

CSW60 Questionnaire of "Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development"

1- What measures have been taken to strengthen normative, legal and policy frameworks for the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken three steps towards gender equity (gender justice) (Subject of Article 101 of the Sixth Development Plan):

1. Preparation and notification of national indicators of gender equity (gender justice) to executive bodies following the first meeting of the National Headquarter for Women and Family in 8 areas: education and research, health and welfare, rights and security, population and family, work and economy, social support, political participation and decision-making, as well as culture and community.

2. Formulation of sub-indices with cooperation of relevant agencies in accordance with points and indicators in 25 main points and 179 sub-indices and notifying the approved sub-indices to executive bodies and member agencies of the National Headquarter for Women and Family, and requesting the application of measures, including but not limited to cooperation with the Statistics Research Institute with regard to formulating index of indicators, producing and collecting statistics of indicators without data, compiling plans and programs to be implemented for the promotion of indicators and sub-indicators of gender equity (gender justice) and coordination with Plan and Budget Organization in order to allocate credits needed for plans and programs.

3. Presenting a report on the status of the indicators:

THE MAIN CATEGORY	INDICATOR
ACCESS TO EDUCATION	Sex disaggregated Literacy Rate for Age Group of 6-10 Years
	Sex disaggregated Literacy Rate for Age Group of 11-13 years
	Sex disaggregated Literacy rate for Age Group of 14-17 years
	Sex disaggregated Literacy rate for Age Group of 15-24 yeas
	Sex disaggregated Admission Percentage to Preschool
	Sex disaggregated Admission Rate for the First Grade of Primary School
	Sex disaggregated Percentage of Primary Education's Educational Coverage
	Sex disaggregated Percentage of the First Secondary School's Coverage
	Sex disaggregated Percentage of the Second Secondary School's Coverage
	Sex disaggregated Students' Ratio in Technical and Vocational Fields to the Total Number of Secondary School Students
	Sex disaggregated dropout rates by grade and degree
	Sex disaggregated Students' Rejection Rate From School by grade and degree
Relative Distribution of Teachers by gender and Course of Study	
PHYSICAL SPACE PER CAPITA	Sex disaggregated Per Capita Educational Spaces
	Sex disaggregated School Use of Standard Sports Facilities(person-hall)
	Sex disaggregated Per Capita Infrastructure of Cultural-Educational Camps and Sports Spaces
	Sex disaggregated Percentage of Educational and Cultural Activities (eight competitions) of Students

	The Ratio of Student Research Centers and Cultural as well as Educational Camps to the total Number of Male/Female Students
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2- What actions and investments have been made for financing gender equality and the empowerment of women?

According to a report by the Islamic Parliament Research Centre, the approved and direct credits of the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs from the approved budget in the Sixth Development Plan is equivalent to 210 billion Rials in 2018; and in total, the aforementioned plan - without considering the annual budget increase rate - includes 1000 billion Rials. Furthermore, the Government has considered a budget of 250 billion Rials for the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs for the year 2020, which has enjoyed a 19% increase compared to the budget allocated in 2019, which was equivalent to 210 billion Rials.

In line with general policies concerning family and the implementation of the Sixth Development Plan, and in order to empower women, 0/05 percent of provincial credits has been allocated to the General Directorate of Women and Family Affairs across provinces in order to achieve the aforementioned legal objectives with the permission of the Provincial Planning and Development Council. Moreover, the said Council is obliged to allocate this amount to the General Directorate of Women and Family Affairs.

3- What steps have been taken to bolster women’s leadership and women’s full and equal participation in decision-making in all areas of sustainable development?

The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken four steps towards gender quotas:

1. Presenting statistics on the percentage of women in managerial positions compared to men in both public and private sectors;

*Amendment and approval of executive instructions on criteria of selection and appointment of professional managers in all ministries, governmental institutions, governmental companies and public non-governmental organizations approved in 2017;

According to the said approval, the Supreme Administrative Council, upon a proposal from the State Administrative and Recruitment Organization, and with the aim of utilizing the capabilities of talented women and young people to hold professional management positions and increase their role in executive management to 30 percent in management positions by the end of the Sixth Development Plan;

*Directive No. 54989/200, approved on 10/25/2010, was circulated to all ministries and independent organizations under the supervision of the President;

Under the said Directive, the ministers and heads of independent organizations under the supervision of the President are required to assign one of their advisory organizational positions in the approved organization to a consultant for women and family affairs, and consider three organizational positions from vacant positions;

