



*National Report on Women`s Status  
in the Islamic Republic of  
Iran(Beijing + 25)*

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*Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs*

***Iranian Women 25 Years after the Beijing Action Plan***

***(Beijing+25)***

***The Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs***

**Office of International Affairs**

## **Introduction**

Promoting women's rights and their dignity as well as empowering them are among the prerequisites for the development of all societies. Undoubtedly, the Beijing Declaration in 1995 was one of the most important global efforts to reduce inequalities and promote the status of women in various fields, and an opportunity to examine challenges and pay attention to gender gaps in its twelve critical areas of concern and also in the emerging issues.

Today, the Beijing + 25 is a precious opportunity to both illustrate the achievements and to review the challenges in the empowerment of women and girls at national and global level.

At national level, the Islamic Republic of Iran since its establishment has always considered the promotion of cultural, social, economic, and political status of girls and women as a key element in its policy-making, legislation, and national planning. In this regard this issue is taken into consideration in our national development programs with a family-oriented approach.

Based on the United Nations Human Development Index, Iranian women and girls have had an outstanding progress in education, research, science, entrepreneurship, employment, and sanitation. These progresses have been realized despite the unilateral coercive measures and sanctions against our nation. The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes that these illegal sanctions violate the women and girls human rights, including their right to development and are clearly in contrary with the goals and objectives contained in the Beijing declaration and its Platform for Actions. This issue must be seriously taken into consideration in the final documentation of Beijing + 25.

In the meantime, promoting the level of the women's national machinery to the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs (formerly known as The Center for Women and Family Affairs) has strengthened the efforts in promoting women status..At present, the mission of this Vice Presidency is to prepare the ground for realization of a gender balance in different aspects of women's life by taking a new approach and using all the existing potentials and political will for more support of women's human rights. The moderate approach in the Development Plans of the

country is based on protecting the families' well-being and integrity along with women's social, political, and economic empowerment and aimed at creating a balance among the multiple roles played by women to help with their effectiveness in the family and society. Of course, the progress of the Islamic Republic of Iran has not been the same in different aspects of the Beijing Action Plan as with other countries in the world, and so needs more attention in some areas.

It is worth mentioning that the Islamic Republic of Iran, while paying close attention to the promotion and improvement of the status of women, considers women as a factor in their efforts of creating sustainable development. In the past twenty five years, by adopting laws and bills as well as investing in infrastructure sectors such as education and health, they have made a major effort to reduce inequalities and realize sustainable development.

In today's world, twenty five years after the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, it is necessary to have a comprehensive attention to the root causes of the partial fulfillment of the Beijing Platform for Action, while there should pay attention to strengthening and protecting the sacred institution of the family by ensuring the full participation of women in public and private decision-taking areas as well as taking into account the unilateral and multilateral coercive sanctions as an obstacle to improving the status of women. All of these attentions should be directed to recognition of a new and complementary vision, goals, and strategies towards a gender balance and women's empowerment in a way to provide a comprehensive solution that is both created by all and practical for all.

## **Section One: Priorities, achievements, challenges and setbacks**

### **a) Priorities, Achievements and Challenges**

#### **1- What have been the most important achievements, challenges and set-backs in progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women over the past 5 years?**

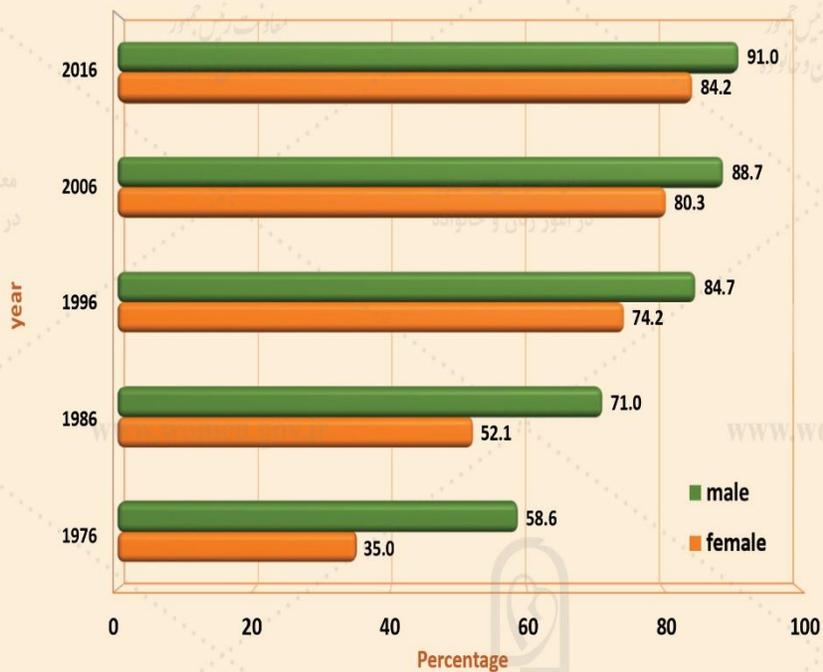
- Establishing a framework for mainstreaming gender equity in the plans, policies, and programs of governmental organizations (Article 101 of the Sixth National Development Plan) by the National Headquarters for Women and Family and acting towards its implementation (Act No. 84439/T 55681H Dated 23 Aug 2018, the Board of Ministers) by organizing governmental body meetings; compiling "the axes, main indicators and sub-indicators of the subject of gender equity"; and approving the main indicators in the Working Group of Development Index; then holding numerous briefing sessions with experts and activists in the field of women issues and coordination with the Statistical Center of Iran, the Plan and Budget Organization and Administrative and Recruitment Affairs Organization of Iran and announcing 200 indicators (each index has a separate certificate, which is a personal identification document, a computational and statistical work index by the Statistical Center of Iran.)

-Drafting the Executive Code of Article 101 of the Sixth National Development Plan on the issue of empowering women and announcing policies to apply to the national programs and policies.

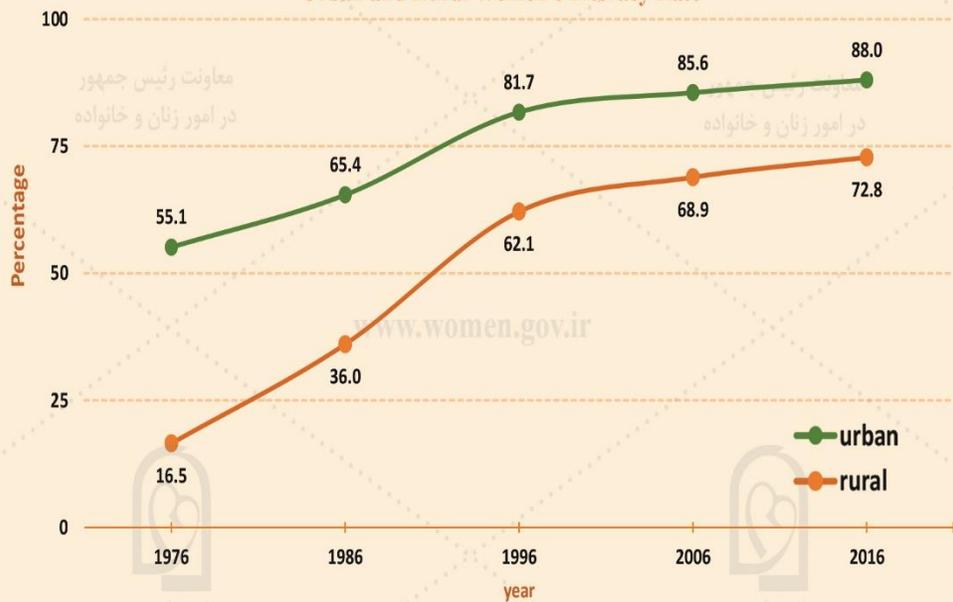
- Eradicating illiteracy among women and girls: The literacy ratio of women has reached 99.30 percent in 2017.

- Eliminating gender gap in education in the country at both primary and secondary levels

### Men and Women Literacy Rate



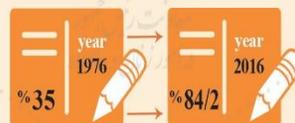
### Urban and Rural Women's Literacy Rate



# Education and Research

## 2.4 fold growth in women literacy rate in 4 decades

(percentage of literacy women, age: 6 years old and over)

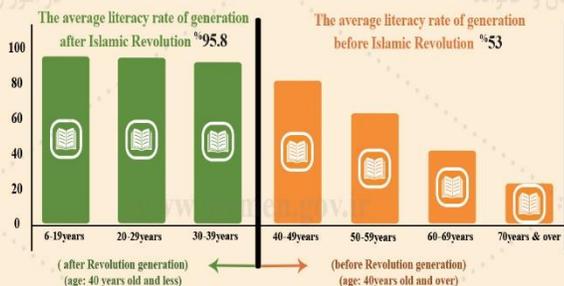


## Urban and rural women literacy rate

(age: 6 years old and over)



## Women literacy rate before and after the Islamic Revolution



## Growth of female student's education coverage at primary level



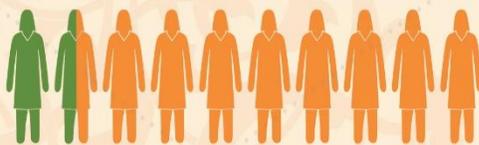
## Decrease in the rate of girls deprived of education

(age: 6 to 14 years old)



## In 2017, 1.6 per 10 women over 18 years old holds academic degree

(at least undergraduate)



## Growth in the number of female schooling years



## Growth in the number of women faculty members

3508 women

school year 1996-97

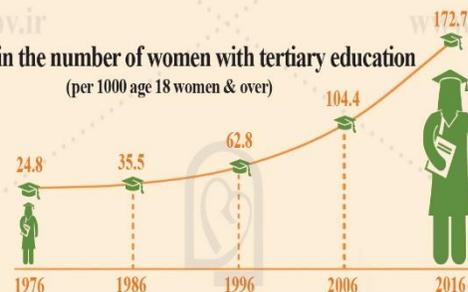


20298 women

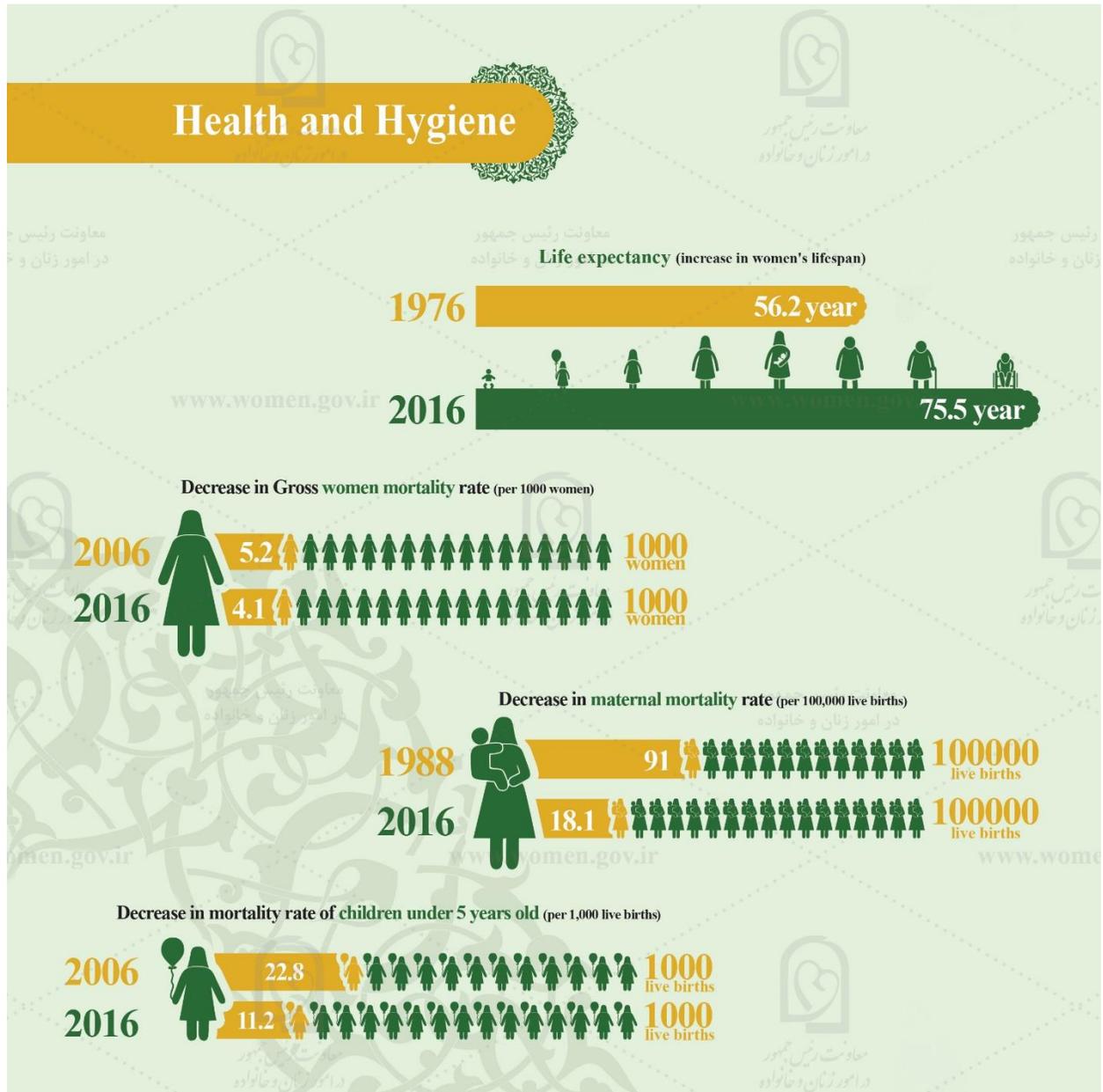
school year 2016-17

## Growth in the number of women with tertiary education

(per 1000 age 18 women & over)

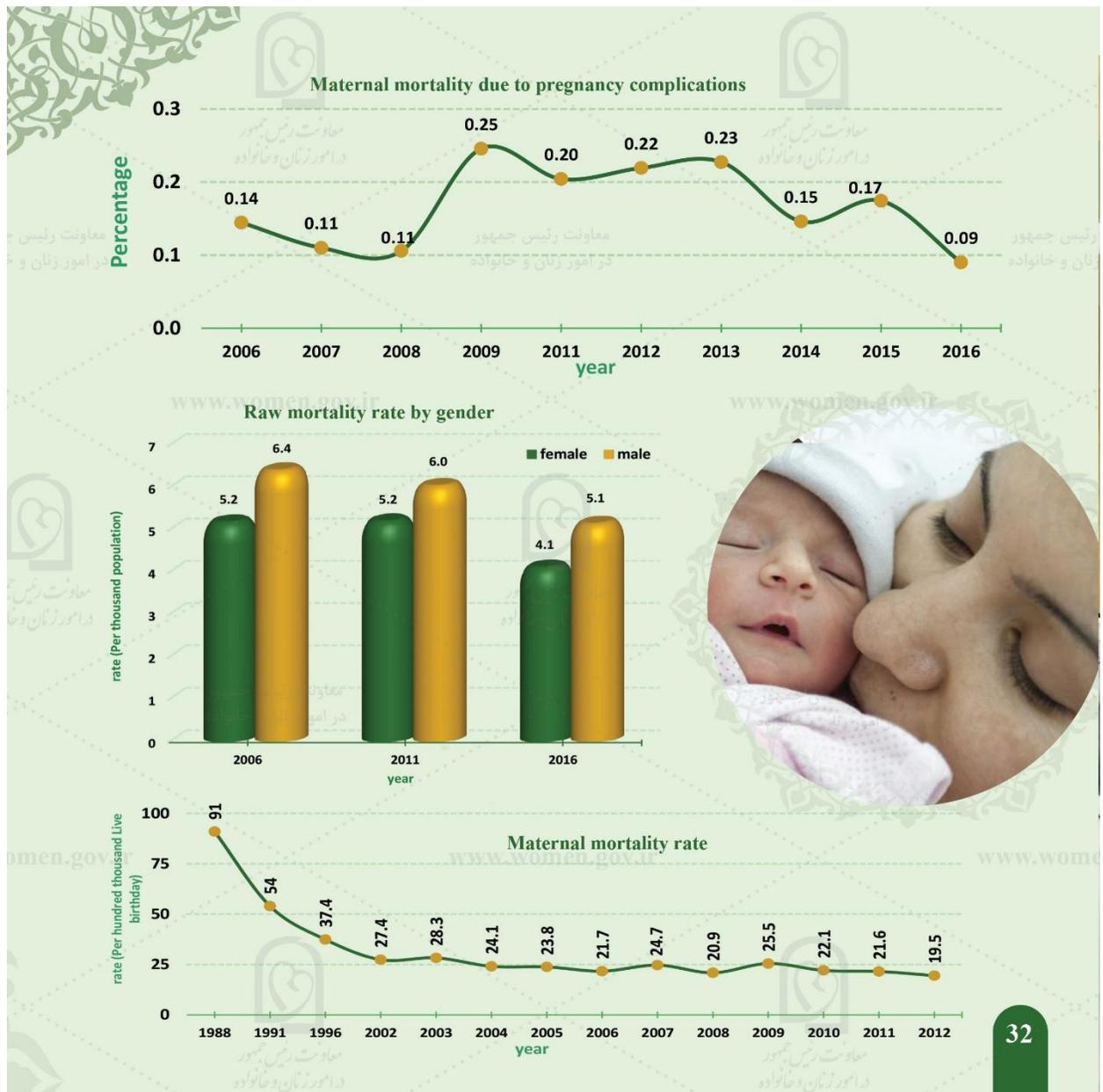


- Improving women's life expectancy: The life expectancy of women in the Islamic Republic of Iran has improved dramatically. This indicator has increased from 63 years in 1991 to more than 76 years in 2018.



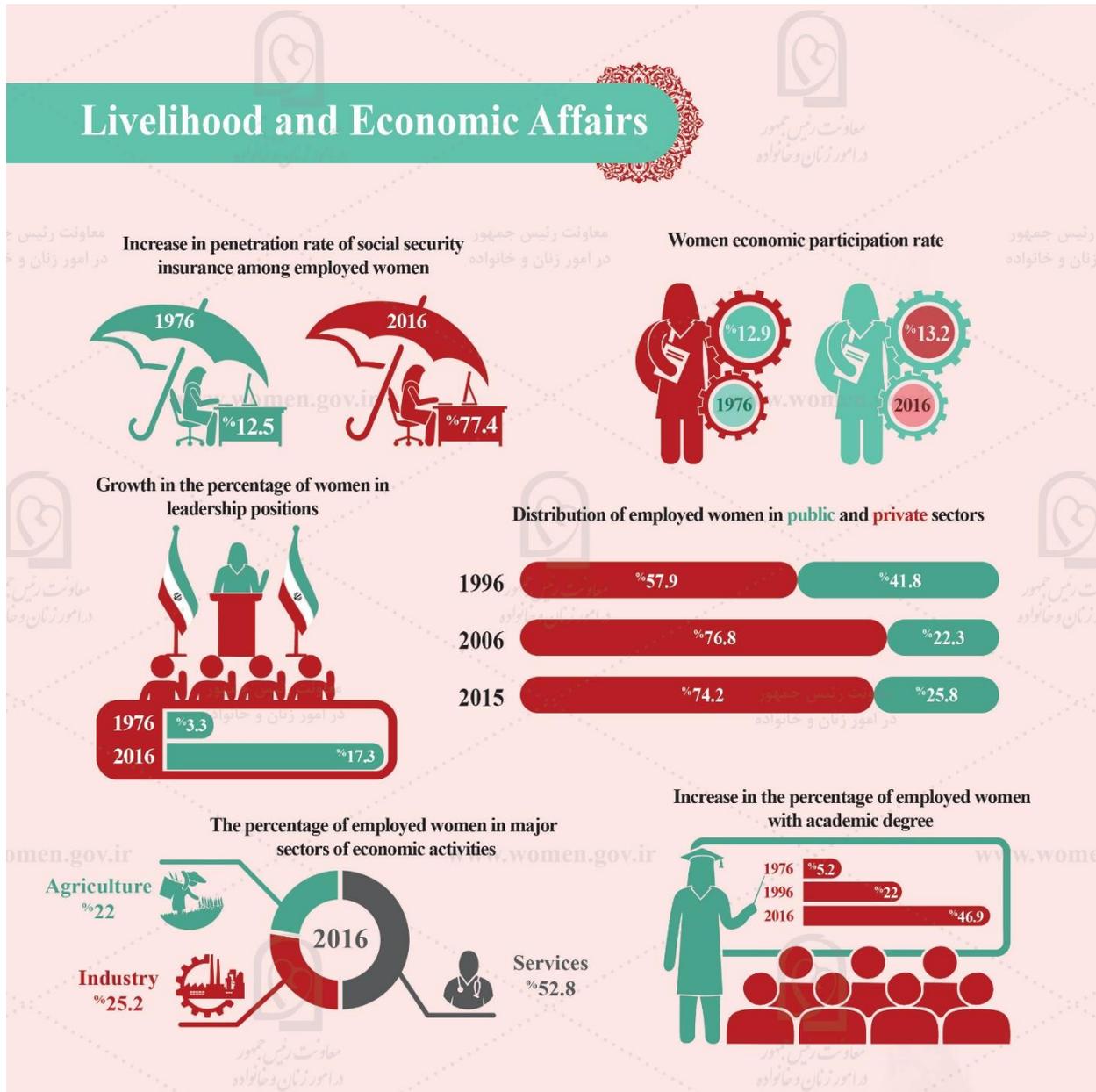
- Reducing maternal death: The maternal mortality ratio (caused due to complications of pregnancy and child birth) has dropped to 18.1% (per 100,000 live births)

- Reducing child mortality rate to 11.2% per 1000 births



- Applying result-based policies in the discussion of "increasing Iranian women's economic participation rate" and increasing the active employment rate of women in the country, which led to an increase in the employment rate of Iranian women in

2017 through the development of 21,290 women's cooperatives with 12,686,321 female workers.



-Preparing the first governmental body report (governors, ministers, heads of organizations, and Vice-presidents) on the executive process of employing women at managerial levels in governmental organizations on the basis of Decree No. 1351824 dated 23 July 2016 by the Supreme Administrative Council on the issue of assigning

30% of management positions to women to report to the government cabinet and monitor the implementation of the capacity building resolution for more women to be appointed in the nation's managerial positions.

- Establishing a platform to empower women and enhance their managerial skills at basic, middle and senior levels through holding dozens of general and specialized courses and documenting the specialist and executive experiences of female managers with the cooperation of the Governmental Management Training Center at both national and provincial levels. The result is an increase in the number of female executives at all levels from 14.9 percent in 2017 to 18.3 percent in 2018.

- Increasing the number of female faculty members to 20,000 people.

- Conducting the second "National Festival on Women and Science" commemorating the late Iranian mathematician, Maryam Mirzakhani and praising at least 18 selected elite and outstanding women through joint collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology to present successful role models to the Iranian community of women.

- Preparing a report on "The Status of Women and Family" in 31 provinces and categorizing each province in comparison with other provinces (based on two levels of access: 1. management 2. general) with the aim of monitoring and evaluating the status of women's progress in the country and then sending that information for all the practitioners in this field, as the basis for policy-making, planning, and removing challenges and barriers in the way of Iranian women's progress.

- Preparing a "Women and Family Status Atlas" in 190 maps and charts to determine the status of women in the country based on one-to-one indicators of sustainable development and determining the rank of each province relative to the whole country as well as the country's average at two levels of access: 1) For managers to monitor and take action and 2) Generally for the people to be informed and participate in removing barriers.

- Designing the "Women and Family Status Atlas" system in the Vice Presidency's portal with various options, including: processing the indexes in the report, updating information, the ability to explore the indicators in different forms by: viewing changes in an indicator after a certain amount of time, the possibility of determining

a total, urban and rural scale, comparing the status of an indicator in different decades in the country, or the possibility of examining the situation of a province in decades, etc. with the aim of improving the situation of collecting statistics and gender data in the country.

- Establishing a "Document on the Promotion of the Status of Women and Family" in the provinces of Iran with the aim of utilizing provincial capacities, achieving an action plan, and creating a roadmap for development in the field of women and family, with the cooperation of the three sectors: the government, civil society and the people.

- Creating specialized brainstorming rooms and exploiting the capacities of professionals in the “fourteen working groups of the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs” within these brainstorming rooms (1-rural and nomadic women’s working groups 2-relatives 3-economy and entrepreneurship 4-health 5-the environment and informal establishments 6- prevention from social harms 7- healthy families 8-women studies 9-legal/jurisprudential 10- young girls 11-international 12-sports 13- resistant economy 14-art).

## **Challenges**

Like so many other countries, shortage of statistics and gender-specific data is the main challenges for women. therefore, the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs is determined to resolve this shortcoming through the following ways: requiring the national headquarter of women and family to present an annual report on women advances in Iran based on the approved indicators of gender equity, signing a memorandum of understanding with Statistical Center of Iran to receive data from organizations annually, creating women data banks, planning comprehensive atlases on the status of women at two national and provincial levels in Iran and justifying executive managers to present gender-specific data.

To reinforce the mechanism of women and to increase women participation in all power, management and decision-making positions, which is another challenge of this country, we have allocated 30% of capacities for female managers in all ministries, organizations and executive agencies under the control of the government. Statistics indicate that there has been a 60 percent growth in women employment at managerial positions and during the last 10 months, we have witnessed a 14.6%

growth in women employment in 22 executive agencies; in addition, at present there are 28 female deputies and counterparts in which Gilan and Sistan and Baluchestan provinces hold a record in this arena.

With an overview on the purposes of Millennium Development Goals and its failure due to the government's inability to finance all executive expenses, the private sector's role in meeting all budgetary requirements to realize the objectives of sustainable development was highlighted to overcome this MDG shortcoming. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, gender-specific budgeting is another element of improving women's status, based on the Sixth Development Plan; the main approach of the National Women Council focuses on mainstreaming, policymaking for eliminating gender gaps and inter-system network cooperation (memorandum of understanding) for finance.

**2- Which of the following have been the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country over the past five years through laws, policies and/or programmes? (Please check relevant categories)**

***2-1 Equity and non-discrimination***

The government body approved the executive act of Article 101 of the Sixth National Development Plan on women`s empowerment in February 2019, according to which the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, with the cooperation of the Plan and Budget Organization and Administrative and Recruitment Affairs Organization of Iran, is obliged to prepare an executive act of Article 101 on gender equity, and also to determine the mechanisms of monitoring indexes and tasks of executive organizations in order to improve gender equity.

In this Act, it has been emphasized that the Vice Presidency is obliged to create an assessment system, to monitor the status of women and family as well as the indexes of gender equity continuously for at least three months after passing the act for measuring the impact of executive bodies` programs on improving gender equity indexes and reinforcing a policymaking, decision-making and macro-planning system related to women and family.

In accordance with Paragraph 2 of this Act, all executive bodies are obliged to gather, upload and update statistical data and information related to programs and the approved indexes of this headquarter in Paragraph 2 of this act after coordination with the Vice Presidency.

With regard to Paragraph 3 of this executive act, it should be noted that all executive bodies are obliged to examine the current status of women and family affairs, to formulate a reconstruction plan of these affairs in accordance with their job descriptions and positions and to present the final plan to the Administrative and Recruitment Affairs Organization of Iran within 3 months after passing this act.

The Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs has the responsibility of monitoring and controlling the implementation of the Sixth Development Plan; it is also obliged to present the results to the ministers in addition to receiving periodic reports from executive bodies and evaluating their performance.

With regard to Paragraphes 4 and 5 of the above-mentioned act, it should be noted that this Vice Presidency, in cooperation with the Administrative and Recruitment Affairs Organization, is required to plan and formulate academic courses to improve women`s managerial knowledge for implementation in executive bodies and also for

society to benefit from female human capital in the process of developing and guaranteeing women partnership at organizational decision-makings.

The highest position at executive bodies is responsible for follow-up and implementation of this act at executive levels and giving necessary reports to the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs related to Paragraph 2 of this act.

The Vice Presidency is required to follow up the implementation of this act and to prepare analytical report on the status of women and family every six months in accordance with data documented in Paragraph 2 and to present it to ministers, the Islamic Republic of Iran and other related bodies.

### ***2-2 Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls***

The Islamic Republic of Iran has made all its efforts to eradicate gender gap in the area of education at elementary and secondary levels.

With regard to women's literacy rate of 84.7%, it should be noted that the rate of girls who have dropped out of school has decreased to 3 percent in 2016. The Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs has undertaken the following activities to reduce this number to zero:

- Participation in providing formal and informal training for children through concluding the memorandum of understanding and joint partnership agreement with national and provincial executive bodies.
- Concluding an agreement with the Ministry of Education on increasing educational coverage of girls who have been dropped out of school in deprived areas (10 provinces) along with the following objectives
- Implementation of the project in 10 deprived provinces (Boshehr, Northern Khorasan, Southern Khorasan, Khozestan, Sistan and Baluchestan, Kerman, Lorestan, Golestan, Markazi, Hormozgan);
- Allocating finances to support girls who have been kept out of schools by the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs;
- Coverage of 10 percent of girls who have been dropped out of school from first to sixth grade through qualitative and quantitative indexes of access to academic centers and materials and improvement of parents culture with regard to learning literacy;
- This year, the Vice Presidency has signed a special project for children who have been dropped out of school. With regard to budgeting for this group of girls in the 2019 budget, the Vice Presidency attempts to support educational coverage of 3466 deprived girls who have been kept out of school from the first to the sixth grade in 10 provinces, to teach personal, family and social

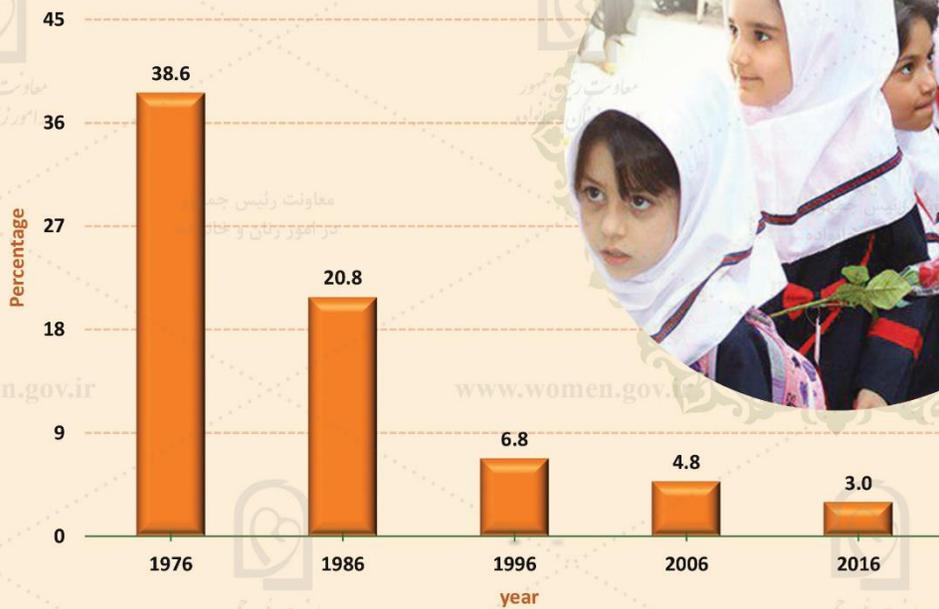
responsibilities and rights for 49152 high school students and their parents in all provinces and to support literacy of 3000 rural and nomadic women and girls in nine provinces in 2017.

3

Those Deprived of education

One of the parameters which indicates the efficiency of an education system is the rate of those deprived of education between 6 and 14 years old. Before Islamic Revolution almost 1/3 of girls between 6 and 14 years old were deprived of education. In the years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the number of girls deprived of education decreased drastically up to 3%. From 1976 to 2016 the number of Iranian girls deprived of education decreased about 36 units.

The Rate of Girls Deprived from Education



### ***2-3 Eradicating violence against women***

- Drafting a comprehensive bill on "Securing Women against Violence", 2016. This bill, that includes precautionary, preventive, supportive and judiciary measures, has been prepared by the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs with regard to support women against all kinds of violence including domestic violence as follows: Chapter 1: Generalities and Concepts , Chapter 2: Preventive and Supportive Mechanisms, Approaches and Measures, Chapter 3: Predicting Crimes and Penalties in order to penalize the Perpetrators of Violence, Chapter 4: Special Legal Procedures to Tackle with Violence-Related Crimes.
- Announcement of "the Charter on Citizens' Rights" by the President in 2017
- Amending the law on the Nationality of Children who are Born by Marriage of an Iranian Woman with a Foreign Man (2019)
- Considering strategies and supportive programs for all individuals under 18 (including girls) in the comprehensive Platform for Action on Children's Rights in the Vision 2025 (national document)
- The law on Preventing Crime approved in 2015
- Executive Act for Protection of Women and Girls who are exposed to Social Harms and those who are Socially Vulnerable
- **Formulation of draft document for Providing Women with Security in Social Relationships in 2016-2017**
- Drafting the bill on Supporting Adolescents and Children

### ***2-4 Political participation***

Preparation of the first report on the executive process of employing women at managerial levels (governors, the heads of organizations, Vice presidents) with reference to approval No.1351824 of Supreme administrative Council in 20/09/2017 was submitted by Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs in order to allocate 30% of managerial positions to women.

Here it is worthwhile noting the following issues:

- women`s appointment at managerial positions by the President order is being followed up and annual growth of 10 percent in the number of female managers is going to be realized;
- women`s managerial skills is improved through holding training courses for 2250 female managers in different provinces ;

- scientific-practical skills of 110 women as managers, consultants and representatives of NGOs is improved through holding many educational courses related to presence at international arenas;
- 17.8 percent of knowledge-based companies' managers are comprised of women. The number of these managers has risen to 320 in 2016.
- Over the last years, the proportion of women of all legislators, high-ranking officials and managers has risen more than 6 percent and it has reached from 8.11 percent in 2009 to 21.8 percent in 2016.

### ***2-5 Women's entrepreneurship and women's enterprises***

- Signing Memoranda of Cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade and Chamber of Commerce on holding entrepreneurship programs for female entrepreneurs;
- Holding entrepreneurship programs on Increasing the Potentials of NGOs.
- Conducting a festival to introduce and celebrate business women and female entrepreneurs in the deprived and less privileged regions of the nation in 8 provinces (including West Azarbaijan, Ilam, South Khorasan, Khuzestan, Sistan and Baluchestan, Kurdistan, Lorestan and Hormozgan);
- Implementing the National Empowerment Plan for women seeking business opportunities with an entrepreneurial approach in 31 provinces of the country which resulted in the provision of a database of women entrepreneurs from different provinces;
- Supporting 51 joint projects with Women and Family Social Associations from the beginning of the Twelfth Government (2017 until present) on issues of employment, living conditions, promotion of health (physical, psychological, social), prevention of social harm, development of NGO capabilities, cultural, artistic and informative subjects, consolidating the family foundation and deepening religious values and beliefs, as well as training 13136 people during the implementation of these projects, providing individual and group counseling to 6,255 people, training and creating 623 job opportunities through setting up and developing home-based businesses and a workshop model for Female Heads of Household , as well as those women and girls who are injured, vulnerable, or in abusive household, women who have recovered from addiction, educated female youth in search of work, rural women and girls, housewives and members of NGOs active in the field of women and family;
- Conducting the second "National Festival on Women and Science" commemorating the late Iranian mathematician, Maryam Mirzakhani and

praising at least 18 selected elite and outstanding women through joint collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology in order to encourage entrepreneurship by providing a role model.

