We can divide the whole world into two countries with clear borders; Peace and War

Today, there are some 200 countries in the world, with different traditions, religions, rites and rituals, and languages. However, I think we can divide the whole world into two countries with clear borders.

One of these countries is the country of money and arm; country of arm producers and dealers; country of narcotics merchants; traffickers of deprived and poor girls and women; mutilators of children and dealers of their delicate and tiny body organs; country of people who have devaluated human being into an instrument to be used for testing their devices, medicines and arms on them; country of people whose interest necessitates to force the peddler children, with their pathetic appearance, to beg others at the cross roads. They want the huge resources and the wealth of this planet only for themselves and will do anything to gain them and have no intention to share it with others. They will easily destroy anyone trying to oppose them.

Sharmin Maymendinejad
Founder Of Imam Ali’s Popular Students Relief Society

The other country is the country of people with no arms and weapons; disarmed people; country of innocent and beautiful children, who cannot defend themselves against hunger and sickness; country of helpless women who run away from their homes due to discrimination and/or domestic violence and go where they have no protection and the only valuable property they have is their body; country of the helpless child whose body is mutilated to be sold; country of the beggar kid, whose arms and legs are amputated and broken for no guilt for the sake of looking pathetic and begging well; the country of the questioning eyes of a kid, who has been in the snare of addiction. Yes, here is the country of harmless people, country of the helpless.

The difference between the two countries can easily be noticed. The first country is overflowed with money and wealth and is floating in tranquility and abundance. Its inhabitants wear sumptuous garments and priceless jewelry. Various foods on their tables and sparkling of their cars blind the eyes. It is the country of comfort and ownership. They do what they wish and get what they will, but the other country owns something in need of being discovered. It needs to be extracted, and that is the jewel hidden in the oppressed look of a hungry kid; it is a beautiful smile after having a bit of a meal; the smile of a helpless person, who wins a fellow’s affection or finds a shelter. There are so many beauties in this country, but you cannot deal it for even billions of dollars.

Let us add to such beauties of this planet by trying to be a remedy for their pains and let us prefer being to having.
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 IAPRSRS NGO 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, IAPRSRS NGO 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 IAPRSRS
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. IAPRSRS 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. Medial and surgery projects are referred to IAPRSRS 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 IAPRSRS provides around 3000 children with clothes and stationery. The aids are given no matter what their gender, ethnicity and nationality are.
4. IAPRSRS 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 IAPRSRS 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 rest of these risks is social issues like violation, addiction, committing crimes, laboring children and other effects of poverty. For two years IAPRSRS 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. IAPRSRS has 35 centers all over Iran country called Iranian Homes.
1. High quality educational services: As IAPRS has Afghan children under its support and there would be cultural obstacles for attendance of girls in schools, many social workers spend a lot of time to convince families and get permissions for daughters’ attendance. Many children obliged to work who are breadwinners of their families are under IAPRS support: the NGO tries to facilitate their education. IAPRS has been succeeded to stop child labor in some areas. The educational schedule is such a flexible one for those kinds of child labor who can attend classes.

2. 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.

3. 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 artists 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)

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, special 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

IAPRS has 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, IAPRS 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 IAPSRS

-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

IAPSRS 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 IAPSRS, 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, IAPSRS 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

IAPSRS 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 IAPSRS 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 IAPSRS entered Iraqi Kurdistan region, in the summer of 2015. 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 reflected 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 Iraq region

IAPSRS 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 Iraq 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 (Suleymanieh, 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. IAPSRS 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, to raise 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, IAPSRS 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.
Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society (LAPSRS) (Society of Students Against Poverty) is an international non-governmental organization which has been following its activities with official record of Ministry of the Interior of Islamic Republic of Iran since 1999. LAPSRS has consultative status from ECOSOC since 2010.

Innovation in the use of national and religious rituals and traditions of the community can be considered as effective opportunities to alleviate social issues.
Introduction
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.

IAPRSRS Activities and Projects
IAPRSRS had implemented various activities to tackle social problems. Its strategy has always been to carry out their social activities, by innovation in the use of national and religious rituals, traditions of the community and their compliance with the needs of the society to lessen social issues. This means that a national and religious ritual which has become a routine in the community can be utilized as a tool in the hands of social workers to alleviate the issues that the society is confronted with. Therefore, IAPRSRS hold some plans on particular days of the year (such as Ramadan, Rajab and Moharram month, Nowruz, Yalda, and so on) to benefit impoverished people of the society and enhance the awareness of the community towards their relief tasks and altruism.
Kuchegardan-e-Ashegh Project
(Food Project)

IAPSRS has implemented the project “Kuchegardan-e-Ashegh” since 1999 as its first relief project to supply the nutritional requirements of destitute families during Ramadan month. In 7500 households all around the country were covered by this project. Some objectives of this project mentioned as below:

- Providing the basic necessities for destitute families.
- Promoting the culture of philanthropic activities in the community.
- Make a clear recognition of disadvantaged families living in marginalized neighborhoods of the country.

The Target:

Confrontation with severe malnutrition among deprived children
This project is aligned with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd goals of sustainable development goals (SDG), the 2030 Agenda.

Teflan-e-Moslem Project

IAPSRS have implemented the project “Teflan-e-Moslem” since 2006. It is based on the Iranian Islamic culture. 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, have access to higher living standards through the provision of proper social services. Principally, this project supports 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 panel code. In the years of running the project, IAPSRS has been succeeded to rescue 25 children under 18 from death penalty. The project follows two objectives: 1) give free legal consultancy to disadvantaged families that their culpable child is in prisons; 2) helps to take forgiveness by the side of victim families via mediation methods by professional social workers.

The Target:

Supporting children in conflict with the law
This project is aligned with the 1st, 16th goal of sustainable development goals (SDG), the 2030 Agenda.
Mothers Heads of families
(Safay-e-Saay Project)
This project concentrates on the problems and difficulties of women and mothers. The ones who despite the existence of tremendous difficulties in their lives, shoulder life responsibilities and deal with the obstacles they confront with. Supporting the women, this project assists them to conquer their difficulties, strengthens their capability of solving problems, and enables them to know and defend their rights. The project focuses on women heads of household with the purpose of thoroughly empowering. This project aims to fulfill the potential opportunities in correspond with Muslim societies to promote the conditions of women heads of household. Muslims who go to Haj every year are invited to take the lead in empowering the life of these families with the assist of the social workers of IAPSRS.

