Relief Activities of IAPSRS during Covid-19 Outbreak in Iran

February, March & April 2020
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Preface

Corona and social justice, an unequal battle

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IAPSRS implementations to face Corona Virus and decrease its effects

Because of the Corona virus pandemic and its rapid spread, suitable actions to prevent further spreading of the virus must be taken seriously. IAPSRS, being connected to children and women in marginalized areas, has executed several actions in its centers (Iranian Homes) for families under its protection. What follows is an account of these implementations.
IAPSRS crisis headquarters meeting about Corona outbreak/
February 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2020

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

\textbf{A) IAPSRS centers’ activities around the country:}

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

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

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

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

\textbf{C) Question of Entrepreneurship in Iranian Homes and breadwinning women:}

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

Another worry was accepted orders that had to be prepared. It was at first decided that some of the equipment be transferred to their houses, but thinking about issues like addiction of some spouses, lack of space, little children, and lack of equipment to support all workers, it was not practically possible.
IAPSRS implementations from February 2\textsuperscript{nd} to March 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 2020 in a glance

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

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

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

1- All group and team activities of IAPSRS are suspended.

2- Iranian Home activities are presently suspended, and children and staff presence are forbidden.

3- Critical cases are followed up by social workers. He or she must be equipped with gloves, mask and a medical gown which will be returned to Iranian Home after the mission is completed, so that it can be disinfected and reused.

4- All places that are inevitably open because of special cases in need of social aid must be repeatedly disinfected.

5- Any kind of connection with children and their families, including being accommodated in their house, must be avoided. This is of considerable importance since the effort is to set up a cultural pattern and augment social mindfulness.
6- Serving prepared food from any charity sources whatsoever and distributing fruit or unpacked food is prohibited.

7- Distributing supplement pills based on doctor’s recommendation amongst children and their families is recommended.

8- Any action in order to increase awareness regarding this disease and its preventive measures, such as installing posters and banners, are recommended.

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

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

Moreover, special packs and instructions were given to working and scavenger kids.
Educational workshops:
With the Corona Virus outbreak educational workshops have been organized for children and mothers in the Iranian Homes to teach preventive measures. Following is a list of these workshops:

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

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

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

With the Corona virus epidemic, special packages were distributed among families several times. Components of these packages are as follows:
### Sanitary package № 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hand washing liquid</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Antiseptic gel</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 kg oranges</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sanitary package № 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dishwashing liquid</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hand washing liquid</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Paper tissue</td>
<td>3 boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soap / body shampoo</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Shampoo</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Trash bag</td>
<td>2 packs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiseptic gel</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bleach</td>
<td>1 liter</td>
<td>Latex gloves</td>
<td>1 pack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mask</td>
<td>1 pack</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>****</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Nutrition package

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>10 kg</td>
<td>Oil (one 1.5 lit bottle)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chicken</td>
<td>2.5 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasta</td>
<td>2 packs</td>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>0.5 kg</td>
<td>Chocolate</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato paste</td>
<td>1 can</td>
<td>Soya</td>
<td>0.5 kg</td>
<td>Lentils</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickpea</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A total number of 2,547 sanitary packs n.1, 2,280 sanitary packs n.2, and 1,747 food packs have been distributed among the families covered in all agencies across the country. 287 health packs have been distributed among garbage collector and labouring children. The following diagrams show the distribution of health and food packs in Iranian Houses and cities.

**Sanitary Pack No. 1 Distribution Statistics**

**Sanitary Pack No. 2 Distribution Statistics**
Distribution of sanitary packs among garbage collectors and laboured children

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

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

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

Therefore, it is necessary for the responsible units of these children, especially the Welfare Organization of the country, to come to the field as soon as possible to prevent the catastrophe, as well as the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the field of laboured children,
to enter this campaign as certain forces. Every moment of haste in this intervention is really necessary, and post tragedy regrets won’t make any change.

With the outbreak of the coronavirus, IAPSRS began training and distributing sanitary packs among garbage collectors and laboured children.
### Sanitary pack items for garbage collectors and laboured children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hand washing liquid</th>
<th>1 bottle</th>
<th>Disinfectant hand gel</th>
<th>2 tubes</th>
<th>Oranges</th>
<th>1 kilo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shampoo</td>
<td>1 bottle</td>
<td>Working gloves</td>
<td>1 pair</td>
<td>Fabric backpack</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

*The coronavirus doesn’t differentiate rich or poor, but high population density, poor economic conditions, lack of sanitary facilities, limited access to information, nutritional problems and malnutrition in marginalized areas are some of the reasons that require us to recognize the risky situation of these areas in spreading the virus.*
“The health of all horizons is in your health” campaign (helping hospitals and medical staffs)

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

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

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

The conversation went like this:

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

(My silence and shock)

- I have three main questions:

1) Don't the government and hospitals have enough money to buy this equipment? As far as I know, as someone who works in the field, the cost of these items is not significant compared to other hospital expenses.

2) Is there money, but this equipment is not on the market? So in this case, the situation is the same for you, and the financial aid is useless.
3) Where are the equipment and donations donated by the World Health Organization, UNICEF and other countries, as well as the discovered hoarded equipment and goods? Mismanagement, dear! People cannot pay for everything.