### ***2-6 Social Support***

- The Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs assisted in establishing "National Women's Empowerment Working Group for Female Heads of Household ". This working group has a joint participation with other affiliated organizations. The purpose is to implement Paragraph 80 of the Sixth Development Plan on the elaboration and implementation of a comprehensive empowerment plan for Female Heads of Household. Cooperation and collaboration between the public sector and NGOs, recognition and action to address the shortcomings and inadequacies in existing policies and programs of the organizations, as well as efforts to develop current measures to empower this group of women are some of the other goals of this working group. Working group's framework focuses on six dimensions, including the employment and entrepreneurship of Female Heads of Household, health, social support and assistance, socio-cultural status, legal issues, as well as comprehensive database development on the status of Female Heads of Household and a unit of service and information for this group of women.
- The Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs has launched a joint project on women's economic empowerment, headed by the Ministry of Interior, Iran's Technical and Vocational Training Organization, and Children's Work Institute. In order to prevent social injuries in marginalized areas and informal settlements, the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs implemented the Economic Empowerment Plan for Female Heads of Household living in these areas as follows: Strengthening the micro business development approach to prevent and reduce social harm; forming local partnership groups to promote and empower Female Heads of Household living in informal neighborhoods and settlements.

The goal of this project is to create sustainable employment for the 5700 Female Heads of Household living in informal settlements.

- Implementing Memorandum of Understanding on Borrowing Loans:

Devoting 1,000 billion Rials to 33 thousand Female Heads of Household , women who financially support themselves and those (over 40 years old) who have never got married throughout the country in joint participation with Qarz al-Hassanah Mehr Iran Bank; devoting 2300 billion Rials in the Annual Budget Law 2018 for the insurance of households supported by the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee and the Welfare Organization.

- Promoting the level of knowledge and skills of rural women through promoting job creation and entrepreneurship mechanisms throughout the country, especially in rural areas, and implementing projects such as supporting the formation of rural women's cooperatives, strengthening rural women's economic organizations, the development of rural women's entrepreneurship, etc.
- Promoting the level of knowledge, skills and economic empowerment of Female Heads of Household through implementing women's empowerment plans.
- Setting up a campaign for the release of female prisoners of unpardonable crimes entitled "The Second and Third Armaghan" with the cooperation of the Blood Money Headquarters and the Prisons Organization as well as collecting about 9000 million Rials of public donations and the release of a number of mothers who were imprisoned
- Holding a meeting on the implementation of the "Empowering Female Heads of Household in Informal Settlements" on January 13<sup>th</sup> in the provinces of West Azerbaijan, Lorestan, Kurdistan , Kerman, Kermanshah, Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Alborz, Fars, and Sistan and Baluchestan provinces.
- Empowerment of women and girls in the city of Heris through conducting educational classes in the Social Health Bases (East Azarbaijan Province, 2017) with the aim of maintaining and consolidating the family foundation, preventing family conflicts and reducing divorce rates, strengthening effective communication skills and social interactions, as well as psychological counseling for the community.

- The Assistant Directorate for Employment and Self-Esteem in the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, established in March 1979 with the aim of organizing and addressing the living conditions of those who are deprived and poor, is responsible for the implementation of self-employment plans and the creation of suitable job opportunities for women and families in need.
- The Tehran Municipality Empowerment Center for Women Headed Households acts as a trustee since 2009 for empowering Female Heads of Household, in order to increase their abilities and capabilities, improve the level of knowledge and skills of this group of Tehran citizens and bring them to a good level of empowerment. The measures taken in these headquarters are for female headed households in a coordinated package of counseling, employment, education and welfare services. According to Paragraph 104 of the second Five-Year Development Plan of Tehran Municipality, the two main activities of the headquarters on the development of entrepreneurship in Tehran are:
  - Supporting the development of Iran's Technical and Vocational Training Organization in order to create job opportunities for people on the verge of being harmed or already harmed in collaboration with relevant organizations.

**3- Over the past five years, have you taken specific measures to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination? (Please check relevant categories)**

## **General activities:**

1. Establishing the position of the President's Special Assistant in Citizenship Rights, 2016. In order to monitor, coordinate and follow up on the commitments contained in the Charter on Citizens' Rights in 2016, in the executive mechanism section, a new institution has been foreseen as a special assistant to the President for civil rights issues.
2. Providing social security insurance for 44,000 rural and nomadic
3. Providing social services based on the community and launching 146 active social service bases in marginalized and vulnerable areas.
4. Launching Office of Family Affairs to empower children and adolescents who are abandoned or under bad living conditions, emphasizing the preservation of human dignity and rights.
5. Office for Social Harm Victims

This office aims to provide psychosocial services to target groups on individual, family and social levels by relying on new scientific approaches in order to control and reduce social harm. The target group of this office are couples who have filed for divorce, girls and women who are socially harmed, girls at risk of social harm, women and girls who are vulnerable to violence or already abused, and people with gender disorder. Among the most important practical measures of this office are the following:

- Launching 26 centers for the protection and rehabilitation of vulnerable women and girls in 23 provinces of the country in 2014;
- Launching 31 girls' health homes for those exposed to social harm in 2014;
- Launching 185 family intervention centers to reduce divorce in 31 provinces of the country in 2014;
- Supporting people with gender disorder in all 31 centers of intervention for individual, familial and social crises;
- Establishing day care centers for children and families in 4 provinces;

- Launching a safe house for women and girls exposed to violence or abused in 17 centers in 15 provinces in Iran.

- A Memorandum of Understanding with the Prisons and Security and Corrective Measures Organization in 2015 to provide counseling, financial and legal services to female prisoners and their families;

11) Supporting specialized meetings held on women's health and high-risk behaviors focusing on prostitution (prevention of social harm)

The project, with the cooperation of the Institute for Women's Studies and Research and the Social Harm Prevention Team of the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, aims to provide the ground to implement programs for the prevention of social harm and develop NGO capabilities as well as identify the causing, injurious and harmful factors to women's health and high-risk behaviors, identifying inhibitory factors in the intellectual and social development of women with high risk behaviors. Furthermore, the prevention of social injuries to women and families in order to investigate the causative, harmful and harmful factors in women's health and high-risk behaviors by organizing one 3-hour specialized sessions with 200 faculty members, researchers, students and NGO representatives have been in place since 2015.

12) Specialized Meetings on the Issues and Challenges of Girls' Child Marriage, (Winter 2015)

13) Conducting a scientific meeting on the feasibility of child marriage from the point of view of the Iranian legal system, Islamic thought and international standards(2016)

14) Support the making of documentary films on the marriage of women with foreign nationals

The issue of illegal marriages of irreparable consequences, including the birth of children without identities which caused social breaksthat gradually turn into psychological stress and conflict. The collapse of the family foundation due to lack of commitment of illegal immigrants to life is another consequence of this issue. Therefore, the extent of the consequences of illegal marriages necessitates the

production of documentary films in this field with the aim of identifying women who are involved in illegal marriages, the problems of marriage with foreign nationals, with regard to ethnic, cultural, religious and economic diversity, information on the consequences of marriage with foreign nationals and preventing such consequences as well as finding the appropriate cultural and social strategies to address this phenomenon. This documentary was produced in late 2015 in three provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan, KhorasanRazavi and West Azarbaijan, and will be presented to the government and the parliament to sensitize officials and create the ground for legal reforms.

#### 15) Holding Specialized Meetings

One of the most important governmental strategies of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the international arena is to build understanding and strengthen the convergence between the countries of the region on various issues, focusing on strengthening the dialogue of sustainable development, peace and security. In this regard, one of the most important initiatives of the 11th Government was the adoption of the resolution "The Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism " introduced by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Meanwhile, over the past few years, the wave of increasing violent extremism and terrorism has become one of the worst concerns among regional countries, and women and girls are the most important victims.

In this regard, the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs held a series of specialized meetings on the subject. The first Women, Peace and Sustainable Security Specialized Session on the sidelines of the 2nd International Women's Conference and Exhibition on the Role of Women in Sustainable Development with the invitation of a number of senior officials and women's activists from other countries to examine the dimensions of this important and synergistic issue for Muslim women. The Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, Vice President of the Legal Affairs Committee, the Vice Presidency for Women's Affairs and Family of the Republic of Afghanistan and High Representative of the Republic of Afghanistan, Vice President of the State Committee for Azerbaijan Women, former Minister and Adviser for Women's Affairs of Iraq, Head of the Department of Islamic Family Affairs, Representative of the Islamic Human Rights Commission and women's rights activists at the national and international levels were all present

at the governmental and non-governmental level. The meeting topics were as follows:

- Explaining women's role in security for sustainable development;
- The human rights of women and children from the point of view of Islam and international law and the extent of violations by terrorist and extremist groups in the region;
- Introduction of the human dignity of women in Islam and the extent of its violation by terrorist groups;
- Convergence in humanitarian actions and assistance to women and children victims of terrorist crimes and synergistic groups to end violence and extremism and punish those responsible for it

The second meeting, entitled "Women, Peace and Security," was held on National Women's Day, and was attended by national and regional authorities, ambassadors from Iran, as well as philosophers in the field of women and family.

The purpose of the meeting was to take advantage of the views and opinions of local, regional and international experts and critics to address the issues of women in the challenge of peace, security and violence caused by traditional and religious extremism.

Also, at this specialist meeting, by taking advantage of the experiences of female leaders in the region, effective ways to achieve peace and security were sought and presented.



## 16) Comprehensive Domestic Violence Prevention and Control Program in Primary Health Care

- Primary screening of married women over 15 who experience violence by health care experts
- Referring to a psychologist for further screening and then a general practitioner for final diagnosis, registration and documentation of spouse abuse cases
- Risk and safety assessment
- Providing the necessary medical and therapeutic services to women who have experienced violence
- Teaching principles and life skills to women who are victims of violence that refer to comprehensive health centers, as well as providing psychological counseling and psychosocial support to them.
- Referral of special cases to specialized centers or supportive resources outside the health system
- Follow ups by health care professionals to get results

## 17) Research and Publishing Activities

1. Reflecting on the provisions of the legal system of the country in the field of acid attacks with emphasis on the necessity of effective repair of victims' casualties.

Acid attack victims experience physical signs on their faces, mental harm caused by deterioration in their normal life functions, and an irreparable reduction in their beauty, psychological pressure on their families. The target of social harm in comes in different forms and places, and society will not be entirely immune from the corrupted sequence of social harm. Therefore, providing a solution to address this multifaceted problem requires a comprehensive approach and the formulation of measures that are appropriate in three distinct dimensions: a) how to make victims feel better and repair all damages, both material and spiritual losses; (b) the prosecution of the perpetrator (c) the prevention and deterrence of similar incidents in the future. Based on this, the present Strategic Study Report, in 2015, provides in detail the challenges of the legal system of the country and the most important legal gaps in the process of repairing the damage done to the victims, as well as the necessary solutions to overcome this issue was arranged and prepared for the President in the three axes.

2. Preparing a report on the legal pathology of early marriages under the legal age in 2015

The report was prepared by the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs and presented to the National Children's Rights Convention of the Ministry of Justice. Subsequently, the National Reference Office held a meeting with the presence of relevant government officials and considered the legal and executive gaps leading to early marriages, and developed solutions to this issue.

**specific measures to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls based on relevant categories:**

### **1- Rural Women**

1- Implementing the plan for enhancing and promoting social resilience in local communities through conducting an educational workshop for at least 620 representatives of local social organizations as local facilitators for 36 hours equal

to 22320 people per hour, holding educational meetings. Participation for 60 hours for 13667 members of local communities in 452 neighborhoods in the country is equal to 820020 people per hour, with emphasis on marginalized and vulnerable areas and vulnerable people in the provinces, including the earthquake struck areas of Kermanshah and marginalized areas of Sistan and Baluchestan

2. the Plan to select, train and support rural and nomadic female facilitator's development:

Women are facilitators to volunteers who are elected by other women through local elections. They represent the villagers who connect the people, the government, and NGOs. In addition, they are coaches who train the rest of the people.



In this project, rural or nomadic female volunteers are selected by other women in stages. After gaining the necessary training, they will be situated in a two-way relationship, and in addition to self-esteem and self-confidence, will provide the ground for the participation of other women and facilitate local development.

### Goals

- Capacity building in local communities to delegate affairs to the people and strengthen their participation in accordance with Paragraph 44 of the Constitution.
- Facilitating and accelerating the two-way relationship between the government and rural women
- Providing ground for attracting women's participation in socio-economic activities

## **Results and Achievements:**

Currently, there are 16,000 women in rural and nomadic development facilities throughout the country. Meanwhile, the selection of women facilitators in tribal areas began in the 27 provinces of the country for the first time in 2013. So far, 237 nomadic women have been selected.

### **3. Rural and Nomadic Women's Micro-credit Fund**

One of the major obstacles to the development of rural and nomadic women's activities is their lack of access to financial and credit resources. Hence, the microfinance program is an attempt to allow rural and nomadic women to have easy and quick access to low-interest facilities. In this system, rural and nomadic women receive loans from their own small saving deposits. The loan guarantee is made through a chain between members. Granted loans are for agricultural and productive activities and the priority is with group activities.

#### **Goals**

- Accumulation of scarce and dispersed savings of the villagers and converting them into group capital
- Promoting the culture of saving among rural women
- Increasing the access of low income women and girls to facilities and financial resources
- Developing small and local businesses
- Strengthening the participation of rural and nomadic women in social and economic activities

## **Results and Achievements:**

There are currently 1,500 rural welfare funds and 222 nomadic funds nationwide, with 1017 funds belonging to the period between 2011-2016.



## **Granting Microfinance Funds and Creating Nongovernmental Funds Supporting Rural and Nomadic Women's Agricultural Activities Development**

Places that offer microfinance funds, despite their positive socioeconomic functions, are not linked to the official financial resources due to lack of legal registration, and can not benefit from government support for the development of their activities. Therefore, in order to solve this problem and provide areas for growth, strength and sustainability, the Office for the Development of Rural and Nomadic Women's Agricultural Activities, in cooperation with the specialized parent company of the Fund for the Promotion of Investments in the Agricultural Sector, is supporting organizations that give micro-funds for the development of rural and nomadic women's activities in the county.

These organizations have been registered as the first nongovernmental fund organizations for rural and nomadic women in the country, and they have all the benefits of nongovernmental fund organizations by law.

### **Goals**

- Forming special nongovernmental fund organizations for rural women and nomadic women legally and officially

- Strengthening micro-fund capital and providing 49% of the capital from government funding
- Providing members with access to education and financial resources to create sustainable employment
- Connecting more members and allowing the exchange of experiences through the network of provincial funds

### **Results and Achievements:**

Between 2011 and 2016, there were 14 provincial fund organizations. By forming these nongovernmental organizations, rural women became shareholders for the first time and their activities entered the formal sector of the economy.

#### **4. Development and land assignment of women's cooperatives**

Currently, there are 60,000 rural and nomadic women in 2000 rural and nomadic cooperatives. The land was transferred to them with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Land Affairs Organization Of Iran and Central Organization for Rural Cooperatives of Iran in 2015.

## **2- Young Women**

Preparation of the Legal Pathology Report of Early Marriages Under the Legal Age in 2015

The report was prepared by the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs and presented to the National Commission for the Rights of Children at the Ministry of Justice. Subsequently, the National Reference Office held a meeting with the presence of relevant government officials and considered the legal and executive gap leading to early marriages, and developed solutions to this issue.

The girls' health house, which grew by 7% in 2017 compared to 2015 has been supporting and maintaining girls who had poor living conditions for free and provides training, education, employment, independence, self-sufficiency, and so on.

## **3- Immigrant and Refugee Women**

On May 2015, Ayatollah Khamenei, leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, talked about the need to educate Afghan children; even illegal immigrants, saying: "**No Afghan child, even immigrants who are illicitly trafficked in Iran, should be excluded from education, and all of them should be registered in Iranian schools.**"

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with special emphasis on Islamic ethics after the Islamic Revolution, has enforced laws on foreign nationals based on the protection of human dignity of immigrants and their rights, in particular women. In addition, it supports prioritizing human-centered promotional mechanisms and actions:

- The law of entry and exit of foreign nationals in Iran, enacted in 1931, which is one of the oldest laws passed by the world on immigration.
- The Code of Practice for the Issuance of Foreign Nationals Visas in Commercial and Industrial Free Trade Zones, which facilitates the process.
- Education and Employment of Foreigners Subsequent to the third part of Chapter V of the Labor Law, Iran has aimed at improving the living conditions of migrants in order to prevent the sexual and economic exploitation of women, who in this regard, are the most vulnerable in migrant populations and require the most attention.
- Updating the Human Trafficking Act of 2004 and the criminalizing the displacement of women, girls, children and people with disabilities for exploitation under statutory titles (such as marriage)
- Providing affordable health and treatment opportunities for injured refugees in hospitals and public health institutions.
- According to the Code of Conduct on the education of foreigners admitted in 2016, the mechanisms for the free education of immigrant children were created, and on this basis even the right to education was foreseen for illegal and illegitimate asylum seekers.
- Establishing mechanisms to monitor immigrants' status

- Establishing emergency centers to support people trafficked that provide counseling, legal services and medical care.
- Creating psychological support mechanisms for those who are harmed (depression, lack of confidence, anxiety, etc.) for immigrants, especially women and children
- Supporting humanitarian measures as well as promoting NGOs supporting refugees and asylum seekers by allocating credit to them or directly participating them in the implementation process

At the level of the action, significant efforts were made by the JAA to support and empower refugees and asylum seekers (95,114 Afghan refugees and 28,268 Iraqi refugees). Thus, Iran has repeatedly been praised and honored by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

**The most important actions are as follows:**

1. The tuition rate for girl and boy students at all levels of education amounted to an average of 22,000,000 Rials for 400,000 students in the academic year of 2017 (in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 46,000 bank giftcards worth 23 billion dollars were allocated to vulnerable children. )

In the academic year of 2016, about 48,000 students, in the academic year of 2017, about 52,000 students, and in 2018, 72,052 illegal Afghan citizens were identified by the Supreme Leader and are studying at different levels of education.

2. Currently, 16,500 refugees are studying at various university levels:

- 170,000,000 Rials per capita for medical students, both male and female
- 89,000,000 Rials per capita for non-medical PhD students, both male and female
- 20,000,000 Rials per capita for undergraduate students, both male and female
- 40,000,000 Rials per capita for master students, both male and female

3. From 1982 to 2018, there have been 755,000 adult learners have taken courses from elementary levels o university education:

- Literacy costs per capita amounts to an average of 10,000,000 Rials

- In the academic year 2017, 18832 adults entered the field of science on a budget of 7,280,000,000 Rials

**4.** Since 2011, technical training classes have been implemented for refugees, including hairdressing, tailoring, accounting, cartography, etc.

- Technical and vocational training costs per capita amounts to an average 12,000,000 Rials

- By 2017, 16,000 people had enrolled in these courses and received a certificate.

**5.** Improving the health status of asylum seekers through:

- Establishing seven health centers in refugee provinces in 2016 and supplying medicine and equipment in 92 health centers

- Health and medical expenses per capita are on average 6,000,000 Rials

- Establishing a system for screening diseases

- Healthcare for pregnant women

- Special care for mothers and children before and after childbirth

- Improving household environments

- Teaching families

- Performing vaccination services

- Free coverage of 12,000 refugees with specific illnesses

- Health insurance coverage for all refugees from 2015

**6.** Better living conditions and employment services provided to refugees by JAA:

- Empowering and Employing 1103 Female Heads of Household

- Distributing 4805 cash giftcards among female heads of households

- Issuing 270 thousand work licenses to employ at least one member in each refugee family by 2016

#### **4-Women living with HIV/AIDS**

- Establishing a strategic plan for the end of AIDS in Iran by 2020 with the participation of 20 organizations and ministries
- Establishing 37 centers for the provision of regular HIV services, covered by the Ministry of Health, specializing in medical education for affected women
- Establishing 160 Centers for Behavioral Disease Counseling
- Establishing 24 Positive Gym Centers
- Establishing 8502 bases and centers for HIV counseling and testing
- Implementing the PMTCT program (prevention of mother-to-child transmission) since 2014 with 170 centers and 40 pilot hospitals and extending it to all universities and all regions of the country in 2018, which resulted in the birth of 98.2% healthy children from affected mothers.
- Optimizing the provision of harm reduction services to high and low risk groups of HIV/AIDS in special counseling centers for women including the cities of Hamedan, Lorestan (Khorram Abad), Kurdistan (Sanandaj), Kermanshah, Golestan (Gorgan) and East Azarbaijan (Tabriz) Hamedan Province - 2016). This project, in collaboration with the "AlvandRahaGostaran" population, aims to work to empower women at the risk of HIV in order to maintain their individual health and prevent and control HIV/AIDS. They make efforts to empower women at risk of HIV and support them by providing training programs, creating job opportunities, reducing risk behaviors and returning them to their family and community. Furthermore, they try to get to raise awareness among women at the risk of HIV and provide psychological counseling, prevent behavioral disorders and reduce social harm. These efforts are to improve the quality of life and health of women at risk of HIV. In addition, they empower counselors, midwifery experts as well as mobile worker teams in the centers by holding workshops, training 10 of the specialized staff working in the centers on life skills by holding 3-day workshops (20 hours) as well as teaching them "counseling skills to reduce risk behaviors" by holding another 3-day workshop (20 hours). Moreover, they provided communication services as well as special mobile services for 10 people in the form of a two-day workshop (12

hours). There was a 30% increase of prevention services for those with HIV in high-risk areas by mobile teams in covered provinces from a total of 1,000 people to 1,300 after 1 year). 15,000 services over a year of harm reduction services including mobile team services, sexually transmitted disease services, psychosocial services, tuberculosis screening, hepatitis vaccination, recreational support measures, empowerment and HIV testing. There was also a 30% increase in the number of women from 560 people per month to 730 people per month referring to counseling centers designed for vulnerable women. 8700 services were provided in all centers, with an increase of 20% in the number of educational and counseling sessions held out of a total of 35 to 42 sessions per hour in a month in all the centers together. This amounts to a total of 500 sessions of group training and counseling sessions over a period of one year in the provinces covered by the plan. An increase of 30% in the distribution of sexually transmitted diseases prevention packets over a year, with the number of distributed packets in centers ranging from an average of 13,000 per month to 17,000 in a month, a total of 200,000 over a year. The establishment of facilities for women in need of supplementary therapies to gynecologists for at least 3% of vulnerable women referring to these centers every month (15 per month in all centers), which amounts to 180 cases in one year. Establishing facilities for referring women in need of supplementary therapies to psychiatrists for at least 4% of vulnerable women referring to these center each month (20 per month in all centers), which amounts to 240 cases in one year. Establishing facilities for women in need of diagnostic measures (testing, sonography, CT scan ...) for at least 2% of vulnerable women referred to the center each month (10 per month in all centers), making a total of 120 people over a year. Awarding clients (in the form of incentives) in the event of a referral order and active participation in educational programs and health services to increase incentives for referral to centers for at least 5% of vulnerable women referring to such centers each month (for each center). Holding at least two classes of vocational training to empower vulnerable women referring to each center for 20 vulnerable women, holding at least two educational/recreational camps to attract more vulnerable women who are referred to the centers within one year (for each center) as well as monitoring and evaluating the target group and the different stages of the implementation of the project by the moderator or observer.

- Optimizing the provision of harm reduction services to high and low risk groups of HIV/AIDS in women's special counseling centers, including central provinces (Arak), Tehran, Alborz (Karaj), Isfahan and Qom (central province - 2016). The project, with the collaboration of the "Institute for the Revival of Forough Good Thought - Central", aims to empower women at risk of HIV in order to maintain their individual health and prevent and control HIV / AIDS, and makes an effort to empower and protect women at risk of HIV in the form of vocational training, job creation, reducing risk behaviors and returning them to their family and community. Furthermore, they make efforts to inform women at risk of HIV/AIDS, provide therapy sessions, and prevent behavioral disorders and reduce social harm. In addition, they try to improve the quality of life and health of women at risk of HIV, the empower consultants, midwifery experts and mobile teams working in centers through educational workshops and life skills training given to 20 specialist forces. These include advisers, midwifery experts, and mobile teams working in the centers of Siarderby holding a 3-day workshop (20 hours). Moreover, they teach "counseling skills to reduce high-risk behaviors" to 20 of the specialized staff working in centers by holding a course in the form of a 3-day workshop (20 hours). They also teach communication skills and provide special services to mobile team workers in the form of a two day workshop (12 hours) designed for for 30 people. They were able to increase the coverage of HIVperventionservices by 30% in high-risk areas through mobile teams in the covered provinces (800 people per month to 1,050 after one year) and a total of 12600 people over a year. Mobile team services providing harm reduction services created an increase of 30% more women referring to counseling centers designed for vulnerable women after a year, from 560 people per month to 730 people per month making a total of 8700 people who were provided services in all the centers. An increase of 20% in the number of educational and counseling sessions conducted, from a total of 80 one hour sessions in a month to a total of 100 sessions per month in all centers (1200 group training and counseling sessions) over a period of one year in the provinces covered by the plan. An increase of 30% in the number of sexually transmitted infection prevention packets over a year so that the number of distributed packets in centers ranged from an average of 12,000 per month to 15,000 totaling to 180,000 over a year. They also established facilities for referring women in needof supplementary visits to obstetricians and gynecologists for at least 3% of the vulnerable women referring to the centers each

month (15 people per month in all the centers), making a total of 180 cases over one year. Other measures include establishing facilities for referring women in need of supplementary visits to psychiatric clinics for at least 4% of vulnerable women referring to centers each month (20 people per month in all centers), 240 people within a year. Establishment of facilities was also done for the referral of women in need of diagnostic measures (testing, sonography, CT scan ...) for at least 2% of vulnerable women referring to the centers every month (10 people per month in all centers), 120 people in a year. Awarding prizes to patients (in the form of incentives) in the event of a referral order and active participation in educational programs and health services in order to increase visits to these centers for at least 5% of vulnerable women referring there every month (for each center), as well as holding at least two vocational classes to empower 20 referring vulnerable women, and holding at least two recreational and educational camps to attract more vulnerable women to the centers during one year (for each center).

- Social support for women who are vulnerable or injured, and their female children, with priority for women with addiction and women with high-risk behaviors (Tehran province, 2015). The project, in collaboration with the Institute "Women of the Land of the Sun", aims to provide a framework for the implementation of a program for the prevention of social harm, a program for the development of NGO capacities, the promotion of the physical and psychological well-being of women and girls who have overcome addiction or have families with a history of addiction and high-risk behaviors. Improving women's employment, decreasing women's risk of relapse and reconsumption of drugs, rehabilitation and family reunion, and social and job support are other measures taken. Thirty five women and girls have quit drugs by being provided 70 counseling, therapy and psychology sessions for 3 hours and 10 sessions of life skills training sessions (10 skills) with aspects on HIV/AIDS and addiction prevention to the families and children of moms who have recovered, and providing job skills training in 2015-2016 for women who had quit and were in an appropriate and reliable situation.

- Women's Mobile Patrol (Tehran Province -2016)

This project, in cooperation with the Institute "Women of the Land of the Sun"- Tehran, aims to reduce high-risk sexual behaviors in the DarvazehGhar area (District

12) in order to identify groups with high risk sexual behavior and communicate with them (prostitute and customer). Measures that were taken include training 45 people for mobile patrol positions with in 75 training sessions and 150 hours of training and counseling for them within 150 hours, providing services to the target group (distribution of condoms and some essential health items) in order to have access to initial facilities for protection and healthy sexual intercourse, raising awareness of high-risk sexual behaviors and its consequences for the target group regarding healthy sexual behavior and the development of communication with specialized services organizations

## **5- Ethnic and Religious Minority Women**

Fourteen brainstorming working groups of the Vice Presidency are its intellectual and scientific bodies. One of these bodies is the Workinggroup of Ethnic and Minority Groups, which, through charitable activities and artistic and cultural programs, has kept its engagement with this dynamic of civil society.

## **6- Women with Disabilities**

Predicting the guarantees of ensuring the social security of vulnerable women or members of the family with a disability by law (2015-2018)

- The right of employed women with severe disabilities, or children under the age of 6, or with a disabled spouse or child, a sick child, to reduce working hours from 44 hours to 36 hours, with the same pay and benefits of 44 hours (the law on the reduction of working hours for employed women who fall under specific terms, approved 2016);
- The right of women with a disabled spouse to receive a nursing or a worker's allowance to support the spouse of the disabled person (Paragraph 7 of the Disabled Rights Protection Act, adopted in 2018);
- Ministry of Roads & Urban Development providing suitably built and affordable housing for couples with disabilities (Paragraph 17 of the Disabled Rights Protection Act, adopted in 2018);

- Predicting tax exemption for 50 percent of the salaries and benefits of working women with disabled children (Paragraph 25 of the Disabled Rights Protection Act, adopted in 2018);
- Predicting exemption from military service for men with disabled spouses as long as they oversee the care of their disabled spouse (Added Note of Paragraph 26 of the Disability Rights Protection Act, adopted in 2018);
- Predicting service facilities for part-time employed women with a disabled spouse or child, subject to taking care of the disabled person at home (Paragraph 27 of the Disabled Rights Protection Act, adopted in 2018).

## **7- Elderly Women**

The Special Measures of the State Welfare Organization of Iran in 2017 for the disabled and the elderly, including men and women, are as follows:

The Elderly Disability Awareness Program, launched since 2016, began in pilot mode in 13 provinces and became operational in 2017 throughout the country.

Granting loans to disabled students with the goal to improve their quality of life by 190 percent in 2017 compared to 2015.

Giving scholarships to disabled students with a goal to improve their quality of life by 4% in 2017 compared to 2015.

Paying nursing care for people with SCI with a goal to improve their health and the welfare status of their families by 26% in 2017 compared to 2015.

Paying nursing care for PKU people with a view to improve their health and the welfare status of their families by 35% in 2017 compared to 2015.

Rehabilitation and empowerment programs for the disabled and the elderly grew by 43% in 2017 compared to 2015.

The program for creating a suitable living and transportation environment for the disabled grew by 230% in 2017 compared to 2015.

The rehabilitation program for rural handicapped people grew by 8% in 2017 compared to 2015.

Grants given to the disabled, seniors and chronic psychiatric patients increased by 17% in 2017 compared to 2015.

Rehabilitation programs to cover the cost of maintaining disabled people, the elderly and chronic psychiatric patients increased by 7% in 2017 compared to 2015.

The program for improving the nutrition of disabled children was 16% higher in 2017 compared to 2015.

The provision of sanitation and rehabilitation equipment needed increased by 3% in 2017 compared to 2015.

The provision of medical services for disabled people was 233% higher in 2017 compared to 2015.

In 2017, the disability care preparation program grew by 19% compared to 2015.

#### **4- Has the increasing number of humanitarian crises caused by conflict, extreme weather or other events affected the implementation of the BPPA in your country?**

**Yes**

The Islamic Republic of Iran, due to its geographic location is severely affected by ongoing humanitarian crises in the Islamic countries of the region, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Syria, etc.

Hosting more than 95,114 Afghan refugees and 28,268 Iraqi refugees, as well as around 100,000 immigrants and refugees from other countries involved in the war, is a difficult task in terms of the financial issue.



***For example:***

Providing educational and training services over the last 5 years for only a number of Afghan refugees required a budget of about 100 billion Rials each year.

On the other hand, the unilateral sanctions imposed by the US government against our country will also affect the economy of the country as well as the import of food, drugs, medical equipment and supplies, air equipment, etc. along with many other raw materials are in a state of crisis. As women and children are always the most vulnerable in society, they suffer the most negative impacts of this outbreak.

In addition, these abuses have put economic stability for safe investment in the country at high risk, which has put inflation and economic pressure on all people, especially women and children.

***For example:***

The impossibility of importing the basic equipment for airplanes into Iran has repeatedly led to the deaths of nearly 1,000 women, children and innocent civilians over the past five years.

Also, these outrageous and unilateral sanctions have endangered the health of ordinary people. The effects of sanctions on pharmaceutical import contracts and

health facilities and opportunities have had numerous harmful effects on health and environment in Iran.

The recent flood occurred in Iran has affected approximately 400 towns and villages. The illegal and unilateral sanctions imposed by the USA impeded the transfer of international financial contributions even those of Iranians resident in other countries.

**5- Which of the following does your country consider to be the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country for the coming five years through laws, policies and programs? (Please check relevant categories)**

During the course of the past five years, the policies, activities, and programs that have been implemented or are being implemented in the field of women and girls in Iran have been continuously and frequently monitored and the outcomes and challenges of previous programs have been evaluated by the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs. Accordingly, this Vice Presidency has prioritized the programs for the next five years of the country as follows:

- **Justice and nondiscrimination**
- **Equal access to education for women and girls**
- **Eliminating poverty**
- **Eliminating violence against women**
- **Political participation**
- **Women's entrepreneurship**
- **Gender budgeting**
- **Digital and financial inclusion for women**

## **Part 2: Progress in 12 areas of concern**

### **Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work**

**6. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to advance gender equality in relation to women's role in paid work and employment?**

#### **Reinforcing laws and policy-makings**

- The President has always emphasized on creation of equal job opportunities for men and women and this principle has been taken into account in the recent recruitment examination in order to prevent any kind of gender discrimination. All discriminatory Paragraphs were omitted from recruitment booklet by presidential decree.
- Training women in order to improve their job skills.

