



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

UPR Mid-Term Report

(2015-2016)

High Council for Human Rights



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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, Ethnic 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 7th 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 14th 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 20th 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 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**

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 ICPPED;	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 zeland
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' 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 plans¹ 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 th 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.

6th 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 6th five-year development plans which runs from 2017 through 2021 was approved by the parliament in January 2017. The 6th 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” (5th 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	Redouable its efforts to strengthen public education, awarness, capicity 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 citizenry 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
publication of educational brochure and bulletin on citizens' rights and the book "Guide to Legal and Judicial Issues"
production of 7 animation clips on citizens' rights
publication of 7 books on citizens' rights
production 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)

Ministry of Justice

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.

Table (3): education and promotion of citizens' and human rights by the Ministry of Justice (2015 and 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

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

Interior Ministry

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.

Table (4): education and promotion of citizens' and human rights by Interior Ministry (2015 and 2016)

holding briefing, training and coordination sessions on the implementation of programs on 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 UPR, 2016)

Ministry of Roads and Urban Development

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

Table (5): education of citizens' and human rights by Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (2015 and 2016)

holding 60 staff training courses covering 4500 participants for 219 hours, from March to October 2016, for academics, city managers and NGOs
holding 48 provincial training courses covering 2880 participants for 209 hours, including academics, city managers and NGOs

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

Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)

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

Tehran Municipality

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

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

providing training on citizens' rights in the area of sports including training workshops on sports rights particularly for the staff of sports complexes in 2016
holding 5 training courses on citizens' rights for staff members of sports complexes covering 1500 participants in 2015
providing training services in four areas of health (physical, mental, social and spiritual) to citizens
launching 15 centers for the education of children and adolescents in the area of behavioral skills called "Faramouz" , formation and development of "Health-Oriented Social Centers"(e.g. center for the disabled, center for the youth, center for diabetes prevention, center for obesity prevention, center for mothers and infants, center for blood donation, center for the physician, center for the elderly, and center for smoking prevention)

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

Workshops and Seminars on Citizens' and Human Rights

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

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

"International Islamic Human Rights Seminar" held with the cooperation of High Council for Human Rights and "Jameat al Mustafa University" in August 2016
holding a colloquium with independent human rights institutions at the premise of High Council for Human Rights in June 2016
the Training Workshop on Reviewing the United Nations Documents on Human Rights" held by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence in cooperation with the United Nations Information Center in May 2016
holding the "Workshop on Protection of Citizens' Rights" in Para-medicine Faculty of Tehran Medical Science University" in December 2016
holding the "Workshop on Human Rights" at "Imam Sadiq 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 Faculty of Law of ShahidBeheshti University, 2015

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 Birjand 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 “12th Training Workshop on Islam and Humanitarian law” in Qom University, February 2016

Promotion of Human Development Indicators

Promotion of Human Development Indicators

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

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.

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

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

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

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.

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

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

(Source: United Nations' Development Programme, Human Development Report, 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.

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)	Education	
				Average years of schooling	Expected years of schooling
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)

Right to Education

Right to Education

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
138.261	Continue implementing the programmes which provide education, health and social services in rural areas;	Myanmar
138.270	Step up efforts to provide greater access to education and health;	Turkmenistan
138.271	Intensify and carry forward its efforts, particularly in the area of right to education;	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
138.273	Continue its efforts to bridge the gaps in the field of education, in remote areas;	Malaysia
138.274	Strengthen policies to prevent school dropout;	Bangladesh
No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations /partially	Country
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
138.118	Guarantee the full enjoyment by all minorities of all their social, cultural and political rights, especially their right to education;	Bahrain

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

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

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

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.

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	Educational staff	
							teacher	Management & quality services
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		
primary	2013-2014	3,701,398	3,492,795	7,194,193	61151	309,562	273,005	91,965
	2014-2015	3,819,488	3,603,017	7,422,505	62,432	316,195		
Junior secondary school	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		
High 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		
Technical-vocational	2013-2014	-	-	-	719	-	2,063	-
	2014-2015	181,304	103,626	285,461	698	-	2,129	
Adult courses (junior secondary school)	2013-2014	13,054	8,736	21,790	848	1,295	-	-
	2014-2015	8,677	8,035	16,712	857	1,504		
Adult courses (High 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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2014-2015	247,194	143,634	401,143				
total	2013-2014						584,670	229,319
	2014-2015	7,174,229	6,687,672	13,861,901				

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

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

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

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

Number of schools by education level

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 52217, 17641, 9683, 2493, and 136. As indicated by the table 3, the number of schools at all education levels had increased in the school-year 2014-2015.

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

level	State-run				private				State-run & private			
	male	female	mixed	total	male	female	mixed		male	female	mixed	total
primary	10,456	9973	35,166	55,595	3278	3194	365	6837	13,734	13,167	35,531	62,432
Junior secondary	8,982	8982	3280	21,191	1421	1141	74	2636	10403	10,070	3354	23,827
high school	4,517	5456	8	9981	1234	1279	2	2515	5751	6735	10	12,496
Technical-vocational	1,275	915	1	2191	192	160	0	352	1467	1075	1	2543
	2,272	1778	6	4056	429	185	0	614	2701	1963	6	4670
total	27,502	27,051	38,461	93,014	6554	5959	441	12,954	34,056	33,010	38.902	105,968

(Source: report of Ministry of Education 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.

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	total	
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.

children (with special attention to child girls) left out of education across the country, simplifying the procedures for the enrolment of children without birth certificates or other identification papers, holding classes for identified left-out children, nominal identification, supporting boarding schools, rental of cars for transportation of such students, creating central rural dormitories or long-distance education centers where needed, expansion and diversification of skills education in technical-vocational schools with focus on industrial and agricultural fields for less-developed, rural and tribal areas and priority being given to girls, holding training sessions and workshops and also use of popular TV programs in order to brief the executive officials and parents of left-out students in provinces, cities and towns, distribution of packs containing food, stationary, clothing and other necessities of children to attract and keep the children in schools, and finally provision of advisory services to families of children left out of education due to learning problems.

Identification and enrolment of labor and street children is one of the measures taken by the Ministry of Education to raise the indicator of access to universal education in association with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, Correction Institute and some other related organizations to the point that the index of pure enrolment rate for the first grade of primary school increased from 96.8% in 2010-2011 school-year to 97.88% in 2014-2015. This index has risen for girls, too, surging from

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		
20,309		41,304		2241		78690

(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

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.

Fighting illiteracy

According to the census of 2011, 84.8% of the population aged 6 and over were literate. Table 6 provides information on 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 in 1976, 1986, 1997, 2006, 2011 and 2016. Table 7 shows the numbers of literacy students by gender, urban and rural areas up to January 2017. It should be noted that according to the census of 2016, the literate population in the age group of 10 years to 49 years is as the following: 2016 (%94.7), 2011 (%92.4), 2006 (%91.7).

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

year	Total population of country	Total literate population	% of literate population	%		area	
				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	-	-	-	-

(Source: Information Center of Literacy Movement Organization)

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

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

(Source: Information Center of Literacy Movement Organization)

In 2015 and 2016, the programs to raise literacy rate in the population of 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.

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

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

Promotion of educational justice through further attention to vulnerable groups in rural and tribal areas	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
Production and broadcast of a TV series entitled "culture of literacy"	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)

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	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	Associate degrees			Graduate degrees		
	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	5561	4,543	1,018	22,609	9,293	13,316

Arts	48,495	21,465	27,030	38,541	14,491	24,050
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(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	Master's degree			Professional doctorate			Specialized doctorate		
	Male & female	male	female	Male & female	male	female	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	2885
Human sciences	138,433	71,771	66,662	0	0	0	11,452	6,935	4517
Basic sciences	20,047	6,645	13,402	0	0	0	3,563	1,334	2229
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	1553	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 (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-Karbordi (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)

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	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	Associate degrees			Bachelor's degrees		
	male	female	total	male	female	total
2013-2014	751,243	344,785	1,096,028	1,378,072	1,441,590	2,819,662
2014-2015	570,116	252,229	822,345	1,257,994	1,300,072	2,558,066
Medical sciences	7,360	3,135	10,495	34,374	92,408	126,782
Human sciences	193,143	126,514	319,657	517,632	713,310	1,230,942
Basic sciences	63	199	262	51,640	122,015	173,655
Technical & engineering sciences	295,658	50,420	346,078	546,207	204,165	750,372
Agriculture & veterinary	10,695	2,374	13,069	44,847	68,352	113,199
Arts	63,197	69,587	132,784	63,294	99,822	163,116

(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		
2013-2014	387,802	333,004	720,806	41,436	30478	71,914	54,751	39,560	94,311
2014-2015	417,228	357,538	774,766	44,199	33816	78,015	66,670	48,521	115,191
Medical sciences	6,007	13,183	19,190	41,057	28051	69,108	9,831	12,062	21,893
Human sciences	207,748	203,242	410,990	0	0	0	26,325	15,679	42,004
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

Agriculture & veterinary	19,054	22,405	41,459	3,142	5765	8907	6,913	5,085	11,998
Arts	17,579	25,534	43,113	0	0	0	1,085	941	2,062

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

Graduates from academic disciplines at different higher education levels

In accordance with the statistics released by Iran's Statistics Center, in 2013-2014 school-years, some 859,697 students at different levels graduated from the higher education centers, of whom 58.83% were males and 41.17% were females. 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

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	male	female	Total (male & female)
2012-2013	413,289	324,971	738,260
2013-2014	505,731	353,966	859,697
% (2013-2014)	100%	41.17%	58.83%

(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	Associate degrees			Bachelor's degree		
	male	female	total	male	female	total
2012-2013	120,252	63,289	183,541	263,882	216,079	445,125
2013-2014	166,542	79,502	246,044	263,882	216,079	479,961

(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	Master's degree			Professional doctorate			Specialized degrees		
	male	female	total	male	female	total	male	female	total
2012-2013	53,032	44,270	97,293	2,026	2,873	4,899	4,388	3,014	7,402
2013-2014	68,906	52,033	120,939	2,150	3,072	5,222	4,251	3,280	7,531

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

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 61629 were males. Table 13 provides the related information for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years.

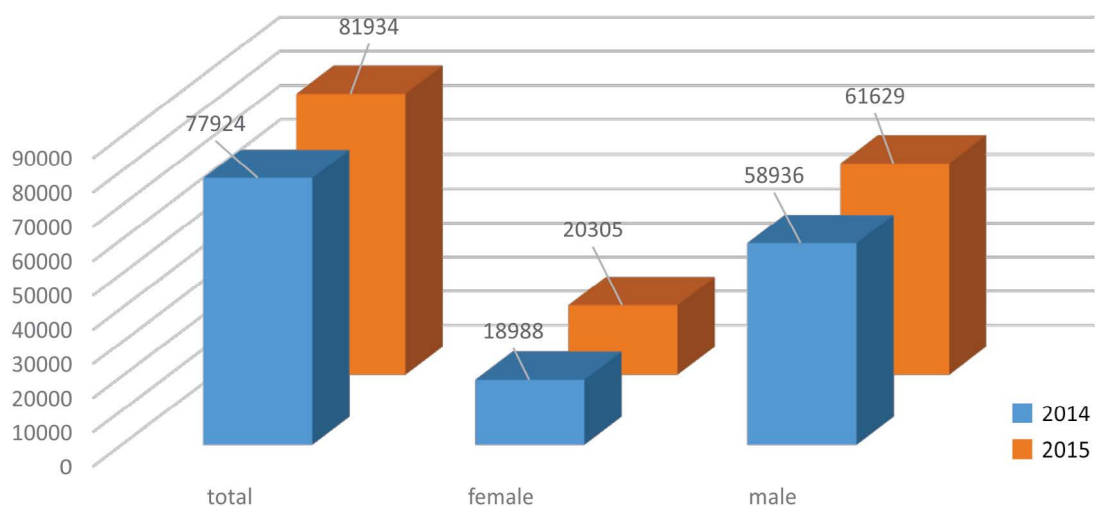
Table (13): number of full-time faculty members of the higher education centers in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years

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

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

(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 2014-201



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;	B r u n e i Darussalam
138.253	Continue efforts to improve the social security system for better safeguarding the elderly and persons with disabilities;	D e m o c r a t i c 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;	B r u n e i 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
Providing financial support and reducing patients' expenses	Insuring 10,677,000 persons lacking healthcare insurance and increasing healthcare insurance to over 95%
	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
	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)
	Protecting difficult-to-cure patients in terms of healthcare services in hospitals and providing relative coverage of medication expenses
	Providing free-of-charge heart, lung, liver, intestine, pancreas, bone marrow transplant surgeries in Government hospitals
	Reducing the reference of patients for purchasing medication and equipment outside hospitals from 100% to 3%
	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
	Reducing the price of different kinds of frequently used medical apparatus and equipment Providing low-cost high-quality diagnostic treatment services to low- and mid-income individuals in Government centers
Access to safe delivery	Eliminating the expenses of natural childbirth Conducting 1,313,000 free-of-charge natural childbirths in Iran
	Reducing caesarian sections by 5.6%
	Building 1800 special delivery rooms (SDR) in 366 hospitals and inaugurating 848 SDRs in 2016
	Providing free-of-charge training to 400,000 pregnant women during pregnancy in order to empower them in terms of fertility and natural childbirth
Access to infertility treatment services	Establishing 17 new infertility treatment centers with focus on less developed areas
	Developing and equipping 24 existing infertility treatment centers
	Covering 85% of the expenses of infertility treatment with Government tariffs for low-income infertile couples
Promoting the quality of hoteling services in Government hospitals	Reconstructing 2.5 million square meters of hospitalization space in 570 hospitals
	Reconstructing 45,000 hospital beds
	Providing 27,000 medium and heavy medical equipment items for hospitals
	Opening 1714 beds in ICU in 2015 and 700 other such beds up to Mar 2017 (with a 42% increase compared to before 2014)
	Optimizing and equipping 12,500 rooms for the nursing staff to rest in
Promoting the quality of visit services	Distributing 77,784 hotel equipment items
	Assigning 16,749 resident specialists and subspecialists in 658 special clinics in 358 cities and supporting 80 million visits
	Assigning 5761 specialists and subspecialists in 338 hospitals in less developed regions
	Assigning an average of 860 specialists in 19 fields of specialty to nightshifts in Government hospitals
	Constructing 250 specialized and sub-specialized polyclinics comprising 6440 doctors' offices
Implementing the resident specialists plan in all hospitals affiliated with medical universities	

Promoting and enhancing emergency services	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
	Developing and standardizing the trauma referral centers in medical universities within the HTP (implementing 120 projects)
Developing the provision of treatment services	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
	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
Other measures	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

Total population covered by the program	49,357,893
Population of cities with over 20,000 residents which are covered	39,009,004
Population of peri-urban cities which are covered	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

Service providers	Cities with over 50,000 residents	Peri-urban cities
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)

Units constructed	Health services comprehensive centers	98
	Health bases	75
	Other urban units	73
Repaired and equipped units (standard enhancement)	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

Comprehensive health services centers operationalized		Health bases operationalized	
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 nd and 3 rd 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.

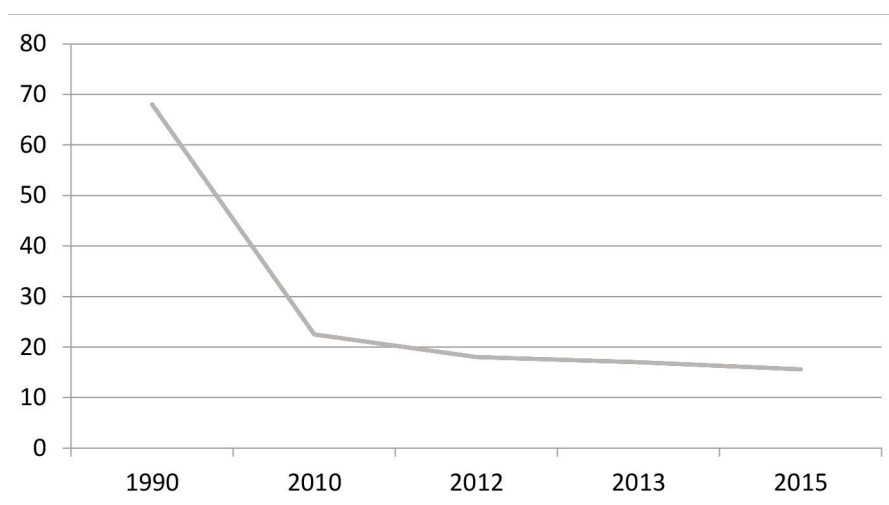
In order to reduce the deaths of newborns under 1500 grams which comprise the most frequent cases of neonatal mortality, the following interventions have been effected: allocating over 1800 NICU

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.

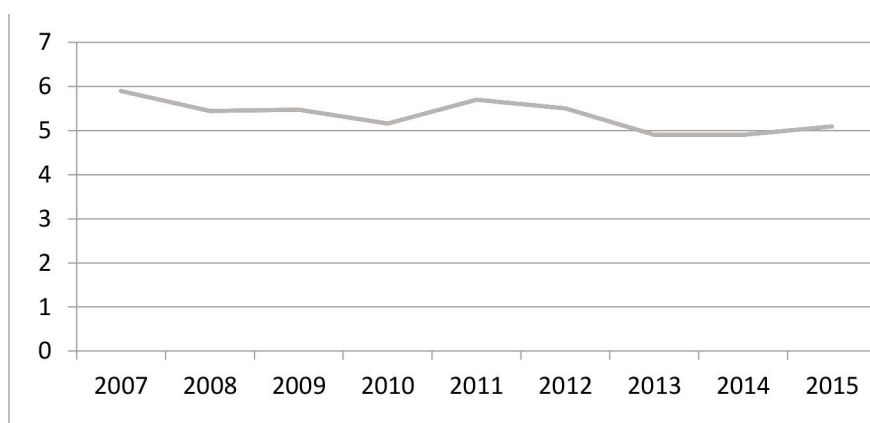
In 2015, over 23,600,000 cases of healthcare services were provided for under-five children in healthcare facilities with over 22,600,000 cases being routine cares.

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

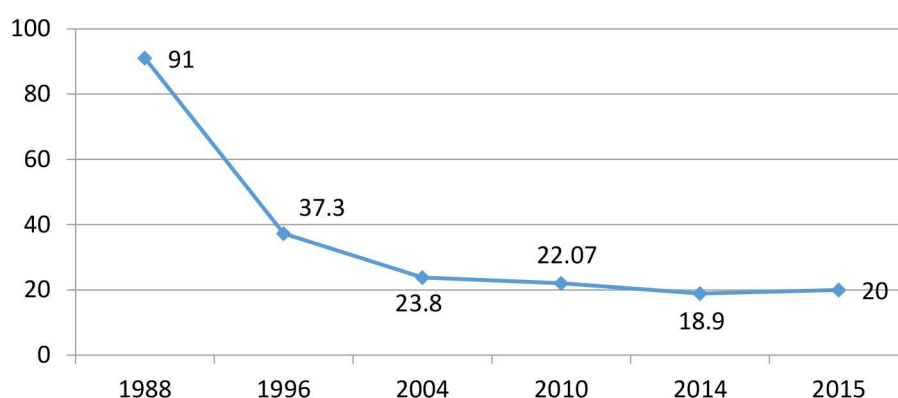


(Source: The report of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

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

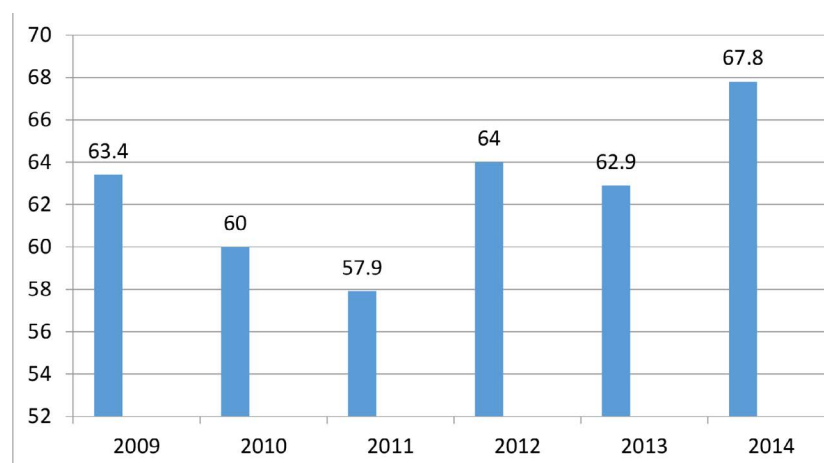
export of medicine was on the rise, the mean sum of the hard currency required for medicine import was also declining. The major data in this regard is represented in Table 11. Chart 4 also displays the share of the production of medicinal items to the total medicine market.

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	
	92 centers of Islamic Azad University	
Student admission capacity	36,200	2015
	35,065	2016
Total number of medical students	171,022	2012-13
	189,967	2015-16
Faculty members	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

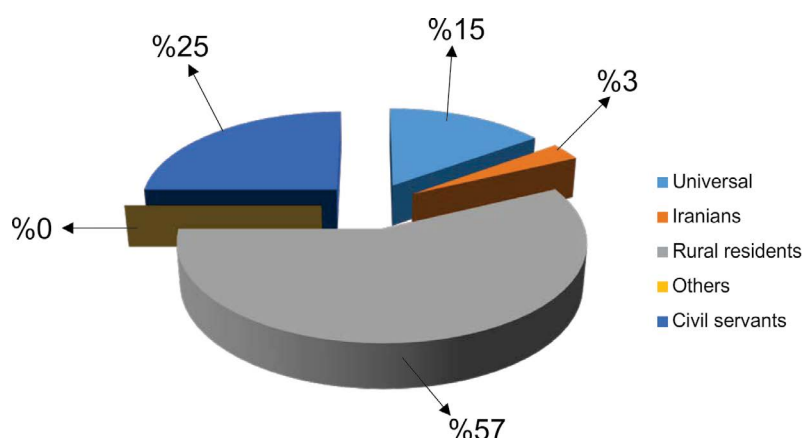
The Department of Health Insurance was established in October 2012 to provide basic health insurance services to all persons such that no-one would be left out of the insurance system. Altogether, the number of individuals insured by the Department of Health Insurance in the period between Apr 2015 – 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	2,495,024	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	140917	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

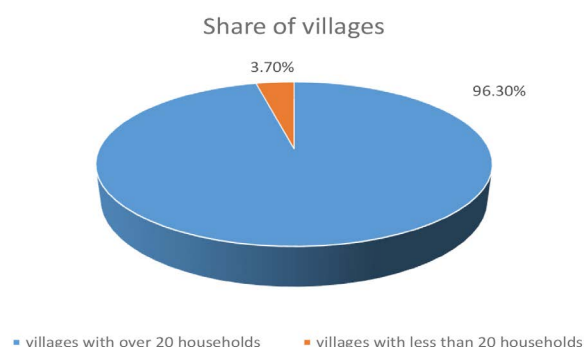


Chart (2): state of villages with populations of over 20 households in terms of access or lack of access to electricity

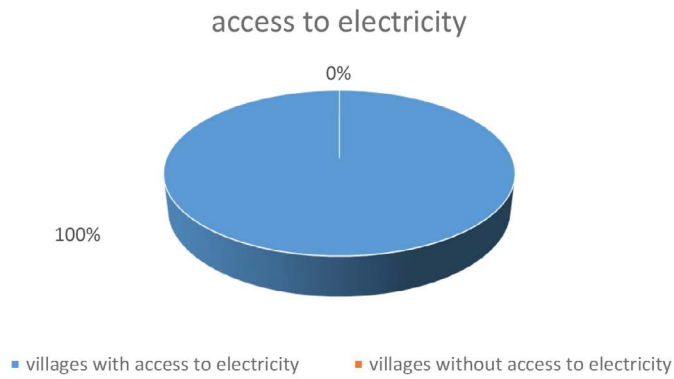


Chart (3): state of villages with populations of less than 20 households in terms of access or lack of access to electricity

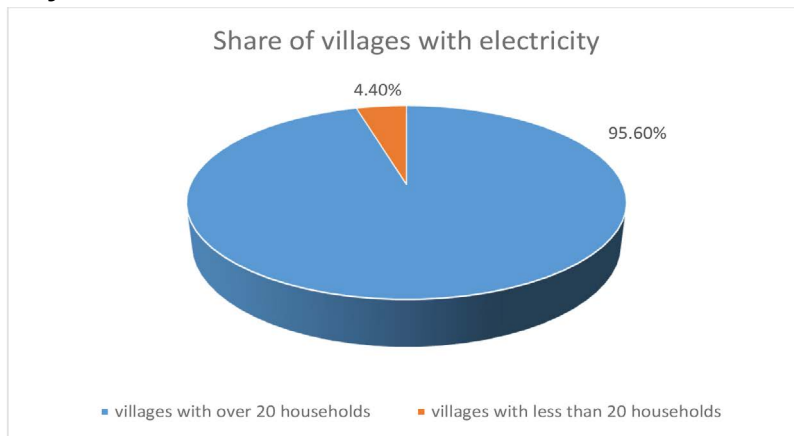


Chart (4): amounts of investment made for power supply to villages at the coast rates adopted by Iran Power Company (Tavanir)

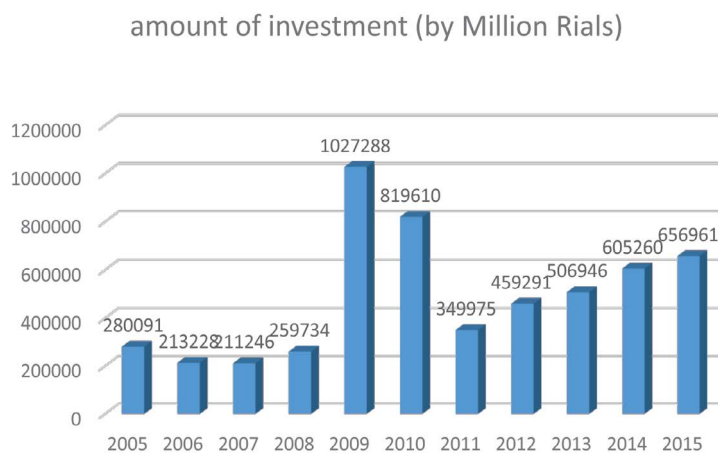
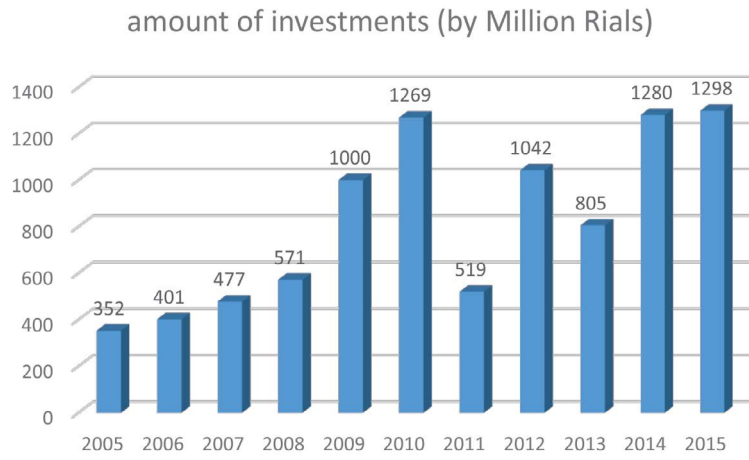


Chart (5): average investment made for power supply to one village at the coast rate adopted by



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)

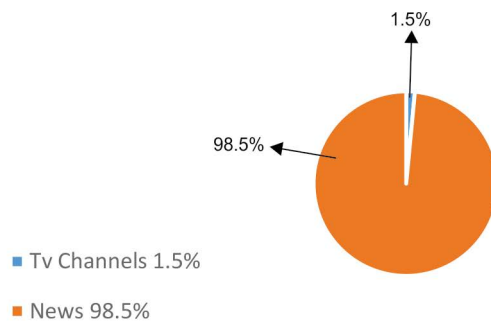


Chart (1): Performance of different channels of IRIB on production and broadcast of programs concerning people with impaired hearing (2015)

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

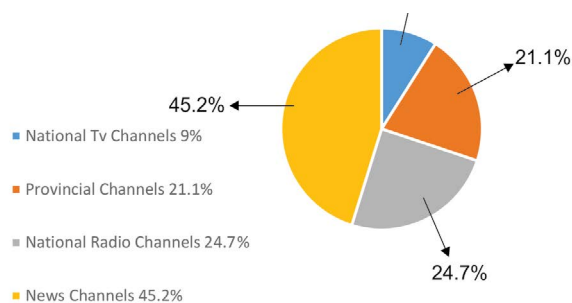
Also, according to the latest statistics, the performance of different channels of IRIB on production and broadcast of programs relating to “ the elderly and disabled “ in 2015 was 1154 hours as displayed in the following table and chart.

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
Total	710

(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
			29	206		
first 9 months of 2016	3	131	29	207	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.

