Relief Activities of IAPSRS during Covid-19 Outbreak in Iran



February, March & April 2020

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Preface

Corona and social justice, an unequal battle

After weeks of contradictory, unofficial news and rumors on different social media platforms, the corona virus outbreak was finally confirmed by officials.

Although Covid-19 is dangerous, social distrust stemming from poverty, lack of social justice, discrimination and officials' negligence can have more disastrous outcomes than an epidemic.

It should not be forgotten that inequality is one of the most important factors affecting people's health. People constantly compare their own welfare with that of society's average rate, and once they realize they have a lesser chance of accessing resources, they feel deprived. This issue exposes them to stress, mental challenges and risky behaviors that could themselves play a substantial role in spreading the disease further.

Considering actual socio-economic conditions of the society, one can point out multiple vulnerable groups such as children, who are victims of child labor, and who keep on working in the streets even during these dangerous days.

In addition to the importance of the deprived class's health in case of infection, family members and relatives will be facing more serious threats. Other unrecognized victims are marginalized families with low incomes. Corona virus threats are more significant against the marginalized and deprived groups of society due to the high density of population in these areas, and thereby inevitably more social interactions in these areas. They benefit more frequently from public services, governmental and healthcare centers, and providing their basic needs are of greater importance than preventing dangers of an epidemic infection.

Other factors are hesitations to visit a doctor due to high costs of medications and lack of a supportive program to cover these expenses, fear of losing jobs that gives them no options but to leave the house, correct, reliable information being inaccessible, and finally a more vulnerable immune system because of malnutrition and a stressful lifestyle.

In the long-term this disease cycle will have more substantial negative impacts on the poor class of society and in parallel terms any sort of pause in the economic cycle as a consequence of this epidemic will in particular influence this particular group of people.

IAPSRS implementations to face Corona Virus and decrease its effects

Because of the Corona virus pandemic and its rapid spread, suitable actions to prevent further spreading of the virus must be taken seriously. IAPSRS, being connected to children and women in marginalized areas, has executed several actions in its centers (Iranian Homes) for families under its protection. What follows is an account of these implementations.

IAPSRS crisis headquarters meeting about Corona outbreak/ February 2nd, 2020

Considering the expansive and increasing outbreak of the Corona virus, Imam Ali Society members discussed three major topics at a meeting:

A) IAPSRS centers' activities around the country:

Due to the fact that children's gathering in these centers, even with highest hygienic codes, can further spread out the disease, the ultimate decision was to stop all classes held in the Iranian Homes. Further, they won't be used, unless there are exceptionally urgent and crucial cases seeking social aid.

Essential instructions are given to families as well as packs of hygienic items have been distributed. Also an important preoccupation of members was that kids leaving disinfected areas will not stay home like others, but will probably be obliged to work even longer hours in the streets. To cope with this issue it was decided that social workers have more interactions with families, and that critical cases be observed.

B) Vulnerability of working children in metro lines and streets, especially little scavengers against this disease:

Final decision was to constantly require municipalities to stop contractors from exploiting kids at least during this crucial period, and special packs of hygienic and nutrition packages were distributed among them.

C) Question of Entrepreneurship in Iranian Homes and breadwinning women:

The third matter of concern revolved around the vulnerability of breadwinning women. Fragile immune system, impossibility to visit doctors for each malady, probability of not being aware of underlying diseases, malnutrition, numerous pregnancies and the obligation to use public transportations (lower costs) are some of the issues these women face. Inflation, high living costs, rent etc. are challenges that in case of the temporarily closing of Iranian Homes put even greater pressure on breadwinning women.

Another worry was accepted orders that had to be prepared. It was at first decided that some of the equipment be transferred to their houses, but thinking about issues like addiction of some spouses, lack of space, little children, and lack of equipment to support all workers, it was not practically possible.



