



Activities by Imam Ali Popular Students Relief Society in Afghanistan



Imam Ali Popular Students Relief Society

Spring 2019

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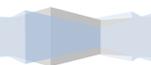
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Introduction

Imam Ali Popular Students Relief Society (IAPSRs) is a fully independent, non-political and non-governmental organization which was officially registered with registration number 19061 in the year 1999, and has been continuing its activities under the ministry of interior's certification since that year. In 2010, IAPSRs obtained a special consultative status in the United Nations and became a member of the economic and social council of this organization, as well as a member of the general advisory board in 2018, which has introduced it as one of the active organizations in reducing social dilemmas at an international level.

Members of the IAPSRs, including students and the general public, voluntarily participate in social and relief activities related to helping women and children in need. IAPSRs has formal offices at Sharif University and the University of Tehran, with additional thousands of active members in other universities across Tehran and other cities. The members of the IAPSRs opened their first formal office in the South of Tehran and the Molavi area in 2006. It was named the "Iranian House" so that it would serve as a symbol of the large step taken by Iranian students towards helping the development of Iran. IAPSRs currently has 44 Iranian Houses and 10 active representative offices in Tehran (in the areas of Molavi, Khak Sefid, Darvazeh Ghar, Lab Khat, and Farahzad), Varamin, Shahr-e Rey, Ahmad Abad Mostofi, Shiraz, Mashhad, Tabriz, Isfahan, Kerman, Bushehr, Sistan & Baluchistan, Kermanshah, Sari, Gorgan, Karaj, among others.



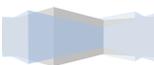


The mission of IAPRS is to create a world based on peace and equality, with special care towards the vulnerable members of the society, especially children. Working towards this goal and after 20 years of activity and constant efforts and endeavors from the people of our country, around 6100 children from all over the country are now under the coverage of IAPRS's services in Iranian homes, so that they can change the face and reputation of their neighborhoods in the future.

IAPRS believes in encouraging and increasing public participation in social policies and giving social functions to national-religious rituals to enhance the social and humanitarian status within society. Individuals suffering from social problems such as poverty and addiction, child labor, as well as breadwinner mothers, children with special diseases, vulnerable girls, and children charged with criminal activities are all supported by the IAPRS's programs.

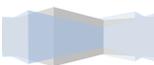
An overview of the IAPRS's main activities can be summarized as follows:

- Setting up more than 44 relief centers called “Iranian Homes” in deprived areas to provide services to children.
- Rescuing 47 teenagers sentenced to the death penalty by asking forgiveness from the victim's family and raising funds of up to 200 million Tomans for their blood money through popular donations in the “Teflan-e Moslem” program.
- Setting up 8 entrepreneurship Iranian Homes across Iran during the past year for female breadwinners.
- Setting up Iranian Treatment Homes across Tehran to provide free dental and medical services to children supported by IAPRS.
- Collaboration with UNICEF and supporting more than one thousand Afghan children deprived of a free education program in the years 2014-2016.



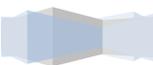


- Distributing food packages to more than 8000 families in need in deprived areas across the country during the month of Ramadan using the popular funds raised in the summer of 2018.
- Holding 4 series ((2015, 2016, 2017, 2018)) of the children's soccer league called the "Persian Soccer League", with the participation of teams including children, teenagers, and youth of the affected and marginal neighborhoods which are covered by IAPRS's support from all around the country in Iran.
- Holding 2 seasons of track and field games for girls and boys supported by IAPRS in ۲۰۱۷ and ۲۰۱۸.
- Holding one season of Persian Volleyball League for girls who are covered by IAPRS's support in 2017.
- Assistance to the hurt refugees from the ISIS war in refugee camps in Kurdistan, Iraq – summer 2015.
- Assistance and help to the displaced and hurt people from Syria's war in Tartus, Syria – ۲۰۱۷.
- Organizing several national and regional plans and programs throughout the country during the year; which are as follows:
 - Teflan Moslem Ritual: Pursuit of forgiveness, and support for the children and teenagers who are sentenced to retaliation and had committed crime under the age of eighteen.
 - Kucheh Gardan-e Ashegh Ritual: Delivering food to thousands of families in need during Ramadan.