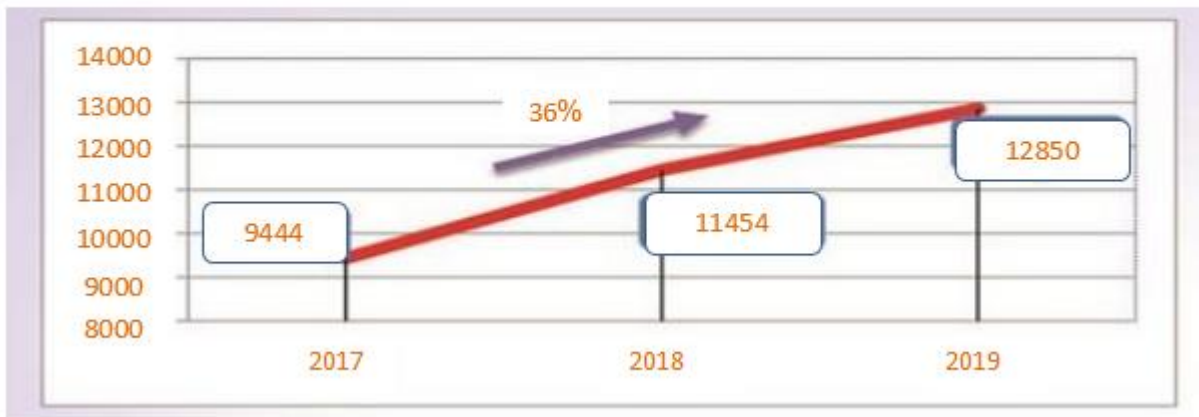
2. Pursue the allocation of 300 new job opportunities to women in the nationwide employment exam in 2017 by the order of the President;

3. Supporting the empowerment and improvement of women management skills through training 2250 female managers across the country in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior in 2017; and

4. Pursuing the appointment of women to managerial positions, as well as proposing a 10% annual increase in the number of female managers within the framework of the Administrative System Reform plan based on the programs introduced by the President.

The appointment rate of female managers has increased by 36% in the last two years (from 2017 to 2019).

36 percent growth in the appointment of women managers over the last two years



4- What macroeconomic, labour and social politics have been put in place that promote full and productive employment and decent work for women, in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on women's employment and economic rights and independence?

The Islamic Republic of Iran supports the productive capital and work of women affected by the COVID-19 pandemic;

Allocation of 10 million Rials in the form of cash subsidies to 17 million households (more than 50 million people) with the aim of reducing economic losses, recession and financial pressure on families as a result of the follow-ups of the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, women heads of households have been prioritized to receive these welfare aids; in addition, upon the Cabinet approval, the coronavirus loan for women heads of households was doubled.

The approval of allocating a 10 billion Dollar budget in the form of employer loans to revitalize the crisis-stricken economy by the COVID-19 pandemic has been another measure taken by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to support families. Furthermore, providing four million families with financial aid worth of 10 up to 20 million Rials, and granting of 1 to 6 million Rials allowance to 3 million people on four occasions are just a few of many measures adopted to help families. Women have been prioritized in the aforementioned measures.

5- What response and recovery measures to the COVID-19 pandemic have been taken to improve and expand social protection for women (e.g., healthcare coverage, unemployment benefits, paid parental leave, maternity benefits, pensions, income support such as cash transfers)?

The Islamic Republic of Iran provides social support for women during the COVID-19 pandemic. Allocation of unemployment insurance for women and men who have lost their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic, along with the expansion of services covered by the Public Health Insurance and requiring supplementary insurance to pay a share of social services, especially medical treatment for patients diagnosed with COVID-19 are amongst the main measures implemented by the Government to improve health services during the pandemic.

In addition, the Government has obliged all public health service centers to conduct a free-of-charge coronavirus test. If positive and there was need for hospitalization, all medical services will have to be completely free and covered by the Public Health Insurance.

6- What actions have been taken to expand the availability and affordability of care services to address the increase in unpaid care and domestic work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., care subsidies, paid leave)?

In order to maintain public health, especially for women, the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology of Iran, with the increasing development of technology infrastructure, exerted all efforts in order to reduce physical presence of people. For instance, by offering virtual and online education at schools and universities, the need for physical presence was significantly reduced.