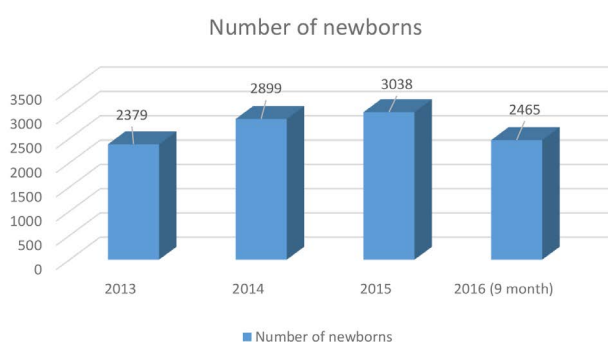
Table (9): services provided under hearing screening program up to the January of 2017

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.

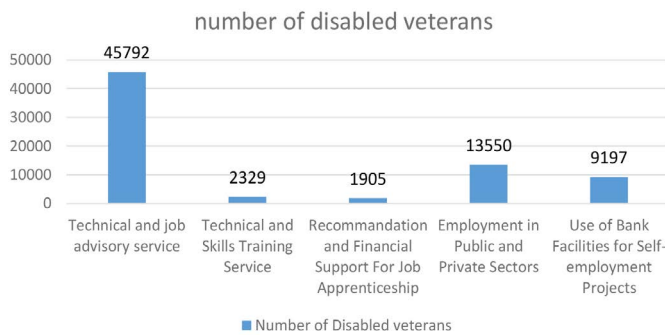
Table (14): number of Jobs created in the form of master – apprenticeship for disabled people

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 Veteran 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
Total	5113	150,058 (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
Total	489	19,500 (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
	%		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
Total	3774	2053	5817

(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 Areas¹

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 Committe

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 committe. it needs to bementioned that 53066 villages have been supported by the committee simultaneously as well.

¹ 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	2015
1796932	Cities	2607310	Females	2607310	1087755	3991155	1934084	
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	
Total number of supported students: 34388	Cultural and Educational services in rural, underdeveloped and nomadic areas
Total number of supported university students: 78946	
Total number of rural students: 160400	
Allocated grants: 31.5 million dollars	
Number of insured in need: 1208082	Health services in rural, underdeveloped and nomadic areas
Total Number of clinics having contracts with the committee: 9463	
Paid Allowance: 112 Million Dollars	Job Creation & Work Availability Enhancement
Supporting Self-sufficiency Plans: 1055422 Families equal to 2567988 people	
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 benefited 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 4th Urban and Rural Islamic Councils in 2013.

Barkat Foundation²

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

Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship
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
Building Construction
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
Health Centers (including Digitalized Health Services)
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 Esfarayen
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 Gatvand of Khuzestan province
Exploitation of 26 schools out of 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 KhorasanRazavi province with a budget around 800 thousand dollars
Participation to construct Mehranterminal 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.

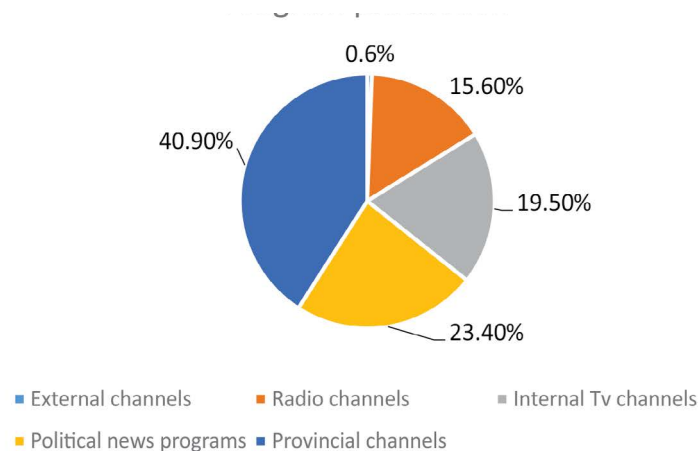
The performance of different IRIB channels on the theme of “creation of sustainable jobs with Iranian labor and capital” in 6 months of 2016 amounted to the production of 2860 hours of program as reflected in the following table and chart.

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)

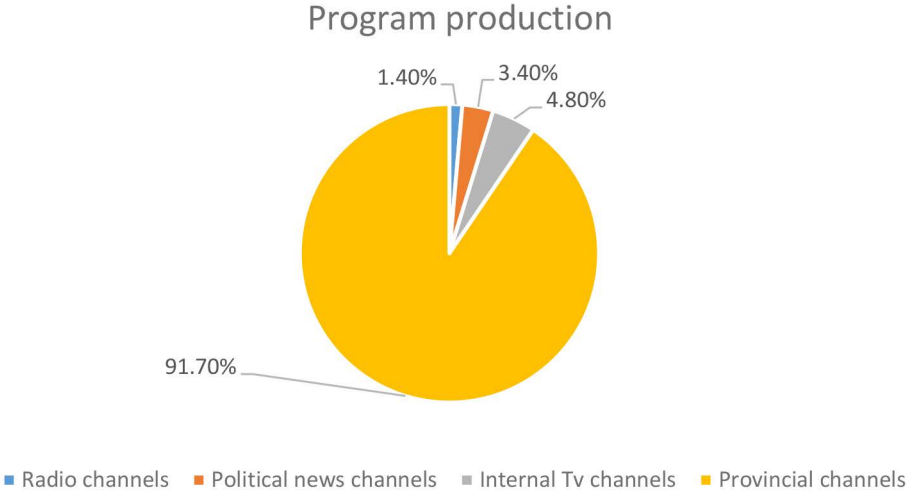
IRIB has also produced 5046 hours of program on “organizing and supporting home businesses” as reflected in the following table and chart.

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	The general policies of the 6th National Development Plan adopted in 2015: 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	The legislation of the Parliament on reducing women's retirement age (January 14, 2017): Through adding a provision to the 6 th 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	Reducing the working hours of women with special needs adopted in 2016: 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	The Penal Proceedings Act adopted in 2013 and enforced in 2015: 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	Circular No. 579095 dated June 20, 2016 of the Administrative Supreme Council: 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	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: 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
Total		155926	237814	13782289

(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)

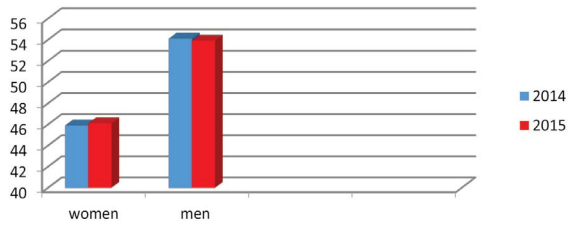
At the same time, the trend of women's participation in higher education (all Government and nongovernmental institutions and medical universities) has been upward during 2015 and 2016. Table 5 and Chart 1 illustrate the ratio of female students to total students in 2014 and 2015.

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
Total	4209055	4950909	9159964		

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

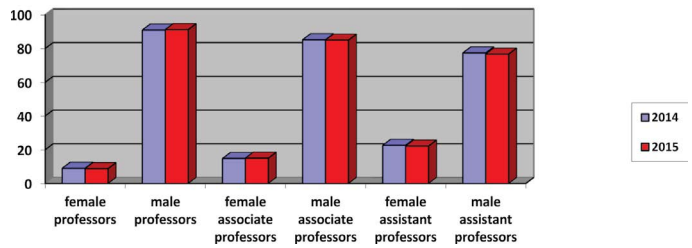
Chart (1): The ratio of female to male students in 2015 and 2016



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

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.

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)

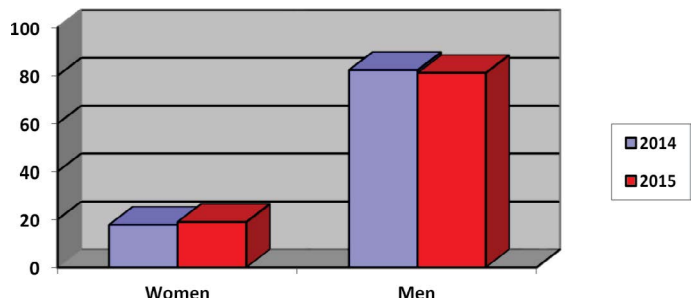
The number of female faculty members in non-governmental universities has also been on the rise whereby this ratio has been increasing in these institutions in the last two years.

Table (6): The ratio of female faculty members

Academic year	Percentage of female faculty members	
	Men	Women
2014	81	19
2015	80	20
Total		

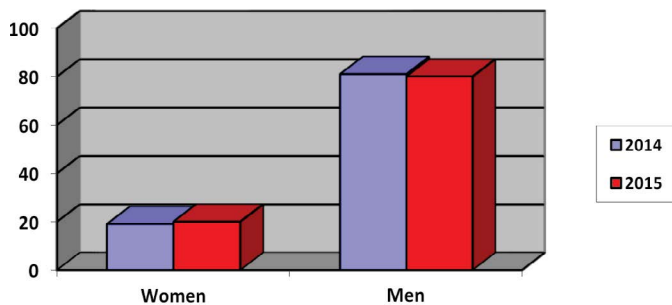
(Source: The report of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

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)

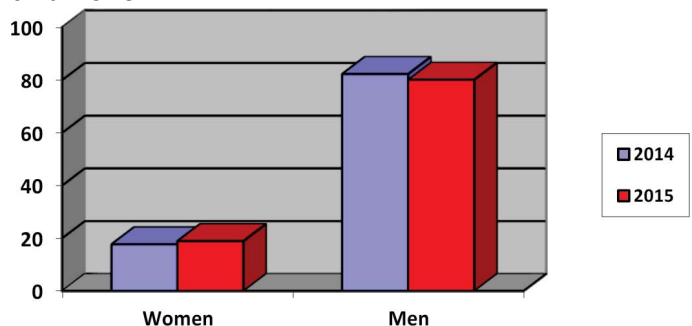
Chart (2): The ratio of female to male faculty members in 2014 and 2015



(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.

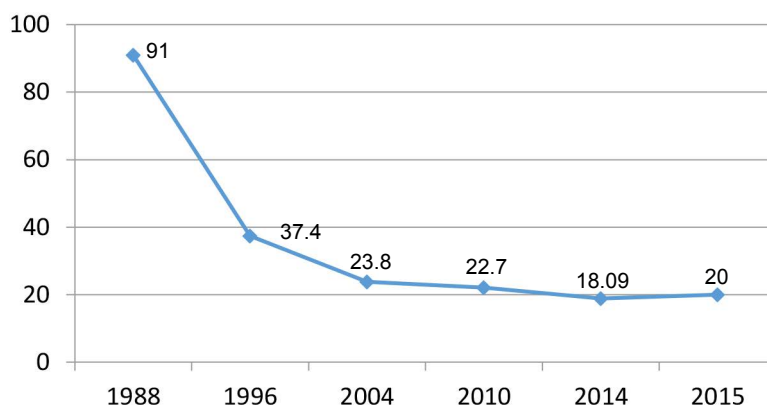
Table (9): The most significant measures effected to reduce MMR in 2015 and 2016

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)

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

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.

Bureau of Services for Women's Employment	Ministry of Cooperation, Labor, and Social Welfare	Services such as finding jobs, entrepreneurship, and legal assistance are provided in these bureaus
Bureau for Protecting the rights of Women and Children	Judiciary	Various issues such as social work, legal counseling, and follow-up of women's rights are dealt with in these bureaus. At the moment, these bureaus are stationed in all provincial judicial departments
General Directorate of Human Rights	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
Bureau of Ladies and Consultants	Municipalities	These bureaus are active for cultural development and promotion and improvement of women's citizenship circumstances around the country. Cultural-athletic centers such as community cultural houses have also been established, many of which are specific to young girls and women

In the 11th administration (2013-2017) which came to power in 2013, three women serve as Presidential Deputies and one as the Presidential Assistant for Citizenship Rights. In 2015, a female ambassador was appointed for the first time. At the moment, the position of Advisor or Director-General for Ladies has been anticipated in all administrative institutions at the ministerial and provincial levels (General Governorates and Governorates), the IRI Broadcasting, and the Armed Forces. In accordance with a Government adoption, the Advisors for Ladies have the right to vote and the power of decision-

making in the supreme council of their institution. In addition, the highest percentage of the management of ladies is in the Ministry of Education.

The share of women in Parliament seats has risen 450% from the first to the ninth term. The rate of candidacy for Parliamentary elections has also witnessed a 400% growth. In the current 10th Parliament, the number of female MPs has reached 18 which demonstrate a doubling in the overall number compared to the ninth term.

Table (15): The number of the MPs disaggregated by their term

	Term	Date of elections	Number of female candidates	Number of female MPs
Parliamentary elections	1	1980	66	4
	2	1984	28	4
	3	1988	37	4
	4	1992	81	9
	5	1996	320	10
	6	2000	513	13
	7	2004	828	12
	8	2008	611	8
	9	2012	249	9
	10	2016	1234	18
Total			2732	73

(Source: Statistical Yearbook 2016, Iran Center of Statistics)

Another decision-making body in the IRI is the Islamic City and Rural Councils. The growth rate of the female members of these councils during 1997-2013 was 450%. Table 16 shows the number of female candidates and members over four terms.

Table (16): The number of the members of the Islamic City and Rural Councils disaggregated by their term

Elections of the Islamic City and Rural Councils	Term	Date of elections	Number of female candidates	Number of female MPs
	1	1999	7276	1375
	2	2003	5867	2336
	3	2007	7129	1410
	4	2013	12096	6096
Total			32268	11217

(Source: Statistical Yearbook 2014, Iran Center of Statistics)

The table below looks into certain other domains of women's political participation in Iran.

Table (17): The extent of women's sociopolitical participation in certain institutions

Item	Facts
1	In the Ministry of Interior, there are currently 107 female directors in provincial governorates including one deputy governor-general, 38 director-general deputies, two governors, nine governor deputies, 22 district governors
2	Approximately 7200 staff of the IRI Law Enforcement are women
3	There are 48 women as representatives of women in Government institutions and organizations
4	In the Ministry of Education, there were 416 senior managers, 26,941 school principals, 331,850 teachers, 24,164 educational deputies, 597 general affairs deputies, 16,231 moral education deputies, 4070 technology deputies, 13,485 administrative deputies, and 9545 moral coaches working in the 2015-2016 school year
5	There are 17 women's political parties active in Iran. The number of the female founders of organizations which have been requested in 2015 and 2016 is 13

Women also have a significant presence in Iran's judicial system as there are over 800 judges in the Judiciary, mostly in family courts. Table 18 represents the number of female judges and their judicial positions.

Table (18): The number of female judges disaggregated by their position (2016)

Judicial position	Number of persons
Barrister of provincial appeal courts and the Judiciary Headquarters	5
Judicial advisor (female advisors in family, general, and courts of revolution)	165 (163 in family courts)
Prosecutor deputies (provinces and cities)	12
Judicial deputies of the heads of justice departments	8
Deputies of the heads of judicial departments	11
Prosecutor assistants	557
Verdict enforcement judges	32
Judges of dispute settlement councils	36
Judicial apprentices	11
Total	837

(Source: The report of the Judiciary Deputy of Human Resources to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Participation in the Books and Media Sector

Women in the IRI have had many activities and played a noteworthy role in the cultural arena and the generation of knowledge and science. The share of women in the media constitutes a sizeable figure as there are currently around 1200 female directors of media with almost half of the journalists and reporters being ladies. In addition, the number of periodicals specifically for women in 2015 was 27 which reached

34 with an increase of 20% by the end of 2016. At the same time, out of the total 500 active journalists who managed to receive professional journalism cards, 200 were ladies.

Women bear a considerable role in publishing periodicals and books and are the directors, editors, and publishers of many of them. In 2015, 291 books were published on the subject of women and families. The number of this category of books is 6883 in the period between 1978 and 2015.

Table (19): The number of books published on the subject of women and families in the period between 1978 and 2015

Subject	Number (2015)	Number (1978-2015)
Number of books published on the subject of women and families	1	37
Number of books published on the subject of women – first publication	148	3131
Number of books published on the subject of women – republication	58	2312
Number of books published on the subject of families – first publication	63	771
Number of books published on the subject of families – republication	21	632
Total	291	6883

(Source: The report of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families to the National UPR Committee, 2015)

In 2015, 15,448 books were written and/or translated by women with the same figure standing at 248,215 for the period between 1978 and 2015.

Table (20): The number of published books written by women disaggregated by subject in the period between 1978 and 2015

Subject	Number (2015)	Number (1978-2015)
General	215	5680
Philosophy	727	12826
Religion	794	10845
Social sciences	2043	25293
Language	913	15874
Natural sciences and mathematics	1635	21318
Applied sciences	2065	39682
Art	482	7838
Literature	2073	22527
History and geography	530	7514
Children	4011	67809
Total	15488	248215

(Source: The report of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families to the National UPR Committee, 2015)

In the period between 1978 and 2015, 42,092 female writers and 14,881 female translators were active with 2537 women being publishers. From this total, 819 cases were related to 2015.

Table (21): The number of female writers, translators, publishers, and writers/publishers in the period between 1978 and 2015

Subject	Number (2015)	Number (1978-2015)
Female translators	1898	14881
Female writers	5047	42092
Female publishers	765	1775
Female writers/publishers	54	762
Total	7764	59510

(Source: The report of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families to the National UPR Committee, 2015)

Protecting needy Women

Among the strategic goals of the IRI's development plans is poverty alleviation, especially regarding women, through providing social security, financial support, entrepreneurship, and support of cooperatives. Based on the existing statistics of the Iran Center of Statistics, the spouses of 71.4% of female heads of households were deceased and

around 10% of them became heads of households as a result of divorce while 5% were never married.

Different institutions such as the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee and the Department of Welfare provide protection and empowerment services to women and girls with no caretakers. The most significant mechanisms of protecting women's rights are described in Table 22.

Table (22): The mechanisms of protecting the rights of needy women

Name of the mechanism	Organizational stance	Notes
Hotlines	Judiciary	Providing legal counseling on different issues related to women including violence
Counseling centers	Judiciary	Establishing counseling centers alongside family courts in accordance with the obligations stipulated in the Family Protection Act (2012)
Bureau of Women and Families' Empowerment	Department of Welfare	Empowering and providing protection services to individuals and groups who are left out of a normal life routine
Center for Social Emergencies	Department of Welfare	Identifying, controlling, and reducing social harms
Social Work Clinic	Department of Welfare	Developing and establishing 344 clinics around the country to provide services to needy women
Social Emergency	Department of Welfare	Providing mobile social emergency services to needy women and establishing 153 telephone lines around the country
Social Services Base	Department of Welfare	Providing social services in vulnerable areas
Bureau of Semi-Family Affairs	Department of Welfare	Empowering children and adolescents with no caretakers or under inadequate care
Bureau of the Affairs of Victims of Social Harms	Department of Welfare	Controlling and reducing social harms
Center for the Protection and Rehabilitation of Women and Girls Subjected to Social Harms	Department of Welfare	Launching 26 centers around the country
Health Home for Girls Subjected to Social Harms	Department of Welfare	Launching 31 centers around the country
Health Home for Girls Subjected to Social Harms	Department of Welfare	Launching 24 centers around the country
Addiction Counseling Hotline	Department of Welfare	Providing services over the phone to individuals exposed to drug abuse

Center for Extending the Prevention and Treatment of Addiction	Department of Welfare	Providing services to women in need
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The population covered by the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee extends beyond one million female heads of households which would sum up to approximately 2.6 million in 2015 taking into consideration the members of these households. The Committee implements numerous programs annually to protect and empower the women covered in the fields of education, housing, occupation, loans, and legal assistance especially in rural and less advantaged areas. The Department of Welfare too implements different measures to protect women in need³.

The Judiciary Bureaus of Protecting Women and Children also conduct the following extensive activities to protect vulnerable women and children: following up on the legal and judicial problems of the target group, providing legal-judicial counseling, psychology, social work, visiting women’s wards in penitentiaries, holding training workshops on citizenship rights, etc. Legal and judicial protection was rendered to 103,456 women in 2015 and to 91,149 women in 2016. A total of 123,857 cases of legal assistance were provided for women in 2015 with the same number in 2016. In 2015 and 2016, 332 and 278 women, respectively, were awarded amnesty. Table 23 includes all the above information.

Table (23): The measures of the Judiciary Bureaus for Protecting Women and Children (2015 and 2016)

Measure	2015	2016
Legal and judicial protection of women	103456	91149
Legal and judicial assistance to women	123857	123857
Awarding women amnesty	332	278

(Source: The report of the Judiciary Cultural Deputy to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Preventing Gender-Based Discrimination

The Constitution of the IRI declares the prohibition of discrimination in numerous articles. Accordingly, Paragraph 9 of Article 3 obligates the Government to engage in eliminating unjust discrimination against all. Furthermore, Paragraph 14 of the same article stipulates the equality of men and women before the law. To this end, Article 19 states that the Iranian nation enjoy equal rights and identifies the fields such

as language, race, and the like where discrimination has to be eliminated. Article 20 also holds that all citizens, men and women, enjoy equal protection in the eyes of the law and are entitled to all human, political, economic, social, and cultural rights while observing Islamic principles.

The Outlook of the IRI in 2025 which portrays the features that the Government must attain by 2025 emphasizes generally the actualization of equal opportunities and eradication of discrimination. The Penal Proceedings Act (enforced in 2015) stipulates that all individuals under the age of 18 who are in conflict or contact with the law – regardless of their gender – should be subject to specific proceedings such as juvenile courts. The Protection of Children and Adolescents Act (adopted in 2002) stipulates in its Article 1 without any discrimination between girls and boys that all children enjoy the protections noted in this legislation.

The National Document of the Rights of Children and Adolescents (2016) has been drafted within the framework of the Five-Year Plan of Action of the National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The document provides equal protection to all individuals under the age of 18 regardless of their gender in all the strategies, programs, and activities anticipated but also renders special protection measures to young girls vis-à-vis gender-based discrimination and prevention of discrimination.

In the insurance policies regarding the entitlements of the staff employed in private and public sectors and issues related to the allowances for children, insurance premium, and pension which is given to their children following the demise of the staff, girls are given more protection compared to boys due to their vulnerability. Accordingly, the daughters of the demised are covered by their parents’ insurance so long as they are not employed or married while the sons can enjoy the insurance only up to the age of 20 or 25 if they are studying.

Criminalization of Domestic Violence

Prevention of violence against women at the levels of prevention, protection, and rehabilitation has been emphasized with many interventions in place to this end. The most significant legal measures of recent times in line with the criminalization of domestic violence have been described in Table 24.

³ For further information on the most significant measures affected by the Department of Welfare Bureau of Women and Family in 2016, see the section on poverty alleviation and rural development of this report.

Table (24): The measures in line with criminalization of domestic violence (2015 and 2016)

Item	Subject
1	<p>Producing the Preliminary Draft Bill on the Comprehensive Provision of Women’s Security against Violence (2015): Regarding the access of women who are victims of violence to justice especially judicial justice, the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families undertook the drafting of this bill in its agenda; the text is currently undergoing its finalization. The following are examples of what has been included in the Bill:</p> <p>Understanding the concept of violence and identification of its different typologies including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence and unhealthy practices (such as early and forced marriages), etc; Drafting the terms of reference of the authorities responsible to combat violence; Incorporating protection, prevention, and civil measures in the process of fighting with violence; Criminalizing examples of domestic violence; Predicting cases as penal proceedings regarding fighting violence against women.</p>
2	<p>Producing the Final Draft of the National Document for the Security of Ladies and Children in Social Relations (2015): The document was drafted by the Ministry of Interior’s Bureau of Women and Families and is undergoing its finalization. In terms of the issue of providing of security generally and providing security of women against domestic violence specifically, it aims at the following strategic goals: Developing national, regional, Governmental, and non-governmental women-friendly capacities in social relations; Developing the equity-based system and adopting legislation regarding women’s security; Unity of management on women’s social security.</p>

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

The major protection interventions of pertinent institutions aimed at preventing violence against women have been described in Table 25.

Table (25): The major protection interventions of pertinent institutions aimed at preventing violence against women

Item	Category	Notes
1	The protection measures of the Department of Welfare	Implementing the initiative to prevent domestic violence with the goal of promoting awareness among women and girls as the pivot of families through providing services in: 31 centers of temporary residence for shelter-less women subjected to domestic violence in order to secure their health against social harms, 32 health homes for girls seeking shelter through providing health, educational, moral, and welfare services, 22 social rehabilitation centers for women subjected to harm through providing health, treatment, educational, moral, and welfare services
2	Free-of-charge legal counseling and representation for women subjected to violence	According to the agreement signed between the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families and Central Bar Association, women who cannot afford counseling and representation fees are entitled to free-of-charge legal counseling, free-of-charge lawyers for legal disputes, and cheap lawyers for penal proceedings. According to this agreement, women who are victims of crimes, violent acts, and gender-based violence in particular receive specific attention
3	Holding scientific meetings	Holding a series of scientific meetings on the role of religious leaders in preventing violence against women (especially young girls): these meetings are held twice a year in the form of four separate meetings by the National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in terms of identifying incidences of violence against children especially girls
4	The IRI Broadcasting	In line with enhancing the conditions of women and families, the IRIB has produced 7359 hours of program

Prohibition of Girls' Forced and Early Marriages

Article 50 of the Family Protection Act adopted in 2012 has criminalized the marriage of men with girls younger than the age of 13 without observing the conditions envisaged in Article 1041 of the Civil Law; in other words, the marriage of girls under the age of 13 and boys under 15 without the permission of the child's legal caretaker and the permit of the family court is prohibited. Furthermore, any intervention of the parents in the marriage of their underage children committed in violation of Article 1041 of the Civil Law is prohibited. As for cultural capacity building and promoting the prohibition of forced and early marriages, several training workshops have been held with the theme of expounding upon the disadvantages of such marriages.

Children's Rights

Children's Rights

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.45	Continue to pursue the adoption and implementation of administrative measures aimed at the promotion and protection of the rights of the child;	Pakistan
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
138.99	Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of women and children;	Algeria
138.108	Continue the endeavors to enhance the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities;	Qatar
138.110	Continue to take measures to strengthen mechanisms for the protection of the rights of women and children;	Uzbekistan
138.194	Continue adequate measures for addressing the special needs of women and protecting children from violence;	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
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
138.252	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
138.156	Ban executions of juvenile offenders, while at the same time providing for alternative punishments in line with the new Iranian Penal Code;	Italy

Population of Persons Under 18

According to the 2011 census, 30.22 % of the country's total population was made up of people who were under 18 years old. Table 1 displays more information about the demography.

Table (1): Statistics of the Population under 18 and Its Proportion to the Total Population According to Sex

Description	number
Total population of the country	75149669
Number of the children under 18	22712821
Proportion of under 18 population to the total population	30.22 %
Number of the boys	11112840
Number of the girls	11599981

(Source: The Report of the National Authority of the Convention on Rights of the Child to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

New Mechanisms for Protecting Children’s Rights

The Constitution of Islamic Republic of Iran, complying with the Islamic laws, has considered physical, intellectual, social and judicial requirements of children and teenagers logically and reasonably. In regard to Iran’s accession to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991, it is attempted to reform the laws and regulations as much as possible in order to improve and guarantee the rights of the children in recent years. Table 2 represents the measures which were taken to create new mechanisms for protecting children’s rights in 2015 and 2016.

Table (2): Measures in Creating New Mechanisms for Protecting Children’s Rights

(2015 and 2016)

Row	Measures
1	Proposing the bill of children and teenagers’ protection by Judicial System and passing it to the House of Representatives in 2016
2	The approval of a comprehensive action plan for children and teenagers’ rights up to 2025 in Feb 2015 and implementing it from 2016 for 10 years
3	Approval of “The Document of Alliance System on Students’ Social Care “ aimed at social protection, fulfillment of progressive prevention and integrated development of students, empowering and intersectional collaboration in December 2015 in the meeting of Supreme Council of Welfare and Social Security
4	Preparing “Social Harms Atlas” segregating into different provinces and cities aiming at creating a transparent picture of social harms in provinces and cities including child abuse, educational deprivation, local and regional planning for controlling and decreasing social harms like social harms to children
5	Proposing the bill of reduction of mothers’ working hours under certain circumstances (with children below 6, with handicapped children or husband, or being the head of household); according to this law, due to their request, the working hours of working mothers are reduced from 44 hours a week to 36 hours with the same payments and salaries
6	Codification of enacted regulation of child friendly city in July 2016 and its enactment and general standardization of traffic transportation, socio-cultural, municipal health centers, urban planning and architecture, people and social cooperation and establishing committees to monitor and pursue the enforcement of legislation.
7	Contributing to facilitation of establishing non-governmental charity institutes in social support of children through revising guidelines of establishment and administration of and non-governmental institutes
8	Launch of children database under the title of “Human Treasure” in 2015 and 2016 which has categorized the data on children under 18 according to their demographics, capabilities and the type of received services as defined by the CRC

(Source: Report of National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Ensuring access of children requiring education⁴

Table 3 illustrates the measures taken in line with children access to education and the promotion of educational equity in 2015 and 2016.

Table (3): Measures Taken for Children Access to Education

row	measures
1	Planning to educate 52000 children dropped out of school in 2016 and 2017
2	Planning and implementation of social protection program for children who are deprived of education in 7 provinces in 2015 and 2016, aiming at contributing these children to return to their schools with cooperation of non-governmental organizations (protecting 2980 children)
3	Supporting the development of literacy among Nomads in four provinces of East Azerbaijan, Ardabil, Fars and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Provinces
4	Establishing schools for out-of-school children in Golestan Province
5	Paying educational stipend to 8000 people of protected families in order to prevent children dropouts and academic failures in 2016

(Source: Report of National Authority of the convention on the Rights of the Child to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Protection of Children in Rural and Less-advantaged Areas

Table 4 shows the most important works done in support of children of rural and less-advantaged areas.