#### **Prevention from sexual harassment at work environment**

- One of the most recent Governments actions with regard to realization of women`s rights is the bill on “Securing Women against Violence”. If this bill is approved in the Parliament, the Government will take great steps to fulfill all rights of women, specially removing all-round discrimination against women in the community.
- Considering discrimination and misbehavior against female employees as administrative offence

#### **Improvement of Financial Condition**

Implement equal rights and payment against equal jobs based on the Law

1-General policies of administrative system dated 20/04/2010

Paragraph (6) of these policies concerns with equity in payment system and services compensation with focus on performance, empowerment and position of employment and employee

## 2- Labor Law dated 20/11/1990

Paragraph (38) of this Act concerns with equal wage against equal job and equal conditions and also the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of payment based on age, gender, race, ethnicity and political and religious beliefs

## 3-The Act of women rights and responsibilities in Islamic Republic of Iran dated 21/09/2004

Paragraph (104) of the above Act concerns with the privilege of equal wage and benefits when working condition for men and women is equal

-Empowerment of women who have been rehabilitated from addiction through job preparation for 530 women, support of five job centers for women employment and establishment of seven independent networks in six provinces (2013)

-Education, consultancy and organization of selected female carpet weavers to improve quality and to standardize their productions in order to increase the number of sustainable jobs through training 404 women for 9457 hours; specialized consultation for 2336 hours per person; formation of 206 job clusters, professionalism to create sustainable businesses for 1194 eligible rural women with priority of female-headed families and vocational trainees in 9 provinces (2014)

-Education, consultancy services and organization of selected farmer women to improve quality and to standardize productions in order to increase the number of sustainable jobs through training 2267 women for 56386 hours, formation of 1630 job clusters, specialized consultation for 19461 hours per person; professionalism to create sustainable businesses with priority of female-headed families, girls who are graduates of agriculture and female facilitators (for two consecutive years 2014-2015)

-Implement the national selection plan, education and organization of women who facilitate rural development through teaching professional facilitating techniques of agriculture to 81 people for 576 hours (2014)

-Implement national development plan and equip rural women's microfinance Funds through supporting 68 rural women's microfinance Funds and membership of 2465 women in the established Funds and training the members (2014)

-Implement national plan for education and promotion of rural women's entrepreneurship through training 2465 women (64 Funds have been created for rural women) in order to create grounds for sustainable employment and sustainability motivation in villages (2014)

-Implement National Plan to strengthen the role of women in development of agriculture through training 2465 women (64 Funds have been established for rural women) with the subject of producing organic fertilizer, healthy and chemicals and poisons-free products to provide food safety (2014)

-Implement the plan of selecting, training and organizing nomadic facilitating women through teaching facilitating techniques to selected facilitating nomadic women in three provinces (2014)

-Implement the development plan and equip Nomadic women Microfinance Credit Funds in six provinces (2014)

-Support thirteen Microfinance Funds for nomadic women and membership of 364 women in these Funds and members training (2014)

-Hold regional exhibitions on women's participation in sustainable development with emphasis on resistive economy in order to increase the potentials of rural and nomadic women in marketing products hosted by six provinces (2014)

-Hold regional exhibitions to supply women handicrafts and domestic products with centrality of six provinces through establishment of 1004 booths for big, intermediate and small producers in order to market their products, to increase sales and revenue and to improve their economic situations ... (2014)

-Implement national management training Plan, members' skill development and job creation, women Rural Cooperatives through training 3779 people in the areas of agriculture, animal husbandry and handicrafts (2015)

-Support thirteen rural and nomadic women's Microfinance Funds with coverage of 250 Micro Funds, 9393 members and training the members of these Funds in eight provinces (2018)

-Expand market-based skill development with approach of sustainable employment and focus on economic activists through needs assessment of 150 market-based professions, formulation and reconsideration of 17 market-based academic standards, educational consultancy and job guidance of 3792 women, specialized education of 1800 women for 804139 hours, holding test and issuing 1723 certificates for participants in four provinces ( 2015)

-Support women empowerment (specially female-headed families, mal-supervised families, girls who are looking for jobs, rural women and girls, housewives, NGOs members in the area of women and family) through educating 12088 people, giving consultancy to 4760 people, vocational training and providing 3579 job opportunities through domestic jobs and workshop model.

### **The mechanism of equal participation of women in economic decision-makings**

Attempts have been made to empower women in order to increase women employment. Recently, the comprehensive women's information system has been launched by Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs. In this system, the information of empowered women is listed including resume, studies, etc. The Administration is committed to benefit from the presence of empowered women in the Ministries and public organizations and employ them.

### **Improve access to modern technologies**

Since information and communication technology is the most recent tool to achieve the purposes of balanced and sustainable development and with regard to this fact that women empowerment could reduce gender gaps to a great extent, free access

for all community sectors specially rural and urban women is at the top of the Islamic Republic of Iran's agenda. According to which, the Acts on training information technology skills is compulsory for all Civil Servants.

1-Regulation on development of electronic services for all executive agencies dated 01/07/2014

Under Paragraph 15 of this regulation, all executive agencies are obliged to prepare their human forces in the form of Training Civil Servants System based on the plan formulated by the Vice Presidency for Management and Human Capital Development along with training Civil Servants at three levels of managers, technical experts and all employees in the area of Information technology and electronic government and will be notified four months after approval date of this regulation.

2-The Circular No. 145099 dated 09/02/2015 for Management and Planning Organization

Along with implementing development plan of electronic Government and administrative intelligence, the roadmap for reforming administrative system with the No. 560/93/206, dated 09/02/2015 and Paragraph 1-5- with title of planning and implementing training for managers, civil servants and technical experts of information and technology units and Paragraph 15 of electronic services development regulation of with the No. 7740/93/206 dated 01/09/2014 were raised in the seventh session of the Commission of Electronic Government development dated 27/01/2015 with the title of "training courses for Civil Servants in the area of information and technology" and were approved by Supreme Administrative Council to be implemented in executive agencies. Paragraph 2 concerns with training courses and audiences and three training groups including CEOs, managers, technical experts of Information and technology and all Civil Servants (formal, contractual except for service jobs) were included.

Along with realization of gender equity and sustainable development to reach modern and digital economy, The Ministry of Technology and Information launched 2 national plans of "family and Cyberspace" and "the role of technology in women

empowerment for entrepreneurship” with the approach of women empowerment in the cities and villages.

The first phase of the project concerned with benefiting families from Cyberspace opportunities with minimizing threats for family members specially children and the second phase concerned with teaching women the Internet specially the tools of electronic commerce, social networks that were based on business and web-based marketing. These two plans were implemented in 270 places in different provinces, cities and villages by the beginning of 2019.

In addition, some educational workshops were held for girls in three places with the subject of Information Technology.

**7- What actions has your country taken in the last five years to recognize, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work and promote work-family conciliation?**

***-Improve maternity leave***

Approval and implementation of increased maternity leave from six months to nine months (paid leave and increase of unpaid leave to two years) and allowing a two-week leave to men in 2013

***-Expand baby care***

Prediction of job benefits for working mothers

1-Maternity leave of nine months for single baby and maternity leave of 12 months for twins

2-Benefiting from breastfeeding hours (at least one hour)

3-Day care centers near the workplace or payment of day care centers fee in case it is not provided in the office

4-Allocation of transportation service from the office to the day care center for mothers during working hours for breastfeeding

5-Paying Allowance for baby formula, nutritional supplements and sanitary products to mothers who have twins or more than one child

6-Prohibition of dismissal or demoting women during maternity leave or after it based on the following legal references:

1-The Act on the structure of the comprehensive Welfare and Social Security System dated 10/05/2004

Paragraph (T) of this Act concerns with supporting mothers especially during pregnancy period and child custody

## 2-The Act on reforming the laws related to population and family

Under Note (2) of this Paragraph, the Administration is allowed to increase maternity leave to nine months and provide men with a two-week compulsory leave. This Act includes women whose children are under nine months.

## 3-Approval by The Council of Ministries with No.92091 T 46527 H dated 10/06/2013

Under Paragraph 1 of the above-mentioned approval, the maternity leave of working women (single child and twins) in private and public sectors is full nine months with payment of salary; in addition, under Paragraph (2) of this approval, the details of this approval include mothers whose child hasn't reached nine months yet and they could use this maternity leave by the time that their children are nine months.

## 4-The Act on supporting mothers during breastfeeding and promotion of breastfeeding dated in 1995

The executive regulation of the above-mentioned Act on supporting mothers during pregnancy and promotion of breastfeeding with No. 8409/516900 dated 12/0121995 was approved by the Council of Ministries.

Breastfeeding leave and creation of a Nursery in factories that have female workers; the employer is obliged to offer thirty minutes leave to all breastfeeding mothers after every three hours and half work until the children are two years which shall be regarded as the working time. However, under Note (1) of Paragraph (4), this decree of supporting breastfeeding mothers dated 10/04/2000 has been changed to the extent that all female workers should return to work after maternity leave and in the case of breastfeeding, they could use at least a one hour leave daily until their child is 20 months old. In addition, the employer is required to create Nurseries considering the number of children and their age limit (nursery, kindergarten...) (Paragraph 78 of labor Law<sup>1</sup>)

## 5- Approval No.200437/39141T by the Council of Ministries

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<sup>1</sup> In factories with female employees, the employer is required to give 30 minutes leaves every three hours and half to breastfeeding mothers until the end of two years which must be considered as the working time, in addition, employer is obliged to establish Nursery or Kindergarten depending on the number and the age of children.

This approval of executive agencies has obligated the Paragraph (160) of fourth development Plan to implement Clause (H) of Paragraph 145 and Paragraph (78) of State Service Management Act<sup>2</sup>, according to which all services that are offered to employees with deduction of charges such as Commute Service, Food Service, Sport Service, Nursery and etc. must be offered free of charge or with subsidy from 18/03/2008 through Employees Cooperatives or other Formations.

6-The Approval of Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution dated 22/06/2012 has considered economic incentives to encourage childbearing. Under Clause (13-5) of Paragraph (3), Maternity leave of nine months must be increased to 21 months without payment and in total 30 months for every child in which it could be extended to ten years while the job is kept for all employees of public and private sectors.

### ***-Creation and expansion of Nurseries***

Proper social and environmental circumstances including sanitation, social security, mental relaxation, healthy nutrition and education during the first years has great influence on prevention of physical and mental problems and formation of necessary skills and capabilities to encounter with problems at later ages. With knowledge of these issues, in addition to establishments of Nurseries in different parts of the world, Islamic Republic of Iran has considered particular initiatives for two groups of children.

The first group is the children who live in deprived and vulnerable regions with informal establishments. This group of children who live in deprived areas, experience more deprivation due to inability of families to pay the Nursery fees and other shortages. They are susceptible to many types of social harms on the streets. For this group of children, special Nurseries have been considered in those areas which give them access to educational services.

The second group is the children who live in villages. These children don't have the possibility to use services of Kindergartens due to distance to urban centers.

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<sup>2</sup> All payments out of the principles of this chapter except for legal payments for the retired, the disabled or the dead and all benefits such as direct subsidy for commute service, Nursery service and other payments will be canceled.

Therefore, establishment and expansion of Kindergartens in the villages is top on the agenda to provide necessary education to children at this age.

In addition, Islamic Republic of Iran provides some parts of Nursery fees for low-income families or families with disabled children with the purpose of helping social justice through redistribution of resources, development of growth plans and integrated evolution of children. Implementation of this project not only leads to benefiting of low-income families particularly in villages from Kindergartens but also leads to prosperity of Kindergartens in rural and deprived areas for more active presence of women in the society.

**8-Has your country introduced austerity/fiscal consolidation measures, such as cuts in public expenditure or public sector downsizing, over the past five years?**

Reductions of Governments' expenses have been implemented since the beginning of eleventh Administration (2013-2017) but its impacts have not been evaluated up to now.

## **Poverty eradication, social protection and social services**

### **9. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to reduce/eradicate poverty among women and girls?**

#### ***-Supported women's entrepreneurship and business development activities***

Based on the report published by Strategic Studies of Social Studies Unit at Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs in 2015, the supports in the area of Women's business development are as follows:

-Qualitative and quantitative improvement of women employment through improving the regulations related to women employment including the Act on promotion of breastfeeding and women's support during breastfeeding (dated 27/05/2005)

-Approve and implement the Act on Social Security Insurance of carpet weavers and handicrafts workers (dated 09/08/2009)

-Approve and implement the Act on organizing and supporting domestic jobs (approved in 12/05/2010 by Islamic Republic of Iran)

-Improve knowledge and job skills of rural women through promoting entrepreneurship mechanisms in the whole country especially rural areas and implementation of plans such as supporting women's rural Cooperatives, reinforcement of rural women's economic organizations, rural women's entrepreneurship development and etc.

-Improve knowledge, skills and capabilities of female-headed families through implementing female-headed families' empowerment plans by Welfare organization and Imam Khomeini Relief Committee

-Adjust expectations and attitudes of graduate girls in term of work and economic activities in accordance with labor market environment

-Implement national plan of training and promoting entrepreneurship and sustainable business development for rural and nomadic women through training 16380 members of rural and nomadic women's Microfinance Funds, offering consultancy to 17125 people, creation of job opportunities for 84.8 people, networking and formation of data bases of the current employments and monitoring of job sustainability (2015).

-Empower creative women and facilitators of rural development through training 60 selected women with entrepreneurship ideas, agriculture graduates, facilitators of rural development as local trainers, training 2145 entrepreneur women and agriculture graduates with subject of innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship for 8580 hours per person, establishment of 39 job clusters with 159 members, establishment of five local organization and 115 sustainable business for eligible rural women with priority of female-headed families, agricultural graduates and female facilitators, equipping these 15 job clusters with required facilities, introducing 23 members of job clusters for benefiting from low-interest loans in three provinces (2013)

-Hold exhibition of women's role-playing on sustainable development with emphasis on resistive economy with presence of 400 entrepreneur women (2014)

-Hold women's empowerment exhibition in the province of Sistan and Baluchestan through establishing 80 booths for the sale of women's products (rural, urban and nomadic) and training skills to 150 people for 1500 hours per person at the sideline of exhibition (2014)

-Implement the National Plan of promoting the culture of producing and consuming healthy products with emphasis on increasing the potentials of local communities through training the experts on Women's Affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture in different provinces for 1536 hours per person, training 18110 agricultural women, facilitators, and entrepreneurs in the area of agriculture for 331680 hours per person, establishment of 132 operating sites to produce healthy products and obtaining incentive standard for products (during two consecutive years of 2017-2018)

-Hold a festival to introduce and celebrate the position of entrepreneur women in the deprived areas in eight provinces (including: West Azarbaijan, Ilam, South

Khorasan, Khozestan, Sistan and Baluchestan, Kordestan, Lorestan and Hormozgan) which leads to preparation of entrepreneur women's database for 1335 people in the above-mentioned provinces.

-Implement the National Plan of increasing potentials of job-seeking women with approach of entrepreneurship in 31 provinces which leads to preparation of database with 700 records from creative women in all provinces.

***-Introduced or strengthened social protection programmes for women and girls (e.g. cash transfers for women with children, public works/employment guarantee schemes for women of working-age, pensions for older women)***

-Create the comprehensive database for women who have been dropped out from addiction through identifying these women and preparing analytical-statistical reports of these women and their needs for achieving sustainable health in six provinces (2013)

-Hold the first round of educational workshops for representatives of NGOs on social supports for women who have been survived from addiction through training 155 people which equals 2170 people in 6 Provinces (2013)

-Hold the second round of academic workshops for increasing the potentials of women's social Committees (the workshops have been held for four provinces by the beginning of 2019 and holding other specialized sessions in the region is high on agenda)

-Empower vulnerable women through vocational training to 50 vulnerable women in ten provinces (2014)

-Empower the elderly in order to improve the quality of life through training 45000 elderly women in ten provinces (2014)

**10. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve access to social protection for women and girls?**

At present, the Ministries and Economic Agencies that undertake activities in the area of empowerment and women economic participation include: Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Cooperatives, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Ministry of Sciences, Research and Technology, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industries and Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs that undertake significant activities in the area of independence, ownership, women employment and mainstreaming for benefitting from women's capacities along with increasing national production. The main activities in these areas are as follows:

- Invest in increasing women's effectiveness in the network of production, distribution and consumption
- Plan to remove problems stemming from economic sanctions and to eliminate preventive factors in women's economic activities
- Expand social supports including unemployment Insurance, development and reinforcement of compensatory mechanisms for informal labor forces, develop entrepreneurship, and improve women's academic and professional levels
- Support employment in the areas of women's Rural Cooperatives through creating Microfinance Units
- Reinforce Rural Organizations and Cooperatives for economic empowerment and revenue-making of rural women through facilitating access to production sources, property, capitals and ownership rights
- Reinforce women self-employment through granting employment opportunities and supporting vocational training
- Allocate provincial Credits of Executive Agencies to Women's Affairs
- Reinforce women's commercial networks through development of Information and Technology
- Allocate entrepreneurship loans to highly-educated women

- Allocate loan for women's domestic jobs in accordance with the culture and traditions of each region in order to preserve different cities traditions and to promote economic activities
- Create collaborative atmosphere by Funds and finance women who have factory, company and workshop
- Pay entrepreneurship and self-employment loans, and women's presence in political and social positions
- Attention to the exemption Bill with employers discount to pay female workers insurance in the Supreme Council of Labor
- Attention to Early Retirement Bill without considering age limit for women with priority of female-headed families and entrepreneur women
- Allocate interest-free credit loans to women with priority of female-headed families and entrepreneur women
- Formulate supportive regulations on worker women's job relationships in terms of tough and harmful

#### Job shifts

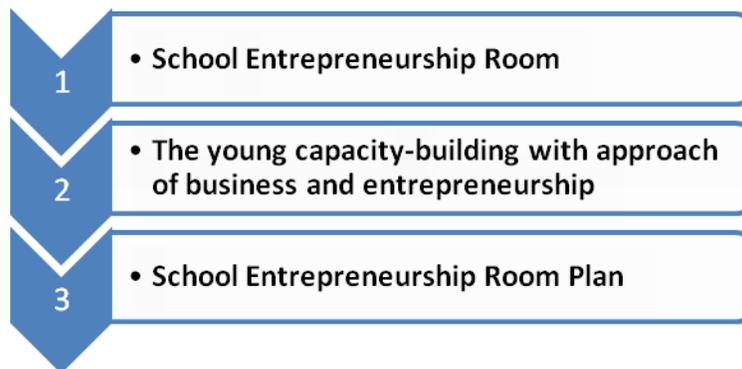
- Implement research project of "planning women's employment in accordance with their family responsibilities"
- Empower women in terms of equal opportunities for women and men through seeking employment for elite students, interaction with researchers in the area of water, electricity and new energies, conducting research projects and holding related festivals
- Notify Circulars on supporting female-headed families
- Notify Circular on allocation of budget for Women and Family Affairs by Subsidiary Companies
- Instruction on women's collaboration development and its notification to all Subsidiary Companies' Consultants

- Follow-up and implementation of allocating Nurseries grants to eligible women
- Provide women with Child Allowance
- Formulate the Bill on reforming Paragraphs of Labor Act to improve women's employment
- Identify entrepreneur women in provinces
- Implement local plan of women employment

### **Establish and consolidate “Foundation for Development of Cooperation and Entrepreneurship”**

**Mission:** the mission of the Foundation is to promote and develop entrepreneurship among teenagers, the Young, the women and NGOs across Iran with priority of less developed regions. The main approaches of the Foundation to accomplish this mission are **empowerment, facilitation and support.**

**Areas of Activity:** Foundation for Development of the young and Women Entrepreneurship as a professional NGO on entrepreneurship has focused its activities in three areas in which conducting research and promotional activities are the foundation of these three areas.



## **School Entrepreneurship Room Plan**

School Entrepreneurship room Plan seeks to educate and promote entrepreneurship with a practical approach at schools within which, different promotional, educational and consultative programs are implemented at schools. This plan promotes entrepreneurial attitude among students and teach them to have creative ideas for running business at each stage of education. To implement this plan, having chosen schools, the teachers will be responsible to implement this plan in case they are interested; otherwise, a facilitator or local entrepreneurship trainer will be employed. The teacher or facilitator must participate in the brief educational course. Students with facilitation of teacher or facilitator are engaged in promotional programs such as introduction to entrepreneurs, contest on entrepreneurship, film broadcasting in this area; therefore, their general awareness will be raised in the area of business and entrepreneurship.

Thirty interested students were identified from each school to learn entrepreneurship and business in simple terms. One of the main teachings in this plan is practicing the business model through which, business teams exchange ideas and promotional activities are offered by teachers or facilitators. Each team should put into practice its ideas with the help of consultants which means it should engage in pricing, supplying products and services, packaging, branding, advertising and participating in entrepreneurship exhibition to sell its products. This plan is designed in a way that students will practice different aspects of entrepreneurship and business process which is considered the practical teaching of entrepreneurship.

Foundation has used the capacities of local NGOs in recent years in order to implement this plan in the local community in a joint manner. In this method, the Foundation plays the role of training, supporting and transferring content and local NGOs play the role of execution and follow-up.

**The Purposes:** Promote and educate entrepreneurship to all high school students in order to promote entrepreneurship culture at schools and to promote some talented students to enter the process of entrepreneurship and to create new businesses in future

### **Target Community**

- -High school students (1000 people) at 100 schools
- -Teachers, students and academic staffs (100 people)
- -Parents of experienced students
- The Plan of school entrepreneurship room was launched for the first time at two schools in Ghaen City in 2010 and it has been implemented at 41 schools by 2017. Implementation of this plan has had many accomplishments in the recent years:
  - -Formulate a model to promote and educate entrepreneurship at schools to be offered at schools and NGOs
  - -Obtain permission of The Ministry of Education and Planning and Budget Organization in 2017 to implement this plan
  - -Institutionalize implementation of this plan in two cities of Ghaen and Zahedan with two local NGOs
  - -Train 70 teachers and identify six accompanying teachers who are interested in promoting entrepreneurship at schools
  - -Basic and elementary training of 672 students
  - -Identify 75 students who are disposed to business and entrepreneurship
  - -launch 32 domestic businesses by the project graduates
    - launch 17 independent businesses by the project graduates

**Results and achievements:**

Some of the main results of “schools entrepreneurship room Plan” for students, teachers and parents in 2018 are as followed:

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Accomplishments</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Create entrepreneurship atmosphere with advertisements at 100 schools and hold 4 contests</li> <li>-Basic introduction of 30 percent of students with business by visiting markets and businesses</li> <li>-Train 3000 students and raise their entrepreneurship literacy</li> <li>-Train 100 teachers of each school with practical methods of teaching and train entrepreneurship for 30 hours</li> <li>-launch school entrepreneurship room in 50 percent of schools that have space</li> <li>-Provide the opportunity to practice business skills for 30 students from each schools</li> <li>-Introduction to this plan and its importance for 30 percent of students’ parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Raising general awareness of 30 percent of students on entrepreneurship and business through promotional activities</li> <li>-Motivation and interest of selected students for learning entrepreneurship</li> <li>-Identify 300 interested students who are disposed to entrepreneurship</li> <li>-At least one linking teacher in each city promotes entrepreneurship</li> <li>-The majority of selected students get familiar with launching a business</li> <li>-At least 50 percent of trained teachers find necessary capabilities to teach entrepreneurship</li> <li>-At least 30 percent of talented students’ parents are justified about the importance of teaching business and entrepreneurship at teenage years</li> </ul>
<p>The impacts of the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The chance of success in launching a business at the end of school or university years for talented students who have passed this course is higher.</li> <li>-Practical and targeted training of entrepreneurship has become one of the schools programs and some activities will be undertaken at school continuously.</li> </ul>	

## Capacity-building of the young with approach of business and entrepreneurship

One of the main problems of the current society of Iran is the widespread unemployment among the young, the problem that leads to social harms and spread of disappointment and mistrust among this sector of society.

On the other hand, there are many talented and interested young in the country specially the less developed areas that have ideas for launching businesses but they are either prevented from developing their idea and creating open businesses due to lack of access to educational sources, information, professional consultancies and facilities, or they are encountered with failure provided that they establish a job. Foundation for Development of the Young and Women Entrepreneurship as a professional NGO in this area is determined to solve these problems through designing and implementing *the Plan of Capacity-building for the young with approach of entrepreneurship and business*.



This plan has been designed and implemented with a practical approach towards promoting business and entrepreneurship among students, local graduates and vocational trainees considering the fact that they must acquire necessary skills to enter the labor market based on the experiences of Foundation in developing

entrepreneurship for the young and the women. The young capacity-building plan encourages applicants to realize their ideas with acquiring necessary skills and helps them to find appropriate solutions to turn these ideas to marketed products.

In addition to professional business trainings and consultations, Foundation as a NGO attempts to create a network that helps the young to launch business, a network that is consisted of Government, NGOs and private sectors.

### **Objectives:**

- -Encourage the young to propose new ideas along with entrepreneurship and business
- -Discover talents and develop the young's new, entrepreneurial ideas
- -Establish new businesses by talented self-employed young
- -Institutionalize the promotion and development of business and entrepreneurship through empowering related civil and local institutions

### **Target Community:**

- -The young interested in self-employment
- -The young with business ideas
- -The young who own new businesses

### **Stages:**

The stages of the young Plan are as follows:

- 1- Brief overview of social and economic status of target community:
- 2- Recall and enrollment, interview and selection of talented individuals, the first stage of education, consultancy and finalizing the subject of business, complementary business trainings, identify related agencies, transferring experiences to local agencies,
- 3- Follow-up, monitoring and helping to launch business
- 4- Absorb financial sources and loans
- 5- Consultation services to help reforming the plan

## **The Plan Background:**

It is worth noting that Capacity-building Plan has been implemented in Kerman, Khozestan, Sistan and Baluchestan, Lorestan and Tehran provinces with the approach of business and entrepreneurship since 2011. During these eight years, Foundation has tried to update this plan based on up-to-date knowledge and experiences.

Based on the experiences of the last seven years, Foundation has launched the first phase of **My Business National Plan** in 31 provinces with the purpose of identifying interested young talents.

In the first phase of My Business National Plan which was held as a three-day seminar, the youngs interested in business were familiarized with entrepreneurship, business, roadmap and experiences of local entrepreneurs and measured their interest and their capabilities by individual interviews and teamwork. At present, 700 talented young were identified at the first stage. At the second stage, the identified young are trained and consulted professionally and they get prepared to enter business market and to operationalize their ideas.

## **The Results**

- Familiarity with more than 2000 talented young across the country with title of business and entrepreneurship from 2011 up to now
- Establish and develop business for 20 interested and talented young
- Employment for at least 50 people in Abadan and Khoramshahr cities

The current circumstance of Iran society and the vulnerability of the young in the area of employment have required Government, private sector, entrepreneurs and NGOs to implement programs for more productivity and among the young. Each of these sectors has roles and duties; Foundation for the Development of the young and women entrepreneurship as a NGO has this social responsibility to promote business, entrepreneurship, productivity, training and consultancy to the young. However, the complexities of employment sector require the Government and private sector to engage and solve other problems.

Several year experience of Foundation for the Development of the young and women entrepreneurship indicates that all sectors of the society particularly the private sector and entrepreneurs could play a vital role in supporting and developing the young businesses.



## **Local community development Plan**

Local community development is one of the plans that Foundation for the Development of the Young and the Women Entrepreneurship has been implemented in deprived regions and particularly, it has been started in the outskirts of Zahedan since 2011 and now it is being implemented in Chabahar and some parts of Dashtyari. Local Community Development Plan intends to enable local community specially women to use their material and spiritual capitals in an optimal way to develop their quality of life.

### **Objectives:**

Two main objectives of this plan include: develop local community with the purpose of improving quantity and quality of life (economic and social empowerment), create and develop managerial capacities in local NGOs.

This plan intends to have six impacts through capacity-building of local community:

1. Develop skills, capabilities and therefore the capitals of local community
2. Contribution of local Community to regional development
3. Increase negotiability of local Community along with development of local Community
4. Influence of the local community on development programs
5. Increase the quality of local Community
6. Institutionalize local participation in the form of local NGOs and CBOs

### **Target community**

The main audiences of this Plan are the local community, the women who live in marginal areas particularly female-headed families and NGOs that are active in neighborhoods.

## **The stages of Plan implementation:**

1. 1-Mainstraming (familiarity with environment and advantages)
2. 2-Introduce Plan to local Community (The first level: Administration, The second level: local community)
3. 3-Local interference: Confidence building (Identify the trusted and key persons, Introduce Plan to key persons)
4. 4- Identify beneficiaries: In-place notification, local community establishment
- 6- Hold briefing sessions and Introduce Plan
5. 6-Formation of Self-assisted groups
6. 7-Social and skill trainings
7. 8-Create Micro saving Fund
8. 9-Help accessing the market
9. 10-Formation of local institution and sustainability

## **Accomplishments**

-Establishment of 16 self-assisted groups and organizing 335 women from Zahedan, Chabahar and Dashtyari

-Establishment of Hoda Home in Zahedan

Formation of self-assisted groups (2011)

Establishment of Hoda Home (2014)

Documentation of Hoda Home (2016)

Creation of communicative network between Hoda Home and NGOs in Zahedan (2016)

Hoda Home has generated revenues for its female members through doing handicrafts and it has improved the local community Welfare and now it has three main clients:

-Laneh.official Brand (producer of sleep products and Interior design products)

-Amrose/amroseparis Brand

-Iran Khodro Company

It has reached sustainable revenue with reliance on the abilities of women who do needle work

-Develop and expand ZahedanHoda Home in two other neighborhoods of Zahedan

-Develop this plan in Chabahar

-Setting grounds for creating local institution in Chabahar and Dashtyari

-Develop managerial capacities of three local institutions in the cities of Khoramshahr, Ghaen and Zahedan: Baharkhoramshahr Institution, Sepehr cultural Foundation and Ordibehesht sustainable development Institute

## **Karestan Plan (Entrepreneurs' Series of documentaries)**

Karestan is the name of Series of documentaries in which it's planning and production started four years ago in the Foundation of Development for the young and the women entrepreneurship. At present, seven documentaries have been displayed. The idea of making series about Iran's entrepreneurs was born many years ago when Firozeh Saber invited RakhshanBanietamad to Foundation of Development for the young and the women Entrepreneurship. The idea that was raised in contemplation with MojtabaMirtahmasb found joint concerns. To implement this project, the Foundation of Development for the young and the women Entrepreneurship was the best non-public agency in terms of research supports. The main objective of this Foundation was developing and promoting creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship culture across the country. The Strategic Council of this project was formed with six members in 2014.

The Foundation of Development for the young and the women Entrepreneurship has the responsibility of project coordination at headquarter level, and also research on entrepreneurs and project Finance.

### **Mission and objective**

Karestan project has been planned with the mission of drawing a picture of society entrepreneurs and transferring this example to Society particularly the Iranian young. The mission that not only formulates strategy but also it covers three main objectives of this national project:

-Documentation and patterning of personalities who play an important role in improving personal and social life and national development without reliance on advantages and circumstances.

-Motivating to reinforce personal capabilities considering the fact that in current circumstances, the huge obstacles weaken or eliminate the decision-making power and purposefulness.

-Transfer the experiences of idea-formation, local entrepreneurs' actions and the methods of development and innovation to the Society particularly Iran's young generation.

### **Target community**

Like every art work, the audiences of this series of documentary are a vast array of interested people. Particularly, considering the importance of entrepreneurship in the society, the students, the graduates and University Professors, the ingenious young who are interested in business and entrepreneurship, entrepreneurs and those who are interested in business and entrepreneurship are the specific audiences of this project.

### *Introduce Karestan Movies*



### **From Cotton to Fire**

-Director: BahramAzimpor, 52 minutes

-Narrative of an elite craftsman, Ali asghar Haji baba, who started working from childhood by sewing quilt and after undergoing so many adventures, he could finally find an independent business for himself in the world of industry.



### **-Those who are from Tabarestan**

-Director: Mohsen Abdolvahab, 49 minutes

-Many years ago, at the height of after-revolution crises, war years, and the period that so many industrial units were closed, a few young engineers decided to launch Steel Company. They are still friends and colleagues together.



### **-Mahak Institute Founder**

-Director: Mohsen Abdolvahab, 57 minutes

-Mahak (Charity Institute in support of Cancer-inflicted Children) is one the most popular Charities in the area of Iran's Children Health and Treatment. Saeedeh Ghods explains her ideas and her motivations to launch this Institute.



### **Lands' mother**

-Director: Mahnaz Afzali, 52 minutes

-Hayedeh Shirazi is so famous in the area of Iran's entrepreneur women and environmentalists. She dedicated her life to save the Earth planet by preventing from garbage burial, recycle of urban garbage, Organic Fertilizer Production, recycle of Construction waste and etc.



## **Puzzle**

-Director: Mehdi Ganji, 70 minutes

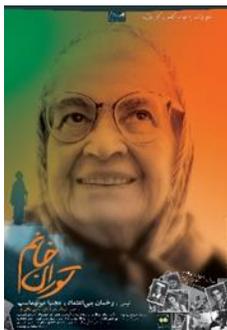
-A few students from the city of Birjand want to create a new idea in the industry of computer. They come to Tehran to fulfill their dreams, but they don't know how to succeed.



## **Life's poets**

-Director: Shirin Barghnavard, 73 minutes

-A poetic narrative of sweet persain languages concerns, working and living in Iran. She is the rice cultivator, environmentalist and social Activist in the area of women.



## **Toran**

-Director: RakhshanBanietamad , 91 minutes

-The life of ToranMirhadi in the last 4 years of her age, the architect of so many of Iran's Children Institutes in order to understand why we have to learn peace from the childhood.

It is worth noting that these six movies in addition to presence in different international festivals and obtaining so many different prizes, they have been on screen in the Art and Experience Cinema. At present, all seven movies are available in DVD and Online formats.

### ***-Reinforce social support for unemployed women***

Approval of ascending plan of social Insurance for all housewives with target community of 19 million women by 2025

Based on the approval of national headquarter Secretariat, the executive Plan of housewives inclusive insurance has been implemented since 2013 with the purpose of mainstreaming for full coverage of Social Insurance (retirement, disability, and death) for all housewives.

Housewives insurance shall be implemented in two Preliminary and Inclusive phases since the implementation of multi-stage housewives insurance Plan:

Preliminary Stage (2013): Implement insurance for 100000 housewives with annual budget of 69 billion Toman

Inclusive phase from 2014 to 2025:

Only in 2017, 136.286 housewives were insured based on this plan.

### ***-Reform social support schemes***

In general, social support systems in Iran consist of three main tools:

- ❖ -Social assistances
- ❖ -labor market programs
- ❖ -Social Insurances

#### **labor market programs**

Apart from the groups that need permanent services, the approach of policy-makers and decision-makers in the area of Welfare and Social Support in Islamic Republic of Iran is helping the vulnerable groups to exit the support system. Many vulnerable girls and women could be independent financially and exit the support system, provided that they acquire necessary trainings and skills. Based on this, some

measures have been taken to empower and improve the skills of women and girls with the purpose of entering the labor market:

### **1-Implement Apprenticeship plan for University Graduates**

This plan as an active policy in University graduate Labor Market is an effective approach for employment and skill training of its specific audiences. It is worth noting that 50 percent of these entrepreneurs are women.

### **2-Organize and Support Domestic Jobs**

Under the Act on Organizing and Supporting domestic jobs, there is no distinction between men and women; however, women have embraced domestic jobs Plan more than men due to the benefits and advantages of domestic jobs such as working hours flexibility and the need for small capital. More than 70 percent of those who enrolled in domestic jobs were women and about 80 percent of licenses issued, the loans granted and the employments that have been created are in the area of women's domestic jobs.

### **3-Financial Empowerment of Women and Girls through Omid Entrepreneurship Funds' loans**

Omid Entrepreneurship Fund as a support arm of Administration on interest-free finance plays an important role in creating micro and macro businesses for the skilled workers, elites, entrepreneurs, female-headed families, social vulnerable families and etc.

- ❖ -Provide loans to charities that create employments
- ❖ -Grant loans to clusters
- ❖ -Grant loans on support system
- ❖ -Grant loans on Cooperatives
- ❖ -Grant loans on Brand
- ❖ -Grant loans on self-employment
- ❖ -Grant loans on employers

#### **4-Reinforce and Develop collaborative Assistance Groups**

Reinforce and develop women's self-assisted groups or their empowerment through female-headed women self-assisted groups are among the measures that have been taken to prepare service recipients to be empowered comprehensively, to reduce their dependence on Government support and to facilitate female-headed families empowerment. The other objectives of self-assisted groups Reinforcement and Development Plan is to provide this opportunity to be benefited from women's capabilities, to reduce the economic problems of women and girls without reliance on Government financial sources and to raise awareness of target community on current social capitals of the society. These groups have at least five members. The members will be prepared for sustainable employment and empowerment through specialized programs.

Targeting students particularly girls, The Plan of Students Social Collaboration in partnership with some Institutes have been begun at classrooms in order to improve the social health of students and to prevent from social harms.