IAPSRS implementations from February 2nd to March 3rd, 2020 in a glance

- o Instructive workshops for kids and mothers under protection
- o Disinfecting Iranian Homes
- o Closure of all Iranian Homes (during this period women will be paid)
- o Open letter to the Health Minister
- Distribution of 2547 hygienic packs (N° 1), and 2280 hygienic packs (N° 2) amongst families under protection around the country
- Distribution of 287 hygienic packs specifically for working and scavenger kids
- o Distribution of 1747 food packs among families in need around the country
- Distribution of vitamin pills in some centers in case of necessity
- Establishing an executive protocol specific to the Corona crisis
- Establishing members' immunity instructions





Daily content production in accordance with Corona virus prevention and supporting vulnerable classes

- o Communication with medical experts to establish families' instructive program
- Preparing remote entertaining programs such as 'writing competition' for children and juveniles while away from Iranian Homes
- Assisting hospitals and their medical crews to provide hygienic and protective equipment
- Launching the campaign #our_health_relies_on_yours / a campaign for providing essential
 equipment for the medical staff in the battle against the Corona virus throughout the country



IAPSRS protocol while facing the Corona (Covid-19) outbreak (February 3rd, 2020)

- 1- All group and team activities of IAPSRS are suspended.
- 2- Iranian Home activities are presently suspended, and children and staff presence are forbidden.
- 3- Critical cases are followed up by social workers. He or she must be equipped with gloves, mask and a medical gown which will be returned to Iranian Home after the mission is completed, so that it can be disinfected and reused.
- 4- All places that are inevitably open because of special cases in need of social aid must be repeatedly disinfected.
- 5- Any kind of connection with children and their families, including being accommodated in their house, must be avoided. This is of considerable importance since the effort is to set up a cultural pattern and augment social mindfulness.

- 6- Serving prepared food from any charity sources whatsoever and distributing fruit or unpacked food is prohibited.
- 7- Distributing supplement pills based on doctor's recommendation amongst children and their families is recommended.
- 8- Any action in order to increase awareness regarding this disease and its preventive measures, such as installing posters and banners, are recommended.



Distribution of hygienic items, nutrition packs, and giving sanitary instructions

Due to the potential expansion of the Corona virus, and further vulnerability of people inhabiting marginalized and deprived regions because of a lesser awareness, sanitary and nutrition packs have been distributed amongst families under protection, and they were instructed about essential sanitary codes.

Moreover, special packs and instructions were given to working and scavenger kids.

Educational workshops:

With the Corona Virus outbreak educational workshops have been organized for children and mothers in the Iranian Homes to teach preventive measures. Following is a list of these workshops:

- Information about the features of the Corona Virus
- 'To do's to prevent Corona virus infection
- Domestic solutions such as boiling vinegar, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces with alcohol and bleach
- Correct way of washing hands
- Making vinegar and salt spray to use after having washed hands
- Symptoms of Covid-19 and ways to face it
- Self-protection in public places

Also, after having visited working and scavenger children's living place, they were given essential instructions as to how prevent infection and received packs containing hygienic items.



Sanitary and nutrition pack distribution amongst families under IAPSRS protection around the country

With the Corona virus epidemic, special packages were distributed among families several times. Components of these packages are as follows:

Sanitary package N° 1

Hand washing liquid (1) Antiseptic gel (1) 2 kg oranges

Sanitary package N° 2

Dishwashing liquid (1)	Hand washing liquid (1)	Paper tissue (3 boxes)
Soap / body shampoo (3)	Shampoo (2)	Trash bag (2 packs)
Antiseptic gel (5)	Bleach (1 liter)	Latex gloves (1 pack)
Mask (1 pack)		