- Ka'be Kariman Ritual: Granting the wishes of deprived children and the victims of child labor on the birthday of Imam Ali.
- Safaye Sai'e Ritual: Supporting breadwinner mothers by inviting the pilgrims during the days of Haj
- Shaam Ayyaran Ritual: Announcing the hatred of Iranian students towards the addiction in the country along with supporting the people who are hurt by the addiction and their families.
- Maternal Plan: Supporting pregnant women and their children who are dealing with addiction and are living in marginal neighborhoods.
- Haftseen Barekat Ritual: Celebrating the New Year (Nowruz) besides the children of marginal neighborhoods all around the country.
- Yalda in the Streets of Poverty Ritual: A different night of Yalda along with deprived children all around the country.
- Holding specialized seminars on social harms in recent years:
 - The first specialized seminar on the Iranian victims of child labor – 02/2014
 - The first specialized seminar on addiction and pregnancy – 11/2014
 - The first seminar on the children and teenager's addiction in the marginal neighborhoods – 02/2015
 - The first seminar on children's marriage in deprived neighborhoods – 11/2016
 - The first seminar on child abuse in deprived neighborhoods – 01/2018
 - The 6th specialized conference of the Maternal Plan (focusing on the problems of women and children who are interfering with addiction) from 2015 to 2019





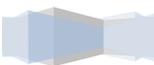
- International activities in the United Nations and the Middle East for the aim of peace-building.

Background

As an international non-governmental organization, IAPSRS has always been concerned about the war victims (children and women) in need as well as those in emergencies. In recent years, due to the problems of refugees and asylum seekers in Iran's neighboring countries, especially Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan, one of the priorities of this organization has been to provide relief assistance to the affected people. Most members of the IAPSRS are students or young graduates, who cannot be indifferent and be silent spectators of mass media news about human tragedies against children of war. In this regard, the members of this organization decided to devote all their efforts to providing benevolent assistance to the affected people, such as refugees and asylum seekers. Since the target community of NGOs has always been children and women, the focus of the above programs is on the same group. Although there are countless war-torn areas in the world that we want to help, given the resources available, Afghanistan is considered a necessary step for aid.

Goals

Since its inception, the IAPSRS has provided services to more than 1,500 Afghan children and women living in the suburbs of Iran. These services have been in the form of rituals held on various occasions throughout the year and also continuously in Iranian homes across the country. Now, at the request of a number of Afghan students - who have witnessed the activities of the IAPSRS over the years - to implement the practical model of the IAPSRS in Afghanistan, IAPSRS has decided to send a number of volunteers to Afghanistan and carry out the necessary activities in this country given these reasons. This is important given the need to pay attention to





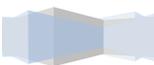
that country as a source of migration for many affected families supported by IAPSRS, as well as the recent devastating and widespread floods in more than 20 provinces out of 34 provinces of the country, which have caused great loss of life, property, and livelihood.



Map of Afghanistan

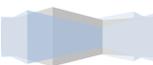
Problem statement

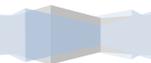
Afghanistan has long been the source of immigration for the largest group of immigrants living in Iran. A group of immigrants living in the suburbs in dire economic and social conditions is one group of Afghan immigrants in Iran. In the meantime, unfortunately, many families have also been involved in problems such as addiction, which can clearly be considered as the miserable results of migration and living in troubled neighborhoods of Iranian cities. In the meantime, children have a special place. These children had no role in the migration of their families and may not have been born even at the time of migration. At the same time, they pay for this forced migration by enduring problems such as poverty, deprivation of education, lack of access to medical services, and even conflict with addiction, child marriage, forced labor, among others. It is no secret that many such harmful effects can be prevented if migration is prevented at the origin.