#### **5-“Without Unemployed villages” and “each village, one product”**

The Plan of “without unemployed villages” and “each village, one product” have been implemented for rural women and girls, because based on the last Census, more than 10 million Iranian women and girls live in villages.

In the “without unemployed villages” Plan, having identified the capacities and potentials of each village and having identified local leaders, active and empowered villagers both men and women, an effort is being made to reduce unemployment rate by creating a set of micro businesses. Tourism activities are one of the revenue-making actions of this plan and women and girls are considered as the main audiences.

In the “each village, one product” plan, one of current products or one of the products that has potential of production in the village is supported in order to create employment for all villagers specially women and girls in addition to produce the best high-quality products in the village.

## **6-Develop the Culture of Work and Entrepreneurship**

Since 2017, the girls' vocational schools offer services to develop girls' entrepreneurial skills and work culture for entering the labor market. Based on other clauses of this program, 143684 girls have been trained in different vocations (36.69 percent of trainees); developing industrial fields necessitates creating proper job opportunities and providing other facilities in provinces. These fields include: electronic, industrial drawing, services like clothing, handicrafts, miniature, embroidery, stock market, cutting of glass and precious stones, gold and jewelry, interior design and agriculture: medicinal plants, cultivation of mushroom and etc.

## **Reinforce conditional transfer of funds and Reinforce unconditional transfer of funds**

### **1-Finance and Create employment for women and girls**

Vulnerable women and girls must have job in order to be able to be independent and one of the prerequisites of job is skill and the capital. Welfare System of Islamic Republic of Iran has met so many of these needs.

### **2-Microfinancing with approach of hybrid banking**

With the purpose of empowerment and improvement, this plan has been implemented with emphasis on low-income or vulnerable women and girls and has been led to formation of self-assisted groups, capacity-building of Non-governmental Centers, family empowerment, guidance of target community and etc.

The approach of this plan is to reduce poverty and to improve the life of vulnerable women and girls in urban areas. In this plan, the following services are offered to target community: grant saving loans, give credits, expand local independent institutions with ownership of members, link between bank and the members of these institutions, insurance and employment through developing small and medium enterprises.

### **3- Local Micro Funds**

Local Micro Funds have been established in villages since 2000 in order to develop villages, to improve the economic condition of rural women and to increase rural productions. Other objectives of these Funds are as follows: to establish proper financial institution for villages with membership of rural women through basic and specialized trainings, to encourage saving of member families, to provide grounds for collective participations in the form of occupational groups and local community capacity-building for women.

#### **4-Support Plan**

In the support Plan, women and girl employment is supported in two ways. First, the empowered women who have this ability to provide their material and to sell their products are supported. Second, the women who have problem to provide their material and to sell their products are supported. In other words, the support plan supports women who are engaged in the production in the form of granting loans.

#### **5-Provide required Capital**

One of the activities of Islamic Republic of Iran to support and empower women and girls is to provide required capital to start a business and to prepare girl and female-headed families for their jobs. These educations are planned and implemented based on practical trainings for improving entrepreneurial skills, knowledge, occupational skills. In accordance with previous planning, those who are prepared for employment will benefit from necessary trainings to enter the labor market.

In addition, some measures taken include: to provide initial capital for starting a sustainable business through creating Micro Credit Funds, to provide interest-free loans along with implementing the Act on supporting development and sustainable employment in nomadic and rural areas by using sources of National Development Funds, to provide self-employment and domestic jobs interest-free loan for some groups such as Aid Committee, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and Ministry of Cooperatives, to provide interest-free loan to the young based on annual legal assignments announced by Markazi bank, to facilitate entrepreneur women access to financial sources and to facilitate economic enterprises for them, to attract partnerships and capitals for risk-taking corporations that concerned with women activities.

## **6-Teach entrepreneurial and occupational skills**

One of the prerequisites of absorbing women and girls in the labor market is the skills. Based on this, the organizations that are responsible for Social Welfare in the Islamic Republic of Iran have undertaken following activities: training essential skills for employment, teaching entrepreneurship to women and girls, holding educational workshops and improving women's Cooperatives in order to improve occupational capability of women and girls.

## **7-Helping the Employment through establishing and supporting Cooperatives**

Cooperation means help and instructions of Islam religion emphasizes on cooperation. For this reason, in Islamic Republic of Iran, some activities must be undertaken by Public Cooperatives and the Government facilitates and supports these Cooperatives. These measures include:

1. -Establish cooperation Foundation and develop women's entrepreneurship since 2010 with the purpose of identifying employment opportunities and mainstreaming for development of entrepreneurship and market
2. -Empower women's Cooperatives; identify successful Cooperatives with the purpose of sharing their abilities and annual selection of women's top Cooperatives with the purpose of national and provincial synergy
3. -Hold regional exhibitions and Support women's Cooperatives presence in these exhibitions and markets
4. -Establish and develop specific Cooperatives including National comprehensive Cooperatives and self-assisted female-headed families Cooperatives
5. -Identify grounds for employment and help women's Cooperatives including domestic jobs, handicrafts Cooperatives, staff Cooperatives, academic Cooperatives and schools, knowledge-based Cooperatives, Information technology Cooperative, consultancy clinics
6. -Clustering and networking women's Cooperatives with the purpose of synergy and creating added-value
7. -Establishment of women's cooperative think tank consisting of Governments representatives, successful managers of women's Cooperatives, and etc.
8. -Establishment of women's Commission at Iran's Cooperatives room

9. -Provide access of new women's Cooperatives to Government transactions
10. Based on the latest statistics, there are more than 100 thousands women's Cooperatives in 82 fields in the country. This number consists of 11 percent of all Cooperatives.

### **8-Establish National Foundation of entrepreneurship and Cooperatives development**

This foundation with emphasis on Cooperatives tries to help women's entrepreneurship and employment by using the capacities of this sector. In Islamic Republic of Iran, there is the chance of activity, employment and livelihood in all public, private and Cooperatives sectors. In public sector, under the implementation of the policies of Paragraph 44, public employment is almost impossible and there is no capacity to hire new labors. In private sector, on the one hand, employment is limited and on the other hand, based on some problems that have been arisen such as women's exploitation; the atmosphere is not suitable for women's presence. In Cooperatives sector, due to the benefits and the current potential capacities such as the existence of necessary mechanisms for women's presence and Governments supports, there is the possibility of meeting the objective of women's employment which means using the women's capabilities and social justice. Therefore, considering the importance of women's role in individual and teams activities, Cooperatives are the most appropriate place for women's economic participation as decision-maker and executive.

One of the main reasons for orientation towards Cooperative mechanism is the necessity of planning modern and native patterns for women's employment according to the principles of Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to family and economy with the centrality of home and family. In the plans, two key elements should be noticed: using women's potentials as educated human capital and women's empowerment, their position in the family and considering women's responsibility in family. These models include those that are based on employment and domestic entrepreneurship.

Considering all the above-mentioned reasons and motivations, Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs in partnership with the Ministry of Cooperatives established the Foundation for Development of Cooperatives and Women and

Family entrepreneurship in order to design a structure that fulfill the executive operations of women and family. Vice Presidency set an agenda for a combination of strategies with emphasis on empowerment approach. Some of these activities include: Extensive efforts to identify legal and regulatory obstacles, Partnership with public economic agencies to define practical and executive programs at national, provincial and deprived regions levels, institutionalization and creation of organizational platforms for patterning, promoting and facilitating women and families' livelihood. Beside this fundamental approach based on empowerment, a combination of support activities has been put on agenda in accordance with social necessities to overcome some of the problems.

### **9-Establish Comprehensive Center of women and families empowerment, employment and entrepreneurship**

One of the main infrastructures of providing patterns for women and families' employment is develop skills and empowerment for preparing women for effective presence in economic sectors. Inabilities such as lack of practical skills, weakness in the entrepreneurship mindset, productive and value-added employment, lack of self-esteem, inadequate knowledge in managerial areas particularly unfamiliarity with market prevent women from successful role-playing. In the same vein with the purpose of women's empowerment in the area of employment, economy and sustainable employment, Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs felt the necessity to undertake activities on women empowerment and further supports for target groups.

### **10-Establish International Center for Women's excellence in the Agricultural Credit Union of Asia –Pacific region**

Agriculture Bank is the only member of Agricultural Credit Union of Asian-Pacific region (APRAKA). This union with 60 members from 23 countries such as Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Russia, Iran, Bangladesh, etc. has been established with the purpose of developing agriculture in the region since 1970. One of the objectives of this union is to create Centers for excellence in different countries in order to exchange experiences and to improve knowledge in this area. In recent years, measures that have been taken in the area of women and at international level by bank such as making different speeches in this area and holding international and

successful seminar of Iranian women's economic empowerment lead to familiarizing APRAKA member Institutes and other international institutes with women's economic activities in Iran and domain of Agriculture bank activities. These activities are an introduction for proposing establishment of APRAKA international Center for Women in Agriculture bank.

This proposal was raised in the 62th session of APRAKA executive Committee; it was welcomed by APRAKA Head of Training Center (MsJoitaKorpoz), and in the 63th session of Asia and Pacific regions Agricultural and Rural Credit Union that was held in Paris, the Memorandum of Understanding for establishing women's excellence Center in agriculture bank was signed by agriculture bank CEO and Secretary General of the Union. It is worth noting that establishing this Center was approved and supported by Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **Improve access to specific population**

Since 2011, vocational training courses such as accounting, sewing, surveying, hair styling, etc. have been implemented for refugees:

- ❖ -Per capita cost of vocational training is 12 million Rial on average
- ❖ -up to 2017, 16000 people participated in these courses and obtained certificate
- ❖ In addition to livelihood and employment services of Islamic Republic of Iran to refugees, the following results were fulfilled.
- ❖ -Empowerment and employment of 1103 female-headed families
- ❖ -Distribution of 4805 cash card to female-headed families
- ❖ -Issue of 270.000 work permit for legal employment of at least one person of refugees' families by 2016

## **11. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve health outcomes for women and girls in your country?**

-The priorities of National Document on healthcare along with improving women's health are as follows: pre-marriage, during marriage and after-marriage health trainings, prevention from women's death, promotion of breastfeeding and integration of rehabilitation and support cares for the middle-aged at different levels of service network.

-95 percent of labors are carried out by the specialized doctors

-For every one hundred thousand women in the country, there are 60 midwives and 2.8 gynecologists.

-Based on Health Network Development Plan in 2016, rural areas with 17491 health units and 2340 rural Health Center are under the full coverage of health services and preventions.

-Initiation of Family Doctor Plan in rural areas since 2005 has improved quality and quantity of services.

-Existence of 1037 Urban Health Center (2017), widespread network of Public Health Services in public sector (not dependent on healthcare), non-public sector (private sector, charities...) and also public and non-public hospitals in the country provide all people with healthcare services.

-With implementation of Family Doctor Plan in urban areas and focus on services quality since 2014, the access of all people especially women and girls to healthcare services will be improved.

-Benefiting from volunteer women in healthcare services and significant increase of female experts, physicians and professionals will facilitate receipt of preventive health services for women.

-What have improved the qualitative and quantitative access to women's health preventive system are the variety of programs and services offered by the Health system, free of charge National Health Insurance and affordable costs of prevention compared with families' income.

## *Development of Special Health Services*

1-In general, Islamic Republic of Iran adopts the approach of prevention in order to improve health of Iranian women and girls which include the following activities:

- ❖ -Establish the plan of Health Interface since 2001 in the periphery of cities in order to reinforce mothers' health programs in deprived and remote regions
- ❖ -Prepare national Instruction of clinical considerations during labor in addicted mothers
- ❖ -Empower mothers to preserve and improve their health during pregnancy, labor and after-labor.
- ❖ -Reinforce monitoring and appraisal system
- ❖ -Prepare Care Packages in crises
- ❖ -Prepare mother's electronic files across the country
- ❖ -Train and Prevent from women's epidemic diseases
- ❖ -Reinforce and develop public sport with increasing women's contribution share
- ❖ -Establish stem research Center with regard to diseases for researching on women's and girls' diseases
- ❖ -Establish Labor facilitation units and train rural midwife
- ❖ -Implement national Plan of Dispatched Health Caravans for deprived regions' women, Hold specialized workshops on pregnancy health in accidents

2-Along with implementation of Paragraph 76 of sixth development plan Act with subject of improving mothers and babies' health indexes from May 2014 to May 2018, the following measures have been taken:

- ❖ -Perform more than 2 million and 100 thousands free of charge delivery in public healthcare Centers
- ❖ -Establish more than 1800 labor rooms across the country in order to preserve and commemorate pregnant women's privacy and making labor pleasurable
- ❖ -Establish 57 Centers for clinical skills with regard to labor

3-Based on Paragraph 76 of sixth development plan Act along with national policy of population growth, screening program of Down syndrome and 13, 18 Trizumi at

11 Universities of Medical Sciences implemented with purpose of women empowerment and healthy fertility as a pilot with integration in healthcare network system.

4-Public and free implementation of vaccination across the country

5-Screening Program of babies metabolic diseases for 24 metabolic diseases including phenyl ketoneur diseases has been implemented; through which genetic consultancy services has been offered to families with inflicted children and the care system to control diseases and to reduce disability in inflicted new-born babies have been devised and implemented.

6-Coverage of at least one care program during pregnancy in 2017 has reached 98.2 percent which is considered a significant rise compared with 93.1 percent in 2000. The index of at least six cares during pregnancy also has reached from 79.8 percent in 2000 to 89.8 percent in 2016. According to the latest report, 90.8 percent of pregnant women in rural areas and 84.7 percent of pregnant women in rural areas have been under coverage at least six times. The pregnancy index has also risen to more than 97 percent.

7-Coverage of labors by the expert health staffs has been reached 97 percent and it has been increased five percent compared with 2006 (91.4 percent)

8-Offer volunteer medical services for women and girls in deprived areas

9-Implementation of national free of charge programs for screening women's cancers in hospitals, health centers and public centers

10-Implementation of programs in order to improve women's and girls health including the plan of optimizing services for reducing harms to vulnerable groups who are threatened by HIV/AIDS with the purpose of empowering HIV prone women in consultancy centers particularly women in provinces of Fars (shiraz), Khozestan (Ahvaz), Kohgiloye and boyerahmad (yasoj), hormozgan (bandarabas), Markazi (Arak), Tehran and Alborz (Karaj), Esfahan, Ghom, Hamedan, Lorestan (Khoramabs), Kordestan (Sanandaj), Kermanshah, Golestan (Gorgan), eastern Azarbaijan (Tabriz). In these plans, more than 200 girl and women have been covered.

11-Prepare and offer nutritional supplements to 11000 mothers in need in four provinces by the Vice Presidency for Women and Family affairs (2013)

12-Measure and train girls (Boarding schools of deprived areas at the first grade of high school) through screening program of physical and mental health for 10109 students, Health education, prepare and distribute educational packages in 4 provinces (2013)

13-Develop and Expand sport, Improve mental, physical and social health of women (urban and rural) in Kordestan Province through formation of 10 sport teams consisting of educated women in rural and urban areas, train 7000 people with the subject of sport and health, hold 100 sport matches (2015)

14-Empower female-headed families and mal-supervised families in Mazandaran Province through training 5000 women which equals 400000 hours per person (2015)

15-Implement the program of early diagnosis and breast cancer screening through training breast healthcare, consultancy, examining 102410 people, Ultrasound and Mammography services for 10241 examined women with suspicious symptoms in four provinces (2015)

16-Implement early diagnosis program and screening for Cervix cancer through training Cervix healthcare to 102410 people and Perform complementary experiments and services to 4608 women with suspicious symptoms in four provinces (2015) in which this number rose to 11.618 people in 2017.

17-Screening the hearing of babies and toddlers, early intervention with purpose of improving hearing health, reducing 3 to 5 year children's disorders through establishment of kindergartens, national screening for prevention from visual impairments among 3 to 6 year children, screening children's anxiety among 5 to 6 year children with the purpose of identifying anxious children and their treatment, screening Autism spectrum disorders in 2 to 5 years children and etc.

18-Issue Certificate and support genetic consulting services with purpose of preventing from genetic disorders through raising awareness and improving attitude of society towards genetic consultancy, Hold genetic counseling training courses,

pay subsidy to eligible groups for doctor visit and genetic experiments, genetic screening for 15 to 25 year old people with the purpose of preventing from genetic disorders. Genetic screening before marriage has been performed for all couples with purpose of preventing from genetic disabilities.

19-Free distribution of multi-vitamin and iron supplements after the labor to all pregnant and breastfeeding mothers for three months

20-Free distribution of Folic Acid and Iodine Folic to women in the form of pregnancy care

21-Implement national plan of preventing and controlling Anemia, Iron deficiency and Vitamin D deficiency through free distribution of Iron and Vitamin D supplements for all high school students at first and second grade with free nutritional consultancy

22- Identify and refer all pregnant mothers inflicted with malnutrition to nutritional experts in the “health transformation” Plan in order to have free nutritional consultancy.

23-Identify and refer all women with overweight, Diabetics, Dyslipidemia and high blood pressure to nutritional expert for nutrition consultation

24-Conclude Memorandum of Understanding with rural and nomadic women’s agricultural Production Office with the purpose of empowerment and raising the literacy and rural and nomadic women’s nutrition

25-Conclude Memorandum of Understanding with Fisheries Research Institute with purpose of empowerment and raising the literacy and rural and nomadic women’s nutrition

26-Free provision and distribution of Iron drop for all children under two years (from six months to 24 months) through Comprehensive Health Services Center

27-Free provision and distribution of A+D drops and Multivitamin for all children under two years (from 3 days to 24 months) through Comprehensive Health Services Center and Train mothers on their usage

28-Provide warm meal in the rural kindergartens for 227273 children under 3 to 6 years in deprived regions through Welfare Organization and nutritional consultancy for mothers and kindergarten trainers

29-Cover one hundred thousand children under 5 years who are inflicted with malnutrition and monthly dispatch of food packages through Imam Khomeini relief committee and practical nutritional consultancy for mothers that leads to women empowerment and 53 percent growth of children who receive food packages.

30-Based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Ministry of Health and Education and Alavi NGO, due to importance of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers' health for those who are inflicted with malnutrition, "**mothers'healthpromotionPlan**" was implemented in 27 provinces and 329 cities. Health improvement is a key element of health care in policy-makings of health program and it mainly focuses on mothers because healthy mother could give birth to healthy children.

Since giving birth to disabled children imposes high expenses on the family and the society; therefore, it is necessary to implement preventive and care programs for mothers during pregnancy and after labor.

The program of distributing food packages includes 13 items of goods with the purpose of preventing pregnant and breastfeeding mothers from malnutrition since 2008 and in 2016, **850 thousands food packages with approved budget of 1 thousand and 190 billion Rials**were distributed among mothers and in 2018, 80 thousands packages were distributed monthly.

The current items in the package of improving malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding mothers' health are distributed every two months.

The contents of these packages are as follows: 10 kg rice, 4 pockets of Spaghetti (700 gr), 1 pocket of barley (900 gr), 1 pocket of Pinto beans (900 gr), 1 pocket of pea (900 gr), 2 pockets of Cotyledons (90 gr), 2 pockets of lentils (900 gr), 1 pocket of Red beans (900 gr), 2 pieces of cheese (400 gr), 4 packages of Soya (250 gr), 2 packages of dates (900 gr), 3 bottles of oil (810 gr) and 7 kg chicken.

Malnourished pregnant or breastfeeding mothers in less developed areas could be introduced to Alavi NGO through referring to region's health center and they will be supported from the fourth month of pregnancy to six months after childbirth.

Those who are eligible to benefit from goods packages in the plan of improving women's health are as follows: those who are eligible to receive services, the mothers who have an BMI less than 18.5, the mothers who have hemoglobin less than 10.5, the mothers who have twins or more, the mothers who have had undesirable weight gain during pregnancy, the mothers who weighed less than 40 kg at the beginning of pregnancy, the needy and those who live in deprived and less developed areas.

### ***Raise public awareness of fertility sanitation and sexual health***

The sixth five year development plan follows policies on mothers' sanitation and women empowerment in order to improve their health. The main programs are as follows: pre-pregnancy care, qualitative and quantitative improvement of pregnancy cares, provide qualitative and quantitative services for healthy pregnancy, develop a pattern for healthy life, reduction of high-risk behaviors, expand health insurances, and expand specialist women-friendly hospitals and increase in women delivery by experts.

- ❖ -Remarkable measures have been taken in order to access health information and to transfer health messages and pregnancy health. One of the national measures for raising awareness in these areas is launching 24 hour phone notification systems and responsive phones. The widespread health and treatment network particularly in rural areas is one of the main sources for giving health information to rural community and visitors.
- ❖ -The existence of 100.000 volunteer health interfaces in urban areas has made great contribution to provide correct health information in urban areas.
- ❖ -Training on the side effects and prevention methods of diseases like AIDS and addiction

- ❖ -Contribution of public and private mass media to access health information influences on improving the society knowledge and awareness with regard to health.
- ❖ -Trainings during marriage in which more than 90 percent of couples participate in it at the beginning of their marriages concern with social, mental, spiritual and physical health of couples. These trainings consider the following topics: religious principles of marriage, social relationships of couples and the principles of childbearing, prevention from infertility and healthy pregnancy.
- ❖ -Access to healthy fertility services in order to increase volunteer pregnancies and to reduce unplanned pregnancies and abortion have caused that 70 percent of 15 to 40 year old women benefit from safe prevention methods during the gaps between pregnancies.
- ❖ -One of the researches carried out in all provinces of Iran is the investigation of DHS since 2000. The results of these studies showed that the main indexes of mother and baby health improved including the coverage of pregnancy cares, presence of the experts during the delivery and the number of deaths for children under five years. Moreover, the IMES research has been carried out in 2005 on almost all indexes related to fertility health and its report was released. This investigation has measured all indexes related to women fertility health. IrMIDHS study in 2010 has collected a great deal of data on other health issues such as outbreak of women's chronic diseases, outbreak of disability and the accidents that are not led to death. This study evaluates that to what extent health programs are realized. It also assesses the realization of fourth development plan and the objectives of millennium development.
- ❖ -Support the policies of fertility and preserving the natural process of childbirth through training 300 gynecologists and midwives, Prepare and distribute educational catalogues for mothers in the hospitals that are under coverage in six provinces (2013).
- ❖ -Capacity-building of women and deprived families in the Ghaleganj city in Kerman province with the purpose of prevention from social harms and high-risk behaviors, Train fertility sanitation and healthy family formation, Train entrepreneurial skills

### ***Skill acquisition***

- ❖ -Hold free classes to prepare 710 thousands women for delivery in public hospitals which has been led to 6.5 percent reduction of C-section. There have been also 7.7 reductions in first-born C-sections.
- ❖ -Dispatch educational booklets to health Centers for distribution among target groups on the following subjects: the only child, Endometriosis and infertility, age and infertility, lifestyle and infertility, polycystic ovary and infertility.
- ❖ -Support women's health professional meeting with regard to high-risk behaviors of focus on prostitution

### ***Teaching at schools***

- ❖ -One of the approved tasks of Ministry of Education is the permanent presence of trained health educators and consultants in all public and private schools with the purpose of education, awareness-raising and removing possible girls' problems.
- ❖ -Implement National Plan of improving the health status of girls in deprived regions through educating 62586 students and offering health packages to 35000 (during three consecutive years of 2013 to 2015)
- ❖ -Improve health status of girls in deprived regions in all provinces through measuring and educating 62586 girls at high school level in boarding schools and offer health packages to them (2013-2015)
- ❖ -Prepare comprehensive analytical report of identified social-mental problems and their outbreak among all high school girls and Prepare Atlas of social-mental problems outbreak by geographical regions during two consecutive years of 2013 in eight provinces and 2014 at national level in order to find a solution

### ***The main health programs of schools by academic grade***

Number	Titles
A	Health education
B	Complement health Certificate and Screening examinations

C	Monitoring distribution, maintenance and consumption of milk at schools and students nourishment at school age
D	Collaboration in the plan of giving Iron supplements
E	Finding the diseases of Pediculosis and other common contagious disease at school age
F	Vaccination for first grade of high school
G	Prevention from accidents at school age
H	School environment sanitation

The number of academic courses related to children, teenagers, women and families by mentioning the title of courses

Number	Province	Educational Trip or Plan	The number of beneficiaries	2008-2018
1	Eastern Azerbaijan		48986 people	2011-2018
2	Western Azerbaijan		-	-
3	Ardebil	Train women's rights- The role of Women in resistive economy- The role of women in children's religious trainings- family trainings	1400 people	2008-2018
4	Esfahan		26077 people	25208 people
5	Alborz	The principles of familt Foundation (10 courses), the principles of relationship with the spouse (15 courses), life skills (10 courses)	65 Courses	2015-2018
6	Ilam	Humanitarian Aid training courses- Life	2681	2013-2017

		skills- prevention from social harms		
7	Boshehr	Children's mental support against accidents, the system of cultural, social and mental movements	1488 people	2008-2018
8	Tehran		2119 plans	2008-2018
9	Chaharmahalbakhtiari	Public educational courses	49932 people 18 courses	2018
10	RazaviKhorasan	Implement the plan of preparing students for hardships, Teach First Aid to students at 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	2700 people	2011-2018
11	Northern Khorasan	Family Strengthen Foundation- women's Citizenship Charter- of research Projects	481 courses	2010-2018
12	Southern Khorasan	The necessity of families coordination with Ministry of Education in training students- the workshop on teaching psychology of addiction and consultancy- Teach children's needs during childhood- Teach using Cyberspace	2500 people	2010-2018
13	Khozestan		12000 people	2011-2018
14	Zanjan	Women empowerment in disasters- children's	6	2017

		sexual management- Chastity and Hejab		
15	Semnan		-	-
16	Sistan and Baluchestan	First Aid Training- Teach typing- Hold Mehr Contest- Sport classes- Teach Sewing, Pearl weaving, Makromeh weaving- Flower making	958 people	2008-2018
17	Fars	First Aid Courses- Teach holy Quran- Art and Computer Courses- Workshop on Child disciplining- Mental supports courses- Family teaching- Child and mother educational course	1224 courses	1104 courses
18	Ghazvin		201 courses	133 courses
19	Ghom		1103 people	2012-2017
20	Kordestan	Teach Aid Packages (65), Safe points (100), life skills (75), emergency numbers (120)	360	2017
21	Kerman	Initial prevention from addiction at student dormitories	475 people	2017
22	Kermanshah	Iranian Islamic lifestyle- Teach Prevention from Women's Cancer- Mental health- Life Skills	23183	2008-2018
23	Kohkiloyeboyer ahmad		3500 people	2016-2018

24	Golestan	Teach ten life skills- Parenting Style- partnership relationships- Life from the western viewpoint- Islamic and Western Partnership	27892 people	25354 people
25	Gilan		2005 people	2011-2017
26	Lorestan		170 people	2012-2018
27	Mazandaran		-	-
28	Markazi	Family Trips- Reduction of Social problems Courses- Life Skills, etc.	10860 people	2011-2018
29	Hormozgan	Nutrition Course- Family Economy Course- women's Health	5800 people	2009-2018
30	Hamedan		-	-
31	Yazd		-	228166 people

### ***Teach female refugees***

Improve the health of refugees through:

- ❖ -Establish seven treatment Centers in Refugee Provinces in 2016 and provide necessary equipment and Medicine for 92 Treatment Centers in the guest cities
- ❖ -Per capita Health Care Costs of six million Rials on average
- ❖ -Establish Screening System for diseases
- ❖ -Pregnant Women Health Care
- ❖ -Pre-labor and After-labor mothers and children's Health Care
- ❖ -Improve Families environment
- ❖ -Families Training
- ❖ -Vaccination Services
- ❖ -Free Coverage of HealthCare for 12000 refugees with special diseases

- ❖ -Coverage of health Insurance for all refugees since 2015
- ❖ -Implement educational projects of individual and public health for Afghani refugees; Distribute free health packages in the border areas of Sistan and Baluchestan for 40354 people

Population data based on life Span data of Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education in 2016

region	Iranian		Afghani		10-49 year old married women	
	number	percent	number	percent	Iranian	Afghani
urban	8585891	85.5	6610	94.5	17066	1184
rural	14563	14.5	390	5.5	3116	63
city	100454	93.5	7000	6.5	20182	1247
Total population	107454				2142	

## **12. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls?**

### ***Increase access to technical education and skill acquisition***

#### **-Accomplishments and the activities of Technical and Vocational Training Department in the area of women and families**

Along with women empowerment as the half of active population and their guidance along with productive employment, Vocational and Technical Training Department offers various services as follows: Hold Professional short-term and long-term Courses in four clusters of industry, services, agriculture, culture and art , and Establish 47 educational groups in the permanent Centers, Mobile rural and urban Centers, Prisons, Rural bases, in the proximity of Universities, factories and industrial workshops, etc. There are 669 careers dedicated to women in public sectors and private Vocational and Technical Institutions in which some of these activities are implemented in the form of various agreements and Memorandum of Understanding. Along with accomplishing its mission in the area of women, this Organization has formulated Comprehensive Strategic Document of women empowerment in the next five years. This document undergoes the final stages of formulation in the Women's Affairs Center. The Programs and strategies of this document include: plan skill courses for working women, managers, engineers, female technicians in knowledge-based companies, plan proper specialized courses for entrepreneurial women, the policies and initiatives for preserving the dignity of vulnerable women with different employment strategies and interaction with social partners who influence the destiny of target communities. The programs of this Organization along with women empowerment through skill trainings include: Improve the role of women in managerial positions of Organizations, Plan the pattern of supporting female elites in Organization, Formulate academic and occupational standards and skill packages for women and families such as life skills in resistive economy, Improve the professional capabilities of working women, vulnerable women, and their families, Improve religious, cultural and social capabilities of women and Formulate policies and programs of improving physical and mental health of working women.

## Women`s Empowerment in different Skill Areas

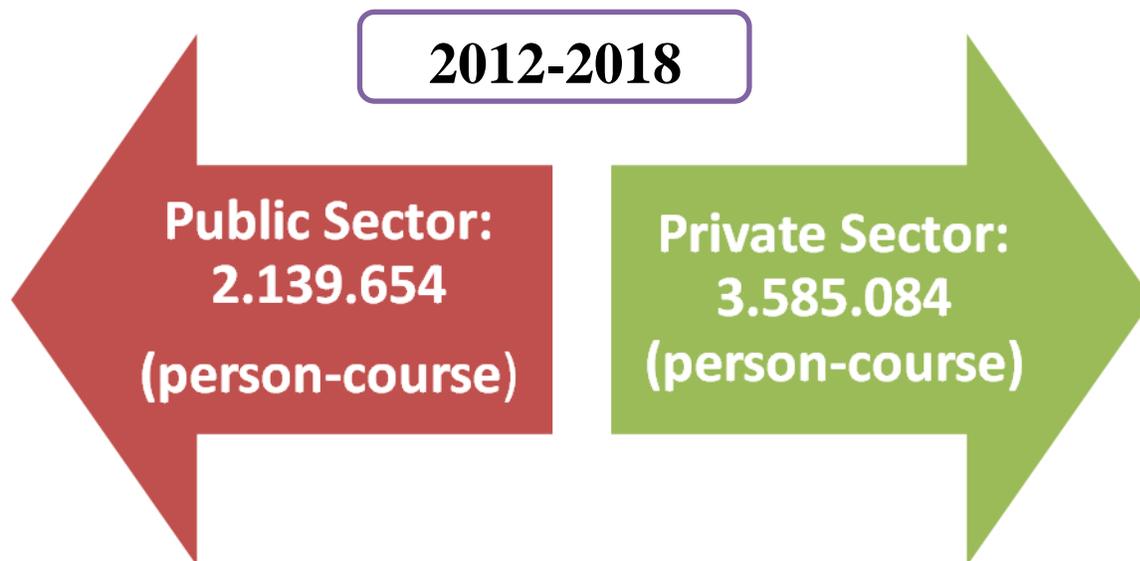
Women empowerment in different skill areas										
No .	Type of responsible workshops	6 months of 2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	Total
1	AIDS (HIV+)	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	15
2	Permanent specialized Agricultural Workshop	586	1012	1055	1266	1365	1774	1164	790	9012
3	Informal establishment (urban marginalization)	9908	13537	9773	7361	4125	2869	410	46	48029
4	Permanent urban workshop	74402	135926	145430	143050	143215	148419	159911	115548	1065901
5	Rural workshop	35674	69260	71440	57085	55346	51598	59799	32356	432562
6	Prison workshop	3057	5556	5234	4805	4692	6623	6726	4074	40767
7	Rural mobile workshop	24391	49657	37566	32180	32653	37465	42634	24224	280770
8	Industry workshop- Guild	3687	8931	8645	5284	3826	4887	4945	2022	42227
9	Industry inter-workshop	90	41	87	27	68	28	60	17	418
10	workshop near the industry	109	388	251	222	184	199	133	103	1589
11	On-the-job industry workshop	2113	9087	7328	5913	7129	5028	5370	2730	44698
12	Skill-acquisition workshop in the real context, teacher-student	5339	7430	1171	496	2560	19913	14815	1811	53535
13	Workshop near the university	5911	13268	12536	13730	11956	14045	12471	6575	90492
14	Nomadic Workshop	2153	3476	2624	3173	1656	1950	1989	1551	18536
15	Addiction Treatment Center	1439	1715	606	264	153	101	16	0	4294
16	Center for Skill Upgrade in Industrial Estates	0	2	19	85	7	0	0	0	113
17	Advance Skills Specialist Center	441	1315	1766	1191	622	36	0	0	5371
18	Forced drug addiction treatment Center	131	288	267	350	146	77	77	4	1340
Total		168859	319286	303769	274905	268950	294899	310443	191847	2139669

### Educational Areas (person-course)

Agriculture (9.012)	rural specialized workshops (432.562)	42.227 (industries and guilds)	industries on the job (44,698)
Informal Settlement (48.029)	prisoned women (40.767)	industries between workshops (418)	Nomadic (18.536)
permanent rural workshop (1.065.901)	mobile workshop (280.770)	industries near workshops (1.589)	teacher-student (53.535)
(university students) 90.492	addiction-inflicted under coverage of Welfare (4.294)	entrepreneur active in industrial Estates (113)	Specialized Center for Advanced skills (5.371)