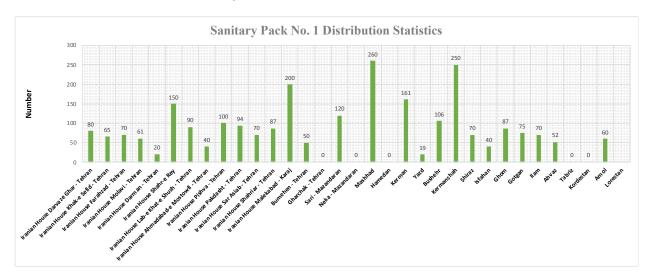
Nutrition package

Rice (10 kg)	Oil (one 1.5 lit bottle)	Chicken (2.5 kg)
Pasta (2 packs)	Tea (0.5 kg)	Chocolate (1 kg)
Tomato paste (1 can)	Soya (0.5 kg)	Lentils (1 kg)
Chickpea (1 kg)	Beans (1 kg)	

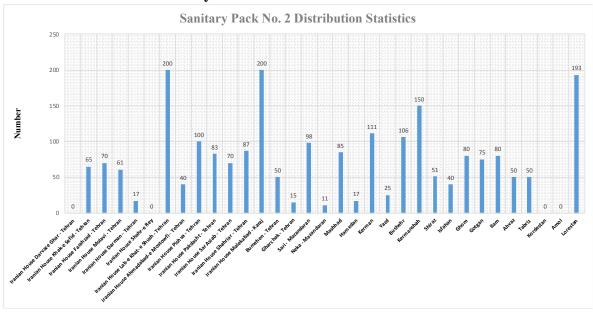
Distribution map of sanitary and food packages throughout the country

A total number of 2,547 sanitary packs n.1, 2280 sanitary packs n.2, and 1747 food packs have been distributed among the families covered in all agencies across the country. 287 health packs have been distributed among garbage collector and laboured children. The following diagrams show the distribution of health and food packs in Iranian Houses and cities.

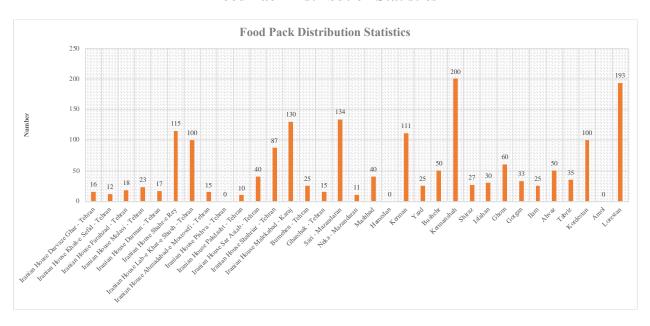
Sanitary Pack No. 1 Distribution Statistics



Sanitary Pack No. 2 Distribution Statistics



Food Pack Distribution Statistics



Distribution of sanitary packs among garbage collectors and laboured children

The red alerts of the spreading Coronavirus are seen everywhere, and while the malignant virus makes no difference when choosing its victims, the lower the prevention and protection capacities, the higher the infecting risk is.

By the same token, laboured children will be among the most vulnerable groups to the virus; because without the slightest protection and prevention, they spend long hours on the streets, crossroads, subways, BRT buses and crowded places in direct contact with the carriers and potential infected people of the virus. And even if they are not directly infected, they can transmit the virus to their large families as carriers of the disease. The collective and dense life of garbage collector children in garbage dumps and garages should not be forgotten as it contributes to the rapid spread of the disease.

On the one hand, it is difficult for them to visit a doctor and medical centres due to their financial burden, and on the other hand, the livelihood of these children basically is paramount to the health of these children and their families, although this is another reason why these children are more vulnerable.

Therefore, it is necessary for the responsible units of these children, especially the Welfare Organization of the country, to come to the field as soon as possible to prevent the catastrophe, as well as the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the field of laboured children,

to enter this campaign as certain forces. Every moment of haste in this intervention is really necessary, and post tragedy regrets won't make any change.



With the outbreak of the coronavirus, IAPSRS began training and distributing sanitary packs among garbage collectors and laboured children.