Table (4): The Most Important Measures Taken for Protection of Children in Rural and Disadvantaged Areas (2015-2016)

row	The Activity Title	Quantitative Goal	
		2015 (Person)	Prediction of 2016 (Person)
1	The number of children benefited from the kindergartens' services	649486	694950
2	The number of orphan children and victims of bad parenting covered by the Welfare Organization	24637	25000
3	Providing a hot meal for children in rural kindergartens	143461	181266
4	Promoting skills and discharging children under guardianship	530	605
5	Making contributions to low-income families by paying Kindergartens' tuition	37500	20000
6	Helping to build and sustain kindergartens in less-advantaged areas, suburbs and unofficial settlements	225	225
7	Helping to develop, equip and sustain rural kindergartens	1000	1000
8	Subsidies to take care of children in care centers and non-governmental organizations	8000	9000
9	Paid subsidies to families for looking after children and teenagers under the auspices of Welfare Organization	14500	16000
10	Proposing nutritional security programs for children under 6	-	52391
11	Proposing nutritional security programs for pregnant women	-	888

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

⁴ To get more information about children benefiting from education, study the chapter on rights to the education

Children of Foreign Nationals and Refugees (Including Illegal Nationals)

The number of refugee children and immigrants who receive services from Welfare Organization was 2046 in 2015 and it was 2100 in 2016. The following Table give a more precise demonstration of actions done in this regard.

Table (5): Measures Taken to Protect Refugee Children and Illegal Nationals

row	measures
1	Revising the educational methodologies of foreign nationals which benefited refugee children and immigrants who were deprived of schooling due to the identity and nationality problems
2	Issuing birth certificates for those children who were born in Iran but their parents were in the country illegally
3	Filing 12659 folders for children of Iranian women and foreign men after age of 18 to demand for obtaining Iranian citizenship
4	Educating 3735 out-of-school Afghan refugee children
5	Preparation of ten thousand uniforms for destitute Afghans
6	Enrollment of 391625 refugee students (2535 boys and 186270 girls)of different grades in the academic year 2015-2017
7	Covering all handicapped refugee children by health insurance in cooperation with Representative Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

(Source: Report of National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Children's Health⁵

Table 6 shows the most crucial measures taken for children's health.

Table (6): Measures Taken with Regard to Children Health (2015, first 9months of 2016)

row	measures
1	Monitoring the health of 400 children less than 6 years by Tehran Welfare organization and filing health records for them
2	The plan to improve the sanitary status of female students around the country and training 25 thousand students and their parents in 2015
3	Increasing coverage of screening programs, early diagnosis and intervention for at risk infants and toddlers to 1064750 ones in 2014 and 850000 ones in first 9 months of 2016
4	Offering health services and preventing diseases such as HIV and reducing damage that drug abusers including teenagers and young adults in suburban areas may incur
5	Covering 3052389 children under the national program of preventing amblyopia in children aged from 3 to 6 across the country in 2015 and covering 1800000 children in first 9 months of 2016
6	Initiating preventive activities regarding risky behaviors and potential diseases in 9 provinces since September 2016

⁵ To obtain more information about children's right to health, study the section of right to health in this report.

7	Training life skills to children and teenagers and their families
8	3000 Cochlear Implants (1666 cases in 1955 and 1334 cases in the first half of 2016) in support of children with hearing impairment
9	Social insurance of 51500 rural and nomadic girls and women
10	Offering social services to 36,000 people in multiple children families to decrease the pressure of giving birth to several infants concurrently in one family and to supply the balanced nurturing requirements
11	Production and distribution of 200 infant formula to promote the health level and prevent malnutrition of babies in protected impoverished families, families with multiple births and handicapped children
12	Inauguration of 1941 active centers offering dental care services and employing 1188 general dentists with priority to give services to children under 14, pregnant women and lactating mothers in order to prevent cavities and periodontal disease and to promote oral health
13	Acting out baby friendly hospitals in more than 550 hospitals across the country (more than 80% center)
14	During 2015, more than 23600000 cases of cares taken for children under 5 were done in health centers and more than 22600000 of these cases were due to the healthy children routine checkup

Street Children and Child Labor

The Welfare Organization as an official authority in organizing street children codified and implemented the program of admission, diagnosis and replacement of street children and developed centers in capital cities across the country in 1999. These centers offer free 24-hour services and provide accommodation services including feeding, bathing, clothing, medicines, detergents, television, entertainments, studies and other needs regarding child welfare and professional services (services of social workers, psychologists, health care).

The most vital activities of this organization is presented in below table. The total of children population who are under the shelter of Welfare Organization are 9854 people in houses and 14783 ones in families.

Table (7): Welfare Organization Measures Regarding Street Children and Child Labor

row	measures
1	Accepting and support of 5428 children and family members in 2015 and 3177 ones in the first six month of 2016.
2	Creating 38 non-governmental organizations across the country during first nine months of 2016 and increasing it to 52 centers to the end of the year. These centers are responsible for identifying and offering services to street children and child labor and their families and they don't segregate children from families. The number of people supported by these centers were 4349 children during first 9 months of 2016
3	Implementing the plan of admission, diagnosis and replacement of street children in all capital cities in addition to admitting and supporting 5428 street children and their families in 2015 and 2604 ones in 9 months of 2016
4	Settlement of a specialized team (including social workers and psychologists) on the streets that children are continually present there

Prevention of Violence against Children

All the judicial authorities pursue public or social workers' report with regard to child abuse seriously and prosecute suspects. The condition of hospitalized children are immediately pursued, dealt and investigated in

the case of child maltreatment. Special investigatory and judicial branches also have been created to inquire child abuse offenses within the framework of judicial system.

Legal and Judicial Protection of Children

By amending the Criminal Procedure Code (2015) and the Islamic Penal Code (2013), special protection was predicted for children in the judicial trial:

- Assigning special branches of the court to investigate juvenile offences;
- Considering special regulations to handle independent investigation of juvenile judicial files, the most important of them is enacting restorative justice according to the child's age, educational, moral and punitive activities, so diverse alternatives are used instead of imprisonment and incarceration in Youth Detention Center;
- Keeping children in Youth Correction Centers as

an alternative Punishment or Life Imprisonment or death penalty, maximum five years.

- Prediction of potential possibilities of modification in punishment in the whole process after issuing the verdict.
- Removing death penalty and "Hodoud" for offenders under 18 if they didn't understand the irreverence of their acts and haven't attained intellectual development yet.
- Using new legal systems with the aim to securing children benefits such as suspension of prosecution, cessation of proceeding and suspension of issuing sentence. Accordingly, in Tehran juvenile court, less than one percent of the issued verdicts sent children under 18 to Youth Keeping Center and rest of them were acquitted or the cessation of proceedings were ordered or other alternatives such as suspension of penalties and cash fines were used.

It should be noted that Judiciary Clemency Commission pays special attention to people under 18. 362 people in 2015, and 515 people in 2016 (first 9 months) were granted amnesty.

Table (8): Tehran Juvenile Prosecutors Office and Children's Court Measures

Issued sentences in 2015	2796		Issued sentences 2016 (9 months)	2674	
	numbers	percent		numbers	percent
Impunity	432	15.45 %	Impunity	342	12.78%
Suspension of Prosecution	419	14.98%	Suspension of Prosecution	287	10.73%
Cessation of proceedings	249	8.90%	Cessation of proceedings	229	8.56%
Suspension of Punishment	121	4.32%	Suspension of Punishment	108	4.03%
Cash Fines	1283	45.88%	Cash Fines	1396	52.20%
Keeping in Youth Correction Center	16	0.57%	Keeping in Youth Correction Center	15	0.56%

(Source: Report of Office of Tehran General Prosecutor to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

It should be acknowledged that in case of murder, the perpetrators under 18 are trialed in the penal court with the presence of relevant consultants. According to the regulations and Islamic law, the punishment for murder is retribution in kind (Qisas). In this case, the responsibility of judiciary system is just to investigate whether the murder is intentional or not and implementation of the verdict depends on the request of the victim's family and the judicial system has no role in it. However, the major policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard, is to

encourage reconciliation by helping the convict to pay Diah or the blood money. One of the judiciary acts in this regard is the establishment of the committees for prevention of capital punishment aiming at creating peace and reconciliation and getting satisfaction from victims' parents which is the task of subsidiary of Executive Committee which supports children rights in Tehran General Justice Organization. Other measures aligned with legal and judicial support of children and teenagers are given in Table 9.

Table (9): Measures Taken for Legal and Judicial Support of Children and Teenagers (2015 and 2016)

row	measures
1	To seek for the satisfaction of plaintiffs in 100 cases in 2015 and 36 cases in 2016
2	Regular visit from quarantines keeping boys and girls under 18 in Tehran
3	Monitoring and supervision over all children's residential centers in Tehran
4	Visiting of the prosecutor and his/her deputies from Youth Correction Centers
5	Establishing Dispute Resolution Councils for Youth Correction Centers with the presence of female judges
6	Presence of assisting prosecuting in Youth Correction Center
7	Establishing office of prosecutor supervising orphans and wards in Tehran in line with the rights of orphans or bad parenting children
8	Visiting protective centers of Welfare Organization and following up problems and legal and judicial issues of children and the way children are adopted through judicial authorities
9	Pursuing the organization of those who are released from Youth Correction Centers

Using Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society's Capacity for the Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights

According to the Article 66 of the Criminal Procedure Code (2015), non-governmental organizations

(NGOs) whose statute support children and young people, can bring a case before the court against those who have committed crimes toward children and appear as their plaintiff. The most important measures in this regard are as following in below Table.

Table (10): Using NGOs and civil society's capacity for the protection and promotion of children's rights

row	measure
1	Existence of more than 1,000 NGOs in children domain across the country
2	Holding second course of electing NGO's members for the presence of three non-governmental organizations in Coordination Council of National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in December 2016
3	Holding Meeting with NGOs active in the field of children's rights in 14 provinces from December 2015 to January 2016
4	Using specialized opinions of NGOs in National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of child and inviting them as the professionals in this domain
5	Creating equal opportunities to increase participation of NGOs in policymaking and planning for children through formation of a the think tank in the Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare and membership of non-governmental organizations' representatives in it who are active in supporting children rights
6	Identifying 40 NGOs active in the field of children in 40 slum districts and benefiting from their participation in policymaking focusing on children, planning and implementation of social protection programs
7	Creating educational and supportive centers for children and families in form of an NGO or a charity center aiming at controlling and decreasing the effects of social harms on children family and society and identifying and protecting 4349 children by these centers across the country
8	Activating 52 NGOs in the country to identify and offer services to the needy children and those who are at risk of harm and their families

(Source: The Report of National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Cooperation and Exchange of Experience with Other Countries

In alignment with promoting children's rights, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always encouraged the exchange of experiences with other countries

and in addition to sending delegations to study child protection structures in other countries, Iran has welcomed foreign delegations' visit of children's rights situation in the country which is mentioned in the following Table.

Table (11): Cooperation and Experience Exchange with Other Countries and Organizations

row	measures
1	Visit of Terre des homes (TDH) (Swiss child relief agency), a non-governmental organization, from National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the visit of their delegations from governmental agencies and NGOs that are active in the realm of children rights
2	The plan of setting up mother and child friendly spaces in public urban areas and advertising and informing about using the spaces by mothers in capital cities in collaboration with municipalities and villages' governorates in the country and UNICEF
3	Dispatching a delegation consisting of ten members to visit New Zealand program for children and teenagers in 2015
4	Sending a specialized delegation to the 34th session of HRC on the rights of children and visiting Swiss courts and detention centers for under 18

(Source: The Report of National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Improving sports

Improving sports

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.48	Continue to allocate more resources in the area of sport for all youth;	Sri Lanka

Youth and Sports Ministry, which was established in 2010 and after the merging of Physical Education Organization and the National Youth Organization, is the greatest organization addressing the issues of youth and sport in the Islamic Republic of Iran. By development of basic strategy to develop and promote the sport and looking to balance the two categories of Sport and Youth, the ministry in years from 2013 to 2016 could make great strides in this practice. Major achievements in the field of sports are shown in Tables (1) to (7).

Table (1): Measures in the field of professional championships (2015-2016)

Row	Measure taken
1	Earning about 4 thousand Asian and international medals by athletes (year 2015, 3162 medals and 2016, 882 medals)
2	Sending more than 14 thousand athletes to camps and competitions
3	Hosting 112 Asian and international events in different sports
4	Establishing 33 talent-seeking centers in order to secure the championship in the sport
5	Establishing 13 Championship Sports Promotion Center from 18 to 31 centers in 2015
6	Holding 6077 national, provincial and regional sports event in the country
7	Implementing the regulations of champion soldiers (exemption rules), 18 soldiers and four champion exemptions
8	Activity of over 51 sports federations
9	More than 205 sports activities

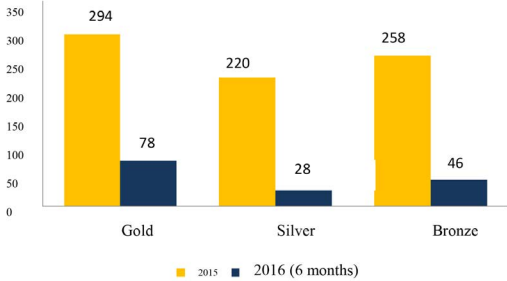
(Source: Information Center of the Ministry of Sport and Youth)

Table (2): The presence of the youth in athletics at the national, regional and global levels with the number of medals won by each sport (2015-2016)

Year	World Championships			Championship			International Competitions		
	The number of medals won			The number of medals won			The number of medals won		
	Gold	silver	Bronze	Gold	silver	Bronze	Gold	silver	Bronze
2015	294	220	258	247	181	171	345	227	247
2016 (March to August)	78	28	46	106	69	91	131	119	182

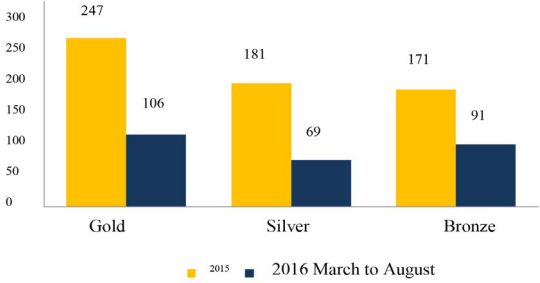
(Source: The report of the Ministry of Sport and Youth to the National Committee of U.P.R, 2016)

Chart (1): The number of medals won at the World Championships (2015-2016)



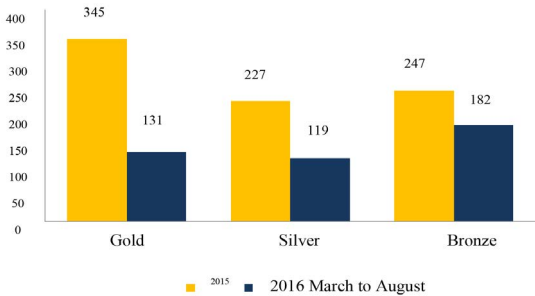
(Source: The report of the Ministry of Sport and Youth to the National Committee of U.P.R, 2016)

Chart (2): The number of medals won in the championship (2015-2016)



(Source: The report of the Ministry of Sport and Youth to the National Committee of U.P.R, 2016)

Chart (3): The number of medals won in international competitions (2015-2016)



(Source: The report of the Ministry of Sport and Youth to the National Committee of U.P.R, 2016)

Table (3): Measures in the field of public sport (2015-2016)

Row	Measures
1	Increase in women's participation in sports from 10% to 21%
2	Allocation of 10% of the budget of sports federations to the public sport
3	Holding 3158 family walking gatherings in the provincial capitals and cities of the country
4	Holding sport competitions with the participation of 48 government institutions
5	Paying particular attention to the development of rural and ethnic sports, the National Sports Festival and National Sports Festival for all peoples
6	Inauguration and equipping 183 sport rural homes including in the border provinces of the East
7	Transfer of 12 Sports Federation of championship domain and career to public sport
8	Holding 19843 sports and cultural festival since the beginning of 2014
9	Setting up 8 thousand sports center inside the school and out of school for three thousand students

(Source: Information Center of the Ministry of Sport and Youth)

Table (4): Measures in the field of women's sports (2015-2016)

Row	Measures
1	Winning the first medal and the women's quota in Olympic
2	Winning 9 Olympic quota and Para-Olympic quota of 2016 Rio, Brazil
3	Increase in assuming the presidency of Sports Federation by women from one to three
4	Winning 48 seats at international level in the field of women's sports
5	Sending 25 female Iranian judges to judge to international events
6	The formation of 32 specialized working and strategic groups of women in the country
7	Conducting 1608 competitions in women's sport in 2015 and 2016
8	Winning 488 medals at international levels (217 in 2014 and 271 in 2015)
9	The presence of 8992 women in sport leadership positions

(Source: Information Center of the Ministry of Sport and Youth)

Table (5): Measures to support the sports in villages and remote tribal areas and revitalizing local and traditional sports (2015-2016)

Title of the program	Year 2015	2016 (from March to August)
Holding cultural festivals and sports and traditional games (cases)	521	325
Number of organized sportsmen rural and tribal (people)	194 675	125 674
The establishment of rural sports in deprived villages (units)	100	70
Holding various sports competitions in the rural areas (cases)	7043	5428

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Sport and Youth to the National Committee of U.P.R, 2016)

Table (6): Actions towards the creation of appropriate infrastructure for Sport (2015-2016)

Row	Measures
1	Inauguration of 600 semi-finished sport projects
2	Inauguration of 361 development projects in 2015 at national and provincial levels
3	Authorizing the executive institutions to allocate a percentage of their budget to the sport
4	95 percent improvement of the second National Stadium
5	Standardizing Azadi Stadium (Tehran)
6	Completing the final phase of the 75 thousand people stadium of Naghshe-Jahan with 95 percent
7	Construction of standard laboratory for sport equipment in the country for the first time

(Source: Information Center of the Ministry of Sport and Youth)

Table (7): sports centers built throughout the country (2015-2016)

Description	Year 2015 (units)	Year 2016 (units)
National operational projects of provincial administrations across the country	361	171
Operational projects of development and maintenance of sports facilities	7	2
Operational projects to benefit from the technical assistance and credit	26	15
Operational projects of General Offices by Sports benevolent donors	54	2
Projects under construction	684	798

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Sport and Youth to the National Committee of U.P.R, 2016)

Rights of Refugees, asylum seekers and illegal immigrants

Rights of Refugees, asylum seekers and illegal immigrants

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations /completely	Country
138.20	Consider the possibility of acceding to the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;	Egypt
138.281	Continue maintaining good cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in favour of refugees with disabilities;	Kuwait
138.285	That measures taken to protect refugee rights be in compliance with the internationally recognized norms and standards;	Afghanistan
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
138.113	Continue to work on the creation of a national legal framework for the protection of minorities, including immigrants and refugees, thus protection from violence and appropriate treatment within society;	Tajikistan
138.286	Strengthen the capacity of processing, hosting and integrating asylum seekers, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders;	Mexico

At present, I.R. Iran is host to over 980,000 refugees and 2,000,000 foreign nationals illegally residing in the country, which has ranked I. R. Iran as the second receiver of refugees in the world.

Hosting over a total three million refugees and illegal foreign nationals particularly in recent years, when Iran has been under the thrust of the unilateral, illegal and unfair sanctions, has brought a double heavy burden to bear on the country. However, due to its religious beliefs and humanitarian considerations, I. R. Iran has generously allocated huge amounts of its resources to these people providing them with services in different fields. Meanwhile, international assistance to Iran with respect to the burden of refugees has been very scant to the point that it

accounts only for a fraction (less than 3%) of the total expenses. So, it is necessary for the international community to abide by its obligation to cooperate and assist the host country in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility under such circumstances.

Education

The most important development which has taken place with respect to the education of refugees was the order issued by the Supreme Leader in April 2015 on the necessity of enrolment of Afghan children (including the Afghan immigrants illegally residing in the country) in the schools of the country. The by-law on the education of foreign nationals

adopted by the Council of Ministers in April 2015 has recognized the right of access to formal education for all children residing in the territory of I.R. Iran without any discrimination. In accordance with the by-law, children of all foreign nationals residing in I.R. Iran, irrespective of their status, are entitled to the formal education in the country.

The Literacy Movement Organization is responsible for the education of the population aged 10-49. The literacy programs of the country cover the illiterate Iranian and non-Iranian adult population alike (e.g. immigrants and foreign nationals including Afghans, Iraqis...). From 2014 till March 2016, 725,553 foreign nationals had attended "literacy courses". In the school year of 2015, 45,000 foreign nationals

attended literacy courses and, in 2016, 3000 more were covered by the Literacy Movement Organization. In 2013-2014 school year, over 360,000 children of foreign refugees and illegal immigrants were studying at primary, intermediate and secondary school levels in the country. In 2014-2015 and 2016-2017 school years, respectively over 386,720 and 405,000 children of foreign nationals were enrolled in 25,800 and 25,600 schools at different levels. The per capita cost for the education of each student is estimated over 22,000,000 Rials.

The costs of the education of the children of foreign nationals for each school year are some 8000 billion Rials (equivalent to 260 million US dollars) which are provided by the government of I.R. Iran.

Table (1) number of refugees and illegal immigrants educating at primary, intermediate and secondary school levels

2012-2013 school-year	2014-2015 school-year	2015-2016 school-year
360,000	386,720	405,000

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

Other measures taken by Iran's Ministry of Education for children of foreign nationals in the 2016-2017 school year are reflected in the following table.

Table (2): services provided to foreign nationals by Ministry of Education in 2016-2017 school year

row	services
1	Holding health and hygiene training courses for 12,000 foreign students in different provinces
2	Holding life skills training courses for 5,000 foreign students in different provinces
3	Distribution of 10,000 pieces of school uniform among needy foreign students in Tehran province
4	Distribution of 10,000 credit cards with a balance of 693,000 Rials buyable at Refah chain stores along with school uniforms among needy foreign students in Tehran province
5	Provision of 8 billion Rials (equivalent to 230,000 US dollars) worth of educational and rehabilitation equipment for schools of exceptional children in Tehran and Alborz provinces, initiating a number of programs for promotion of Afghan studies and culture, and also holding sports events for foreign students in some provinces of the country

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

The total number of foreign refugee university students in I.R. Iran reached 41,414 from 2008 till 2015. The students were educating at associate, bachelor's, master's and doctorate degree levels and so far over 20,000 of them have been graduated.

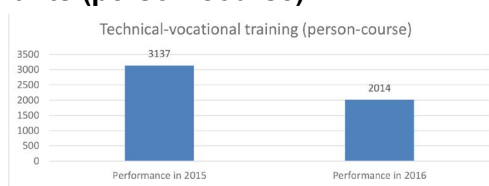
In order to help the empowerment of refugees and the reconstruction process of Afghanistan, training courses were introduced since 2011 for refugees in different fields such as welding, building wiring, building piping, vehicle repair, computer, drawing, accounting, sewing, hair dressing, etc. From 2011 till 2015, 9560 refugees attended and received the certificates of the courses.

Also, three agreements have been concluded by

Iran's Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare to provide technical-vocational training and support the employment of foreign nationals in I.R. Iran as follows:

- Agreement signed with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the General Department for Foreign Nationals and Immigrants of Iran's Interior Ministry.
- Agreement signed with Danish Refugee Council and the General Department for Foreign Nationals and Immigrants of Iran's Interior Ministry.
- Agreement signed with Norwegian Refugee Council and the General Department for Foreign Nationals and Immigrants of Iran's Interior Ministry.

Chart (1) information relating to technical-vocational training provided for refugees and immigrants (person-course)



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

Occupation and job opportunities for foreign nationals and immigrants

Though there has been 82% rise in the population of refugees and immigrants in Iran who are mostly from crisis-stricken countries in the past three decades, I.R. Iran's performance on creation of jobs for them has been acceptable. In accordance with the population and housing census of 2011, there were 1,688,195 legal foreign nationals residing in the country. Of the entire population of foreign nationals aged 10 and over, 507,880 (39.6%) fall in the active population group and 701,938 (54.8%) fall in the inactive population group. Also, of the active population group, 470,610 (92.7%) have occupations and 37,270 (7.3%) are without jobs. Table 3 provides information on the occupation of foreign nationals in Iran.

Table (3): information on the occupation of foreign nationals in Iran (census of 2011)

row	Foreign nationals	number
1	Total No. of foreign nationals by March 2011	1,688,195
2	Total No. of male foreign nationals	914,498
3	Total No. of female foreign nationals	773,697
4	Active population of foreign nationals	570,880
5	inactive population of foreign nationals	701,938
6	population of foreign nationals with occupations	470,610

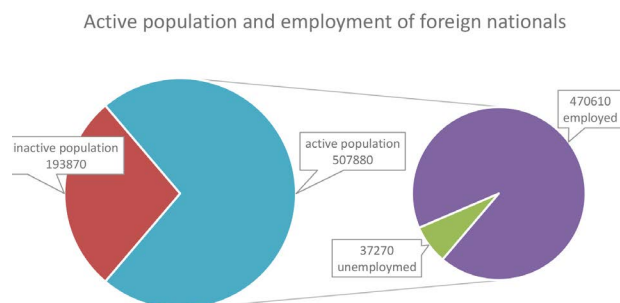
(Source: report of the Strategic Information and Statistics Center, 2016)

Table (4): information relating to the medical insurance for foreign nationals in 2015 (5 months) and 2016 (5 months)

Statistics relating to the medical insurance for foreign nationals in 2015 (5 months) and 2016 (5 months)				
year	Non-vulnerable	vulnerable	With special diseases	total
2015 (5 months)	25,091	61,463	578	87,132
2016 (5 months)	15,333	72,886	1051	89,270

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

Chart (2): information on the active population and occupation of foreign nationals in Iran



(Source: report of the Strategic Information and Statistics Center, 2016)

Health and medical treatment

In accordance with the MOU signed between the Ministry of Health, Medical Treatment and Education, Interior Ministry and Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare of I.R. Iran in 2015, all foreign refugees were provided with access to primary health and medical service insurance in the same way as the Iranian nationals.

Under the MOU, 87,132 insurance applicants were provided, in 2015, with insurance service in the three vulnerable, special disease, and non-vulnerable groups like other segments of the society. The number of the insured foreign nationals reached 87,132 in 2016.

As for the insurance premiums for the first two groups, no amount of money is charged to foreign nationals and the related fees are paid by UNHCR, but the third group pay their own insurance premiums. The information relating to population covered by insurance service is reflected in the following table.

Table (5): information relating to the population of insured foreign nationals under social security servie

year	Foreign nationals	% increase
2015	6,825	-
2016 (7 months)	23,500	244.32

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

Other services provided to foreign nationals in the health care and medical treatment sector in 2015-2016 are reflected in the following table.

Table (6): services provided to foreign nationals in the health care and medical treatment sectors in 2015-2016

row	Type of service
1	Holding training and retraining courses (30 courses in 2015 and 50 courses in 2016) for officers who are responsible for providing health-related services at foreign nationals camps and in host cities
2	Providing health and medical equipment and materials needed in refugee camps and host cities including sampling and treatment, masks, disinfection and fumigation and family hygiene items and materials
3	Free vaccination of refugees who refer on their own or are identified by the related health centers
4	Identifying and treatment of patients particularly those suffering from communicable diseases at refugee camps and in host cities
5	Pre-and-post-natal mother and infant care
6	Providing access for all vulnerable children particularly those with disabilities to health insurance
7	Provision of clinical and para-clinical services to 3000 foreign refugees with special diseases
8	Since March 2016, in accordance with the "Paragraph L of Article 28 of the Law of 5 th Five-year Development Plan", issuance of accidents insurance policy for all foreign nationals became obligatory. Under the same provision, some 100,000 Afghan nationals had been provided with accidents insurance coverage till September 2016.
9	Following up the attraction of 10,043,832,579 Rials (equivalent to 300,000 US dollars) from international sources to help the treatment of 11,660 of children of Afghan refugees suffering from disabilities
10	Following up the attraction of contributions from international sources through UNHCR to support the treatment of 120 children of Afghan refugees suffering from cancer
11	Following up the attraction of contributions from international sources through UNHCR to support the treatment of 80 children of Afghan refugees who need heart, orthopedic and rehabilitation treatment
12	Establishment of a committee for Afghan refugees with disabilities with a view to attracting the services of civil societies and non-governmental organizations involved in the treatment of Afghan disabled in Iran to help their treatment, and also improve their quality of life, job and life skills and personal capacities

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

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and the Members of Their Families

With the accession of I.R. Iran to the Geneva Convention of 1951, the Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare has taken the necessary measures for the occupation of foreign nationals in accordance

with the provisions of the Articles 17 and 18 of the Convention (occupation of refugees). The measures taken by the Ministry for foreign nationals can be appraised in accordance with the standards laid down by the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and the Members of Their Families. The number of work permits issued for refugees has been rising in 2015 and 2016, which shows that issues such as residence, occupation and supports provided to foreign immigrants particularly refugees have been regulated as reflected by table 7.