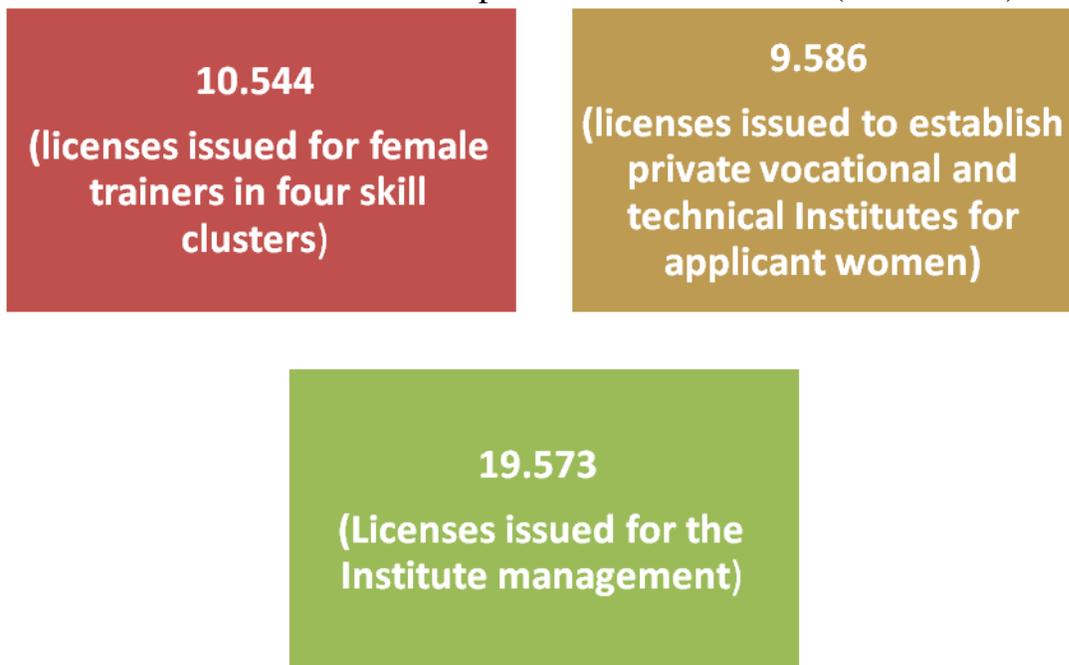
### Skill training to female apprentices in public Centers and Private Institutions

Skill training to female apprentices in public Centers and Private Institutions				
Number	year	Private Institution	Public Centers	Index
1	2012	642805	310443	Person-course
2	2013	637489	294899	Person-course
3	2014	557708	268950	Person-course
4	2015	511260	274905	Person-course
5	2016	492356	303769	Person-course
6	2017	455609	319286	Person-course
7	Six months of 2018	287857	168859	Person-course
Total		3585084	2139654	Person-course



**Women Entrepreneurship by granting License**

Collaboration development in Private sector (2011-2017)



**Skill acquisition at private apprenticeship Institutes**

<b>Women Entrepreneurship by granting skill acquisition license at private apprenticeship Institutes</b>				
Number	year	Number of Founders	Number of Managers	Number of Trainers
1	2011	8451	9296	23680
2	2012	9605	10565	24446
3	2013	9949	10943	24291
4	2014	9958	10953	23629
5	2015	9693	10662	23642
6	2016	9696	10665	24901
7	2017	9586	10544	19573

**Teach Entrepreneurial Skills and domestic Jobs to Women**

<b>Teach Entrepreneurial Skills and domestic Jobs to Women</b>				
Number	Year	Entrepreneurship	Domestic jobs	Index
1	2012	7161	133652	Person-course
2	2013	6602	135824	Person-course
3	2014	5628	106643	Person-course
4	2015	3409	93968	Person-course
5	2016	11621	72652	Person-course
6	2017	9554	57145	Person-course
7	Six months of 2018	1415	47385	Person-course
Total		45390	647269	Person-course

## **The most important achievements of technical and vocational trainings for women and family in the national and international levels**

- Systematization of programs in the area of women and family in the Organization, although it is not part of the official organizational structure
  - Efforts to explain the role of technical and vocational trainings in empowering women in the state
  - Efforts to increase technical and vocational trainings for women
  - Enhancing constructive interactions with the state's executive organs
  - Attracting credit from the presidential deputy on women and family affairs to implement the programs in the area of women and family and helping to increase the Organization's social capital
  - Active participation in national assemblies, meetings and conferences on women
  - Explaining the performance of Iran's technical and vocational training organization in national reports that are presentable to international assemblies (international meetings on the status of women)
  - Preparing analytical reports about the status of women-specific technical and vocational trainings in the Organization
  - Enhancing motivations and spirits of employed women through performing cultural, educational and entertainment programs
  - Helping to strengthen family foundations through holding educational workshops and presenting family counseling services for colleagues
  - Increasing the role and participation of employed women in advancing the aims of the Organization
- 
- **Executive plans on women**
    - Expanding market-oriented skills trainings for women with special attention to economic activists and with a sustainable employment approach
    - Empowerment of socially vulnerable women in different provinces with a sustainable employment approach

- The plan to enhance the professional eligibilities of women university students and graduates to supply the needs of the state's labor market to professional workforce
- Skill empowerment of rural women, nomads, and women who live in less-developed areas with a sustainable employment approach
- The plan for home employments
- The Anfal plan, the plan for technical and vocational training, the need for active economic participation of women, the requirement for occupation and sustainable development
- Participation in the exhibition on women's role in sustainable development

▪ **National skills competitions, festivals, conferences and exhibitions**

- Holding national and international skills competitions
- Holding the first festival on family, child and skill-learning
- The festival for calling for entrepreneurship designs and ideas, special for women trainers and those women who have been trained in Iran's technical and vocational training organization
- Holding the first national photo festival on skill and women
- Holding the exhibition of women's role in sustainable development hosted by 7 provinces of Iran
- Holding the "employment of trained women" celebration
- Holding the "Peyvand" (connection) cultural, artistic and educational festival; with a specialized view at the clothes of Iranian ethnicities, along with the live performance of the marriage ritual according to native and local customs
- Holding the festival of cultural and hand crafts of the women of Silk Road countries, China Xi'an, 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015
- Holding the Girls of Iran festival
- Holding the citizenship rights event

• **Holding educational workshops and meetings**

▪ **Cooperation with the Presidential deputy on women and family affairs through executive programs**

1. Providing educations for strengthening the foundation of family
2. Providing home employment trainings for women, with priority given to women heading families
3. Providing cultural educations under the title "explaining women's status and human dignity for women trainees in technical and vocational training centers"

4. Presenting an entrepreneurship course special for knowledge-based companies in the administrative, expert and academic levels in cooperation with the center of women and family affairs
  5. Conducting the “elite women’s skills need-evaluation” in cooperation with the center of women and family affairs
  6. Expanding market-oriented skill trainings for women, in 4 provinces, with special attention to economic activists and with a sustainable employment approach
  7. Skill empowerment of hurt and socially vulnerable women in two provinces
  8. Performing the “computer and child” program for under 7 children
- Holding the sixth meeting between the President’s deputy on women and family affairs and advisers on women and family affairs of the ministries and executive organs
  - Hosting the conduction of empowerment courses provided by non-governmental organizations in cooperation with the center of women and family affairs

## **Enhancing the curricula and educational programs**

### **◆ Women’s skill training educational clusters and groups**

**Titles of popular educational standards in the area of women along with the statistics of 5-year licenses based on cluster divisions:**

#### **1. The services cluster:**

**Titles of the services group standards:** commerce and financial issues, administrative issues, health and safety, educational services, nutritional services, clothing industries, information technology, tourism, care and beauty, running a hotel (**2122692 licenses have been issued**)

#### **2. The industry cluster:**

**Titles of the industry group standards:** electronics, electricity, installations, welding and welding inspection, land transport, building, ceramic, automotive industries, leather and fur industries, chemical industries, metal industries, textile industries, communications technology, control and instrumentation, industrial management (**121164 issued licenses**)

#### **3. The culture and art cluster:**

**Titles of the culture and art group standards:** handicrafts (wood, metal, pottery, printing, stone, glass, leather), handicrafts (knitting), handicrafts (traditional

sewing), printing industry, gold, and jewelry, carpets, cultural and soft technology, visual arts, decorative arts, performing arts (**342279 issued licenses**)

#### **4. The agriculture cluster:**

**Titles of the agriculture group standards:** gardening, livestock and poultry, fishery and aquaculture, food industries, environmental technology, agriculture (garden-cultivation), agriculture (livestock and aquatics), agricultural machinery (**101098 issued licenses**)

### **Teaching legal concepts to university professors and teachers**

#### **◆ Teaching legal concepts to the organization's women employees**

-The amount of teaching legal concepts special for the organization's women trainers, specialists and managers is 79800 person hours; via holding citizenship rights charter course for 34200 person hours and the citizenship rights in the administrative system course for 45600 person hours.

- Holding counseling and educational workshops
- Providing educations on strengthening family foundations for more than 110 thousand person-hours across the state
- Holding educational workshops on mental health
- Providing family counseling services
- Holding technical language training for women employee in the headquarter
- Holding assemblies, festivals and exhibitions
- Holding the traditional foods festival to raise funds for special patients
- Holding the traditional appetizers festival to raise funds for special patients
- Holding ceremonies for the birthday of Lady Fatimah Zahra (AS) and woman's day in the organization and across the country
- Holding exhibitions on chastity and veil and on the achievements of women trainees and etc.

#### **◆ Holding specialized meetings**

-Forming the council of women and family affairs

-Holding a meeting for the exchange of opinions between the advisers on women's affairs of the deputies of the Ministry of Cooperatives Labor and Social Welfare and the state's Technical and Vocational Training Organization

-Holding free podium meetings for women employee in the headquarter

-Holding regional and national cultural and sports competitions

### **Creating a secure and free of sexual abuse educational environment**

- ✓ Conducting the national project of preparing the comprehensive package of operational strategies and policies to upgrade the socio-cultural and welfare conditions in girl students' dormitories across the state through carrying out a survey and need evaluation from 6000 sample girl students living in student dormitories across Iran (2015)

## **Increasing access to skills in new fields**

### **◆ Plans and actions pertaining to increasing access in the area of skills training:**

- **Trainings in the fixed centers of the public sector**
- Such usually basic and specialized trainings are generally held in well-equipped workrooms in fixed places. The organization has more than 600 men-specific, women specific and mixed skills training centers.
- **Training in industries**
- The organization presents part of its trainings in the form of training in industries in different formats, special for those occupied in the labor market, in order to protect the workforce and upgrade their skills parallel with modern technologies. Trainings in next-to-workroom and inter-workroom centers of the organization is done with the purpose of expanding technical and vocational trainings and supplying the skilled man and woman workforce required by the industries.
- **Trainings in mobile urban and rural centers**
- To create the possibility of easy access for rural workers to technical and vocational trainings and to upgrade the rural employees' skills levels, with the aims of preventing the migration of villagers to towns and empowering women, the state's Technical and Vocational Training Organization presents skills trainings through rural training centers and transferred workrooms.
- **Trainings in the instructor training center**
- Another educational focus of the organization is to train women and men instructors and professionals in order to supply the educational staff required by different parts of the country and the state's technical and vocational training centers. The instructor training and technical and vocational research center is one of the unique educational centers in the Middle East which has special equipment and facilities. This center continuously monitors and evaluates the new industrial technologies in Iran and tries to make available the knowledge on how to utilize new technologies and how to transfer it. In this line, all women teachers employed in (public and private) educational workshops receive more than 120 hours of annual professional training.
- **Trainings in prison**

- Unemployment and the lack of skill is one of the reasons behind the inclination of women and men to addiction and crime. Therefore, possessing personal skills, beside creating the initial conditions for employment, helps to strengthen the individuals' personality and social status. Thus, the organization provides educations for treated and self-introduced women and men prisoners and addicts through signing a memorandum of understanding with the Prisons Organization and the Drug Control Headquarters.
- **Training of advanced skills**
- Considering the new technological developments and the requirements of the state's different economic sectors, one of the new plans of the state's Technical and Vocational Training Organization is to present technical and vocational trainings of advanced skills in the two technical and non-technical areas. This plan has been successful in providing advanced skills training courses for women university graduates and managers of industrial and economic firms.
- **Trainings in free (private sector) trainee's institutions**
- A free technical and vocational educational institution is an institution that has been launched by the non-governmental sector via obtaining permits from the state's Technical and Vocational Training Organization within the framework of the by-law on the establishment and management of free technical and vocational educational institutions, enacted by the cabinet in 2000. Such an institution presents technical and vocational training courses for women and men based on skills learning standards and curricula, approved by the organization, in order to provide the qualified educational agents as per the existing criteria. There are currently more than 9586 active women specific institutions that have obtained their permits from the Technical and Vocational Training Organization.

**13. in the last five years, which forms of violence against women and girls, and in which specific contexts or settings, have you prioritized for action?**

- *Domestic violence*

One of the measures taken in this area is drafting a bill on "Securing Women against Violence" which is actually on the way to be approved as a law. This bill includes a comprehensive set of preventive, protective and criminalizing measures aiming at supporting women against all types of violence.

- *Sexual violence in public spaces*

The implementation of “National Document on Provision of Women’s Security in Social Relations” is taken into consideration through strengthening the observation and monitoring by affiliated organization especially by police and judiciary staffs.

- *Child marriage*

In Iran the prevalence of the child marriage is usually limited to some of border regions. Several measures taken in this area are mentioned as follow:

- Providing a draft proposal on "Increasing the Minimum Age of Marriage"
- Holding the judicial and supportive expert meeting on dealing with early marriage (2015)
- Holding a scientific meeting to study the possibility of early marriage from the standpoint of the Iranian legal system, Islamic thought and international standards (2016)
- Increasing the families' awareness on the negative impacts of child marriage through the engagement of religious leaders, especially in border regions such as Razavi Khorasan; Sistan and Baluchestan; Kurdistan.
- Involving NGOs active in this field for public awareness raising and informing the relevant authorities to react in the cases of child marriage.

## **14. What actions has your country prioritized in the last five years to address violence against women and girls?**

### ***Strengthening laws***

1. Providing the possibility of litigation for women victims of violence by NGOs active in the area of women's rights and protecting these women and following up the litigation through judicial authorities in accordance with the paragraph 66 of the Code of Criminal Procedure approved in 2014 with its 2015 amendments;
2. Integrating the issues related to women and girls into "the Charter on Citizens' Rights, (2016), including women's right to health, right to individual security, right to privacy, right to freedom from forced marriage, right to freedom from behavioral and verbal violence, rights of detained and imprisoned individuals who are deprived of freedom, right to enjoyment from an environment free from individual and social harms.
3. Drafting of a comprehensive bill on "Securing Women against Violence" 2016
4. Adopting child-friendly approaches in the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Protecting the Rights of Children and Adolescents (National Document) by 2025;

### ***Increasing women's access to justice***

1. Assigning a President's Special Assistant in Citizens' Rights in accordance with the "the Charter on Citizens' Rights", (2016)
2. Assigning trained woman interrogators for Inquiry and interrogation of accused women according to the paragraph 42 of the Code of Criminal Procedure approved in 2014 with its 2015 amendments;
3. Concluding an agreement between the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs and the Prisons Organization in 2015 to provide women prisoners and their families or the families of prisoners with counseling, financial and legal services;
4. Concluding an agreement between the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs and the Deputy of Judiciary on Social and Crime Prevention Affairs in 2015 to try to expand, strengthen and institutionalize gender equity

in the family and to balance and solidify relations between spouses and to upgrade the indicators related to women, children and family in Iran;

5. Concluding an agreement between the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs and the Iran Central Bar Association (NGO) in 2015 on providing qualitative legal support for women who lack the financial ability to pay consultation and attorney's fees and assistance attorney in legal issues;

### ***Developing services for the survivors of violence***

1. Establishing offices for guiding and supporting women and children in judicial complexes
2. Launching hotlines (129) providing the legal consultation for citizens, including women, (123) intervening in the cases of violence and (1480) providing psychological consultation.
3. Providing consultation on addiction by the State Welfare Organization through a hotline, active in 24/7;
4. Establishing Social Services Center with access to social Emergency services;
5. Launching a Comprehensive Domestic Violence Prevention and Control Program by the Ministry of Health through initial screening of married women above 15 years by health care expert, referral to psychologist for complementary screening and referral to general practitioner for final diagnosis and documentation of wives harassment.

## **15. What strategies has your country used in the last five years to prevent violence against women and girls?**

### **Raising Public Awareness**

1. Holding academic seminar and meeting,
2. Writing and translating books, paragraphs and scientific sources
3. Producing Movies and Documentaries

1-Hold scientific meetings on the role of religious leaders in preventing violence against children

Within a six month period and four separated meetings, these meetings was held by the National Reference of Convention on the Child Right, Ministry of Justice, policy-making agencies (Expediency Council), Judiciary and Executive agencies in order to recognize instances of violence against children particularly children, the main legal challenges on discrimination against girls, early marriage and pregnancy, sexual violence and etc. were discussed by religious leaders, children activists and judicial scholars. The results of these meetings were presented within a Handbook for the authorities responsible in the area of children.

2-Support specialized Meeting on women's health and high-risk behaviors with focus on prostitution (prevention from social harms)

This plan has been implemented in partnership with Women Research Institute and Task Force on prevention from social harms of Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs through holding one specialized meeting for three hours with presence of 200 professors, scholars, students and NGOs in 2015 in order to help to realize the plan of prevention from social harms, to develop the abilities of NGOs, to identify the factors that have harmful effect on women's health and high-risk behaviors, to recognize the obstacles of women mental and social development, to prevent from women's social harms and to investigate triggers and harmful factors on women's health.

3-Specialized Meeting on investigating the issues and challenges related to early marriage of girls, summer 2015

Following the correspondences of this Vice Presidency with the Ministry of Justice on early marriage of girls, The National Reference of the Child Rights put the girls on the agenda of legal and judicial Task Force. The first session of this Task Force was held with presence of representative agencies and legislative gaps and procedures of Courts and Registry Offices on Paragraph 1041 of Civil Law with regard to registration of marriages under the legal age were investigated.

4-Hold Scientific meeting on possibility of early marriage from the perspective Iran's Judiciary System, Islamic thoughts and international principles in 2016.

Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs in partnership with Commission on Iran's Islamic Human Rights held the above meeting on 09/05/2016. The purpose of this meeting was to present operationalized solutions in order to end early and compulsory marriages under the legal age by inviting related scholars and executives, as it is opposed to Paragraph 1041 of Civil Law. In this solution, all religious principles, domestic rights and international commitments of Administration are considered in order to provide the best solution for protecting children from early marriage.

5-Hold Specialized Meeting on women, Security and sustainable development

One of the main strategies of eleventh Administration (2013-2017) in the international arena is to establish understanding and to reinforce convergence among all countries of the region on different topics with centrality of reinforcing peace and security dialogue. In the same vein, one of the most important initiatives of eleventh Administration (2013-2017) was proposing the Resolution of "the world against violence and extremism" which was approved in the United Nations General Assembly. However, over the last few years, the wave of increasing violent extremism and terrorism has turned to one of the main concerns of the region and women and girls are considered as the main victims.

***Writing and Translating books, paragraphs and scientific sources***

1-Reflection on necessities of National legal system on Acid pouring crimes with emphasis on the necessity of restoring the damages imposed on the Victims

Considering that Acid pouring victims are not immune from the physical effects on the face and head and also the mental consequences due to impairing the routine functions and the beauty and with regard to mental pressures on the families, they are exposed with different social harms which has influences on the whole community; therefore, solving these complex issues requires adopting a comprehensive approach and formulating appropriate measures in the three following aspects: A-Improve and restore all injuries and damages, both physical and spiritual B-prosecution and punishment of the accused C-Prevention from repeating similar accidents. Based on this, the current strategic-investigative report in 2015 was submitted to the President with regard to the challenges of legal system, the main legal obstacles and necessary strategies to solve this problem in three above-mentioned pivot points.

2-Prepare a report on legal pathology of early marriages under the legal age in 2015

This report has been prepared by the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs and it is submitted to National Convention on the Child Rights, Ministry of Justice. Subsequently, the National Reference held a session with public authorities and investigated the legislative and executive obstacles which leads to early marriage and formulated approaches on this topic.

### ***Produce the Movies and Documentaries***

The Movie of Salesperson by AsgharFarhadi with the topic of violence in 2014

The Movie of Untaken paths with the topic of domestic violence in 2016

The Movie of Lantouri with the topic of Acid Pouring in 2017

The Movie of Lottery with the topic of girls trafficking in 2017

Support the Documentary on Women Marriage with foreign immigrants

The issue of illegal marriage has irreparable consequences including birth of unidentified children that causes social norms breaking and turns to psychological

pressures and conflicts. The collapse of Family Foundation due to lack of commitment of illegal immigrants to life is another consequence of this issue. Therefore, the widespread consequences of illegal marriages necessitate producing a documentary in this regard in order to identify women who are married illegally, to investigate the consequences of marriage with foreign immigrants considering the ethnical, religious and economic diversity, to prevent from these marriages and to propose social and cultural approaches for tackling this phenomenon. This Documentary has been prepared in three provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan, Razavikhorasan and western Azerbaijan in 2015 in order to provide necessary grounds for legal reforms in the Parliament and Administration.

The public media and Publications are always recommended in order to reduce violence against women, to raise awareness, to present legal information, to increase women self-confidence and efficacy through holding training classes and specialized workshops. Women awareness-raising and learning communication skills play an important role in reducing violence. In many cases, the victims of violence could not solve their communicative skills and manage their anger due to lack of adequate knowledge of their rights. Therefore, Training women before marriage and also raising women awareness of support Centers is considered vital to take advantage of this Center in case of threats. Some of the activities of this Center include holding 58 educational workshops by the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs in 2018 across the country with focus on mental health for 1700 experts in social Emergency equaling 13600 hours per person.

Pre-marriage educations are compulsory in Islamic Republic of Iran for a long time to the extent that concluding the marriage contract is subject to issuing a Certificate for passing these courses. These courses contain all required sexual, psychological and legal trainings for couples by professionals in order to raise awareness and prevent from later problems.

Over the last year, a coherent program has been formulated with the title of “National Program of Public Trainings on Marriage” with the purpose of improving the current status of educations with focus on life skills including communicative, legal and health skills and different agencies have been coordinated on approving this program in the National Headquarter of Women and Family and the board of Ministries session in 12/09/2018 and announcing it to related agencies approved in 18/09/2017 No.84440/55681.

Some coordination has been made among different agencies by the Vice Presidency of Women and Family Affairs with purpose of implementing the National program of “General Family Trainings before, after and during marriage” in 11/12/2018.

Compulsory trainings to all high school girls are another big step in this regard. Other encouraging efforts of Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs is to support Centers that strengthen Family Foundation through identifying, choosing,

introducing and appreciating 124 dedicated experts of social Emergency across the country in 2018.

### **Working for Elementary and High Schools**

1-Raise awareness of girls through holding 16-hour educational workshops for 5000 girls in privileged areas, 5000 parents and 840 trainers through partnership with the Office of Women and Family Affairs, Ministry of Education in 2016.

2-Conclude Memorandum of Understanding between Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs and Ministry of Education in order to provide legal trainings at all high schools across the country

3-Include lesson plans with the subject of Citizenship Rights by the Ministry of Education in the approved Curriculum of elementary and high schools

### ***Reinforce strategies for prevention of violence***

-Based on the Islamic approach of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Constitution, Islamic Republic of Iran honors the women human dignity which influences all macro and micro strategies, decisions and policies; therefore, the strategy of preventing from violence against all women and girls is superior over all other activities against women and girls violence. Although many different public and private agencies and Centers have been predicted in Iran in order to support vulnerable women and girls with specific rising budgets, but all-inclusive empowerment of all women sectors is of high priority because our Government believes that empowered women are less exposed to harm.

-Another strategy of Islamic Republic of Iran to prevent from violence is to predict strict punishments and rules against the violators and aggression and violence factors against women and girls.

2-Predicting Paragraphs for criminalizing the instances of violence against women under the bill of improving the law of imprisonment in 2015 (correcting the fifth book of the Islamic Penal Code

This bill which is undergoing its final stages in the Legal Assistance Judiciary with cooperation of Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs has criminalized

some instances of violence against women including family violence and it has considered the most severe punishments for it.

### 3-The Act on Prevention from Crime approved in 2015

This Act has been approved in order to predict, identify and evaluate the risk of crime and also it takes necessary measures in order to reduce or eliminate risk of crime. Therefore, Supreme Council of crime prevention has been established with presence of all administrative and judiciary authorities. This Council could put many violent behaviors against women on agenda.

-Predict strategies and support programs for all girls under 18 years in the comprehensive Action plan of children's rights (national document) in the Vision 2025; strategies and administrative programs. This document that was announced to all executive agencies for implementation in 2015 was prepared and approved by the national reference of convention on the Rights of the Child, Ministry of Justice, all judiciary and executive agencies, Civil Sector and non-public Organizations. Considering all local rights and international standards, particularly International Convention on the Rights of the Child, this document formulated 11 strategies in support of all people under 18 and predicted executive programs and measurement indexes for operationalization. The main programs related to this document that support children and improve their physical and mental health are as follows:

-Strategy of improving the fundamental Rights of children include: prohibition of discrimination, the right to life, provision of their rights

-Strategy of improving family relationships and alternative cares for vulnerable children

-Strategy of expanding special cares for vulnerable children

-Strategy of expanding children-friendly culture (Avoid traditions and procedures that are harmful for children and reinforce children-friendly traditions)

### ***Monitor and Evaluate Impacts***

-

**16. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (online sexual harassment, online stalking, non-consensual sharing of intimate images)?**

**Strengthening the rules**

1-Approve the Act on Cyber Crimes in the Parliament

Under the Paragraph 123 of Islamic Republic of Iran Constitution, the Cyber Crimes law that was submitted to the Parliament as a bill in 2005 was notified to Administration in 2009. The fourth chapter of the Act on the Crimes against Chastity and ethics has specified punishments for violating women and men rights and disturbing public chastity particularly women from imposing fines to imprisonment. Under the fifth chapter of this Act with the title of “violating dignity and dissemination of lies”, the instances of violence against women and its related punishments have been defined.

2-The instruction of activity in virtual networks and social networking websites approved in June 2018

3-Considering Cyber Police for Cyberspace in the Police Force in order to monitor different types of cybercrimes including sexual violence. The proliferation of crimes in the sphere of the production and Exchange of Information such as internet frauds, data forgery, information theft, Violation of Privacy, computer and internet hacking, spoofing and systematic economic, cultural and social crimes necessitate training specialist polices for prosecuting high-level technological crimes.

This police unit was founded in 2010 with decree of Commander Police of Islamic Republic of Iran based on the law on Cybercrime in the Parliament and the approvals of Cyber Police Commission on founding the police in the sphere of Production and Exchange of Information.

The missions and the duties of Cyber Police in the sphere of Production and Exchange of Information include: Provide security, Reduce threats of economic,

social and scientific activities, Protect the national and religious identity, Monitor the sphere of Production and Exchange of Information in order to prevent from illegal activities in this area and Avoid violation of values and norms in the community.

4-Ministry of Communication and Information Technology launched two national plans of “Family and Cyberspace” in 270 places in order to realize gender justice and sustainable development and to access modern and digital economy since 2017.

In the first phase, this national plan was implemented in the 50 places of all provinces.

Based on the ultimate goal, this project that is designed for families to benefit from Cyberspace opportunities and to minimize threats for family members particularly children will be implemented in 270 provinces, cities and villages.

#### **Methods to counteract Cyberspace threats:**

- Research and scholarship- data investigation (design and establish network databases)-
- Psychological Operation and anti-psychological operations-
- Security development (Provide network users with security)-
- Monitor networks and their activities – Identify networks (networks, streams, activists, workshops, etc.)
- Collect and document network data- Education on threats, harms, methods, effective presence in networks, bulletin preparation

#### **Public Education and Raising Awareness**

One of our long-term objectives is to institutionalize and to convey the culture of correct use of Cyberspace. Considering that after innovating or inventing a new phenomenon, we need an optimal way to be able to benefit from its advantages, Cyberspace is no exception. Therefore, we need measures to institutionalize correct

and legitimate use of this space based on the fundamental objectives of this innovation. One of the main activities undertaken is using information tools in order to convey and institutionalize culture of correct use of Cyberspace. This institutionalization is more than protective measures for being immune from the threats of this space. In fact, it means institutionalizing positive and legitimate attitudes towards this space in the society that could contribute to preventing from passivity in tackling with Cybercrimes and training more effective users. To achieve this goal, we should use educational and advertising tools in order to introduce Cyberspace as a facilitator that helps humans in their daily routines.

In different seminars and think tanks which have been held, a program with the following activities was planned at five levels of family, school, educational authorities, the media and family for Cyberspace users:

- If you're exposed to a cybercrime, don't panic. If you have any data related to the crime including the name of the guilty person, the date and the time of crime occurrence, keep it and give it to law enforcers.
- If you're threatened or disturbed in Cyberspace, go to Police and ask for advice. They could help you to overcome this problem.
- Avoid going to unknown online chat rooms.
- Remember that all individuals in Cyberspace are strangers and you don't know who you are talking with.
- Be cautious about sharing your personal information and not to share these data in online public spaces.
- Replace the password of your electronic mail frequently.
- Buy Internet subscription from authorized companies.
- Choose a nick name for yourself in the chat rooms and not to use descriptive names that attract other people's attention.
- Avoid choosing your gender as much as possible in online spaces.

- Save all your contacts in the Cyberspace as a document and avoid deleting or manipulating them.
- Use standard and authorized chat rooms, networks and programs.
- Try to learn up-to-date technologies all the time.
- If you use electronic mail or other online servers, change your electronic mail, if necessary.
- Be cautious about those whom you have been familiarized with in cyberspaces and you want to meet them face-to-face. Try to arrange meeting them in a public place with accompaniment relatives or friends.
- Before face-to-face meeting with a person whom you have been familiarized with online, try to speak with him or her through public telephone.

### 1-Family-based Measures

As the first place of crime prevention is the family and the parents, family-based measures are taken in order to make children family-friendly. Therefore, it is necessary to give necessary advices on the advantages and disadvantages of Cyberspace to parents based on two following stages. In first stage, the community has supportive and educational duties to families. In this stage, the duty of Government and social institutes is providing amenities and awareness for families in order to teach their children to use computer and Internet correctly. For instance, an educational program for parents whose children work with Internet is as follows:

- 1-Teach children to choose useful alternatives when using the Internet.
- 2-Make appropriate decisions about the contents that children are going to watch
- 3-Teach how to encounter with immoral and inappropriate contents and reduce the consequences of watching these contents.

In the second stage, parents should have proper understanding of their role in monitoring the behavior of children in order to prevent them from being sacrificed in the Cyberspace. Parents should use filtering software on their personal computers in order to prevent access to gambling, drugs, alcohol, pornographic images and non-

cultural language. They could also monitor the activities of their children in the Cyberspace through setting limitations, installing filtering software that sends specific messages and tracing the websites that have been visited.

#### 5-The policy of Acceptable Usage

The binding measure of working with Internet has approaches with regard to Cyberspace that could be employed at schools, homes and libraries. These measures are based on holding children responsible for the content that they watch and produce in the Cyberspace. They learn how to react properly to different issues that they experience in Cyberspace. In this way, they will be familiarized with the skills that are needed to use Internet correctly. For instance, to teach the proper use of Internet to students, some teachers give students a list of appropriate websites and ask them to visit the websites within a specific deadline and to extract all needed lesson contents. In this way, children have no time to visit illegal and inappropriate contents. If children violate these strategies deliberately, some punishments should be inflicted on them such as lack of permission for using the Internet and contact with parents. However, if they violate these strategies unintentionally, it should be considered as an opportunity to learn how to encounter with these issues in the future and if necessary, it should be reported to parents or trainers.

#### 6-Educational Measures through the media

People should understand the dominant economic, legal and social situations in order to be able to identify their required information, insert this information in their knowledge repertoire and reach their goals in line with ethical and legal principles. To do this, they need to get familiar with the concept of the media and information literature. Since many parents, trainers and authorities lack adequate information on the nature of Cyberspace and the threats of this space, they either consider the whole Cyberspace as immoral, or they do nothing to protect the children against its threats. Therefore, training mothers through holding workshops on necessary skills related to the media and information literature is necessary. Teachings of the public media should contain simple instructions for all sectors of the society. As we caution mothers to control their children in the physical world by messages such as: it is eight o'clock, has your child returned home? , we can also ask them to control the

behavior of their children in the Cyberspace through spreading some messages in the media.

#### 7-Awareness-raising by providing figures

Access to crime figures committed in the Cyberspace is difficult due to weaknesses in reporting and recording processes. But we can inform people of Cyberspace threats through obtaining some important data such as: the type of recurrent crimes, the method of committing crime, the geographical regions that commit these crimes and etc. one of the main tools that is used for public awareness is Mass Media such as newspapers, publications, television, Internet and satellite. To implement this plan, we need institutions and Organizations that carry out research and survey activities on Cybercrimes. These activities should be in partnership with Jurisdictions and executive agencies such as Iran's Cyber Police in order to obtain information on the extent and the type of Cybercrimes, prevention, discovery and combating with Cybercrimes. In addition, psychological analysis of culprits reveals findings on the nature of crimes committed in Cyberspaces. Afterwards, these strategies should be made available for the public and Organizations through the public media. For instance, the Notices of Iran's Cyber Police regarding the spread of bank cards corruptions has had significant influences to reduce these crimes.

#### 8-Measures based on academic and education process

Considering that children and teenagers are the most interested groups in Cyberspace, the extent of cultural and psychological consequences among these groups is more than the others. Therefore, some mechanisms are employed with regard to awareness-raising and prevention in order to counteract undesirable effects. Since school an Institution plays an important role in shaping the personality of children and teenagers, one of the most effective tools is preventive mechanisms in the academic areas. Therefore, authorities must offer educational plans on prevention from Cybercrimes based on true understanding of their duties and authorities, the impact of this Institution on students' personality-formation and threats of Cyberspace. Some of the activities of Iran's Cyber Police include: offering suggestion about prevention from Cybercrimes, holding scientific and practical classes to familiarize students with legal, legitimate and illegitimate measures in Cyberspace and holding seminars, meetings, workshops and exhibitions at schools.



## **17. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to address the portrayal of women and girls, discrimination and/or gender bias in the media?**

### **Legal reforms**

#### 1-The Press Law

This Act is the oldest law which was approved in 1907 by the Constitutional Government and it was finally revised in 2009 after so many corrections during these one hundred years. Now, this Act dominates all other media activities.

This Act emphasizes on observing all religious principles and respecting all individuals from men or women. Under the Paragraph 10 of Paragraph 6: every abuse of men or women in pictures or contents, every Insult and humiliation of women, every illegal and illegitimate advertisement of luxuries is considered forbidden and against the law.

#### 2-The new Law of state advertising

Advertising and Information Office put finalizing the new draft of state advertising on agenda since 2012 and finally it submitted the draft to relevant authorities at the beginning of 2013.

### **Regulations governing the media such as advertising**

1-At present, activities in the area of commercial advertisements and its monitoring is carried out within the regulation of launching, monitoring and advertising approved in 1993. Under Paragraph 10 of this regulation, Central Committee of Advertising Agencies as the highest policy-maker in advertising prepared instructions and after approval it was notified to relevant Centers which must be conformed to by all advertising and promoting Centers. In addition to above-mentioned norms and regulations, in the executive regulations and other instructions, there are some norms with regard to adoption and publication of advertisements which must be conformed to by all organizations in the area of advertising such as

the media and advertising Centers due to protecting the rights of audiences, the national interests and the human values.

Under Paragraph 12 of the above-mentioned regulation, precise principles were specified for adoption and preparation of commercial advertisements. These principles consist of 81 paragraphs in which 10 paragraphs emphasizes on legal principles and regulations. One of the principles of National Constitution is equity between men and women; therefore, any violation of this principle is against the law.

Since in all policies and executive principles of Islamic Republic of Iran, one of the main priorities is the maintenance of human dignity and religious principles, this paragraph has reemphasized on women human rights based on the legal principles of the country.

