026		2,873	
Professional doctorate		4,899		4,388	
Specialized degrees		4,251		3,280	
total		7,402		7,531	

(Source: yearly statistics of Iran's Statistics Center, 2016)

(Continued) Table (12): number of students at different levels who graduated from the higher education centers by gender and group of academic disciplines

School-year		2012-2013		2013-2014	
of academic disciplines	male	120,252	63,289	166,542	79,502
	female	183,541	246,044	263,882	263,882
total		303,793	509,333	430,424	527,384
Associate degrees		183,541		246,044	
Bachelor's degree		120,252		166,542	
total		303,793		430,424	

(Continued) Table (12): number of students at different levels who graduated from the higher education centers by gender and group of academic disciplines

School-year and group of academic disciplines		2012-2013		2013-2014		% (2013-2014)	
male	female	413,289	505,731	505,731	324,971	100%	41.17%
	female	324,971	353,966	353,966	738,260	58.83%	58.83%
Total (male & female)		738,260		859,697		58.83%	

Table (12): number of students at different levels who graduated from the higher education centers by gender and group of academic disciplines

In accordance with the statistics released by Iran's Statistics Center, in 2013-2014 school-years, 859,697 students at different levels graduated from the higher education centers, of whom 58.83% were females and 41.17% were males. Table 12 provides information on the numbers of students at different levels who graduated from the higher education centers by gender and group of academic disciplines.

### Graduates from academic disciplines at different higher education levels

School-year		2012-2013		2013-2014		% (2013-2014)	
Agriculture & veterinary	Arts	19,054	22,405	41,459	3,142	5765	8907
	Arts	17,579	25,534	43,113	0	0	0
Total (male & female)		38,633		84,572		57.65%	

(Source: yearly statistics of Iran's Statistics Center, 2016)



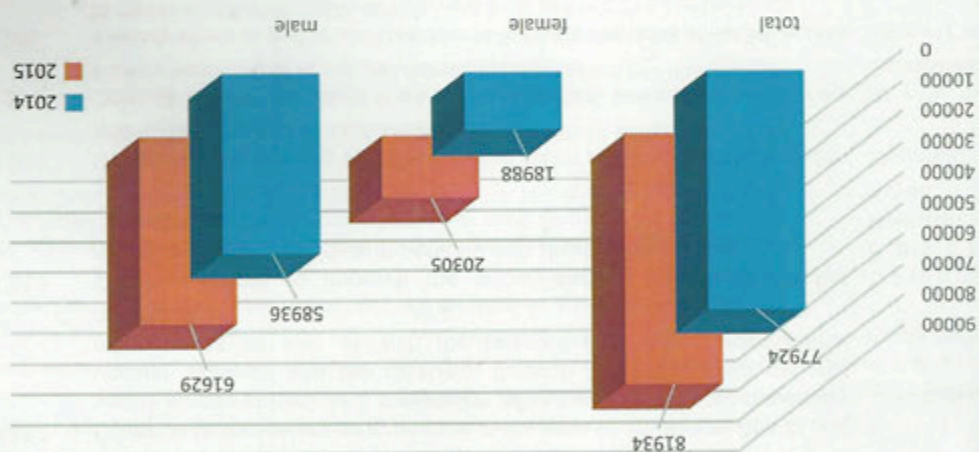


Chart (1): number of full-time faculty members of the higher education centers in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015

(Source: yearly statistics of Iran's Statistics Center, 2016)

professor	2014-2015	4,254	375	4,629
Assistant professor	2014-2015	28,039	9,438	37,477
Associate professor	2014-2015	8,263	1,543	9,806
lecturer	2014-2015	19,561	8,400	27,961
instructor	2014-2015	169	55	224
others	2014-2015	1,343	494	1,837



# The Right to Health, Social Security, and Insurance

## The Right to Health, Social Security, and Insurance

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.250	Step up its employment stimulation measures and enhance access of the poor to basic services, including sanitation, health and education;	State of Palestine
138.252	Continue to implement programmes in the area of education, health and social empowerment and integration of vulnerable groups, especially women, children and the disabled, through the established national mechanisms as well as with the relevant NGOs and international organizations;	Brunei Darussalam
138.253	Continue efforts to improve the social security system for better safeguarding the elderly and persons with disabilities;	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
138.261	Continue implementing the programmes which provide education, health and social services in rural areas;	Myanmar
138.264	Continue carrying out efforts in enhancing the health services coverage in the country, according to its national development plans;	Brunei Darussalam
138.265	Intensify efforts to ensure universal access to health insurance, including access to maternal and child health care;	State of Palestine
138.266	Continue to expand its health insurance coverage to all citizens, including those in rural areas;	India
138.267	Strengthen its cooperation with civil society organizations for the promotion and protection of human rights in the area of health services;	Kazakhstan
138.268	Pursue development and health policies that respond to the needs of the Iranian people;	Lebanon
138.269	Continue its efforts aimed at improving access to health services;	Pakistan
138.270	Step up efforts to provide greater access to education and health;	Turkmenistan
No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations /partially	Country
138.135	Outlaw forced or coerced sterilisation, sex reassignment surgeries and reparative therapies imposed without, free and informed consent;	Iceland

## Legal Principles

The Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) has effected various legislative and executive measures at the national level towards protecting the right of individuals to health. Accordingly, the right to health has been specifically noted in the Constitution where Paragraph 12 of Article 3 highlights "the planning of a correct and just economic system, in accordance with Islamic criteria in order to create welfare, eliminate poverty, and abolish all forms of deprivation with respect to food, housing, work, healthcare, and the

provision of social insurance for all". Paragraph 4 of Article 21 also emphasizes "the provision of special insurance for widows, older women, and women without caretakers" as one of the responsibilities of the Government. Furthermore, Article 29 recognizes the right to social security and the need to medical and healthcare through insurance and other modalities as a universal right.



## Iran's Health Transformation Plan

Iran's Health Transformation Plan (HTP) was launched on May 5, 2014 aiming at providing financial support to citizens against healthcare expenses,

organizing hospital care, and promoting the quality and equitable access of people to healthcare all around the country. Table 1 below illustrates some of the achievements of the HTP up to Aug 20, 2016.

**Table (1): Certain measures put in place from the beginning of the HTP up to now (May 2014 up to Sep 2016)**

Program	Results
<b>Providing financial support and reducing patients' expenses</b>	<p>Insuring 10,677,000 persons lacking healthcare insurance and increasing healthcare insurance to over 95%</p> <p>Reducing the share of patients' hospitalization fees from 37% to 3% for residents in rural areas and 6% for residents in urban areas and providing financial support to 21 million hospitalized patients</p> <p>Reducing the expenditure percentage of hospitalized patients in Government hospitals (those eligible for basic insurance) for rural residents from 4.7% in 2015 to 4.5% in 2015 (from Apr to Sep) and urban residents from 6.8% in 2014 to 6.5% in 2016 (Apr – Sep)</p> <p>Protecting difficult-to-cure patients in terms of healthcare services in hospitals and providing relative coverage of medication expenses</p> <p>Providing free-of-charge heart, lung, liver, intestine, pancreas, bone marrow transplant surgeries in Government hospitals</p> <p>Reducing the reference of patients for purchasing medication and equipment outside hospitals from 100% to 3%</p> <p>Providing support to patients with specific diseases (thalassemia, hemophilia, MS, and dialysis) and not charging them in all healthcare centers of medical universities through allocating a budget over IRR 310 billion for 2015 and IRR 200 billion for 2016 (Apr – Sep), USD 9 m and USD 6 m, respectively</p> <p>Reducing the price of different kinds of frequently used medical apparatus and equipment</p> <p>Providing low-cost high-quality diagnostic treatment services to low- and mid-income individuals in Government centers</p>
<b>Access to safe delivery</b>	<p>Eliminating the expenses of natural childbirth</p> <p>Conducting 1,313,000 free-of-charge natural childbirths in Iran</p> <p>Reducing caesarian sections by 5.6%</p> <p>Building 1800 special delivery rooms (SDR) in 366 hospitals and inaugurating 848 SDRs in 2016</p> <p>Providing free-of-charge training to 400,000 pregnant women during pregnancy in order to empower them in terms of fertility and natural childbirth</p>
<b>Access to infertility treatment services</b>	<p>Establishing 17 new infertility treatment centers with focus on less developed areas</p> <p>Developing and equipping 24 existing infertility treatment centers</p> <p>Covering 85% of the expenses of infertility treatment with Government tariffs for low-income infertile couples</p>
<b>Promoting the quality of hoteling services in Government hospitals</b>	<p>Reconstructing 2.5 million square meters of hospitalization space in 570 hospitals</p> <p>Reconstructing 45,000 hospital beds</p> <p>Providing 27,000 medium and heavy medical equipment items for hospitals</p> <p>Opening 1714 beds in ICU in 2015 and 700 other such beds up to Mar 2017 (with a 42% increase compared to before 2014)</p> <p>Optimizing and equipping 12,500 rooms for the nursing staff to rest in</p> <p>Distributing 77,784 hotel equipment items</p>
<b>Promoting the quality of visit services</b>	<p>Assigning 16,749 resident specialists and subspecialists in 658 special clinics in 358 cities and supporting 80 million visits</p> <p>Assigning 5761 specialists and subspecialists in 338 hospitals in less developed regions</p> <p>Assigning an average of 860 specialists in 19 fields of specialty to nightshifts in Government hospitals</p> <p>Constructing 250 specialized and sub-specialized polyclinics comprising 6440 doctors' offices</p> <p>Implementing the resident specialists plan in all hospitals affiliated with medical universities</p>



<b>Promoting and enhancing emergency services</b>	Developing pre-hospital emergency rooms from 836 urban bases and 1336 rural bases in 2015 to 841 and 1355 urban and rural bases, respectively, in 2016
	Conducting 2,497,590 pre-hospital emergency services in Apr 2015 – Mar 2016 and 1,870,491 in Apr – Sep 2016
	Launching 21 emergency airlift bases and conducting 1712 sorties in Apr 2015 – Mar 2016 and 1367 in Apr – Sep 2016
	Developing the emergency fleet from 40 vehicles in Apr 2015 – Mar 2016 to 43 in Apr – Sep 2016
	Distributing 3300 new ambulances in Apr 2015 – Mar 2016 to 3500 in Apr – Sep 2016
	Preserving and maintaining 57 emergency buses in 2015 and 2016
	Renovating, standardizing, and optimizing 25 physical spaces for hospital emergencies in Apr 2015 – Mar 2016 to 62 in Apr – Sep 2016
<b>Developing the provision of treatment services</b>	Developing and standardizing the trauma referral centers in medical universities within the HTP (implementing 120 projects)
	Establishing emergency bases in 24-hour rural and urban healthcare centers
	Paying special attention to cancer patients through establishing a comprehensive early cancer diagnostic and treatment network at three levels around the country and in 131 screening centers, 52 out-patient chemotherapy centers, 37 cancer treatment centers, and 14 comprehensive cancer diagnostic and treatment centers
	Standardizing and developing nine technical burn treatment centers and developing 185 BICU beds
	Standardizing, completing, and equipping 11 poison treatment centers in the hospitals around the country
	Establishing 1990 health bases
	Developing 1000 new hospitalization and psychiatric beds in 15 psychiatric emergency wards alongside renovating the existing wards
<b>Other measures</b>	Implementing an advanced national program to treat MIs on a 24-hour basis in 54 hospitals.
	Implementing an advanced national program to treat CVAs on a 24-hour basis in 56 hospitals
	Launching 500 mobile oral and dental health bases in primary schools
	Completing and equipping 1000 healthcare and treatment centers to provide oral and dental health services
	Increasing the number of border healthcare bases from 92 to 114
	Creating job opportunities for over 9000 graduates of medicine and para-medicine and recruiting 5300 persons
	Recruiting 16,800 human resources as paramedics, nurses, GPs, dentists, mental health experts, nutritionists, environmental health experts, and laboratory technicians within the HTP
	Enhancing life expectancy at birth among both genders from 72.4 in 2011 to 75.5 in 2015 based on the World Health Organization (WHO) report

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

## Providing Health Services to Rural Residents, Nomads, Peri-Urban Dwellers, and Residents of Cities with Populations below 20,000

In order to reconstruct, optimize, and complete the health network for rural areas, cities with populations below 20,000, nomads, and peri-urban areas, the HTP was launched in 2014. A comparison of some of the measures in the health sector prior to and after the implementation of the HTP appears in Table 3. In 2015 and Apr – Sep 2016, the following services, as displayed in Table 2, were offered to rural residents, nomads, peri-urban dwellers, and residents of cities with populations below 20,000.

**Table (2): Comparing some healthcare and treatment measures prior to and after the implementation of the HTP**

Measures	Prior to the HTP	After the HTP
Number of health bases established	16025	17980
Number of rural comprehensive health services	2338	2674



Number of MDs	4489	6852
Number of midwives	4712	5285
Number of health bases repaired and equipped	0	2000
Number of centers for comprehensive health services in rural and urban areas with populations below 20,000 repaired and equipped	0	3832
Number of health team residences repaired and equipped	0	2574
Number of medicinal items	350	436
Number of medicinal complements	5	7

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

**Table (3): Health services to rural residents, nomads, peri-urban dwellers, and residents of cities with populations below 20,000 (Apr 2015 – Sep 2016)**

Item	Major measures
1	Providing healthcare and treatment services to 28 million persons within primary healthcare services program and implementing it in 3987 healthcare centers which enforce the family physician and rural insurance initiatives.
2	Constructing and launching 1955 rural health bases and 336 health centers which implement the new health services program with a budget of over IRR 5360 b equal to USD 153 m.
3	Repairing and equipping 5835 rural health bases with a budget of over IRR 1167 b equal to USD 33 m.
4	Repairing 1885 and equipping 3036 healthcare centers implementing the new healthcare services program with a budget of over IRR 11,000 b equal to USD 315 m.
5	Launching 1941 active oral and dental health centers and recruiting 1188 general dentists prioritizing services to children under 14 and pregnant and lactating women in order to prevent tooth decay and dental and periodontal diseases and enhance oral health.
6	Recruiting 6852 GPs as coordination officials and healthcare team leaders with the goal of providing 24-hour healthcare services.
7	Recruiting 5285 midwives in order to enhance maternal health, the health of women in fertility age, children's health, etc.
8	Providing medicinal services in 4094 medicinal units under the supervision of a technical expert.
9	Providing laboratory services in 2709 laboratories.
10	Assigning 5761 specialists and subspecialists to 338 hospitals in 301 cities with populations below 20,000.
11	Identifying 434,338 diabetics and 980,492 persons with hypertension and providing healthcare services.
12	Increasing the number of GPs, specialists, subspecialists, and fellows within the program of retaining MDs in less developed regions from 5722 in 2015 to 6300 in 2016. Assigning 5749 specialists and subspecialists in 301 less developed cities and their full-time presence in Government hospitals.
13	Enhancing the quality of visiting services through launching 59 special clinics in 2016 and conducting 39 million visits during Apr – Dec 2016; this figure was 37 million visits in 2015.

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

## Providing Health Services to Urban Areas

The figures on the major interventions and services provided in the field of health and treatment in urban areas appear in the following tables.



**Table (4): Population covered by new health services in urban areas**

<b>Total population covered by the program</b>	49,357,893
<b>Population of cities with over 20,000 residents which are covered</b>	39,009,004
<b>Population of peri-urban cities which are covered</b>	10,348,889

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

**Table (5): Number of physicians and paramedics employed in cities with populations of over 50,000 and peri-urban cities**

<b>Service providers</b>	<b>Cities with over 50,000 residents</b>	<b>Peri-urban cities</b>
GP	2898	603
General dentist	894	185
Nurse	1036	277
Mental health expert	826	386
Nutrition counselor	530	291
Health attendant	12,295	3422
Environmental expert	1995	508
Occupational health expert	776	274
Analyst of information, statistics, and reception	986	332
Lab technician	1180	233
Radiology technician	57	0
Public affairs official	236	93

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

**Table (6): Number of centers constructed and repaired which provide health services in urban areas (2016)**

<b>Units constructed</b>	Health services comprehensive centers	98
	Health bases	75
	Other urban units	73
<b>Repaired and equipped units (standard enhancement)</b>	Health services comprehensive centers	1013
	Health bases	1515
	Other urban units	241

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

It is worth noting that the statistics on the centers launched prior to 2016 are in accordance with Table 7.

**Table (7): Comprehensive centers of health services and health bases which have been operationalized**

<b>Comprehensive health services centers operationalized</b>		<b>Health bases operationalized</b>	
Governmental	Outsourced	Governmental	Outsourced
1692	19200	244	1920

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)



Table (8): Comparing healthcare indicators before and after revising the HTP

Subject	Before the 2016 revision	After the 2016 revision	Difference	Percentage of change compared to before the revision
Urban population	-	50,430,976	-	-
Rural population	-	21,093,753	-	-
Population of peri-urban cities	-	9,956,608	-	-
Total population	-	80,581,337	-	-
Rural health homes	18,012	18,571	559	3.1
Nomadic health homes	0	119	119	-
Rural health bases	166	343	177	106.6
Total rural health homes and bases	18,178	19,033	855	4.7
Rural centers	2537	3012	475	18.7
24-hour rural center	75	99	24	32.0
Total rural centers	2612	3111	499	19.1
Urban health bases	2700	3080	380	14.1
Total urban bases	2369	2608	239	10.1
Urban centers	2147	2645	318	14.8
Type 1 24-hour urban centers (with specialists)	96	125	29	30.2
Type 2 24-hour urban centers	450	387	-63	-14.0
Total urban centers	2693	2977	248	10.5
First-class border healthcare bases	22	37	15	68.2
2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> class border healthcare bases	77	89	12	15.6
Total border healthcare bases	99	126	27	27.3
Behavioral disorders counseling centers	119	172	53	44.5
Medical emergency bases	657	823	166	25.3
Child delivery facilities	328	259	-69	-21.0
Total units	27,386	29,109	2054	6.3

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

## Food Basket Health and Nutrition Improvement

The most significant interventions put in place in 2015 and 2016 in terms of food basket health and nutrition improvement are as follows.

Table (9): Most significant interventions in terms of food basket health and nutrition improvement (2015 and 2016)

Item	Most significant measures
1	Equipping and launching 95 nutrition counseling units
2	Implementing provision and distribution plans for 42 assistance supplements for female high school students and implementing over 10 million vitamin D supplements
3	Implementing the school milk program and distributing vitamin D fortified milk in 14 provinces with the highest rate of vitamin D deficiency prevalence



4	Distributing 720,000 free-of-charge food baskets for 60,000 pregnant and lactating women in rural areas
5	Distributing iron supplements, folic acid, and mineral multivitamins for pregnant women
6	Implementing the fifth national initiative to control and prevent iodine deficiency disorders
7	Equipping 230 labs in medical universities to assess the iodine level of students aged 8-10
8	Implementing a pilot project for flour fortification with vitamin D
9	Holding a national mobilization campaign to correct the consumption model stressing the consumption of sugar, salt, and fat
10	Holding over 4900 nutrition training workshops for children under five
11	Recovery of 50% of children suffering from malnutrition in needy families through the cooperation of protection agencies
12	Enhancing the quality of cooking oils and reducing trans and saturated fatty acids and revising the standards for margarine, palm oil, and half-solid oil for household consumption and setting standards for shortenings (industry and syndicate oils) and reducing the import of palm oil up to 30%
13	Implementing a plan to organize the school canteen system and the healthy nutrition manual
14	Enforcing the food security and nutrition national document in all medical universities
15	Controlling and monitoring industrial products in the fourth quarter of 2015 and first three quarters of 2016 in nine provinces
16	Implementing the inter-sectoral nutrition and food security program in seven provinces in order to enhance nutrition and food security in collaboration with NGOs

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

## Controlling, Eradicating, and Eliminating Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases

The most noteworthy measures regarding the control, eradication, and elimination of communicable and non-communicable diseases appear in Table 10 below.

