Our dream is a beautiful world full of smiles on their faces.
Imam Ali’s Popular Students Relief Society

Imam Ali’s Popular Students Relief Society (IAPRSRS) (Society of Students against Poverty) is an international non-governmental organization which has followed its activities with official record of Ministry of the Interior of Islamic Republic of Iran since 1999. After many years of social activities, IAPRSRS succeeded in obtaining consultative status from the economic and social council of the United Nations in 2010, which caused remarkable broadening in the range of international efforts of this organization. In this regard, IAPRSRS NGO has pursued relief programs to enhance the life situation of children and women affected by war in the Middle East.

Target Group

Children and women who need to be supported from a wide range of inconveniences are the target community including IDPs and refugees suffered from war and people affected by social issues stem from different kinds of poverty.

Members

IAPRSRS’ Members are more than 12000 volunteers that the majority of them are university students or graduates from various universities and fields who have dedicated a part of their life and time to do humanitarian works.

Finance and Expenses

All the expenses of relief activities of IAPRSRS are provided by popular donors, private benefactors and micro donations by a large number of people and students.
Geographical range of activities
At the moment, there are more than 35 Service Centers of IAPSRSGO called "the Iranian Homes" in the most problematic marginalized neighborhoods all around Iran. Nearly 3500 deprived children have been benefiting from the services; half of them are Afghan or Pakistani displaced and refugees as well as social disadvantaged people and children who are deprived of education. The other half is Iranian child labor and children of low-income Iranian families who usually face different social issues. In international area, the NGO has concentrated on supporting war torn children in the Middle East especially from Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. In this case, IAPSRSGO has provided Afghan refugees and emigrants with a wide support of relief services; More than 1500 Afghan children are under permanent support of the organization all around the country.

Projects of IAPSRSGO
Because of the view of the organization to the poverty, the projects divide in two major parts:
1. Empowerment and fundamental visions
2. Urgent aids for elimination of the recent effects of poverty like malnutrition, diseases and shelter.

Short-term Projects:
Although we believe that short term projects will not eradicate poverty, we should provide people with some essential needs.
1. IAPSRSGO provides free food delivery through slums and deprived area of poor provinces of Iran; Such as Baluchistan, Kurdistan and Kerman provinces and so forth.
2. Many medical cases and diseases are referred to IAPSRSGO over the whole country and the NGO contributes in their cure, providing medicine, needed medical expenses, facilities, transportation services to hospitals, and so forth. After recovery, the most important contribution is in preparing bone marrow samples for cancerous children and children with other special diseases.
3. In special periods like the time of beginning schools IAPSRSGO provides around 3000 children with clothes and stationery. The aids are given no matter what their gender, ethnicity and nationality are.
4. IAPSRSGO also has projects to support talented poor children who are at the risk of abandoning and missing school.

Long-term Projects:
In long-term projects IAPSRSGO has focused on empowerment through making cultural changes. One of the most important projects in the country is the project of expanding "Iranian Homes", which are relief centers established in poor areas. Education is the main core of these centers. Education is provided for out-of-school children and children who are at risk to leave studying. The root of these risks is social issues like violation, addiction, committing crimes, laboring children and other effects of poverty. For two years IAPSRSGO is implementing a common project with UNICEF. In this case it is about education of Afghan children who are deprived of education, because of identity problems.
IAPSRSGO has 35 centers all over Iran country called Iranian Homes.
The arts and sports activities:
In "Iranian Homes" sports and the arts are used as rehabilitation tools to bring cheerfulness and psychological health for children and help them adopt with their situation, learn how to solve problems and get more hope. Many art groups are consisted from child labor in the field of theatre, music and so on. Sometimes they can make money from their arts works supported by IAPRS. In the field of sports, many teams are active, including: Soccer, Volleyball, Karate, Cricket, Rugby, Dart, Swimming, Chess and so on. Football matches for boys have an annual league. Rugby and archery teams of girls are so successful and have gained different athletic cups.
(For more info, please visit: http://persian.sosapovety.org)

Programs to combat Malnutrition:
in all of IAPRS centers, free warm food is provided at least once a day for all children who attend the classes. Also nutrition specialists diagnose malnutrition cases and prescribe supplements; in the case of girls it is much more important to follow their malnutrition problems, especially iron deficiency and lack of other minerals.

4. Hygiene and Health:
All the women and children under protection have hygiene documents and periodic visits with volunteer participation of physicians and dentists.
4.1. The important medical cases are referred to hospitals. Many doctors, physicians, dentists and surgeons have been attracted to medical activities of the NGO and concentrate voluntarily in medical services.
4.2. Special project is implemented for pregnant women in two cases: first is for addicted women and second is for deprived women (refugees, pregnancy of girls, malnutrition during pregnancy and so on). For both of them sufficient food and supplements are given. For the first group, protection of fetus from danger of drugs which mother consumes is the priority. If mother continues to use drugs, dried milk is provided to newborn infants to prevent them from the side-effects of breastfeeding. The vaccination is also followed.
4.3. IAPRS also has a special medical center for giving free treatment services for child labor and poor women. More than 750 children have received medical and dentistry services in this center in year 2015.
4.4. A part of under coverage families are Afghan and most of them have no ID card or residency card, so most of the children had not been vaccinated. The vaccination for children under protection is screened and followed.
4.5. Visual and auditory screening: this is done at all our centers all over the country, periodically.

5. Psychological and social work:
All children and attendees enjoy periodic visits and their documents are updated monthly.