Under the Paragraph 12 of Advertising Agencies, they are obliged to conform to the following principles when drawing up commercial advertisements:

- A. Commercial advertisements must conform to the legitimate and legal standards.
- B. Advertisement must not contain any statement or image which is insulting to the public dignity, ethics and religious beliefs.
- C. Any implicit or explicit humiliation or insult is forbidden in advertisements.
- D. The advertisements that promote corruption or oppose public dignity and official religions are forbidden.

## 2-The Instructions on Activity in Virtual Networks

The Central Committee of Advertising Organizations approved the advertising activity of networks and social networking websites at 94<sup>th</sup> session in 27/03/2018, with reference to Paragraph 15 of regulation governing the launching and monitoring of advertising activities approved in 17/03/1980 by Islamic Republic of Iran's Revolutionary Council and Paragraph 3 and Paragraph 4 of regulation governing organizing and developing the media and digital cultural activities approved in 15/09/2015 by The Council of Ministries as follows:

## **Promotion of Women's Participation in the Media**

Establish Elite Think Tanks governing Women and Family on Television

Recently, television has pioneered a movement on using the elites in different areas including Women and Families, through which, the policymaking and practical and executive activities in the area of women and family were targeted.

Increased women's presence in macro-management of the media, increased women's management in the media, increased presence of women and families in the media particularly Social News Agencies, improved position of women and families in the media and etc. are among the distinctive opportunities that are made possible by establishing think tanks.

Half of journalists, correspondents and the media professionals are comprised of women. 40 percent of managers in charge of publications are women. There are at least 25 journals for women. In some of the media, the balance between men and women has changed in a way that women been promoted to higher managerial levels. This transformation has led to increasing women's employment in the media which has caused to have more feminine narratives, images and discussions more than any other time in the media.

# Culture and Communication

معاونت رئیس جمهور  
در امور زنان و خانواده

Women with architecture award



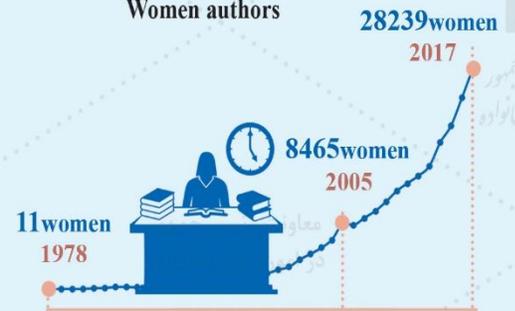
Women awarded in Fajr Film Festival



Researches in women's studies (1996-2015)



Women authors



Books published by Iranian women authors (1996-2015)



## **Women authors**

After victory of Islamic Revolution, the women have been present in all cultural areas, to the extent that presence could not be ignored. The role of women in writing and creation of written art works is increasing day by day. The number of women authors over the last 40 years has risen 22 percent which shows that women have made considerable efforts to reach this position and succeed.

Based on the principle 19 of the Constitution which implies the equal right of individuals including men and women from every ethnicity, color, race and language:

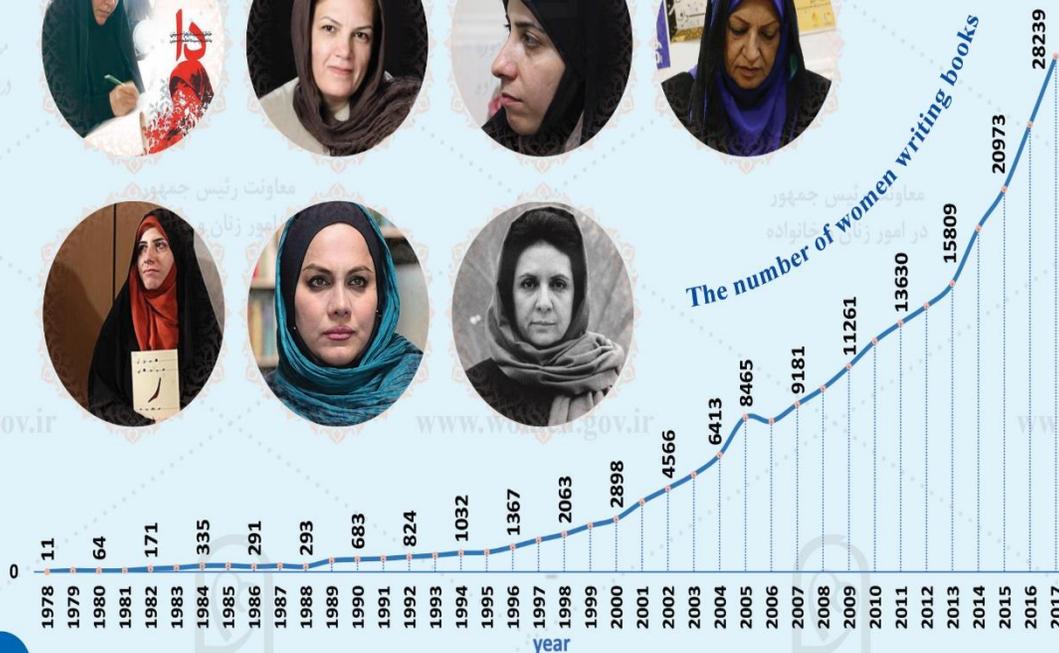
1-The activities related to issuing permit to establish advertising Center for all eligible applicants are undertaken without any limitation or discrimination.

2-From all licenses issued from the beginning of Islamic revolution up to now, 1819 media with management of women are working. In addition, 51 news stations, 3 news agencies and 33 national newspapers have been published by management of women.

From the beginning of 2018, 116 licenses have been issued for female directors in which this number shows the quantitative increase of women's professional activities in the area of media and communications.

Based on the planning that have been carried out, the media that run by women have a favorable situation in terms of improved qualitative level and publications ranking. In addition, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance has special support from the journals that have publications about women and family (Nowadays, the majority of journals, newspapers and news agencies have dedicated news on women on their social column).

Women have been and are present in all cultural spheres after the victory of the Islamic Revolution so much that their footprints can no longer be ignored. Meanwhile, the role of women in the field of writing and creating art is increasing day by day. The number of women who have written books has grown by 22% in the last forty years, indicating that women have made great strides in this area, and have thus gained much success.



### The proportion of female managers to male managers in advertising Centers

Year	The number of Centers	The number of male managers	The number of female managers
2015	9340	5604	3736
2016	10186	6111	4074
2017	10986	6519	4394
2018	11364	6818	4545

### Female managers in Publications

Title	Year	Number
Female managers	From the beginning of Islamic revolution	1872
News stations with female managers	Up to now	513
News stations with female managers	Up to now	3
Female managers in provinces	Up to now	518

**18. Has your country taken any action in the last five years specifically tailored to address violence against specific groups of women facing multiple forms of discrimination?**

In accordance with Islamic approach, Islamic Republic of Iran honors women human dignity at the top of all its policies and plans. Therefore, adopting the strategy of prevention from violence against women has priority over all other strategies. Although there are Institutions and public and private Centers in support of vulnerable women and girls In Iran, but women`s empowerment especially vulnerable groups is at the top of agenda.

**Instances:**

A-Since the number of immigrant women and refugees in Iran is significant due to the geographical status of Iran and humanitarian commitments of the Government, therefore the Government supports them based on ethical and humanitarian principles. Under the third section of fifth chapter of labor law, “Education and employment of foreigners” has targeted improving the livelihood of immigrants in order to prevent from economic and sexual exploitation. Moreover, stricter punishments have been assigned for the violators who mistreat women (updating the law on human trafficking approved in 2004 and criminalizing women, girls, children and the disabled exploitation under legal titles).

-Create Emergency Centers in support of individuals who are exposed to violence, harassment and human trafficking. These Centers offer consultancy, legal services and medical cares.

-Create mechanisms for psychological supports of the immigrant vulnerable particularly women and girls (depression, lack of self-confidence, anxiety, etc...)

-Support humanitarian and promotional activities of NGOs in assisting the immigrant vulnerable in the form of providing Credit or direct participation in implementation

-Per capita budget of students at all academic levels is on average 22000000 Rials for 400000 students in 2017 (with cooperation of United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees, 46000 gift bank cards have been allocated to vulnerable children with value of 23000000000 Rials)

-In the academic year 2016 nearly 48000 students, in the academic year 2017 nearly 52000 students and in the academic year 2018 nearly 72052 students from illegal Afghanistan citizens were identified in need of education by the decree of Supreme leader.

-At present, 16500 refugees are studying at different academic levels:

1-Per capita budget of Medical students both girls and boys is on average 170000000 Rials

2-Per capita budget of Medical students both girls and boys is on average 89000000 Rials

3-Per Capita budget of undergraduate students both girls and boys is on average 20000000 Rials

4-Per capita budget of postgraduate students both girls and boys is on average 40000000 Rials

-From 1982 to 2018, 755 thousands adults have undertaken elementary and complementary courses in literacy movement Organization

1-Per capita cost of literacy is on average 10000000 Rials

2-In the academic year 2017, 18832 adults started their education with budget of 7280000000 Rials

-Since 2011, vocational training courses have been implemented for refugees such sewing, accounting, hairdressing and etc.

1-Per capita cost of vocational training is on average 120000000 Rials

2-up to 2017, 16000 people participated in these courses and received license.

-Employment and livelihood services of Islamic Republic of Iran to refugees:

1-Empowerment and employment of 1103 female-headed families

2-Distribution of 4805 cash cards among female-headed families

3-Issue of 270000 work permit for legal employment of at least one member of refugee families up to 2016

**B-Female-headed families, mal-supervised or self-supervised women and girls** are always a group of women who cope with many challenges, harms and crises due to their special situation, therefore Islamic Republic of Iran Administration always has special supports from this group, honors their dignity, adopts strategic policies in order to prevent from violence against them and contributes to their empowerment. Formation of national task force on female-headed families' empowerment in the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs has led to improving women's dignity.

This task force works with participation of related agencies on female-headed families including the Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare, Behzisti Welfare Organization, Imam Khomeini Relief Committee and other organizations such as Planning and Budget Organization, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Agriculture and some NGOs on women and family affairs and also the Parliament. The purpose of this task force is implementing the Paragraph D of Paragraph 80 of sixth development plan in order to formulate and implement the comprehensive plan of female-headed families' empowerment with purpose of reinforcing the potentials of women and preventing from violence against them. Therefore, strengthening women skills and trainings, facilitating employment for women, full medical and social insurance for female-headed families (allocating 230 billion Tomans for social insurance of female-headed families in 2018 budget), loans, leave, flexible working time and launching consultancy system were predicted for women; In addition, Behzisti Welfare Organization is responsible for supporting mal-supervised girls who are the victims of violence in the free of charge round-the-clock Health Center. In these Centers, women and girls are rehabilitated mentally through consultancy and training and also they are supported to obtain employment, independency and self-sufficiency.

**C- Disabled women or families with a disabled person** are other groups of women who are exposed to different types of violence and harms due to their special conditions; therefore, Islamic Republic of Iran has approved Paragraphs in the series of Acts (2015-2018) to guarantee social security of women as follows:

-Disabled working women, working women with the child under six years, working women with disabled or sick husband or child are entitled to reduce their working hours from 44 hours to 36 weeks with receiving the same amount of wage that is paid for 44 hours (the Act on reducing working hour for working women with special needs, approved in 2016).

-Women with disabled husband are entitled to receive the right of nursing in order to support their disabled families (Paragraph 17, the Act on supporting the disabled rights, approved in 2018).

-Ministry of Roads and City Planning is obliged to provide appropriate and cheap accommodation to disabled couples (Paragraph 17, the Act on supporting the disabled rights, approved in 2018).

-Tax exemption for 50 percent of wage and benefits of disabled working women or working women with disabled children (Paragraph 25, the Act on supporting the disabled rights, approved in 2018).

-Military services exemption for the men with disabled wives (Paragraph 27, the Act on supporting the disabled rights, approved in 2018).

## **19. What actions and measures has your country taken in the last five years to promote women's participation in public life and decision-making?**

### ***Capacity-building and skill development***

The activities of Vice Presidency for Women and Family affairs with regard to women skills development are as follows:

-Assign equal managerial positions for both men and women in public and private sectors

Reform and approve executive instructions on choosing and appointing professional managers at all Ministries, public agencies, public corporations and NGOs, approved in 2017

Under the approval of Supreme administrative Council in Appendix 2 of Paragraph 5 and with suggestion of Administrative and Recruiting Agency, women managerial positions increased 30% by the end of five-year sixth development plan in order to benefit from talented women in the professional and administrative management positions.

-The Circular 200/54989 to all Ministries and independent Organizations supervised by the President approved in 15/01/2011

-In this Circular, the Ministries and the heads of independent Organizations supervised by the President were obliged to assign an organizational post to Women and Family Affairs Consultancy.

-Follow up assigning 300 new job opportunity to women in the Comprehensive Recruitment Test in 2017 on the order of the President

-Follow up appointing women in managerial posts within the Presidents plans and promises and proposing annual increase of 10 percent in the number of female managers within the plan of reforming the administrative system

-Support capacity-building and improving women managerial skills through training 2250 female manager in different provinces with the cooperation of the Ministry of Interior (2017)

-Mainstreaming for capacity-building and improving women managerial skills at basic, intermediate and advanced levels through holding public and professional courses and documenting administrative experiences of female managers with cooperation of Training Center for Public Management

-Formulate the document of improving women and family status in all provinces in order to identify the current status of women and families in provinces, to identify important problems and opportunities, to analyze the main reasons of problems, capacity gaps and formulate explicit strategies in accordance with status of different provinces (2017)

-Hold educational workshops on women role in overcoming climate change, and environmental adaptation for 155 provincial managers, public managers, the female members of Metropolis councils and NGOs representatives (2018)

-Empower 150 cultural ambassadors through teaching social adaptation, inter-generation dialogues, public policy-making and administrative rights equaling 1200 hours / person and visiting cultural places and celebrities (2018)

-Support the second festival of woman and science in honor of Maryam Mirzakhani and commemorate at least 51 female elites in scientific areas, holy Quran research, sacrifice, environment and charity activities (2017-2018)

**The approval of Supreme Administrative Council  
approved in 18/06/2018**

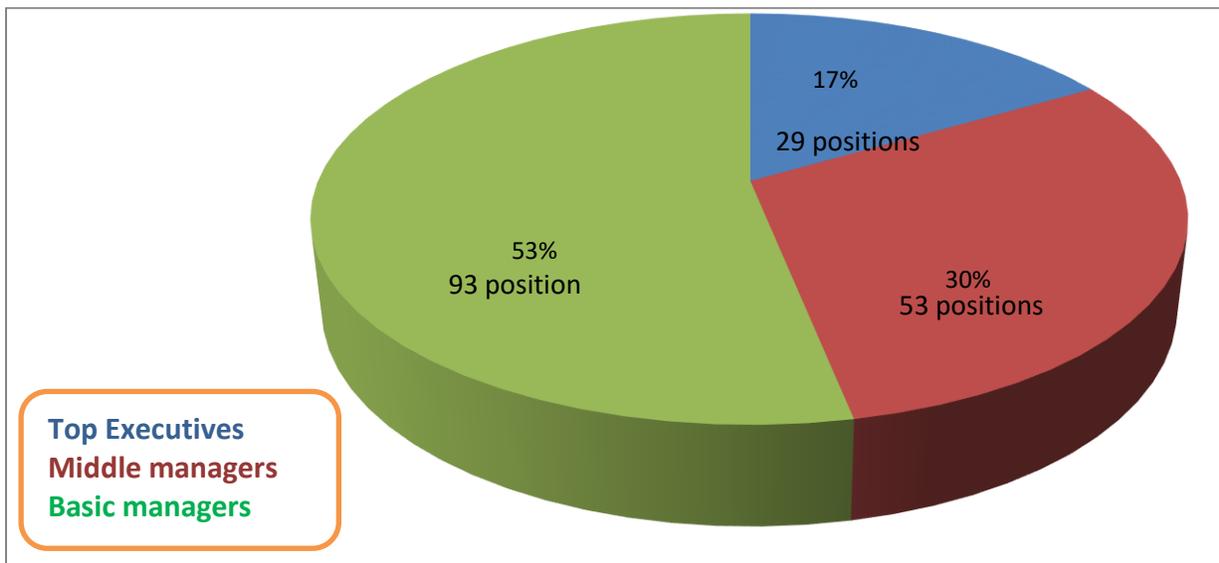
**The proportion of female managers in managerial posts  
increases 30 percent by the end of sixth development plan  
(2021)**

## Create opportunities for women's participation

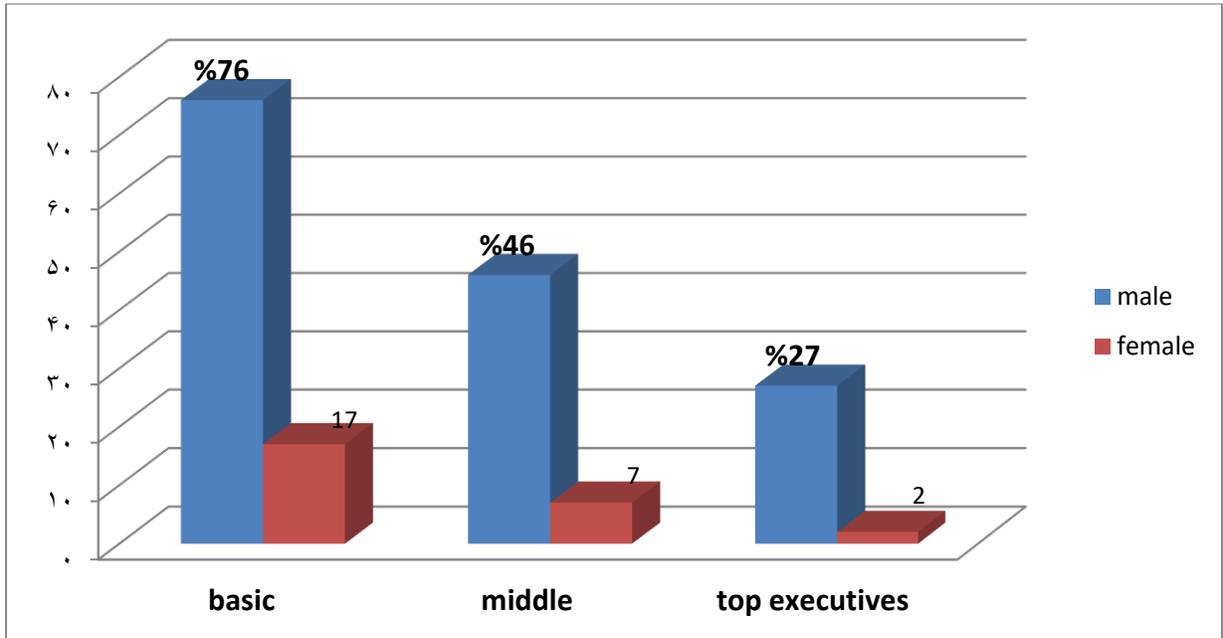
-Implement capacity-building plan and improve social adaptation at national level in two phases: The first phase of capacity-building for 1664 members of social committees as facilitator and local trainer in the area of social adaptation equaling 59904 hours / person, The second stage of capacity-building for 56921 members of local communities in the area of social adaptation equaling 3281990 hours / person (2015-2018)

-Capacity-building of female managers in provinces through training 2250 female public managers, female members of the Islamic Council of the City and Village, female mayors across the country (2015)

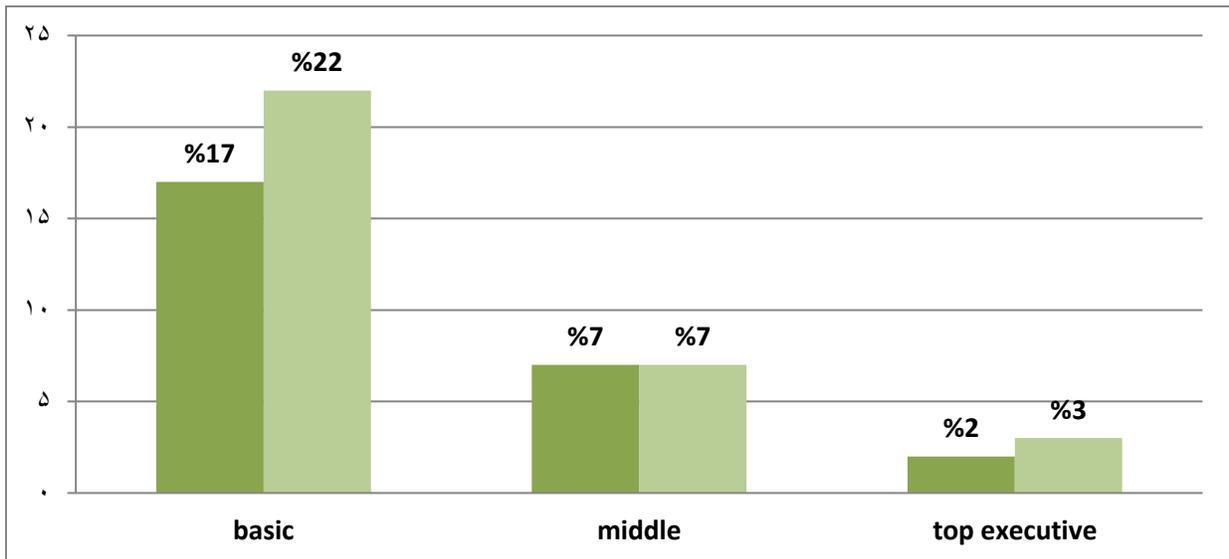
### The proportion of different managerial positions (men and women)



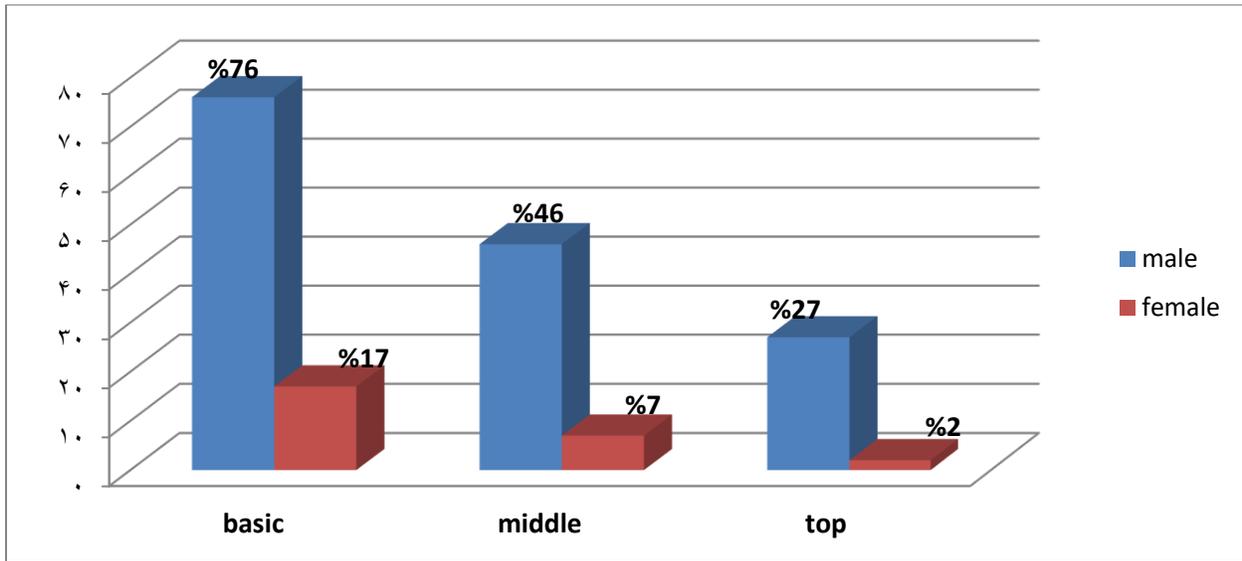
**The comparison of the number of male and female managers in 2017**



**The progress trend in the number of female managers (2017-2018)**



### The comparison of the number of male and female managers in 2017



### The progress trend in the number of female managers

#### The comparison of female managers' percentage in 2017 and 2018

	2017	2018
Top executives	6.9%	10.3%
Middle managers	13.2%	13.2%
Basic managers	18.3%	23.7%

**The number of female managers at all levels has risen from 14.9% in 2017 to 18.3% in 2018**

**20. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase women’s access to expression and participation in decision-making in the media, including through information and communication technologies (ICT)?**

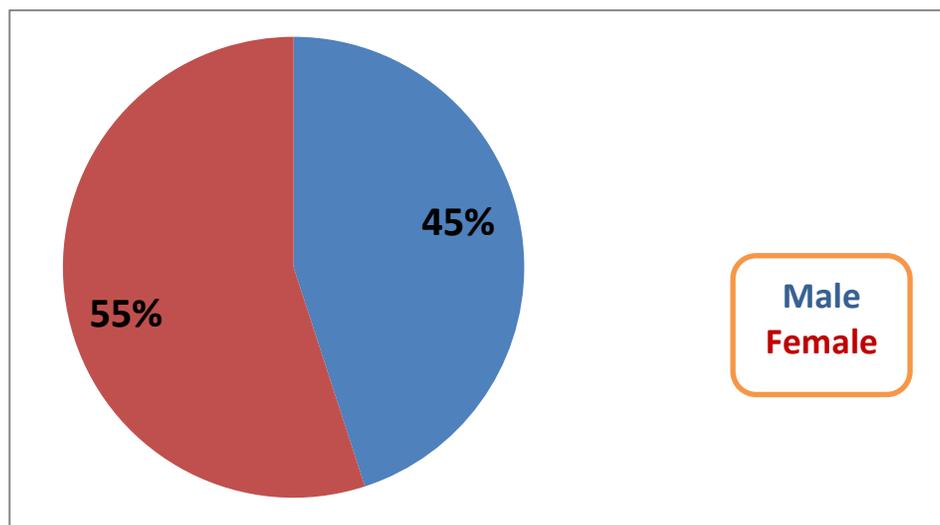
**Increase access to Information Technology**

In accordance with the principle 24 of the Constitution on removal of all unfair discriminations and creation of fair facilities in all material and spiritual spheres, the Ministry of Information and Technology has launched the national plan of “role of technology in women empowerment and entrepreneurship” in 270 places since 2016.

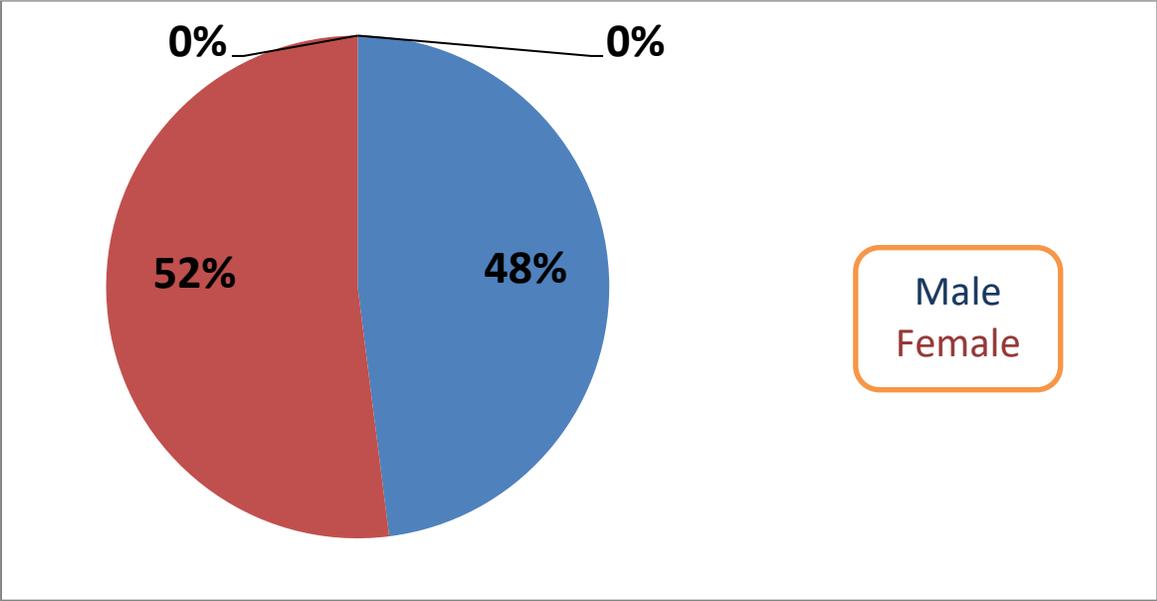
In the first phase, this plan was implemented in 50 places at all provinces.

In this plan, Internet was taught to all women particularly electronic commerce tools and social networks based on online marketing and business. It has been arranged that this plan is implemented in 270 places at province, city and village levels by the end of 2018. It is worth noting that Iran is among the top ten countries in Asia and Oceania and there is no boundary in electronic commerce in this country. Women share in this area is 42.4 percent of all electronic commerce.

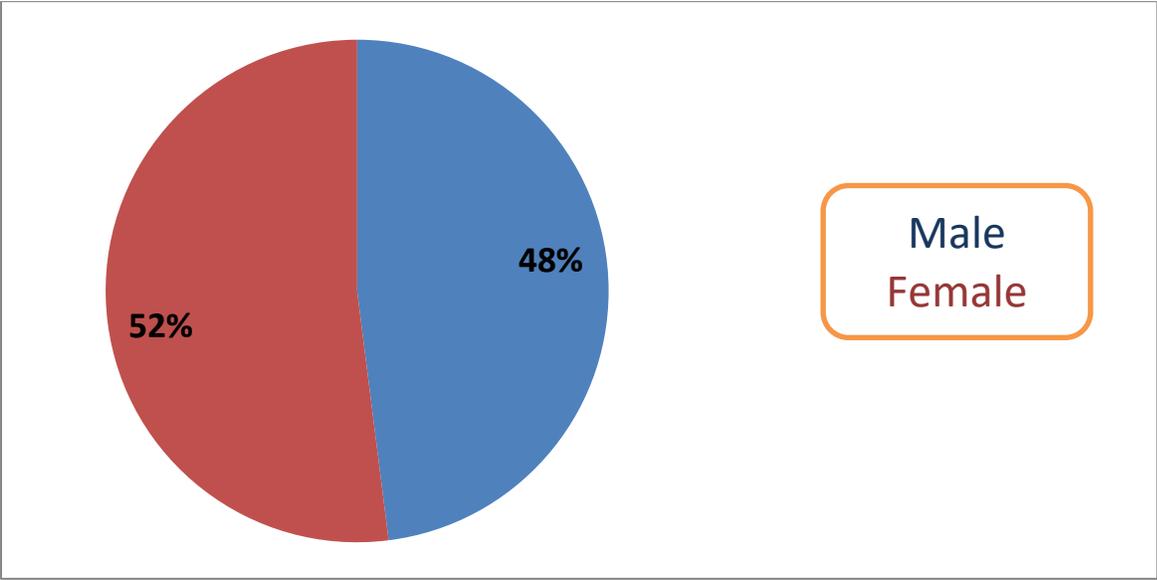
**Access to Celphone**



# Computer Users



# Internet users



**21. Do you track the proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)? Yes**

According to the Parliament research Center report, direct approved credits of Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs in the sixth five-year development plan is 210 billion Rials in 2018. In total the sixth plan consist of 1000 billion Rials without considering the annual increase rate of 1000 billion Rials.

Along with the general policies of family, implementation of the sixth plan and women empowerment, 0.05 percent of provinces credits are allocated to the Department of Women and Family Affairs in order to meet the above legal objectives with the permit of Provincial Planning Council. Provincial planning and development Council is required to allocate this amount to the Department of Women and Family Affairs.

This table shows the credits of 2018 budget bill for the Institutions of Women and Family Affairs

Title	The Credit in 2018 Budget Bill	Growth Percentage
Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs	5 Milion\$	38.17
Policy-making Council of female seminary	500/000 \$	18.48
The Insurance of married housewife women with priority of female-headed Families	54 Milion \$	39.16

It is worth noting that these two gender budgeting is independent from specific and thematic budgets defined in the National Budget Bill for women such as the approved bill for the insurance of female-headed families and mal-supervised women under the Note 14 of Budget Bill in the targeting sector. 230 billion Tomans of targeted budget is allocated to the insurance of female-headed families and mal-

supervised women under the coverage of Khomeini Relief Committee and Bezisti Welfare Organization.

Under the Clause A of Note 14, 1/1 Milion \$ has been allocated to carpet-weavers insurance. Considering that a huge share of carpet-weavers is women, this Clause was approved with the help of members of the Women Fraction and the female members of consolidation Commission.

Under the Note 11 of 2018 Budget Bill, it was specified that 833 Million \$ will be allocated to the poor Dieye prisoners with priority of women in cases that Government is responsible for paying compensation. (\*Diyeh is the amount of money that is paid to the wounded or the dead family by the wrongdoer in the accident).

### **Female College Funding**

In another section of budget, the credit is allocated to different universities such as female Colleges which shall be seen in the following table:

Female Colleges	Credit in the 2018 Budget Bill
Alzahra University	1.356.893
Female Farzanegan University of Semnan	25.309
Female Kashan University	28.756
Female Kosar University	90.337
Female Narjes University (humanities Faculty)	44.419
Zeinab Technical and engineering female Faculty of new technologies in Sabzevar	30.211

Ministry of Health and Medical Education has allocated budgets in the area of Women and Family which shall be seen in the following table:

Title	The Credit in 2018 Budget Bill
<b>The program of food safety and nutrition</b>	
Teaching pregnant and breastfeeding on healthy nutrition	9.731
Improving the health of students through providing Iron supplements and nutrition teaching	16.727
Improving the nutrition of children under 5 years with the healthy child program	8.498
Improving nutrition and food safety in seven deprived provinces	8.844
Improving the nutrition of the elderly and the middle-aged	600
<b>The program of improving health indexes</b>	
Improving the indexes of promoting breast-feeding	2.415
Improving the indexes of mothers health	6.899
Improving Pregnancy and childbearing health	117.277
<b>The program of improving family health indexes</b>	
Implementing action plans for demographic polices	2.000.000
Pregnancy promotion	2.500.000
Infertility treatment	1.500.000

Under the budget of Medical sciences Universities, there is a budget with the title of “health services, family and schools”.

In other sections of 2018 Budget Bill, issues related to women and families have been covered.

### **Poor female prisoners for Diyeh**

The first Clause in the Note 11 of 2018 Budget Bill Paragraph concerns with the poor women Diyeh. Under this Paragraph: in order to provide credit deficit of Diyeh prisoners with the priority of poor women and in cases that the Government is responsible to pay the compensations, the Minister of Justice is allowed to provide

the physical compensations of maximum 3.500.000.000.000 Rial from the annual revenue with the approval of the Funds Supervisory Board. It is the subject matter of Clauses 5. 6 of Paragraph 24 of compulsory Insurance Act to pay the compensation to the third person in the accidents from the credits of 110000-4 in the table 7 that was approved in 09/05/2016. The managing director of this Fund is obliged to provide the Ministry of Justice with this budget in three-month intervals.

**The Young and the women employment:** under the Clause A of Note 18 of this paragraph, the Government is allowed to deposit all financial resources from the energy price differential between 2018 and 2017 (including tax, tolls, value-added tax and the share of national oil corporation) to an account in the Treasury and with cooperation of national development Fund and banking loans allocate this budget with the maximum of 174.000.000.000.000 in the form of cashes and subsidy to support production plans, the young academic training and entrepreneurship. The credits of this Clause are provided to provinces based on the indexes that will be approved by the board of Ministries with suggestion of Planning and budget Organization.