**Table (10): Most noteworthy measures regarding the control, eradication, and elimination of communicable and non-communicable diseases (Apr 2015 – Sep 2016)**

Item	Most noteworthy measures
1	Maintain children's vaccination coverage at the high level of 95%
2	Reducing the number of malaria cases from 11,333 in 2008 to 157 in 2015 and 57 in Apr – Dec 2016 (0.8% per 1000 persons)
3	Continuing the successful implementation of the national program for neonatal hypothyroidism screening and preserving the coverage of the program at 97% through screening over 1.5 million newborns and early treatment of 3000 inflicted newborns
4	Drafting the national prevention document for preventing deafness and hearing loss in 2015 and drafting a three-year operational initiative
5	Implementing the HIV prevention program in 170 centers and 40 selected hospitals of 16 medical universities and piloting and holding two TOT workshops for the pilot universities in order to scale up the program at the nationwide level
6	Conducting the rapid HIV test among 156,515 pregnant women up to Sep 2016
7	Launching nine new counseling centers for vulnerable women in 2015 and 2016
8	Drafting the national document for controlling non-communicable diseases with focus on four major non-communicable diseases in 2015
9	Conducting free-of-charge clinical and paraclinical exams on TB suspects in the healthcare system and successful control of this disease through reducing TB cases to 12.6 per 100,000 persons

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)



## Reducing Neonatal and Maternal Mortality Rates

Attention to the health of newborns and reducing their death toll is among the goals of the Sixth National Development Plan (2016-2020). During this program, neonatal mortality has declined to lower than seven per 1000 live births. A review of the neonatal mortality indicator reflects a reduction from 19 deaths per 1000 live births in 2005 to 9.5 in 2015. At the moment, over 500 hospitals (over 80% of the centers) are child-friendly and the breastfeeding promotion campaign is being implemented in them.

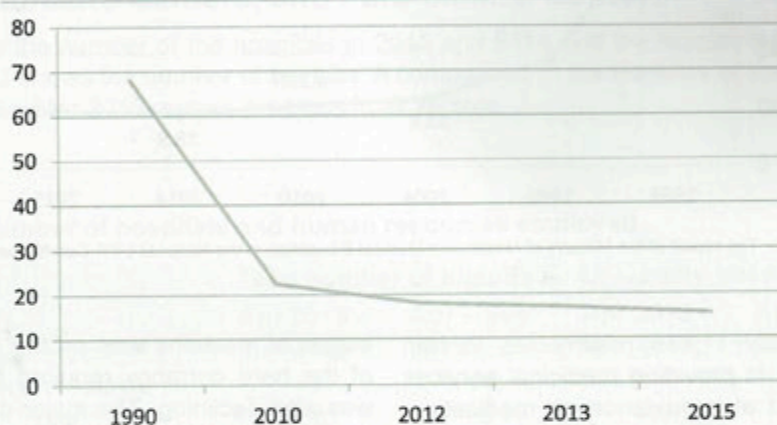
In order to reduce the deaths of newborns under 1500 grams which comprise the most frequent cases of neonatal mortality, the following interventions have been effected: allocating over 1800 NICU

beds, using the subspecialty expertise of over 250 neonatologists, establishing wards with advanced equipment and facilities and efficient human resources, and attending to mental growth and development.

The Sixth National Development Plan aims at reducing under-five child mortality to below 12 per 1000 live births. Based on the WHO report, the rate of under-five child mortality was 17 and 15.6 in 2013 and 2015, respectively. Accordingly, the IRI realized the fourth Millennium Development Goal (MDG) before the anticipated deadline.

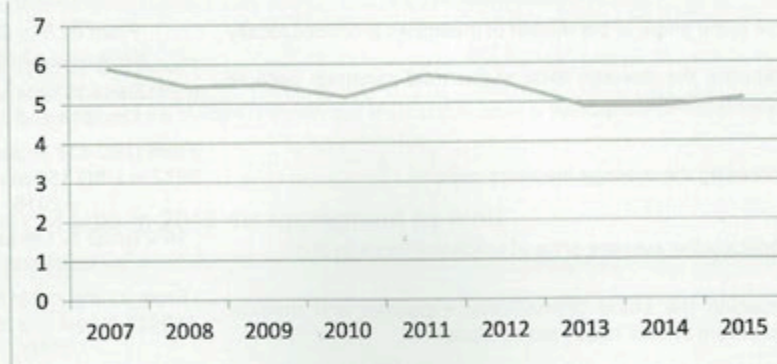
In 2015, over 23,600,000 cases of healthcare services were provided for under-five children in healthcare facilities with over 22,600,000 cases being routine cares.

**Chart (1): The trend of under-five child mortality per 1000 live births**



(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

**Chart (2): The trend of under-five child mortality per 1000 live births based on the surveillance system**



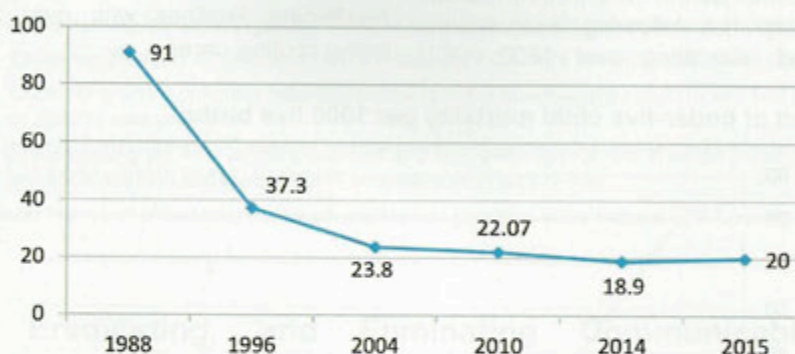
(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)



Based on recent WHO reports, Iran falls among those countries which succeeded to actualize the MDGs. According to this report, nine countries have achieved the fifth MDG during the 25-year period between 1990 and 2015; one such state is the IRI with an 80% reduction in maternal mortality rate. Establishing the nationwide maternal mortality surveillance system was one of the major interventions aimed at reducing such mortalities in recent decades.

The chart below illustrates clearly the information on the different reviews regarding the maternal mortality surveillance system. It is worth noting that in 2015, approximately 27 pregnant women lost their lives due to the flu epidemic; this was the reason why the indicator had a rise in 2014. According to reports, 193 mothers were deceased up to Dec 2015 while the figure stood at 189 for the same duration up to Dec 2016.

**Chart (3): The trend of maternal mortality per 100,000 live births based on the surveillance system and other reviews (1988-2015)**



(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

## Medicine

There are currently 11,485 pharmacies in Iran which are engaged in providing medicinal services and counseling and also guidance on medication. The share of the market of domestically produced medicines increased from 62.9 to 69.7% during Sep 2014 – June 2016. Meanwhile, as the rate of the

export of medicine was on the rise, the mean sum of the hard currency required for medicine import was also declining. The major data in this regard is represented in Table 11. Chart 4 also displays the share of the production of medicinal items to the total medicine market.

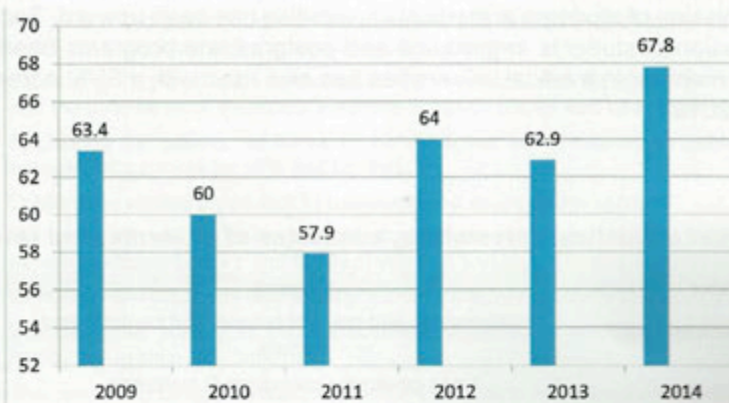
**Table (11): The most significant medicinal interventions (Sep 2013 – June 2016)**

Item	Activities	Extent
1	Rise in the share of the market of medicines produced locally	From 62.9 to 69.7%
2	Reducing the average total of the hard currency used to import medicine	From USD 1.265 b, the average in 2012 and 2013 to USD 1.045 b in 2014 and 2015
3	Increasing the average medicine export	From USD 138 m during 2009 – 2012 to USD 150 m during 2013 – 2015
4	Reducing the average price of medicinal items in 2015	14% (USD 121 m saving hard currency)
5	Reducing the share of medicinal expenses and medical equipment in total health expenditure	From 21.9% in 2013 to 14.4% in 2015 (equal to a reduction of 35%)
6	The extent of medicine production in Apr 2015 – Mar 2016	IRR 91,148 b (USD 2.6 b)
7	The extent of medicine production during Apr 2016 – Sep 2016	IRR 49,900 b (USD 1.4 b)
8	Reducing the average of medicinal deficiencies	From 90 items in 2013 to 30 items in 2016

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)



**Chart (4): The share of domestically produced medicinal items to the overall medicinal market**



(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

## Hospitals, Healthcare Centers, and Para-clinical Centers

Table 12 displays the number of the hospitals in 2015 and 2016 and the human resources employed in them while Table 13 shows the number of the labs. A comparison of the statistics of the period of Apr – Sep 2016 with Apr 2015 – Mar 2016 reveals progress in all sectors.

**Table (12): The number of hospitals and human resources employed**

Indicator	Total number of hospitals		University hospitals	
	Apr 2015 – Mar 2016	Apr – Sep 2016	Apr 2015 – Mar 2016	Apr – Sep 2016
Number of hospitals	935	945	577	585
GPs	7161	7674	4901	5050
Specialists	26,209	29,355	15,643	17,089
Subspecialists	3334	3677	2393	2546
Dentists	535	602	166	189
Pharmacists	541	467	763	660
Midwives	12,693	14,593	8702	9796
Nurses	136,331	150,670	97,675	106,315
Female specialists	---	9675	---	6398
Female subspecialists	---	962	---	786

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

**Table (13): Number of labs in 2016 disaggregated by kind**

Kind	Number
Private	2343
Charity	140
Governmental healthcare	616
Others	508
Cooperatives	79
Delegated to the private sector	39
Total	3725

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)



## Medical Education

The trend of the admission of students in medical universities has been upward. Such is also the case with the trend of the admission of students in graduate and postgraduate programs bearing a 20.3% increase. The number of faculty member in medical universities has also risen with a 55% increase from 2008 to 2015 standing at 16,863 in 2015.

**Table (14): The number of medical universities, admission of students, and faculty members**

Indicator	Number	Year
Universities	72 universities and medical schools and non-affiliated centers	2015
	1 non-governmental/nonprofit institution	
	89 centers of Islamic Azad University	
	72 medical schools and universities	2016
	1 non-governmental/nonprofit institution	
Student admission capacity	92 centers of Islamic Azad University	2016
	36,200	
Total number of medical students	35,065	2016
	171,022	2012-13
Faculty members	189,967	2015-16
	16,836	2015
Ratio of professors to students	10.7	2016

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

It is worth noting that the cause of the decline in the admission capacity of students in 2016 was the fall in the capacity of certain universities (around 2000) with the aim of promoting the quality of education.

## Traditional Medicine

Quite a number of measures have been affected in this field too, the most significant of which during Sep 2013 – June 2016 are described in Table 15.

**Table (15): The most significant measures in traditional medicine (Sep 2013 – June 2016)**

Item	Measures
1	Establishing eight traditional medicine schools, 17 majors of traditional medicine including one at the doctoral level, eight majors of traditional pharmacology including one at the doctoral level, and eight majors of medical history
2	Adopting the establishment of 20 traditional medicine centers and conducting the infrastructural activities of constructing them
3	Initiating the incorporation of traditional medicine services into the primary healthcare in the domain under the supervision of nine medical universities as pilots
4	Establishing a scientific and trade relationship with the traditional medicine centers of China, South Korea, Spain, Austria, the UAE, and Turkey
5	Drafting curriculum for the majors of massage, clinical care, and natural products
6	Holding continuous training programs on traditional Iranian medicine for the medical community and the general public in medical universities



7	Preparing the draft for the hospital and supplementary development program within the Sixth National Development Plan
8	Adopting a two-credit course on the principles and fundamentals of Iran's traditional medicine within the curriculum of the majors of medical sciences
9	Facilitating the introduction of health promotion services with the teachings of Iranian medicine and the treatments of traditional medicine in health homes and healthcare centers
10	Facilitating the addition of herbs to the medicinal list of healthcare centers including the educational package for GPs and families
11	Drafting the standard visit and 11 traditional and acupuncture services
12	Compiling the training packages to restore health and correct lifestyle from the viewpoint of Iranian medicine for GPs and family physicians and also different walks of life
13	Compiling an herbal and traditional pharmacopeia for health workers
14	Increasing the number of centers covered by traditional medicine services in the primary healthcare system from nine to 18

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

## Blood Transfusion

The most considerable interventions in this regard in the period between Sep 2013 and June 2016 are presented in Table 16.

**Table (16): The most considerable interventions in blood transfusion in the period between Sep 2013 and June 2016**

Item	Measures
1	Accessing almost 6.2 m blood units donated
2	Reaching the continuous indicator of 52.5% blood donation
3	Securing 100% of the required blood through donors
4	Conducting screening tests on 100% of donated blood units
5	Establishing a blood preservation system in 590 hospitals

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

## Cooperating with NGOs to Promote Healthcare Services

There are 700 health charities working in different fields to promote healthcare services. The titles of these services appear in Table 17. It is worth noting that the Ministry of Health has direct contacts with over 15,000 donors in the country and since Apr 2014 until Sep 2016, over IRR 6000 b (the equivalent of USD 170 m) have been donated by charity institutions and charitable individuals.

**Table (17): The titles of the participation activities of charities in constructing healthcare infrastructures**

Item	Measures
1	Helping the reconstruction and renovation of dilapidated hospitals
2	Assisting the establishment of new hospital beds
3	Assisting the establishment of health homes
4	Assisting the establishment of healthcare centers
5	Assisting the establishment of blood transfusion centers
6	Assisting the establishment of a comprehensive clinic (MS, diabetes, etc.)
7	Assisting the establishment of special clinics, etc
8	Assisting the establishment of a residential center for the companions of those hospitalized next to the hospitals
9	Donating property for healthcare, educational, and research activities
10	Establishing students' dorms
11	Providing medical rescue equipment

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)



To this end, the program for the participation of the nongovernmental sector in developing healthcare infrastructures is presented in Table 18.

**Table (18): The program for the participation of the non-governmental sector in developing healthcare infrastructures**

Item	Measures
1	Physical progress of over 90% in 1890 beds in 23 hospitals
2	Physical progress of 80-90% in 2468 beds in 17 hospitals
3	Physical progress of 50-80% in 7638 beds in 49 hospitals
4	Physical progress of under 50% in 27,759 beds in 152 hospitals

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

There are a total of 62 NGOs which are operative in the field of health, some of them being: Thalassemia Society of Iran, Diabetes Society of Iran, Hemophilia Society of Iran, Health Donors Association, the Society to Protect Kidney Patients, Family Health Society of Iran, Mahak, etc. To support and enhance healthcare services for all, particularly persons in need, these institutions have signed memorandums of understanding with Government organizations including the following:

- The Department of Trusts and Charity
- The Municipality of Tehran
- The Ministry of Education
- The Ministry of Jihad and Agriculture
- The Ministry of Islamic Guidance and Culture
- The Department of Penitentiaries and Correction Measures

### **Preventing Forced Castration and Sterilization and Sex Reassignment Surgery without the Individuals' Free and Informed Consent**

Castration and sterilization services are provided like all other services through respect to the status and rights of couples and individuals in line with assisting them in reaching reproduction goals within a framework which promotes health, responsibility, and family welfare to the highest level and prevents unwanted and risky pregnancies and deaths and diseases caused by them.

Providing this service is first and foremost dependent upon the request of the individual.

Prior to performing any contraception surgery, the applicant must sign a form of consent for receiving such services; this is done through the informed and voluntary decision of the applicant away from any coercion or bonuses to be received. Accordingly, the applicants receive adequate information on temporary or permanent means, the advantages and disadvantages of these kinds of surgeries, etc. and they can of course decline from undergoing the procedure at any stage and for any reason.

If, for any reason, the family opts for surgery for individuals suffering from mental disabilities and those who cannot make decisions for themselves, the surgery would be performed following the receipt of the written request of the father or the legal guardian and permission from the qualified judicial authority and an assessment of the other health conditions.

Article 939 of the Civil Law (adopted in 1928) also recognizes the conditions of ambiguity in gender (asexuality) and identifies the dominant features as the proof for gender for the purpose of determining one's claim to receiving inheritance. Paragraph 18 of Article 4 of the Family Protection Act (adopted in 2012) too assigns the eligible court to look into cases of gender transformation. To this end, those who are suffering from gender ambiguity can submit their request to the court to perform surgery and, subsequently, the case is referred to the Department of Forensic Medicine for further technical reviews. Through the approval of this Department, the court rules in favor of sex reassignment surgery. To facilitate these issues, a judicial complex specifically for transsexuals was established in 2015 in Tehran. Following the surgery, the individual can receive new identification certificates. All the processes were voluntary and through the request of the applicant.



## Social Security Insurance

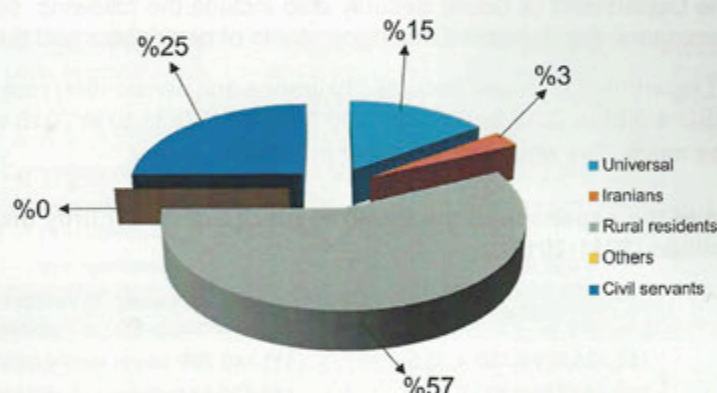
The Department of Health Insurance was established in October 2012 to provide basic health insurance services to all persons such that no-one would be left out of the insurance system. Altogether, the number of individuals insured by the Department of Health Insurance in the period between Apr 2015 – Mar 2016 and up to June 20, 2016 was 38,476,239 and 39,418,487, respectively. Table 19 portrays this data with more precision. Rural residents do not pay any premium and, in the Iranian's insurance sector, 50% of the premium is being paid by the Government while 35% by protection agencies for those who are in need, and the remaining 15% by the insured person.

**Table (19): The status of those covered by health insurance disaggregated by the insurance fund (between Apr 2015 – Mar 2016 and up to June 20, 2016)**

	Government staff	Other walks of life	Rural residents	Iranians' insurance	Universal insurance	Total
Apr 2015 – Mar 2016	5,787,996	1,636,912	21,825,878	126,189	9,099,264	38,476,239
Up to June 20, 2016	5,751,944	1,358,737	22,443,534	58,735	9,805,537	39,418,487

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Security to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

**Chart (5): The distribution of those insured by the Department of Health Insurance disaggregated by the insurance fund (by June 20, 2016)**



As is seen above, the total number of those covered by health insurance up to June 20, 2016 increased 2.4% compared to the period between Apr 2015 and Mar 2016. Furthermore, 22,443,534 rural residents were covered by health insurance up to June 20, 2016; this figure comprises 57% of all those insured by this fund. Table 20 also reveals the expenses of the Government for rural residents' insurance.