The Target:
Empowering mothers heads of family
This project is aligned with the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 8th goals of sustainable development goals (SDG), the 2030 Agenda.

Educational Program
(The Iranian Homes)
Considering the article 28 of a convention adopted in the United Nations General Assembly on November 1989, (the Convention on Rights of the Child), the right for all children to have access to education is officially recognized.

Following the idea, IAPSRS has established 35 relief centers called the Iranian Homes. The centers are pursuing these targets:

- Creating fairly equal educational opportunities for all children living in marginalized deprived neighborhoods.
- Preventing school dropout among children due to different kinds of poverty.
- Eliminating the educational obstacles children confront with in socially disadvantaged families such as child labor, addicted children, run away children, and so on.

The Target:
Educational support of deprived children
This program is aligned with the 1st and 4th goal of sustainable development goals (SDG), the 2030 Agenda.
**Haft Sin-e-Barekat Project**

The beginning of the New Year in the Iranian calendar is called “Nowruz”. On Nowruz Iranian people come together around a traditional table arranged of seven symbolic items called “Haft Sin” and celebrate the New Year. This project invites people to participate in a celebration on Nowruz alongside deprived and socially disadvantaged children around a grand Haft Sin table.

**Influencing Fields:**
Holding new year ceremony besides deprived children
This program is aligned with the 1st and 16th goal of sustainable development goals (SDG), the 2030 Agenda.

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**Yalda Project**

The longest night of the year in the Iranian calendar is called “Yalda”. On Yalda Iranian people come together and celebrate the night. This project invites people to celebrate Yalda night alongside deprived and socially disadvantaged children. IPASRS has implemented this project since 2010 by celebrating Yalda in simultaneous ceremonies held in different parts of the country in marginalized vicinities. The main goal of the project is making children happy using national rituals.

**The Target:**
Holding Yalda ceremony alongside impoverished families
This program is aligned with the 1st, 2nd and 16th goal of sustainable development goals (SDG), the 2030 Agenda.
Sham-e-Ayyaran Program

This program is a public declaration of aversion to widespread addiction in the society, especially child addiction, in a peaceful demonstration by students and elites. IAPRSRS members gather in addiction-prone vicinities of the country on 10th Moharram every year. They express their social demand to the authorities for cessation the upward trend of addiction in the country.

In the program, every addicted person who wants to give up drugs becomes under the supports of the NGO. IAPRSRS has implemented “Shem-e-Ayyaran” since 2010.

The Target:
Combating widespread addiction
This program is aligned with the 3rd and 16th goal of sustainable development goals (SDG), the 2030 Agenda.

Kaab-e-Kariman Project

This is a program to come the dreams of impoverished children true by the helps of students and elites. The program creates good memories in the minds of children with fulfilling their dreams true. Moreover, it brings community involvement in resolving the needs of children. IAPRSRS has implemented “Kaab-e-Kariman” project since 2009.

The Target:
fulfilling dreams of impoverished children
This program is aligned with the 1st, 8th and 16th goal of sustainable development goals (SDG), the 2030 Agenda.
In Iranian Homes, volunteers strive to become the source of joy and security in the hearts and minds of helpless women and children.
Iranian Homes: Outreach and Relief Centers

In Iranian Homes, volunteers strive to become the source of joy and security in the hearts and minds of helpless women and children.

Introduction
As a popular organization supporting children and women suffering from or exposed to social injustice and hardships, Imam Ali’s Popular Students Relief Society has established 35 relief and outreach centers known as “Iranian Homes” in marginalized and afflicted neighborhoods of the country Iran. The interior design and spatial setup of these houses are arranged to resemble a home in which a joyful life is taking place, rather than a relief center. These houses serve as shelters and comforting spaces for the women and children under supported by IAPSR. Iranian Homes are considered spaces in which members strive to become the source of joy and security in the hearts and minds of helpless women and children. We believe that all humans are members of the same family and must affectionately work to help each other. Iranian homes not only belong to the relief workers but to every benevolent who strives to give a hand to others.
Establishment of Iranian Homes

First, an inspection team of IAPSRs scouts out a marginalized neighborhood. Then, issues of socially disadvantaged vulnerable groups are identified: consisting of drug addiction of children or their families, child labor, children deprived of education, children deprived of identifications, women’s social issues, and self-supporting single women. After that, relief works are planned accordingly within the Iranian Homes to address these issues. The target community of IAPSRs is children and mothers, as they are the most vulnerable members of society. The limits of the marginalized people combined with a low-income class culture and inappropriate ethnic and tribal traditions alongside being disregarded by the general population are the main causes of social issues in these regions which helpless women and children are their main victims. The immense potential talents and abilities of these women and children are obscured by a façade of overwhelming difficulties in which they are powerless to overcome. The majority of residents of these neighborhoods suffer from multiple mental illnesses and psychological disorders.

Iranian Homes are situated within these neighborhoods in order to closely monitor these issues. Accordingly, plan strategies tailored to the culture and beliefs of each specific community. The presence of Iranian Homes has gradually influenced the community culture of its residents; causing parents who used to compel their kids to work on the streets and intersections, now requesting and insisting on their children’s attendance and education in these centers. Children who used to grapple with knives, drugs and syringes now are playing with soccer balls and have pens in hands and have realized new identities for themselves as soccer players and students who encourage other kids to join and enroll at the Iranian Homes. Single mothers who could barely afford to feed their children are now empowered, passing along their expertise. On January 2016, there were a total of 35 Iranian Home centers in Iran, which provide daily services to women and children under support. The number of children under IAPSRs support in these centers was 9,000.
The executive committee and teachers of “Iranian homes” are all volunteers who dedicate their time to help vulnerable mothers and their children. The majority of these volunteers are students or alumni of different universities across Iran.

Currently, more than 12,000 volunteers across the country have volunteered to participate in IAPSRS outreach programs.