Table (7): number of work permits issued for Afghan refugees in I.R. Iran

Year	number	% increase
2015	190,000	-
2016 (9 months)	200,000	6.5

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

During the past two years, around 400,000 foreign nationals residing in the country have received work permits through the Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare. Also, the client care service has been provided for Afghan nationals with the establishment of 165 residence and work legal service offices in 14 provinces of the country.

Cooperation and interaction with UNHCR

UNHCR has a central office which has been operating for three decades in Tehran. It has also offices in Kerman, Khorasan and Fars provinces. Pedro Comissario, the Chair of the Executive Committee of UNHCR visited Iran in September 2015. Also, George Okkoth-Obbo, the Assistant High Commissioner for Operation visited Iran in March 2016 and appreciated Iran's services to refugees particularly in the education and health sectors.

Filippo Grandi, the High Commissioner for Refugees visited Iran in April 2016 and met with the related Iranian authorities. He also visited some technical-vocational schemes for refugees in the city of Qom and talked to the refugees there concerning their issues. He voiced his appreciation for Iran's services and contributions to refugees.

Interior Minister of I.R. Iran, too, met with the High Commissioner for Refugees on the sidelines of his visit to New York in September 2016. SivankaDhanapala, the head of the UNHCR office in Tehran, in an interview with the media in November 2016 stated: "Iran's way of hosting refugees is a commendable and exemplary model."

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

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

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.50	Continue its policies and initiatives aimed at the promotion of dialogue, cooperation and tolerance between different cultures and religions of the national minorities of Iran;	Armenia
138.53	Strengthen and expand interreligious and intercultural dialogue;	Lebanon
138.219	Take measures to fully respect the freedom of religion and belief of its citizens;	Norway
138.220	Ensure respect, in law and in practice, of the freedom of religion and belief ;	Poland
138.221	Ensure the freedom of religion and belief for all citizens of Iran;	Romania
138.118	Guarantee the full enjoyment by all minorities of all their social, cultural and political rights, especially their right to education;	Bahrain
138.119	Adopt policies and mechanisms to avoid that members of any religious minority suffer from any kind of discrimination or human rights violation for exerting their right to worship according to their faith;	Brazil
138.122	Implement previous recommendations to guarantee the protection of the civil and political rights of all minority groups;	Iceland
138.127	Take all appropriate measures to end discrimination and intimidation against persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities;	Slovakia
138.131	Review its legislation and policy so as to ensure freedom of religion of persons belonging to religious minorities, including Baha'is, as well as protection of their other human rights without any discrimination;	Czech Republic
138.282	Ensure that religious, ethnic and sexual minorities are able to exercise their rights and freedoms, as guaranteed by the Iranian Constitution;	Netherlands
138.284	Continue to address measures that protect religious and ethnic minorities in the interests of ensuring their full and equal participation in public and private life;	New Zealand

Religious Minority

In the Islamic Republic of Iran's constitution, an independent chapter named "People's Rights" is defined in which different social classes' rights including language, religious, racial and ethnic groups as well as legitimate and legal liberties are recognized in 24 articles and based on which all citizens, men and women, are equally advocated by civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Words such as "everyone," "all," "any Iranian", and the rest are emphasized in a majority of articles in the constitution to the extent that fundamental rights are recognized for every Iranian citizen and national yet all Iranians may benefit from them without any discrimination. Nonetheless, article 14 of the constitution clearly bounds Islamic Republic of Iran's government and Muslims to observe

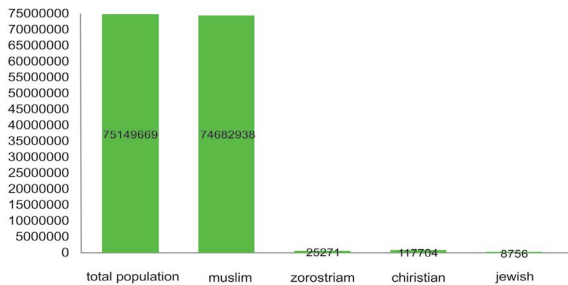
ethics, moderation and Islamic justice toward non-Muslims as well as respecting their human rights. It needs to be mentioned that based on article 13 of the constitution, Zoroastrian, Jewish and Christian are recognized as religious minorities. However, followers of other sects – whose numbers are limited – have their citizen rights recognized.

According to the Population and Housing Census⁶ in 2011, Iran's population equals to 75149669 people among which 74682938 are Muslims (99.39%), 25271 Zoroastrian (0.03%), 117704 Christians (0.16%) and 8756 Jewish (0.01%). In today's world, a country and a government with one race, one language and followers of one religion doesn't exist.

⁶ According to the laws, Population census occurs once every five years. The population of the country in accordance with the latest census which was done in March 2017, is 79,926,270, but detailed results have not been published by the time of preparing this report.

There are groups with specific racial, linguistic and religious features in most countries. Islamic Republic of Iran is among the countries with a vast ethnic diversity which are not recognized as minorities.

Chart (1): Population composition of Religious Minorities (2011)



(Reference: Ministry of State's report to the National UPR committee, 2016)

Freedom of Religion and Conscious

Article 23 of the Constitution sets forth “the investigation of individuals’ beliefs is forbidden and no one may be molested or taken to task simply for holding a certain belief. Article 26 of the Constitution stipulates “the formation of parties, societies, political and professional associations as well as religious societies, whether Islamic or pertaining to one of the recognized religious minorities is permitted provided they don’t violate principles of independence, freedom, national unity, the principles of Islam or the basis of the Islamic Republic. No one may be prevented participating in the aforementioned groups or be compelled to participate in them.

Article 13 of the constitution emphasizes on personal freedom to perform rituals, religious teachings and following customs of religious minorities in their personal status. Islamic Republic of Iran recognizes the right to celebrate religious ceremonies as well as the related holidays for the minorities and their followers in governmental departments as well as those serving the compulsory military service allowed to take leaves during their official ceremonies. Religious minorities are allowed to benefit from country’s official holidays in addition to special leaves on religious ceremonies such as Day of Atonement, Zoroaster’s birthday, Jesus Christ’s (P.B.U.H) birthday and Easter Day.

Worshipping space per capita for religious minorities is almost double the size of Muslims. Christians own more than 250 churches around the country with 1 church available for a population less than 500 people; furthermore, Jews own 16 synagogues and Zoroastrians 78 places of worship. Continuously, religious places of minorities are

refurbished by the government with public budget; some of the locations being more historic are even nationally registered. For instance, Qare Kelisa in Western Azerbaijan province is globally registered by UNESCO as the 9th national monument due to its unique architecture.

Table (1): Number of Minorities’ Places of Worship in Iran

Religion	Christians	Jews	Zoroastrians
Number of Sanctuaries	250	16	78

(Reference: Ministry of Interior’s report to the National UPR committee, 2016)

Up to the late January 2016, 58 religious minorities associations, have been active, whose statistical details are mentioned in the following table.

In spite of the fact that religious minorities comprise less than half a percent (0.2%) of the national population, and with 150 people population they own 5 representatives in the Parliament whereas 1 representative is assigned for every 150 thousand other citizens. The approach is one of the arrangements to reserve minorities’ rights as well as guaranteeing their political participation called “Guaranteed Seats.” In addition to the Parliament, the representatives of religious minorities are present in urban and rural councils. Furthermore, religious minorities own more than 80 participating cooperative formations in various grounds as well as religious studies research centers.

Table (2): Number of Religious Minorities’ Associations until late January 2016

Jews	Zoroastrians	Christians	
3	29	Armenians	Assyrians
		17	9

(Reference: Ministry of Interior’s report to the National UPR committee, 2016)

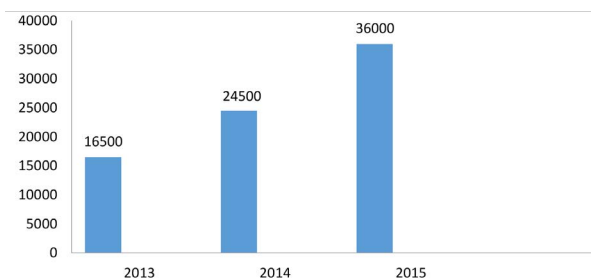
Religious minorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran own specific newspapers and monthlies so as to inform their society and coreligionists. In the society of Armenians, newspapers such as Alik, Peyman Quarterly, Araks, Ararat, Apaga Ayandeh and Loveis Noir monthlies as well as Huveis biweekly – printed in Tehran both in Persian and Armenian – could be named. Additionally, Alik institute related to the Armenian society has a long history in printing various books in Armenian in addition to newspaper issuance. Johannes Center Publications belonging to the Chaldean Catholic Church is among valid publishers of Christian texts. Besides, Assyrian society issue, Assyrians’ Message monthly. Furthermore, publications of minorities,

namely Naerie, Huveis and etc. are able to print and distribute books in the country and are active in the field. The Jews own OfoghBina review in addition to owning Tehran Jewish Association. Zoroastrians' specific publications, such as 1 Mordad weekly, Pars-e-Emruz monthly, Parsnameh, Farevahar monthly, Chista, Teahouse, Rasti and etc., are also active in the country. Additionally, all minorities are allowed to be present and active in other publications. To sum up, minorities own 20 newspapers, weeklies, monthlies and magazines as well as 5 printing and publishing centers. In the previous decade, minorities printed more 500 religious books inside the country, which is a unique event.

In 2015, around 1 million dollar was allocated through the national budget to provide services and conveniences to minorities 42.5% of which spent for Armenians, 23.5% to Zoroastrians and the rest for Assyrians and Jews based on population and geographical location. Compared to 2013, the amount depicts a twofold growth. In addition to official budget allocation to the minorities, the government and governmental institutions present them with a variety of financial aids in different forms among which construction of a stadium for the Armenians by Tehran municipality in 2016 could be named for which 628 thousand dollars was assigned.

**Chart (2): Allocated Budget for Minorities (2015)
(Figures in Million Rials)**

(Reference: Ministry of State's report to the National UPR committee, 2016)



According to the constitution, not only religious minorities have the right to education but also they are free to learn specific rituals and teach as well as benefitting local and ethnic languages in the Media, Press and Schools. In addition to having the chance to study in normal schools, the minorities are allowed to have their own schools. Currently, 93 schools belonging to the religious minorities are active in the country. Furthermore, the national Parliament passed a law in 2016 according to which the minorities are allowed to found their own schools. According to the law of establishing non-profit schools, the minorities are allowed to found non-profit ones. Similar to other

citizens, the religious minorities are able to study higher levels of education. In order to support the minorities' literature and cultures, their related higher education courses are defined in Iranian universities (such as B.A in Armenian Language and Literature in Azad University and Isfahan University).

Enhancing Tolerance, Cooperation and Conversation among Religions

Islamic Republic of Iran has taken serious and great steps to encourage mutual respect and understanding among members of majorities and religious minorities inviting cultural elites and thinkers to hold different talks including several inter-religious talks revolving around Muslims' Peaceful Coexistence, talks with Catholic Christians, talks with Protestant and Orthodox Christians and talks with Iranian Armenians under the title of "Muslims' Peaceful Coexistence with Armenian Christians." Holding two international Islamic Unity Conferences in 2015 and 2016 with the presence of Islamic scholars and thinkers from various religions in Tehran is a highlighted example of Iran's efforts to urge collaborations and talks in this field. In this regard, the following activities have been done in the previous two years:

- Holding unified Islamic Nation Seminar,
- Holding panels of discussion on challenges and Solutions for the current crisis of the world of Islam with the presence of Sunnite and Shiite scholars from different countries,
- Holding scientific seminar about approximation and important issues in the world of Islam with the presence of foreign guests such as scholars from Senegal,
- Holding Specialized scientific seminar with the presence of British Muslim thinkers along with visiting Sunnite elites and centers in Iran,
- Visiting of Iranian religious delegation to Moscow to participate in International Conference of Islamic Unity – muslims' unity: Base of discourse,
- Participation of Shiite and Sunnite scholars in International peace talks, cultures and religions talks in Tirana – Albania,
- Participation in "Nation's Unity" conference in Lahore – Pakistan,
- Participation of Iranian religious scholars' delegation in "European Islamic Societies Leaders" conference in Croatia,

- Participation of Shiite and Sunnite experts in the seminar of talks and cooperation among religions as the tool to achieve sustainable and just peace in Moscow,
- Participation of Iranian delegation in Islamic Unity

Conference: necessities and future perspective in Jakarta – Indonesia.

Another section of the measures taken in 2015 and 2016, are shown in the following table.

Table (3): Seminars and Ceremonies for Religious Followers

Number	title	2015	2016(9 months)
1	Seminars with Religious Minorities	34	29
2	Religious Minorities' Festivals and Ceremonies	1688	291
3	Seminars with Sunnite Scholars and Elites	109	142
4	Seminars with Sunnite Scholars and Elites	271	198
5	Religious Ceremonies	3335	2144

(Source: of Association for Islamic Report Religions proximity to the UPR National Committee, 2016)

Promotion and Strengthening of Unity and Solidarity with the Sunnites

Based on Article 12 of the constitution, other Islamic religions except Shiite, such as Sunnites, are thoroughly respected and their followers are free to perform their rituals, religious teachings and personal status, which is also recognized by the courts. In every region that these religions are as majorities, local regulations will be in accordance with their religions, based on the council's power and protect of the rights

of other religions. It needs to be mentioned that the Sunnites are not considered as religious minorities in Iran and in fact they are part of the majority. The Sunnites own more than 15 thousand mosques all around the country which forms a higher statistics in comparison with the Shiites' population. On the other hand, the president always appoints a Sunnite councilor not only to facilitate communication, but also to address their issues. The most important related steps have taken in this regard in 2015 and 2016 (9 months) are depicted in the following table.

Table (4): Some of the measures taken to strengthen unity and friendship with other religions and sects inside the country in the previous two years

Number	Explanation
1	The president meeting with Sunnite representatives from all over the country in late December 2016 stressing on solidarity between the Sunnites and Shiites
2	Establishing Al-Hiwar Al-Islami Assembly (Islamic Talks Assembly) in order to improve familiarity, understanding and deepening the understanding among followers of Islamic religions through face-to-face or virtual talks as well as building close relationships with elite and effective scholars of other Islamic religions
3	Establishing Islamic religions proximity offices in four Sunnite-living corners of the country with the aim of better communication and promotion of talks and cooperation
4	Surveying various problems of the Sunnites regions in different meetings of the authorities of Islamic religions proximity Assembly with Sunni offices in different provinces
5	Supporting regional conferences due to the Unity Week (Shiites and Sunnites) in border provinces of the country
6	Officials, including from Islamic Religions Proximity Assembly figures. travelling to Sunnite provinces visiting Sunnite leaders and scholars in various provinces
7	Attending joint conferences of Sunnites and Shiites including participation and speech giving in Sunnites' Friday prayers
8	Broadcasting religious programs related to Sunnite sanctities from IRIB
9	Compilation, research, essays and books publication with participation of Sunnite and Shiite clergies

(Source: of Association for Islamic Report Religions proximity to the UPR National Committee, 2016)

Ethnic Groups

Iran includes a wide range of various ethnic and religion spectrums, who live together with their own customs and traditions as well as difference dialects. The majority of Iranians are Persian and Farsi speakers considered to be the largest language groups. Importantly, Iranian culture and policies are always mixed with peaceful coexistence and mutual respect while Iranian society is one of the successful and friendly examples of coexistence of various ethnicities. During the history, national solidarity and unity has always been the highest principle for Iranians whose clear example is the referendum after victory of the Islamic revolution in April 1979 in which 98.2% of the eligible “agreed” with forming Islamic Republic of Iran government.

Article 19 of the constitution clearly stresses on equality and enjoying equal rights for Iranians from every ethnicity and tribe regardless of color, race, language and etc. Additionally, articles 15, 20, 24 and 26 of the constitution are about cultural freedom and the possibility of preserving ethnic identity. According to article 15 of the constitution, the official language and script of the country is Persian, however, using local and ethnic languages in the press and media as well as teaching their literature in schools next to Persian is allowed. Therefore, followers of non-Persian ethnicities and languages are not only free to speak their own languages, but also they have the right to print a publication and teaching them in schools. In this regard, Kurdish language is taught in Kurdistan universities, Gilaki in elementary schools of Gilan province as extra-curricular education, and Turkoman and Azerbaijani teaching projects could be mentioned as instances.

It needs to be mentioned that since IRIB belongs to all Iranians reflecting lives and status of all ethnicities as well as people from different walks of life; thus, IRIB has founded 31 provincial channels and some radio provincial channels, in addition to national TV programs, each of which is a sign of honoring ethnic and local culture and characteristics of each province. Besides, permanent secretariat of festivals and cultural and artistic programs was established with a focus on Iranian ethnicities in Sanandaj

(Kurdistan province) and a festival was held in May 2015 with the presence of 34 cultural and artistic groups from different ethnicities.

Notably, officials from various ethnicities as well as Sunnites are appointed in different posts such as ministers, governor general and deputy governor general, deputy governors, parliamentary representatives, members of urban and rural councils, deputy minister, director general and etc.

According to the current regulations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, such as press law which stress on observing different ethnicities’ and groups’ rights as press supervisory board consisting of scientific and ethical experts carefully scrutinizes reports about “difference making among the society, especially through expressing racial and ethnic issues” forbidden in Paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the law and takes necessary legal actions about offending media.

On the other local hand, to develop and spread local and ethnicities publications, implementation of media justice and more support of medias in less-developed regions, publication applicants in less-developed regions and provinces are prioritized so that local press related to ethnicities are spread, media justice and more support. Additionally, a specific attention is paid in providing facilities to such publications such as press subsidy allocation as well as giving of governmental advertisements to them.

Before Islamic revolution in 1999, 223 Institutes of Higher Education have been active in the country only 7 of which, 3 percent, were situated in ethnicities-inhabiting provinces. Implementation of the government’s policies to support less-developed areas and public access, including the ethnicities, races, languages and even genders, to study higher education, the number reached to 2709 in 2014, 843 of which are located in the aforementioned regions allocating 31.2% of the whole number around the country.

1253351 people participated in the national university entrance exam in 2014, 35.7% of whom, 448050 people, came from different ethnicities (Azeri, Kurd, Lor, Arab, Turkoman, Balouch). 33% of the accepted in the same year came from the aforementioned ethnicities.

Table (5): Distribution of Higher Education Centers among Country's Ethnicities (2014)

Private Sector		Public Sector		Number of Institutes of higher Education	Ethnicities
Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number		
36.2	125	63.8	220	345	Azeri
25.7	36	74.3	104	140	Kurd
26.6	36	73.5	100	136	Lor
33.3	33	66.7	66	99	Arab
41.8	28	58.2	39	67	Turkoman
25.4	16	74.6	39	63	Balouch
32.2	274	67.8	567	850	Total

(Reference: Ministry of State's report to the National UPR committee, 2015)

As is seen above, the public sector has a twofold participation compared with the private sector regarding providing equitable access to higher education and creation of equal opportunities.

Charter of the citizens' rights which was signed by the president in December 19, 2016, includes some paragraphs on religions minorities and ethnic groups as following.

Table (6): Minorities-related Regulations in the character of citizens' Rights

Description	Article
Any insult, humiliation or hatred creation regarding ethnicities and followers of religions and different social and political groups are forbidden,	Article 10
The citizens have the right to benefit from gathering information and knowledge in the cyberspace freely and without discrimination. The right includes respecting cultural, linguistic diversities and traditions, religious beliefs and observing ethical rights in the cyberspace,	Article 33
The citizens have the right to choose their preferred job freely and without discrimination. No one is allowed to prevent this right due to ethnic, religious, gender reasons or difference in political or social orientations.	Article 77
Regardless of their ethnic and religious differences, the citizens have the right to cross-cultural communication.	Article 97
No one is allowed to cause ethnic, religious and political hatred in the minds of children or cause violence in the minds of children regarding a specific race or religion through teaching and educating as well as the media,	Article 110

(Reference: Character of Citizens' Rights)

The Media: Minorities and Ethnicities

The IRIB plays a highlighted role in paying attention to minorities and ethnicities. Performance of programming areas, focusing on "attention to

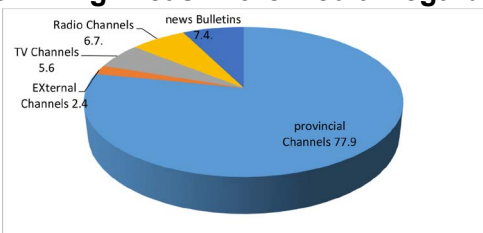
ethnicities" and religious minorities in 2015 and 9 months in 2016 have been 7834 hours which are mentioned in table 7 and chart 3 separately.

Table (7): Performance of Programming Areas in the Media Regarding Ethnicities and Minorities (2015 and 9 months in 2016)

Number	Channels	Duration
1	Radio Channels	527
2	Television Channels	438
3	News Bulletins	582
4	Provincial Channels	6100
5	Internal Channels	186
6	Total	7833

(Reference: Media report to the National UPR Committee, 2015)

Chart (3): Performance of Programming Areas in the Media Regarding Ethnicities and Minorities



(Source: Media report to the National UPR Committee, 2015)

Sects

Baha'ism is one the sects which is basically a political - not a religious – one established around 200 years ago by some colonial governments and based on certain documents with the aim of undermining Iranians' Islamic faiths and beliefs. Nonetheless, according to articles 4, 22 and 23 of the Islamic Republic of Iran's constitution. Followers of the sects benefit from all citizenship rights. Based

on Islamic religious teachings, faith inquisition is strictly forbidden and according to article 23 of the constitution "faith inquisition is forbidden and no one shall be reprimanded owing to his faith." In spite of the claims, Baha'is conditions in Iran is much better other countries concerned. The privileges assigned to this category represents a guarantee and observing their fundamental rights as citizens in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Table (8): Bahai Sect's Set of Rights

Legal Rights	Economic Rights	Social and Cultural Rights`
Registration of marriage in their birth certificates	Work permit issuance	Private Cemetery
Real estate and properties trade	Principle Agreement Issuance	Sectarian activities such as attending rituals every 19 days
Baha'is marriage being official as well as recorded in registry offices	Company establishment permit issuance	Benefiting medical offices Education in Iranian Schools and Universities ,
	Benefitting bank facilities	benefiting from medical insurance
	Loan allocation and other agricultural services	Benefiting from national medical insurance
	Significant presence in economic activities, communications and public services; winning various tenders; benefitting the right to advertise products in the pervasive media	Construction of Baha'is' nursing home
	Construction and financial organizations permit issuance	
	Owning lands and natural resource for agricultural activities such as rangelands of stock	Production and distribution of Baha'i pamphlets for members
	Owning tractors and agricultural equipment in Cooperative prices	Passport issuance and permission to travel abroad
	Benefitting interest-free loans based on possible notes	Sectarian training courses for children, teenagers and youth
	Being active in different professions such as trade, services, guilds, medical and even some guild being exclusive to them (such as optometry)	
	Living in upper areas of the cities	
	Benefitting from pensions	
	Benefitting from civil rights, amenities and services	

Contrary to the claims regarding preventing Baha'is higher education the following points should be noted. Article 30 of the Constitution names free education and physical training education for everyone at all levels as well as facilitation and expansion of higher education a duty upon the government. According to the Article, "the government is bound to provide free-of-charge education materials for the nation by the end of high school in addition to improving materials of higher education to the point of the country's self-sufficiency." Islamic Republic of Iran's education

centers have rules and regulations that as long as followed – regardless of one's religion and faith – no one has the slightest right to offend them. In contrast to the policies of the countries claiming human rights who officially deprive people with the excuse of having religious signs, Iran respects everyone's religion and beliefs. After all, presence of different Baha'is in Iranian universities studying higher levels of education, such as master's and doctorate, goes in contrary to the claims.

Freedom of Formation and Activities of Parties, Assemblies, Societies and Associations

Freedom of Formation and Activities of Parties, Assemblies, Societies and Associations

No. Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.66	Fulfil its promises of a more open society through the implementation of the recommendations it endorsed in 2010;	Norway
138.224	Work towards guaranteeing a favourable environment for the activities of journalists, human rights defenders and civil society;	Tunisia
138.235	Take the necessary steps to ensure that its citizens fully enjoy the rights and freedoms awarded to them by the Iranian Constitution, with special emphasis on the right to freedom of expression, the right to political activity and the right to assemble;	Norway
138.236	Strengthen and promote freedom of expression, particularly that of the press;	Senegal
138.239	Give further account to its measures to ensure public access to the Internet as well as progress being made thereon;	Japan
No. Rec	Accepted Recommendations /Partially	Country
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
138.226	Guarantee the right to legitimate freedom of expression, association and assembly, and release political prisoners, including activists, lawyers and journalists, detained solely for exercising these rights;	Australia
138.229	Enhance freedom of the media, establish effective protection mechanisms for journalists against attacks and intimidation and grant its people free access to electronic media;	Czech Republic
138.231	Ensure full respect for freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom of the media, and guarantee unfettered access for all persons in Iran to domestic and foreign media information, both offline and online;	Germany
138.234	Guarantee freedom of speech and eliminate restrictions to the free flow of information, including through the Internet, and stop arrests, prosecution and sanction of individuals for expressing views and opinions;	Netherlands
138.237	Effectively implement its international obligations to ensure the protection of human rights defenders and others exercising their rights to freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association in compliance with international human rights law;	Finland

The Article 26 of the Constitution has recognized the freedom of the formation and activities of political parties and societies, trade unions and professional associations as well as religious societies, whether Islamic or pertaining to one of the recognized religious minorities and, no one, under the said provision, can be prevented from participating in or be compelled to participate in any such institutions. Political parties and societies in I.R. Iran conduct their activities in keeping with the provisions of the aforesaid Article and also the “Political Parties Law” (passed in 1981 by the Islamic Consultative Assembly).

Under the Article 10 of the “Political Parties Law”, a commission named after the same Article, that is, “Commission of Article 10” has been established in the Interior Ministry which is responsible for registering and issuing license for the activities of political groups and civil societies. In that context, by November 2015, over 242 political parties and societies, 515 trade unions, professional associations, and associations formed by the retired staff members of governmental departments, and also 58 associations pertaining to religious minorities had been registered and operating in the country.

Table (1): Number of the registered parties and associations (October 2013 – November 2015)

Row	Year	Political		Professional & Retirees			Religious Minorities	
		Established	Issued license	Established	Issued license	Extension of license	Established	Extension of license
1	Second half of 2013& first half of 2014	4	4	11	12	50	-	15
2	2014	8	4	44	11	74	-	9
3	November 2015	12	6	19	16	56	1	9
Total		24	16	74	39	180	1	36
Total No of licenses		40		293			37	

(Source: Ministry of Interior website)

Also, in 2015 and 2016 (9 months), 12 political parties received licenses for their activities with 6 of them operating at the national and 6 others at the provincial levels.

Table (2): number of licenses issued for political parties in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

year		scope of activity	
2015	2016(9 months)	provincial	national
8	4	6	6

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

Permits issued for holding public marches and assemblies

Under the Article 27 of the Constitution, public assemblies and marches may be freely held, provided arms are not carried and that they are not detrimental to the Islamic principles. So, under the same provision, permits are issued for public assemblies and marches with respect to professional, as well as political and international issues.

In keeping with the provisions of the Article 26 of the Constitution, the Article 131 of the “Labor Law” of I.R. Iran has recognized the right to form labor unions and professional associations.

It is also to be noted that under the paragraph 5 of the Article 73 of the “Law for the 5th Five-Year National Development Plan”, the right to form workers’ and employers’ organizations and also the right to labor protest for such organizations have been recognized, and the “By-law on Organization

and Management of Labor Protest and Conflict Resolution Mechanisms” has been approved for that purpose. By November 2015, some 515 labor unions and professional associations had received licenses for their foundation and activities from Interior Ministry.

In the past two years, Interior Ministry alone issued 18 permits for marches and assemblies applied by political parties and societies 8 of which were issued in 2015 and 10 others in 2016 (9 months).

Table (3): number of licenses issued for public marches and assemblies in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

number of licenses issued		
2015	2016(9 months)	total
8	10	18

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

Right of Free Access to and Dissemination of Information

The “Law on Publications and Free Access to Information” (passed in 2009), particularly in its Article 2, has recognized the right of free access to information. Under the Articles 6 and 7 of the said Law, every Iranian citizen is free to request access to public information.

To protect the right of citizens to free access to public information and also to monitor the process of the implementation of the “Law on Publications and Free Access to Information” and the proper discharge of the Government’s duties in that respect, a special commission, provided for under the Article 18 of the said Law was formed on 2 July 2014, named “the Commission on Publications and Free Access to Information” consisting of the representatives of the three powers of the government charged with preparing annual reports thereof and submitting them to the President and the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

Also, in keeping with the principle of transparency in legislation and prevention of the enactment of confidential legislation, the Article 11 of the “Law on Publications and Free Access to Information” stipulates: “any legislation and decision which entails a public right or duty cannot be classified as confidential or government secret and must be publicly released.”

The Article 22 of the said Law has criminalized the commission of the following acts by public authorities and has penalized them with cash fines ranging from 300,000 Rials to 100 million Rials (Iranian currency):

Denial of access to public information in defiance of the related provisions of this Law,

Elimination of public information in any area, either in part or in whole, without legal authority for doing so.

The Articles 24, 168 and 175 of the Constitution, have provided for the freedom of expression, publications and the press provided that they are not detrimental to the Islamic principles and public rights, and also for the open investigation and trial of political and press offences in the presence of a Jury; they have also provided for the freedom of expression and dissemination of thoughts on the Radio and Television channels of I.R. Iran in keeping with the Islamic criteria and the best interests of the general public.