**Table 20: Government expenditure for rural residents' insurance**

Year	Expenditure of rural credits
Apr 2015 – Mar 2016	IRR 18,958,417 m (the equivalent of USD 550 m)
Apr – Dec 2016	IRR 12,722,309 m (the equivalent of USD 360 m)

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Security to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

The Department of Social Security which is also a social insurance agency assumes the responsibility of covering laborers receiving wages and salaries by mandate and self-employed individuals by choice. The most important services and commitments of the Department of Social Security based on the Social Security Act is as follows: protection against accidents and diseases, retirement pension, disablement pension, survivors' pension, unemployment pension, sick leave wages, maternity leave pension, medical aid expenses, marriage allowance, burial allowance.



Table 21 shows the number of main and dependent pensioners and insured individuals of the Department of Social Security.

**Table (21): The number of main and dependent pensioners and insured individuals of the Department of Social Security (2011-2015)**

Year	The insured			Pensioners			Covered
	Main	Dependent	Total	Main	Dependent	Total	
2011	11,497,089	19,260,629	30,757,718	2,216,607	1,983,729	4,200,336	34,958,054
2012	12,286,683	20,722,058	33,008,741	2,386,876	2,151,891	4,538,767	37,547,508
2013	12,808,047	21,491,645	34,299,692	2,574,692	2,224,996	4,799,688	39,099,380
2014	13,344,498	21,806,360	35,150,858	2,791,802	2,349,004	5,140,806	40,291,664
2015	13,711,726	22,284,288	35,996,014	3,011,349	2,373,463	5,384,785	41,380,799
Up to June 20, 2016	13,640,507	22,163,498	35,804,005	3,078,337	2,416,687	5,495,024	5,495,024

(Source: The Statistical Almanac of the Department of Social Security, 2015)

It is worth noting that the insurances of the Department of Social Security covers these walks of life: the self-employed, weavers, drivers, construction workers, syndicate employers, daycare teachers, female heads of households, housewives, Imam Khomeini Relief Committee recipients of aid, artists, writers, and different syndicates.

The pensioners of the Department of Social Security also include the following: pensioners, general and partial disablement pensioners, the deceased, the dependents of pensioners and the disabled.

The expenses of the Department of Social Security (insurance and pensioners) rose from IRR 151,225,879 m (the equivalent of USD 4.3 b) in 2011 to IRR 381,300,305 m (USD 11 b) in 2015 which demonstrates an increase of 2.5 times as much. The above data appear in Table 22 below.

**Table (22): The extent of the expenses of the Department of Social Security disaggregated by expenditure in IRR million (2011-2015)**

Year	Total	Retirement salary and perquisites	Treatment expenses
2011	151,225,879 (USD 4.32 b)	111,140,776	40,085,103
2012	199,139,776 (USD 5.67 b)	146,639,674	52,500,102
2013	272,778,436 (USD 7.79 b)	195,069,164	77,709,272
2014	381,300,305 (USD 10.89 b)	263,039,614	118,260,691
2015	518,159,490 (USD 14.8 b)	325,324,666	161,464,664

(Source: The Statistical Almanac of the Department of Social Security, 2015)



# Right to Adequate and Decent Housing

## Right to Adequate and Decent Housing

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.262	Improve measures to provide more access by all citizens to housing;	Iraq

In accordance with the statistics, in 2014, 718,000 housing units had been completed in 197,000 buildings (3.83 housing units in each building) and 157,000 buildings were under construction. In the first half of 2015, 140,000 housing units had been completed in 40,000 buildings (3.47 housing units in each building) and construction of 35,000 buildings had started. Table 1 provides more information in this respect.

**Table (1): statistics relating to the construction of housing units in urban areas in 2014 and 2015 (6 months)**

Year	Number of housing units in urban areas	Number of buildings under construction	Number of finished residential buildings	Number of finished housing units	Number of housing units in each building
2014	Completely residential	132,500	173,399	718,561	3.583
	combined residential and non-residential	11,397	13,971		
	Non-residential	13,734	9,569		
	Total No. of completely residential & combined	143,897	187,370		
2015(6 months)	Completely residential	28,796	31,340	140,917	3.74
	combined residential and non-residential	3,310	6,339		
	Non-residential	3,144	2,485		
	Total No. of completely residential & combined	32,106	37,679		

(Source: Education and Research Commission of Scientific Association of Iran's Economy)

Table 2 provides information on the number of finished housing units in rural and urban areas in the period from the census of 2011 till the second half of 2015.

**Table (2): number of finished housing units in urban and rural areas in the period following the census of 2011 till the second half of 2015)**

No. of finished housing units	From the census of 2011 till the second half of 2015
Urban areas	2,729,766



Rural areas	939,274
Total	3,669,040

(Source: Education and Research Commission of Scientific Association of Iran's Economy)

According to the table above, some 3,669,040 housing units had been produced in the years following the census of 2011 till the second half of 2015. Also, the supply and demand of housing units in 2015 had respectively been 22,825,046 and 22,582,890 showing a surplus of 242,156 housing units in the same year.

According to the latest statistics released by Iran's Statistics Center through 2016 census, there are, at present, some 1.6 million empty housing units, 20% of which is estimated to be located in rural areas and the rest in urban areas. Table 3 reflects the statistics relating to supply and demand as well as surplus of housing units according to the population and housing census of 2011 till 2015 census.

**Table (3): statistics relating to supply and demand as well as surplus of housing units according to the population and housing census of 2011 till the 2nd half of 2015**

year	Supply of housing units	Demand for housing units	Surplus housing units
2011	16,210,877	20,552,332	-4,341,455
2012	18,059,700	21,144,846	-3,085,146
2013	19,959,448	21,697,771	-1,738,323
2014	21,833,489	22,214,866	-381,377
2016	22,825,046	22,582,890	242,156

(Sources: Education and Research Commission of Scientific Association of Iran's Economy and 2016 census)

Table 4 shows the statistics relating to households who had received lands for the construction of housing units and also the areas (sizes) of land granted to them by the National Organization for Land and Housing. Table 5 reflects the number of building permits issued for building construction by the number of housing units, land area and built area in urban areas in 2015.

**Table (4): statistics relating to households who had received lands for the construction of housing units and also the areas of land granted to them by the National Organization for Land and Housing by 1000 square meter**

year	No. of households	Area of land by 1000 square meters		
		total	residential	Non-residential
2015	11,915	14,975	1,002	13,973

(Source: yearly statistics of Iran's Statistics Center, 2016)



**Table (5): number of building permits issued for building construction by the number of housing units, land area and built area in urban areas in 2015**

year	No. of building permits	Land area by 1000 square meter	Built area by 1000 square meter
2014	120,408	43,375	68,133
2015	119,895	43,467	62,358

(Source: yearly statistics of Iran's Statistics Center, 2016)

Table 6 displays the statistics relating to investments made by the private sector in housing construction in 2015 by the number of buildings in early stages, unfinished and finished in urban areas.

**Table (6): statistics relating to investments made by the private sector in housing construction in 2015 by the number of buildings in early stages, unfinished and finished in urban areas (million Rials)**

Year	total	Buildings under construction	Unfinished buildings	Finished buildings
2015	701,440,536 (equivalent to 20 million US dollars)	155,088,097	394,501,396	151,851,043

(Source: yearly statistics of Iran's Statistics Center, 2016)

### House construction or renovation for needy and low-income families

In recent years, supportive (subsidized) housing programs have been introduced to facilitate the access of low-income urban groups to housing facilities, and, the access of rural groups to home renovation facilities.

The households considered needy in the housing sector are:

- Newly – wed couples;
- Households living in high-density housing units;
- Households living in old, unsafe housing units;
- Tenant households who are under severe pressure for housing expenses;
- Households in need of substitute housing because of the oldness or demolition of their housing units;
- Vulnerable groups such as women in charge of family, persons with disabilities and persons suffering from social harms.

For the purpose of assisting these needy groups, different programs have so far been introduced

including the following:

- Supporting the supply of rental homes by the private and public sectors, and provision of non-interest loans and house deposit facilities,
- Provision of housing for population groups with special needs; in 2015, some 2308 and in the first half of 2016, some 1791 housing units were delivered to the population groups with special needs,
- Granting facilities to low -income groups and newly-wed couples based on the decision of the Council of Ministers in 2014 under which 300,000 cases of house construction facilities and 60,000 cases of house deposit facilities will be granted to the said groups each year until the end of the 6th Five – Year Development Plan.



Table 7 provides information on the granted housing loans from November 2014 till January 2017. Table 8 displays the statistics relating to the facilities paid by the related banks on dilapidated urban units in 2015 till January 2017.

**Table (7): statistics relating to the granted housing loans from November 2014 till January 2017 to households without any previous housing units**

City scale	Amount of loans paid for house construction by million Rials	Amount of loan paid for house deposit by million Rials
megacity	800	200
Provincial centers and cities with over 200,000 population	600	150
Other cities	400	100

(Source: report of Ministry of Roads and Urban Development to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

**Table (8): statistics relating to the loans paid by the related banks on dilapidated urban units in 2015 till January 2017**

Year	Units with contracts	Amount of loans by 1000 million Rials
2015	8,527	341 (equivalent to 974,000 US dollars)
Agreement with Maskan (Housing) Bank	10,383	415 (equivalent to 1.18 million US dollars)
total	18,910	756 (equivalent to 2.15 million US dollars)

(Source: report of Ministry of Roads and Urban Development to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

### Islamic Revolution (Enghelab-e-Eslami) Housing Foundation

Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation, which was born with the establishment of the Islamic Republic System in Iran, is an institution which has been providing effective valuable housing services in rural and deprived areas of the country during the

past thirty seven years.

This Foundation was established for two specific purposes; first, to determine the housing needs of the poor in rural and urban areas and second, to undertake and carry out mass housing construction programs and projects to satisfy those needs.

Table 9 reflects the measures taken by the Foundation from October 2013 till February 2017 for provision of rural housing units

**Table (9): measures taken by the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation from October 2013 till February 2017 for provision of rural housing units**

	measures
1	Renovation and strengthening of 325,707 housing units
2	Reconstruction of 47,989 housing units
3	Renovation of 1, 567,766 housing units under the Special Plan for Improvement and Renovation of Housing Units and 339,380 housing units under the Plan for Reconstruction of Disaster-Ravaged Villages
4	Initiating the strengthening of 51,218 rural housing units
5	Strengthening of a total number of 1,907,146 rural housing units in the country ( since 2005 till January 2016)
6	Construction of 4007 housing units (finished) and initiating the construction of 16,579 more housing units in 2015

(Source: Information Center of Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation)



Another supportive (subsidized) program launched to provide decent housing was the Mehr Housing Project. The responsibility for the execution of Mehr Project in cities and towns with populations of less than 25,000 people (around 1000 cities and towns out of a total number of 1200 across the country), was left to the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation, and, in cities and towns with population over 25,000 people, to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

The Mehr Housing Project was designed to deliver a total number of 2,216,000 housing units across the country. The construction of some 347,000 units

under the project was left to the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation.

Of the total number of 2,216,000 housing units to be built under the Mehr Housing project, some 1,834,000 units were completed by December 2015.

Table 10 reflects the measures carried out by the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation under the Mehr Housing Project in cities and towns with population less than 25,000 by January 2016. Table 11 provides information on the measures carried out by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development under Mehr Housing Project in cities and towns with population over 25,000.

**Table (10): measures taken under the Mehr Housing project in cities and towns with populations of less than 25,000 (by the Islamic Revolution Housing foundation)**

Measures taken Until January 2015	
Land provision	5,139 hectares
Registration of eligible applicants	325,439 applicants
Obtaining building construction permits	377,628 housing units
Commencement of building construction	348,660 housing units
Skeleton (frame) construction	335,471 housing units
Completion of the external construction	321,613 housing units
Commencement of the internal construction	302,149 housing units
Bank facilities	Introducing 364,325 applicants to the correspondent banks for banking facilities
Registration and signature of contracts for bank facilities	347,105 cases
Total no. of housing units delivered	287,352 housing units

(Source: Information Center of Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation)

**Table (11): measures taken under Mehr Housing Project in cities and towns with population over 25,000 (by Ministry of Housing and Urban Development)**

year	Signing of contracts	delivered	Ready to be delivered	Delivered+ ready to be delivered	remaining
2015	-	117,332	-	-	-
Till January 2017	-	24,495	59,994	84,489	-
Total since inception	1,216,922	903,076	59,994	936,070	253,852

(Source: report of Ministry of Roads and Urban Development to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)



Based on the latest statistics, some 46,792 housing units in cities with population over 25,000, some 9,446 housing units in cities with population less than 25,000 and 23,038 housing units in new towns

and 600 housing units in old areas in 32 provinces constructed under the Mehr Housing projects were ready to be delivered by February 2017 as detailed in the table 12.

**Table (12): housing units constructed under Mehr Housing Project ready to be delivered by February 2017**

Projects ready to be delivered in January 2017	Cities with populations over 25,000	Cities with populations less than 25,000	New towns	old units	total
number	46,792	9,446	23,038	600	79,876

(Source: Information Center of Ministry of Roads and Urban Development)

## Housing Charities Association

Formation of the Housing Charities Association was another step taken to help in the provision of housing units for low-income groups. The Association started its work in 2006 and is now operating in provincial centers and some 150 cities and towns of the country with around 1500 voluntary members. Women in charge of family, low-income families, newly-wed couples, and people under the coverage of welfare and charity institutions and other vulnerable groups

which cannot afford housing of their own, benefit from the services of the Association.

The services provided by the Association, mentions can be made of land donation, collection of cash and non-cash contributions, and attracting non-interest loans from charities and benefactors for provision of house deposit and house construction facilities. Table 13 shows the number of housing units provided by the Housing Charities Association in 2015.

**Table (13): number of housing units provided by the Housing Charities Association in 2015**

Year	No. of finished housing units	No. of housing units under construction
2015	2,610	11,667

(Source: yearly statistics of Iran's Statistics Center, 2016)

## Housing cooperatives

Housing cooperatives formed to provide for the housing needs of their members is another mean for

the development of the housing sector in the country. Table 14 gives some general information on housing cooperatives by March 2017.

**Table (14): general information on housing cooperatives by March 2017**

Registered housing cooperatives				
year	Number of cooperatives	No. of members of cooperatives	occupied	capital
2015	26,649	2,812,231	579,717	16,254,795 (equivalent to 464 US million dollars)
Active cooperatives				
year	Number of cooperatives	No. of members of cooperatives	occupied	capital
2015	10,944	1,548,449	275,523	12,663,367 (equivalent to 361 million US dollars)

(Source: yearly statistics of Iran's Statistics Center, 2016)



Barekat Foundation which was established in December 2007 by the "Council for the Execution of the Decree of Imam Khomeini" to contribute to the socio-economic empowerment and activities of public interest in less-developed areas of the country has signed a contract for the construction of 11,924 housing units particularly in the war-damaged rural areas in partnership with the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation, 2450 of which have already

been delivered or are ready to be delivered.

Barekat Foundation has started the construction of 14,000 housing units for needy families in 18 provinces of the country.

Table 15 reflects the measures carried out by the Barekat Foundation for provision of housing units for needy families in the less developed areas of the country in 2015 and 2016.

**Table (15): measures taken by the Barekat Foundation for provision of housing units for needy families in the less developed areas of the country in 2015 and 2016**

	measures
1	Signing of contracts for the construction of 14,000 housing units for needy families in less-developed areas in 18 provinces in association with the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation with a credit of 3500 billion Rials (equivalent of 100 million US dollars)
2	Delivering 1870 strengthened housing units to needy families in the cities of Abadan and Khoramshahr in Khuzistan province
3	Delivering 910 housing units to needy families in the rural areas of Khorramshahr in Khuzistan province



## Right of Access to Water and Energy

## Right of Access to Water and Energy

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.263	Continue actions to improve compliance with the human right to water, under the framework of General Assembly resolution 64/292;	B o l i v i a Plurinational State of

### Water supply and consumption

Article 5 of the Law on "Optimization of Urban and Rural Drinking Water Supply and Consumption" passed on March 24, 2016 has obligated the government to allocate 5% of the credits for acquisition of national capitals, a minimum 10% of the credits for acquisition of provincial capitals and a minimum 10% of the revenues earned from the

sale of governmental assets, properties and stocks, for three consecutive years, to water supply projects with a view to improving the indicators relating to drinking water access in rural areas and also water crisis management.

By December 2016, 80.02% of the rural population and 99.2% of the urban population had been provided with access to piped drinking water.

Table 1 provides information on the current state of the volume of water reservoirs, distribution network and transmission lines in rural areas in 2014 and 2015.

**Table (1): information on the current state of the volume of water reservoirs, distribution network and transmission lines in rural areas in 2014 and 2015 by cubic meter-kilometer**

year	volume of water reservoirs in circulation	Length of water distribution network	Length of water transmission network
2014	3,332,951	167,234	95,094
2015	3,483,849	171,609	100,713

(Source: yearly statistics of Iran's Statistics Center)

Table 2 gives information on the capacities of water supply sources, the volumes of production and sale and also the number of water connections in rural and urban areas in 2014 and 2015.



**Table (2): information on the capacities of water supply sources, the volumes of production, sale and number of water connections in rural and urban areas in 2014 and 2015**

level	year	Maximum capacity of water sources	Water production volume	Water sale volume	No. of water connections
urban	2014	263,019	5,847,738	4,330,157	14,963,718
	2015	268,138	6,009,000	4,445,000	15,431,590
rural	2014	75,623	1,396,408	964,205	5,155,136
	2015	77,095	1,390,976	963,604	5,280,728

(Source: yearly statistics of Iran's Statistics Center)

Table 3 reflects the latest state and performance of water and waste water facilities in rural areas by March 2016.

**Table (3): state and performance of water and waste water facilities in rural areas by March 2016**

index	unit	State in 2015	State by March 2016
Total No. of households in all rural areas	households	-	5,517,968
Total population in all rural areas	person	-	20,823,458
No. of rural areas with access to water facilities	village	-	34,468
Total population in rural areas with access to rural water facilities	person	-	16,630,122
No. of cities with access to rural water facilities	city	-	67
Total population in cities with access to rural water facilities	person	-	162,977
percentage of population with access to rural water facilities	percent	-	80,02%
No. of villages with access to mobile water system	village	7,171	-
Population of villages with access to mobile water system	person	2,591,656	-
No. of villages with manual chlorination system	village	2,636	-
Population of villages with manual chlorination system	person	863,641	-
No. of home water connections	line	141,160	4,819,487
No. of commercial and industrial water connections	line	9,304	175,462
No. of public and administrative water connections	line	3,168	137,396
No. of mobile water connections	line	10,211	148,383
Total number of water connections	line	163,843	5,280,728

(Source: Information Center of Ministry of Energy)



Utilization of underground water resources for supply of agricultural and drinking water in rural areas is taking place on a large scale. Based on the statistics, in 2015, there were over 473,829 deep and semi-deep water wells in the country with an outlet capacity of 49,599 million cubic meters as reflected by types of consumption in Table 4. Also, there were 7151 water springs and 830 water qanat (underground water canal) in the rural areas of the country in the same year.

**Table (4): information relating to the outlet capacity of deep and semi-deep water wells in the country by types of water consumption**

Type of water consumption	No. of deep and semi-deep water wells	outlet capacity by million cubic meters
Rural sanitation and drinking water	13,382	1,937
urban sanitation and drinking water	7,680	3,369
Water supply for agriculture	407,323	41,889
Water supply for industry	45,454	24,038
total	473,829	49,599

(Source: Information Center of Ministry of Energy)

## Electricity supply and consumption

Some major indicators relating to the power industry in the country by March 2015 are reflected in the table 5.