The followings are the provided services for children in “Iranian homes”:

- Free main meal and snack per day
- Clothes, shoes, and school accessories
- Dental and medical services
- Providing school courses for children who are deprived of education
- Tutoring extracurricular courses for children who receive formal education in school
- Tutoring courses on different foreign languages
- Tutoring life skills using game therapy, play therapy, and painting therapy designed to help the children with control and discharge of their excitments, alleviating aggressive behavior, and relaxation
- Providing science courses such as astronomy, robotics, biology, laboratory experiments, and so forth
- Providing literary courses such as storytelling, writing, and classic literature in the library of “Iranian homes”
- Providing sports classes including Soccer, Volleyball, Handball, Wrestling, Rugby, Karate, Darts throwing, Yoga, Crickets, Swimming, and Chess.
- Providing courses for skill acquisition, and professional development
- Providing individual/group psychological therapies

The followings are the provided facilities in “Iranian homes” for mothers:
- Entrepreneurship, providing job opportunities and making income
- Lending loans to families for improving the quality of life and job development
- Individual/group therapies to solve the psychological problems and family-related issues
- Providing basic school courses for illiterate mothers
Imam Ali’s Popular Students Relief Society (IAPRS) (Society of Students against Poverty) is an international non-governmental organization which has been following its activities with official record of Ministry of the Interior of Islamic Republic of Iran since 1999. IAPRS has consultative status from ECOSOC since 2010.

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“The Persian Cultural - Sports Club

“Playing Sports is the right of every child.”
Introduction

Poverty and social, economic and cultural deprivation and their consequences such as child labor, children’s deprived of education and violence are issues that children living in marginalized vicinities grappled with. Imam Ali’s Popular Students Relief Society (IAPRSRS NGO) as an International Non-Governmental Organization, in order to seek its goals and objectives for supporting children of deprived, marginalized and problematic issue-prone regions and with the aims of identification and changing their social and cultural conventional patterns, has been taking actions to establish a specific department for children’s sports activities in format of the official Persian Cultural – Sports Club.

The Persian Club is the first and only professional sports club in Iran country that specially supports child labor and street children. Persian club players often are child labor and street children, children deprived of education or other deprived children which are being supported by IAPRSRS. There are different fields of sports such as Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Handball, Gymnastics, Rugby, Hockey, Swimming, Karate, Cricket, Yoga, Darts, and Wrestling for girls and boys in two ages ranges (Grade-schoolers and Teenagers) in different cities of the country. Moreover, all of the staffs of different sports teams in the Persian Club are volunteers that the majority of them are university students or graduates from various universities and sports fields. IAPRSRS volunteers have dedicated a part of their life and time to do humanitarian works.
History

The first team of the Persian club was the football team formed in Farahzad region in Tehran city, 2007. This team participated in Tehran Municipality League. As a result, this team had championship of the division one of the North-East constituency football association of Tehran competitions, besides the second rank of Ramezan futsal cup. One of the achievements of this football team was the players tendency to continue their education after a while, because they became inspired by the behaviors of their university students coaches.

IAPSRS registered the Persian Football team in 2007 in the North-East football association of Tehran city and has been tried to expand its sports activities in various under cover marginalized regions of the country. Spreading the activities of IAPSRS and establishing 35 relief centers - called Iranian homes - around the country, focusing on sports has become one of the main programs of each center for supported children.
The necessity of establishing the Persian Club

What has been proven in all communities is that sports and physical activities have much effect on the soul, body, human life and the community. Games and sports cause development of creativity and personal morality; so, the person learns appropriate social behaviors such as respecting others’ rights, solidarity, love, and respecting self and the others. Also, it has been proven that physical inactivity causes movement disabilities for the person; some serious results are visible on learning reduction, depression, anxiety and increasing diseases especially in adolescents and in the adulthood. Doing sports by changing physiological and hormonal structure of the body increases learning abilities, integrated morality, succulence, and self-confidence in facing problems. Reduction of the physical ability of human is one of the problems that if is ignored, will cause health problems in the future generations.

Physical health reduction causes serious problems in the style of thinking and consequently increases the risk of abnormal social behaviors. Hence, many problems of teenagers such as depression which caused tendency to drug addiction and violent behaviors can be cured and prevented by sports and physical activities. Doing sports, by increasing self-confidence and self-esteem, prevents teenagers and youth from these problematic behaviors. Unfortunately, absence of sports is a serious subject in problematic marginalized deprived regions; so, offering a solution for solving this problem became one mandate of IAPSRs. Therefore, it is essential to provide appropriate sports facilities in these regions and between the families settled there. IAPSRs by expanding the use of sports as a social tool, tried to utilize forms of sports to alleviate and lessen social issues.

For this purpose, the Persian club has provided an appropriate environment to strengthen creativity and self-confidence among children. The program has been so applicable to reduce cultural-social abnormalities in problematic regions of the country. Considering the impacts of sports on depression and stress reduction by increasing hope among children, the risk of child addiction can be declined.
The Persian Football League

After years of presence in problematic issue-prone regions of the country, IAPSRS decided to hold a special program to change these high-risk and problematic regions to safe regions for families and children. Hence, IAPSRS has implemented comprehensive programs in these vicinities with the goal of providing access for residents to high-quality educational, cultural, sports, sanitary, and health opportunities. Implementing these programs causes an improvement in educational and cultural level of children and their families. Considering the importance of sports among teenagers and youth, especially in issue-prone regions which children involve with addiction, poverty, and crime, sports teams have been created with the goal of enhancement of the motivation of children to select moral patterns instead of destructive patterns.

At the time of the survey, the average of family incomes in Erbil were 6 dollars per day in a range of 2 to 15 which indicates a substantial reduction of %50 in their incomes while, the expenses in Kurdistan are considerably higher than their former situation. The majority of them have been resorted to low-status temporary jobs including daily ordinary workers, street paddlers and gathering plastic waste. The families usually were settled in deep depuration and low life expectancy, relying on the generosity of the people and charities to give them hand. As a result of the deteriorated financial status of the families, objective samples of child labor were seen. Additionally, due to harsh poverty situation respecting the education of the children had been passed over to the lowest priorities of the necessities of the Syrian refugees.
Persian League Goals

Participating in a professional and formal competition can give a creative and positive identity to damaged children and teenagers by creating a joyful atmosphere for a healthy friendship and competition. Furthermore, these competitions help children and teenagers, with social abnormalities in their families and residential regions, to have normal and positive choices instead. As a result of the league, it can be referred to the improvement of motivation, hope and self-esteem among children.