- I said I didn't know the answer to any of them. We also find and buy equipment with difficulty, just a question:

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

He paused for a moment, then said:

- I will donate to you, but don’t forget to ask the questions and demand them to give us right answers.
Actions taken in the “The health of all horizons is in your health”, campaign

The equipment sent to the hospitals is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>n.</th>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Emam Khomeyni Hospital</td>
<td>Ilam</td>
<td>Surgery scrubs, Shoe covers, Cover caps, Shield glasses, Filtered masks, Latex gloves</td>
<td>230 600 200 100 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13 boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mostafa Khomeyni Hospital</td>
<td>Ilam</td>
<td>Shoe covers, Cover caps, Shield glasses, Filtered masks, Latex gloves</td>
<td>900 900 100 234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13 boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Emam Khomeyni Hospital</td>
<td>Tehran</td>
<td>Shield glasses</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Shahid Ansari Hospital</td>
<td>Roudsar (Guilan)</td>
<td>Surgery scrubs</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Emam Reza Hospital</td>
<td>Shaft (Ghom)</td>
<td>Surgery scrubs, Laminated anti-virus clothing</td>
<td>300 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Shahid Beheshti Hospital</td>
<td>Gham (Ghom)</td>
<td>Alcohol, Cover caps, Shoe covers, Disinfecting gel</td>
<td>20 500 2000 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Kowsar Hospital</td>
<td>Astane Ashrafiyeh (Guilan)</td>
<td>Cover caps, Shoes covers, Shield glasses, Laminated anti-virus clothing, Surgery scrubs</td>
<td>500 500 110 200 47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bu Ali Hospital</td>
<td>Sari (Mazandaran)</td>
<td>Filtered masks, Nano masks, Shoe covers, Shield glasses</td>
<td>140 100 500 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Firouzgar Hospital</td>
<td>Tehran</td>
<td>Mask N95, Nano masks</td>
<td>110 110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Poursina Hospital</td>
<td>Rasht (Guilan)</td>
<td>Laminated anti-virus clothing, Shoe covers, Shield glasses, Nano masks</td>
<td>87 600 192 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Emam Jafar-e Sadegh – Sarallah – Alborz Hospital</td>
<td>Karaj – Hashtgerd (Alborz)</td>
<td>Surgery scrubs, Filtered masks, Three-layer surgical masks, Sheets, Pillow covers, Latex gloves, Disposable towel</td>
<td>320 200 1000 260 160 4000 84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Shohada-e Ashaer – Ibn Sina</td>
<td>Khorramabad (Lorestan)</td>
<td>Three-layer surgical masks, N95 masks, Latex gloves</td>
<td>100 140 850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Emam Khomeyni Hospital</td>
<td>Sari (Mazandaran)</td>
<td>Surgery scrubs, Shoe covers, Cover caps</td>
<td>400 500 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Hospital Name</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Supplies Provided</td>
<td>Price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Nezam-e Parastari Hospital</td>
<td>Saqqez (Kordestan)</td>
<td>Disinfecting gel, N95 masks, Laminated anti-virus clothing, Three-layer surgical masks</td>
<td>24, 40, 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Shabak-e Behdasht (Health Network)</td>
<td>Nour (Mazandaran)</td>
<td>Filtered masks, Laminated anti-virus clothing, N95 masks, Latex gloves</td>
<td>130, 70, 40, 1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Fajr Hospital</td>
<td>Marivan (Kordestan)</td>
<td>Disinfecting gel, N95 masks, Laminated anti-virus clothing, Three-layer surgical masks</td>
<td>36, 40, 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Ali al-Asghar Hospital</td>
<td>Shiraz (Fars)</td>
<td>Scrub pants, ¾ Sleeve scrubs, Cover caps, Sheets, Face shields, Surgical cap, Disinfecting gel</td>
<td>100, 50, 1000, 125, 60, 45, 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Emam Khomeyni Hospital</td>
<td>Dehdasht (Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad)</td>
<td>Surgery scrubs, Medical isolation eye protection glasses, Filtered masks, Shoe covers, Disposable caps</td>
<td>200, 50, 120, 200, 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Taleghani Hospital</td>
<td>Ahvaz (Khuzestan)</td>
<td>Filtered masks, Laminated anti-virus clothing, Shoe covers, Disposable caps, Medical isolation eye protection glasses</td>
<td>120, 200, 500, 500, 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Ayatollah Borujerdi Hospital</td>
<td>Borujerd (Lorestan)</td>
<td>Laminated anti-virus clothing, Medical isolation eye protection glasses, N95 masks, Disposable caps, Shoe covers</td>
<td>100, 25, 120, 200, 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Kuhdasht Hospital</td>
<td>Kuhdasht (Lorestan)</td>
<td>Filtered masks, Shoe covers, Disposable caps, Medical isolation eye protection glasses, Surgery scrubs</td>
<td>120, 200, 200, 25, 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Bandar Abbas Hospital</td>
<td>Bandar Abbas (Hormozgan)</td>
<td>Filtered masks, Shoe covers, Disposable caps, Surgery scrubs</td>
<td>120, 200, 200, 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Zaim Hospital</td>
<td>Pakdasht (Tehran)</td>
<td>Laminated anti-virus clothing, N95 masks, Three-layer surgical masks, Latex gloves</td>
<td>100, 100, 100, 200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial Report

Overall cost report separately (Rials)

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

Total costs for activities since the outbreak of Coronavirus 11,981,209,780 Rials
The chart below shows the costs (cash) for sanitary and food packages purchased and distributed.

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

Total for sanitary and food packs 6,103,285,780 Rials
Some items for non-cash sanitary and food packages have also been provided in non-cash form, which is shown separately in the financial report below.

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

Total costs (non-cash) for sanitary and food packages 1,564,100,000 Rials.
The financial report for purchasing equipment to help hospitals and medical staff separately for the items is as follows.

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

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

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