**Table (5): major indicators relating to the power industry in the country by March 2015**

row	indicator
1	100% access of the urban population and 99.9% access of the rural population to electricity
2	1.3% rise in the installed capacity of power plants, as compared to the previous year, with the installation of 11 new power plant units with a capacity of 74,103 megawatt
3	1% rise in the per capita electricity production, as compared to the previous year, with the production of 3542 kilowatt hour of electricity
4	Reduction of the loss on electricity production from 13.13% in 2014 to 12.30% in 2015
5	Rise in the output of the thermal power plants from 36.3% in 2014 to 37.4% in 2015
6	Increasing the length of medium voltage lines by 8515 kilometers and the length of weak voltage lines (urban and rural) by 9461 kilometers in 2015
7	Increasing the length of lines and capacity of transformers of medium and low tension power distribution networks respectively by 752,000 kilometers and 110,458 megavolt ampere showing a growth by respectively 2.4% and 3.9% in 2015 as compared to the year 2014
8	Length of fiber optic network lines: 17,048 kilometers operation (in the grid), 1786 kilometers ready to go into operation (join the grid) and 1502 kilometers under construction
9	Number of villages with access to electricity reached 56,170 by March 2015
10	Number of subscribers reached 32,831,000 growing by 3.7% as compared to the year 2014
11	2.3% rise in electricity production which raised the total volume of electricity energy production in the country to 281 billion kilowatt

(Source: Information Center of Ministry of Energy)

The number of electricity subscribers in rural and urban areas had reached respectively 7,278,747 and 32,831,066 by March 2015. This figure included 506 new villages with 7384 households supplied with electricity in 2015, which raised the total number of villages with access to electricity to 56,170 by March 2015.

It is important to note that 18 villages with 201 households which were supplied with power in 2015 used electricity generated from renewable energy sources, which raised the total number of villages with electricity supplied from renewable energy sources to 1876 by March 2016.

Table 6 shows the number of electricity subscribers in the country by types of consumption. Table 7 displays



a more detailed state of the villages of the country in terms of power supply. Table 8 reflects a summary state of the power supply of the country by March 2016 and compares it to the year 2014.

**Table (6): number of electricity subscribers in the country by types of consumption**

year	total	home	public	agriculture	industry	others
2014	31,671,635	25,739,069	1,382,124	352,628	206,088	3,991,726
2015	32,831,066	26,619,546	1,465,251	378,147	216,515	4,151,607

(Source: yearly statistics of Iran's Statistics Center)

**Table (7): state of the villages of the country in terms of power supply by March 2016**

Item	Household-village	Total number of villages in the country			Number of villages with access to electricity by March 2016		percentage of villages with access to electricity	percentage of households with access to electricity
		village	household	Average No. of households per village	village	household		
1	Villages with over 20 households	42,027	4,136,072	98	42,027	4,136,072	100	100
2	Villages with less than 20 households	14,240	158,990	11	14,143	156,426	99.3	98.4
	total	56,267	4,295,062	76	56,170	4,292,498	99.8	99.9

(Source: Information Center of Ministry of Energy)

**Table (8): state of power supply (by megawatt) by March 2016 as compared to 2014**

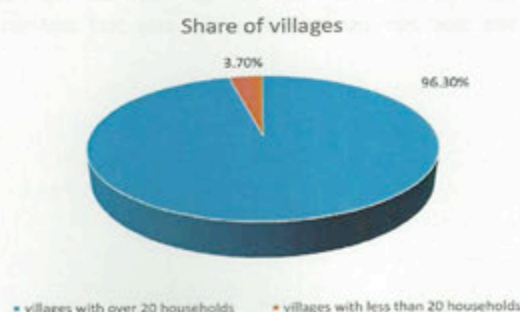
Item	Increase in 2015	total	Total in 2014	percentage of growth in 2015	Average annual growth rate from 2004 to 2014
Nominal capacity of power plants	943	74,103	73,160	1.3	7.0
	721	64,707	63,986	1.1	6.6

(Source: Information Center of Ministry of Energy)

It is important to note that, in 2015, an equivalent of 18.7 million US dollars have been invested for power supply to rural areas, considering that power supply to one village needs, on average, 37.000 US dollars.

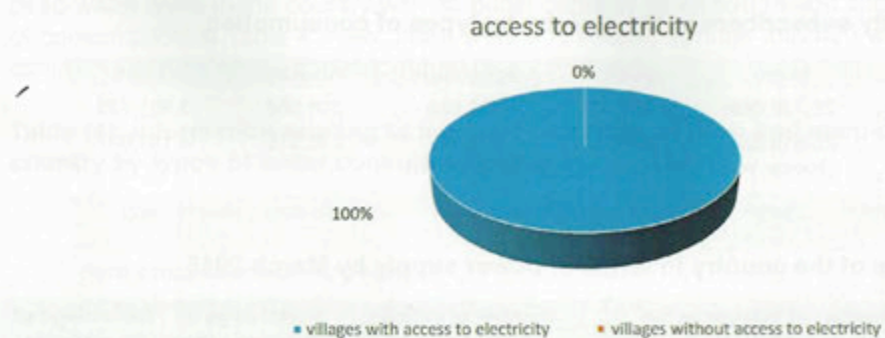
Also, charts 1, 2 and 3 depict the state of villages in terms of their access to electricity.

**Chart (1): shares of villages with populations of over and less than 20 households connected to electricity supply system in the country**

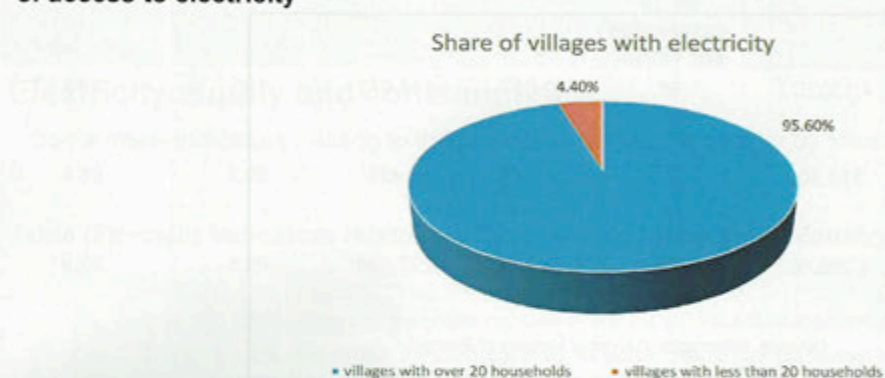




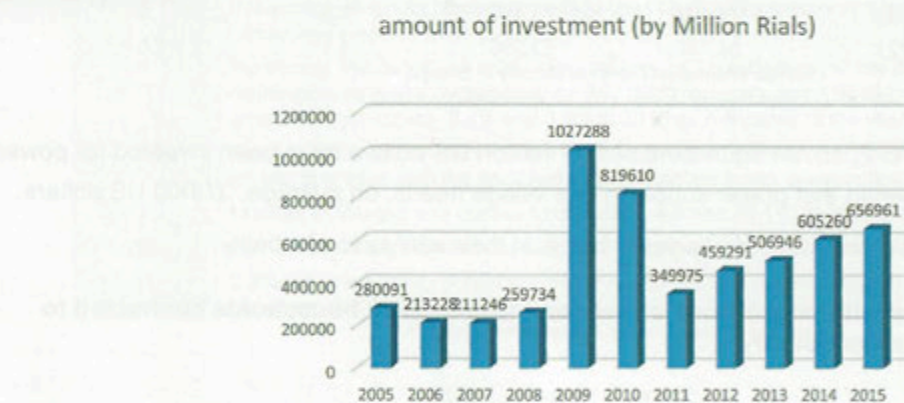
**Chart (2): state of villages with populations of over 20 households in terms of access or lack of access to electricity**



**Chart (3): state of villages with populations of less than 20 households in terms of access or lack of access to electricity**



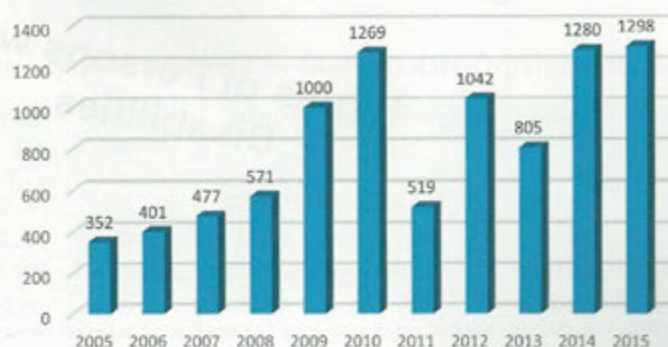
**Chart (4): amounts of investment made for power supply to villages at the coast rates adopted by Iran Power Company (Tavanir)**





**Chart (5): average investment made for power supply to one village at the coast rate adopted by**

amount of investments (by Million Rials)





# Rights of Persons with Disabilities

## Rights of Persons with Disabilities

### Tavanir Power Company

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations /completely	Country
138.93	Intensify efforts for the enhancement of the cultural, social and economic rights of women, children and people with disabilities;	Lebanon
138.108	Continue the endeavors to enhance the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities;	Qatar
138.252	Continue to implement programmes in the area of education, health and social empowerment and integration of vulnerable groups, especially women, children and the disabled, through the established national mechanisms as well as with the relevant NGOs and international organizations;	Brunei Darussalam
138.253	Continue efforts to improve the social security system for better safeguarding the elderly and persons with disabilities;	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
138.275	Continue the national efforts in the area of social inclusion of persons with disabilities;	Egypt
138.276	Continue its efforts in favor of persons with disabilities, by meeting their specific needs, particularly in education and health;	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
138.277	Continue to undertake measures to support and protect the rights of persons with disabilities;	Kazakhstan
138.278	Continue awareness-raising campaigns about the rights of people with disabilities	Kuwait
138.279	Promote the rights of persons with disabilities to ensure their social integration	Uzbekistan

The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran Joined the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2009 and. submitted to the United Nations its preliminary national report in 2013. To give effect to our obligations under the Convention, a secretariat was established to coordinate with the related executive agencies and institutions in the field.

The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has an institution called Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs (BonyadShahidVaOmur- e -Isargaran). This foundation was established pursuant to the war imposed on Iran by the Baathist regime of Iraq for the purpose of supporting the families of the martyrs and those disabled as a result of the war. This foundation works in tandem with the State Welfare Organization as the



principal organ supporting persons with disabilities.

## Number of the disabled

The total number of the disabled in I.R. Iran (up to October 2016) is 1,292,457 of which 822,851 are men and 469,606 are women.

**Table (1): Number of the disabled covered by State Welfare Organization (January 2017)**

type of disability		visual	Physical-mobility	mental	psychological	hearing	speech language	Total
2015	No	128,794	482,770	323,228	94,503	173,480	17,992	1,220,767
	%	10.55	39.55	36.48	7.74	14.21	1.47	100
2016	No	135,739	519,886	338,220	99,263	181,401	17,958	1,292,457
	%	10.50	40.22	26.17	7.68	1.39	1.39	100

Source: Report of State Welfare Organization to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

**Table (2): number of the disabled by the type of disability**

year	gender	number	percentage	total
2015	woman	443,710	36.35	1,220,767
	man	777057	63.65	
2016	woman	469606	36.33	1,292,457
	man	822851	63.67	

(Source: report of State Welfare Organization to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

According to the latest statistics released by the Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs, there are 567,127 veterans with disability in the country.

**Table (3): number of the war veterans with disability covered by the Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs by percentage of disability**

year	total	1 to 24%	24 to 39%	40 to 49%	50 to 69%	70%
2016	567,127	232,821	171,787	27,350	25,481	9,688

(Source: Report of Foundation for Martyrs and Veteran Affairs to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

## Disability prevention awareness

The program for disability prevention awareness was launched in 1996. This program was aimed at preventing disabilities and raising public health awareness with respect to the causes of common disabilities and how to prevent them. The program initially concentrated on raising awareness among newly literate and low literate women and was later extended to cover women with higher levels of literacy. The training courses offered under this program are held at different levels in schools, centers under Literacy Movement



Organization, local learning centers, rural training -educational complexes, academic and higher education centers and health centers.

**Table (4): number of people covered by disability prevention awareness program in 2014 and 2016(6 months)**

2015	1,591,729
2016 (first half)	647,417

(Source: Report of Ministry of Labor, Cooperation and Social Welfare to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

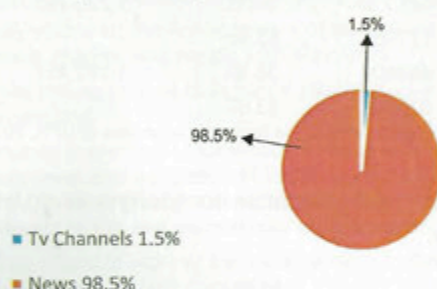
## Public awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities

According to the latest statistics, the number of programs produced and broadcast by different channels of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) concerning "deaf people" in 2015 was 342 hours as displayed in the following table and chart.

**Table (5): performance of different channels of IRIB on people with impaired hearing (2015)**

channels	time by hour
TV. channels	5
news channels	337
Total	342

(Source: Report of IRIB to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)



**Chart (1): Performance of different channels of IRIB on production and broadcast of programs concerning people with impaired hearing (2015)**

(Source: Report of IRIB to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Also, according to the latest statistics, the performance of different channels of IRIB on production and broadcast of programs relating to " the elderly and disabled " in 2015 was 1154 hours as displayed in the following table and chart.

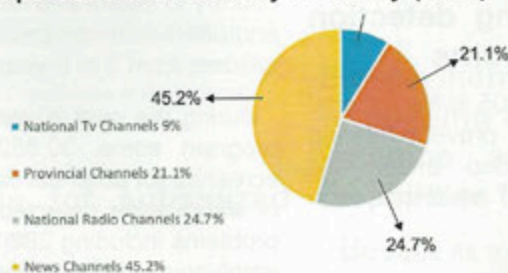
**Table (6): performance of different channels of IRIB on production and broadcast of programs relating to the elderly and persons with mobility disability (2015)**

IRIB channels	Time by hour
national radio channels	285
national TV channels	104
news channels and programs	522
provincial channels	243
Total	1154

(Source: report of IRIB to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)



**Chart (2): performance of different channels of IRIB on production and broadcast of programs relating to the elderly and persons with mobility disability (2015)**



(Source: report of IRIB to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

According to the latest statistics, performance of different channels of IRIB on production and broadcast of programs relating to " the elderly and disabled " was 710 hours in 2016, as displayed in the following table:

**Table (7): performance of different channels of IRIB on production and broadcast of programs relating to the elderly and disabled (2016)**

IRIB channels	Time by hour
national radio channels	155
national TV channels	131
news channels and programs	197
provincial channels	227
<b>Total</b>	<b>710</b>

(Source: report of IRIB to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

## Prevention of disabilities resulting from genetic disorders

The program for prevention of disabilities relating to genetic disorders was launched in 1997 with the establishment of genetic counseling centers in nine provinces which was later extended to cover all provinces of the country.

Over 2700 medical specialists, general practitioners and experts trained in different medical

fields provided genetic counseling services to over one million people in those centers up to the end of the first 9 months of 2016 under the state welfare organization.

In 2015, there were 235 established genetic counseling centers in 31 provinces of the country providing genetic counseling services to 130,201 visitors. In the first half of 2016, the number of genetic counseling centers increased to 236 with 57,469 people receiving counseling services from them.

**Table (8): number of genetic training courses held in 2015 and 9 months of 2016**

year	No. of training courses	No. of trained persons	No. of genetic counseling centers		Total No. of centers	No. of visitors
2015	3	104	public	private	235	130,201
first 9 months of 2016	3	131	29	206	236	57,469

(Source: report of Ministry of Labor, Cooperation and Social Welfare to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)



## Program for early hearing detection and intervention for newborns

This program was launched in 2005 at the national level with an aim to detect and prevent hearing disabilities. The services provided under this program in 2015 up to January 2017 are displayed in the following table.

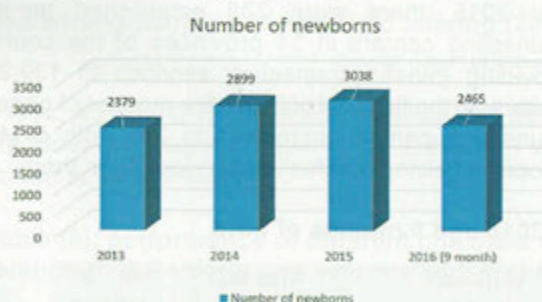
**Table (9): services provided under hearing screening program up to the January of 2017**

description of service	2015	up to January 2017
No. of screening Unit	----	520
coverage of the program by person	1,064,750	850,000
penetration coefficient of the program	67%	68%
No. of babies with detected problems	3,038	2,465

(Source: report of Ministry of Labor, Cooperation and Social Welfare to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Besides, the State Welfare Organization allocates, each year, a certain amount of financial assistance for cochlear implant for babies of needy families. The financial assistance covered by this program was provided to 1666 babies in 2015 and also to the same number of babies up to January 2017.

**Chart (3): number of newborns covered by hearing screening program**



(Source: report of Ministry of Labor, Cooperation and Social Welfare to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

## Program for prevention of amblyopic (lazy eye) among children from 3 to 6 years of age

This program was initially launched by the State Welfare Organization in 1995 on a pilot basis and in

1998 at a national level in all cities and villages of the country to detect and reduce the cases of amblyopia and other common childhood eye conditions among children from 3 to 6 years of age.

During the past 20 years since the launch of this program some 30,852,389 children have been screened for potential cases of amblyopia 1,243,452 of whom were detected with different types of eye problems including 280,387 children diagnosed with amblyopia who have been treated.

The services provided under this program including screening, treatment, eyeglasses and surgery are provided by the State Welfare Organization free of charge for the children of needy families who cannot afford them.

The number of children covered by this program in 2015 was 3,052,389 and the number of children who received such services up to January 2017 (9 months) was 1,008,000.

## Program for age-related disability prevention awareness

The Center for Development of Prevention Services of the State Welfare Organization launched, in 2014, the program for raising awareness on age-related disabilities among persons of middle and old age in four provinces, namely, Yazd, Mazandaran, South Khorasan (Khorasan – e – Jonubi) and Hormozgan on a pilot basis. The target population under this program are middle –aged (45 to 60 years) and elderly people (60 years and over). In 2015, four workshops were held to train the experts who are responsible for training middle-aged and elderly people.

## Community – based rehabilitation (CBR) program

An important service provided to people with disabilities in Iran is the implementation of the community-based rehabilitation program under which certain measures have been taken to empower disabled people in cooperation with their families and social institutions. Under this program, people are identified with the type(s) of their disability and provided with six services including provision of training within and without the family, referral service, rehabilitation equipment, employment and entrepreneurship (self – employment) and social support.



**Table (10): number of persons identified with disabilities under CBR**

year	2014	2015
number	424534	439101

(Source: report of State Welfare Organization to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

### Financial assistance for subsidized rehabilitation services

Under the "Comprehensive Law on Protection of the Rights of the Disabled", the State Welfare Organization is obligated to pay a monthly sum of money from its allocated credits under the national budget as financial assistance for the services provided by rehabilitation care as well as non-governmental education centers. The number of families who receive the financial assistance for subsidized rehabilitation services under the State Welfare Organization is 366,501. The number of people who received subsidies from the State Welfare Organization in 2014 was 92,848.

Also, the number of persons with spinal cord injuries who received financial assistance for nursing care services in the same year was 11,149. The financial assistance is a monthly payment to help improve the hearth of persons with spinal cord injuries and their access to care facilities

**Table (11): number of families and persons who receive subsidized rehabilitation services**

number of families who receive financial assistance for rehabilitation services	number of persons who receive subsidies	number of persons with spinal cord injuries
366,501	92,848	11,179

(Source: Report of State Welfare Organization to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

It is to be added that at present, 934 day care centers, vocational training institutions, and subsidized production workshops, 688 board centers and 535 rehabilitation units are providing services to the disabled under the subsidized rehabilitation service program.