Besides, since many players of Persian teams encounter with child labor, educational deprivation, poverty, and or consequences of being displaced and refugees of Afghanistan war; news and media reflection of this subject and presence of famous football players can improve the awareness of the community and attract public attention towards social issues. It will significantly attract public social participation at the field.

In addition, Persian football league presents a practical and objective pattern to professional sports community in order for more social responsibilities.

IAPRSRS after several years of activities of the Persian teams around the country, in the summer 2015 held a football league between 300 players from 20 Persian football teams for the first time. In this league, Persian football teams from different marginalized regions of the country that IAPRSRS have offices, competed together. This annual football league will be held simultaneously in two ages range (grade-schoolers and teenagers) during two weeks once a year in the summer.

Geographic range of activities of the Persian Club Sport

Persian club teams have been formed in Tehran marginalized regions such as Khaksafid, Darazeghar, Farahzad, Molavi, Labe-e-Khat and Shahr-e-Ray and some other issue-prone neighborhoods of the country in the suburbs of the cities: Gorgan, San, Shiraz, Mashhad, Zanjan, Sistan-Baluchestain, Karaj, Ahmad-Abad Mostofi, Gharchak, Mahmoud-Abad of Varamin, Kermanshah, Boushehr, Amol, Bandar-Abbas, Esfahan. Now, Persian club supports Iranian child labor and Iranian socially disadvantaged children, Afghan and Pakistani displaced and refugee children who settled in Iran.

Moreover, IAPRSRS considers expanding Persian club activities to Iraqi Kurdistan region to support internal displaced and refugee teenagers who suffered from war.

Persian Club Awards and Honors

First rank of Farahzad Persian football team (teenagers) in division one North-East constituency football association Tehran tournament - 2008.

Ethics cup of Darazeghar Persian football team (grade-schoolers) in sub-group of North-East constituency football association Tehran - 2013.

Ethics cup of Malek-Abad Persian Rugby team in national competitions - 2014.

Several First rank of Ahmad-Abad Persian darts team in provincial and national competitions of Iranian darts association - 2015 to 2016.

Two third ranks and ethics cup of Khaksafid Afghan girls Persian karate team in national competitions - 2016.

“We are going to continue this progress, to take a step to bring justice, which is an innate desire of every human, by our presence beside our children; to engrave the color of beauty on their daily life.”
Vulnerable caregiving women can be empowered through necessary parenting and life skills alongside social entrepreneurship.
Introduction

The person who provides life expenses in addition to mental and spiritual support is referred to as the family caregiver. Women become caregivers due to various factors such as divorce, demise of husband, spouse's addiction, immigration, spouse's disability, abandonment by irresponsible husbands, and delinquent or incarcerated spouses. Dealing with various economic and social issues entails mental illness, aggressive behaviors resulting in conflict with children, delinquency, addiction, and in some cases prostitution, ultimate depression and in the long run failure in caregiving. There are many cases in which vulnerable caregiving women are hooked and abused by ill-intentioned men and become more distrustful and insecure to receive help even from reliable sources. Provided with social support, vulnerable caregiving women can be empowered through necessary parenting and social skills and will become less vulnerable to social conflicts they are faced.

The hardships of the women heads of households in the society

In the recent years, the number of caregiving women has increased in Iran due to economic instability, stagnation, and the change of cultural patterns. In the state, typically men are caregivers and women are in charge of the household; while female caregivers have to manage household in addition to being employed to afford family economic necessities. In comparison to male caregivers, family issues are multiplied in case of female caregivers, because they are not skilled workers, or work with lower wages. Motherly responsibilities often conflicts with employment responsibilities and puts a lot of pressure on female caregivers, especially when they want to play both roles perfectly. Considering poverty and financial difficulties that female caregivers struggle with and the negative attitude of the public towards these women, the high rate of mental distress and disorders amongst female caregivers is no surprise. In fact, high rates of mental distress and psychological disorders among female caregivers are caused by their social and economic deprivations rather than their gender.

It seems that the major causes of mental distress and specially depression among female caregivers include:
- history of clinical depression
- dirt poor stamina and extensive use of health services
- lack of social support
- inadequate mothering that also leads to poor mothering
- unemployment and financial difficulties

A large population of female caregivers is inhabitants of impoverished vicinities who have never sought to educate or work until they became caregivers. They do not have the necessary education or skills to find fairly-paid occupations and work as low-skilled workers with lower wages compared to men. As a result, they find no way out of poverty. Housing is another common problem of female caregivers. They have to rent inappropriate houses in marginalized and disadvantaged slums with the lower rent as possible. Financial problems are the most important struggle of female caregivers. Although, some have argued that the structural renovation of industry will help women with more employment opportunities, this is not the case for female caregivers. Female caregivers are suffering from poverty and high rates of unemployment. Their children experience the same. So that, lots of female caregivers’ children live below the poverty line. These children are also deprived of social support and show higher rates of behavioral problems. Boys of these families are more introverted and indicate low school performance. As single parents, female caregivers have shown higher rates of dissatisfaction and distress compared to dual parent households. This dissatisfaction might be due to the extensive social pressure, the burden of heavy work, isolation, and a sense of frustration that female caregivers experience as single parents. These pressures and unpleasant experiences raise aversion and negative attitudes in their points of view that end up aggressive behaviors towards their children.
Entrepreneurship Iranian Homes: Outreach Centers
Supportive social networks can decrease stress and operate as effective means in alleviating social and financial pressures which female caregivers are confronted with. In fact, social support serves as a shield for female caregivers. In this regard, Imam Ali’s Popular Students Relief Society has defined the range of its social activities in two fields of children and women heads of households who are considered as the most vulnerable groups of the society.

The feminization of poverty we are now facing in Iranian society is one of the consequences of female caregivers’ unemployment. Unemployment of these women ends up to their incapability in managing their household. IAPRSRS NGO investigates social issues in marginalized neighborhoods and suggests short-term and long-term solutions that can be used as successful models of empowerment. Entrepreneurship centers in marginalized and crime-prone slums are one of the major solutions IAPRSRS has given to support female caregivers. The main mission of these centers is to provide female caregivers with sustainable jobs to bring them financial independency and self-sufficiency.