Sanitary pack items for garbage collectors and laboured children

Hand washing liquid 1bottle	Disinfectant hand gel 2 tubes	Oranges 1 kilo
Shampoo 1bottle	Working gloves 1 pair	Fabric backpack 1

So far (from 23 February to 19 March, 2020) a total of 287 packs have been distributed among garbage collectors and laboured children in Karaj, Tehran, Pakdasht and Sari cities by visiting the waste garages, the living and working places of the garbage collector children and adolescents, and also the workplaces of the working children on the streets. Measures have been taken to teach them prevention cares and to give them sanitary packs.

The coronavirus doesn't differentiate rich or poor, but high population density, poor economic conditions, lack of sanitary facilities, limited access to information, nutritional problems and malnutrition in marginalized areas are some of the reasons that require us to recognize the risky situation of these areas in spreading the virus.



"The health of all horizons is in your health" campaign (helping hospitals and medical staffs)

IAPSRS, in a project called "The health of all horizons is in your health", has provided protective equipment for medical staff in deprived and critical areas of the country in order to further protect the vulnerable part of society against the Coronavirus.



These days, the lack of sanitary equipment in hospitals has caused many problems for medical staff and patients to deal with the Coronavirus. In this regard, IAPSRS, with the help of charities and dear people, will try to solve some of these problems so that we can cover the existing gaps. The more prominent presence of the responsible institutions in this situation, it seems very necessary that all hospitals in the country be equipped in this regard.

What questions are there in people's minds about the lack of equipment for medical staff?

I called one of the donors to demand help for the medical supplies project.

The conversation went like this:

- As you are aware, the medical staff is facing a serious challenge due to the lack of equipment to maintain their health, and we want to provide some of this equipment. Do you have the opportunity to cooperate and help?
- No, I won't help, nowise.

(My silence and shock)

- I have three main questions:
 - 1) Don't the government and hospitals have enough money to buy this equipment? As far as I know, as someone who works in the field, the cost of these items is not significant compared to other hospital expenses.
 - 2) Is there money, but this equipment is not on the market? So in this case, the situation is the same for you, and the financial aid is useless.
 - 3) Where are the equipment and donations donated by the World Health Organization, UNICEF and other countries, as well as the discovered hoarded equipment and goods? Mismanagement, dear! People cannot pay for everything.
- I said I didn't know the answer to any of them. We also find and buy equipment with difficulty, just a question:

Suppose your child was currently serving patients as a medical staff against the Coronavirus without any equipment, what would you do then? Would you wait for the questions to be answered?

He paused for a moment, then said:

I will donate to you, but don't forget to ask the questions and demand them to give us right answers.

Actions taken in the "The health of all horizons is in your health", campaign

The equipment sent to the hospitals is as follows:

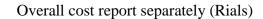
n.	Hospital	City	Equipment	Quantity
1	Emam Khomeyni Hospital	Ilam	Surgery scrubs	230
		110,111	Shoe covers	600
			Cover caps	200
			Shield glasses	100
			Filtered masks	200
			Latex gloves	13 boxes
2	Mostafa Khomeyni Hospital	Ilam	Shoe covers	900
			Cover caps	900
			Shield glasses	100
			Filtered masks	234
			Latex gloves	13 boxes
3	Emam Khomeyni Hospital	Tehran	Shield glasses	300
4	Shahid Ansari Hospital	Roudsar	Surgery scrubs	200
	_	(Guilan)		
5	Emam Reza Hospital	Shaft	Surgery scrubs	300
		(Guilan)	Laminated anti-virus clothing	300
6	Shahid Beheshti Hospital	Ghom	Alcohol	20
		(Ghom)	Cover caps	500
			Shoe covers	2000
			Disinfecting gel	50
7	Kowsar Hospital	Astane	Cover caps	500
		Ashrafiyeh	Shoes covers	500
		(Guilan)	Shield glasses	110
			Laminated anti-virus clothing	200
			Surgery scrubs	47
8	Bu Ali Hospital	Sari	Filtered masks	140
		(Mazandaran)	Nano masks	100
			Shoe covers	500
0			Shield glasses	100
9	Firouzgar Hospital	Tehran	Mask N95	110
10	D : 11 : 1	D 1.	Nano masks	110
10	Poursina Hospital	Rasht	Laminated anti-virus clothing	87
		(Guilan)	Shoe covers	600
			Shield glasses Nano masks	192 100
11	Emam Jafar a Sadagh	Karaj –	Surgery scrubs	320
11	Emam Jafar-e Sadegh –	Hashtgerd	Filtered masks	200
	Sarallah – Alborz Hospital	(Alborz)	Three-layer surgical masks	1000
		(Alboiz)	Sheets	260
			Pillow covers	160
			Latex gloves	4000
			Disposable towel	84
12	Shohada-e Ashaer – Ibn	Khorramabad	Three-layer surgical masks	100
	Sina Sina	(Lorestan)	N95 masks	140
	Silia	(Lorestan)	Latex gloves	850
13	Emam Khomeyni Hospital	Sari	Surgery scrubs	400
		(Mazandaran)	Shoe covers	500
		(Triuzuildarail)	Cover caps	500
			Cover cups	500