6. Entrepreneurship:
Addiction is epidemic in poor areas of the country. Women with addicted husbands live at home or abandoned home, have the same vulnerable family structure in these areas; a woman is responsible for the economy of the family as much as taking care of her children without any support. In addition, most of them suffer from problems like: depression, disappointment and lack of self-esteem.
6.1. Entrepreneurship for mothers, in many cases prevents child labor. These jobs must have special characteristics to cover all special needs of the family. So, in Iranian houses, especial kinds of entrepreneurship by the reason of therapy are launched.
6.2. The entrepreneurship opportunities and work place also consist of psychological consultancy, learning alphabet, mathematics, life skills and many more skills together for women. These trainings are accounted in their working hours. We have more than 500 women who have participated in this program in the last two years.
Rescuing under 18 children from death penalty

IAPSR5 have implemented the project "Teflam-e-Moslem" since 2006. It is based on Iranian culture and Islamic religion. In general, the target groups are children and juvenile exposed to criminal offences and delinquencies. The objective of the project is to help these children, as members of Iranian Islamic society, and help them have access to higher living standards through provision of proper social grounds. This project principally looks after children who have no criminal background but are the victims of their environment abnormalities.

For example, under 18 children who accidentally killed another person in an altercation and are about to be executed via death penalty due to the Islamic code. In the years of running the project, IAPSR5 has been able to rescue 25 children under 18 from death penalty. The project follows two objectives: 1) give free legal consultancy to poor families that their culpable child is in prison; 2) helps to take forgiveness by the side of victim families via mediation methods by professional social workers.

Project for refugees:
In addition to implement educational and supportive projects inside Iran for Afghan and Pakistani refugees, Imam Ali NGO has been working in IDPs and refugees' camps in Kurdistan Iraqi region for Iraqi and Syrian children and families.

Hence, advancing many lasting relief programs in Kurdistan region has been contemplated.
History of international relief activities of IAPRSRS

-1 Providing deprived children of marginalized neighborhoods of Nairobi in Kenya with food aids.

During 2010 to 2011, after a needs assessment and feasibility study, a free food relief program to support 200 children in the vicinity of Nairobi with the goal of reduction of malnutrition and hunger was accomplished.

-2 Aid to people suffered of Pakistan Flood 2010
IAPRSRS as an international relief organization after the great flood catastrophe in Pakistan in 2010 provided some required primitive goods and sent them to the affected area. The costs were gathered through holding a food festival with the assistance of some Pakistani members of the NGO in Tehran. Also, in recent years some Pakistani children who have displaced to marginalized neighborhoods in Iran after the disaster, have become under support of relief services of IAPRSRS, especially in Tehran.

-3 Identification of War-torn areas in the south of Iraq
In the summer 2010, after taking consultative status from economic and social council of the United Nations, IAPRSRS decided to do investigations with the goal of programming under consideration of available facilities of the NGO to carry out relief works for IDPs and refugees in Iraq. For the idea, the first trip to war torn areas in Iraq was targeted to southern areas in Al-Amareh city. From the results of this program, studying clues of war and genocides like mass graves and the worse situation of poor families affected in war years can be mentioned. The reports of this trip was documented and presented to international organizations with the target of absorbing international aid of donors for future plans in Iraq.

-4 Educating Afghan displaced and refugees’ children deprived of studying in Iran
IAPRSRS towards the MDGs and SDGs provided some educational relief programs for Afghan refugees deprived of studying settled in Iran. By the program more than 1500 Afghan children have had the opportunity to study free of charge. Since 2014, the program has been supported by UNICEF and the NGO has been able to increase the number of children in the program.

-5 Identification and relief work for refugees’ camps in Erbil Kurdistan Iraq
In September 2014, some Christian members of IAPRSRS proposed a plan for gathering donations to support a relief program helping IDPs Christian camps in Kurdistan Iraq affected by war. In this regard, donations were gathered. The first caravan carrying Iranian people’s donations of IAPRSRS entered Iraqi Kurdistan region, in the summer of 2013. The team entered Erbil city and immediately took the necessary actions to meticulous identifications of the vital necessities of IDPs. According to observations, one Christian camp and a Syrian camp were designated as the most destitute targets. The executive officers of the team considering the investigations came to the conclusion to buy and distribute dry milk among infants of mentioned camps. Furthermore, need assessment based on observation method, walking survey and Focus Group Discussion was done. The report including curtail requirements of IDPs and the worse situation of children settled in these IDPs referred to international organizations to find donors and absorb financial funds for the future relief projects in the target area.

-6 The 2016 Christmas Project in Kurdistan Iraqi region
IAPRSRS based on gathered information on the summer trip programed a new relief project for furthering its mission helping children and women affected of war who are settled in IDPs camps in Kurdistan Iraqi region. The NGO planned its new relief project to aid IDPs and refugees in Christmas 2016. In the new project, a relief team entered the region and had a ten day mission. First, team did meticulous investigations in two cities (Soleymenieh, Erbil) to find the last issues IDPs, Refugees and people afflicted of war, were struggled in order to meet their last crucial needs. Simultaneously, the team planned some ceremonies in the occasion of the New Year to make children happy; especially for Christen camps team brought the Santa Clause to make children happy. The team also found a large number of Syrian, displaced people in deep need and identified more than 100 families. IAPRSRS provided and distributed some vital needs of the children living in IDPs and refugees’ camps depending on the last needs of the time such as free food packages, dry milk, warm clothes, and so on. Moreover, the spirit of children settled in the camps some toys were bought and presented to them.

-7 The Aylan project
On the international day of peace, commemorating Aylan Kurdi, who was drowned in the Dark Sea, IAPRSRS made an artistic performance besides the Khazar Sea which contained the scene for the memorial of Aylan. The goal of the project was giving the message of Peace from the players - children participated in this performance - to the world. Players were children from poor areas under coverage of the NGO and half of them were Afghan displaced and refugees.