“Entrepreneurship Iranian Homes” are empowering centers established through a special process in marginalized vicinities. First, social workers of IAPRSRS assess the neighborhood and then identify vulnerable female caregivers using specialized methods. While making relationships with families to gain trust of the caregivers and their children, their potentials, capabilities, and talents are explored. Then, IAPRSRS plans relying on these specific data collected from each neighborhood. Even though these women are not usually educated, they are empowered by emphasizing on their local knowledge and life skill trainings. IAPRSRS empowerment training programs are supplementary plans to motivate the mothers to fulfill their inner potentials. The main objective of empowerment trainings is to help female caregivers learn the value of their abilities as individuals who can collaborate and play effective roles in their society.

This approach of IAPRSRS has aid women to value their cognitive abilities and collaborate in making decisions that highly affect their lives, substantially. It has also strengthened and promoted self-confidence, dignity, and decision-making abilities supplemented with individual counselling plans, parenting classes, social skills, and sports such as Yoga. The ultimate goal is to empower female caregivers with promoting their self-confidence and self-esteem, consolidating the family foundations, and strengthening women’s capabilities through education and training programs.

In these centers, women are taught skills such as sewing, cooking, making handicrafts, and so forth to become able to find appropriate jobs in the market or work at home. They are empowered with these trainings and encouraged to produce high-quality products, the benefits of which are all theirs. Working at home programs are applied to women with limited mobility; these women cannot work outside because of several reasons such as having young or sick children, suspicious dogmatic husbands, and their cultures. In addition to entrepreneurship programs, IAPRSRS holds literacy and cultural classes for women run by dexterous volunteer. As a result, some of female caregivers have been encouraged to pursue their education to the extent of entering universities. Trained and supported by IAPRSRS, some of these mothers have started their own business relying on IAPRSRS entrepreneurship loans.
Currently, IAPSR has established eight "Entrepreneurship Iranian Homes" in Tehran, Karaj, Bandar Abbas, and Mashhad. In other cities such as Kermanshah and Qom, entrepreneurship services are offered in case by case procedures.

Overall, more than 300 female caregivers are receiving social, psychological, entrepreneurial, and empowering supports from the side of IAPSR. The products of these centers include various food products, cloths, hand-crafted arts that are exhibited and sold in annual exhibitions which the NGO holds all over the country.
Health related Educational and Medical Services

It is a mandate of the medical and health section of IAPSR to make efforts for justice in medical services with an overall view.

Introduction

According to the world health organization (WHO) the definition of Health is: “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” This fact has been neglected in some countries’ medical and health systems. Imam Ali’s Popular Students Relief Society (IAPSR NGO), concerning medical needs that are not properly met in the slum areas of cities in Iran, has decided to focus on, and improve the quality of life for children who are deprived of the right; this happens through health related educational and medical services.

Since, the issue of children’s health and medical care, particularly in marginalized areas of cities, has always been neglected due to cultural and economic shortage, along with absence of the needed infrastructures; and also, because other areas of the country (from small towns and villages to the slum areas of big cities) and foreign refugees (from the neighboring countries such as Afghanistan and Pakistan) have occupied the mentioned areas due to economic poverty, it is important to consider the lack of facilities in these neighborhoods.

Our target groups

Currently, IAPSR provides various educational, cultural, medical, and health services for over 3500 children across Iran country; while over half of these children are refugees living in Iran, most of whom are from Afghanistan, suffer from serious issues affecting their lives. Majority of the problems that these Afghan refugees face are about health, hygiene, medical care and the absence of such services, a number of these issues are:

- Very high medical care expenses.
- Expensive medicines (particularly rare medicines for special deceases).
- No plan for birth control.
- No concerns about an organized plan for cleaning the slum areas.
- Lack of NGOs or other charity organizations to support refugees’ health.
- Ignoring human dignity while dealing with a number of refugees.
Our achievements

Using the recent relevant studies, IAPSRS through suggesting useful solutions, has made efforts to lessen the problems of the refugees; and as much as volunteer members can, the society has met the needs as follows:

In education: providing workshops about personal hygiene, birth control, matury, preventing HIV/AIDS, preventing child abuse, and published a painting notebook for children about mouth and teeth health care in collaboration with medical department of Shahid Beheshti University.

In prevention: conducting sifts for preventive purposes, namely general diagnosis and checkup, diabetes among mothers, nutrition, dental health care (education and fluoride therapy) distributing health care packages (containing shampoo, tooth brush, toothpaste, comb, soap and other bathing tools).

The Iranian Treatment Home

IAPSRS established its first specialized medical relief center in Tehran, named "Iranian Treatment Home" in the summer of 2014, and provides free of charge medical service, particularly for the children and their families supported by the organization. This center has different sections such as the dentistry room, pharmacy, diagnosis room, speech therapy room, games room and a place for holding educational and training workshops for the children and their families and volunteers of IAPSRS work in centers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshops held by IAPSRS in 2015</th>
<th>Audience of workshop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blood typing</td>
<td>Children supported by IAPSRS centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acquaintance with body parts and devices for medical examination</td>
<td>Children supported by IAPSRS centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse</td>
<td>Educators and administrators of IAPSRS centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>nutrition educator of IAPSRS centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>puberty hygiene</td>
<td>Children supported by IAPSRS centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention of HIV</td>
<td>Children supported by IAPSRS centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse</td>
<td>Children supported by IAPSRS centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acquaintance with common diseases and the need for self-care of volunteer</td>
<td>IAPSRS Volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acquaintance with venereal disease and their prevention methods</td>
<td>IAPSRS Volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breasts health</td>
<td>Mothers supported by IAPSRS centers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Among the midterm objectives of the "Iranian treatment home" is to make sections such as laboratory, a room for physiotherapy, work therapy, a room for sonography and diagnosing mothers, and a room for providing classes for first aid. The Iranian Treatment Home has worked the following sections in 2015:

- Diagnosis over 500 supported children and following the necessary measures.
- Establishing connections with pediatricians, specialists in orthopedic, dermatology, nutrition, surgeons, ophthalmology, internal medicine, rheumatology, pulmonology, infectious diseases, endocrinology, cardiology, nephrology, gastroenterology, otolaryngology, neurology, and referring the children and their families in the marginalized areas to specialized clinics that collaborate with IAPSR.
- Treating the dental issues of over 500 children and 30 mothers supported by the chamber dentistry in the Iranian Treatment Home in Tehran (which is equipped with 2 dentistry units in which volunteer dentists are working with).
- Providing speech therapy services for children.
- Providing social work. Psychology and counseling services also among other services provided by the treatment sections.
- Providing mobile treatment services in deprived and slum areas, especially for Afghan and Pakistani refugees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dental treatment region</th>
<th>Number of children</th>
<th>Number of mothers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Khaksefid</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moula</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab khat shoush</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahmoodabad Brick kilns</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farahzad</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darvazeh Ghar</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahmadabad Mostoufi</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shahre Rey</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gharchak Varamin</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakdasht</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karaj</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pishvaye Varamin</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khaiaban Ghazvin</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shahriar</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kan</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robat Karim</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>641</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special aid to children with cancer in poor families

Furthermore, for years IAPSRs has expanded its activities in children’s hospitals across Tehran (hospitals such as Markaze Tebi, Ali Asghar, Bahrami and Mofid). Mentioned activities are done by a specialized team called "TARA". The team’s overall objective is to achieve justice and equality in all physical, spiritual, emotional, and social levels among young patients (with the focus on chronic deceases) besides emphasizing social awareness. Through the last year of its activities, this team has been able to handle huge treatment costs, namely born marrow transplantation for children with cancer in poor families, which have been over 3005 thousand from popular resources of benefactors.
Other Projects

Health observations for children supported by IAPSRs are being done once every 6 months by volunteer general practitioners and pediatricians. Mothers are also being observed. In the preliminary health observations, beside volunteer doctors, medical students, and medical residents from Iran’s medical universities, Shahid Beheshti and Tehran universities have also been quite helpful. Besides, oral health prioritization and sifting is being performed by the students of departments of Tehran and Shahid Beheshti universities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screening</th>
<th>region</th>
<th>implementer</th>
<th>Number of examined people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head louse screening</td>
<td>All IAPSRs centers</td>
<td>Medical official of IAPSRs centers</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother’s Diabetes screening</td>
<td>Moulavi and Lab khat shoush centers</td>
<td>Medical students of Tehran university</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undernutrition screening</td>
<td>All IAPSRs centers</td>
<td>Volunteer Nutritionists</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye disease and cataracts screening</td>
<td>Mahmoodabad Brick kilns of Afghan emigrants</td>
<td>Ophthalmology residents of Rasoul Akram Hospital</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High blood pressure among mothers</td>
<td>Moulavi and Lab khat shoush centers</td>
<td>Medical students of Tehran university</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women disease screening</td>
<td>Darvazeh Ghar centers</td>
<td>Volunteer Gynecologists</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride therapy</td>
<td>In 20 deprived region all over Iran</td>
<td>Therapeutic department of IAPSRs</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

region | Number of examined children | Proceedings                                                                 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nowruz Abad area in Ahmedabad Earchae Afghan refugees</td>
<td>100 children</td>
<td>The presence of three volunteer doctors and an ophthalmologist, dispensing hygiene packs (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo), donate needed medicines and anti-louse shampoos, giving juvanta to children and mothers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slum dwellers area in Shahriar Balochi refugees</td>
<td>40 children</td>
<td>The presence of three volunteer doctors, dispensing hygiene packs (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo), donate needed medicines and anti-louse shampoos, giving juvanta to children and mothers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firoozabad deprived area in Shahre Rey Pakistin’Balochi refugees</td>
<td>30 children and mothers</td>
<td>The presence of three volunteer doctors, a Pediatrician, an Otorhinolaryngologist and an ophthalmologist, donate needed medicines and anti-louse shampoos, giving juvanta to children and mothers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the year passed, Iranian Treatment Home in Tehran has provided free of charge medical and dentistry services in areas such as Molavi, Karaj, Kan, Shahyar, kureh Mahmood Abad, Pishva Varamin, Ghazvin street, Shahre Rey, Khaksefid, Darvazeh Ghar, Farahzad, Labe Khat Shoush, Ahmad Abad Mostofi, Gharchak of Varamin, Pakdasht and Khavar Shahr. Services provided by the center in 2015 are as follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>specialty</th>
<th>Number of patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ophthalmologist</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otorhinolaryngologist</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gynecologists</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nervous and Mental specialist</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermatologist</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgeon</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedic</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urologist</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endocrinologist</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiotherapist</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrologist</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart specialist</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internist</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonologist</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatologist</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of treatment</td>
<td>number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye Surgery</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone marrow transplant</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide hearing aids</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>medicines</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiography photos</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Tests</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dialysis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>total</strong></td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Every child has the right to education.

Provision of Alternative primary education for afghan children
Provision of Alternative primary education for afghan children

History of implementing the project

Every child has the right to education.

Introduction
The main objective of the project is increasing accessibility of Afghan children to contribute to quality education and equality for girls and boys by providing services in outreach centers of Imam Ali’s Popular Students Relief Society all across Iran country in 19 centers over 9 provinces. The project includes services provided in primary education as well as a supportive environment for the most vulnerable children.

Among the objectives of the plan, the followings can be counted:
- Providing educational and extracurricular programs including cultural, arts, and sports
- Hygiene and health services
- Psychosocial services
- Food programs including daily hot meal and snacks

The Target community of the project is Afghan children who due to various reasons are deprived of the right to education. Among the main reasons that children are deprived of studying the followings are more common: the economic problems and unaffordability to pay education tuition, socio-cultural issues, living in the suburbs, child labor, and lack of access to quality educational centers outlined.

The program is focused on insuring gender equality for Afghan girls by eliminating obstacles including negotiation with parents about the importance of girls education and cultural activities on Socio-cultural beliefs of parents, providing transportation facilities; alongside child rights training classes, attracting parents to prevent children from marriage, and child labor.