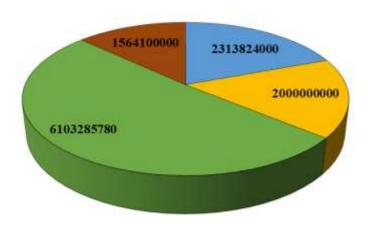
			Shield glasses	50
			Filtered masks	120
			Three-layer surgical masks	200
14	Nezam-e Parastari Hospital	Saqqez	Disinfecting gel	24
	(Nursing System)	(Kordestan)	N95 masks	40
	(Nursing System)	(Korucstan)	Laminated anti-virus clothing	200
			Three-layer surgical masks	432
			Latex gloves	1300
15	Chahala a Dah daalat	Nour	Filtered masks	1300
13	Shabak-e Behdasht	- 10 0		
	(Health Network)	(Mazandaran)	Laminated anti-virus clothing	70
			N95 masks	40
16	T ' II ' 1	34 :	Latex gloves	1300
10	Fajr Hospital	Marivan	Disinfecting gel	36
		(Kordestan)	N95 masks	40
			Laminated anti-virus clothing	200
			Three-layer surgical masks	432
4=		~	Latex gloves	1300
17	Ali al-Asghar Hospital	Shiraz	Scrub pants	100
		(Fars)	3/4 Sleeve scrubs	50
			Cover caps	1000
			Sheets	125
			Face shields	60
			Surgical cap	45
			Disinfecting gel	24
18	Emam Khomeyni Hospital	Dehdasht	Surgery scrubs	200
		(Kohgiluyeh	Medical isolation eye protection glasses	50
		and Boyer-	Filtered masks	120
		Ahmad)	Shoe covers	200
10			Disposable caps	200
19	Taleghani Hospital	Ahvaz	Filtered masks	120
		(Khuzestan)	Laminated anti-virus clothing	200
			Shoe covers	500
			Disposable caps	500
20		D	Medical isolation eye protection glasses	100
20	Ayatollah Borujerdi	Borujerd	Laminated anti-virus clothing	100
	Hospital	(Lorestan)	Medical isolation eye protection glasses	25
			N95 masks	120
			Disposable caps	200
21	V 1.1.1.1 V	IZ 1 1 1	Shoe covers	200
21	Kuhdasht Hospital	Kuhdasht	Filtered masks	120
		(Lorestan)	Shoe covers	200
			Disposable caps	200
			Medical isolation eye protection glasses	25
22	D 1 111 77	D 1	Surgery scrubs	100
22	Bandar Abbas Hospital	Bandar	Filtered masks	120
		Abbas	Shoe covers	200
		(Hormozgan)	Disposable caps	200
22		D.I.I.	Surgery scrubs	100
23	Zaim Hospital	Pakdasht	Laminated anti-virus clothing	100
		(Tehran)	N95 masks	100
			Three-layer surgical masks	100
			Latex gloves	200