**Table (12): number of subsidized rehabilitation service providing centers**

type of center and unit	number
day care center, vocational training institutions and production workshops	943
board centers	688
home-care centers	354

rehabilitation units 535

(Source: Report of State Welfare Organization to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

### Employment generation and provision of housing units for the war disabled veterans and other persons with disabilities in 2015 and 2016

Besides its extensive cooperation with the State Welfare Organization in provinces and support that it provides for persons with disabilities covered by this organization, Omid Entrepreneurship Fund, backed by 50 entrepreneurship charities, provides non-interest loans for creation of Jobs for people with mobility disability. Also, the Ministry of Labor, Cooperation and Social Welfare, the State Welfare Organization and non-governmental organizations active in the field created a total number of 42,381 Jobs in 2015 and 27,074 Jobs in 2016 (9 months) for persons with disabilities.

**Table (13): number of Jobs created for disabled people (2015 – 2016)**

type of service	year 2015	year 2016(9months)
Jobs created for the disabled	42,381 persons	26,074 persons

(Source: Report of Ministry of Labor, Cooperation and Social Welfare to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Establishment of subsidized production workshops is another program implemented by the State Welfare Organization for creation of Jobs for persons with disabilities.

Under this program, financial assistance is provided for disabled people to establish production workshops and other types of production activities. In the first half of 2015, a sum of 40,000 million Rials (an equivalent of 1.14 million US dollars) were provided for 500 disabled persons under this program.

The State Welfare Organization created a total of 5407 Jobs in 2015 and 6512 Jobs in 2016 (9 months) for disabled people in the form of master – apprenticeship.

**Table (14): number of Jobs created in the form of master – apprenticeship for disabled people**

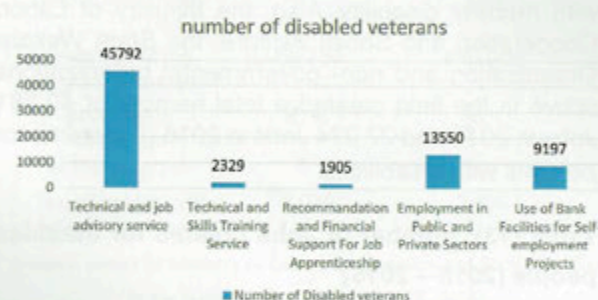
type of service	year 2015	year 2016 (9 months)
creation of Jobs in the form of master - apprenticeship	5407	6512

(Source: Report of State Welfare Organization to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)



Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs, too, has taken a variety of measures for the professional and vocational empowerment of people disabled as a result of the imposed war and terrorist acts against the I.R. Iran and helped either create job opportunities for them or otherwise support their employment. In 2015 and 2016 (9 months), a total number of 13,550 people covered by the Foundation found Jobs in public or private sectors.

**Chart (4): measures taken by the Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs to generate Job opportunities and employment for the war disabled by number of persons in 2015 up to January 2017**



(Source: Report of Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

In addition to generation of Job opportunities and employment, provision of housing unit for disabled people has always been a priority concern to the related authorities responsible for providing housing

units for vulnerable sections of the population. The government provided 8215 and 6547 housing units for disabled persons respectively in 2015 and 9 months of 2016.

**Table (15): number of housing units provided for disabled persons in 2015 up to January of 2017**

type of service	prior to 2015	by the end 2015	up to January 2017
provision of housing units for disabled persons already built or under construction	97,909	8,215	6,547

(Source: Report of Ministry of Labor, Cooperation and Social Welfare to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Also, for the provision of housing units for disabled persons, a memorandum of understanding was signed, in February 2016, between "Mostaz'afan Foundation", "National Organization for Land and Housing (Sazman - e- MelliZaminVaMaskan)", "Association of Housing Construction Charities" and "State Welfare Organization" under which adequate land will be provided for construction of housing units for 7320 families with at least two disabled members covered by State Welfare Organization. Some of the housing units provided under this project have already been completed and delivered and some units are still under construction.

**Table (16): provision of housing units for families with at least two disabled members**

year	No. of unit	allocated land by No. of unit	allocated units from the projects under construction	total No. of units (both land and projects)
2015	----	2470	1431	3901
2016 up to January 2017	-----	502	1779	2278
total	6099	2972	3207	6179

(Source: Report of Ministry of Roads and Urban Development to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs, too, has taken measures to provide housing units for the persons covered by the Foundation. Disabled veterans are also provided with certain facilities for construction or repair of their housing units. Some of the measures taken for provision of housing units for disabled veterans are reflected in the following table.



**Table (17): measures taken for the provision of housing units based on the allocated credits in 2015 (by million Rials)**

type of measure	allocated budget	
	Number (persons)	amount of money
financial assistance for provision of housing units for war disabled veterans	1097	57,088
financial assistance for repairing and utility connections of housing units	1325	13,250
Allocated plots of land	270	10,800
improvement of living environment	2016	60,500
costs of execution of housing projects including Mehr Housing project for disabled veterans	0	4,370
engineering costs of housing construction	405	4,050
		150,058
Total	5113	(equivalent of 4.8 million US dollars)

(Source: Report of Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs to the the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

**Table (18): measures taken by the General Department for Provision of Housing Units based on the allocated budget in the first half of 2016 (by million Rials)**

Type of measure	allocated budget	
	Number (persons)	amount of money
financial assistance for provision of housing units of war disabled veterans	222	10000
improvement of living environment	267	8000
costs of execution of housing projects including Mehr Housing Project for Disabled Veterans	0	1500
		19,500
Total	489	(equivalent of 557000 US dollars)

(Source: Report of Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

## Training of persons with disabilities

In the education system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, there are no limitations for the education of children with physical or mental disabilities in ordinary state schools. According to the "Executive By-law of the Comprehensive Law on Protection of the Rights of the Disabled", all persons with disabilities are exempted from the payment of the educational costs and are free to receive and continue their education at all levels in any field of their interest in any educational unit in the country. These students are supported by specialized instructors at schools. The general policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards exceptional children (children with disability) is that they receive their education in ordinary schools along with ordinary students at all education levels. In 2015 – 2016 school year, 40% of exceptional children (children with visual, hearing, physical, mobility and other types of disability with a population of 48,000) were studying in ordinary schools along with other children.



**Table (19): number of exceptional children by the school year and education level**

school year and education level	number
2014 -2015	71,289
2015 -2016	72,612
Pre-school	10,954
primary school	43,334
intermediate school	2,209
intermediate school for technical and vocational education	9,680
secondary school	1,250
secondary school for technical and vocational education	5,185

(Source: Report of Statistics Center to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

**Table (20): number of students, staff and educational facilities in education centers for exceptional children**

school year	students			staff		schools	classes
	total	male	female	teachers	management and quality services		
2014-2015	71289	44193	27096	17622	3136	1578	12320
2015-2016	72612	45173	27439	15213	5514	1569	12550

(Source: Report of Statistics Center to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

**Table (21): number of disabled persons studying at different higher education levels in 2016**

education level	quantity	total	gender	
			female	male
total	number	23979	9724	14255
	%	100	40.55	59.45
specialized PHD programs	number	283	81	202
	%	100	28.62	71.38
general PHD programs	number	47	16	31
	%	100	34.04	65.96
master's degree programs	number	613	232	381
	%	100	37.85	62.15
master's degree for students without taking university entrance exam	number	3157	1174	1983
	%	100	37.19	62.81
bachelor's degree	number	8536	4008	4528
	%	100	46.95	53.05
bachelor's degree for students without taking university entrance exam	number	5127	2038	3089
	%	100	39.75	60.25



associate degree	number	2630	860	1770
	%	100	32.70	67.30
associate degree for students without taking university entrance exam	number	3586	1315	2271
	%	100	36.67	63.33

(Source: Report of State Welfare Organization to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

In order to further facilitate the education and attract and enroll exceptional children in educational centers, some encouraging programs were introduced in 2015 and 2016 for parents of children with special needs which includes provision of medical care, surgery costs and rehabilitation services and equipment such as hearing aid, walker, wheelchair, and school transport service for disabled children free of charge. To this should also be added the conversion of textbooks of ordinary students into Braille for blind and visually impaired children and extension of educational subjects including introduction of technical and vocational training, computer science and family management subjects in schools of visually impaired boys and

girls, provision of rehabilitation care credits, carrying out life skills training programs for 6733 mentally impaired girl students, following up the educational affairs of children who have to stay in medical treatment centers by dispatching teachers and volunteer activists in the field of education to attend to their educational needs and also concentrating on the education of children with special needs through the development and equipment of centers established for learning problems.

Other measures taken by the State Welfare Organization to ensure the right of disabled persons to education are as follows:

**Table (22): special measures taken to facilitate the education of disabled persons**

Type of measure	Year	
	2015	2016
Provision of financial assistance for education	23987 persons	26517 persons
Provision of assistance for students admitted to state universities as bonus	946 persons	1316 persons
launching Job and employment support centers	-----	20 centers
career and Job preparation program for disabled persons	21694 persons	23863 persons
developing and boosting art therapy programs at day care rehabilitation centers	25 provinces	6 provinces
developing and boosting music therapy programs at day care rehabilitation centers	-----	13 provinces
teaching art therapy to trainers of rehabilitation centers	344 trainers	-----
launching art therapy rooms at rehabilitation centers	344 centers	-----
teaching music therapy to trainers of rehabilitation centers	-----	196 centers
launching music therapy rooms at rehabilitation centers	-----	196 centers
provision of financial assistance for transport service of disabled persons to and from rehabilitation centers	6166 people	13333 people

(Source: Report of State Welfare Organization to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Also, in accordance with Article 8 of the "Comprehensive Law on Protection of the Rights of the Disabled", eligible needy students with disabilities may benefit from free education in state education centers and Islamic Azad University. Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs has so far taken

extensive measures to ensure the enjoyment of rights for war disabled veterans under the "Comprehensive Law on Provision of Services for War Veterans" and other related laws and regulations in force including their education at different levels as reflected in the following table.



**Table (23): educational services provided to disabled veterans and other people covered by the Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs by number of persons**

Type of Service	Service Receiver	Number
assistance for tuition fees of students in non-state (paid) universities	disabled veteran	6929
	child of disabled veteran	107417
	spouse of disabled veteran	4554
Total		118900
assistance for tuition fees of students in state universities	disabled veteran	313
	child of disabled veteran	24377
	spouse of disabled veteran	201
Total		24891
payment of bonus to students in state universities	disabled veteran	92
	child of disabled veteran	7142
	spouse of disabled veteran	53
Total		7287
Improving scientific performance and use of academic advisory services	all interested persons covered by the Foundation	78595
recruitment of faculty members	disabled veterans and their spouses	31
assistance for tuition fees of seminaries and theological colleges	disabled veteran	127
	child of disabled veteran	906
	spouse of disabled veteran	41
Total		1189
assistance for tuition fees of students in the schools affiliated to the Foundation for extra classes and lessons to improve their class performance	children of martyrs, disabled veterans( with disability rate of 70% and above)	5017
	children of disabled veterans (with disability rate of 50%-69%)	11042
	children of disabled veterans (a with disability rate of 25%-49%)	2886
Total		18945
holding extra classes and lessons for students covered by the Foundation studying in state schools to improve their class performance	children of martyrs and disabled veterans (with the disability rate of 50% and above) and abled veterans	31961
assistance for tuition fees of students covered by the Foundation studying in exemplary (Nemuneh) schools		8432
assistance for tuition fees of students covered by the Foundation in schools run by boards of trustees		1930
assistance for tuition fees of students in brilliant (students) schools		2369
assistance for tuition fees of students in private schools		8098
assistance for tuition fees of students in technical and vocational schools		5308
assistance for tuition fees of students in schools of children with special needs		711
Total		58809
assistance for tuition fees of students studying in adults and veterans schools	children and spouses of martyrs and disabled veterans (25% of disability and above) and abled veterans	5099



Total		5099
holding preparation classes for scientific Olympiads in order to improve the scientific performance of the target population in national and international Olympiads and other scientific competitions	children of martyrs and disabled veterans (with 70% of disability and above)	7128
	disabled veterans (with 25% of disability and above) and their spouses and children	42965
Total		50093

(Source: Report of State Welfare Organization to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

## Health and medical treatment insurance for the disabled veterans

According to the latest statistics (relating to January 2017) 183,534 disabled veterans together with 454,278 dependents (spouse, child and parents) are covered by medical insurance.

**Table (24): status of the medical insurance of the disabled veterans and their dependents (January 2017)**

service receiver	disabled veteran	children of disabled veterans	spouse of veterans	parents of veterans	total number
number	183534	258622	180808	14948	637808

(Source: Report of State Welfare Organization to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Beside the universal health insurance service, Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs is providing complementary medical insurance for the disabled veterans and their dependents. At present, the number of persons covered by this complementary insurance service is 1,562,003. The State Welfare Organization, too, has provided extensive rehabilitation services in addition to universal health insurance for persons with disabilities. The Organization provided rehabilitation services to 965,000 and 980,000 persons with disabilities respectively in 2015 and 2016 (9 months). The State Welfare Organization also provided financial assistance for better nutrition of 17000 and 18000 disabled children and adolescents respectively in 2015 and 9 months of 2016 at rehabilitation training centers. The State Welfare Organization is also taking measures to provide medical insurance for the members of the families of disabled persons who are under its coverage.

**Table (25): measures taken for the provision of rehabilitation, treatment and nutrition of disable persons**

type of measure	year	
	2015	2016
rehabilitation services to disabled	965000	980000
financial assistance for nutrition improvement of disabled children and adolescents at day rehabilitation training centers	17000	18000
rehabilitation and treatment services for Phenylketonuria (PKU) patients	1679	2186

(Source: Report of State Welfare Organization to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

## Easy and convenient transport service

Since the disabled population is partly suffering from physical and mobility impairments, the government has taken measures, to improve the urban transport system to suit the needs of these people, including providing vehicles suitable for the needs of persons with physical and mobility impairments, obliging public organizations and institutions such as municipalities to improve urban transport system in accordance with the needs of the disabled and provide the required facilities for the safe transport of the disabled veterans and other persons with disabilities.

**Table (26): improving the personal living environment of the disabled veterans in 2015 and 6 months of 2016**

year	persons (No)	amount by million Rials
2015	2016	60500 (equivalent of 1.72 million US dollars)
6 months of 2016	267	8000 (equivalent of 228000 US dollars)

(Source: Report of Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)



Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs, too, has taken extensive measures under the "Comprehensive Law on Provision of Services to Veterans" and other laws and regulations in force to help the disabled veterans including the following services

**Table (27): payment of pension to disabled veterans in 2015**

type of service	No. of covered persons	allocated costs (million Rials)
pension paid in the form of employment salary to disabled veterans	91,051	15,831,947
nursing allowance	45,715	4,258,626
living allowance (pension)	27,098	2,438,820
total	163,864	22,529,393 (equivalent of 643 million US dollars)

(Source: Report of Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

**Table (28): payment of pensions to disabled veterans in 6 months of 2016 by million Rials**

type of service	number of covered persons	Total costs
payment of pensions in the form of salary of employment	91,976	11,322,360
nursing allowance	46,245	3,249,507
living allowance (pension)	28,076	1,895,512
end of service bonus		
total	166,297	16,467,379 (equivalent of 470 million USdollars)

(Source: Report of Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

## Measures taken to facilitate the participation of disable veterans and other persons with disabilities in social activities

In order to facilitate and promote the participation of the disabled veterans in social, cultural and scientific activities, an institution called the "Center for Scientific Activities of Veterans' NGOs" has been established to help promote social activities of veterans. Also NGOs relating to the disabled veterans are identified and supported across the country and helped to organize training workshops for the empowerment of their members and their active participation in the related fields at the national and international levels.

According to the latest statistics, the number of active NGOs relating to the veterans was 61 in the first half of 2016.

## International cooperation and activities

Measures so far taken to boost the capacities of veteran's NGOs are summarized as follows:

- Identifying and supporting the NGOs operating in international fields in keeping with the goals and objectives of the Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs;
- Building capacities of the veterans' NGOs for international interaction through provision of advisory services and awareness programs to give them greater insight into the fields of their interest;



- Collecting information relating to the veterans' NGOs across the country for completing the data bank set up for that purpose;

- Holding training workshops for the empowerment of veterans NGOs in different fields particularly for those involved in international political activities.

The State Welfare Organization and its affiliated institutions have taken extensive measures during the past two years to facilitate the active participation of the disabled in social activities such as organizing cultural and artistic competitions in areas of urban

theatre, painting and handicrafts, facilitating the direct participation of the visually impaired persons in election processes including provision of transport service, print of special ballots for the blind to read and write their own votes without others' help, participation in projects aimed at combating desertification, increasing green spaces, urban landscaping, and also holding exhibitions in fields of interest such as handicrafts, food, clothing, etc.

Measures also taken to support brilliant disabled veterans including in the following areas.

**Table (29): measures taken to support the brilliant disabled veterans in science and education fields and their achievements**

Achievements	2015	2016 (9 months)	total
Invention and innovation	49	56	105
translation and compilation	444	307	751
top rankings in university entrance exams (bachelor, master and PhD degrees)	9	16	25
top rankings among university graduates	14	3	17
credible research projects	18	3	21
essays and articles presented at international conferences and seminars	1548	707	2255
scientific – research articles	1523	777	2300
national and international Olympiad medals	13	1	14
participation in exhibitions and festivals	16	8	24
top thesis and dissertations	1	1	2
university faculty member	59	80	139
specialized PHD degrees	72	58	130
Sub-specialized degrees	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3774</b>	<b>2053</b>	<b>5817</b>

(Source: report of Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs to the National Committee of PUR, 2016)



## Poverty Alleviation (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) As Well As Developing Rural and Less Advantaged Areas

## Poverty Alleviation (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) As Well As Developing Rural and Less Advantaged Areas<sup>1</sup>

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations /completely	Country
138.250	Step up its employment stimulation measures and enhance access of the poor to basic services, including sanitation, health and education;	State of Palestine
138.254	Continue its efforts to eradicate poverty;	Bangladesh
138.255	Continue implementing its national plans and programmes to reach poverty eradication goals;	Myanmar
138.256	Continue its efforts to eradicate poverty through the implementation of the tools developed in the framework of the national strategic policy;	Nicaragua
138.257	Pay special attention to the social and economic integration of the population in rural regions of the country through the development of the infrastructure and change of the regulatory framework in all spheres of life and sustenance;	Tajikistan
138.258	Continue measures for the promotion and protection of the rights of peasants and other persons working in rural areas;	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
138.259	Continue to raise the level of its public services and further improve the quality and coverage of public services in rural areas;	China
138.260	Continue the programmes for economic and social development by correcting disparities between urban and rural areas;	Mali

Article 3 of Islamic Republic of Iran's constitution guarantees just and proper economic founding based on Islamic standards so as prosperity is created, poverty and any form of deprivation in the fields of nutrition, housing, profession, hygiene, public insurance is alleviated Article 43 mentions society's economic independence as well as eradicating poverty and deprivation in addition to meeting human needs. Regulations to reduce poverty and establishment of social justice and economic dynamism are also stipulated in the twenty-year outlook economics social and cultural development programs, and general policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

### Imam Khomeini (R.A.) Relief Committee

Established for the purpose of poverty alleviation, Imam khomeini (R.A.) Relief committee purse acts such as livelihood assistance, paying the rent for those in need, supporting orphans, paying mortgages, housing provision for urban and rural patients, assisting the poor in marriage, assisting in paying arrears, legal assistance in order to improve the poor's economic and social right in its agenda. in 2015, 1934084 households equivalent to 3991155 persons (covering the healthy, disabled, physically ill, mentally ill) have been supported by the committee. it needs to bementioned that 53066 villages have been supported by the committee simultaneously as well.