APSRSR has been educating Afghan children deprived of education in Iran country since it was established in 1999. In the last two years, the NGO decided to increase the number of Afghan children under its support from 650 children to more than 1,000 children by the aid of UNICEF Iran branch and Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This goal has happened by increasing the capacity of existing centers and creating new ones.
The number of Afghan children under the aid of IAPSR

According to statistics published in 2015, a total of 1100 Afghan children deprived of education in 19 centers around the country were identified and enrolled in IAPSR’s educational programs. In 2015, all the children were studying in outreach and relief centers of IAPSR called “Iranian Homes”. In 2016 by changing the general policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran to allow registration of Afghan children without identity papers in formal schools, half of the children have been able to enroll in formal schools.

Among 529 people who officially are studying in schools, most of them are from deprived families; therefore, their tuition and educational expenses are provided by the NGO. Moreover, the children who entered official schools are still under support of IAPSR by receiving extra-curriculum classes. Of the children who do not attend at official schools, 575 children are receiving educational courses in IAPSR’s relief centers.

Moreover, the children who entered official schools are still under support of IAPSR by receiving extra-curriculum classes. Of the children who do not attend at official schools, 575 children are receiving educational courses in IAPSR’s relief centers.

Of the total 1100 children under support, 304 children are recognized as child laborers who work as street peddlers, low-income workers, waste collectors, farm workers, workers in underground workplace, and in some cases beggars. In 2016, IAPSR has 35 relief centers that in 19 of them the mentioned project is run.

This is while in the other centers, over 400 Afghan children are being supported and similar services provide to them that were not covered by this project.

Gender distribution of Afghan children under support of IAPSR NGO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>268</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>271</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>539</td>
<td>565</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Children who go to school and receive financial aids or extra-curriculum courses in Iranian homes.
- Children who study in Iranian homes - IAPSR centers.
- Total Afghan refugee children under educational support by IAPSR.
The NGO priorities are targeted to the most impoverished vulnerable Afghan children groups that have minimum school attendance. In addition, to conventional education curriculum in formal education system, special training packages for elimination the specific requirements of vulnerable children with respect to their cultural and social backgrounds are taught, especially to those at risk of social issues such as drug use and child labor.

In every outreach center depending on the problems that children face, educational programs are flexible. In some of the centers because of severe social harms which threaten children, life skills classes are more emphasized than literacy classes. Literacy lesson programs in all centers follow formal education curriculum. Although, teaching methods for each group of students in each center may vary.
Who is running this project?

Executives and teachers in IAPRS are all volunteers and mostly university students or graduates. Most volunteers of IAPRS have at least a bachelor degree. Volunteers participate in special courses and workshops on how to teach and behave with children.

Outputs, expectations and results of the project

Afghan families generally have enthusiasm and high hopes for education of their children. In recent years, IAPRS has attempted to involve the local community for sustainability of the project and enhancement of the capacity of the target community. In this regard, effective plans have been taken into the considerations:

- Visiting houses of children to establish relationships with their families by social workers
- Identifying influential people in the local community to empower them
- Empowering Afghan women with different trainings
- Involving the local community in the project
- Identifying and holding parenting workshops for mothers in Iranian homes
- Offering psycho-social consultation to mothers in need
- Addressing educational barriers of Afghan children
- Familiarizing of Afghan children with the Afghan culture and history
- Promote Peer support group to enhance educational outcome of the children

Provided supporting services for children

In the centers of IAPRS, more than 7,000 hours of education classes per week according to the headlines of official Education contains literature, math, and science classes are being provided. Moreover, more than 3,000 hours of extracurricular classes including cultural-art classes (Painting, storytelling, theater, music, and so on), and life skills training for children are hold.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services received by under support children</th>
<th>Number of Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Bus</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School shoes</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School bag</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School uniforms</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational guidance books</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbooks</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stationery</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Bus School shoes School bag School uniforms Educational guidance books Textbooks Stationery

Number of Children
0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800
Health and hygiene.

Personal hygiene in the suburbs is one of the controversial challenges. Many of the children under support are deprived of the most basic sanitary facilities. For instance, Lack of access to safe drinking water and Sanitary, lack of municipal sewage system. There are some public health issues in these areas. In this regard, health promotion activities have been implemented such as Personal hygiene training, oral health and hygiene, prevention and treatment of water born diseases. Every center has a health educator and also screens for epidemic diseases that are common in areas. All the children benefit from professional medical services including oral health.

Social support services

Children benefit social counseling by the side of psychology centers in corporation with IAPSRS. Moreover, social issues prevention workshops and life skills trainings for children alongside parenting workshops are held. Referral mechanisms to special centers are considered for children under high-risk of social issues. Besides, recreational activities for children are held.

Supports to the mothers

- Literacy classes
- Parenting training
- Personal and family Hygiene training
- Family planning
- Psycho-social supports
- Support Income generation

Food programs

Because socio-economic situation of the families of the project are not adequate, IAPSRS provides children with a food program in every center including a main hot meal and snacks. Meal plan are tailored to the nutritional need of children proposed by specialists.

All the services provided by IAPSRS are free for the supported groups.
Imam Ali’s popular student’s relief society as an international NGO has been always concerned about evacuees (children and women) in need and emergency situation. Refugees and displaced of war issues in the neighboring countries of Iran specially Iraq and Syria in the recent years were one of the priorities of the NGO to provide affected people with relief activities. The majority of Members of IAPRSRS are youth, university students and graduates who cannot stand aside and be the silent spectators of the news of the humanitarian calamity of the children of war on the mass media.

In this regard, the NGO members came to the conclusion to do their best to provide benevolence relief works for the afflicted people such as IDPs and refugees. Since the target community of the NGO has always been children and women, in the fore mentioned programs the focus was on this groups. Although, there are many war-torn areas in the world we would like to assist considering our accessible facilities Iraqi Kurdistan Region has been designated as the primary desired step for commencing aid services.

Every child has the right to be grown up in Peace
The first mission: 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, IAPSRJ decided to do investigations with the goal of programing 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 tragic situation of poor families affected in war years can be mentioned. The report of this trip was documented and presented to international organizations with the goal of gaining international support and advocacy for future plans in Iraq.