In this context, some other legal provisions, foremost among them, the “Law on Publication and Free Access to Information” (passed in 2009) and the “press Law and Its Amendments” (passed in 2015) have been approved. Also, under, the “Law on the Objectives, Policies and Norms of Book publication” (passed in 2010), freedom of expression, thought, speech, and publication of books and promoting one’s thoughts and ideas internationally have been guaranteed.

Book Publication

The statistics relating to book publication released in December 2016 has registered a 19% growth as compared to the statistics of the previous year based on the principal indicators registering a surge from 5956 titles of book in 2015 to 7058 titles of book in 2016. Also, the prices of books had fallen, on average, during 2016 as compared to 2015 dropping from 174,860 Rials (an equivalent of 5 US dollars to 149,080 Rials (an equivalent of 4.2 US dollars).

Table (4): number of titles of book published in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

year	2015	2016 (9 months)
number of titles of book published	5,956	7,058

(Source: report of Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Also, in 2015 and 2016 (9 months), a large number of foreign books and Journals were imported as reflected in the following table.

Table (5): number of titles of foreign books imported in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

2015	2016 (9 month)	Total
1,734,388	1,016,950	2,751,338

(Source: report of Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

By the end of December 2016, over 8000 titles of press outlets including print and electronic media were active in Iran. This included 1930 news agencies and news sites, 284 dailies, 5800 weeklies, biweeklies, monthlies and other periodicals. This figure which was 6790 in 2015 had risen to 8000 (in a period of 9 months) registering a growth of 20%. Also, according to the latest statistics, the number

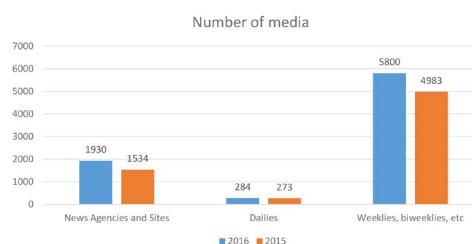
of permits issued for news agencies and news sites had surged by 30%.

Table (6): number of licenses issued for media outlets in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

item	2015	2016 (9 months)
news agencies and news sites	1,534	1,930
newspapers	273	284
weeklies, biweeklies, etc	4,985	5,800
total	6,790	8,014

(Source: report of Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Chart (1): comparing numbers of media activities in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)



(Source: report of Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Table (7): number of media outlets by provinces (2016)

	province	number		province	number
1	East – Azerbaijan	308	17	Fars	237
2	West -Azerbaijan	127	18	Qazvin 69	
3	Ardabil	134	19	Qom	236
4	Isfahan	358	20	Golestan	99
5	Alborz	148	21	Gilan	232
6	Ilam	53	22	Lorestan	127
7	Bushehr	81	23	Mazandran	238
8	Tehran	3943	24	Markazi	117
9	chahar-Mahal-va-Bakhtiari	45	25	Hormozgan	75
10	South – Khorasan	68	26	Hamedan	108
11	Razavi – Khorasan	299	27	Kurdestan	61
12	North – Khuzestan	21	28	Kerman	275
13	Khuzestan	185	29	Kermanshah	96
14	Zanjan	54	30	Kohgiluyeh-va-Buyerahmad	73
15	Semnan	59	31	Yazd	155
16	Sistan-va-Baluchestan	60	32		
total: 8014					

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

Also, by the end of November 2016, 8000 permits for student Journals had been issued, 4000 of which were published in the universities of the country.

The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance is taking measures to grant subsidies and other facilities for Journals and publications pertaining to the recognized religious minorities in Iran and also to shorten the period of time they have to wait to obtain licenses for their Journals. Also, a good number of the licenses issued are for Journals belonging to ethnic groups. For example, in the first 9 months of 2016, in Kurdistan province alone, four licenses had been issued for Journals. In this province, at least, 60 Journals have permits for publication.

In 2015, 148 foreign news media had their own offices established in Tehran and 293 foreign Journalists were active in I.R. Iran. These numbers increased to 152 offices and 314 Journalists in 2016 (9 months).

Table (8): number of foreign Journalists and offices of foreign media active in I.R. Iran in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

year	2015	2016 (9 months)
foreign Journalists	293	314
office of foreign media in I.R. Iran	148	152

(Source: report of Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Since the policy of I.R. Iran has been to help boost the activities of professional associations and encourage media groups of different sort to establish their own professional associations and unions, the number of associations of Journalists which had been established and were operating in the country had reached 20 by the end of 2016.

Protection of the rights of Journalists

In order to raise awareness and create a uniform procedure for the utilization of the capacities of the “Law on Publication and free Access to Information”, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance held a number of training workshops for chief editors and managers of the local media.

Also, in order to attract and further involve media people in improving the substantial quality and also theoretical foundations of media work in the country, the proposed provisions of the draft bill of the “Comprehensive Law of Media” and also the draft bill of the “Law of Media Organization” were submitted in 2015 and followed up for their final approval in the Council of Ministers in 2016.

These two legal documents provide the mechanisms required for the protection of the legal rights and freedoms of Journalists, investigation of possible offence and violations of media people and also reduction of the role of government in the process of issue of licenses and permits for media activities and management of media operation.

from 2014 till 2016, the issue of provision of medical insurance for Journalists and obliging media managers to provide for the insurance of their employed journalists through the introduction of incentives and payment of insurance premiums for Journalists was followed up to create psychological and Job security for and protect the professional independence of Journalists.

The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance also pays subsidies on the insurance of Journalists and media people as reflected in the following table.

Table (9): subsidies provided for Journalists in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

2015	2016 (9 months)	Total
180000000000 Rials (equivalent of 5.14 million US dollars)	110000000000 Rials (equivalent of 3.14 million US dollars)	290000000000 Rials (equivalent of 8.28 million US dollars)

(Source: report of Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Elections as a symbol for democracy in Iran

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the highest government authorities are elected by the direct or indirect vote of the people .The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran is elected by the Assembly of Experts whose members are elected by the direct vote of the people. Other high government authorities including the president and the members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, too, are elected by the direct vote of the people.

Over the past 38 years, more than thirty elections (e.g. presidential, Assembly of Experts, the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the Islamic city and rural councils) have been held with the extensive participation of the people in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Elections are held by the Executive Boards whose members are chosen from among the people`s trustees. No discrimination is practiced against candidates who are nominated from among volunteers Knowledgeable in political, social, cultural

and economic fields and are qualified in accordance with the legal criteria that any society may set for nominees running for public posts through elections.

In the last election of the Islamic Consultative Assembly held in February 2016, 6180 candidates ran for the parliamentary seats; 290 of them were elected to the Assembly. One of the interesting results of the election was the entry of 18 female candidates into the parliament which was a record high in the parliamentary election history. The statistics relating to the last parliamentary election is reflected in the following table. The point to note with respect to the said election is that the election in some constituencies ran into the second round for

lack of the required majority of votes needed for the first round of the election.

It should be noted that Iranian nation once again participated in the elections on 19 May 2017 to elect the president and the members of cities and rural councils. In presidential elections 41,220,131 out of 56,410,234 eligible voters participated in election which as a result, Dr. Hassan Rouhani was elected as the president of the twelfth administration with a vote of 23,549,616.

Table (10): statistics pertaining to the 10th election of the Islamic Consultative Assembly in

2016

General statistics	1 st round	2 nd round
No. of votes	33,956,651	5,901,297
No. of valid votes	32,289,049	5,777,027
No. of acceptable votes	1,667,602	124,270
No. of eligible voters	54,915,024	17,626,335
Participation rate	61,83%	33,48%

(Source: Information Center of Interior Ministry)

Access to information network

In keeping with the provisions of the Article 46 of the “Law for the 5th Five-Year National Development Plan” pertaining to the creation and development of a national information network to enable access to high speed internet service for all citizens, The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has initiated the process of designing and building the infrastructures needed for that purpose which, unfortunately, has slowed down due to the illegal and unfair sanctions against the I.R. Iran.

13.5 million families who account for 55.5% of the entire population had access to internet at home in 2016. Of the total number of families with access to internet, 12.9 million (95.8%) had access to high speed internet, 7 million families (51.9%) had access

to fixed high speed internet and 10.7 million families (79%) to mobile high speed internet. Of the 32 million internet users in Iran, 17,068,730 are male and 15,742,553 are female.

A comparison of the statistics relating to the past three years points to the increasing use of information and communication technology among Iranian families.

Access of families to telephone, computer and internet services had grown in 2016 respectively by 1.1%, 11.5% and 17.7% as compared to 2013. It is added that access coefficient by itself does not indicate the availability or unavailability of internet infrastructures in the country. There might be areas in the country where internet coverage is available but it is not used by families.

Table (11): access of families to information and communication services from 2010 to 2015

item	2010	2013	2015		number	%
	number	%	number	%		
total number of families	20,286,247	100	22,821,770	100	24,299,758	100
access to telephone	19,502,822	96.1	22,262,811	97.6	23,977,109	98.7
access to computer	7,146,171	35.2	10,468,407	45.9	13,938,943	57.4
access to internet	4,336,567	21.4	8,625,067	37.8	13,479,815	55.5

(Source: report on Access of Families to ICT service, Ministry of Communication and IT, 2015)

Table (12): access of families to internet service by urban and rural areas (2015)

families with access to internet		urban areas		rural areas	
number	%	number	%	number	%
13,479,815	55.5	11,162,417	62.1	2,317,398	36.7

(Source: report on Access of Families to ICT service, Ministry of Communication and IT, 2015)

Table (13): access of families to high-speed internet by type and also by urban and rural areas (2015)

item	total		urban areas		rural areas	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
access of families to high speed internet	12,915,609	95.8	10,997,693	98.5	1,917,916	82.8
access of families to fixed high speed internet	9,664,725	51.9	6,408,885	57.4	585,840	25.3
access of families to mobile high speed internet	10,651,549	79	8,969,346	80.4	1,682,203	72.6

(Source: report on Access of Families to ICT service, Ministry of Communication and IT, 2015)

The rise in the number of families with access to internet service points to an increase in the number of internet users. In that context, the number of internet users in Iran has risen from 21165306 to 32821444 and also the internet penetration coefficient has surged from 30% to 45.3% among users.

Table (14): internet penetration coefficient form 2008 to 2015 by urban and rural areas

year	population with access to internet	population of six-year olds and above		
		Total	urban	rural
2008	7,955,928	7,940,790	7,234,395	706,395
Penetration (%)	11.1	12	16.3	3.3
2010	11,002,248	10,992,097	10,150,658	841,439
Penetration (%)	14.7	15.9	20.3	4.4
2013	21,165,306	21,134,399	18,761,404	2,372,955
Penetration (%)	27.4	30	36.6	12.3
2015	32,821,444	32,811,284	27,699,198	5,112,085
Penetration (%)	41.6	45.3	52.1	26.6

(Source: report on Access of Families to ICT service, Ministry of Communication and IT, 2015)

Gender of information and communication technology users

Of the entire population of the country in 2015, 36.9 million of ICT technology users (51%) were male and 35.5 million other users (49%) were female.

During the same period, the numbers of mobile phone, computer and internet male users had reached respectively 30.8 million, 15.5 million and 17.1 million while the numbers of mobile phone, computer and

internet female users had risen to respectively 25.6 million, 14.3 million and 15.7 million, which shows that penetration coefficient for male and female mobile phone users we respectively 83.5% and 72%, penetration coefficient for male and female computer users were respectively 42.1% and 40.3% and finally penetration coefficient for male and female internet users were respectively 46.3% and 44.4%. Of the entire population of internet users aged 6 and above, 52% were male and 48% female.

Table (15): gender of information and communication technology users by 2016

item		total	male	female
	total population	72,375,210	36,895,732	35,479,477
population of mobile phone users	number	56,375,934	30,819,078	25,556,846
	Penetration%	77.9	83.5	72
population of computer users	number	29,782,628	15,518,346	14,264,282
	Penetration%	41.2	42.1	40.2
population of internet users	number	32,811,284	17,068,730	15,742,553
	Penetration%	45.3	46.3	44.4

(Source: report on Access of Families to ICT service, Ministry of Communication and IT, 2015)

Frequency of the use of internet service by users

In accordance with the statistics of 2015, of the entire population of internet users aged 6 and above, about 21 million (61.1%) use internet, at least, once a day, 4.4 million (13.5%), at least, once a week but not every day, 908,000(2.8 %), at least, once a month but not every week and 251000 (0.8 %) less than once a month.

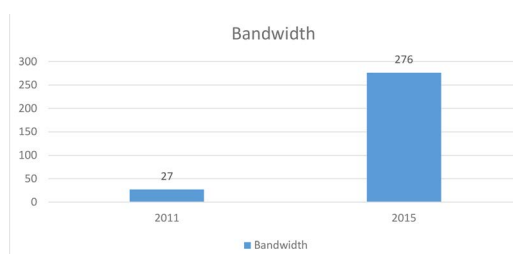
Table (16): frequency of the use of internet service by users

item	2010		2013		2015	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
total population of users	10,992,097	100	21,134,399	100	32,811,284	100
at least, once a day	2,868,507	26.1	7,361,192	34.8	21,029,852	64.1
at least, once a week, but not every day	3,644,725	33.2	5,115,841	24.2	4,437,002	13.5
at least, once a month, but not every week	2,926,129	26.2	2,267,446	10.7	908,281	2.8
less than once a month	1,545,437	14.1	3,381,429	16	251,673	0.8

(Source: report on Access of Families to ICT service, Ministry of Communication and IT, 2015)

International internet bandwidth has grown over 10 times during the past four years.

Chart (2): international internet bandwidth by gigabit per second



(Source: report of Ministry of Communication and Information Technology to the National Committee of UPR, 2015)

Judicial Justice

Judicial Justice

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.27	Consider introducing specific provisions in the Islamic Penal Code about investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of domestic violence;	Portugal
138.206	Continue to improve the national legislation and practice in the field of the independence of the judiciary;	Russian Federation
138.213	Take measures to ensure due process and fair trial, particularly in any process that would lead to the application of the death penalty;	Mexico
No. Rec	Accepted Recommendations /Partially	Country
138.204	Increase the legal measures aimed at guaranteeing due process and the impartiality in the administration of justice, including the independence of judges and the Bar Association, paying special attention to the recommendations concerning the death penalty formulated by the Human Rights Committee, especially in relation to juvenile offenders;	Chile
138.205	Ensure the independence of the judicial system and ensure the rules of fair trial and the rights of the defence;	France
138.208	Ensure immediate access to a freely chosen counsel within the first hour of the procedure, including during the first interrogations and until the end of the judicial process, as well as access to all the official documents of the procedure;	Belgium
138.209	Provide by law unobstructed access to legal counsel throughout all phases of criminal investigation, trial and appeal; ensure the accused is informed of this right immediately upon arrest; and give defendants and their lawyers unrestricted access to the full case file and all evidence against the accused ;	Denmark
138.210	Guarantee due process of law in all judicial proceedings;	Germany
138.211	Ensure, in law and in practice, that all citizens are given fair trials based on the rule of law, as accepted in the 2010 UPR examination;	Norway
138.212	Ensure all the procedural guarantees and the right to a fair trial for all persons indicted of committing a crime, including the right to defence and access to a lawyer;	Romania
138.226	Guarantee the right to legitimate freedom of expression, association and assembly, and release political prisoners, including activists, lawyers and journalists, detained solely for exercising these rights;	Australia
138.234	Guarantee freedom of speech and eliminate restrictions to the free flow of information, including through the Internet, and stop arrests, prosecution and sanction of individuals for expressing views and opinions;	Netherlands

Judicial Justice in I.R. Iran

The preamble of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in view of the importance of Justice in the Islamic justice system, underlines the need for “the establishment of a judicial system, based on Islamic justice, composed of just judges who are versed in (Islamic) laws.” This system, because of its essentially sensitive nature and the need for its full ideological conformity, must be free from any kind of unhealthy relations and connections. During the past decade, the judicial system of I.R. Iran has taken a wide range of measures to administer judicial justice for all citizens by reforming the laws and regulations in force including the penal laws (e.g. Islamic Penal Code and Criminal Procedural Law) as well as civil

laws (e.g. Family Law). The reformation of laws is an on-going process and, at present, some important bills of law including the “5th Book on Criminal Laws” (“Tazirat” or discretionary punishments) and the bill of law on “protection of the rights of children and adolescents” are being formulated for consideration and approval.

An efficient, independent and impartial judicial system

According to the Article 156 of the Constitution, the Judiciary is an independent power. Also, the Articles 164 and 166 of the Constitution protect the independence of Judges and provide for the issuance of reasoned and documented verdicts by judges.

Table (1): legal foundations for the independence of the Judiciary and judges and their impartiality

legal provisions	independence of the Judiciary and judges
Article 156 of the Constitution	the Judiciary is an independent power which is responsible for the protection of individual and society rights and implementation of Justice
Article 164 of the Constitution	A judge cannot be removed, whether temporarily or permanently, from the post he/she occupies except by trial and proof of his guilt, or in consequence of a violation entailing his dismissal. A judge cannot be transferred or redesignated without his consent, except in cases when the interest of society necessitates it, that too, with the decision of the head of the judiciary branch after consultation with the chief of the Supreme Court and the Prosecutor General. The periodic transfer and rotation of judges will be in accordance with general regulations to be laid down by law.
Article 421 of the Criminal Procedures Law (passed in 2014 and enforced in 2015)	The judge should refuse to hear the following cases and the parties to such cases, too, can challenge the prosecution process if they occur: where there is a relation by blood or marriage up to a third degree between the judge and one of the parties to the dispute or his / her accessory or abettor ; where the judge is the guardian or agent of one of the parties to the dispute; where the Judge or his spouse or child is inheritor of one of the parties to the dispute or his / her accessory or abettor; where, the judge has given a substantial opinion, in any capacity, with respect to the same criminal case or has been a witness in the case; where there is a civil or criminal case between the judge or his parents, spouse, or child and one of the parties to the dispute or his / her parents, spouse, or child; or where there has been a record of such a case and not two years have passed since the issuance of a definitive verdict with respect to that case; where the Judge or his spouse or child have an interest in the case,
Article 372 of the Criminal Procedural Law (2014)	The judge should not give any opinion on the possible acquittal or conviction of the accused prior to the completion of the trial process and issuance of the verdict
Draft Comprehensive Bill on Administrative and Employment System of the Judiciary	Preparation of the Draft Comprehensive Bill on Administrative and Employment System of the Judiciary by the Department under the Deputy Head of the Judiciary for Legal Affairs in which the financial and administrative independence of the Judicial power has been stipulated

Fair prosecution and trial

The Justice system of I.R. Iran is based on the principle of fair prosecution and trial which has been underlined in the Constitution, the Criminal Procedural Law and other laws in force in all stages of the prosecution process from uncovering and investigation of crimes up to the enforcement of

verdicts, irrespective of race, religion, gender, and ethnic background. Also, the principles of presumption of innocence and that crimes and punishments must be based on law have been noted in the Article 37 of the Constitution and the Articles 2 and 12 of the Islamic Penal code, under those principles, no one is presumed guilty until his/her guilt has been established by a competent court.

Basically, the protection of the rights of the parties to disputes constitutes the core of implementation of Justice in the judicial system of I.R. Iran. The Criminal Procedural Law which was passed in 2014 and came into effect in 2015 aims to better protect

the rights of the parties to criminal cases, both the accused and the victim, and cover any gaps in the criminal justice system. Some of the new provisions and developments provided for in the Criminal Procedural Law are reflected in the following table:

Table (2): innovations in the Criminal Procedural Law (passed in 2014 and enforced in 2015)

organizing the principles governing the prosecution process and provision for a fair trial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -criminal prosecution must be based on law and guarantee the rights of the parties to legal cases and its rules should be equally applied with respect to persons who are prosecuted for perpetration of crimes under similar circumstances (Article 2), -judicial authorities should try and issue judgments on charges against the accused in the shortest possible time with full independence and impartiality and avoid any action which might disrupt or prolong the criminal trial process (Article 3), -everyone is presumed innocent and in case a person raises a claim against another, evidence should be submitted thereof (Article 4), -the accused should be informed of the charges raised against him / her and the reasons for them, and also of his / her right of access to legal counsel (attorney) and all other rights that he / she is entitled to under the provisions of the Law in the shortest possible time (Article 5), -the accused, the victim, the witness and any or all other persons involved in the case should be informed of their rights in the trial process and should have access to mechanisms which guarantee their enjoyment of the rights (Article 6), -In the entire criminal prosecution process, the citizens' rights provided for in the Law on "Respecting Legitimate Freedoms and Protecting Citizens' Rights" of 2004, should be respected by all the related judicial authorities, Judicial enforcement officers, and all other persons involved in the trial process; violators shall be punished by the penalties provided for in the Law in addition to provision of compensation for any damages caused (Article 7),
The imperative of carrying the special cards issued for the judicial enforcement officers on assignments	the Articles 29 and 30 of the Act on the Duties of the Judicial Enforcement Officers stipulate that judicial enforcement officers are only those police officers who have passed the related training courses rather than all police officers in general: any investigation conducted or other measures carried out by an officer who lacks the special card for the Judicial enforcement officer shall be void and invalid; even if a legal case proceeds to the level of the Supreme Court where it becomes clear that the related Judicial enforcement officer lacked the special card during the conduct of duties with respect to that particular case, the entire investigation process will be invalid
formation of "special police for children and adolescents"	for more effective protection of the rights of children and adolescents in view of their sensitive character, the Law has provided for the formation of a special police for children and adolescents in the Police Force for better performance of the duties of the Judicial enforcement officers
Investigation and interrogation of women and immature persons by female interrogators	to protect more effectively the rights of women and immature persons who are subject to legal accusations, they shall be interrogated, in view of their vulnerable situation, by female officers who have received the training for that purpose,
summons and arrests take place upon warrants issued by the related Judicial authorities	the authority for the issuance of arrest warrants rests only with the Judicial authorities and cannot be delegated to others,
right of contact with family members for the accused when placed under custody	this right has been provided for in the Articles 49 and 50 of the Criminal Procedures Law (2014),
right of NGOs to lodge complaints against offenders	the Article 66 of the law stipulates that NGOs, which have provided for the protection of the rights of children and adolescents, women, sick persons and persons with physical and mental disabilities, environment, natural resources, cultural heritage public health and citizens' rights in their statutes, can lodge complaints against potential offenders in the related fields,

presence of attorney in custody and preliminary investigation stages (pretrial)	under the Article 48 of the Law, the accused can demand access to an attorney as soon as he / she is placed under custody
compensation for detention period after acquittal	under the Article 255, the losses suffered by the accused and the mechanism for claiming such losses have been provided for in the Articles 257 and 261 of the Law,
opening a personality dossier for the accused	As for cases of serious crimes, it is imperative that a personality dossier be opened for the accused by the social worker; character dossiers are also opened for delinquent children and adolescents
elimination of obligatory temporary custody order	since obligatory temporary custody order is incompatible with the principles of presumption of innocence and freedom of movement and also, in order to better protect citizens` rights, the obligatory temporary custody order has been eliminated from the criminal prosecution system; under the Article 242 of the Law, a certain period of time has been set for temporary detention of the accused which is two months for most serious crimes and one month for other crimes and the accused should be set free after the lapse of the period in each case if the case is not established
conversion of the criminal arrest order into prosecution arrest order	The criminal arrest warrant issued by the prosecutor`s office has been converted into arrest warrant for prosecution and the investigator is no longer allowed to treat the accused as a criminal (Article 265),

It is to be noted that there are some important principles which are observed in the entire prosecution process as reflected below:

—The principle of public Justice: the Article 165 of the Constitution of I.R. Iran has recognized the principle of public Justice reading; ‘trials are conducted openly and are free to be seen by the public unless its openness will be detrimental to public order or morals upon the discretion of the court, or in private cases, the parties to the dispute may ask for the trial not to be open to the public.’ this principle has also been underlined in the Article 352 of the Criminal Procedural Law (passed in 2014).

-Two-stage prosecution process: since the Iranian Justice system is based on a two-stage prosecution process, the Judgments issued by lower courts can be appealed in higher courts.

-separation of political and press crimes from general crimes; trial of political and press crimes will be open to the public and shall be held in the presence of a Jury in public courts.

Prohibition of arbitrary arrest or detention

Under the Article 32 of the Constitution, “no one may be arrested except by the order and in accordance with the procedures laid down by law. In case of arrest, charges with the reasons for accusation, must, without delay, be communicated and explained to the accused in writing, and a provisional dossier must be forwarded to the competent Judicial authorities within

a maximum of 24 hours so that the preliminaries to the trial can be completed as swiftly as possible. The violation of this article shall be liable to punishment in accordance with the law.”

- under the Article 570 of the Islamic Penal Code (discretionary and deterrent punishments of 1996),”any government authority or official who deprives a person of his /her freedom or any other rights provided for in the Constitution against law shall be liable to a punishment of 6 months to 3 years in jail, in addition to his /her removal from his/her current post and derivation of employment in governmental Jobs for 3 to 5 years.

- under the Article 575 of the Islamic Penal Code, “Judicial or other competent authorities who order the detention, arrest or criminal prosecution of a person against law, shall be liable to a punishment of permanent removal from their Judicial posts and deprivation of employment in governmental Jobs for 5 years.”

- Article 583 of the Law stipulates” any government authority or official including those in the Armed Services and other governmental organs who detains or incarcerates a person or conceals him / her in a clandestine location by force without the order of the related competent authority shall be punished by a Jail term of one to three years or cash fines.”

- Article 1 of the “Law on Respecting Legitimate Freedoms and Protection of Citizens` Rights” (passed in 2004) reads:” uncovering and prosecution of crimes, conduct of investigation and issuance

of orders for temporary detention or bail must be based on law and transparent Judicial orders and use of personal preferences, force or unnecessary detention must be avoided.”

to select an attorney, and if they are unable to do so, arrangements must be made to provide them with legal counsel.”

Access to legal counsel (attorney)

Article 35 of the Constitution of I.R. Iran, above all other laws in force in the country, has recognized the right of access to attorney. The Article reads:” both parties to a lawsuit have the right in all courts of law

The Criminal Procedural Law has adopted a human rights approach toward the right of access to legal counsel for the parties to lawsuits (the accused and detainees) and opened a new chapter in this regard as it can be seen in the following table.

Table (3): provisions of the Criminal Procedural Law concerning the right of access to legal counsel (attorney)

item	provision of the Law
Article 48	the presence of an attorney at the time of being placed under custody
Article 190	During the investigation phase a defendant may be accompanied by an attorney. This right should be communicated to the defendant by the procurator before the initiation of the investigation. If a defendant is summoned, this right is communicated to him or her in the summons. Note 1: Denial of the right to be accompanied by an attorney, or failure to communicate this right to the defendant, results in invalidation of the investigation. Note 2: When a crime is punishable by death or life imprisonment, if a defendant does not introduce an attorney during the preliminary investigation, the prosecutor will select a court-appointed attorney for the defendant.
Article 195	in view of the rights of the accused, the investigator shall warn the accused, before the commencement of the investigation, to be wary of his / her statements and, then, communicate to and inform him / her of the charges against him /her and the reasons for them and that his / her confession and effective collaboration can be conducive to mitigation of his punishment, and then start the questioning process; the attorney of the accused can warn the investigator in case of asking suggestive and leading questions
Article 346	in all criminal lawsuits, the parties can select their own attorneys
Article 347	the accused can ask (up to the end of the 1st court session) the court to appoint an attorney to defend his case. In case of the establishment of the financial incapacity of the accused to afford an attorney, the court can hire a public defender from amongst attorneys in the same Judicial complex and, if not possible, from amongst attorneys in the nearest Judicial complex to defend him/her. In case, the attorney demands a fee for his/her services, the court will determine the fees for the services provided and pay them from the allocated credits of the Judiciary
Article 348	concerning crimes which are punished by death penalty, life imprisonment, discretionary punishments of 3 rd degree and above, the court sessions cannot be held without the presence of the attorney of the accused; if the accused fails to name an attorney to defend his/her case or his/her attorney fails to attend the court sessions without a valid reason, the appointment of a public defender will become necessary and, in case, the public defender fails to attend the court sessions without a valid reason, the court shall replace the public defender; the fees for the services of the public defender shall be paid from the allocated credits of the Judiciary.
Article 23 of the Law on Attorneyship (passed in 1936)	Attorneys of justice are obliged to accept to defend three legal cases per year as Judicial assistance. under the Law, persons who cannot afford an attorney can ask for Judicial assistance from Bar Association
Article 180 of the Statute of Prisons and Security and Corrective Measures Organization	the Statute of Prisons and Security and Corrective Measures Organization has provided for the meeting of attorneys with the prisoners whom they represent upon the submission of a valid power of attorney and the certificate of the court.

(Source: report of Deputy Head of the Judiciary for Legal Affairs to The National Committee of UPR, 2016)

As for the immediate access to legal counsel or attorney in the early hours of the investigation process, in addition to the aforementioned legal provisions, there are some other measures provided for in the Criminal Procedural Law which are reflected in the following table.