### **Pension**

According to the table 9 of different credits assessments in 2018, pension shall be paid to the children and the spouses of the dead insured person. It will also be paid to 60 year-old men and 55 year-old women who have paid insurance premium under 10 years from the Credit source of 1.500 billion Rials.

### **The Credits of Female-headed Families Empowerment Plan**

In this table, under the Paragraph 80 of sixth development plan, the credits of female-headed families empowerment has been predicted 150.000 billion Rials.

### **Women Sport**

According to the table 5, 0.27 percent of three value-added tax tariffs in the municipalities have been allocated to school sport development, public sport, nomadic and rural sport, women sport and sport infrastructures particularly for the disabled. This credit is 5.387.273.

### **Marriage loan in 2018 suggested budget**

Under the Clause B of Note 16 in the 2018 budget bill Paragraph, Islamic Republic of Iran Central Bank is obliged to require all banks and credit institutions to support the young marriage, to participate in the loans provided by saving and current accounts and to prioritizes the mortgage loans. Marriage loan for each couple is 100 million Rials in 2018 with a four-year repayment period which hasn't changed compared with the last year.

### **The Comprehensive Plan of controlling and reducing social harms**

Under the Clause B of Note 10 in the Paragraph, the credit of 550000-22 in the table 9 will be allocated to executive activities of the above-mentioned plan with suggestion of national planning and budget Organization and confirmation of Social Council in order to prepare and implement the comprehensive plan of controlling and reducing social harms with priority of addiction, divorce, marginalization, child labor and moral corruptions.

### **Self-reliance for the deprived families**

Under the table 8 of this bill, the credit that is allocated in order to create social reinforcement and self-reliance for the deprived families is 7.000.000 (Clause 1- Paragraph 29 of principle 44 of Constitution and the provisions of Clause 2 in this Act).

### **Rural women Education Plan**

The vocational training chapter of the bill concerns with rural women training and 54.880 million has been allocated.

### **Support families and female-headed families**

In the support program of family and female-headed families, 4.175.001 has been allocated in the support chapter of the bill

### **Culture and art**

There are four programs with regard to women and family in the culture and art chapter. The clauses that are related to women with regard to culture and art include: the assessment plan of realizing policies, programs and plans related to the status of women and families with credit of 64.000, strategic program in support of families with credit of 45.000 and policy-making on women's affair and family consolidation.

**22. as a donor country, does your country track the proportion of official development assistance (ODA) that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)? Yes**

One of the innovative methods on economic diplomacy along with traditional strategies is development cooperation particularly South-South cooperation through which countries realizes their national objectives particularly from the economic ones. In addition to sharing their capabilities with other countries and employing the partner countries capabilities, the countries develop their economic interactions by introducing their potential and actual capacities.

During the last years, Iran as a country that is always committed to progress of developing countries has always improved its credit in these partnerships.

The numerous capacities of Islamic Republic of Iran in sharing its capabilities have turned mutual South - South cooperation and triple partnerships to an opportunity to diversify its international partners. In addition to realizing mutual interests through displaying capabilities, a widespread array of economic opportunities and tolerating the pressures of sanction against Iran were made possible.

For this purpose, a specialized Office in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was established in order to train and raise awareness of academic scholars and Agencies Directors to be able to benefit from this opportunity and to hold practical and educational workshops.

However, it is worth noting that in various cases, Islamic Republic of Iran has had many successful cooperation and interactions with its commonwealth countries with regard to knowledge and experience exchange, education, technology transfer, financial and economic cooperation and other participations. This cooperation in Iran includes cooperation among NGOs, private sector, non-public Organizations, universities and etc.

-One of the influential programs by the United Nation Office of Drug and Crime Control in Iran since establishment in 1999 is about drugs, crime and health which facilitate South - South cooperation among Islamic Republic of Iran, other developing countries and the countries with moderate income levels in the region.

South - South technical cooperation on combating with drugs is the start point of triple initiative among Islamic Republic of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2007. This triple innovative cooperation engages these three countries with finding field solutions to threaten Opium, Heroine, Morphine and Cannabis trafficking in Afghanistan at operational level. A joint office called Joint Planning Center (JPC) was established in Tehran. This Center has coordinated some joint operations through which considerable amount of drugs were discovered and a large number of traffickers were arrested. South - South cooperation through the operation of targeted trafficking inspection, regional communications and specialized teaching (TARCET) has been reinforced in order to counteract with deviations and trafficking chemical substances used in production of Opium. TARCET operation in Iran since 2008 has led to discovery of about 46 tons of chemical substances.

More than ten mutual meetings and investigative visits have been held with purpose of knowledge exchange in order to reduce the demands for drugs and HIV/AIDS between Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries. Iranian Institutions with their national activities have numerous experiences on reducing demands and HIV control. Over the last years, Islamic Republic of Iran has made a contribution to the countries with moderate income level and developing countries in order to initiate treatment with Methadone, research capacities and education on HIV control and prevention and healthcare in the prison environment. Iran's fruitful experiences in alternative treatment of Opium have improved through educational visits and mutual meetings.

These initiatives have played an important role in reducing the harms in Indonesia and Pakistan. On the other hand, the visit of Iranian authorities from Pakistan titled as “syringe program” was made. At the beginning, these programs were critical for women and men in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In addition, Office of United Nations Drug and Crime Control and South - South cooperation of developing countries has reinforced tackling with crime with the purpose of counteracting the organized crimes and money laundering through exchange of knowledge, experience and technical skills in different areas. Dispatch to foreign countries has improved investigating crime, justice, corruption and national knowledge and money laundering and has expanded judicial cooperation and crime prevention. Under the program of exchange among Financial Data units, Iran’s financial data Unit has signed contract with Armenia, Kazakhstan, Brazil and Slovenia.

-Another successful experience which was appreciated by the United Nation industrial development Director General was gradual omit of subsidies under the targeted subsidy Act which specified that through signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade and that Institution within the South - South cooperation, it will be offered to other developing countries.

Considering the necessity of reinforcing capacities on the health through South - South cooperation, United Nation Fund for Population Agency (UNFPA) intends to create grounds for cooperation of Islamic Republic of Iran with other countries in the region to transfer its experiences based on the successful experiences of this country in the medical and health areas including Initial Healthcare System, Midwifery Program, AIDS Control Plan, Immune Mother Plan, Pre-marriage Consultancy Program and etc.

-With membership of our country in online FAO South- South Cooperation Gateway, the presence of experts in FAO and international arenas were facilitated in order to introduce scientific and research capacities of international Agricultural research, Training and Promotion Organization. This is the first step to benefit from the capabilities of Islamic Republic of Iran in order to achieve food safety at international levels.

-Widespread Memorandum of Understanding among the Universities of the Ministry of Research, Sciences and Technology and the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and Southern countries Universities have been concluded in order to exchange professor and student and to hold various scientific and specialized programs in different areas. This is one of the activities of Islamic Republic of Iran in this area. The others are as follows:

1-Establishment of scientific base for documenting paragraphs of Islamic countries under ISC brand in Shiraz (Islamic World Science Citation Base) was a successful step towards exchange of research experiences under South-South cooperation and its implementation in economic and social sectors using public and private capacities. Islamic World Science Citation Base is one of the effective tools of decision-making for a wide range of applicants including universities and research Institutes, publishers, university board members, researchers and analysts on science-measurement across all Islamic countries which has been successful due to improving the status of researchers and universities among the member states of Islamic Conference Organization and also due to services such as consultancy and holding workshops on promoting the scientific status of universities and research Institutes.

2-Joint research projects with universities of other countries within the South-South cooperation framework are another instance in this area. In 2017, Iran's universities performed ten projects with Pakistani universities and ten research projects with Indian universities. Moreover, conclusion of scientific and research Memorandum of Understanding between Kordestan Province University and Eghliq University in Kurdistan Iraq, Tabriz University with Istanbul University in Turkey, Azad University of Tehran with Dameshgh University, Tehran Medical Sciences Universities with Azerbaijan University, Tehran Medical University with Azerbaijan University, Tehran Medical Universities with Azerbijan University, Tehran Medical University with Kabul University of Afganistan, electronic college of Science and Indusrty University with Technical University of Chile UTBM, Payam Noor University wirh private University of Eghbal in Pakistan, Science and Industry University with Sorabai and Mohamadih University of Indonesia and many other academic agreements within South-South cooperation have led to

expansion of interactions, exchanges of positive experiences and employing the mutual positive capacities to contribute to the development of both countries.

### **23. Does your country have a valid national strategy or action plan for gender equality? Yes**

Under the Paragraph 101 of the sixth development Plan, all executive agencies are obliged to meet the objectives of Principle 10, principle 20 and principle 21 of Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution, 20 year vision document, general policies of sixth program and general policies of Family Plan in order to determine the main indexes of gender equity based on reinforcement of family institution, women status, legal and religious rights of women in all areas and special attention to constructive role of women. The purpose is to adopt the approach of gender equity based on the Islamic Principles in polices, programs and plans of agencies and to investigate decisions based on the indexes announced by Women and Family Headquarters.

Under the Paragraph 101 and Paragraph 102 of the sixth development plan and Clause 4 of Paragraph 8, all pivots are based on the approach of women and families in which Paragraph 101 concerns with gender equity and Paragraph 102 concerns with policy-making on women and families along with the policies announced by the supreme leader. Discourse analysis of gender equity within the sixth development plan indicates that the dominant discourse in sixth plan concerns with gender equity, job opportunities, health, women literacy, legal system reform and participation in decision-making in which they include economic equity, health equity, educational equity, legal equity and political equity.

Approval of gender equity plan doesn't mean that none of the principles of this plan have been implemented. Considering that twenty years have been passed, no measure has been ever taken for indexing. Therefore vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs expand the subject of this approval based on Islamic principles, and according to the Paragraphs and Bills of this approval, these indexes focus on "equality of opportunities and choice" which is the main approval in the Vice Presidency.

Formulate national document of women development in provinces:

Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs formulated a document with purpose of determining strategies, policies and programs in order to improve the status of women and family in 31 provinces by utilizing the scientific-specialized capacities of provinces and benefiting from public and private sector participations in 2017. The responsibilities of all provinces to implement Paragraph 101 and Paragraph 102 have been specified in this document in order to realize gender equity.

**24. Does your country have an action plan and timeline for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (if a State party), or of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review or other United Nations human rights mechanisms that address gender inequality/discrimination against women? No**

The Islamic Republic of Iran is not a state party of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women.

The national report of Iran in cooperation with UPR Mechanism will be submitted to the Human Rights Council in next November. This report includes comprehensive information on this issue.

**25. Is there a national human rights institution in your country? Yes**

A draft on "Establishing a National Human Rights Institution" has been prepared and presented to the public for their considerations and suggestions. Today it is on the way to the complementary expertise` review.

## **Peaceful and inclusive societies**

### **26. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to build and sustain peace, promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and implement the women, peace and security agenda?**

According to the ethical constitution of Iran and holy religion of Islam, Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to maintain peace and security in the country and the region. The bitter experience of the eight year imposed war upon the Iranian people (especially the chemical bombardment of the defenseless people in Halabja and Sardasht that still sacrifices in our country) has tarnished the historical memory of the country from the war and there is national determination to maintain peace and achieve sustainable development. In this process, women's rights to the benefit from peace and their key role in promoting peace, security and sustainable development is an undeniable key fact which has been put at the top of national policies agenda.

The major activities of the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs in this area are promotion, education and research because the twelfth Administration (2017 until present) believes that the education and understanding what is missed in the international community is crucial for peace and sustainable development, and in the transition to the goal Sustainable development, women have emerged not only as a driving force for advocating the proper management of environment, but also as applicants of living in peace. In the meantime, their key role in prevention of conflict and environmental degradation needs to be identified in order to guarantee their essential presence in each mechanism to ensure the environmental conservation and sustainable development.

- -International Seminar on Women, Sustainable Peace and Security in National Women's Day (March 7, 2018)
- -International Seminar on Clothing and Textile Design and Production with Sustainable Development Approach (December 6, 2018)
- -International Seminar on the Role of Women and Family in Creating Peace and Confronting the Consequences of War on the Environment on November 6, the Day of confrontation with War Effects and its Damages to the Environment (March 16, 17, 2011)
- -International Seminar on the Role of Women in Peace Creation and Environment Conservation in the Global Day of Confrontation with War Effects on Environment (November 15, 2017)
- -International Seminar titled: Woman, Child and Peace (November 20, 2017)
- -International Conference on Women, Security and Peace, on November 25, in the International Day of Violence against Women (November 24, 2016)

The first Meeting of "Living Experience" on Sustainable Development Management in Contemporary Era (December 12, 2018)

In addition to the above-mentioned points, the establishment of the National Committee for Sustainable Development in the country has been a major step towards achieving the goals of sustainable development:

In line with implementation of the commitments made at the 1992 World Summit in Rio de Janeiro-Brazil, as stated in the Rio Declaration, the National Sustainable Development Committee was established in 1993 with the approval of the Supreme Council of Environmental Protection in order to achieve the following objectives:

1. In accordance with the approval of the Supreme Council of Environmental Protection 17/6/7, the goals and tasks of the National Committee for Sustainable Development as the interface of intersectional and international agencies are as follows:

- Review the draft framework of sustainable development strategy for the environment and submit a proposal to the Supreme Council of Environmental Protection.

- Establish and expand databases and document centers on Agenda 21 and the Convention on Climate Change and the Conservation of Biological Species.
- Make a proposal to determine the unified policy of the Supreme Council of Environmental Protection on issues related to international conventions such as climate change, conservation of species, forestry principles and agenda 21 in international forums, the forums among the Ministries and National Organizations.
- Review the actions taken for the Sustainable Development Strategy and the Environment and the follow up.
- Plan joint executive research projects on related conventions (climate change, conservation of biota, forestry principles, Agenda 21) with the countries of the region with similar situations and international assemblies.
- Review and comment on issues referred to by the Supreme Council of Environmental Protection.
- Promote Sustainable Development and Agenda 21
- Pioneering intersectional Institution for facilitation of specialized and managerial decisions related to sustainable development
- Review the draft sustainable development strategy for the environment and submit a proposal to the Supreme Council
- Decision-making for the National Strategy of Sustainable Development
- Decision-making on the activities of agenda 21 and related conventions
- Create and expand the database and documentation center on sustainable development
- Plan Joint executive, research projects on related conventions
- Formation of subcommittees for specialized items
- The secretariat is under the supervision of the secretary of the committee at the Environmental Protection Department.
- Compile and publish annual progress reports and sustainable development performance reports
- Monthly meetings of the National Committee on Sustainable Development
- Publications on sustainability issues (bulletins, books, posters and brochures) to promote sustainable development pattern
- Monitor the performance of subordinate committees

- Seminars and workshops
- Formulate a report on the status of environmental sustainability and indicators of sustainable development

## 2-Future Strategies and Programs of National Sustainable Development Committee:

- Understand the Paradigm of Sustainable Development (Global Documentation Studies, Create Thinking Group ...)
- Public Culture Development (website development, curriculum development, publications ...)
- Governmental Capacity Building (Reviewing Government Policies, Intergovernmental and Internal Institutionalization, Sustainable Development ...)
- Higher Education Empowerment (Create an Active Academic Network, Formulate Postgraduate Curriculum, Research Plans...)
- Formulate the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (Formulate Documents of Sustainable Development for Agencies, International Comparative Studies ...)
- National Sustainability Report - Publication of the National Biennial Report (Establish Sustainability Indexes, Create Databases ...)
- Establish natural capital audit system (feasibility studies of natural resources accounting and auditing ...)
- Formulate National Policies for CSD

## 3. Objectives, Strategies, Policies and Summary of Activities of the National Committee for Sustainable Development

The National Committee for Sustainable Development began its work with nine members, and its members gradually increased with the approval of the Supreme Council of Environmental Protection, so that its permanent members now include 18 representatives of various Organizations and 10 non-permanent members. They include the Representatives of Ministries such as the Ministries of Power, Industries and Mines - Foreign Affairs - Agriculture - Housing and Urban Development – Ministry of Interior - Science, Research and Technology - Oil and Ministry of Health and Medical Education and Organizations such as Iran's Space Organization

(Remote Sensing Center) – Interior Management and Planning- meteorological and environmental Protection-the Academy of Sciences- NGOS and one out of four members of Supreme Council of Environmental Protection. Representatives of other Agencies are also invited to the National Committee meetings as non-permanent members with voting rights

4- The National Committee of Sustainable Development has established specialized sub-committees in order to carry out its obligations with membership of Ministries and institutions representatives such as:

- Subcommittee on Forestry Principles
- Subcommittee on Global Environment Facility GEF
- Subcommittee on Ramsar Convention (Wetlands)
- Subcommittee on Agenda 21
- Subcommittee on Biodiversity, CMS, CITES
- Subcommittee on Climate Change
- Subcommittee on Waste and Chemical hazardous Substances
- Subcommittee on International Water (Sea and Ocean)
- Subcommittee on green productivity and cleaner production
- Subcommittee on Urban Sustainable Development Management
- Subcommittee on Rural Sustainable Development
- Subcommittee on Education for Sustainable Development

The National Committee is working to achieve the goals of Agenda 21 in the fields of education, research and studies, and will review existing issues by organizing monthly meetings at the Environmental Protection Department. Some meetings of the National Committee were held in Organizations that are somehow associated with sustainable development, including the Meteorological Organization, the Ministry of Industry and Mines, the Forest and Rangeland Research Institute and the Fuel Consumption Optimization Organization. While listening to the activity report of the Agency, The Committee members get familiar with the role of these centers and the challenges they face in achieving sustainable development.

Another issue worth mentioning is the publication of a book on the goals of sustainable development, including the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to

achieve the goals of sustainable development, the adaptation of the overall environmental policies of the system with these objectives, the translation and the original version of the 2030 agenda document for sustainable development, along with the final indicators of sustainable development goals. it will provide an environment for the participation of all stakeholders on issues of sustainable development and also a discourse and information on specific and general issues of sustainable development by establishing a national network for sustainable development with various levels of access in 2017.

The National Committee for Sustainable Development was transferred to Management and Planning Organization in 2015 with approval of sustainable development aspirations due to increasing the range of goals and activities, and the necessity of financing and mainstreaming the sustainable development aspirations in national development plans. For each Ministry's aspiration, one Ministry has been considered as the main custodian, and for each field, other Ministries have been considered as the partner Agency in order to enhance effectiveness. Currently, Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs as the main custodian of the 5th aspiration and more than 5 Ministries as partners in this field cooperate with each other. The main approach of women's national reference in this area is to focus on mainstreaming, policy-making to remove gender gaps and inter-agency network collaborations for financing.

**27. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase the leadership, representation and participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, peace building, humanitarian action**

## **and crisis response, at decision-making levels in situations of armed and other conflicts, and in fragile or crisis settings?**

### ***- Promoting women's participation in peace***

Because women are the first group to be harmed by the collapse of social and political infrastructure as a result of war and militarism of governments, the United Nations and the parliament made an effort to establish and maintain peace in the world by taking preventive approach to control conflicts. One of the priorities of these parliamentary assemblies is to increase the participation of women in the area of decision-making in the peace process.

For this purpose, Members of the Parliament in the Islamic Republic of Iran have made significant contributions with membership in international and regional parliamentary assemblies.

Periodic and regular meetings of Iranian women's Representatives with parliament members of other countries with special instructions for women, especially in the high-risk region of the Middle East, has been a major step to establish and maintain peace in the region, especially in the countries that are the victims of terrorism and Extremism.

One of the activities in this area is the active presence of the Iranian delegation under the chairmanship of the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs in the annual meetings and symposia of the Women's Political Leaders' Forum. The World Assembly of Women's Political Leaders is one of the most recognized assemblies in this field. The World's most influential women have presence in this assembly and the Members include the women working in legislative positions and parliamentarians, presidents, Ministers, mayors and senior executives from the political parties which equal around 9,000 women.

One of objectives of this forum is to create opportunities for the interaction among women in the international community and to exchange their experiences and achievements at the national level with other countries. To this end, Dr. Ebtekar, the highest rank in Iran's women's rights department, in addition to exchanging her experiences and interactions with the World's most responsible women in the

international community, participate in the decision-making of this assembly to maintain stability and international peace and sustainable development.

***- Promote women's participation in humanitarian actions***

Sign a memorandum of cooperation between the Red Crescent Society and Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs in 2017

The memorandum will be implemented in line with humanitarian activities focused on women empowerment in the country for the purpose of realizing the objectives and missions of the women and family listed in the Development Prospectus document 2025, the general policies announced by the Supreme Leader and the Fifth Development Plan with regard to the strategies and plans of the International Federation of National Population of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

Based on this memorandum, cooperation and coordination will be made for policy-making and planning in order to develop skills and capabilities in the field of humanitarian activities, to manage crisis in the families, to attract women as volunteers, and to organize and manage them to increase their social participation and to improve their community-based activities.

One of the objectives of the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs and the Red Crescent Society in signing this memorandum is promoting the future generation's knowledge through education and empowerment of young women and girls in the field of social participation, community-based activities, crisis management, recruitment, management of labor force and public collaborations with emphasis on women in line with supporting deprived communities and improving social management through the formation of housewives social networks.

Some of the focal points for joint cooperation between the Women's and Family Affairs Department and the Red Crescent Society are as follows: benefit of the parties from each other capabilities and experiences including as the policy-making and manpower department and the capacity of the provincial branches to advance the subject of memorandum, benefit from the capacities, experiences, resources and facilities of the public, governmental, private, academic, scientific and public organizations in order to realize the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding, participation in developing mutual cultural services, drafting joint

plans on the subject of the Memorandum of Understanding and cooperation in its implementation, exchange of statistical documents to advance the subject of the memorandum, use of the capabilities and capacities of the mass media to introduce the status and the capabilities of women in the area of social development, motivating women and social activists, informing about the memorandum and the measures taken around it, supporting the plans of NGOs in line with the subject of the memorandum, cooperating in the design and formulation of a crisis management plan and volunteering social-oriented activities, A women's volunteer database for community-based projects and the preparation of common regulations for advocacy of women's rights in disasters.

Based on this, some of the focal points of Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs cooperation in this Memorandum are coordination with the executive, national and provincial agencies to achieve the objectives of the population, support public education and applied research needs of the population, support the implementation of educational programs on the subject of the MOU within the framework of contractual agreements, promote the culture of social responsibility and humanitarian values among a large number of population.

### *Executive methods*

In line with implementing the Memorandum of Understanding between the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs and the Red Crescent Society, some representatives were introduced from the Red Crescent Society and the Vice-Presidency for Women and the Family Affairs. In addition, in order to implement the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding, a joint Task Force was established on both sides with the presence of representatives from both sides in order to draw up draft plans and contracts.

The Task Force will review the feasibility of the joint activities which have been mentioned in this Memorandum and, for each subject, draft contract will be drawn up including the purpose and method of implementation, duties, material and spiritual rights and obligations of the parties, finance, formation of Specialized Task Force, the method of solving probable conflicts and time and place of implementation. After obtaining consent of the two parties, the contract will be signed by the highest rank of the population and vice Presidency.

### ***Duties of Specialized Task Force***

The specialize Task Force is required to have continuous and adequate monitoring over the proper implementation of the plan or contracts and, at least every three months, notify the highest ranking official and vice Presidency of a written report on the progress of joint programs, contracts and possible problems, along with proposed recommendations. Separate agreements or contracts will be concluded between the parties In order to implement the subject of the memorandum of understanding. All agreements reached between the representatives shall be reviewed and minuted and will be sent to the supreme authority of the relevant organizations and relevant units for confirmation, and the outcome shall be announced to the opposite party. In addition, the both parties are required to fulfill their obligations under this memorandum and must make every effort to implement the commitments.

### ***- The Civil Society Space and Women's Human Rights Defenders***

The Islamic Republic of Iran Administration has had a special attention and support of civil society from the outset, and women and family have been its main strategies. NGOs play an important role in attracting the public participation in political and social arenas.

Today in the country there are about 2,700 NGOs specialized in the field of women and family. These NGOs have an active presence in the development of gender equity indicators as well as other indicators.

The presence of NGOs in the area of policymaking and development plans is essential. Implementing a revoked resolution on the activities of the NGOs, the 12<sup>th</sup> Administration provides the grounds for the participation of NGOs in the Provincial Planning Councils Task Force with the right to vote. And now they are active in the field of provincial policy-making.

One of the activities of those who are in charge of women's affairs is support for humanitarian actions and promotion of NGOs with regard to refugees and asylum-seekers in the form of credit allocation or direct participation in the implementation.

In addition, charities, as an important part of civil society in the country, have put people empowerment particularly women empowerment and dignified livelihood on top of its agenda in the face of outrageous sanctions and US economic and psychological warfare against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

***- Implement laws and policies reform***

Education and employment of foreign nationals under the third topic of Islamic Republic of Iran's Labor Law fifth chapter has aimed to improve the living conditions of migrants in order to prevent their sexual and economic exploitation and in this regard, women as the most vulnerable migrant populations enjoys the full attention.

***- Increased access to support services for refugee women***

- Establish mechanisms for monitoring immigrants' status
- Provide affordable healthcare opportunities for injured migrants in hospitals and public health institutions.
- Based on the regulation of Foreigners Education approved in the 2016, the mechanisms for free education of immigrant children were created, and on this basis even the right to education was predicted for illegal asylum seekers without legal residency.
- Establish emergency centers to support people who are supposed to human trafficking in order to receive counseling services, legal services and medical care.
- Create psychological support mechanisms for the offended (those who suffer from depression, lack of confidence, anxiety, etc.) and immigrants, especially women and children

At the level of the action, we are witnessing significant efforts of Islamic Republic of Iran in support and empowerment of refugees and immigrants (95,114 Afghan refugees and 28,268 Iraqi refugees), to the extent that we have repeatedly praised and honored by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The main activities are as follows:

1. Per capita Students' enrollment for girls and boys at all levels of education amount to an average of 22,000,000 Rials for 400,000 students in the academic year of 2016 (in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 46,000 bank cards worth 23 billion dollars were allocated to vulnerable children).

In the academic year 2016, there were approximately 48,000 students, in the academic year 2017 there were approximately 52,000 students, and in 2018, there were 72052 illegal Afghan citizens and 205,359 legal immigrants and refugee children from these countries: Azerbaijan, Europe, Australia, East Asia, Africa, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, the Persian Gulf and Oman, other countries of Asia, Arabic countries, Iraq, the American continent. Under the decree of the Supreme leader, they must be educated at different levels of education.

2- At present, 16500 refugees are studying at various university levels:

- The Per capita medical students for both girls and boys are on average 170,000,000 Rials
- The Per capita non-medical students at PhD level for both girls and boys are on average 89,000,000 Rials
- The per capita undergraduate students for both girls and boys is on average 20,000,000 Rials
- The per capita postgraduate students for both girls and boys is on average 40,000,000 Rials
- From 1983 to 2018, 755,000 adults have been taken literacy courses at primary and secondary levels:
  - Per capita cost of literacy courses is an average of 10,000,000 Rials
  - In the academic year 2017, 18832 adults with a budget of 7280000000 Rials have entered the literacy courses

4. Since 2011, technical educational classes including hairdressing, tailoring, accounting, surveying and etc. have been implemented for refugees:

- Per capita technical and vocational training costs is on average 12000000 Rials

- By 2017, 16,000 people have been enrolled in these courses and have received a certificate.

5. Improve the health of asylum seekers through:

Establish 7 health centers in refugee provinces in 2016 and supply of medicines and equipment needed in 92 Health centers in the host towns

- Per capita healthcare and medical expenses are on average 1500\$.
- Establish a screening system for diseases
- Care for pregnant women
- Special care for mothers and children before and after childbirth
- Improve the environment of the households
- Teach Families
- Vaccination services
- Free coverage of 12,000 refugees with specific disease
- Health insurance coverage for all refugees with special disease from 2015

6. Livelihood and Employment Services for Asylum Seekers:

Empowerment and Employment of 1103 Female Heads of Households

Distribute 4805 cash cards among female supervisor women

Issue 270 thousand licenses for legal employment of at least one member of refugee families by 2016

**28. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to enhance judicial and non-judicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed and other conflicts or humanitarian action and crisis response?**

***- Measures to confront with weapon smuggling***

To combat organized crime and smuggling of firearms is very important, and it is essential that the criminal justice system and the law enforcement sector operate effectively. In this regard, it is necessary to identify new ways of smuggling firearms and its routes, so in order to determine the complex nature of weapons smuggling, we need valid national and international evidence and data in order to understand these types of crimes better. It should be noted that illegal weapons not only increase the amount of murder, but also make drug smugglers stronger. On the other hand, the presence of illegal weapons increases the amount of crime and violence against girls and women. The first step to confront the challenge of illegal weapons is the enforcement of criminal law which is so essential and effective. To this end and in line with implementing the principle 130 of Islamic Republic of Iran Constitution, the Law on punishment of weapons and ammunition smuggling and Weapons and Ammunition unauthorized holders which was submitted to the Parliament as the bill, was approved in an official meeting in 2011 and turned to law. The Act was comprised of 5 chapters and 21 paragraphs, and has imposed severe penalties for manufacturers, exporters, importers and carriers of unauthorized weapons and ammunition.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always played a significant role in combating with terrorism including recent regional struggle against terrorist groups, and we are honored that we have defeated terrorists in Iraq and Syria.

In Iran, national laws and regulations on control of production, ownership and transfer of weapons, is regularly reviewed and updated, and effective local standards have been employed for managing weapon warehouses and extensive investment have been made in controlling illegal trafficking from the borders, including weapon smuggling.

Given the complex and multidimensional nature of smuggling weapons, effective regional and global partnerships and collaborations including cooperation on access to modern technologies for all complement national efforts. One of the factors influencing collective efforts is the exchange of information and experiences with regard to prevention, deterrence, investigation and prosecution of weapon trafficking.

It is worth noting that the use of the Internet and cyberspace by terrorists in order to facilitate the acquisition of weapons is a new and unmonitored phenomenon whose control requires effective and collective international action against the access of terrorists to cyber-weapons and the fight against terrorism in a coordinated, transparent way under the supervision of the United Nations within the four principles of global strategy for confrontation with terrorism, while the sovereignty and equality of States and also non-interference in the internal affairs are respected.

***-Activities to confront with the production of drug trafficking***

The result of the dramatic transformation of the Iran society in 1979 was an immense social revolution that involved displacement of political power, in addition to cultural and social changes. In the first years after the revolution by the end of the imposed war, struggle against narcotics found a new form under the influence of value system derived from the revolution. From the perspective of the revolutionary society, the addict was a criminal who should be reformed and returned into the community. Also, the officials and the people considered drug trafficking as a political issue to harm the Islamic Revolution and considered confrontation necessary. The emphasis of founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always reinforced the security implications of this issue.

With such an attitude, confrontation with drug trafficking and drug use intensified since 1978. The trafficker was equal to ant-revolutionist, and the relevant cases were prosecuted in the Islamic Courts. The poppy fields under cultivation were destroyed and as a result of the subsequent control measures, the production of narcotics almost dropped to zero. Under the influence of negative attitude of the community to addiction phenomenon, rehabilitation and addiction treatment camps increased. In addition, increase in the price of narcotics as a result of widespread confrontation with drug smuggling led to recovery of so many addicts.

With the end of the war in 1988 and the beginning of the era of construction, the problem of drugs and its confrontation took a new form including:

- The new Drug Control law was approved by Expediency Council in January 1988, and the legal solutions facilitated serious confrontation with this problem.

- 2. The Presidential Drug Control Headquarters were established and revitalized to create coordination between relevant trends and organizations.
- 3 Integrate three forces of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee, Shahr bani and gendarmerie in the form of police.
- 4. Temporary use of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and large investments to control eastern borders.
- 5. General awareness through the media and holding classes and workshops especially at schools

Iran is located in one of the three major regions of global drug production, that is, Golden Crescent region. This region includes parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan to India. Given the statistics available, after the revolution, about 2,500 people have been arrested in the fight against drug trafficking and about 5,000 have been wounded and injured. Most of these casualties are related to the eastern and southeastern parts of the country. Such a figure is unprecedented in the world, and there is no country in the world that has invested this amount of its human and financial resources in confrontation with drugs.

With its efforts in the strict drug campaign and as the first pillar of the fight against drugs smuggling in Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran pays the cost of peace and global security. Islamic Republic of Iran establishes world peace and security at the expense of overwhelming financial investments and sacrifices of confronting forces. The material and spiritual costs of our country, including the number of martyrs and veterans in the field of drug control, the discovery of hundreds of tons of drugs every year, and thousands of cases of clashes with drug traffickers are just a drop in the sea.

Assessing the current status of combating smuggling and addiction, Islamic Republic of Iran while complying with international obligations and regional cooperation at the national level, has been adopting a balanced strategy to incorporate an amendment to Drug Control Law including the serious confrontation with production and consumption of Psychotropic drugs, amphetamines and methamphetamine, Delilah control, Anti-money laundering law and chemical precursors. It also facilitates and expedites fight against this issue by setting up an electronic crime code, establishing a database and running a census of opiate users.

Iran's 1295-kilometer border with Pakistan, Afghanistan and the southern water borders is threatened by drug smuggling gangs. The natural status of borders and the weakness of the central governments of the neighboring countries provide more convenience to smugglers. The Islamic Republic of Iran has to spend a lot on border control and border block to deal with the incoming cargo. The total cost is \$ 561 million. Some of the expensive measures that have been cost tens of billion Rials are as follows:

- Despite lack of international assistances, the Islamic Republic of Iran carried out more than 2522 operations against drug smugglers in 2009. Following the implementation of these operations, about 618 tons of drugs were discovered, 3017 traffickers' bands were dismantled and more than 220 crystal-making kitchens were destroyed.

According to Islamic Republic of Iran Police Force, the amount of drug discovered in 2015 has increased by 16% over the year.

- More than 3,000 NGOs operate in the field of narcotics.
- Construct 600 km of dams
- Block dozens of straits and passages with reinforced concrete
- Construct dozens of border checkpoints, turrets and towers
- Dig hundreds of kilometers of channels
- Construct 1114 border checkpoints and 85 examining turrets
- In 2015, drug discovery grew by 14%, and 340,000 were arrested among which 230,000 were smugglers and the rest were drug addicts.
- In 2015, 340,000 people were arrested among which 230,000 people were smugglers and the rest were drug addicts.
- The above-mentioned figures are heavily burdened by Iran's war-torn and injured economy, while other countries devote much less to this.

Iran is also one of the main corridors of drug transit, and given the impossibility of mass production of materials inside, what is distributed in our country is imported. Therefore, Iran is at the forefront of opioid control that threatens the moral and social well-being of all countries. To this end, there should be measures to raise the issue of drug control at Golden Crescent which mainly goes from Iran to Europe and

America at international level and other countries share the expenses of confrontation with Islamic Republic of Iran. That is, to create a sense of international responsibility and understanding of the international community with regard to Iran's efforts which has so far received little support compared to Turkey, Pakistan and Ecuador.