The second mission: Identification and relief work for refugees’ camps in Erbil Kurdistan Iraq

In September 2014, some Christian members of IAPSRJ proposed a plan for gathering donations to support a relief program assisting IDPs Christian camps affected by ISIS’s attacks to Mosul city. In this regard, donations were gathered in two ways: first, Iranian Christian community contributions, second, micro donations of thousands of the NGO members. Eventually, the first caravan carrying Iranian people’s donations of IAPSRJ was sent to Iraqi Kurdistan Region, in the summer of 2015. The team reached 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 most vital needs of the official Christian camp located in “Ankawi” district were determined as food-stuff scarce, lack of dry milk for infants, lack of detergents, weak hygiene status of the camp. The impoverished identified Syrian refugees had been left in a worse condition in unofficial tents on the street. They faced shortage of food-stuff and their infants struggled with severe malnutrition. Their hygiene status was tragic struggling with diseases and hygiene issues due to abandoned sewage and lack of fresh water.

The 2016 Christmas Project in Iraqi Kurdistan Region

The executive officers of the team in respect to the investigations and observation deduced to purchase and distribute dry milk with the budget among infants of fore mentioned camps. Furthermore, need assessment based on observation method, walking survey and Focus Group Discussion was implemented. The report including curtail requirements of IDPs and the catastrophic status of infants and children settled in these IDPs camps reflected to international organizations to convince donors and supports to endorse next relief projects via financial funds and advocacy.

The third mission: IAPSRJ based on gathered information on the summer trip programed a new relief project for furthering its mission assisting children and women affected of war who have been settled in IDPs camps in Iraqi Kurdistan Region. The NGO planned its new relief project to aid IDPs and refugees in Christmas 2016. In the new project, a dexterous relief team was sent to the region on a ten day lasting mission. The team carried out investigations precisely in two cities (Sulaymaniyah, Erbil) to catch the last issues of IDPs. Refugees and people affected of war, in order to meet their last crucial needs. Two camps in “Sulaymaniyah” were visited and investigated “Arbat” and “Barikteh”. “Arbat” camp people were Iraqi Arab IDPs from “Al ramadi,” “Salahuddin” and “Mosul”, displaced due to ISIS’s imposed attacks. They only spoke Arabic. “Barikteh” camp in Sulaymaniyah was the temporary settlement of refugees from “Kuban”, “Daynik”, “Afrin”, and “Al-Qamishli” and their spoken language was Arabic and Kurdish. These two camps were officially under the supervision of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region government. However, they had received supports from international organizations and some other charities; they still had some necessary requirements such as food, warm clothes, oil for heaters and suffered from lack of hygiene facilities. Moreover, spiritually depression of the residence (notably children) was obviously observable. So that, for those camps the team decided to have some plans to bring a joyful atmosphere among children.
In Erbil city the former Christian camps that received relief aid in the second mission were re-investigated. The reappearance was remarkably welcomed and the visit evoked sympathy. Chiefly, the team congratulated and wished the residence a new year without war and hardship in durable peace. Besides, after the discussion with the heads of the camp, officers of the team planned to distribute dry milk and diapers for the infants. Furthermore, a ceremony for children was managed and planned.

Simultaneously, the team planned some ceremonies on the occasion of the New Year to make children happy. In Muslim camps the ceremony was held by playing Kurdish cheerful sounds, dance, and a variety of fascinating games for children. In Christian camps one of the members of the NGO appeared as a Santa Clause and celebrated the New Year with children. In the events children were given paintings instruments asking to draw their dreams and messages to the people of the world. The held event really appealed to children and they were given gifts. This plan resulted in increasing the sense of hope and drawing memorable moments in their minds.

The plight of Syrian wanderer refugees:

On the other hand, the team went to the Syrian evacuees' unofficial tents on the street in Erbil city. "Havalan" street was recognized and determined as the case study conducting a research on the main characteristics of the target community. On the mentioned street eighty Syrian displaced families elaborately came undertaken a statistical research elaborately. The entire members of the families were 390 people coming from Halab or Deir ez-Zor. 191 individuals were females and 199 males out of 390.
As the beneath diagram demonstrates the age dispersion, 224 individuals among Syrian displaced identified people studied were under 18.

From the research studies it has been revealed that 61 percent of parents were illiterate and 28 percent only have some primary school background. Only 2 parents had university background who lost their life expectancy after the disaster.
Based on the information elicited from observation method, walking survey and focus group discussion, the mentioned families used to leave in social middle-class or lower before the occurrence of civil war in Syria. Explicitly, there social class and economical status became dilapidated after the catastrophe. In the time they used to leave in Syria, the average of their income was approximately 12 dollars per day in a range of 5 to 30 dollar.

At the time of the survey, the average of family incomes in Erbil were 6 dollars per day in a range of 2 to 15 which indicates a substantial reduction of %50 in their incomes while, the expenses in Kurdistan are considerably higher than their former situation. The majority of them have been resorted to low-status temporary jobs including, daily ordinary workers, street paddlers and gathering plastic waste. The families usually were settled in deep depuration and low life expectancy, relying on the generosity of the people and charities to give them hand. As a result of the deteriorated financial status of the families objective samples of child labor were seen. Additionally, due to harsh poverty situation respecting the education of the children had been passed over to the lowest priorities of the necessities of the Syrian refugees.
The next step:
Having regard to discussions with the relevant authorities of Iraqi Kurdistan Region and implemented negotiations with the heads of some universities in the region, IAPRS is going to expand its relief activities for the evacuees during 2016. The upcoming plan would be:

1. Inviting universities Iraqi students to volunteer in the NGO branch in Kurdistan to carry out relief activities supporting children and women afflicted by war with the goal of Participation of local community.

2. Identifying, investigating and prioritizing more numbers of evacuee families in terms of primitive requirements of life in order for programming relief services.

3. Addressing the human right status of the target groups and reflecting their real situation and demands to the pertinent international responsible communities.

4. Attracting the participation of international communities and donors to collaborate in providing crucial needs of the target group.

5. Holding social and cultural programs like special ceremonies to boost the morale among children to reduce the deprivation of recreational facilities and bring a cheerful atmosphere for evacuees.

6. Helping remove the educational obstacles a head of the children of refugees and IDPs.

7. Assisting to enhance the level of hygiene and health status among evacuees.

8. Initiating sports teams for children to promote their physical health and self-esteem.