Moreover, reducing working hours of offices, virtualizing several social services, shifting employees, outsourcing female employees who have children under 6 years old, as well as all employees suffering from pathogen diseases are amongst measures taken to stop the spread of COVID-19.

7- What actions have been taken to increase resources and support for women's and civil society organizations as they cope with the COVID-19 pandemic?

The Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs organized special training and promotional courses regarding coronavirus for 1,200 NGOs, and conducted many other activities including but not limited to: distribution of disinfectants and sanitizers amongst women held in Fashafooyeh Detention Centre by Mehrgiti NGO, preparation and distribution of leaflets for 1,200 non-governmental organizations, introducing a public program to confront COVID-19, implementation of economic empowerment plan for women heads of households by Daya-Exir-Mandegar Company in Mazandaran province, production of masks and sanitary clothes across 10 provinces, production of herbal medicine by Yaran Drug Co. in Markazi province to strengthen immune system.

Furthermore, following joint efforts by the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs with Imam Musa Sadr Dialogue Center, the "Spring at Home" package was made available to public via the said Centre website. The package includes exercises to recreate three basic skills of communication and resilience within families, namely "listening", "respect" and "expression", each one covered on a weekly basis.

Other measures taken include: Creating 7 podcasts in collaboration with non-governmental organizations entitled "Our Home", which is an audio collection aimed at raising awareness about social problems during quarantine period, activating the group with the membership of Director Generals for Women and Family Affairs in provinces across the country and exchanging information on cultural affairs, activating NGOs in order to serve the people in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, forming a working team with a number of social activists to undertake cultural activities, designing leaflets for NGOs including 6 sets of 20-page posters on tourism, health, family, strengthening religious beliefs, business, prevention of social harms, environment, and designing motion graphics in the fields of business, health and its publication in social media.

Moreover, cooperation with social activists in order to design and publish 31 postcards (one postcard in each province) with the theme of "Stay Home This Year" to encourage people to remain indoors during the Nowruz holiday, supporting the preparation of 6 audio files entitled "Marham" by social activists in order to address possible problems and questions of the survivors after the death of patients diagnosed with COVID-19 and to hold group telephone meetings with NGOs in order to prepare a virtual program are also amongst the joint activities with non-governmental organizations.

The Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, with collaboration Family Health Association, has distributed thousands of aid packages and food amongst the needy and disseminated many educational messages on physical and mental health.

8- What steps have been taken to improve gender-responsive data collection in the context of follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to track and monitor the gender-specific impacts and response measures to the COVID-19 pandemic?

In the Sixth Development Plan, in addition to Articles 101 and 102 which specifically refer to women, there are other articles in various sectors such as the judiciary, health, culture, art and sports which address numerous issues concerning women and family. In general, the law which determines the sixth Development Plan of the country, takes into consideration gender impact assessments and by mandating the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs to determine the indices of gender equity (gender justice) and monitor implementation thereof following notification, seek to realize goals of gender equity (gender justice) and address the pervasive challenge of lacking statistical resources and sex disaggregated data.

Education and research, health, rights and security, population and family, work and economy, social support, politics and culture are the main eight areas of the gender equity (gender justice) indicators for the fulfillment of which, 25 indicators and 177 sub-indicators have been finalized.

Priorities have been set out for the implementation and realization of gender equity (gender justice) in executive organizations, the most important of which are prioritizing people with vulnerable situation in gender analysis, preparing and reporting indicators based on Sex disaggregated data, and considering local, regional and national levels in data classification. All executive organizations are obliged to implement these indicators in accordance with Articles 101 and 102 of the Sixth Development Plan.

The National Headquarters for Women and Family - with the presence of the President - has assigned the Vice President for Women and Families the mandate to implement gender equity (gender justice)

Indicators. In this regard, the Statistics Organization and the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs have developed a monitoring system, and that all executive organizations are obliged to upload their data and reports related to gender equity (gender justice) indicators.

Moreover, the "Atlas System for the Status of Women and Family" has been designed and implemented in the portal of the Vice Presidency with different functions including processing the indicators listed in the report, updating information, the possibility of exploring the indicators in different forms such as observing changes in an indicator over time, the possibility of determining the total scale, urban and rural scale, comparing the status of an indicator in different decades across the country or the possibility of examining the status of a province in different decades with the aim of improving the collection of gender statistics and data in the country at both provincial and national levels based on 40 indicators related to women.

It should be noted that the aforementioned system, hosted by the Statistics Organization, uploads information related to the developments of indices online and produces accurate reports.