<sup>1</sup> It needs to be mentioned that in various parts of the report, situation of villages and less-advantaged areas are specifically mentioned. The contents of this section shall be taken into account with the contents of other sections.



**Table (1): In need People Information**

Total Number (Based on Cities and Villages)		Total number (Based on Sex)		Total Number of Breadwinning Females		Total Number of Supported In-need		Year
Persons		Persons		Persons	Families	Persons	Families	
1796932	Cities	2607310	Females	2607310	1087755	3991155	1934084	2015
2194223	Villages	1383845	Males					

(Source: Imam Khomeini (R.A.) Relief Committee's report to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

The number of religious minorities in need until late 2015 are mentioned in Table 2.

**Table (2): The Number of in need Based on Religion in 2015**

Shiite		Other Religions		Sunnite		TOTAL	
Persons	Families	Persons	Families	Persons	Families	Persons	Families
3414191	1679981	17300	7393	559664	246710	3991155	1934084

(Source: Imam Khomeini (R.A.) Relief Committee's report to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Table 3 presents a general perspective of Imam Khomeini (R.A.) Relief Committee activities as well as the allocated budgets in 2015.

**Table(3): Imam Khomeini Relief Committee Activities (2015)**

53066 Thousand Villages	Number of Supported Villages
1 billion dollars of grants	Amount of Grants, Pensions and Loans
88 million dollars of loans from funds	
6 million dollars of loans from funds	
74 million dollars of loans from entrepreneurship funds	
16.5 million dollars of loans for rural housing renovation and retrofit	Cultural and Educational services in rural, underdeveloped and nomadic areas
Total number of supported students: 34388	
Total number of supported university students: 78946	
Total number of rural students: 160400	
Allocated grants: 31.5 million dollars	Health services in rural, underdeveloped and nomadic areas
Number of insured in need: 1208082	
Total Number of clinics having contracts with the committee: 9463	
Paid Allowance: 112 Million Dollars	
Supporting Self-sufficiency Plans: 1055422 Families equal to 2567988 people	Job Creation & Work Availability Enhancement
Number of Self-sufficient families: 62103	
Vocational Training Provision: 287840 People, 184032 of which are women	
Placements: 22936 people	
Females' Placements: 13559 people	
Established and Equipped Self-sufficiency Spaces: 1258 Units	
Bank Facilities Loans for 87687 people: 319 Million Dollars	Housing Services
Urban Housing Construction and Purchase Aid: 8187 Units	
Rural Housing Construction and Purchase Aid: 13999 Units	
Housing Renovation, Completion and Retrofit: 69648 Units	
Rural Housing Renovation and Retrofit for 3887 Units: 16.5 Million Dollars	
Mortgage Allowance: 56 Million Dollars	Legal, Legislating and Consulting Assistance Services
Legal and judicial Assistance Services to the In-Need: 66237 cases	
Number of assisted single-parent soldiers: 4871 families equal to 10324 people	Assisting Single-Parent Soldiers



Assisting 33746 Prisoners' families	Assisting Prisoners' Families
Assisting 91896 Prisoners	
Allocated Grants: 8 Million Dollars	
Allocated Loans: 1 Million Dollars	
Assisting 3737 families equal to 9661 people	Assisting Disasters-affected families
Assisting Damaged families: 41.3 billion Rials	
Nourishment security programs provision for 83652 people including 52391 villagers	Assisting Children in Rural and Underdeveloped areas
Nourishment security programs for 1344 pregnant women including 888 villagers	

(Source: Imam Khomeini (R.A.) Relief Committee's report to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

In line with housing provision policy in 2015, the committee provided the assisted families 7608 rural and 6078 urban houses while 53697 units are refurbished. In 2016, 3201 urban houses are built and given to rural families with 9482 other units are under construction. 2925 urban houses are ready and given to the assisted families while 2677 other units are under construction. Table 4 depicts housing provision for the assisted families by Imam Khomeini (R.A.) Relief Committee.

**Table (4): House Provision for the Assisted Families by Imam Khomeini (R.A.) Aid Committee**

Number of Refurbished Houses	Number of Urban Houses		Number of Rural Houses		Year
	Under Construction	Given	Under Construction	Given	
53697	-	6078	-	7608	2015
16180	2677	2925	9482	3201	2016

(Source: Imam Khomeini (R.A.) Relief Committee's report to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

## Welfare Organization

The organization has done various acts to assist orphaned families in need, children and orphan newborns, physically and mentally disabled. Table 5 depicts the organization's proceedings in assisting women in need.

**Table (5): Welfare Organization's Protective Measures of Women In Need**

Number	Description	Activities	2015	2016 (until January)
1	Fixed Monthly Payment based on Households ranging from 530000 to 1000000 Rials	Families in need Financial Support (Pension)	180000	180000
2	Empowering the assisted families so as to be removed from direct support cycle	Assisted Families' Empowerment	14251	13000
3	Caretaking Women's Support Group Formation with the aim of their Independence	Caretaking Women's Support Group Formation	914	950
4	Poverty alleviation and livelihood improvement of affected females and youth in rural and urban areas	Microfinance Programs Provision	1548	2100
5	Empowering local communities through people's and elected representatives' participation	Community-oriented Empowerment Program	113	133
6	Specialized Services provision to the Stage of empowering People and Assisted Families via Clinics and Social Assistance	Social Assistance Clinics	386	389



7	Housing Deposit Assistance with the Aim of Housing Supplement for the Assisted Clients	Housing Deposit Assistance	2511	2500
8	Rural and Nomadic Females Supported by Welfare Organization Benefitting from Social Coverage of Rural and Nomadic Insurance	Rural and Nomadic Females' Social Insurance	46059	51500
9	18 to 50-year-old Caretaking Women Social Security Insurance Coverage	Social Security Insurance for Assisted Caretaking Women	54151	54500
10	Assisted Families' Scholarship provision through paying part of their tuitions	Assisted Families' Scholarship Provision	13000	15000
11	Monthly Scholarship provision so as to Stop Assisted Families' Children Dropouts	Assisted Families' Children Education Improvement	180000	80000
12	Social Services Provision for a Part of Assisted Families through Social Work Clinics and Active Charities	NGO Centers' Services Purchase	130000	130000
13	Various Service-provision for families with multiples	Social Services Provision for Multiples	36000	36000
14	Purchase and distribution of free-of-charge milk powder with the aim of improving assisted families' infants, multiples and paralyzed children level of health and malnutrition	Purchase and Distribution of Milk Powder Required by Target Population	515000	200000
15	Providing Required Teachings for clients to get involved in target professions	Occupational Preparation Program	9365	9000
16	A son of assisted families without a father is exempted from compulsory military service	Military Service Exemption for one son of the assisted families without a father	1900	1200

(Reference: Ministry of Welfare and Labor's Report to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

On the other hand, the Welfare Organization institutes the following proceedings nominally as empowering programs and assisting addicts to rehabilitate as follows:

- Subsidiary payment to the poor;
- Occupational preparation and vocational training of the rehabilitated ;
- Housing provision for the rehabilitated ;
- Occupation provision and assisting the rehabilitated after recovery.

Table 6 depicts medical subsidiary payment to the addicts in need in 2015 and first 6 months of 2016:

**Table (6): Medical Subsidiary Payment to the In-need**

Total	2016 (First 6 months)	2015	Title
1.6 Billion Dollars	30800	25000	Addiction Treatment Subsidiary
32764	10921	21843	Population Covered (person)

(Source: Ministry of Welfare and Labor's Report to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

In order to rehabilitate and assist recovered homeless addicts, trial rehabilitation centers have been built in 10 provinces since April 2014. Tables 7 and 8 depict vocational and occupational trainings as well as housing provision for the recovered.

**Table (7): Vocational and Occupational Trainings of Recovered Addicts**

Total	2016 (First 6 Months)	2015	Title
14413	4855	9558	Vocational Trainings of the Recovered

(Source: Ministry of Welfare and Labor's Report to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

**Table (8): Housing Provision for the Recovered Addicts**

Title	2016
Number of Houses	931

(Source: Ministry of Welfare and Labor's Report to the National UPR Committee, 2016)



Proceedings of welfare organization to enhance housing availability in rural areas are illustrated in table 9.

**Table (9): Welfare Organization's Proceedings for Rural Housing**

2015	2016 (First 6 Months)
Construction of 3064 units and refurbishing 197000 units	Construction of 1709 units
(Source: President's Department of Rural development and Deprived Areas' Report to the national UPR Committee, 2016)	

## President's Department for Rural and Less-advantaged Development Areas

The department is responsible for strategic planning and supervising rural development. Based on the latest national census in 2016, rural population is 20,730,625 people, around 29 percent of total population, which has gone through 3.03 percent reduction in comparison with the census in 2006. According to the Statistical Yearbook of Iran's Center of Statistics (2016), urban and rural population dispersion is mentioned in Table 10.

**Table (10): Composition of the Population by Gender in Urban and Rural Zones (Every 1000 People)**

Year	Rural and Uninhabited Areas			Urban Areas			Country		
	Female	Male	Male & Female	Female	Male	Male & Female	Female	Male	Male & Female
2014	10658	10790	21448	27975	28434	56408	38632	39224	77856
2015	10661	10785	21446	28439	28887	57327	39101	39672	78773
2016	-	-	20730	-	-	59146	39438	40498	79926

(Source: Statistical Yearbook of Iran's Statistics Center, Calculated by Bureau of Population, Workforce and Census, 2016)

Up until the first six months in 2016, 80.2 percent of rural areas benefit from drinking-water piping while drinking water for villages is provided through other means. In comparison with 2011, the number depicts a 4 percent growth. On the other hand, 23 thousand kilometers aqueducts are repaired in the period from 2001 to 2012 so that rural lives may benefit from efficiency in natural resources as well as groundwater.

56170 villages have been equipped with electricity in 2015. The policy of electrifying the villages with more than 20 households and villages on the sidelines of electrification is fulfilled. 100 percent of the villages benefit from electrification and for the villages with less than 20 families is around 68 percent with the agenda to cover all villages with more than 10 inhabiting families by the end of 2016. The proportion of rural families benefitting from electricity network in 2004 had been 97.5 percent which has grown to 100 percent in the eight months of 2016.

More than 19157 villages among all have benefitted from gas pipeline since first half of 2016; piping priority had been with the villages in cold areas and on the sideline of the pipeline. The ratio of gas pipeline availability in 2004 had been 9.1 percent which is enhanced to 54.2 percent in 2015 and 65 percent in eight months of 2016.

Around 94 percent of villages with more than 50 families benefit from paved roads; the ration of population benefitting from paved roads had been 83 percent in 2004 which has increased to 91 percent in 2015 and 93 percent in 2016, respectively.

99 percent of the villages around the country benefit from services such as Rural Health Houses (apart from rural clinics), 95 percent from educational environment at different levels of education, 99.5 percent from landline phones (54273 villages), 98.5 percent from the media coverage and 82 percent from the Internet coverage.

**Table (11): Access to Suitable Life Standards in Rural and Less-advantaged Areas 2015-2016**

Year of Activity	High-Speed Internet	Landline Phones	Suitable Educational Environments	Health Network	Paved Roads	Gas Pipeline Availability	Electricity Availability	Drinking Water Availability through Pipeline
2015	82 percent	97 Percent	95 percent	99 percent	91 percent	54.2 percent	100 percent	75 percent
2016	82 percent	97 percent	95 percent	99 percent	93 percent	65 percent	100 percent	80.2 percent

(Source: Department of Rural Development and Deprived Areas' Report to the National UPR Committee, 2016)



Rural clinics are governed by general practitioners in villages. In addition to supervising Health Houses activities and leading them, the Units secure specialized treatments and hospitalization of the population covered through commission or relation with the towns' hospitals. Delivery facilities are to be created in rural clinics located in the path of other clinics with the crossing population bottleneck around 20 thousand people.

Health Houses and Public Rural Health Care Centers are among the most important centers presenting wide ranges of health services to a large population of villagers around the country. Before "healthcare reform plan" the number of rural health houses had been 16025 whose number has increased to 17980 in 2015 and 18571 in 2016. The number and dispersion of rural health centers before and after 2016 are depicted in Table 12.

**Table (12): Healthcare Centers in Rural and Nomadic Areas Based on Healthcare Reform Plan**

Title	Difference	After 2015	Before 2016	Percent of Change Compared to the Past
Health Houses	559	18571	18012	3.1
Rural Health Houses	119	119	0	-
Rural Clinics	177	343	166	106.6
Total Number of Rural Health Houses and Clinics	855	19033	18178	4.7
Rural Center	475	3012	2537	18.7
Boarding Rural Centers	24	99	75	32.0
Total Number of Rural Centers	499	3111	2612	19.1
Grade 1 and Top Border Care Centers	15	37	22	68.2
Grade 2 and 3 Border Care Centers	12	89	77	6.15
Total Number of Care Centers	27	126	99	27.3

(Source: Health Ministry's report to the national UPR Committee, 2016)

All villagers and nomads have been covered by health insurance under referral system since 2005 whose coverage is still available for free to the ones left uninsured. The total numbers of the insured in 2015 and the first six month in 2016 are 21825878 and 22443534, respectively; the government has spent around 910 million dollars for villagers in the

past one and a half year.

161606 jobs in 2015 and 65886 ones in the first half of 2016 are created by rural affairs executive organizations. The most notable other actions to create jobs via occupational trainings custodian organizations are mentioned in Table 13.

**Table (13): Job development through Vocational and Occupational Trainings in 2015-16**

Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare			
Covering 1322451 families in rural and nomadic social insurance funds out of which 20930 are pensioners			
Total of 1952 Rural Agricultural Cooperatives with 1071956 members covered by the central organization of cooperative which are responsible for service provision to villagers			
Total of 298 Rural cooperative unions with 2860 members in different parts of the country			
2016		2015	
13478 Learners Guaranteed to be recruited		10227 Learners Guaranteed to be recruited	
Vocational Training Provision to the Vulnerable			
2016		2015	
Male Learner	Female Learner	Male Learner	Female Learner
5733	7907	3696	5047
Vocational Training Provision to Villagers and Nomads			



2016		2015	
Male Learner	Female Learner	Male Learner	Female Learner
48870	48941	21233	41270

(Source: President's Ministry of Urban Development and Deprived Areas to the UPR National Committee, 2016)

## Islamic Councils of Villages

The institution of Islamic Councils of Villages are among the institutions which are founded with the aim of improving villagers' partnership. The total number of 32170 village councils have been founded since 2004 in villages with more than 20 families with 85 percent rural society benefitting from the services of the institution; the manpower in village councils are recruited as follows: 3000 members as full-time presidents, 29000 as part-time presidents, 3200 as finance managers, 1100 as technical experts and 4000 recruited by rural cooperatives out of 40300 members. 35412 villages with more than 20 families out of 38114 benefit from Islamic Council. According to the statistics, 109686 people are main members and 59102 people as understudies out of 214683 people in the 4<sup>th</sup> Urban and Rural Islamic Councils in 2013.

## Barkat Foundation<sup>2</sup>

Founded in December 11, 2007 by the order of the Supreme Leader, Barkat Foundation aims at empowering the deprived, inhabitants of underdeveloped areas self-sufficiency, economic development of underdeveloped and less-developed areas as well as creation of job opportunities.

Currently, more than 4200000 people in more than 4000 villages around the country are covered by the programs of the foundation. Around 25 percent of Barkat foundation investments (428 million dollars) is invested in economic, infrastructure, cultural and health empowerment in border provinces (Kurdistan, Western Azerbaijan, Southern Khorasan, Sistan and Balouchestan, Kermanshah, Golestan and Hormozgan). The most notable actions by Barkat foundation in the previous 8 years are described in Table 14.

**Table 14: The Most Notable Actions by Barkat Foundation in the Previous 8 Years**

Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship
Implementation of 265 entrepreneurship programs for 165 thousand people (34 thousand directly and 133 thousand indirectly) in 31 provinces with an investment around 1.35 billion dollars
Infrastructure (Housing, Schools and Education Environment, Electrification, Water Supply, Routing, Bridgework)
Construction of 21 thousand residential units for the poor
Contract negotiation to build 950 schools with 5100 classes with the capacity of 127500 students with a budget around 115 million dollars, 778 of which with 4065 classes and capacity of 101000 students are founded covering 1425 deprived villages
1047 infrastructure programs (electrification, water supply, bridgework, Rural information and communication center, gas-oil stations, watershed and etc.) with a budget around 88 million dollars in deprived areas in 31 provinces
Cultural Affairs
Contract negotiation to construct 700 cultural-religious centers with a budget around 20 million dollars, 560 of which are founded
Health Care, Insurance and Assistance
Digital health checkups in 20 forms of services such as Intelligent Beds in impassable areas, twenty-section tests such as blood sugar, blood fat, Thyroid, ... and system of monitoring vital signs in ambulances as well as medical consultation, from diagnosis to description, on call
204 thousand insurance issuance to cover 326 thousand people in 1428 villages in underdeveloped areas with a budget around 2.3 million dollars
50 million dollars for marriage, medical, educational, housing and individual employment loan to 40 thousand poor people
Covering 19468 orphans with a budget around 2.3 million dollars
1000 dowries provided with a budget around 1 million dollars to poor couples in deprived areas
230 Billion Rials grants to cover medicine for 43 thousand poor with malign illnesses
Service provision for infertile couples in deprived areas; currently, 3900 couples are under diagnosis and 1143 couples treated with more than 100 fertility and 38 birth in deprived areas recorded



Construction of 11 hospitals and participation in construction of 11 hospitals with the capacity of 1200 beds in deprived areas with a budget around 28.5 billion dollars

Construction of 35 clinics and Health Houses as well as 95 Public Health Centers, Urban and Rural Treatments covering 520 villages

(Source: Barkat Foundation Information Center, 2016)

The most notable acts by Barkat Foundation in 2015 and 16 are described in Table 15.