Financial Report

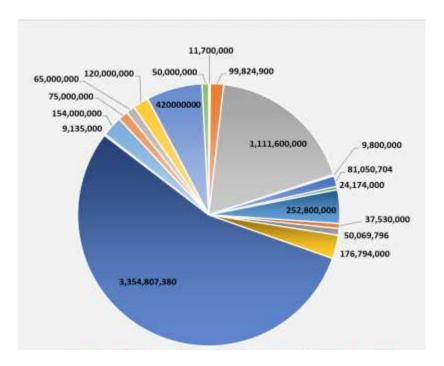




- Sanitary and food packs in cash
- Sanitary and food packs in non-cash
- Hospitals Equipment
- Materfamilias salary

Total costs for activities since the outbreak of Coronavirus 11,981,209,780 Rials

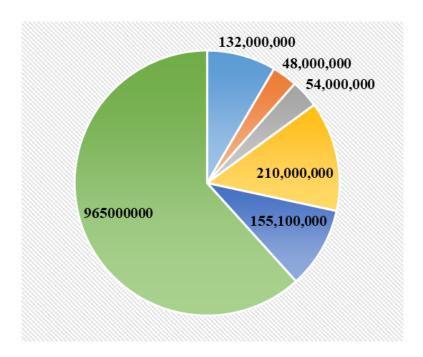
The chart below shows the costs (cash) for sanitary and food packages purchased and distributed.



- Irani House Pakdasht
- Irani House Espahan
- Irani House Kermanshah
- Sistan ans Baluchistan
- Irani | House Qom
- Elm House Yaz
- Kurdistan
- Ilam
- Tabriz
- Ahvaz
- Tehran (and logistics...)
- Farahzad
- Sari
- Boushehr
- Khaksefid
- Mashaho
- Kerman
- Shiraz

Total for sanitary and food packs 6,103,285,780 Rials

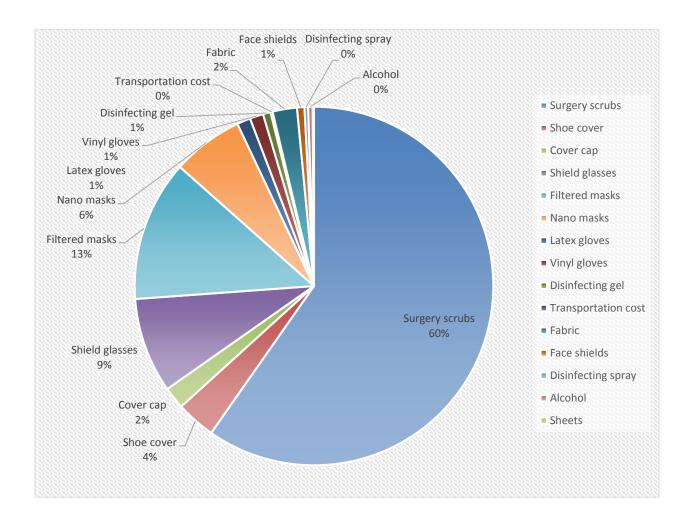
Some items for non-cash sanitary and food packages have also been provided in non-cash form, which is shown separately in the financial report below.



- Irani House Mowlavi
- Irani House Darvazeh qar
- Irani House Farahzad
- Irani House Malekabad
- Gorgan
- Lorestan

Total costs (non-cash) for sanitary and food packages 1,564,100,000 Rials.

The financial report for purchasing equipment to help hospitals and medical staff separately for the items is as follows.



The total cost of purchasing equipment to help hospitals: 3,293,774,000 Rials.

Also, considering that employment houses have been closed due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus, in order to provide the salaries of the materfamilias who work in these centres, a cost line has been considered for which 2,000,000,000 Rials have been spent so far. The salaries of the materfamilias were paid in March.

The sum of the expenses for providing March 2020 salaries of the materfamilias working in the Eshteghal (employment) houses: 2,000,000,000 Rials.



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