The main elements of the social approach to drug control in Iran include:

- 1- Education; informing society of the dangers and harms of addictive drugs by promoting and developing relevant training
- 2- Mass Media; Media could have an awareness-raising role in transferring drug-related concepts, information and harms to community.
- 3- Authorities and the influenced groups; these people like artists, athletes, politicians and ... could influence their fans and the public by launching media and virtual campaigns on drug harms.
- 4- Families; they could protect and guide children towards a healthy life through raising their own awareness about drugs and proper treatment with children and family members. In this regard, the motto of World Anti-Narcotics Day: "first listen! Listening to children and the young is the first step to help them to grow safe" indicates the critical role of families in counteracting the tendency of family members particularly children towards drugs and addiction.

#### ***- Measures to combat women and children trafficking***

-Amendment to the Human Trafficking Act approved in 2004 in accordance with the International principles on Human Trafficking particularly the additional Protocol to the International Convention on the International organized crimes with the title of human trafficking prevention, suppression and punishment in particular for women and children approved in 2002.

In reformation of the above-mentioned law that is assumed to be consolidated under the Bill on reformation of the Tahitian Law, the fifth book of the Islamic Penal Code

with the aim of preventing the exploitation of women and children, the following dimensions have been considered:

- Trans-boundary smuggling which is based on the exclusion or entry of unauthorized persons from the borders for exploitation including sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or similar practices of slavery, removal of body organs and marriage has been received more attention with imposing more severe punishment and more comprehensive analysis of crime instances
- Acts that expel women, girls and children and people with disabilities from the borders with statutory titles such as temporary marriage, residence, childbirth, education, or work have been criminalized.
- Update Human Trafficking Act approved in 2004 and the criminalize displacement of women and girls, children and persons with disabilities for exploitation under statutory titles (such as marriage)
- Establish emergency centers that provide consultancy, health care and legal services to support people trafficked.
  
- Developing the vocational training for women and girls

**29. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to eliminate discrimination against and violations of the rights of the girl child?**

***- Promoting girls` access to equal education***

The following activities were undertaken in order to provide equal access for women and girls, especially in less developed areas:

1- 10,750 children who dropped out of schools have been recruited into official education system. 5,707 of those children (53.09%) were girls.

3. Sign an agreement with the literacy Movement Organization on the theme of supporting development of literacy for rural and nomadic women and girls

4- Launching a Plan the support of 3466 girls in need of education at grades 1-6 in

6- Developing the vocational training for 9805 female students who are deprived of their education and need the first to sixth grades, stationery and coverage of educational expenses. Production and distribution of special cultural packages for their parents in 20 provinces (three Consecutive years 2014-2015)

7- Development of rural schools and providing the transport facilities for rural girls students

9- Implementation of the quality-raising plan for the schools in boarding region

15. Holding meetings and workshops at provincial and local levels for the parents of students who have left school.

17. implementation of programs aiming at life skills training for mentally retarded girls at elementary schools

18. Developing industrial and agricultural education fields (electronic, food industries) in less developed areas with the approach of attracting girls in technical and vocational branches.

20. Conclude a contract and an agreement on educational indicators with provincial education departments in order to increase and improve important educational

indicators, such as rate of pass, reduction of educational failure (rate of rejection, repetition)

21. Distribute food packages, stationery, clothing and other materials for the purpose of attracting and retaining students at schools and provide consultancy services to families and students with learning difficulties.

22. Follow up educational status of students admitted to hospital by sending teachers, and educational donors

23. Emphasis on education of children with special needs through the development of special learning centers.

24- Attract and train 78690 children who have left schools in the official educational system in which 38,614 of these people were girls who had left schools.

27. Attract and promote 120 girls in Sistan and Baluchestan province who have left school and encourage them to study in the academic year 2018-2019 (Sistan and Baluchestan Province, 2018) with cooperation of “Tehram Pars Koneshran Development Institute” with the purpose of identifying girls who have left school and who don't have birth certificate, and create this opportunity to promote their educational level in Sistan and Baluchestan province, increase their socialization for entering the official regular schools, promote healthcare, emotional intelligence and social skills of these students in order to identify and attract 120 girls who have left school with or without proof of Iranian identity and create an opportunity to improve their educational level in Iranshahr in the academic year 2018-2019 and increase the sociability of 120 girls with or without Iranian identity certificates through improvement of emotional intelligence and communication skills and promotion of Individual healthcare in Iranshahr City during the academic year 2018-2019.

28- Education, consultancy and treatment of injured and endangered children in the margin Isfahan (Isfahan province -2016). With cooperation of the "Zendeh rod Protection Society for Rights of Children”, this project is aimed at providing the ground for implementing the program of social injuries prevention and developing the capabilities of NGOs, increasing social resilience of families against social harm, family and marital conflicts, promoting the physical and mental health of injured children and training life skills to 400 parents and children in marginal areas such as

Darak, Imam Hossein, Arzanan and Maryam Abad of Isfahan, via 15 four-hour workshops, three-day workshops on life skills for 10 specialized staff including advisers, midwifery experts and mobile centers providing support services and counseling to 100 children and adolescents under this plan during 3 three-hour group counseling sessions and 10 private consultation sessions for 10 people which totals 100 hours.

29- Teach “Child Disciplining Skills” to Mothers and “Addiction Prevention Skills” to Girls in the marginal areas of Karaj (Alborz Province, 2017). In cooperation with the “Alborz Child Labour Association”, this project aims to empower mothers in marginalized areas of Karaj to raise healthy children, to teach girls how to prevent from addictions and to prevent from social harms among women and girls in deprived and marginal areas in order to increase the knowledge level of 50 mothers in Mahdi Abad of Karaj, to teach child disciplining skills aimed at reducing injuries stemming from child sexual abuse and to enhance self-esteem in children by holding workshops for 36 hours in three months and by teaching addiction prevention and sexual health education to 50 girls from 12 to 13 years old in the Mahdi Abad of Karaj who are most at risk.

30. Training sessions on pre marriage, during marriage and after marriage life skills to girls and women in Mashhad (KhorasanRazavi province, 2017). In cooperation with the “Youth Association of NusratKhorasanRazavi”, this project aims to teach life skills to women and girls in marginal areas of Mashhad, to preserve and strengthen the foundation of the family, to prevent family conflicts, to reduce divorce rate, to strengthen effective communication skills of couples with each other and with their children in order to learn the skills of life to 500 young girls before marriage, during marriage and after marriage, brides and divorced women by holding 40 Educational workshops for 2 hours on life skills topics such as familiarity with physical and physiological conditions, familiarity with healthy fertility, parenting, health and nutrition, as well as the necessary education in the field of marriage, rights and obligations, healthy marital relationships, reproductive health, familiarity with proper nutrition and development of social cooperation skills.

31. Teach life skills and promote compromise among women and girls in marginal areas and 30 villages of Khuzestan province (Khuzestan province, 2017). With the

assistance of the "KaronKhozestan Women Association", this project has the following purposes: to teach life skills, to promote compromise among women and girl in marginal areas and villages of Khuzestan province, to preserve and consolidate family foundation, to prevent family conflicts, to promote women and girls knowledge in marginal areas and villages of Khuzestan province on drugs and industrial stimuli, to introduce the weaknesses and threats of using virtual social networks and its management at different levels in order to encourage women and girls to participate In social activities, and to train 500 women and daughters in 30 villages in Khuzestan province, by holding 30 educational sessions, each meeting was held for 8 hours on topics such as: life skills, necessary education in the field of marriage, rights and duties, healthy relationships, marital satisfaction, reproductive health, virtual space threats, drug and industrial stimuli harms, and participation in social activities.

### ***Girls Awareness-raising for Political, Economic and Social Participation***

#### **1-Implement National Reinforcement Plan**

2. Communicative methods of female students through educating 56002 female secondary school students, their parents and educational staff equal 448016 hours / person (over three consecutive years, 2013-2015)

3. Reinforce communicative skills of parents with autism-inflicted students and learners through training 818 parents with autistic children equaling 19632 hours / person and Providing and distributing educational packages to autistic children families in 15 provinces (2015).

4. Train legal skills and personal, family and social responsibilities to 30794 female secondary school students, 30794 of female students parents and 2276 of Educators, equivalent to 63834 hours /person to prepare and distribute educational package for three groups of project audiences (2015 in 15 provinces, 2016 in all provinces of the country).

5. Teach literacy to rural and nomadic women and girls through holding educational and briefing sessions (retraining) for 1,860 teachers and instructors and Teach literacy to 10533 illiterate rural and nomadic women and girls in the age group of 10-49 years in 12 provinces (three years from 2015-2017).

6. Organize a training workshop on promoting vocational skills for 2064 school teachers across the country for 24 hours on 12 educational topics including happiness and vitality, hope, optimism, positive strategies to cope with stress, positive self-expression, meaning and purpose, Emotional intelligence, positive relationships / intergenerational communication and dialogue, time management, spirituality and autonomy (2018)

7. Capacity-building of Parents and Educators Association members (at least 360 people) by familiarizing them with the concepts of social resilience and national intergenerational family dialogue in 12 provinces (2018)

8. Conduct National and Regional Exhibition of Female Students' Capabilities in Fashion, Clothing and Handicrafts for 5 days by hosting of KowsarBojnourd and Alzahra and Persian Gulf Universities (2018).

9- Establish an Iranian ethnical dress exhibition with emphasis on gentility of Iranian women and girls and Support Iranian goods in cooperation with Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and Alborz Governor-General.

10- Hold “Iran’s Land girls” Festival with approach of creating hope, social vitality and preserving girls values with cooperation of Tehran Municipality.

11. Implement national plan for "Social Resilience and Capacity-building" with the priority of marginalized and vulnerable regions and training 1664 members of social organizations as facilitators and local educators from 2015 to 2018 with the aim of teaching ten life skills at personal, social and family levels in order to empower women and families to successfully deal with harms, tensions and crises. In 2015-2016, 1040 workshops were held for 3580 people totaled 274960 hours / person. Education in 518 neighborhoods for 39934 People equal to 2196370 people in 2017-2018. 3667 members of local communities were trained in 453 neighborhoods equaled 820020 hours/ person.

12- Promote girls' awareness through conducting educational workshop for 5,000 female students in the advantaged areas, 5,000 parents and 840 school teachers for 16 hours in collaboration with the Ministry of Education Office for Women and Family Affairs in 2016.

13. Teach individual, family and social rights and responsibilities to about 50,000 male and female secondary school students in the country.

14. Conclude a Memorandum of Understanding between Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs and Ministry of Education in order to provide legal education at all secondary schools.

15- Anticipate courses on citizenship rights by the Ministry of Education and Humanities House for inclusion in the approved program of elementary and secondary schools

16- Develop nomadic and rural women and girls literacy in two phase in which in first phase, educational and briefing sessions were held for 860 female educators and in second phase, 5400 illiterate nomadic and rural women and girls were trained in the age group between 10 to 49 years in 12 provinces divided by nomadic and rural areas with cooperation of Literacy Movement Organization.

17. Hold a workshop on promotion of vocational skills for 2064 schoolchildren for 24 hours on twelve educational topics (happiness and vitality, hope, optimism, continence, positive stress coping methods, positive self-expression, meaning and purpose, Emotional intelligence, positive relationships/intergenerational communication and dialogue, time management, spirituality and autonomy) with cooperation of Ministry of Education Office of Women and Family Affairs in order to improve girls education.

18- Raise awareness of female students about the status, role and function of civil institutions through conducting an educational workshop for 5,000 female students in advantaged areas 5,000 parents and 840 school educators for 16 hours by Ministry of Education Office of Women and Family Affairs.

19- Hold several educational workshops on familiarity with terms of marriage contract for young girls

20- In the national plan of "Teach Duties and Obligations to Students", in addition to publishing book, an eight-hour workshop was held for 48010 persons totaling 384080 hours /person in 2016.

21. Psychosocial-social Pathology Program of Secondary School Girls at second grade with the Purpose of Achieving a Risk Map and delineating the Psychosocial-social profile of female Students in order to implement programs in line with their physical and Psychological needs Based on the 7-3 strategy of Basic Education Transformation Document for providing counseling-educational services at all levels to increase physical and mental health of students by studying and monitoring the psychosocial harms of secondary school girls at second grade with a sample of 25,736 people and distribution of two questionnaires of Neo and Psychological-Behavioral Health on April 2016.

***-addressing girls' malnutrition, early pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS***

- Developing the Strategic Plan for Ending AIDS in Iran by 2020 with participation of 20 Organizations and Ministries:
  - All medical treatment of HIV / AIDS in Iran are free of charge for patients.
  - Establishing 37 centers for provision of regular HIV services for affected women by the Ministry of Health
  - Establishing 160 Centers for Behavioral Disease Counseling
  - Establishing 24 positive club centers
  - Establish 8502 bases and HIV counseling and testing centers
  - Providing the social support for women and girls with vulnerability, especially women with addiction and high-risk behaviors (Tehran Province, 2015-2016). This project, supported by "Sun Land Women Institute", aims at developing the capabilities of NGOs, promoting physical and psychological health and promoting the well-being of women and girls with HIV/AIDS and their families, providing them job opportunities.
  - covering 100,000 children under 5 years old with malnutrition in households in need, supply a monthly food basket through the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee

***Addressing the child marriage***

- **Holding a Meeting on the Challenges of Early Childhood Marriage (2015)** with the cooperation of the National Commission for the Protection of the Child rights of the Ministry of Justice, with the presence of representatives of the Vice Presidency for Legal Affairs, the Human Rights Headquarter of the Judiciary, the State Civil Registration Office, Women and Family Department of the Ministry of Interior, the Expediency Council and the Police Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran;

**3- Scientific meeting on the feasibility of early marriage from the point of view of the Iranian legal system, Islamic thought and international standards (1395)** with the focus on the following topics:

- Analysis of jurisprudential views and norms regarding the minimum age of marriage;
- Identification of laws and regulations of the country's legal system, its gaps and inefficiencies;
- Examination of a set of international principles and rules concerning the minimum age of marriage.

## **Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation**

**30. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies?**

***- Increase women's access to natural resources***

Develop women's Cooperatives and allocate lands to Associations

Currently, there are 60,000 rural and nomadic women in 2000 rural and nomadic cooperatives and some plots of lands have been allocated to some of them through concluding Memorandum of Understanding between Office of Land Affairs and Central Agency for Rural Cooperatives in 2015.

Summary of report on performance of the allocating national and state lands to rural women's Associations, nomadic heads of households and graduates of the agricultural sector

No	Province	Allocated lands Area (Hectare)	Field of Activity	Direct and indirect employment (person)	Predict allocation by the end of Memorandum (2018)
1	Chaharmahalbakhtiari	120	Horticulture, agriculture, planting fruitful trees, cattle breeding (industrial, traditional)	108	300 Hectares to implement different agricultural and non-agricultural projects
2	Mazandaran	19	Complete duck breeding chain, pomegranate garden; Cold fruits, ornamental fish breeding and dairy cattle breeding	384	Predict allocation of 50 Hectares for implementation of different projects

3	Ghazvin	50	Walnut and almond cultivation	43	Predict 100 Hectares by August 2019
4	Zanjan	52	Strawberry cultivation	120	Predict 70 Hectares by August 2019

***- Promote science, engineering and technology education for women***

***Implement Entrepreneurship promotion and Sustainable Business Development Plan by the Ministry of Agriculture***

Promote the knowledge and skills of rural women through development of educational- promotional programs, familiarizing them with the market and the principles and frameworks of participating in national, provincial and national exhibitions for rural and rural women are one of the main activities of the Office for Empowerment. Each year, averages of 150,000 people and 300,000 people /day are covered by this program from rural women and children.

**- Environmental dimensions**

Along with implementation of the policies of the Ministry of Agriculture on production of a healthy and free of pesticides and chemicals products, and given the relative advantage of rural and nomadic women in the production of these products, women's empowerment in the production of healthy crops was placed on top of the Office agenda and Several projects were implemented in this regard with participation of the Vice-Presidency for Women's and Family Affairs with the following objectives:

**Targets**

- Develop sustainable agriculture and the preserve basic production resources with a focus on soil and water
- Promote a culture of quality production and desirable consumption
- Promote health and safety

## **Results and Achievements**

- -Capacity building for organic fertilizers and pesticide-free chemicals
- -Create vermin Compost production sites and healthy products in all provinces
- -Empower rural women and girls to produce healthy and standard products

1- The plan to introduce medical plants clinics to female farmers and facilitators: Women's participation in sustainable development began with project of familiarity with medical plants clinics since 2016. Within a comprehensive plan, Facilitators and manufacturers learned about medical plants clinics through implementing a one-day training program. In these courses, women became familiar with consequences of excessive intake of pesticides and chemicals, spraying side effects on children in greenhouse environments and use of poison dishes at home.

2- The Rural Women's Empowerment Plan to Manage Agricultural Wastes and to Produce Vermi Compost Fertilizers: Recycling some of household wastes and turning them into bio-fertilizers prevents the waste of useful resources and national capitals and contributes to the cleanness of living environment and maintenance of groundwater basic resources of soil and water. The production of vermin Compost is carried out through conversion of more wet wastes by using earthworms called EzinaFethi. In this project, rural women as the main target of the project turn domestic waste and earthworm EiseniaFetida to homemade wastes by using agricultural wastes and turn agricultural waste into vermi Compost and use vermin Compost to strengthen the soil in small farms. This project has been started since 2010 and has been still underway.

3- Empower women to produce healthy and standard products. Having been familiarized with plant clinics and management of agricultural waste, it was necessary for rural women to become familiar with healthy product standards. This was done in partnership with the National Organization of Standard and Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs. During the implementation of this plan, rural women became familiar with the processes of production and receipt of healthy and organic products Certificates. Since then, promoting the culture of healthy and standard production has been placed at top of office agenda. Now, all educational-

promotional programs are implemented with an approach of healthy and standard production.

***- Measures to support women's knowledge at indigenous and local communities***

-National Development Fund in the twelfth Administration (2017 until present) has allocated resources for job creation in villages in the form of sustainable loans and urban amenities are anticipated of which nearly 40% have been attracted by women.

-Implement a national plan to promote the culture of producing and consuming healthy and standard products, with emphasis on empowering local communities, through holding workshops for 990 rural women, agricultural facilitators, women from NGOs and agricultural entrepreneurs

-Train and provide specialized consulting services by professional experts for at least 3,840 hours / persons at workshops and provide specialized consulting services and monitoring process for 600 female entrepreneurs in the field of agriculture by experts of the Ministry of Agriculture

-Support literacy learning of three thousands rural and nomadic women and girls in 9 provinces across the country in 2017

- The support of the Vice Presidency for Women and family Affairs for implementation of 23 projects by NGOs including 18 projects in the field of economics, which led to the training of 2985 individuals, individual and team counseling to 1500 people, vocational training and creation of 540 career opportunities through domestic jobs and workshop model in different provinces.

-Sign Memorandum of Understanding between Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs and Standard Organization, which was partly dedicated to empowerment of active women in the field of carpet weaving, female instructors in carpet weaving, Economic NGOs and elite entrepreneurial women. This plan has been held in 11 provinces within 40 workshops.

**31. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives into policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation?**

***- Support women participation including women affected by climate disasters***

Hold Participatory educational meetings for 60 hours for 13667 members of local communities in 452 neighborhoods equaling 820020 hours /person with emphasis on the marginalized and the vulnerable in the provinces including earthquake-affected areas, Kermanshah and Sistan and Baluchestan marginal areas.

***-Awareness-raising on women vulnerability***

Implement capacity-building plan and promote social resilience in local communities through conducting educational-counseling workshops for at least 620 representatives of indigenous social organizations as local facilitator for 36 hours equal to 22320 people / hour

-Hold joint educational-collaborative meetings for 60 hours for 13667 members of local communities in 452 neighborhoods in the country equal to 820020 people per hour, with emphasis on marginalized and vulnerable areas and vulnerable people in the earthquake-inflicted areas and the marginal areas of Kermanshah and Sistan and Baluchestan.

-Capacity-building of the members of Parents and Educators Association (at least 360 people) through familiarization with the concepts of social resilience, national family and intergenerational dialogue in 12 provinces (2018)

-Implement the National Plan of “Capacity-building and Social Resilience” with priority of the marginalized and the vulnerable areas with training of 1664 members of social organizations as facilitators and local educators from 2015 to 2018 with the aim of training ten life skills at individual, family and Social levels In order to empower women and families for successful coping mechanism with problems, tensions and crises in 2011-2014, hold 1040 workshops for 3580 people totaling 274960 hours on ten life skills in 2016-2017, Educate in 518 neighborhoods for

39934 people equaling 2196370 person /hour in 2017-2018 and Educate 13667 members of local communities in 453 neighborhoods equaling 820020 person /hour.

-Hold an educational workshop on the role of women in coping with climate change and environmental resilience for 155 government executives, provincial administrators, women councilors in the metropolitan areas and representatives of NGOs (2018)

-Empower 150 cultural ambassadors of the universities through teaching social resilience, intergenerational dialogue, public policy-making and administrative rights equaling 1200 people / hour and visits to cultural places and cultural and artistic celebrities (2018)

- Hold educational and promotional seminars on “water footprint” in the provinces of Tehran, East Azarbaijan, Gilan and Kermanshah and setting up a network of propagators to reform the water use pattern with emphasis on housewives, teachers, educators movement, Children and Parents' Association, school trainers, NGOs and the Female Qom Seminary in cooperation with the Water and Sewage Organization.

- Promote the reform of the family consumption pattern in four areas of water, energy, waste and food waste through holding a series of educational-promotional meetings

*- Reinforce laws and Policy-makings*

**1-1. Policies related to the implementation of Capacity-building plan for enhancing social resilience in local communities over three consecutive years.**

**Objectives of the project:**

- **Familiarize** civil society actors and local communities with the process of analyzing resilient systems

- Strengthen social interactions in local communities in order to overcome social and environmental challenges.

- Increase the participation of local community in planning, management of urban affairs and reducing social damages

## **Implementation method:**

Implementation in two phases:

-Phase 1: Development of civil society capacities through holding an educational workshop for representatives of local native communities as a facilitator and teacher of the second phase.

- Phase 2: Organizing educational and participatory meetings for members of local communities with emphasis on the marginalized, the vulnerable and injured individuals and access to roadmap for neighborhoods resilience covered by the provinces.

## **Target Group:**

- Local social organizations

- Urban and rural families with the priority of vulnerable people

## **Implementation level (national, provincial and local)**

- In 2015 at 13 provinces (pilot)

- In 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 at national level (Urban and rural areas of provinces with priority of marginalized and vulnerable areas)

## **Results:**

- Stage One: Conducting educational-Consultative workshops for 1664 representatives of local community Organizations as a local facilitator totaling 59,902 students / hour

- Stage Two: Hold educational-consultative workshops for 56,921 members of local communities (more than 1000 neighborhoods with emphasis on marginalized and vulnerable areas and people in provinces) for 3,281,990 students / hour, Local community participation in formulating the role of neighborhood resilience and access to roadmap of provinces resilience.

## **2. Policy-makings to implement Capacity-building of members of Parents and Educators Association through familiarizing with the concepts of social resilience and family and intergenerational dialogue -2018**

### **Project Objectives:**

- Familiarity of representatives of Educators and Parents Association with the principles and concepts of social resilience and resilient systems.
- Familiarity with the concepts of national and intergenerational dialogue as a tool to overcome the challenges of students, parents and Educators.
- Benefit from the existing capacities in Association of Educators and Parents at national level to strengthen and to enhance social resilience of parents, school Educators and students

### **Target Group:**

- The representatives of Association of Educators and Parents at 12 provinces

### **Implementation level (national, provincial, local)**

- Twelve provinces: East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Isfahan, Tehran, Khuzestan, Fars, Qazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Lorestan, Central, Hormozgan

### **Results:**

- Organize 12 educational workshops for 360 representatives of the Association of Parents and Educators for 8 hours with topics of familiarity with concepts and principles of social resilience and concepts of national intergenerational dialogue in 12 provinces of the country.

## **Part 3: Institutions and National Process**

**32. What is your country's current national machinery for gender equality and the empowerment of women? Please name it and describe its location within Government.**

Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs which is a member of the government cabinet and with the level of ministry.

**33. Is the head of the national machinery a member of the institutional process for SDG implementation (e.g. inter-ministerial coordinating office, commission or committees)?**

**Yes**

The Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts in the area of sustainable development dates back to 1992 when the Land Summit held in Rio, followed by the National Sustainable Development Committee in 1994, with the membership of 26 Ministries, organizations and institutions in the environmental organization. In this committee, policymaking and planning were pursued on 18 topics including public education, population and health, higher education, green economy, employment, entrepreneurship, and sustainable rural development by taking into account issues such as women and the family. In 2015, with approval of sustainable development objectives, this Committee was transferred to the Management and Planning Organization, due to increased scope of goals and activities and the necessity of financing and mainstreaming the goals of sustainable development in national development programs. In order to raise the effectiveness of measures, for each Ministry's aspiration, one Ministry was considered as the main custodian, and other Ministries were considered as the partner organization in that area. At present, the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs is acting as the main custodian of the 5th Goal and more than 5 Ministries are cooperating in this area. The main approach of women's national authority in this area is to focus on gender mainstreaming, gender-desegregated policies, and inter-institutional network collaboration to finance.

### **34. A formal mechanism for various stakeholders to participate in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Action Plan and the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030**

The official mechanism for implementing and monitoring the implementation of the goals and aspirations of Beijing and subsequently document 2030 is carried out with state-controlled instruments and the supervision of civil institutions at both micro and macro levels. In this regard, women's advisers and all women's affair directors of Governorates at provincial level and all Ministries and Executive Agencies at national level are directly involved in implementation and monitoring.

Also, NGOs originated from Civil Society have entered this process along with the Administration and they play the role of mediator between the people and the Government by partnership in implementation and monitoring.

#### **(A) Active stakeholders in the Plans**

##### **1-Beijing Declaration and Action Plan**

Civil society, women's rights organization, think tank, religious organizations, parliamentary committees, private sector, United Nations...

##### **2-The Sustainable Development**

Civil society, women's rights organization, think tank, religious organizations, parliamentary committees, private sector, United Nations...

- By law, women's affair advisors at all executive agencies, including Ministries and organizations are also required to observe and evaluate annually and submit reports.

- According to legal documents, provincial governors in all provinces are also required to enforce and monitor implementation.

- In order to realize the Beijing action plan, as well as sustainable development agenda at the core of society, people's organizations, think tanks, thinkers, women's rights organizations, religious organizations, the private sector, and ... which are the active institutions in these documents participate as the civil society representative

in both implementation and monitoring the plans in a spontaneous and active manner.

- The women's parliamentary faction interacts closely with the Vice Presidency for women and family affairs in order to facilitate the implementation of the Beijing Action Plan, as well as the sustainable development agenda. In addition to legal cooperation on eliminating the executive challenges ahead, it will monitor the implementation of this document and action plans throughout the country.

- Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs has a regular and accurate interaction with the United Nations regional offices.

#### B- The Mechanism of Ensuring Minority Women Participation

The fourteen Task forces of Vice Presidency in the form of think tank are the intellectual and scientific arm of this deputy. One of these arms is the ethnic groups and minorities Task Force that keep its interactions with this group of Civil Society, dynamic through charity activities and holding artistic and cultural programs.

### **35. Is the empowerment of women and girls a priority of national strategy?**

Yes

With regard to gender equity, Islamic Republic of Iran believes that equity is one of the principles of our religion. Men and women are equal in human dignity. However, there are some differences in their responsibilities and roles, due to their different capacities.

Imam Khomeini (PBUH), the leader and architect of the Islamic Revolution, had a strong emphasis on realizing the true position of women and he initiated the first attempts to realize this issue. The Supreme Leader also looks at this area with an attitude towards future.

Women as mothers have higher rights. There are differences between women and men mainly because of differences in women's roles and no one can deny them. We do not consider women's status less. Our Government believes that the world has

made progress in the realization of gender equity and Islamic Republic of Iran benefits from the successes and achievements of other countries and it shares its transformations and experiences with the world, because these are clear issues and all countries should use the collective wisdom and experience of other countries in this field.

Gender equity was implemented in accordance with the sixth development Plan in the official and legal manner in the country. Gender equity should be implemented in accordance with Paragraph 101 and 102 of the Sixth Development Plan, because the subject of the family is one of the priorities of the state and the custodian of women and family affairs must consider these Paragraphs of the sixth program, the policies announced by the Supreme Leader and the Administration programs on women and family as top documents.

## **Section Four: Data and statistics**

### **36- Three main areas of national progress in gender statistics over the last 5 years**

#### **- Promoting Statistical programs and Regulations**

Based on Paragraph 101, all executive agencies are required to implement the approach of gender equity in policies, programs and their plans based on Islamic principles and evaluate works and decisions according to indicators announced by National Women and Family Headquarter of Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution by organizing and strengthening the position of Women and Family Agency in the system in order to achieve the goals set forth in Paragraph 10, 20 and 21 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the objectives of the twenty-year vision document, the general policies of the sixth program and general family policies On "strengthening the institution of the family and the status of women, and the legal rights of women in all fields and paying special attention to their constructive role", as well as in order to benefit society from the human capital of women in the process of sustainable and balanced development.

Note 1- In addition to evaluating and adapting policies and plans of the organizations and monitoring the indicators related to improvement of women and family status continuously, Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs is obliged to submit an annual report to the Parliament and the Cabinet of Ministers.

#### **- Review available information**

Based on the executive regulation of Paragraph 80 and Paragraph 101 of the Sixth Development Act, Provinces and executive agencies, Statistics Organization, and the Organization of Management and Planning are required to update statistics and information on the status of women each year based on the codified national indicators of gender equity at two national and provincial levels and to submit Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs.

#### **- Conduct new polls**

By law, statistics collection or more specifically, the national census of population occur every five years in the country; however, since statistics is so important for policymaking at macro-level and national decision making, some data are updated on an annual basis or on the order of the institutions or the Government, the surveying and data collection will be taken place in the special fields.

**- Generate knowledge products on gender statistics**

Writing books, scientific and research paragraphs, academic dissertations, specialized and thematic research in the area of women and family are now based on statistical data.

The Number of Female Writers, Translators and Publishers by 2015	
Female translators	14881
Female writers	42092
Female publishers	1775
Female writers and publishers	762
Total	59510

The number of books published on Women and Family by 2016	
The books published on Woman and Family	37
The books published on Women – First Edition	3131
The books published on Women –Second Edition	2312
The books published on Family – First Edition	771
The books published on Family – Second Edition	632
Total	6883

**-Create Database**

Design the "**Women and Family Status Atlas**" system in the Assistant Portal with various capabilities including: processing the indexes contained in the report, updating information, and the possibility of exploring the indicators in different

forms within viewing changes of an indicator in a time period, the possibility of determining the total, urban and rural scale, comparing the status of an index in different decades throughout the country, or the possibility of examining the situation of a province in different decades and ... with the aim of improving gender data collection at two provincial and national levels based on 40 indicators related to women.

### **37- Three main priorities of strengthening national gender statistics in the next 5 years**

- Design Statistical Rules and Programs
- Create Inter-institutional mechanisms on gender statistics
- Use more Gender Information in enforcing laws and programs
- Database development

In the sixth development Plan, in addition to Paragraphs 101 and 102 which are related to women, there are other Paragraphs related to the Judiciary, Health, Culture, Art and Sport which work on women and family. In general, this Act that include the five-year Plan of the country considers gender impact assessment and oblige Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs to determine gender equity indicators and to monitor the implementation followed by realizing the gender equity objectives and removing the challenge of lacking statistical resources on the path of planning and monitoring achievements in two Beijing Action Plan and sustainable development objectives.

The main pivots of gender equity indicators include education and research, health, rights and safety, population and family, work and economics, social protection, politics and culture. For these eight dimensions, 28 indicators on gender equity have been finalized nationally. Representatives of the executive Agencies and various Ministries have employed the expertise of their respective Agencies in order to finalize those indicators. It is estimated that these indicators will be taken into account in the budget of all Executive Agencies in 1998.

Priority has been given to implementing gender equity in the Agencies and Ministries, most notably the deprived groups in gender analyses, the preparation and presentation of indicators based on gender-based data and the consideration of Local, regional and national levels in data classification.

For this purpose, the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs and, all Executive Agencies and Ministries are required to implement these indicators in accordance with Paragraphs 101 and 102 of the Sixth Development Plan, because the National Women's and Family Headquarter by the presence of the President, has placed the Gender Equiity Indicators plans as the responsibility of Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs.

The emphasis of Paragraph 101 of the Sixth Development Plan is on Gender Equity. To this end, the tasks of various Agencies have been determined including organizing and strengthening the status of family and women, adoption of gender equity approach in policies and plans of Agencies and the assessment of effects and decisions of the organizations based on the indicators announced by national headquarter of women and the family and gender equity approach.

To this end, this bill is communicated to all Executive Agencies with approval of the Cabinet and the National Board of Women and Family, and the mandates approved for these Agencies are also clear to regularly monitor the implementation of gender equity through data collection at two national and provincial levels.

### **38 and 39.National Indicators for monitoring the progress of the SDGs**

The national data collections are oriented according to the national priorities that are mostly consistent with SDGs. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, regulatory indicators are strictly based on nationally defined priorities, which in many cases close links with the goals have defined in SDG.

For example, the indicators defined for realizing and monitoring the realization of the fifth goal are:

- According to the Article 101 of the Sixth National Development Plan, the National Women and Family Development Headquarter is responsible to formulate gender equity and Agencies indicators. To this end, at the first meeting of the National Headquarters of Women and Families held with the participation of the President, the topic of improving gender equity indicators was raised and its approval was prepared and signed by the members of the headquarter. This approval is at the stage of signing and announcing to the president.

By law, all Agencies are required to collect statistical data on gender equity indicators and to announce the program in order to improve the status of indicators. The Statistics Center is also required to produce indexes, collect statistical data and carry out surveys, as required. Also, in a Task force consisted of representatives (organizations, planning and budget organization, deputy and ...), indicators are reviewed and announced by the headquarters. In addition, programs will be matched with indicators.

- Executive regulation on mechanisms of implementing and monitoring indicators and requirements of Executive Agencies for promotion of women's status indicators:

- Under the Note 2, Article 101 of Sixth Development Plan, which focuses on formulation of executive regulations, the mechanism of monitoring the indicators, duties and requirements of executive Agencies for improving women's status indicators and the continuous observation of indicators on status of women and the family, the establishment of gender equity indicators has been handled by the National Headquarters of Women and Family. Currently, the Secretariat of the National Women and Family Headquarter is formulating national indicators after approval of work process. Agencies indicators are being formulated by the help of co-operating Agencies.

- Under Clause "Z", Article 101 of the Sixth Development Plan, and also following the letter No. 108904 dated September 9, 2016 of the first vice president, national and inter-organizational labor division was announced by the Supreme Leader in the form of general policies of family (under Clause "V" of this letter, the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs has been designated as the custodian of monitoring national labor division Policies.) Therefore, according to Note 1, Article 101 of the Sixth Development Plan, the evaluation and adaptation of policies and

plans of organizations are carried out by the Women and Family National Headquarter. Currently, the Secretariat of the National Headquarters of Women and Families in partnership with other Agencies is exploring the programs in order to prepare a report on the division of labor in this field.

Islamic Republic of Iran's Management and Planning Organization is required to collect data annually from the national Agencies and institutions that formulate national report.

#### Priority Indicator

- Education
- Health
- Employment
- Empowering women and girls
- Security

#### **40- Which of the following categorizations have been prepared in the main surveys of your country?**

- Geographic location
- Sex
- Income
- Age
- Education
- Marital status
- Disability