**Table (15): The most Notable acts by Barkat Foundation in 2015 and 2016**

<b>Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship</b>
Participation in 13 economic empowerment programs in Kerman province and sustainable employment for 3553 persons
Implementation of 16 economic programs in underdeveloped areas of Kermanshah province between 2011 and 2015 in addition to entrepreneurship for 7000 people with a budget around 58.4 million dollars
Implementation of 10 economic empowerment programs in underdeveloped areas of Khuzestan war-stricken province with a budget around 66.8 million dollars as well as 6440 entrepreneurship
Implementation of 53 economic empowerment programs in underdeveloped areas of North Khorasan province with a budget more than 35 million dollars as well as covering a population around 98 thousand people and sustainable entrepreneurship for 4140 people
Exploitation of 8 economic empowerment programs and entrepreneurship in Cheharmahal Bakhtiari as well as entrepreneurship for 1070 people in the same province
Operation of power station with jobs created for 830 people in Khuzestan province (October 2016)
Participation in economic empowerment in Western Islam Abad of Kermanshah province with a budget around 4.7 million dollars as well as entrepreneurship for 705 people
Entrepreneurship for 30 people in Borujen town with a budget around 20.8 million dollars through implementation of economic programs
Entrepreneurship for 80 people in underdeveloped areas of Ahar town in Zanjan province as well as job creation opportunity for 330 people through implementation of economic programs
42.8 million dollars investment with the aim of poverty alleviation from 41 villages of Western Azerbaijan
Implementation of 24 economic, cultural and social programs in underdeveloped areas of Qazvin province with a budget around 29.5 million dollars with a population coverage of more than 26700 people in 6 towns and 28 villages, as well as 1700 sustainable jobs created
Implementation of 47 economic, cultural and social programs in underdeveloped areas of Gulestan province with a budget around 14.9 million dollars with a population coverage of more than 142 thousand and 600 people, as well as 2400 sustainable jobs created
Implementation of 8 economic empowerment with the population coverage of more than 26 thousand people as well as entrepreneurship for 3260 people in underdeveloped areas of Western Azerbaijan province
Empowering underdeveloped areas of Western Azerbaijan with a budget around 42.8 million dollars covering 41 villages
Implementation of 6 economic empowerment and entrepreneurship programs with a budget around 28.3 million dollars, as well as more than 49000 jobs created in Zanjan province
Implementation of 235 economic empowerment, infrastructure, medical, insurance and assisting programs in Sistan&Balouchestan province with a budget around 37.4 million dollars
Implementation of 600 infrastructure and economic programs with entrepreneurship capacity of 5000 people in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad province with a budget around 18 million dollars creating job opportunities for around 3000 people
Implementation of 11 economic empowerment in underdeveloped areas of Eastern Azerbaijan province with around 6500 jobs created with a budget around 70.1 million dollars
<b>Building Construction</b>
Contract negotiation to construction 14000 residential units for the poor in underdeveloped areas of the province in partnership with Islamic Republic's Housing Foundation with a budget around 100 million dollars
Exploitation of 1870 residential units for the poor in Abadan and Khoramshahr in Khuzestan province (Retrofit)
Exploitation of 910 residential units for the poor in Khoramshahr villages (Khuzestan province) out of 4000 contracts in war-stricken villages of Abadan and Khoramshahr
<b>Health Centers (including Digitalized Health Services)</b>
Contract negotiation with ministry of health to construct 88 Public Health Centers in Sistan&Balouchestan province



Implementation of Digitalized Health Program covering 200 thousand people in 150 villages in Sistan&Balouchestan, Kermanshah and Western Azerbaijan provinces

Opening a hospital in Minoodasht town of Golistan province with 200 jobs created

Construction of three rural health centers in underdeveloped areas of Golistan province with a budget around 428 thousand dollars

Agreement with Health Ministry to construct 10 hospitals with 1000 beds

#### **School Construction**

Construction of 74 schools, 48 of which with 202 classes are opened as well as 36 ones under construction with a budget around 8.05 million dollars

Exploitation of 36 schools with 142 classes in Northern Khorasan province

Program to found 102 schools with 501 classes with a budget around 11.7 million dollars in Khuzestan province as well as opening 28 schools in it

Opening 10 schools in villages and underdeveloped areas of Isfahan province with a budget around 3.5 million dollars

Construction of 17 schools out of 27 in the poor areas of Bushehr province

Construction of 31 schools in underdeveloped areas in Ilam province with a budget around 4.4 million dollars as well as opening 21 schools with 105 classes

Construction of 5 schools in Western Islam Abad town of Kermanshah province

Construction of 8 school in Khodabandeh town of Zanjan province

Construction of 3 schools in Farahan villages

Construction of a school for exceptional students in Khuzestan province

Construction of 8 schools in Golistan province as well as opening 20 ones

Opening 7 schools in poor areas of Yazd province

Construction of 4 schools in rural areas of Esfaryen

Construction of 6 schools in villages of Shirvan in Northern Khorasan province

Construction of 13 schools with 99 classes in Qazvin with a budget around 1.2 million dollars

Opening 9 schools in underdeveloped areas of Abadan, Dezful and Gativand of Khuzestan province

Exploitation of 26 schools out 28 ones in Golistan province with a budget around 6.8 million dollars

Exploitation of 22 schools out of 27 in Western Azerbaijan province

#### **Construction and Infrastructure Affairs**

Participation in completing 53 kilometers of rural roads in Tekkab town of Western Azerbaijan province with a budget around 2.5 million dollars

Paving and Improvement of 23 kilometers of rural roads in Khaf town in Khorasan Razavi province with a budget around 800 thousand dollars

Participation to construct Mehran terminal with a budget around 571 thousand dollars

Construction of 2 bridges as well as 2 nomadic roads in Cheharmahal and Bakhtiari province

#### **Insurance Affairs**

Issuing more than 204 thousand insurance services covering 326 thousand people in 1428 villages in underdeveloped areas

Around 100 thousand residential insurance coverage

Insurance coverage of 4707 people in 8 villages of Mazandaran province

Insurance coverage of 9961 people in 17 villages of Khuzestan province

Insurance coverage for 15 underdeveloped villages of Mazandaran province

Insurance coverage (medical and fire) for 100 thousand residential units in Cheharmahal and Bakhtiari as well as Lorestan provinces

#### **Financial Support**

Service provision to the poor as well as loan-giving in Northern Khorasan province with a budget around 714 thousand dollars

Covering 800 orphans under financial and insurance services as well as loan-giving in Khuzestan province with a budget around 988 million dollars

Service provision for the poor as well as loan-giving in underdeveloped areas of Western Azerbaijan province with a budget around 37.7 million dollars

(Source: Barkat Foundation Information Center, 2016)



# Right to Employment

## Right to Employment

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.88	Continue its national policy to promote equal opportunities and treatment with respect to employment;	Sri Lanka
138.94	Continue its national policy in promoting equal opportunity with respect to employment;	Eritrea
138.249	Continue social and economic reforms in order to create new jobs;	Djibouti
138.250	Step up its employment stimulation measures and enhance access of the poor to basic services, including sanitation, health and education;	State of Palestine
138.251	Develop training programs for youth so as to improve their access to the labour market ;	India

In accordance with the statistics released from the census held in the summer of 2016, the rate of economic participation in the population aged 10 and over in the entire country was 40.4%. This indicator was 64.9 for males and 15.9% for females. Also, according to the same census, the percentage of the active rural population is higher than that of the urban population; the economic participation rates in rural and urban areas were respectively 42.2% and 39.8%.

If we take the population of 15-years and over as the working age group, the economic participation rate in the entire country will, then, be 44.1%. This indicator will be 71.3% for males and 17.3% for females, and also, 43.3% for urban and 46.7% for rural areas.

**Table (1): economic participation rate by gender in urban and rural areas**

item	total	male	female	urban	rural
economic participation rate in the population aged 10 and over	40.4	64.9	15.9	39.8	42.2
economic participation rate in the population aged 15 and over	44.1	71.3	17.3	43.3	46.7

(Source: census on economic participation rate by Iran's Statistics Center, summer 2016)

A comparison of the economic participation rates in the summers of 2015 and 2016 shows that the indicator for the population aged 10 and over had increased by 1.5%. The same indicator had surged by 1.6% and 1.1% respectively for urban and rural areas, and also by 0.8% and 2.2% respectively for males and females.

According to the same statistics, the economic participation rate in the summer of 2016 had risen by 0.8% as compared to the spring of the same year. This indicator had increased by 1.1% in urban areas, 0.2% in



rural areas, and also by 1% for males and 0.7% for females in the same period.

**Table (2): variations of the economic participation rate by gender, urban and rural areas in the summer of 2016 as compared to the summer of 2015 and the spring of 2016**

item	total		male		female		Urban areas		Rural areas	
	Summer 2015	Spring 2016	Summer 2015	Spring 2016	Summer 2015	Spring 2016	Summer 2015	Spring 2016	Summer 2015	Spring 2016
variations of economic participation rate in population aged 10 & over	1.5	0.8	0.8	1	2.2	0.7	1.6	1.1	1.1	0.2
variations of economic participation rate in population aged 15 & over	1.7	0.9	1.1	0.9	2.4	0.8	1.8	1.2	1.5	0.0

(Source: census on economic participation rate by Iran's Statistics Center, summer 2016)

The unemployment rate in the population aged 10 and over in the entire country was 12.7% in the summer of 2016. This indicator was 10.4% for males and 21.8% for females and also 14.4% for urban and 7.9% in rural areas. If the active population is assumed to be the population aged 15 and over, the unemployment rate, then, will be again 12.7% for the entire country.

A comparison of the employment rates in different sectors reveals that the service and agriculture sectors respectively account for the highest and lowest employment rates in the economy.

**Table (3): shares of different sectors of the economy by gender, urban and rural areas (%)**

item	total	male	female	urban	rural
agriculture	19.4	18.5	23.4	5.9	52.8
industry	31.5	33.1	24.1	34.4	24.4
service	49.1	48.4	52.5	59.7	22.8

(Source: census on economic participation rate by Iran's Statistics Center, summer 2016)

Also, a comparison of the employment rates between the public and private sectors indicates that the employment rate in the private sector (employers, self-employed, wage earners and salaried employees in the private sector and cooperatives) is higher than that of the public sector, to the point that the share of employment rate in the population aged 10 and over is respectively 83.9% in the private sector and 16.1% in the public sector.



**Table (4): share of employment rates in the public and private sectors by gender and urban and rural areas**

item	total	male	female	urban	rural
private	83.9	85.6	76.2	79.7	94.4
public	16.1	14.4	23.8	20.3	5.6

(Source: census on economic participation rate by Iran's Statistics Center, summer 2016)

### Supporting self-help groups

The target community of the program for supporting self-help groups is mostly low-income and other vulnerable rural groups who do not have access, under normal conditions, to bank facilities. But self-help groups, in view of their special social conditions, can benefit from bank facilities without securities and deposits under this program.

Development of small businesses, reduction of unemployment and incomplete partial employment, narrowing regional gaps, prevention of unrestrained immigration to urban areas, reduction of poverty and improvement of livelihood and empowerment of the target community are among the accomplishments of this program.

**Table (5): information relating to self-help groups**

year	No. of self-help groups	No. of self-help groups	No. of members of self-help groups	Approximate No. of jobs created	No. of female members
By March 2015	1578	In 2015 760	1520	152	1368
By October 2016	2189	In 2016 611	1222	122	1099

(Source: report of Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Holding technical and vocational training courses for youths to facilitate their access to labor market in 2015 and 2016

Table 6 compares the educational performance of the youth (person-course) in 2015 and 2016 (6 months).

**Table (6): educational performance of the youth (person-course) in 2015 and 2016 (6 months)**

	item	Performance in 2015		Performance in 2016 (6 months)	
		Person-course	Person-hour	Person-course	Person-hour
1	Specialized, technical-vocational training	385,182	80,117,856	213903	41,924,988

(Source: report of Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

### Internship programs for university graduates

Internship programs for university graduates are an effective mechanism pursued in the labor market for raising the employability and job skills of

university leavers. This program was introduced in 2007 and is, at present, implemented on a pilot basis in 8 provinces which need more support in terms of job and employment generation. Table 8 provides information on the performance of this program in 8 provinces by the end of October 2016.

**Table (7): information on the performance of internship programs for university graduates in 8 provinces by the end of October 2016**

Year	NO. of contracted graduate interns	No. of units applying for graduate internship programs	No. of licensed units accepting graduate interns
by October 2017	373	699	311

(Source: report of Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)



## Cooperatives

In 2015, some 4111 new cooperatives with 84,136 members and 61,390 job opportunities in business areas were registered in the country. The initial capital of the cooperatives was over 718 billion Rials (equivalent to 20 million US dollars).

In 2016 (9 months), too, 2814 new cooperatives with 58,795 members and 49,502 job opportunities and also an initial capital of 674 billion Rials (equivalent to 19 million US dollars) were registered.

Of 2814 cooperatives registered in 9 months of 2016, 911 were registered in the second quarter of 2016, 139 of which have already started their work and the remaining 772 cooperatives are beginning to start. The capital of the cooperatives which started their work in the second quarter of 2016 was 47,761 million Rials (equivalent to 1.3 million US dollars) which has created 3484 job opportunities. Also, the capital of the cooperatives which are beginning to

start their work is 270,543 million Rials (equivalent to 7.73 million US dollars) which has created 11,117 job opportunities.

In order to provide the required legal incentives and financial support for cooperatives, over 16,800 billion Rials (equivalent to 480 million US dollars) worth of facilities were allocated by Tose-e-Taavon (cooperative development) Bank to cooperatives in 2015. Also, over 740 billion Rials (equivalent to 21 million US dollars) were allocated and paid to cooperatives by the Omid Entrepreneurship Fund. Tose-e-Taavon Bank also allocated over 5089 billion Rials (equivalent to 145 million US dollars) to 12,230 persons as "job creation facilities" paid under the "scheme for development of production cooperatives" in 8 months of 2016. In 2015 and 8 months of 2016, a total number of 2368 cooperatives received facilities worth 22,629 billion Rials (equivalent to 646 million US dollars).

**Table (8): information relating to active cooperatives in 9 months of 2016**

Year	No. of cooperatives	No. of members	Registered capital by billion Rials	Job opportunities
by March 2016	93,379	42,594,268	88,430	1,551,637
by January 2017	96,198	42,653,247	89,105	1,601,191
2015	4,268	94,767	928	63,357
2015 (9 months)	2,832	57,826	524	39,614
2016 (9 months)	2,809	58,739	637	49,462

(Source: Report of Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

**Table (9): number of registered entrepreneurs**

year	2013	2014	2015
number of registered entrepreneurs	27,610	30,571	34,641

(Source: Report of Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

**Table (10): job facilities allocated to home businesses and cooperatives in 2014 and 2015 by billion Rials**

year	2014	2015
No. of permits issued for home businesses	48,167	53,517
Amount of facilities allocated to home businesses	5000	3000
Amount of facilities paid for home businesses	960 (equivalent to 28 million US dollars)	1001 (equivalent to 29 million US dollars)
No. of loans granted by Omid Entrepreneurship Fund	87,937	146,962
Amount of facilities paid by Omid Entrepreneurship Fund	8,406 (equivalent to 240 million US dollars)	14,228 (equivalent to 406 million US dollars)

(Source: Report of Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)



## Legal provisions which have been passed or are under consideration by the Islamic Consultative Assembly for promotion of the right to occupation

The Islamic Consultative Assembly either passed or considered some legal provisions for job and employment opportunities in 2015 and 2016 (9 months). Foremost among the legal provisions are:

- passing the Act on "Reducing the Work Hours of Women with Special Conditions";
- passing the Act on "prohibition of the Reemployment of Retired Government Employees" (opening the field for the youth);
- considering the "bill on granting facilities from the National Development Fund for creation of job opportunities in rural areas with priority being given to less-developed, tribal and border areas";
- considering the motion on "obliging the government

to fairly enforce the uniform payment system";

- considering the motion on "unemployment insurance and supporting the unemployed job seekers";
- considering the motion on "prohibition of employment in more than one job".

## Media and employment

Given the nationwide coverage and extensive capacities of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) particularly for the education of job skills and business methods, this national media outlet has given special importance to the issue of job and employment generation in the country.

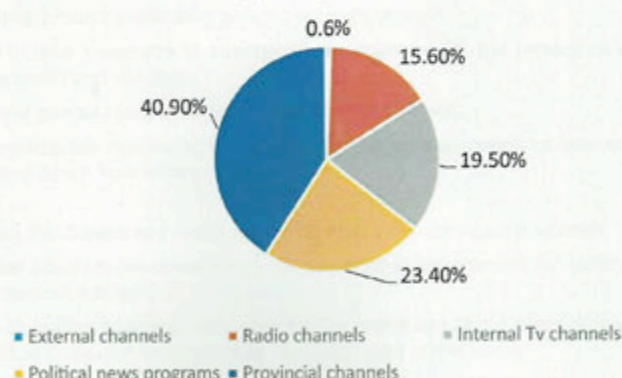
The performance of different IRIB channels on the theme of "creation of sustainable jobs with Iranian labor and capital" in 6 months of 2016 amounted to the production of 2860 hours of program as reflected in the following table and chart.

**Table (11): performance of different IRIB channels on job creation in 2016 (6 months)**

Row	Channels	Duration by hour
1	Radio channels	447
2	TV channels	558
3	Political radio and TV programs	670
4	Provincial channels	1,171
5	External radio and TV channels	14
total		2,860

(Source: Report of IRIB to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

**Chart (1): performance of different IRIB channels on job creation in 2016**



(Source: Report of IRIB to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)



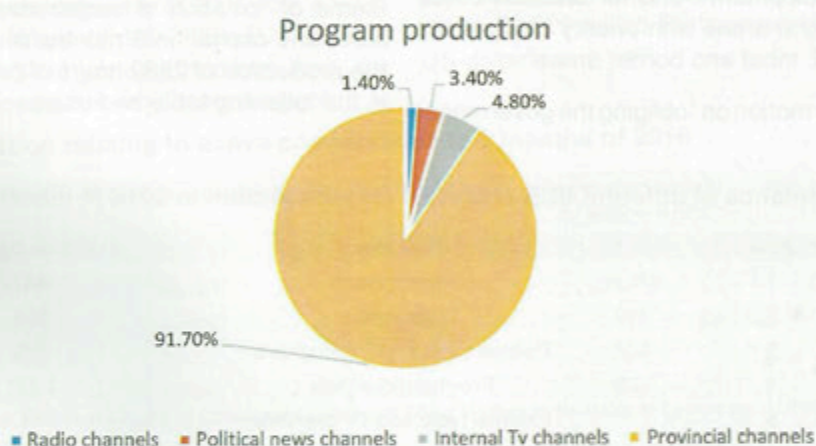
IRIB has also produced 5046 hours of program on "organizing and supporting home businesses" as reflected in the following table and chart.

**Table (12): production of programs by IRIB channels on supporting home businesses**

Row	Channels	Duration by hour
1	Radio channels	68
2	TV channels	241
3	Political radio and TV programs	171
4	Provincial channels	4566
total		5046

(Source: Report of IRIB to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

**Chart (2): production of programs by IRIB channels on supporting home businesses in 2016**



(Source: Report of IRIB to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)



# Women's Rights

## Women's Rights

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.87	Facilitate social inclusion of women to prevent violence against women and children as well as discrimination based on sex and social status, by improving domestic mechanisms and the adoption of legislative measures for the social integration of women;	Tajikistan
138.93	Intensify efforts for the enhancement of the cultural, social and economic rights of women, children and people with disabilities;	Lebanon
138.97	Continue with the measures to improve the status of women in society;	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
138.98	Continue its efforts to implement the comprehensive program to protect the rights and empowerment of women;	Yemen
	138.99 Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of women and children;	Algeria
138.101	Intensify efforts to create more employment opportunities for all, including the women population;	Bhutan
138.103	Facilitate women's access to justice and employment;	Djibouti
138.104	Continue improving women's empowerment programmes in the country;	Ethiopia
138.107	Continue efforts to improve and strengthen women's status in society;	Pakistan
138.108	Continue the endeavours to enhance the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities;	Qatar
138.109	Continue to protect vulnerable groups, such as women;	Senegal
138.110	Continue to take measures to strengthen mechanisms for the protection of the rights of women and children;	Uzbekistan
138.187	Prevent and punish violence against women and children;	Peru
138.194	Continue adequate measures for addressing the special needs of women and protecting children from violence ;	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
138.198	Strengthen the means and measures to combat violence against women;	Mali
138.199	Ensure the effective implementation of the national programme for combatting violence against women;	Russian Federation
138.217	Continue to realize concrete measures for the protection of the rights of the child and continue Government support for the institution of the family;	Russian Federation
138.240	Strengthen measures to promote women's economic and political participation in the country;	South Africa
138.241	Strengthen the efforts to allow a greater role for women in social and economic developments;	Egypt
138.242	Continue efforts in order to increase participation of women in political, public and professional spheres;	Sri Lanka



138.243	Enhance its efforts to strengthen women's participation in politics and public service;	Turkmenistan
138.244	Strengthen the mechanisms aimed at the advancement of women's rights as well as of their participation in decision-making processes;	Angola
138.246	Continue its efforts in order to increase participation of women in public spheres;	Eritrea
138.247	Continue efforts for greater representation of women in the political process and their participation in public life;	Malaysia
138.248	Continue to support and empower women in public life;	Oman
138.252	Continue to implement programmes in the area of education, health and social empowerment and integration of vulnerable groups, especially women, children and the disabled, through the established national mechanisms as well as with the relevant NGOs and international organizations;	Brunei Darussalam
No. Rec	Accepted Recommendations /Partially	Country
138.6	Consider ratifying CEDAW, CAT, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW), ICCPR-OP2 and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED);	Sierra Leone
138.7	Consider ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol thereto and the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants and the Members of Their Families;	Burkina Faso
138.8	Consider ratification or accession to CEDAW, ICRMW, CAT and ICPPED;	Peru
138.12	Step up its efforts to ensure equal treatment of women and girls, particularly by ratifying the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women;	Thailand
138.91	Take measures to ensure equal access of women to higher education and professional life, including by repealing the restrictions on female students and by lifting bans on women in certain professions;	Germany
138.92	Take adequate measures, such as the ratification of CEDAW, to enhance the equal role of women in society, in particular, in political, economic, social and cultural life, including sports;	Greece
138.95	Intensify efforts to ensure that women and girls receive the same treatment as men and boys;	Uruguay
138.100	Ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and girls;	Austria
138.102	Take additional steps to improve gender equality and enhance women's position in marriage, divorce, nationality, custody of children and inheritance;	Bosnia and Herzegovina
138.106	Take all steps necessary to reform the discriminatory provisions of penal and civil laws against women;	New Zealand
138.111	Adopt provisions to prevent all forms of discrimination against women and girls and, in particular, promote access to higher education for members of the Baha'i community and other religious minorities;	Chile
138.112	Continue working so that Iranian women have the right to transmit their nationality to their children;	Guatemala
138.190	Put forward its best efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, including early forced marriage of girls and unequal rights to marriage, divorce, inheritance and child custody;	Republic of Korea
138.192	Abolish the discriminatory practice of forced and early marriage, high drop-out rates in schools and restrictions to university education for girls, and promote active participation of women in the society;	Slovenia
138.193	Adopt comprehensive measures on the protection of women against any form of public or domestic violence and the implementation of a national policy to protect women at risk and to bring perpetrators to justice, as well as adopt measures for the protection of human rights defenders and journalists;	Brazil
138.195	Adopt legislation criminalizing domestic violence, including sexual violence, together with effective implementation measures;	Finland
138.196	Guarantee the rights of women in law and in practice, including in the labour market, and combat violence against women and impunity for perpetrators;	France

The Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) emphasizes the enhancement of women's cultural, social, economic, and political standing as a key element in its national policymaking, legislation, and planning.