Table (4): immediate access to legal counsel or attorney in the early hours of the investigation process

Legal Articles	Legal Provision
Article 5	the accused shall be informed, at the shortest possible time, of the charges against him / her and the reasons for them and also of his /her right of access to legal counsel (attorney) and other rights provided for in the Law
Article 48	the accused can ask for the presence of an attorney as soon as he / she is placed under custody
Article so	the person in custody can inform his / her family members of their situation by telephone or any other means of communication and the Judicial enforcement officers are obliged to facilitate the communication process unless they have good reasons to believe that the accused should not be allowed to use the facility, and, in that case, inform the related Judicial authority of their decision to do so
Article 52	if the accused are placed under custody, the Judicial enforcement officers are obligated to inform and communicate to the accused, in writing, his / her rights provided for in the Law and receive a receipt confirming the communication of the rights to the accused and attach it to the dossier

(Source: report of Deputy Head of the Judiciary for Legal Affairs to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

The number of attorneys working in I.R. Iran is significant. The number of trainees under the lawyer apprenticeship programs was 10,880 in 2015 and the number of practicing attorneys was 30,947 in the same year. The number of cases in which attorneys had served as public defenders chired by the courts was 42,518 in 2015 (5 months).

The number of free Judicial assistance cases provided by the Office for Judicial Assistance under Bar Association stationed in the Judicial complexes was 4,126 in 2015 (5 months) and the number of visitors to the Office for Judicial Assistance under Bar Association was 11,828 in 2015 (5 months).

Table (5): number of trainees under lawyer apprenticeship programs and number of practicing attorneys by gender in 2015 (5 months)

number of trainees under lawyer apprenticeship programs		number of practicing attorneys	
female	male	female	male
3,388	7,492	9,146	21,801
total	10,880	total	30,947

(Source: report of Central Bar Association to the National Committee of UPR, 2015)

Table (6): number of cases of judicial assistance referred to practicing attorneys, Offices for Judicial Assistance as well as Bar Association in 2015(5 months)

referral of cases to practicing attorneys (public defenders)	cases of judicial assistance service provided by judicial complexes	cases of judicial assistance service provided by Bar Association
42,518	4,126	11,828

(Source: report of Central Bar Association to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Compensation of damages resulting from judicial mistakes or fault

There are different legal provisions for compensation of damages resulting from judicial mistakes or faults, which are partly reflected in following table.

Table (7): legal provisions for compensation of damages resulting from judicial mistakes or faults

legal provision	guarantees for compensation of damages
Article 179 of the Constitution	if, as a result of the failure or mistake of a judge on the subject of the dispute and the verdict thereof, the accused suffers some material or moral losses, in case of failure the guilty party shall be responsible for the losses caused according to the Islamic Principles, otherwise the losses will be compensated by the government. In either case, the accused shall be rehabilitated.
Article 255 of Criminal Procedural Law (2014)	persons who are taken into custody during the preliminary investigation or prosecution process for any reason and are subsequently acquitted or receive orders to stop proceedings of charges against them are entitled to claim damages for the detention period
Article 257 of Criminal Procedural Law	any detained person who receives a definitive acquittal verdict, may lodge a compensation claim, not later than 6 months as of the date of the acquittal verdict, with the "Provincial Commission" composed of three judges from the Provincial Appeal Court who are selected by the Chief Justice. The Commission will issue an order for compensation if the conditions for compensation under the provisions of this Article are proven. In case of the rejection of the claim, the person can lodge an appeal with the Commission of Article 258 within 28 days as of the date when the order of rejection of compensation claim is communicated to him / her
Article 258 of Criminal Procedural Law (2014)	The protest of the detained person will be handled by the "National Compensation Commission" composed of the president of the Supreme Court or one of his deputies and two judges from the Supreme Court selected by the Chief Justice. The decision of the Commission on the claim will be final.
Article 259 of Criminal Procedural Law (2014)	The government is responsible for the provision of compensation provided for under the Article 255 of the Law. In case of the biased reporting of the crime, false testimony or the failure or mistake of the judicial authorities on the case, the government may deal with the offending authority after the provision of the compensation to the victim
Article 260 of Criminal Procedural law (2014)	to pay the compensation provided for under the Article 255 of the Law, a fund is established by the Ministry of Justice with a budget which comes from the annual total budget of the government every year. the Fund operates under the oversight of the Minister of Justice and is responsible for the execution of the judgments issued by the Compensation Commission

Oversight mechanisms of the judiciary to ensure judicial justice in protection of the rights of the people (citizens)

A variety of oversight mechanisms have been developed to monitor the proceedings of tribunals and performance of judicial authorities including the prosecutor's office (s), judicial complexes and judicial enforcement officers. The oversight mechanisms include the "judicial Organization of the Armed Services", "the Prosecutors' Office" and "Disciplinary Court for Judges."

The administrative offences of government employees, too, are addressed by the special departments handling complaints against the offences and violations of the executive bodies. The violations of the executive bodies can also be dealt with by the Administrative Justice Court and the State General Inspectorate Organization.

One of the duties of the Supreme Court is to oversee the fair and sound enforcement of laws by courts and tribunals. To conduct such oversight, a unit named Case Monitoring System (CMS) has been established in the Supreme Court under the Deputy Head of the Supreme Court for Supervisory Affairs. This unit is tasked with investigating the reasons for the overturning of the verdicts in the Supreme Court through its experts. Besides, some senior, well-experienced judges of the Supreme Court are assigned to investigate the performance of the judicial authorities and judges of different provinces, on periodic missions, and submit their reports and suggestions for the improvement of the ongoing processes.

Table (8): important measures taken by the Deputy Head of the Supreme Court for Supervisory Affairs in 2015 and 2016 (8 months)

investigation and oversight	
1	investigation and supervision over the performance of all courts of first instance including district courts, courts in other cities and towns, appellate courts, the revolutionary courts and military courts in the provinces of Alborz, Qazvin, Khuzestan and Ardabil,
2	The presence of judges from the Supreme Court in all court branches where they investigate, at least, five closed or ongoing cases of the courts in a random way including the prosecution process in the current cases and also the prosecution process as well as the documents and the judgments of the prosecutors in the closed cases,
3	Assessing the performance of all judges in the provinces in terms of their adherence to the provisions of laws and also their legal knowledge,
CMS	
4	To further increase the precision and strength of judicial judgments in accordance with the Article 166 of the Constitution, the “Supervisory Unit of the Supreme Court” investigates the reasons for the overturned verdicts in the branches of the Supreme Court in a certain period of time, which has so far helped reduce the cases of defective judicial cases in higher courts and led to shorter prosecution time, and greater satisfaction of the public and the contestants as well,
5	To follow up the complaints of citizens concerning the proceedings of their cases whether in the prosecution process or in the enforcement stage
6	To prevent the prolongation of cases and investigate the old cases through CMS and warn the presiding judges or investigators or the local justice authorities who are responsible for the old cases to proceed such cases out of turn

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

The General Prosecutor of the country, too, has two core responsibilities, one is to protect citizens’ rights and the other one is to oversee the effective enforcement of laws. The General Prosecutor or, in other words, the Prosecutor’s Office of the Supreme Court is responsible for overseeing the affairs of all prosecutor’s offices (e. g. public prosecutor’s, revolutionary prosecutor’s and military prosecutor’s offices) either through field visits by dispatching groups of senior judges to provinces or through electronic surveillance.

The members of the dispatched groups visit the branches of each category of courts and study the dossiers particularly those which relate to enforcement orders. They also visit prisons where, in view of the general policies of the Judiciary such as reduction of criminal population and decarceration, monitor the performance of the judges of the prosecutor’s offices with respect to the enforcement of the “manual on reduction of criminal population.” They also check the activities and performance of the prosecutors and the judges overseeing prison affairs and see if the judicial officials conduct their regular visits to prisons, control the criminal population there and take the necessary measures for the release of prisoners who can be released under the Law.

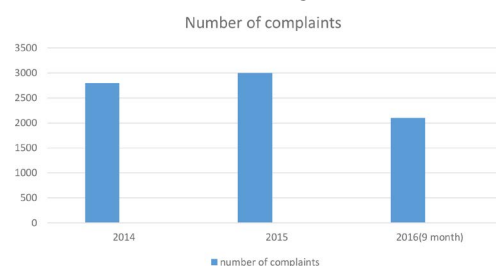
The State General Inspectorate Organization, as an institution provided for in the Constitution (Article 174) operating under the Chief Justice is responsible for the good performance of the executive bodies

with respect to the effective enforcement of laws.

In addition to scheduled, extraordinary and case-based inspections, the State General Inspectorate Organization is responsible to respond to citizens’ complaints. To facilitate the processing of complaints and to ensure easy, rapid and free access to the related authorities, the Organization has launched an “on-line notices and complaints system.” The chart below displays the figures on complaints handled by the Organization in 2015 and 2016 (6 months).

Also, from March 2014 till January 2017, a total number of 2840 complaints and notices were registered with the provincial offices of the Organization which had been processed and closed (the complaints had either been answered and solved, or no miscarriage of justice was detected in the process, or inspections had been carried out and suggestions had been given for their solution).

Chart (1): number of complaints registered by the “ on-line notices and complaints system” from March 2014 till January 2017



Pursuant to the adoption of the “Law on Respecting Legitimate Freedoms And Protection of Citizens’ Rights” in 2004, a “Central Oversight Board” composed of the members of the “Council of Deputies to the Head of the Judiciary” chaired by the Chief Justice was established to ensure the good performance of the Law. The “Secretariat for Protection of Citizens’ Rights”, too, based on the “executive manual” of the Article 15 of the said Law has put in place the necessary mechanisms and measures to fully protect citizens’ rights.

The Secretariat is also utilizing its means to enhance and promote citizens’ rights through building capacities in the “Provincial Boards” (benefiting from the contributions of the 261 members of the Boards) and organizing training programs, conducting inspections as well as collecting and answering citizens’ complaints and notices. The “Provincial Boards” had conducted some 13,239 cases of inspection to judicial institutions, judicial enforcement bodies as well as prisons from March 2015 till January 2017. During the same period, 1,861 cases of complaint and notice were submitted in person and 1,571 cases were submitted through the “on-line notices and complaints system” to the Secretariat, which were processed and answered.

Criminalization of domestic violence

The “Comprehensive Bill on Protection of Women against Violence”, includes a wide range of judicial, precautionary and preventive measures formulated to protect women against all forms of violence including domestic violence. The Bill, which concentrates on the four elements of the “definition and examples”, the “penalties and punishments against perpetrators”, a “specific criminal procedures law on acts of violence against women” and the formation of a “national committee for protection of women’s security,” has been drafted by the Office of the Vice- President for Women and Family Affairs and is in the final stage of its approval.

It is to be noted that the Article 54 of the “Charter of Citizens’ Rights” has provided for the protection of the rights of all citizens particularly women and children against verbal and behavioral violence in family and social environments and has also provided for easy access to safe environments as well as rescue and relief, medical treatment and judicial services in case of violence.

Guarantees for fair trial on cases of capital punishment

No international treaty or convention has explicitly provided for an obligation on the total elimination of death penalty, which demonstrates that the international community has not accepted the commitment to eliminate death penalty as a strict or conventional obligation and that there is no consensus on the matter. It is important to note that every country has a right to choose its own judicial criminal, legal, economic, political and social system without others’ intervention. This right has been enshrined in the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations specifically in the Para. 7 of the Article 2 of the UN Charter.

The process for the issuance of death penalty is very lengthy in I.R. Iran, which includes the issuance of the preliminary verdict in the court of first instance in the presence of three judges, referral to the appeal court, referral to the Supreme Court, and finally upholding of the verdict by the Chief Justice before its enforcement. Also, in accordance with the Article 474 of the Criminal Procedural Law, request for retrial will be accepted under specific conditions, in cases where definitive verdicts have been issued. Under the Article 477 of Law, the Chief Justice may order a new trial in cases where he finds the definitive verdicts of tribunals to be incompatible with the principles of the Islamic Law. In such cases the dossier is sent back to the Supreme Court which refers it to specific branches of court which are devoted for retrial of such cases.

The Chief Justice may, also, order a new trial in certain cases upon his discretion. The issuance and finalization of death penalty verdicts generally takes quite a few years.

In the laws in force in I.R. Iran death penalty has been provided for only the most serious crimes. Cases relating to these crimes, which include murder, terrorist acts, and narcotic drug trafficking in large quantities, are tried, with utmost care and sensitivity, by the courts in the presence of the representative of the prosecutor, the accused and his/her attorney and verdicts are issued pursuant to a fair trial which takes place in as many court sessions as necessary. The court sessions in such cases will become formal only if they are attended by the attorney of the accused and sessions held without the presence of the attorney will be invalid and the decisions adopted by them can be overturned by the Supreme Court.

The share of death penalty cases relating to

narcotic drug trafficking is over 90% of the total number of death penalty verdicts. The crime of drug trafficking is by far graver than the victimization of a single person and is, thus, more serious than the crime of murder. The Criminal Procedural Law, too, has provided for the trial of drug-trafficking cases in two stages in a more detailed manner. Also, after the finalization of the verdict and in the stage of enforcement of the verdict, clemency requests by the convict or his/her parents, spouse or children are accepted and positively responded to in a good number of cases.

Furthermore, the Islamic Consultative Assembly is considering a new plan for fighting the menace of drug trafficking and punishments for its related crimes which, if passed, enables a more effective fight against and mitigation of the maximum penalty for a considerable number of perpetrators of drug-related crimes.

Prohibition of arrest and prosecution of citizens for expression of opinions and conscience

Freedom of expression and conscience, media activities and peaceful assemblies has always been supported by different legal instruments in the I.R. IRAN. The Article 24 of the Constitution has underlined freedom of publications and media.

The Press Law (1985) along with its subsequent attachments and amendments has guaranteed the same freedoms and no individual or group, irrespective of their trade or professional affiliations, will be prosecuted for their activities if the provisions of the laws are respected and are not used as a

cover for illegal activities.

Iran's established policy has always been to promote freedom of expression. According to the latest statistics, thousands of journalists and bloggers from different political persuasions are, at present, active in the country. It is to be noted that the necessary sanctions for the protection of the rights of the press have been provided in the Press Law specifically in its Article 4 which reads: "no governmental or non-governmental authority is allowed to exert pressure on the press for the publication of any material or article, or to censor or control the press in any way."

Also, for the effective implementation of the provisions of the Article 24 of the Constitution (concerning freedom of expression), legislators have only provided penalties, under the Article 608 of the Islamic Penal Code, against people who might insult others under the cover of freedom of expression.

The Press Law, too, has affirmed freedom of expression and constructive criticism provided that it is not abused as a cover for insult, humiliation, calumny, and libel against others or violation of public and individual rights. Such limitations, of course, conform to the provisions of the Articles 18 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Furthermore, according to the laws and regulations in force, no one is practically arrested under the jurisdiction of the I.R. Iran without obvious evidence of commission of crime. The related Articles of the Constitution and the penal codes of the country stipulate that arrests may take place only under the provisions of law and upon transparent judicial orders in accordance with the principles of fair trial free from any personal preferences and use of violence.

Prisoners' Rights

Prisoners' Rights

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.186	Continue the work which has been started on the improvement of the conditions of detention in the penitentiary system and the integration of former prisoners into society;	Russian Federation
No. Rec	Accepted Recommendations /Partially	Country
138.183	Ensure, in accordance with articles 5 and 6 of ICCPR, freedom from torture, while in detention, for all, regardless also of sexual orientation;	Denmark
138.184	Release all persons detained solely for peaceful political activities; inquire into all cases of alleged torture in detention facilities and bring those responsible to justice;	Lithuania
138.185	Ensure decent conditions of detention;	France
138.207	Allow all prisoners access to legal counsel during all phases of pretrial detention and the investigative stages of cases, and allow for legal counsel to advise the accused during these proceedings;	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
138.216	Ensure that those who commit torture are held accountable and ratify CAT and its Optional Protocol;	Hungary

New Legal Measures Regarding Prisons and Prisoners

The most significant legal-legislative measures in line with the rights of prisoners and detainees during 2015-16 are described in Table 1 below. It is noteworthy that according to Article 39 of the Constitution, degrading those individuals who have

been arrested, detained, incarcerated, or exiled in accordance with the law is prohibited and the perpetrators shall receive punishment. The Executive Directive of the Department of Penitentiaries adopted in 2005 emphasizes prisoners' rights (religious rights, the right to equality, access to health services, respect of family life, judicial proceedings, adequate nutrition, human relations, etc.).

Table (1): The most significant measures put in place regarding prisons and prisoners (2015 and 2016)

Legislation / rules and regulations	Theme
Paragraph 64 of the General Policies of the 6 th National Development Plan	Revising penal laws in order to reduce prison sentences and changing them into other sanctions and adapting the sanctions with the offenses
Paragraph 65 of the General Policies of the 6 th National Development Plan	Improving the conditions of prisons and detention centers
Submitting the Directive on Classification Prisoners and Reducing the Criminal Population in Prisons (Aug 2016)	This Directive comprises 33 articles emphasizing alternative sanctions and decarceration of prison guidelines and would reduce the population of criminal prisoners

Drafting the bill on Social Sanctions as Alternative to Prison (July 2016)	The Bill is being discussed in the relevant parliamentary commission and, if adopted, a large number of the prison sentences would be changed into alternative sanctions including the care period, general services, daily monetary penalties, and temporary denial of social rights and thereby leading to a reduction in the penal population
Article 514 of the Penal Proceedings Act adopted in 2013 and enforced in 2015	The prohibition of keeping convicts and accused under one roof

Improving the Conditions of Prisons and Detention Centers

With respect to the macro policies of the Department of Penitentiaries in line with improving the

physical structures of prisons and also appropriate classification of accused and convicts, this organ has effected different measures in 2015 and 2016, the most significant of which are displayed in Table 2.

Table (2): The most significant measures effected by the Department of Penitentiaries in line with improving the conditions of detention centers in 2015 and 2016

Item	The most significant measures effected in line with improving the conditions of detention centers in 2015 and 2016
1	Restoring, optimizing, and renovating the existing facilities and installations and old buildings of the Department of Penitentiaries
2	Adding 123,209 m ² to the indoor spaces for keeping prisoners in 2015 and 2016 in order to standardize the spaces per capita for keeping prisoners
3	Implementing the Penitentiaries' Transfer to Outside Cities Act

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Integration of Prisoners into Society and Preventing Re-entry to the Prison

After-release care centers have been operational since 2008 with the aim of preventing recidivism through providing social and material support for released inmates and their families. These centers provide supports such as social work, psychological

counseling, vocational training, employment and entrepreneurship, health and treatment, loan payment (employment loans, marriage, down payment, etc.), cash and non-cash assistance. These centers have provided 395,893 cases of assistance to released inmates during Apr 2015 – Nov 2016.

Table (3): Measures taken for the reentry (integration) of prisoners into society and preventing their re-entry to the prison (Apr 2015 – Nov 2016)

Year	Covered former inmates	Inmates	Psychological counseling	Healthcare	Employment and vocational training	Cash and non-cash assistance	Cultural activities	Total measures
Apr 2015 – Mar 2016	22,028	169,508	59,203	20,815	13,341	13,098	8717	321,704
Apr – Nov 2016	4638	44,546	12,715	9111	4508	---	3309	74,189

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

The aforesaid measures decreased the rate of re-entry. From a total of 26,952 prisoners in the after-release centers in 2013-2015, a total of 1.81% were re-entered.

Table (4): The rate of the re-entry of inmates covered by the after-release centers in 2015

Total	Number of those covered				Number of those re-entered				Percentage of those re-entered			
	2013	2014	2015	Total	2013	2014	2015	Total	2013	2014	2015	Total
	10,295	9062	7595	26,952	176	145	166	487	1.71	1.60	2.19	1.81

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Access of All Detainees and Prisoners to Attorneys

According to Article 187 of the Executive Directive of the Department of Penitentiaries, the attorneys of the Judiciary who hold an official letter of proxy to safeguard the rights of their clients can refer to prisons during working hours with the agreement of the relevant judge or supervising judges and meet with their clients. No disciplinary, administrative, or judicial authority can prevent a meeting between an attorney and his/her client. In addition, legal, judicial, and counseling services are rendered to

prisoners in need in accordance with the agreement of the Department of Penitentiaries with the Center of Legal Counselors, and the Legal Experts of the Judiciary in 2003.

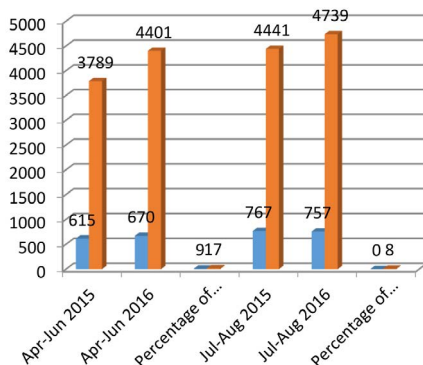
In the six-month periods between Apr – Sep 2015 and Apr – Sep 2016, 1372 and 1427 attorneys met with their clients, respectively. In the aforementioned periods, 8210 and 9194 inmates, respectively were rendered free-of-charge counseling services by the Department of Penitentiaries. Table 5 and Chart 1 represent these statistics.

Table (5): Performance of attorneys and legal counselors (Apr – Nov 2015)

Theme	Apr – Jun 2015	Apr – Jun 2016	Percentage of growth / reduction	Jul – Sep 2015	Jul – Sep 2016	Percentage of growth / reduction
Number of attorneys	615	670	9	757	757	0
Number of inmates receiving free-of-charge counseling	3769	4401	17	4441	4793	8

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Chart (1): Performance of attorneys and legal counselors (Apr – Nov 2015)



Safeguarding the Rights of Citizens in Prisons and Detention Centers

Paying special attention to the citizens' rights of prisoners falls among the priorities of the Department

of Penitentiaries. In order to respect the human dignity of prisoners and safeguard their citizens' rights, the staff of prisons undergo the necessary trainings. Article 44 of the Executive Directive of the Department of Penitentiaries focuses on developing and promoting the fundamentals and principles of the rights of citizens in prisoners, detention centers, and institutions run by the Department and thus the Bureau of Citizens' Rights was established in the Department. In addition, *The Rights and Duties of Prisoners* was distributed in all the penitentiaries around the country informing and acquainting inmates with their rights and duties. The other legislations on inmates and their families are communicated through billboards, banners, fliers, and brochures in areas inside and outside prison thus promoting the protection of the citizens' rights of prisoners. The most significant measures in terms of protecting the citizens' rights of prisoners appear in Table 6 below.

Table (6): The most significant measures in terms of protecting the citizens' rights of prisoners

Item	Safeguarding citizens' rights in prisons and detention centers	Item	Safeguarding citizens' rights in prisons and detention centers
1	The continuous presence of prison authorities inside the wards to resolve prisoners' problems	12	Inviting judicial authorities to be present in prisons and resolve prisoners' problems
2	Providing healthcare services to sick prisoners and visiting prisoners upon entry	13	Prisoners' access to the media, press, and TV
3	Communicating prisoners' rights, duties, and regulations to them	14	Introducing prisoners who are eligible to receiving services to protection agencies such as the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee
4	Installing a box to receive suggestions and feedback in prisons	15	Providing welfare facilities in meeting halls
5	Providing hygiene packages including clothes, washing kits, etc. to prisoners	16	Allowing prisoners to phone people outside the prison
6	Launching the process of providing grants to prisoners in meeting halls	17	Following up on the judicial files of accused
7	Providing trilateral meetings (private, in-person, and in cabins) to prisoners	18	Allowing eligible prisoners to work inside and outside prisons
8	Suggesting amnesty and leave for eligible prisoners	19	Segregating and classifying prisoners (with respect to existing facilities)
9	Holding meetings between prison authorities and prisoners and their families	20	Special attention to pregnant women, lactating women, and children
10	Following up on prisoners' requests	21	Developing and equipping services centers (such as shops, etc.) to prisoners
11	Establishing dispute settlement councils in prisons		

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

The Judiciary Secretariat of the Central Board of monitoring the Protection of Citizens' Rights was established in 2004 presided by the Head of the Judiciary; this body conducted 3184 inspections of the prisons around the country and 4445 inspections of the judicial enforcement institutions during the period between Apr 2015 – Sep 2016 in order to investigate the conditions of the convicts and accused in terms of citizens' rights. At the same time, the Law Enforcement Police has affected different interventions – detailed in the table below – in order to respect citizens' rights. It is worth noting that based on the Executive Directive of the Process of Establishing, Administering, and Supervising Law

Enforcement Detention Centers which was enforced in 2012 by the Head of the Judiciary, such detention centers are set up in the provinces upon the request of the Law Enforcement Police, the approval of the District Attorney, and the agreement of the Director-General of the Provincial Department of Penitentiaries. The staff of the detention centers also serve under the auspices of the Director-General of the Provincial Department of Penitentiaries. Such centers are merely dedicated to keeping those accused that based on the decree of the Judiciary authority are handed over to the Law Enforcement police for preliminary investigations.

Table (7): The major interventions of the Law Enforcement Police to safeguard the rights of detainees

Item	Safeguarding the citizens' rights of detainees
1	Establishing the Commission on Respecting the Citizens' Rights of Defendants
2	Drafting and submitting the Directive on Respecting the Legal and Citizens' Rights of accused and supervising its implementation
3	Allocating the budget to respect the citizens' rights of accused and reconstructing detention centers and surveillance centers
4	Following up continuously on removing the defects and deficiencies observed in the visits and supervisions of detention centers and surveillance centers
5	Observing the citizens' rights of accused regarding contact with their families and attorneys
6	Segregating and establishing women's detention centers and preventing any mission related to them by male staff
7	Inspecting and evaluating continuously the physical, healthcare, communication, and nutrition of detention centers

8	Recruiting male and female staff in all the stages of contact with accused commensurate with their gender
9	Holding training courses for the staff on respecting the rights of accused and detainees and observing citizens' rights

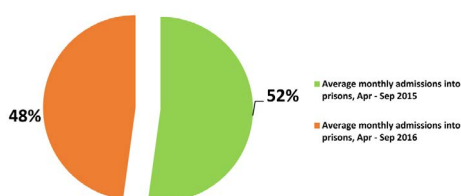
(Source: The report of the Law Enforcement Police to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Organizing Prisoners and Reducing the Criminal Population of Prisons

The Directive on Organizing Prisoners and Reducing the Criminal Population of Prisons was adopted by the Head of the Judiciary in 2013. This Directive was revised and submitted by the Head of the Judiciary on Sep 7, 2016. According to Article 6 of this Directive, drug addicts are also kept in compulsory drug rehabilitation centers and Article 22 stipulates that dispute settlement councils be established for inmates in all of Iran's penitentiaries and all capacities are to be used to create peace and reconciliation among inmates, plaintiffs, and private claimants such that creating understanding would lead to the freedom of prisoners.

A review of the reduction of the criminal population inside prisons during Apr – Sep 2016 and the comparison of the figures with Apr – Nov 2015 reveals that for the first time in the last three years, there has been a significant drop in the number of prisoners who entered and remained in prisons such that there were 226,167 prisoners in Apr – Sep 2015; the figure underwent a reduction of 3.69% during Apr – Sep 2016 standing at 217,813. The average number of admissions into prisons during Apr – Nov 2015 was 41,473 per month which experienced a 7.67% drop during Apr – Sep 2016 falling to 38,291 per month. Chart 2 illustrates these figures. It must be noted that the implementation of the new Directive on Organizing Prisoners and Reducing the Criminal Population of Prisons has engendered a considerable decline in the number of prisoners (i.e. prisoners and detainees).

Chart (2): The average number of monthly admissions into prisons during Apr – Sep 2015 and Apr – Sep 2016



(Source: The report of the District Attorney to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

During Apr – Sep 2015 and Apr – Sep 2016, 271 and 305 dispute settlement councils were established in Iran's prisons, respectively. As a result of the activities of these councils, 7033 cases during Apr – Sep 2015 and 9252 cases during Apr – Sep 2016 were concluded.

The Islamic Penal Code adopted in 2013 has also established an appropriate capacity to reduce the criminal population of prisons. Accordingly, 4464 persons due to suspending the punishment, 2875 persons due to reduction of punishment, 6415 persons due to conditional release, and 3661 persons (financial convicts) were released from prison during Apr – Sep 2016; a huge number also received criterion-based amnesty, i.e. those amnesties the concrete examples of which are determined and implemented by the Department of Penitentiaries through a general determination of amnesty criteria by the Judiciary Central Commission on Clemency. A significant number of inmates were also released from prison during Apr – Sep 2016 through using the related legal mechanisms.

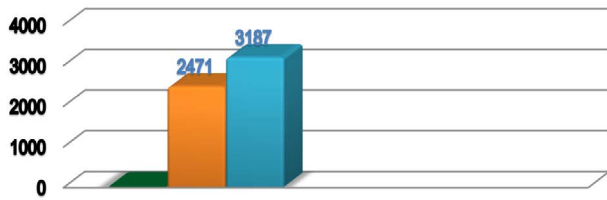
Table (8): Implementing the legal mechanisms of the Islamic Penal Code (suspending the sanction, reduction in the sanction, conditional release, and financial punishments)

Theme	Number of releases (Apr – Sep 2015)	Number of releases (Apr – Sep 2016)
Suspending sanctions	4229	4464
Reducing sanctions	3674	2875
Conditional release	8815	6415
Financial punishments	2236	3661
Total	18,954	17,325

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Meanwhile, Iran's penal legislation has anticipated the Commission on clemency within the Judiciary which is mandated to undertake the necessary legal reviews and suggest reducing sanctions and providing amnesty for inmates. This list would be approved by the Head of the Judiciary and forwarded twice a year in general and on certain religious-national occasions in particular to the Supreme Leader for his discretion. A total of 3187 and 2471 amnesties were issued during Apr – Dec 2016 and Apr – Dec 2015, respectively.