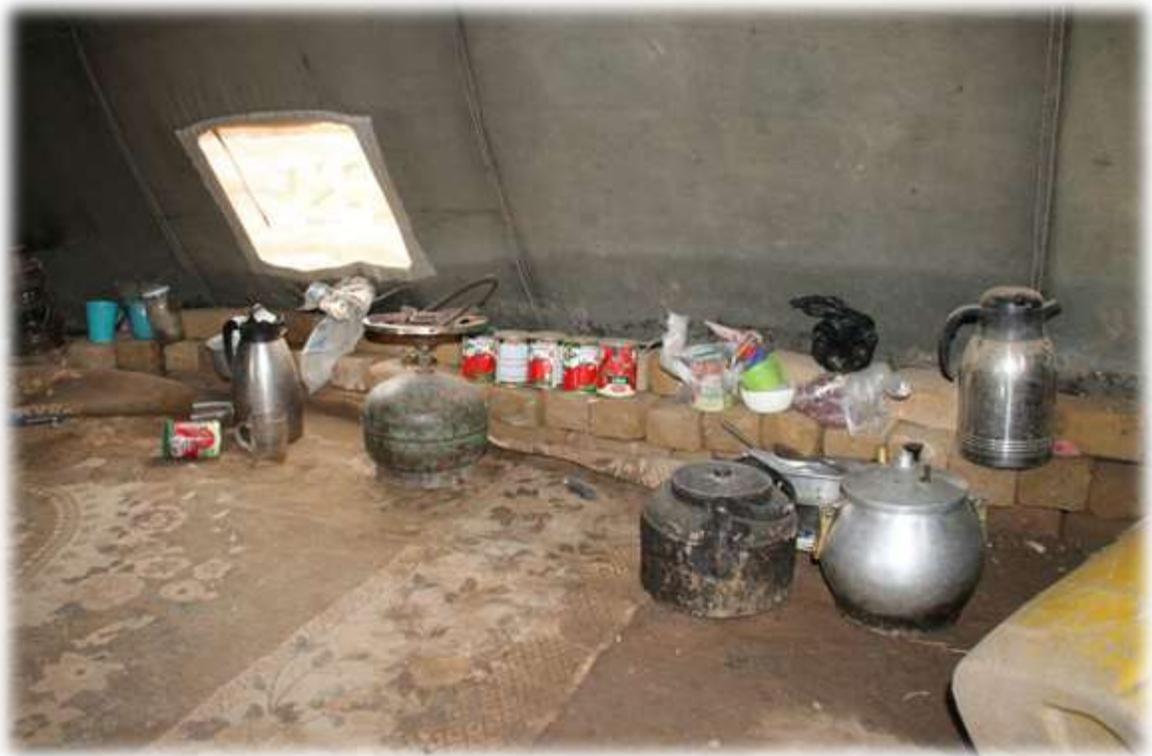




Simultaneously with the torrential rains of the spring of 2019 in different provinces of Iran, the floods also swept through provinces of Afghanistan, damaged farms and infrastructure, and unfortunately caused casualties. According to news reports, Herat, Badghis, Faryab, Ghor, Takhar, Badakhshan, Kunar, Balkh, Jawzjan, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul and Baghlan provinces suffered the most. Meanwhile, the number of flood-affected provinces reaches more than 20 out of a total of 34 in Afghanistan. The death and damage toll has risen sharply, with the latest figures showing more than 140 dead, 250 injured, and more than 40,000 displaced (who may not be able to return to normal life for years). Meanwhile, women and children experience more and more severe injuries. Also, more than 27,000 homes have been completely or partially destroyed. In addition to the two issues raised above, the request of several Afghan students studying in Iran who have closely witnessed the activities of IAPSR was a strong incentive for the IAPSR to decide to implement its activities in Afghanistan.











Damaged areas by floods in Afghanistan

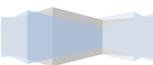
Mission I: Identifying marginal and troubled areas

In this phase, the priority is with the flooded areas to study their problems and create initial communication with families in these regions. For example, neighborhoods of Seyedabad, Resalat town, Malan bridge, Lushan bridge, Naibi village, Shahriyar village, Kareh Melli, Sabz town, Andisheh, Hosseinabad, Shohada and, Ahmadi town were identified from the suburbs and around Herat city. In these identifications, a total of 100 families with the priority of receiving food bags due to food poverty, flood damage, migration due to war, the presence of a female breadwinner were identified. Then initial contact was established with the family, and existing problems for children and women in each family were identified and an initial identification form was completed for each family. This process was done with the help of local liaisons who



had already been introduced and trained. In addition to the family-centered identification, the neighborhood-centered study was conducted to pay attention to the situation and texture of each neighborhood and find specific injuries that the neighborhood was involved with. Domestic businesses that were the source of income for residents, especially women, were identified, surveyed, and registered.





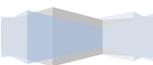


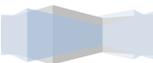


Mission II: Attracting the participation of students, professors, people, and donors

Interested students studying in Herat, university professors, liaisons, and local trustees in each region were identified, and a meeting was held to introduce the goals and ideas of the IAPSR to them. The executive process of identification in the IAPSR was explained to the participants and the executive matters such as identification, completing the forms, purchasing basic items, and support, among others were explained and reviewed.

Also, the network of these people was used to acquaint the donors with this project and to attract the donors' participation in financing the distributed bags.

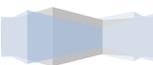






Mission III: Implementation of Kucheh Gardan-e Ashegh Ritual-2019

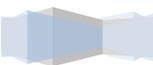
A hundred bags of food a month were distributed among families in need and affected by flood damage with the help of local people and students. An assessment of the basic household needs of each family was done through a survey of local liaisons. Identified families were prioritized. Donations were collected and the required items were provided at the best prices by reviewing the trusted and introduced sellers. The food packages were distributed among the identified families, and the necessary documentation of the packing and distribution steps was prepared with the help of local volunteers.





Mission IV: Investigating the possibility of registering a representative office in the city of Herat

Before the visit, the conditions for registration of international organizations in Afghanistan were reviewed and the documents required for the registration of the IAPSRS as a non-governmental organization in Afghanistan were prepared. The necessary initial contact was made with the relevant legal institutions in Herat. The city of Herat was selected as the city to register the first IAPSRS representation in Afghanistan. And initial legal action and planning for future steps for registration were completed.





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