## Women's Population in Iran

According to the figures released by the Iran Center of Statistics, the total population of the country was over 79 million in 2016, 39 million of whom were female. Approximately 28 million out of the total population of women resided in urban areas with the remaining 10 million in rural settings.

**Table (1): The composition of the population based on gender in rural and urban areas**

Year	Overall			Urban areas			Rural and non-residential areas		
	Men and women	Men	Women	Men and women	Men	Women	Men and women	Men	Women
2015	78773	39672	39101	57327	28887	28439	21446	10785	10661
2016	79926	40498	39427	59146	---	---	20730	---	---

(Source: Statistical Yearbook of the Iran Center of Statistics, calculated by the Bureau of Population, Workforce, and Census, 2016)

## New Legal and Structural Mechanism to Protect and Promote Women's Rights

The most significant rules and regulations in 2015 and 2016 which directly and/or indirectly focus on protecting women appear in Table 2 below.

**Table (2): The most prominent legal and structural mechanisms for protecting women's rights in 2015 and 2016**

Item	Rules and regulations
1	<b>The general policies of the 6<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan adopted in 2015:</b> This legislation endorsed by the Supreme Leader highlights the position of women and includes a provision on strengthening women's role in social domains and realizing their legal rights in all fields.
2	<b>The legislation of the Parliament on reducing women's retirement age (January 14, 2017):</b> Through adding a provision to the 6 <sup>th</sup> National Plan, the Parliament enacted the obligation of all Government and nongovernmental public institutions, organizations, and companies which are subject to all pension funds and the Social Security Fund to allow women to retire after at least 20 years of service regardless of their age.
3	<b>Reducing the working hours of women with special needs adopted in 2016:</b> According to this law, the working hours of employed women with extreme disability or a below 6-year-old child or a disabled husband or child have been reduced from 44 to 36 hours per week with the same salary and perquisites subject to their request.
4	<b>The Penal Proceedings Act adopted in 2013 and enforced in 2015:</b> Article 66 of the aforesaid legislation legally enables NGOs working for women's protection to declare the offenses committed against women to judicial authorities and be present in all the stages of the proceedings. Article 42 of the same legislation also stipulates that interrogation and investigation of women must, to the extent possible, be conducted by trained female experts.
5	<b>Circular No. 579095 dated June 20, 2016 of the Administrative Supreme Council:</b> According to this circular, the process of selecting and appointing professional managers is based on the general and specific qualifications required for the managerial positions. Hence, such appointments are regardless of gender according to the legislation.
6	<b>Issuing the ruling on the uniformity of the proceedings of the Court of Administrative Justice regarding the maternity leave on women employed in Government institutions:</b> The State Court of Administrative Justice ruled in favor of those women employed in Government institutions who had raised the motion that there were cases where the nine-month maternity leave subject to the Amendment of the Legislations on Family and Population Planning Act adopted in 2013 had not been afforded thereby obliging all Government institutions to provide the above leave to employed women through issuing the ruling on the uniformity of the proceedings No. 64(94/70) dated April 22, 2015.

(Source: The report of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families to the National UPR Committee, 2016)



## Women's Education

Guided by its Constitution (Articles 3, 30, and 43), the IRI has effected extended measures to promote the general cultural development of the country, secure free-of-charge general education, and expand higher education among all individuals in the country and has enhanced the knowledge level of different walks of life through furthering inclusively higher education. Based on the existing statistics, the number of girl school goers in recent years has become almost equal to the number of boy school goers.

**Table (3): The number of girl schools and students in the 2015-16 school year**

Item	Stage	Girl school goers in the 2015-16 school year		
		Girls	Boys	Total
1	Preschool	338704	349748	688452
2	Primary	3603017	3819488	7422505
3	Secondary School	1463060	1591299	3054359
4	High schools (theoretical fields)	849493	694126	1543619
5	High schools (work and knowledge)	146334	254809	401143
6	Technical-vocational high schools	103699	181762	285461
7	Adults	155926	237814	393750
<b>Total</b>		<b>155926</b>	<b>237814</b>	<b>13782289</b>

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

The coverage of girl primary school goers in the period between 2011-12 to 2015-16 is detailed in Table 4 below. The figure reveals an increase in the net enrollment rate of girls in primary school.

**Table (4): The coverage of girl primary school goers in the period between 2011-12 to 2015-16**

Indicator	School year				
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Net enrollment of girls in the 1st grade of primary school	96.6	96.7	97.6	97.74	97.7
Net enrollment in the 1st grade of primary school (total)	96.8	96.8	97.7	97.84	97.88
Net enrollment rate of primary school (girls)	96.3	97.9	98.2	98.3	98.2
Net enrollment rate of primary school (total)	97.4	98.3	98.4	98.5	98.6

(Source: The report of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

At the same time, the trend of women's participation in higher education (all Government and nongovernmental institutions and medical universities) has been upward during 2015 and 2016. Table 5 and Chart 1 illustrate the ratio of female students to total students in 2014 and 2015.

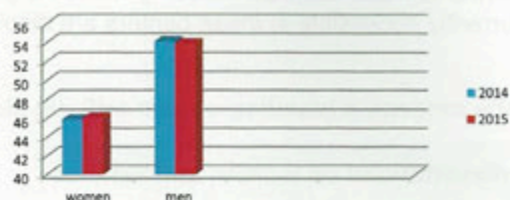
**Table (5): The ratio of female students to total students in 2015 and 2016**

Year	Total students			Percentage of total students	
	Women	Men	Total	Men	Women
2015	2206496	2605085	4811581	45.9	54.1
2016	2002559	2345824	4348383	46.1	53.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>4209055</b>	<b>4950909</b>	<b>9159964</b>		

(Source: The report of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

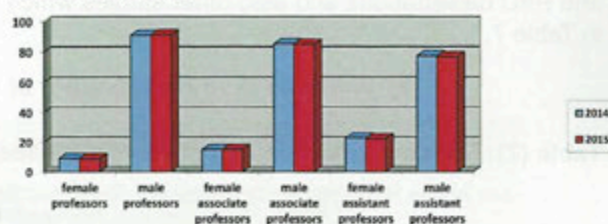


**Chart (1): The ratio of female to male students in 2015 and 2016**



(Source: The report of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

**Chart (3): The ratio of female to male faculty members disaggregated by academic rank in 2014 and 2015**



(Source: The report of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

The trend of women's presence in universities as faculty members has also been upward such that the total number of female faculty members has risen by 1% throughout the country in the last two years.

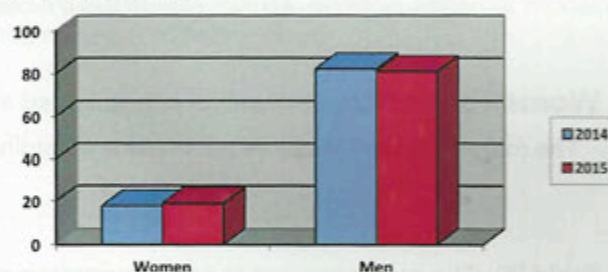
The number of female faculty members in non-governmental universities has also been on the rise whereby this ratio has been increasing in these institutions in the last two years.

**Table (6): The ratio of female faculty members**

Academic year	Percentage of female faculty members	
	Men	Women
2014	81	19
2015	80	20
Total		

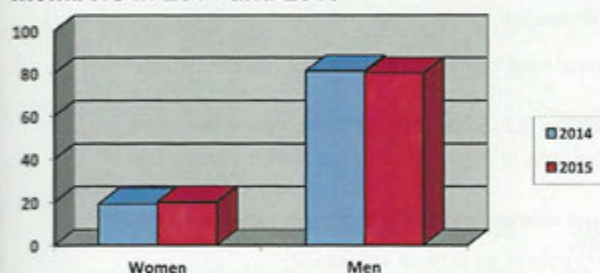
(Source: The report of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

**Chart (4): The ratio of female to male faculty members of nongovernmental universities in 2014 and 2015**



(Source: The report of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

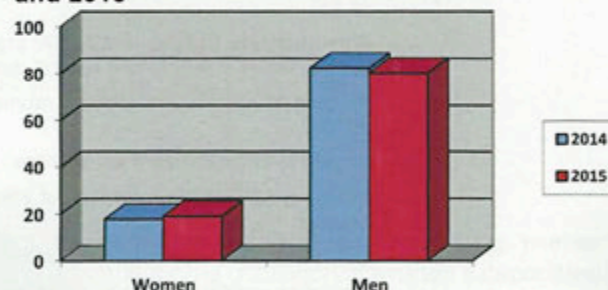
**Chart (2): The ratio of female to male faculty members in 2014 and 2015**



(Source: The report of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

The trend of female faculty members' promotion in universities is also on the rise; as can be seen in the following charts, the ratio of female assistant professors is increasing which signifies more recruitment of women as faculty members.

**Chart (5): The ratio of female to male faculty members of Government universities in 2014 and 2015**



(Source: The report of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Up to 2015, eight Government and six non-governmental research centers were working on



women's issues. According to the figures released by the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology's ICT Research Center, the research studies conducted on women and families including master's theses and PhD dissertations and also other studies which are currently accessible in these centers are displayed in Table 7.

**Table (7): Research studies and students' theses and dissertations on women and families**

Item	Research topic	Number of studies
1	Women and economy	464
2	Women and occupation	876
3	Women and education	1699
4	Women and gender discrimination	73
5	Women and politics	337
6	Women and health	958
7	Women and domestic violence	66
8	Women and management	658
9	Women and civil institutions	28
10	Women and culture	879
11	Female heads of households	163
12	Women who have been subject to harms	108
13	Family	16252

(Source: The report of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

## Women's Health

The majority of the measures put in place regarding pregnant women in 2015 and 2016 appear in Table 8.

**Table (8): The measures put in place regarding pregnant women in 2015 and 2016**

Item	Measures
1	Recruiting 5285 midwives to promote maternal health, children's health, the health of women in the fertility age, etc
2	Securing access to safe delivery and conducting 1,313,000 free-of-charge natural deliveries
3	Reducing caesarian sections at an absolute rate of 6.5%, the equivalent of the basic rate of 11.6%
4	Free-of-charge training to 400,000 pregnant women during pregnancy in order to empower them in terms of fertility and natural childbirth
5	Building 1800 labor and delivery rooms (LDR) in 366 hospitals and inaugurating 848 LDRs in 2016
6	Access to infertility treatment services
7	Covering 85% of the expenses of infertility treatment through Government tariffs for infertile couples
8	Establishing two new centers for infertility treatment with focus on disadvantaged areas
9	Allocating credits to equip completely 15 new infertility treatment centers especially in disadvantaged areas
10	Developing and equipping 24 existing infertility treatment centers
11	Providing temporary residence for mothers at risk (migratory areas, nomadic settlements, and hard-to-reach villages) close to hospitals

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health to the National UPR Committee, 2016)



The major measures effected to reduce the maternal mortality rate (MMR) in 2015 and 2016 appear in Table 9.

**Table (9): The most significant measures effected to reduce MMR in 2015 and 2016**

Item	Measures
1	Launching the nationwide maternal mortality surveillance system to reduce MMR and in line with actualizing national and international goals and commitments.
2	Identifying the avoidable causes of death in each case of death and planning interventions to solve problems and preventing similar deaths.
3	Standardizing pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, and post-pregnancy cares
4	Providing out-of-hospital and hospital services through establishing mother-friendly hospitals
5	Holding preparation courses for delivery and promoting natural childbirth.
6	Following up on risky pregnancies.
7	Promoting safe pregnancy in disadvantaged and remote areas through training attendants.
8	Installing delivery facilities.

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Based on the recent reports of the World Health Organization, Iran is among the successful countries who have reached the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Accordingly, nine countries managed to achieve the fifth MDG in the 25-year period between 1990 and 2015; with a drop of 80% in MMR, the IRI is among those nine states. The chart below, the data extracted from different studies, and the maternal mortality surveillance system very vividly depict the decline of the maternal mortality index.

**Chart (6): The trend of MMR per 100,000 live births based on the maternal mortality surveillance system and other studies conducted (1988-2015)**



(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

## Women's Economic Participation

Different economic institutions and ministries effect considerable interventions concerning women's employment, independence, and ownership and creating grounds for the utilization of women's capacities in line with increasing the national production, the most significant of which are presented in Table 9.



**Table (10): The most significant measures effected to support women's employment**

Item	Measures
1	Drafting the Early Retirement Bill without taking into consideration the age condition for women
2	Extending women's entrepreneurship, employment, education, and expertise and providing entrepreneurship facilities to women
3	Supporting job creation in women's rural cooperatives through establishing micro-loan units
4	Strengthening rural organizations and cooperatives for economic empowerment and rural women's income generation through facilitating access to the resources of production, land, capital, and ownership rights
5	Extending women's self-employment through granting job creation facilities and supporting technical-vocational training
6	Consolidating women's trade, commercial, and development networks through developing IT
7	Providing grants to create domestic employment for women which are compatible with the culture and rituals of the region in order to preserve and safeguard the different rites and rituals of cities vis-à-vis establishing a conducive cultural pretext
8	Providing entrepreneurship and self-employment loans to women in order to strengthen their successful participation in sociopolitical positions
9	Providing low-interest loans to women, especially female heads of households and entrepreneurs

A review of the economic participation of the population aged 10 and over demonstrates that the rate of women's participation has gone up from 9.1% in 1996 to 13.8% in 2005 in the last 20 years. Based on the results of the Workforce Census conducted by the Iran Center for Statistics in the summer of 2016, the economic participation rate (the activity rate) of the population of men and women stood at 64.9% and 15.9%, respectively; the same figures were 64.2% and 13.8%, respectively, in the summer of 2015 which depicts a 2.1% increase in women's economic participation in the course of one year. It is worth noting that there are no legal and legislative barriers for women's employment in Iran

and this issue seems to have originated from the labor market. Iranian women have obtained success galore in trade during the last two decades and have played an extensive role in many chambers of commerce and significant national, regional, and global markets.

With the development of the country and the policy of decentralization, the share of Government jobs has decreased in the labor market and, accordingly, the number of women employed in the private sector has flourished such that their share has risen from 14.6% in 1995 to 76.2% in 2016 which is equal to an increase of five times as much.

**Table (11): The share of employment in the public and private sectors disaggregated by gender and rural/urban settings**

Year	Sector	Nationwide	Men	Women	Urban areas	Rural areas
2016	Private	83.9	85.6	76.2	79.7	94.4
	Public	16.1	14.4	23.8	20.3	5.6

(Source: The Workforce Census of the Iran Center of Statistics, 2016)

Up to 2015, the number of female entrepreneurs was 98,001: 40,534 were board members and 21,627 were inspectors who played a major role in the management of entrepreneurial companies. In 2016, 10 out of the selected 182 entrepreneurs were women.

By March 2016, the number of women's

cooperatives had reached 10,112 with a membership of 175,394 persons and creating 113,517 job opportunities. Towards the end of 2016, the number of cooperatives was 10,512 with 179,544 members and creating 118,730 job opportunities. Altogether, over 30% of the members of the country's active cooperatives are from women's cooperatives.



**Table (12): The situation of women's active cooperatives**

Year	Number of cooperatives	Number of members	Job opportunity
2015	10112	175394	113517
Mar-Dec 2016	10512	179544	118730

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Cooperation, Labor, and Social Welfare to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Meanwhile, the number of women covered by the State Pension Fund has quadrupled in the last 14 years going from around 20% to 30% of the total. Table 13 shows the number of the pensioners disaggregated by gender up to the end of September 2016.

**Table (13): The number of the pensioners of the State Pension Fund disaggregated by gender up to the end of September 2016**

Total	Men and women	Men	Women
Nationwide	1284182	893194	390988
Percentage	100	70	30

(Source: Statistical Selections, No. 27, the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare, Summer 2016)

## Women's Role in Political Participation and Decision-Making

The IRI recognizes political participation and presence in decision-making positions as both a right and responsibility for women. In Iran's 20-Year Outlook and the Charter of Women's Rights and Responsibilities adopted in 2004, the right to participate in policymaking, decision-making, and educational and scientific management and also the responsibility of awareness and participation in determining the fundamental rules and regulations of the country have been stipulated.

Generally, the following are examples of women's presence in the power structure and political participation in the IRI: appointment of women as ministers and deputy presidents, elections of MPs, and appointment of women as members of Women's Socio-cultural Council, judges, governors, mayors, advisors to ministers, director-generals of Provincial Governorate Bureaus of Women, managers, directors, and deputies of ministries and Government institutions.

The most important decision-making and strategic institutions for protecting women's rights appear in Table 14.

**Table (14): The strategic and decision-making institutions dealing with women**

Institution	Organizational stance	Notes
Deputy for Women and Families	Government	The head is a member of the Government Cabinet and Presidential Deputy
National Headquarters for Women and Families	Government	Presided by the President
Socio-cultural Council of Women	Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution	The head is elected by the members with representatives from all the country's strategic institutions
Bureau of Ladies	Government	The head is a director-general or advisor to the minister; these bureaus exist in all ministries
General Directorate of Ladies	Government (Governorates)	31 bureaus in all provinces, 397 bureaus in all cities, and 1331 bureaus in all large cities
Special Committee for Women, Youths, and Families	Council of Expediency	Under the Secretariat of the Council of Expediency
Bureau of Women's Studies	Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology	These bureaus have been established in universities and credible research institutions and are active in women's research and education and train experts for different legislation and administration domains