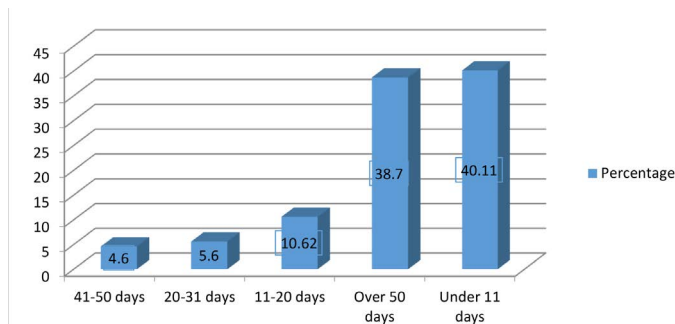
Chart (3): Comparing the performance of the Judiciary National Commission on Clemency (Apr – Dec 2016 and Apr – Dec 2015)



(Source: The report of the Judiciary National Commission on Amnesty and Pardon to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

The results of the data analysis illustrate that during Apr – Sep 2015, 40.11% of prisoners were incarcerated for less than 11 days. Furthermore, 10.62% were in prison for 11-20 days, 5.8% 20-31 days, 4.6% 41-50 days, and 38.7% over 50 days. As shown in Chart 3, over 50% of Iran’s inmates were in prison for a period shorter than one month.

Chart (4): The duration of remaining in prison during Apr – Sep 2015



(Source: The report of the Office of the Attorney General to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

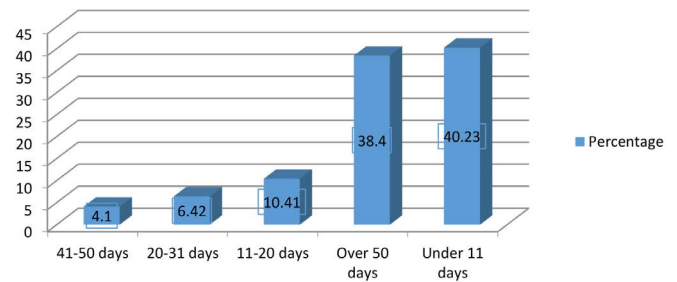
Table (9): The most significant measures of the General Prosecutor in order to reduce the criminal population of prisons

Item	Measures
1	Announcing to the heads of judicial departments orally or in writing continuously to guarantee the accurate and correct implementation of the Directive of Reducing the Criminal Population of Penitentiaries be it for convicts and accused and finding appropriate guidelines in this regard
2	Deploying supervisory and inspection teams to the Judiciary Departments all around the country to monitor the activities of district attorneys and judges supervising prisons and the process of their performance in line with reducing the criminal population
3	Understanding the vulnerabilities of prisons and prisoners
4	Reviewing the rules and regulations which reduce or increase prisoners
5	Identifying the causes of the increase or decrease of the criminal population
6	Providing short- and long-term guidelines to reduce the criminal population.
7	Reviewing the guidelines to reduce the number of accused on bail up to maximum through the collaboration of pertinent institutions

(Source: The report of the Office of the Attorney General to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

The results of the analysis also demonstrate that during Apr – Sep 2016, 40.23% of the inmates were in prison for less than 11 days while 10.41% for 11-20 days, 6.41% for 20-31 days, 4.1% for 41-50 days, and 38.4% for over 50 days.

Chart (5): The duration of remaining in prison during Apr – Sep 2016



(Source: The report of the Office of the Attorney General to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

It is worth noting that the General Prosecutor is mandated by Article 28 of the Directive of Reducing the Penal Population of Penitentiaries to precisely supervise, coordinate, follow up, and implement this legislation. Accordingly, the General Prosecutor effects measures such as those displayed in Table 9.

In order to implement the Directive of Reducing the Criminal Population of Penitentiaries especially those prisoners who are detained through bail, the Supervision Unit of the Supreme Court takes the necessary measures regarding the cases of prisoners who are referred to criminal courts and are waiting for proceedings through the electronic supervision system, monitoring, and correspondence or phone contact with provincial authorities to expedite the proceedings or release of detainees based on the aforesaid Directive.

Accordingly, prosecutor assistants supervising prisons were present in prisons 932 and 991 times during Apr – Sep 2015 and Apr – Sep 2016, respectively. The directors of judicial bureaus also visited prisons 1323 and 1639 times during Apr – Sep 2015 and Apr – Sep 2016, respectively.

Contact of Prisoners and Detainees with Their Families

In all prisons, the possibility of phone contact and meeting in person (private and in cabins) exists for prisoners with their families; furthermore, they can send letters to their families, attorneys, judicial authorities, and official authorities (two letters per week).

Table (10): The number of the telephones in prisons and meeting cabins (Apr – Nov 2015)

Number of telephones in prisons	Number of meeting cabins
4685	5403

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

The number of meetings during Apr – Nov 2015 and Apr – Nov 2016 appear in Table 11.

Table (11): The number of family visits during Apr – Nov 2015 and Apr – Nov 2016

Kind of meeting	Apr – Nov 2015	Apr – Nov 2016
Cabin	1,225,677	950,981
In-person	431,575	372,473
Private	78,535	68,851
Phone contact	11,653	9641
Remote – virtual	972	5960
Total	1,748,412	1,407,906

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

During Apr – Sep 2015 and Apr – Sep 2016, 328,629 and 299,698 prisoners went on leave, respectively, while 52,661 extensions of leave were approved in Apr – Sep 2015 and 56,326 such extensions were approved in Apr – Sep 2016. Table 12 displays the number of leaves for prisoners.

Table (12): The number of leaves for prisoners during Apr – Sep 2015 and Apr – Sep 2016

Leave		Extension of leave	
Apr – Sep 2015	Apr – Sep 2016	Apr – Sep 2015	Apr – Sep 2016
328,629	299,698	52,661	56,326

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Providing Technical-Vocational Training to Prisoners to Facilitate After-Release Employment

In 2015, a total number of 80,011 individuals out of the total number of 98,378 those who had registered in the training courses participated in the tests and 64,781 persons (80%) passed and managed to gain professional documents. Table 13 illustrates the number of these trainings.

Table (13): Technical-vocational and handicraft training

Performance year	Number of trainees	Those taking the test	Those passing the test
Apr 2015 – Mar 2016	98,378	80,011	64,781

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Training Prisoners

Trainings in prisons include vocational training and school and academic courses for prisoners as a part of their rehabilitation programs and preparing them for life outside prisons. To this end, over 70 theoretical and skills courses are provided for prisoners all around the country. The most significant measures for the development of education for prisoners in 2015 and 2016 include:

- Signing a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Education to develop the educational activities of prisons;
- Developing a literacy program in prisons in collaboration with the Ministry of Education Literacy Movement.

Table (14): The extent of providing educational services to prisoners: Apr 2015 – Mar 2016 and Apr – Sep 2016

Year of activity	Literacy Movement	Different stages	Higher education	Total
Apr 2015 – Mar 2016	4771	24,027	767	29,565
Apr – Sep 2016	3371	8512	1109	12,992

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

It is worth noting that as a result of the above measures, over half of the illiterate prisoners have become literate in prisons.

Health, Treatment, and Nutrition of Prisoners

The most noteworthy measures in the field of health, treatment, and nutrition among prisoners have been included in Table 5.

Table (15): The most noteworthy measures in the field of health, treatment, and nutrition among prisoners in 2015 and 2016

Item	Measures
1	Providing technical treatment services for TB, hepatitis, and HIV
2	Screening and eradicating malaria in eligible provinces
3	Implementing the pilot plan to control chronic and non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, blood fat, etc
4	Establishing health bases in prisons through collaborating with the Ministry of Health
5	Providing treatment for over 45,000 drug abusing prisoners through methadone maintenance. Over 150,000 free-of-charge detoxifications have been conducted in prisons
6	Using resources and facilities and getting healthcare equipment and tools from medical universities
7	Extending the number of prisons which are equipped with sewage systems
8	Developing, equipping, and operationalizing mechanized laundries in prisons
9	Building and equipping 192 healthcare units upon entry (quarantine) in order to prevent, diagnose, and treat diseases
10	Training health workers by the Ministry of Health in order to guarantee health and promote environmental safety for prisoners' vocational training
11	Preparing and distributing a directive on adopting the necessary guidelines to prevent suicide and self-flagellation and producing the Clinical Guideline and Executive Directive of Preventing Prisoners' Self-Damaging Behaviors
12	Preparing prisoners' personality dossiers
13	Drafting the initiative for promoting mental health and stress management for prison staff
14	Empowering and rehabilitating prisoners mentally through providing psychological counseling services in all the country's prisons
15	Controlling and treating psychiatric disorders such as antisocial behaviors, aggressiveness, etc. through providing psychiatric services in all prisons
16	Using peer group and influential trainings in treating addiction and promoting self-actualization through the collaboration of NGOs
17	Preparing a food program for accused and prisoners commensurate with the seasons of the year and environmental needs and conditions

18	Providing breakfast, lunch, and dinner with adequate calories and vitamins
19	Serving food in prison canteens
20	Preparing food with respect to different groups in prisons and their nutritional needs

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Associations of Protecting Prisoners

Correction (protection) measures are provided in three different sectors: help and assistance activities regarding prisons and correction centers, protection activities for prisoners and their families, and after-release protection and care activities. At the moment, there are 205 associations working for protection

of prisoners, their families, and released prisoners around the country. From among them, around 10 have been established in cities without prisons. These entities provide a scope of services such as healthcare and treatment, construction, housing, non-cash assistance, education for their children, counseling, etc. to prisoners and their families.

Table (16): The number of families covered and the assistance provided

Number of families covered		Assistance provided to prisoners' families in IRR b	
2015	2016	2015	2016
53,425	56,096	168 (equal to USD 4.8 m)	178 (equal to USD 5.08 m)

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

The amount of assistance provided by the Association for Protecting Prisoners to prisoners and prison is described in Table 17.

Table (17): The amount of expenses made by the Association for Protecting Prisoners in 2016 (IRR m)

Assistance to prisoners	Assistance to prisons	Assistance to correction centers	Total assistance
40,204	16,654	1749	58,611 (equal to USD 1.7 m)

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Political Prisoners

The Political Crime Act was adopted by the Parliament on May 10, 2016 and endorsed by the Council of Guardians on May 9, 2016. Accordingly, each of the following offenses provided that they were committed against the management and institutions of political achievements or domestic and foreign policies with the motive of reforming the country's affairs without the perpetrator wishing to damage the entirety of the system would be regarded as a political crime:

- Insulting or accusing the heads of the three branches and the Expediency Council, presidential deputies, ministers, MPs, members of the Assembly of Experts, and members of the Council of Guardians;
- Insulting a head of a diplomatic mission or the political representative of another country residing or entering the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- Promulgating falsities;
- The offenses stipulated in the legislations on elections excluding elections administrators and supervisors; and

- The offenses included in Paragraphs 1 and 5 of Article 16 of the Activities of Political and Syndicate Parties, Associations, and Societies adopted in 1981 (accusations, defamations, and rumors).
- The court in which cases are being dealt with has the discretion to recognize whether the charge is political or not and the accused can at any stage of the proceedings in the court and up to the end of the first session of the hearing in the court comment on his/her charge being nonpolitical. Proceedings on political crimes are underway in the presence of a jury and the following points are effected vis-à-vis political accused and convicts:
 - Separation of places of detention and incarceration from normal inmates;
 - Prohibition of wearing prison uniforms during detention and incarceration;
 - Prohibition of implementing the regulations on recidivism;
 - Non-extradition of political offenders;
 - Prohibition of solitary confinement unless approved by a judicial authority and not extending

15 days under any circumstances;

- The right to meet and correspond with first-degree relatives during imprisonment; and
- The right to access books, periodicals, radio, and TV during incarceration.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the charges of a person are dealt with only through the legislation and regardless of social and political equations. Any kind of prejudgment regarding judicial cases without respect to their nature and labeling perpetrators as political prisoners must be prevented.

Prohibition of Torture

Based on Article 38 of the Constitution, any form of torture to acquire confession or information is forbidden. There are also provisions on the prohibition of torture in the Islamic Penal Law (deterrent sanctions and discretionary punishments) adopted in 1996, Respecting Legitimate Freedoms and Preserving Citizens' Rights adopted in 2004, Penal Proceedings Act adopted in 2013, and the Executive Directive of the Department of Penitentiaries (as detailed in Table 18).

Table (18): The most significant provisions on the prohibition of torture

Prohibition of torture and any degrading and inhumane behavior	
Article 38 of the Constitution	Any form of torture to acquire confession or information is unlawful. Forcing a person to provide testimony, confession, or vow is not allowed and such testimony, confession, or vow lacks validity and credit. Perpetrators shall be punished based on this provision.
Article 60 of the Criminal Procedural Code	In interrogations, forcing defendants through resorting to profanities, raising indoctrinating or deceiving questions, and putting forth questions which fall outside the issue of the charge are forbidden and the responses of accused to such questions and also statements produced under coercion or through reluctance lack credibility
Article 169 of the Executive Directive of the Department of Penitentiaries	Harsh behavior, insulting, using profanities, or corporal punishment of inmates and enforcing violent, cumbersome, and obscene behaviors are strictly forbidden.
Article 9 of the Respecting Legitimate Freedoms and Protecting Citizens' Rights	Enforcing any torture on accused in order to acquire confession or forcing them to engage in any other activity are forbidden and the confessions gained accordingly, lack any credibility in the eyes of the law and Islamic jurisprudence
Article 587 of the Islamic Penal Code (1996, Taazirat and Preventive Punishments)	Torture and physical abuse of accused and forcing them to confess by Government non-judicial and judicial authorities are subject to reprisal or the payment of blood money and based on the case would be punished to imprisonment from six months to three years. In case of decease, the perpetrator would be sanctioned to the punishment of a murderer and the person who ordered the death to the punishment of murder
Article 587 of the Islamic Penal Code (1996, Taazirat and Preventive Punishments)	If the perpetrator of the previous offenses has threatened the detained, imprisoned, or hidden person to death or torture or corporal punishment, s/he would be sentenced to a prison term of one to five years and denial of access to Government services
Article 169 of the Islamic Penal Code	Any confession obtained under reluctancy, coercion or mental or physical harassment, is invalid and unauthentic and the court is obliged to reinvestigate the case

In the Law Enforcement Police too, assault and battery of defendants is prohibited in the preliminary stages of the investigations in order to preserve the rights of detainees and any complaint about the agents who have spoken or acted in such a way that citizens' rights have been violated would be

investigated immediately. At the same time, staying away from any behavioral and verbal violence and insulting defendants is a fundamental principle of the Law Enforcement.

Fighting Illicit Drugs

Fighting Illicit Drugs

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendation	Country
138.181	Continue its efforts in combating drug trafficking and fighting this scourge	Lebanon

During the past 38 years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has sustained very huge human and financial costs in its fight against illicit drugs. Iran which is neighbor to the biggest illicit drug producer of the world has made extensive investments to prevent trafficking in illicit drugs. Iran has been at the forefront of the battle against drug trafficking and has mobilized all means to prevent the transit of illicit drugs to other countries.

Illicit drugs, a serious problem

According to the Report of UNODC in 2016, I.R. Iran which is responsible for 17% of the total world heroin seizures, 61% of the world morphine seizures, and 75% of the world opium seizures, has been recognized as the standard bearer of the fight against illicit drugs in the world. The quantities of illicit drugs seized by the I.R. Iran in 2015 and 2016 (9 months) are as follows: 77% opium, 16% hashish, 3% heroin, 1.5% morphine and 2.5% other types of drug.

Table (1): quantities of illicit drugs seized by the I.R. Iran in 2015 and 2016 (9 months) by tons

year	2015	2016 (9 months)
total drug seizure	620	538

(Source: report of Drug Control Headquarter to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Every year, a number of Iranian counter-drug police officers are either killed as martyrs or wounded in the fight against illicit drug trafficking. In 2015 and 2016 (9 months) respectively 3 and 8 police officers lost their lives in the battle against drug traffickers. This number is in addition to the death toll of over 4000 Iranian police officers who were killed in the battle against the drug menace prior to 2015.

Table (2): death toll of counter-drug police officers in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

Period	Prior to 2015	2015	2016 (9 months)
No. of persons	Over 4000	3	8

(Source: report of Drug control Headquarter to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Though the growth in the number and services of addiction treatment and harms reduction centers and increased access of addicts demanding treatment to a wide range of treatment and harms reduction services has led to a reduction in high-risk behavior and death toll among drug abusers particularly high-risk injection addicts, in 2015 and 2016 (8 months), respectively 3003 and 2107 persons lost their lives due to drug consumption. According to the statistics the death toll among addicts in every one million population aged 15 – 64, was around 53 in 2015.

Table (3): death toll of addicts who died of drug consumption in 2015 and 2016 (8 months)

Period	2015	2016 (8 months)
death toll of addicts	3003	2017

(Source: report of Drug Control Headquarter to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

In accordance with the related international reports, a major share of the revenues of extremist and terrorist groups and also those involved in organized crimes are generated from the cultivation, production and trafficking in illicit drugs. A priority area for the government of I. R. Iran in the battle against illicit drugs is the fight against armed drug trafficking bands.

Table (4): operations against armed drug trafficking bands in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

Period	2015	2016 (9 months)
armed operation and encounter with drug traffickers (No. of cases)	2618	1709
seizure of arms from drug traffickers (No. of arms)	1077	704
destruction of bands involved in trafficking or supply of illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (No. of bands)	2933	2006

(Source: report of Drug Control Headquarter to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Prevention and reduction of harms resulting from narcotic drugs

For the purposes of drug addiction prevention and formulation of its related programs, the general population of the country has been divided into four target social environments, namely, family environment, education environment, work environment and public environment. Such division has helped identifying the principal target groups for

addiction prevention programs and enabled target-oriented specialized planning for each group.

Under the “Comprehensive Document for Early Addiction Prevention”, a 40% coverage of the population aged 15-64 has been set as an initial target for a period of five years. Some of the measures taken by I.R. Iran for early drug addiction prevention in the target environments in 2015 and 2016 (9 months) are reflected in the following table.

Table (5): measures taken for early drug addiction prevention in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

Period	2015	2016 (9 months)
number of people covered by life skills and child-rearing styles and drug abuse prevention programs in family environment	3,148,004	1,686,085
number of people covered by early drug addiction prevention in education environment	3,325,334	1,316,049
number of people covered by early drug addiction prevention in work environment	641,302	190,596
telephone guidance and advisory service through “national addiction line” (cases of response)	369,981	290,028
radio and T.V. programs on drug addiction (by hours)	2642	1408

(Source: report of Drug Control Headquarter to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

In I.R. Iran, drug addicts are not treated as criminals, rather as sick persons. Hence, a wide range of measures are taken for the long-term treatment as well as physical and mental rehabilitation and re-integration of addicts into the society.

Addiction treatment programs in Iran are varied, some of which are maintenance treatment, psychiatric and social intervention both in the forms of out-patients and in-patients and also use of scientific methods for the treatment and rehabilitation of people suffering from the consequences of narcotic drug consumption. At present, there are about 8103

drug addiction and harms reduction centers in the country covering a population of 800,000 addicts with their services.

I.R. Iran has also included social, civil and cultural approaches in its fight against the drug menace including the use of capacities of NGOs and other non-governmental institutions. The purpose is to raise public awareness, build confidence and boost real social capital in the fight against the drug problem. All these institutions are taking a range of measures, inter alia, the identification of addicts as the target population, treatment of the addicts and reduction of

the potential harms of this vicious phenomenon to individuals and the society as a whole.

and harms reduction measures carried out by the related NGOs in 1995 in the country are reflected in the following table.

The statistics relating to the drug addiction prevention programs and projects and also training

Table (6): statistics relating to the drug addiction prevention programs and training and harms reduction measures taken by NGOs in 2015

year	prevention program (No.)	growth rate as compared to the previous year	addiction treatment and harms reduction program	growth rate as compared to the previous year	total	growth rate as compared to the previous year
2015	1038	19%	1233	9%	2271	8.7

(Source: report of Drug Control Headquarter the National Committee of UPR, 2015)

Unilateral Coercive Measures

Unilateral Coercive Measures

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.46	Continue defending the rights of its people to address the imposed economic sanctions;	Sudan
138.47	Continue efforts to highlight the negative repercussions of both terrorism and unilateral coercive measures on national development plans and on the enjoyment of basic human rights by its citizens;	Syrian Arab Republic
138.52	Keep denouncing unilateral coercive measures in all possible scenarios;	Cuba

Illegal and unfair sanctions

Economic sanctions are used as pressure leverage on governments and leave directly or indirectly, an extremely negative impact not only on the citizens of the states under such sanctions, but also on non – resident persons in the same states as well. Governments should guarantee and protect human rights and, in case of their violation, be subject to civil liability.

Imposition of sanctions which are, unavoidably, conducive to the violation of the rights provided for in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights including the right to life and, negatively affect the welfare , educational and health systems particularly with respect to the enjoyment of the rights to work , food , decent living standards , development , self – determination , etc.

The resolutions, decisions and positions adopted by the related international bodies well demonstrate that the international community as a whole condemn and reject the imposition of unilateral and secondary measures and extraterritorial application of domestic laws and call for an immediate end to this unfair practice, believing that they stand in stark contrast

with the fundamental principles of international law.

The United Nations General Assembly in its 71st session in 2016, adopted the resolution on “ Human Rights and Unilateral Coercive Measures”, emphasizing that the imposition of unilateral coercive measures and their enforcement by certain powers, which have extraterritorial impact , is condemned as they constitute a fundamental impediment to the enjoyment of the right to development.

The statement of the 14th session of UNCTAD held in June 2016 declares that unilateral coercive measures have not only reverse impact on the economy and development process of states, but they also adversely affect international efforts to develop an open, non-discriminatory multilateral trade system.

In the 40th Annual Meeting of its Foreign Ministers held in Sep. 23, 2016 in New York , the Group of 77 issued a statement in which it was underlined that the imposition of unilateral economic measures including unilateral sanctions against developing countries, contributes neither to the economic development of such states nor dialogue and understanding among states of the world .Also, rejecting the imposition of

laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact in all its forms including unilateral sanctions against developing countries, the Foreign Ministers called for an immediate repeal of such measures. The statement further affirms that unilateral sanctions not only undermine the principles provided for in the United Nations Charter and also international Law, but also severely threaten the freedom of trade and investment. The Ministers called on the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries.

The position of Non – Aligned Movement on unilateral and secondary measures is reflected , inter alia , in the statement of the 14th NAM Summit held in Venezuela in 2016 .The statement declares that the heads of state and government of Non – Aligned Movement condemn imposition of unilateral coercive measures against NAM member states for their violation of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law particularly the principle of non – interference in domestic affairs and the right of self – determination and independence of states. They also stated that such measures negatively affect the enjoyment of human rights and impede the full socio – economic development of the target population.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and P5+1 agreed, on July 14, 2015, on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) under which Iran`s nuclear program would be subject to certain limitations for a certain period of time and all the unilateral as well as international sanctions relating to the nuclear program of Iran would be lifted. The Islamic Republic of Iran has so far fulfilled all its obligations under JCPOA and the other parties to the nuclear deal are obliged to fully discharge their own part of the obligations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran which has been the target of unilateral coercive measures was itself a major supporter of the resolution on “Human Rights and Unilateral Coercive Measures” and the appointment of special rapporteurs for that purpose in the 27th session of the Human Rights Council. In the context of its cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms, The Islamic Republic of Iran agreed, in principle, in 2015 to the request of Mr. Idriss Jazairy, the Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures to visit Iran and is waiting for the schedule of the visit. In response to the request of the Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures for information relating, to the measures adopted by I.R. Iran on unilateral coercive measures, the Islamic Republic of Iran submitted a report in 2016 including

such information, which was covered in the report of the Special Rapporteur to the 32nd Session of the Human Rights Council.

Terrorism

Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iran has been grappling with the vicious phenomenon of terrorism supported by some external governments, which has been conducive to the extreme violation of the fundamental rights of the Iranian citizens particularly their rights to life, peace and security. In recent years, five Iranian nuclear scientists were the target of assassination attempt, four of whom lost their lives. Such attacks constitute a flagrant violation of the right to life and the right to development as well.

Also, there is ample evidence of the crimes committed by the leaders and members of the terrorist entities such as MKO (Monafegheen), PEJAK, Jundalla, Furgan and others against the people of Iran. MKO alone is responsible for the assassination of 17,000 innocent Iranian citizens. However, this terrorist group is still present and freely operating in some Western countries, which demonstrates the presence of a double – standard criterion being practiced in dealing with the issue of terrorism.

Also, a number of terrorist attacks took place against the border guards as well as the cultural houses and diplomatic missions of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut, Sana and Peshawar in 2013 and 2014 which led to the abduction or assassination of some Iranian border guards, diplomats or innocent citizens.

Being a major victim of terrorism itself, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the issue of terrorism, extremism and foreign terrorist fighters constitutes a formidable challenge to the international community as a whole and that its threat will not be confined to the regions directly involved with them. Terrorist and extremist threats not only endanger the physical and psychological security of societies but they are also gross violations of human rights by their very nature and adversely affect the political and socio – economic development of nations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the violent acts of extremist and terrorist groups such as Al – Qaeda, Daesh, Al Nusra Front, Al – Shabab and Boko Haram are completely incompatible with the teachings of the religion of Islam. These groups are nothing more than terrorist entities which abuse the name of Islam to justify their inhuman acts and methods. So, it is extremely important to investigate the roots of the formation of such groups particularly

their ideological and political sources and also their economic and financial resources as well. In this context, the Islamic Republic of Iran supports any measure which can help eliminate the threats of terrorism and extremist violence.

In order to counter this vicious phenomenon, the Islamic Republic of Iran has launched extensive efforts at the international level including the promotion of the idea of “World Against Violence and Extremism” proposed by the President of the state in his first speech to the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2013, which was endorsed with a consensus by the United Nations members states in a resolution adopted under the same title by the UN General Assembly in the same year. The idea of the establishment of a united international front against violent extremism and the development of a comprehensive plan of action for that purpose was raised in the speeches of the leaders of some countries including the speech of the IRI President to the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. The Islamic republic of Iran believes that the proposed plan of action must lead to the elimination of violent extremism through an international consensus and the formation of a

cultural front against extremist ideologies.

Since violent acts of extremist groups are conducive to the gross violation of human rights and humanitarian law, the Islamic Republic of Iran fully supports any international effort aimed at forming such a united front at a global level. The Islamic Republic of Iran has engaged in serious bilateral and multilateral cooperation with other countries especially with those which have been victims of terrorism and extremism in West Asia and the Middle East through exchange of information and provision of training, assistance and advisory services. Iran has also had constructive cooperation with international bodies such as Interpol, Committee 1373, and other UN – affiliated institutions in such areas as prevention, exchange of information and control of financial flows and money - laundering activities of terrorist groups in the region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the adoption of a double – standard approach towards states when it comes to the fight against terrorism will not only be counter– productive but it will also doom efforts in the global fight against terror and will lead eventually to more breeding grounds for terrorism.

The Mines Left Behind From the Iran-Iraq War

The Mines Left Behind From the Iran-Iraq War

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations /completely	Country
138.182	Address the serious problem with land mines;	Bosnia and Herzegovina

As a result of the unlawful aggression of the Iraqi Baathist regime to Iran and the outbreak of the eight-year imposed war (1980-1988) during which this regime used various kinds of illegal arms and weapons of mass destruction such as chemical bombs, a huge area of Iran's western territory was mined by Iraqi forces. Based on official statistics, Saddam's regime planted approximately 16 million mines in over four million hectares of Iran's territories;

this itself has turned the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) into the second most polluted country in the world in terms of mines. Ironically, international aid and assistance to Iran in order to resolve this issue has been very meager and negligible and the IRI has had to take care of the bulk of the problem on its own. Table 1 demonstrates the detrimental effects of mine contamination and unexploded ordnance (UXO).

Table (1): The detrimental effects of mine contamination and UXOs

Aspects	Description of the damage incurred
Human	The human damage for the inhabitants of the border areas and those engaged in decontamination and border guards
Social	Unemployment and migration of some of the residents of contaminated border areas
Economic	Losing the opportunity of using oil resources, agriculture, animal-husbandry, terminals, and border bazaars
Environmental	Contamination of over 4.2 hectares of Iran's territories

(Source: The Report of the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics Mine Action Center (IRMAC) to the National UPR Committee, 2015)

Table 2 also displays the major infrastructural measures put in place by Iran regarding demining.

Table (2): The major infrastructural demining measures put in place

Item	Infrastructural measures
1	Establishing IRMAC which is mandated to neutralize the mines left behind from the Iran-Iraq War. This Center has cleared over 99% of the contaminated areas (4,178,000 hectares)
2	Establishing the Supreme Council of Mine Clearance consisting representatives from all eligible institutions in order to engage in demining operations with the highest degree of output and the lowest human and environmental damage
3	Signing an MOU between IRMAC and the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining. One of the provisions of this MOU is delivering the integrated management software which was not achieved due to the cruel unilateral sanctions against Iran
4	Organizing and recruiting almost 5000 human resources in mine clearance operations
5	Extending mechanized mine clearance equipment with the aim of reviewing and increasing the level of the quality of mine clearance

6	Developing the equipment for individual protection aimed at preventing and preserving the lives of the mine clearance staff
7	Signing an MOU between IRMAC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 2016 for a three-year period during which the ICRC shall assist IRMAC in terms of securing the equipment, mine danger training, protecting the victims, knowledge management, and exchange of experience

(Source: The report of IRMAC to the National UPR Committee)

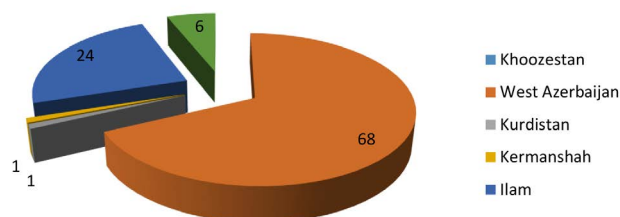
Conducting clearance operations by case and through information received from local authorities and people is another undertaking of IRMAC. During Apr – Nov 2016, over 9000 mines, UXO, and bombs have been neutralized and/or destroyed, the largest share of which (68%) was in the Province of Khoozestan. Table 3 and Chart 1 represent the figures on the case discoveries of mines and UXO.

Table (3): Mines and UXO discovered during Apr – Nov 2016

Item	Province	Number of operations	Case discoveries			Total
			Mine	UXO	Bomb	
1	Khoozestan	111	151	6382	27	6533
2	Ilam	122	90	514	4	608
3	Kermanshah	214	239	2061	1	2301
4	Kurdistan	94	14	68	0	82
5	West Azerbaijan	44	46	31	1	78
	Total	585	540	9056	33	9602

(Source: The report of IRMAC to the National UPR Committee)

Chart (1): The provincial share of case discoveries



(Source: The Report of IRMAC to the National UPR Committee)

Table 4 shows the measures especially in holding training courses regarding demining.

Table (4): Holding training courses

Item	Holding training courses
1	Holding and extending different technical courses with the goal of developing the capability, skill, and capacity of demining staff
2	Holding and extending different public trainings in order to raise awareness in preventing the incidence of contact with mines and/or UXO
3	Training 31,389 school students, 4540 coaches, and 20,151 herders and farmers in 2014
4	Participating in the publication of 134,000 books titled <i>Safe Life beside Mines</i> for different educational levels in border provinces
5	Participating in the publication of 5000 card games to raise awareness on the dangers of mines for children residing in areas contaminated with mines
6	Distributing 12,000 educational posters in order to train the residents of mined areas by the IRI Red Crescent Society Department of Rescue and Relief and the ICRC
7	Preparing and distributing animations on mine risks for farmers and herders
8	Holding first-level briefing sessions on ordnance with the presence of the clearance staff of private companies and the demining bases of military and defense forces and IRMAC in 2016

(Source: The Report of IRMAC to the National UPR Committee)

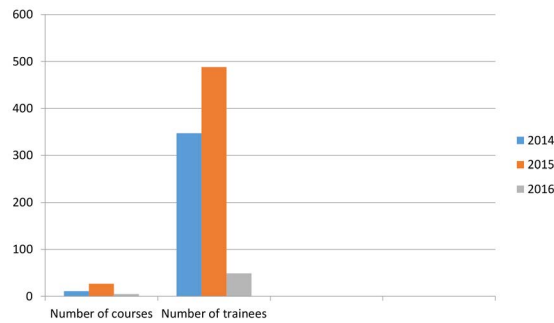
Different technical training courses were also held from Mar 21 – Sep 20, 2016 as described in Table 5 and appearing in Chart 1.

Table (5): Technical training courses on mines

Item	Year	Technical training courses		
		Number of courses	Number of trainees	Person / hour
1	2014	11	347	4220
2	2015	27	488	11,092
3	2016	5	49	1362

(Source: The report of IRMAC to the National UPR Committee)

Chart (2): Technical Training Courses



(Source: The Report of IRMAC to the National UPR Committee)

It is worth noting that as a result of the measures taken, the rate of public damages caused due to the explosions of mines and UXO has dropped 87% in the last four years. Furthermore, in accordance with a legislation adopted by the Parliament in 1993 aimed at protecting mine victims, all migrants and

individuals who lose their lives or become disabled in war zones as a result of contact with explosives such as grenades, mines, etc. are regarded as martyrs or war victims and are thus entitled to the rights and privileges of the martyrs and victims of the Iran-Iraq War.

International Humanitarian law

International Humanitarian law

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations /completely	Country
138.287	Continue its efforts to provide development and humanitarian aid to least developed countries;	Sri Lanka
138.288	Continue to provide greater technical assistance to developing countries;	Cuba
138.291	Continue its humanitarian aid to least developed countries;	Eritrea

“National Committee for Humanitarian law” was established in Iran’s Red Crescent Society, based on the decision of the Council of Ministers, to “promote, develop and facilitate the implementation of the provisions of humanitarian law at home and participate in its further consolidation and more effective implementation at the international level.” Hence, all governmental departments and institutions are obligated to cooperate and coordinate all their activities with the Red Crescent Society of I.R. Iran in that respect.

Measures so far taken by the “National Committee for Humanitarian law” includes the provision of humanitarian support for both domestic and international communities such as dispatch of relief aid and medical and pharmaceutical consignments,

and also promotion and teaching of the concepts and principles of humanitarian law through seminars, conferences, workshops, etc. Some of the aforementioned measures have been organized in cooperation or association with other related domestic or international bodies.

In 2015 and 2016, external humanitarian support provided through cash or non-cash contributions was 21 cases, family reunification facilitated was 1318 cases, operational-training courses held was 4 cases (on land mines), teaching of humanitarian concepts was 25 cases, and interaction with other countries, international agencies and non-governmental organizations was 3 cases as reflected in the following table:

Table (1): Most important measures taken by Iran’s Red Crescent Society (the National Committee for Humanitarian law)

Provision of humanitarian assistance (cash, non-cash, reunification contributions)	
2015	2016 (9 months)
17 cases of non-cash contributions worth 7,201,243 US dollars (equivalent to 89,713,598,863 Rials) to 8 countries	8 cases of non-cash contributions worth 952,430 US dollars (equivalent to 29,783,272,445 Rials) to 4 countries
4 cases of cash contributions worth 1,825,674 US dollars (equivalent to 54,698,434,780 Rials) to 3 countries	4 cases of cash contributions worth 790,952 US dollars (equivalent to 2,561,600,000 Rials) to 3 countries
Reunification support including: -24 cases of reunification of Afghan families -143 cases of assistance for medical treatment of Afghans	Reunification support including: -7 cases of reunification of Afghan families -124 cases of assistance for medical treatment of Afghans
Holding 2 operational-training courses on land mines in border areas	Holding 2 operational-training courses on land mines in border areas
Teaching the concepts of humanitarian law	

2015	2016 (9 months)
Holding the 7 th round of competition on simulation of International Criminal Court trial sessions in association with the ICRC, Iranian Association for of United Nations Studies and Shahr-e-Danesh Legal Research Firm	Holding the 8th round of competition on simulation of International Criminal Court trial sessions
Holding a training workshop on humanitarian law from the perspective of Islam in Kurdistan province in March, 2015	Holding a training workshop on humanitarian law in Tehran province with the participation of the staff members and volunteers of Iran's Red Crescent Society as well as military and police forces in the province
Holding a training workshop on "international humanitarian law and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement" in association with ICRC and the Red Crescent Society in Hamadan Province in October 2015 with the participation of the staff members, volunteers and representatives of student and youth associations of the Red Crescent Society and judicial judges of the Hamadan province	Holding a training workshop on humanitarian law in Lorestan province with the participation of the staff members, volunteers and the youth association of the Red Crescent Society as well as the military forces in the province
Holding a training workshop on "international humanitarian law and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement" in association with ICRC and the Red Crescent Society in Markazi Province in November 2015 with the participation of the staff members, volunteers and representatives of the student and youth associations of the Red Crescent Society, the local government as well as military and police forces in the province	Assisting in the organization of the conference on the "Imperatives and strategies for Controlling harms from Land Mines" by the Iranian Association for United Nations Studies in the city of Saqqiz in Kurdistan province in April, 2016
Holding a training workshop on the "foundations and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the international humanitarian law" in association with ICRC and the Red Crescent Society of Hormozgan Province in Bandar Abbas in February 2016	Holding a training workshop on "the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and international humanitarian law" in Kerman province in association with ICRC and Kerman's Red Crescent Society in April, 2016
Holding a training workshop on "the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, peace-keeping operations and international humanitarian law" for the Battalion of Peace-keepers in Qazvin province in February 2016	Holding a training workshop on "the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and international humanitarian law" in ShahidBahonar University of Kerman in association with the same university ,Kerman's Red Crescent Society and ICRC in April 2016
Holding a cultural-training course on "the international humanitarian law and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its principles" for the student and youth associations of the Red Crescent Society in Bandar Anzali by the Secretariat of the "National Committee for Humanitarian Law"	Holding a preliminary session to the international conference on humanitarian law entitled "shared principles and values of religions and the role of religion in humanitarian approaches" in October, 2016
Holding a training workshop on "Islam and Humanitarian Law" for three days in the city of Qom in March, 2015 in association with AemmehAthar Jurisprudence Center, ICRC and the Center for Comparative Studies of Islam and Humanitarian Law	Holding international conference on "Islam and Humanitarian Law in the city of Qom in December 2014
Holding a training workshop on "International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and International Humanitarian Law" in association with ICRC and the Red Crescent Society of the Semnan province in March 2016	publication of the book entitled "Media, War and International Law"
Publication of the book entitled "Human Shield in International Humanitarian Law"	
Cooperating in the translation and publication of the book "Era of War Crimes in the Statute of the International Criminal Court" in association with ICRC	
Translation and publication of the book "Media, War and International Law" by Mizan Publication House	

Joint Cooperation

Implementation of the project “Narcotic Drugs and the Role of the Youth in Preventing them” in association with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Italy’s National Red Cross Society and non-governmental Vila Mariny Foundation, selected national societies for cooperation: Uruguay, Iran, Thailand, Kenya and Kyrgyzstan in 2015

(Source: Report of Iran’s Red Crescent Society to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Technical and developmental assistance provided by I.R. Iran to developing countries

In accordance with the articles of the Constitution relating to provision of support for needy countries and also the obligations undertaken under the 8th Goal of MDGS 2016 and the 7th Goal of Sustainable Development (SDGS) 2030, I.R. Iran has provided developmental assistance, in so many cases, to needy countries including its neighbors. These cases of developmental assistance, which were estimated to exceed 163 million US dollars by 2015, were delivered through internationally-recognized mechanisms for developmental aid mostly in the form of grants (goods and project implementation) and, to some extent, in the form of long-term non-interest loans.

Iran’s grants, too, were delivered through internationally-recognized mechanisms in the areas of infrastructure, education, relief aid, humanitarian and charitable assistance, health and hygiene, agriculture, water and waste water system, assistance for trade, refugee affairs, gender justice, etc. and also provision of loans by different governmental and non-governmental bodies.

Furthermore, I.R. Iran has always tried to include joint infrastructural projects in the cooperation agreements and contracts which it concludes with poor, developing countries within the framework of its bilateral relations.

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

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

No. Rec	Accepted Recommendations /completely	Country
138.57	Take appropriate measures to develop an environment conducive to the empowerment of civil society;	Algeria
138.58	Encourage and strengthen cooperation and coordination with civil society and the NGOs in the field of human rights;	Angola
138.59	Continue to strengthen the cooperation between the State and civil society organizations involved in human rights education;	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
138.224	Work towards guaranteeing a favorable environment for the activities of journalists, human rights defenders and civil society;	Tunisia

Legal measures adopted to support and enhance the role of NGOs

In order to provide the necessary support for and enhance the role of NGOs and civil societies in political, social, cultural and other fields, the Government of the I.R. Iran adopted the “By-law on the Foundation and Activities of Non-Governmental Organizations” in September 2016.

Also, Article 66 of the Criminal Procedures Law which came into effect as of June 2015, has provided a significant role for NGOs, reading: “NGOs, which provide, in their statutes, for the protection of the rights of children and adolescents, women, sick persons and persons with physical and mental disabilities, environment and natural resources, cultural heritage, public health and citizens’ rights, can directly call for the indictment of possible identified offenders in their related field of activity and be part of the entire court proceedings in the related cases.”

Organizing conferences and meetings with the participation of governmental authorities and non-governmental organizations

To develop an effective interaction between the Government and non-governmental organizations with a view to benefiting from their professional contributions and also meeting their concerns, conferences and meetings are organized at the provincial and national levels with the participation of the related governmental authorities and non-governmental organizations.

Some of the conferences and meetings held in the past two years at the national level for that purpose are as follows:

Table (1): conferences and meetings held with

NGOs at national and provincial levels in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

	Item	venue	date
1	1 st National Workshop on Education of NGOs attended by the representatives of 100 NGOs	Gilan	September 2016
2	2 nd National Workshop on Education of NGOs attended by the representatives of 60 NGOs	Gilan	November 2016
3	National Conference on NGOs held by Organization of Volunteers of Iranian Red Crescent Society attended by the representatives of over 300 NGOs	Isfahan	September 2016

4	Colloquium of NGOs of Khuzestan Province on Law and the Need for Legal Organization of NGOs	Khuzestan	January 2015
5	Meeting of Director General of Department of NGOs of Ministry of Health and Medical Education with the representatives of 14 NGOs involved in the field of health in the province	Zanjan	August 2016
6	Meeting of Director General of Department of NGOs of Ministry of Health and Medical Education with the representatives of NGOs involved in the field of health in the province	Khuzestan	December 2016
7	Meeting of Director General of Department of NGOs of Ministry of Health and Medical Education with the representatives of NGOs involved in the field of health in the province	Yazd	January 2017
8	Meeting of Youths NGOs in Qom and Director General for Sports and Youths Department in the province	Qom	November 2016
9	Joint Meeting of Fraction of Human Rights of Islamic Consultative Assembly with NGOS involved in the field of human rights in Tehran	Tehran	July 2016
10	Scientific Conference on the Role of NGOs in the Enjoyment of Citizens Rights	Tehran	September 2016
11	5 th Training Workshop of Women and Family NGOS attended by the Vice- President for Women and Family Affairs	Orumiyeh	November 2015
12	6 th Training Workshop of Women and Family NGOS attended by the Vice- President for Women and Family Affairs	Golestan	January 2016
13	Colloquium of NGOs and officials of General Department for Cultural Heritage of Hormozgan Province	Hormozgan	August 2016
14	7 th Training Workshop of Women and Family NGOS attended by the Vice- President for Women and Family Affairs	Yasuj	January 2017
15	8 th Training Workshop of Women and Family NGOS attended by the Vice- President for Women and Family Affairs	Arak	March 2016
16	Consultative Meeting of High Council for Human Rights and NGOs on Recommendations of the Second cycle of UPR	Tehran	January 2017
17	National Conference on Prospects of the Rights of the Child attended by the representatives of NGOs on children in Tehran	Tehran	July 2015
18	3 rd Seasonal Meeting of NGOs on Environment and Natural Resources in the province	Semnan	January 2015
19	4 th Seasonal Meeting of NGOs on Environment and Natural Resources in the province	Bushehr	March 2016
20	5 th Seasonal Meeting of NGOs on Environment and Natural Resources in the province	Razavi-Khorasan	September 2016
21	Interactive Meeting on the Role of NGOs and Public Participation in Achievement of Environment Objectives in the province	Sistan-va- Baluchestan	December 2016
22	Specialized Workshop of NGOs on Narcotic Drug Fight	Chahar -Mahal -vaBakhtiari	March 2016
23	National Conference of Social Entrepreneurs in NGOs	Ardabil	October 2016
24	Meeting of NGOs and the Governor General	North Khorasan	January 2017
25	Meeting of NGOs of the Province of Golestan with Directors of Welfare Organization on Drug Addiction Prevention in the province	Golestan	January 2017

26	Meeting of NGOs of the Province of Qom with Vice-President and Head of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization	Qom	Qom 2016
27	Meeting of Women NGOs with the Fraction of Women Affairs of Islamic Consultative Assembly	Tehran	November 2016
28	Colloquium of Cultural Heritage NGOs and the Officials of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization	Tehran	January 2017
29	Meeting of Charities and NGOs	Tehran	August 2016
30	Colloquium of NGOs and Charities involved in the area of health with the Officials of Ministry of Health and Medical Education	Tehran	November 2016

An overview of the situation of non-governmental organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran the Government has been encouraging and supporting non-governmental organizations. So far, over 25,000 non-governmental organizations have been registered before the related governmental authorities e.g. the Interior Ministry, the State Welfare Organization, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Islamic Propagation Organization, the Office of Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs, the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, the Ministry of Sports and Youths, the Ministry of Education, etc.

As reported by the Ministry of Interior, over 3,568 non-governmental organizations had received licenses for their activities in different fields from this Ministry by the first half of 2014, with 3,147 (88.20%) of them operating at the provincial, 8 (2.2%) at the inter-provincial and 413 (11.58%) at the national levels.

The number of the non-governmental organizations varies from 10 to 407 from province to province. They operate in a variety of fields such as social matters, ethnic groups, women, arts, development infrastructures, social harms, Humanitarian affairs, health and hygiene, consolidation of family foundation, youths, protection of cultural and historical monuments and heritage, supporting orphans and the poor, scientific subjects, development and construction, culture, agriculture, tourism, environment and natural resources, crisis management, safety, environment quality, charity affairs and activities, sports, friendship between Iran and other nations, etc.

Also, 2,104 non-governmental organizations (58.96%) are active in areas relating to human rights. So far, almost 25 Iranian non-governmental organizations have secured observer status from the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOC).

Table (2): number of non-governmental organizations which have received licenses for their activities from the Interior Ministry based on the field and scale of their operation

field of activity	scale of operation provincial	scale of operation National	scale of operation inter-provincial	Total
Social matters	461	48	--	509
Ethnic groups	2	--	--	2
Women`s affairs	196	4	--	200
Development infrastructure	3	2	--	5
Arts	28	--	--	28
Social harms	165	13	--	178
Humanitarian matters	36	11	1	48
Water and sanitation	180	51	3	234
Consolidation of family foundation	41	8	--	49
Youths	19	2	--	21
Cultural and historic monuments	37	7	--	44

Supporting orphans and the poor	3	--	--	3
Scientific subjects	188	11	--	199
Development and construction	48	6	1	55
culture	609	103	2	714
Agriculture	60	5	--	65
Tourism	31	9	--	40
Environment and natural resources	166	14	--	180
Crisis management	2	2	--	4
Health, safety, Environment quality	12	1	--	13
friendship between Iran and other nations	--	54	--	54
charity affairs	775	40	1	816
sports	85	21	--	106
Total	3147	413	8	3568

(Source: Report of Interior Ministry to the National Committee of UPR, 20160)

As stated earlier, there are a variety of governmental authorities responsible for non-governmental organizations and the issue of their licences based on their field of activity. However, though only 13 NGOs have obtained permits from the Ministry of Health and Medical Education for their activities, there are a total number of 600 NGOs operating in the field of health. Also, in accordance with the latest statistics of the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, there are some 480 NGOs operating in the field of tourism. The number of NGOs active with respect to women affairs has exceeded 2000.

Table (3): number of NGOs active in the area of tourism by the scale of operation

city	countryside	province	national	international	total
215	1	121	63	77	477

(Source: Information Center of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization)

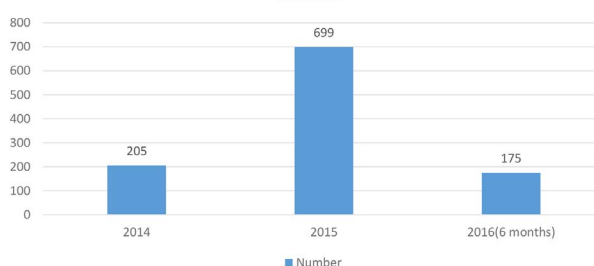
With respect to NGO involved in youth affairs, since young people constitute the most active segment of the population with a variety of issues to be attended to, the Ministry of Sports and Youths has issued a remarkable number of 699 and 175 licenses for youths NGOs respectively in 2015 and 2016 (6 months).

Table (4): number of licenses issued for youths NGOs by Ministry of Sports and Youths

year	2014	2015	2016 (6 months)
Number of permits	205	699	175

(Source: report of Ministry of Sports and Youths to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Chart (1): number of licenses issued for youths NGOs by ministry of Sports and Youths



(Source: Report of Ministry of Sports and Youths to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Dialogue and Collaboration on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights

Dialogue and Collaboration on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.26	Continue to strengthen its domestic legal framework and implement its international human rights obligations;	Singapore
138.51	The dialogue and cooperation in the field of the promotion and protection of human rights;	Benin
138.55	Promote increased cooperation with the international community;	Senegal
138.56	Continue international cooperation and dialogue with the aim to improve the socioeconomic circumstances of its people;	Singapore
138.65	Continue its cooperation with the United Nations and international organizations and overcome the remaining constraints and challenges;	Lao People's Democratic Republic
138.67	Cooperate with human rights protection mechanisms;	Paraguay
138.68	Continue to cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms within the framework of the implementation of ratified international instruments;	Uzbekistan
138.77	Continue to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran with the aim of having greater cooperation and consultation with the Government;	Guatemala
138.79	Cooperate with the Special Rapporteur and other United Nations special procedures mandate holders;	Lithuania
138.80	Issue a standing invitation to the Human Rights Council special procedures;	Peru- Poland
138.82	Carry out constructive and cooperative engagement with the special procedures, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran;	Republic of Korea
138.83	Cooperate with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran;	Romania
138.85	Continue its cooperation with OHCHR and explore new avenues for human rights cooperation;	India
138.86	Continue and strengthen the cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;	Iraq
No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations /partially	Country
138.69	Take necessary steps to implement the commitment extended to special procedures by accepting pending visit requests;	Latvia
138.72	Cooperate fully with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including by inviting the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran to the country;	Australia
138.73	Fully cooperate with and allow visits by the United Nations Special Rapporteurs;	Bosnia and Herzegovina

138.74	In line with its standing invitation to special procedures, engage with and accept visits by special procedures;	Brazil
138.75	Facilitate as soon as possible the visits requested by the special procedures of the Human Rights Council;	Costa Rica
138.76	Cooperate with all United Nations special procedures mandate holders who wish to visit Iran;	Germany
138.78	Cooperate fully with United Nations experts and rapporteurs, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, in line with the standing invitation issued by the Government;	Hungary
138.81	Positively consider visit requests from mandate holders, in particular the request from the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the country;	Portugal
138.84	Extend a standing invitation to all special procedures and, particularly, allow the entry of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran;	Slovenia
138.214	Take the necessary measures to enhance international legal cooperation in cases of serious violations of human rights and ensure the right to truth and justice;	Argentina

The Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) is a State Party to many treaties on human rights including the following:

Table (1): Iran's accession to treaties on human rights

Item	Treaty/convention	Date of signature	Date of accession
1	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Apr 4, 1968	Jun 24, 1975
2	International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights	Apr 4, 1968	Jun 24, 1975
3	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	Mar 8, 1967	Aug 29, 1968
4	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	Sep 5, 1991	Jul 13, 1994
5	Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography		Sep 26, 2007
6	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities		Oct 23, 2009
7	Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	Dec 8, 1949	Aug 14, 1956
8	International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid		Apr 14, 1985
9	International Convention against Apartheid in Sports	May 16, 1986	Jan 12, 1988
10	Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery		
11	Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees		Jul 28, 1976
12	Protocol to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees		Jul 28, 1976
13	Convention against Discrimination in Education		Jan 10, 1967
14	Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour		May 8, 2002
15	Forced Labour Convention, 1930		Jun 10, 1957
16	The Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value		Jun 10, 1972
17	Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labor, 1957		Apr 13, 1959
18	The Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation		Jun 30, 1964

19	Convention concerning Equality of Treatment for National and Foreign Workers as regards Workmen's Compensation for Accidents		Jun 10, 1972
20	Convention concerning Minimum Wage Fixing		Jun 10, 1972
21	Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) Convention		Apr 13, 1959
22	Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict		Sep 21, 2010

Engaging with the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights

In line with its policy of engaging with the United Nations' human rights mechanisms, the IRI has been in continuous interaction with the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights in the last two years. Among these interactions is the contact and collaboration of the different authorities of the IRI with the High Commissioner at the level of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Secretary of the Headquarters of Human Rights (Mar 2015, Sep 2015, and Mar 2016). The IRI has also extended an invitation to Zeid bin Ra'ad the High Commissioner on Human Rights to visit Iran. The delegations of the IRI have also met with the different officials of the Office of the High Commissioner within the framework of collaboration and interaction. In addition, Iran agreed with the request of the High Commissioner in May 2016 to dispatch a delegation from his Office in order to identify the fields of collaboration with Iran.

Engagement with Special Procedures

The IRI has appropriate engagements with special human rights procedures. The following experts have visited Iran so far:

- Independent expert on human rights in Afghanistan, Feb 2002;
- Working Group on arbitrary detention, Feb 15 – 27, 2003;
- Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Nov 3 – 11, 2003;
- Special Rapporteur on Migrants' Human Rights, Feb 22 – 29, 2004;
- Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Jul 19 – 30, 2005; and
- Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, Jul 19 – 30, 2005.

The IRI also invited the Special Rapporteur on the right to food in 2015 to visit the country at an appropriate time. Furthermore, the IRI announced its agreement in principle with the request of the Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures to visit the country and extended a written invitation to him in 2017. Iran also invited the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health in 2017 to visit the country and extended a written invitation to him in 2017. The delegations dispatched by the IRI to the Council of Human Rights have held different meetings with the Special Rapporteur on human rights in the last three years, among them:

- Technical meeting of the delegation with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran concerning narcotics in Geneva, Sep 2015;
- Meeting of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights with the Permanent Representative and Ambassador of the IRI in New York, Oct 2015;
- Meeting of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights with the Permanent Representative and Ambassador of the IRI in Geneva, Dec 2016;
- Technical meeting of the delegation with the Special Rapporteur on minorities in Geneva, March 2016;

- Technical meeting of the delegation with the Special Rapporteur on minorities in Geneva, November 2016;
- Specialized meeting with the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children , child prostitution and child pornography in Geneva, March 2017;
- Specialized meeting with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran in Geneva, March 2017
- Specialized meeting with the Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures in Geneva, March 2017

It is worth noting that the IRI responds appropriately and in a timely manner to the correspondences received from the special procedures of the Council on Human Rights.

Reporting on Fulfilling International Human Rights Commitments

- In fulfillment of its obligations within the Constitution and other domestic legislation and international human rights commitments, the IRI has always worked hard to demonstrate its commitment to the aforesaid obligations through its active reporting to the United Nations system. Accordingly, the following measures are noteworthy:
- Submitting and defending the periodic report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Aug 2010);
- Submitting and defending the third periodic report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Oct 2011);
- Submitting and defending the second periodic report on the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (May 2013);
- Submitting the third periodic report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2013);
- Submitting the periodic report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Dec 2013 and defending it in Mar 2017;
- Defending the third periodic report on Convention on the Rights of the Child (Jan 2016); and
- Starting the drafting of the periodic report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and fourth periodic report on the implementation of International Covenant on civil and political rights.

Bilateral Dialogues on Human Rights

In line with protecting and promoting human rights and exchanging experiences in this field, the IRI has conducted dialogues on human rights with a large array of countries, some of which in 2015 and 2016 include the following:

- The second round of Iran-Denmark technical talks on human rights (the National Institute of Human Rights), Sep 2015, Tehran;
- The third round of Iran-Denmark technical talks on human rights, Feb 2016, Copenhagen;
- The fourth round of Iran-Denmark technical talks on human rights, Sep 2016, Tehran;
- The second round of Iran-Italy technical talks on human rights, Sep 2015, Tehran;
- The third round of Iran-Italy technical talks on human rights, Sep 2016, Rome;
- Planning for the fourth round of Iran-Italy talks on human rights, Oct 2017, Tehran;
- Human rights consultations with the human rights delegation of the Council of the Chinese Government, Dec 2015, Tehran;

- The second round of Iran-Russia human rights consultation, Dec 2015, Tehran;
- The third round of Iran-Russia human rights consultation , Feb 2016, Moscow;
- The second round of Iran-Indonesia human rights talks, Jun 2015, Jakarta;
- The third round of Iran-Indonesia human rights talks, Dec 2016, Tehran;
- Human rights consultation with the Qatar National Consultation on Human Rights, Jan 2016, Tehran;
- The sixth round of Iran-Switzerland human rights talks, Jun 2016, Bern;
- Planning for the seventh round of Iran-Switzerland human rights talks, June 2017, Bern;
- The tenth round of Iran-Japan human rights talks, Feb 2016, Tokyo;
- The preliminary round of Iran-Brazil human rights talks, Oct 2016, Brasilia;
- Planning for the first round of Iran-Brazil human rights talks, 2017, Tehran;
- The preliminary round of Iran-EU human rights talks, Nov 2016, Brussels.